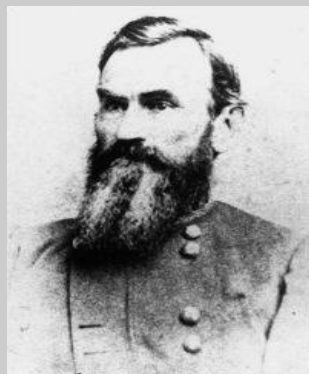


# The Delta General

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

My Fellow Compatriots,

I hope everyone had a Blessed and Joyful Christmas. This will be my last Commander's Note. After serving as your Camp Commander for 4 years, I will be stepping down at the Lee - Jackson Banquet in January 2010 and turning over command to Claude "Junior" Stillman. Junior will do a fine job as commander and it is all of our duty to assist the Commander in any way he so desires. Below are the new Camp Officers for the term of January 2010 - January 2012. When you next see these gentlemen, congratulate them on their election and offer your support them and the Camp.

**Camp Commander: Claude Stillman**  
**1st Lieut. Cmdr: Charles "Gator" Stillman**  
**2nd Lieut. Cmdr: Ronnie Stewart**  
**Adj / Trea: Dan McCaskill**

**Color Sgt / QM: Joe Nokes**

I am looking forward to the New Year when we will begin to get into the Sesquicentennial. As of this date, there is absolutely nothing being planned in Mississippi to celebrate the Sesquicentennial. It will be up to us as members of the SCV to make sure our side of the War for Southern Independence is presented to the public. Members of the Camp have presented some good projects for the coming years which the new administration will pursue to celebrate this time in our his-

tory.

Another challenge to the new officers is the growing problem of **Retention**. Ever since the Flag fight and the Coup attempt about 7 years ago, the membership of this Camp has been in a steady decline despite all efforts to generate interest in Camp activities and our Heritage. I am a member of seven (7) different organizations. I will never attend a meeting of 5 of those organizations so why do I maintain my membership in those? I do so for one reason; **those organizations are preserving my Heritage**. Sometimes you may feel you are wasting your money or your time but you are not. Your dues allow others to do the preservation work. Our numbers make our enemies take notice of our efforts. If we do not have the money or numbers, our Heritage will be slowly erased from public view. It is happening today in other parts of the South.

As a last request, please maintain your membership in the SCV and recruit new members and bring old members back into the SCV.

God Bless the South,  
Dan A. McCaskill, Camp Commander



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2010 AT THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN INDIANOLA, MS**

**Social begins at 6:00 PM supper at 7:00 PM**

**Guest Speech is National Chaplin-in-Chief Cecil Fayard**

### Upcoming events of interest:

- ⇒ **Saturday, 6:00 PM, January 23, 2010, Lee and Jackson Banquet (Pot Luck in Indianola, MS - No Regular Camp meeting this Month)**
- ⇒ **Army of TN Meeting in Birmingham, TN - February 13**
- ⇒ **Ms Executive Council Meeting - Jackson, MS @ War Memorial Building - February 20**

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*Brig.- Gen. Benjamin G. Humphreys  
Camp # 1625,  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Cordially Invites You, Your Family, and Friends  
To Attend Our 14th Annual*



*Lee - Jackson Birthday Pot Luck Banquet*

**Saturday Evening, January 23, 2010**

*At the 1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall,*

*311 Catchings Avenue, Indianola, MS*

*Social Hour: 6:00 pm; Dinner: 7:00 pm*

***Cost of Admission Will Be: Dish of Your Favorite Food***

*Attire: Semi-formal, Period Dress Encouraged*

*Speaker: Cecil Fayard,*

*Chaplain-in-Chief*

*Sons of Confederate Veterans*

*Please let me know by the 16th of January how many will  
be attending and what dish you bringing by using the  
contact information below.*

*There will be a Ancestor Memorial so please include your  
Ancestor Information with your RSVP.*

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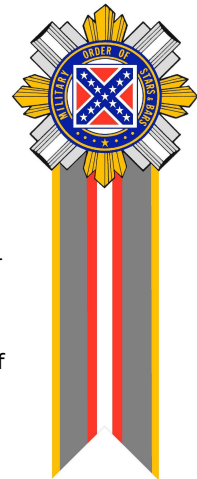
**Contact:** *Dan McCaskill; 205 Cypress Street; Leland,*

*MS 38756 or [danmccas@tecinfo.com](mailto:danmccas@tecinfo.com) or*

*call 662-822-1096 (Cell), 662-686-2975 (H)*



## BRIG/GEN CHARLES CLARK CHAPTER, MOS&B COMMANDER'S NOTE: ALAN PALMER



I would like to start highlighting some of our own members ancestors who were officers so please send me information on your officer ancestors and I will include it in future MOSB notes in the Delta General. This month here is my story.

Captain William Henry Ray – William Ray owned and operated a dry goods store on the courthouse square in Carolton Mississippi prior to the War Between the States. He soon joined Company K (Carol County Dixie Boys) of the 30th Ms Infantry and was mustered in along with the entire Regiment on February 27 1862 at Grenada, Ms. The history of the 30th can be read on our Camps web site so from this point I want to simply tell my personal story and experiences with my ancestor.

Many years ago before I even knew the name William Henry Ray or who any of my confederate ancestor's were I was on vacation going through Chattanooga, Tn. We stopped for a couple of days to see the sites and of course I wanted to visit the civil war sites on the mountain having been an avid reader of civil war history for as long as I could remember. We stopped first at the Cravens house on the east side of the mountain and got out to look around. Everything was fine until I started walking toward the Federal Monument just to the north of the house. I was suddenly struck with an overwhelming sense of sadness and despair to the point I had tears rolling down my face. I could not understand it nor to this day explain it wholly, but my wife asked me what in the world was wrong and all I could say was I want to leave this place, NOW ! I pondered this for a long time but after a while completely forgot about it as the years past. When I met Larry McCluney and he invited me to an SCV meeting and I learned what the SCV was about I was deeply interested in joining but had to do some serious research to find an ancestor. Luckily I had two great Aunts still living at the time who remembered their grandfather's stories about the war. Through them I found him and started researching what unit he was in so I could write the archives for his records. Low and behold one day an envelope arrived from Jackson and I hurriedly opened it up and started reading through the roster slips and then I saw it....you could have knocked me over with a feather. '30th Ms, Co. K December 1863, Captain William Henry Ray, missing since November 24, action on Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga Tn, presumed dead'. Instantly I remembered the reaction I had had on that mountain years before and the hair stood up on the back of my neck. It felt like that my ancestor had reached out to me all those years ago, but I do not know of such things or if they are even possible. All I know is what I felt and cannot explain.

Back in 1998 I had traveled to Gettysburg Pa for the 135th anniversary and reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg. I was setting in a MacDonald's in Gettysburg with a friend and we were both dirty and tired and in our confederate uniforms when a couple of confederates who were setting across the restaurant asked us if they could join us. They sat down and we started talking and it was very obvious they were not from there the same as us. One thing led to another and one of the men said my confederate ancestor was from Mississippi, a little place called Carolton. Of course I said, say what? He continued, yea he was a private in Company k, 30th Ms. I quickly told him who my ancestor had been and we sat there looking at each other in awe. Here we were, 135 years later, setting in a MacDonald's in Gettysburg, Pa and we two descendants happen to run in to each other. I was baffled by the coincidence and the odds against such a chance meeting.

My ancestor did not die on Lookout Mountain but was taken prisoner as Hookers men stormed out of the fog and ran headlong over Company K who had been sent to the north side of the mountain as advance Pickett's just around the face from the "Cravens house". That's right, the 30th had been posted around the Cravens house as part of E.C. Wallthall's Brigade. Captain Ray spent the rest of the war on Johnson's Island out in Lake Erie just off of Sandusky Ohio. He was released on June 13, 1865 and walked back to Carolton arriving sometime in late August where he learned he had been thought dead by his family since they heard of his being missing on Lookout Mountain since Nov 24, 1863. He died at the ripe old age of 81 in Carolton in 1909 and is buried there in Greenlawn Cemetery. The home where he lived and the store he reopened after the war and operated till his death still stand today. The home is now occupied by one of his descendants who completely restored it to it's former glory.

On a final strange note, I started reenacting back in 1993 with Co. A 20th Ms Infantry. After a short time this company fell apart and I was looking around for something new and a friend of mine at the time called me up and said he was forming a new company and wanted me to join which I did. The company he formed and I reenacted in for two years before I learned of my ancestors existence, was Co K, 30th Ms Infantry. May we never forget what they did and suffered for us.

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## EVENTS TAKING PLACE AROUND THE MISSISSIPPI DIVISION

### **Army of Tennessee Meeting – February 13, 2009 09:00 AM — Fightin Joe Wheeler Camp Building – Birmingham, AL**

The Army of Tennessee will hold one of it's two workshops in Birmingham on February 13, 2010. The workshop will be at the New Merkle House, the home of the Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp. AOT Commander Kelley Barrow has lined up guest speakers to present a variety of topics that will help your camp members become better leaders within the camp.

### **Beauvoir Board Meeting – February 13, 2010**

The next quarterly board meeting of the Combined Boards of Beauvoir will be Saturday, February 13th 2010 @ 10 AM.  
Rick Forte, Chairman 228-343-1403

### **Executive Committee Meeting February 20, 2010 10:00 AM - War Memorial Building – Jackson, MS**

All Mississippi Division Compatriots are welcome. Any member wishing the floor must contact Chief of Staff Ed Funchess in advance



## DIVISION NEWS: NEWS FROM BEAUVOIR

Jackson, Miss. – Bertram Hayes-Davis says the \$10.5 million project to rebuild the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum is another opportunity to show his great, great grandfather's legacy shouldn't be limited to a fight to preserve slavery. "In the American people's minds, that specific association is the only factor they know about Jefferson Davis. I'm working to educate the American public on all of the great accomplishments of this American patriot," Hayes-Davis said in an interview. The 61 years - old president of the Davis Family Association was the keynote speaker at a ground breaking ceremony Sunday in Biloxi at Beauvoir, the Mississippi Gulf Coast home where the Confederate president spent the remaining years of his life.



Hurricane Katrina in 2005 damaged Beauvoir, and destroyed the library and museum also located the beachfront Biloxi property. The ceremony took place on the 120th anniversary of Davis' death of pneumonia while he was on a river boat in New Orleans. **( He did not die while a passenger on the boat )** Hayes-Davis, who lives in Dallas, said the reconstruction of the presidential library will be a historic moment for his family. "I think the completion of the library will again bring Beauvoir back to its recognition point. We have restored Beauvoir to its original condition," he said. "The library itself is a focal point of documenting all of Davis' life."

Davis was a West Point graduate and an Army soldier who fought in the Mexican War. He later served as a U.S. senator from Mississippi and played a role in what would become the Smithsonian Institute before he was named president of the seceding states that would become the Confederacy. Funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and its state counterpart will pay 90 percent of the nearly \$10.5 million project because the site is a national historic landmark, said Beauvoir Director Rick Forte. Forte said other funding would come from money the museum had before the storm and insurance. The reconstruction is scheduled to be completed in August 2011. The 51-acre Beauvoir site is owned by the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Beauvoir was built in 1852. A hospital was built on the grounds in 1924 to serve aging Confederate veterans and their wives, Forte said. Katrina caused some structural damage to the house, ripping the U-shaped porch off, and causing roof damage. The rooms and content – beds, chairs, and bookshelves – were intact, Forte said. "The Beauvoir House was built in the right spot. It's been through about 30 hurricanes and it's still there," Forte said.

But tourism traffic at Beauvoir has been down. Forte and local officials cite the recession and the continued recovery of the coast, where Katrina's surge left billions of dollars in damage and initially scattered much of the region's population. Forte said Beauvoir needs a consistent crowd of about 200 a day to pay the entrance fees that range from \$5.00 - \$9.00 to break even. He said daily visits now average between 100 to 150. The house is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Biloxi city spokesman Vincent Creel said the project is significant because the city will be among only a few in the country with a presidential library. Davis' library isn't officially recognized by the federal government. "We think it enhances the cultural appeal of Biloxi," Creel said. "It will be something that's not only a showplace, but a resource center for people who are studying the Civil War."

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## LEE AND JACKSON DAYS – JANUARY 19 & 21, 2010

Arguably two of the greatest men and Generals in American history. Although born on opposite sides of Virginia and definitely from different social cultures, each demonstrated leadership traits and cunning skills on the battlefield. Long before the War for Southern Independence, each man caught the eye of his Commander for the skill they possessed in their areas of expertise but more importantly, how they conducted themselves with honor.

Because Lee was following in the footsteps of a famous father, great expectations by family and friends would always follow him. For anyone who reads the biography and other publications of Lee know that he surpassed all expectations and showed an uncanny ability to lead his men to victory or to snatch victory away from his foe.

Jackson grew up as a somewhat timid youngster but as he aged he became two men in one. On the battlefield, timid would not be a word used to describe Jackson. One of the more notable phrases attached to Jackson was "Give them the bayonet". His forced marches of long distances and the always pushing forward brought criticism from some subordinates but in case after case preserved the army and caught his opponent off guard. Away from the scene of battle Jackson showed a tender loving side to his family and although not always as evident, his troops. A strict disciplinarian, Jackson levied that discipline fairly upon the men under his command.

Religion was a big part in his life as he grew into adulthood but was not as evident in his early life. Together Lee and Jackson made a brilliant team. After Jackson's death there would be a void in the Army of Northern Virginia that would not be filled. The one weakness that Jackson had was in the training of his subordinate officers. In later battles this would become evident and would cost Lee and his army.

After the war, Lee continued to show the nation what he was made of. Although his family lost almost every worldly possession, he held his head high with pride. While at Washington College his leadership traits again came to the forefront. Students revered him for the man he was. Across the South, the birthdays of Robert Edward Lee and Thomas Jonathon Jackson became holidays. Entire towns would stop and pay homage to these two great men. In Mississippi we continue this tradition with observance of a state holiday even as detractors try to tear down the image of these men. In Mississippi many SCV camps along with the United Daughters of the Confederacy will hold Lee – Jackson Events. Try to perpetuate the memory of these men by sending a letter to the editor of your local newspaper reminding him that this is a State Holiday and recognition should be given to the accomplishments of both of these men. As political forces gather to take away the history of the South, this is where they start. A slow removal of all things Southern that we take for granted. Large crowds used to gather, how many will there be today?

## LEE / JACKSON'S LAST MEETING

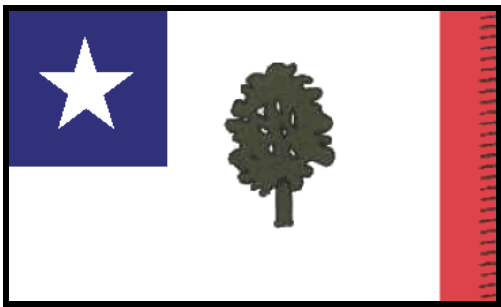
Having seized the initiative, on the night of May 1, 1863, Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson met to make plans for the next day. They had 45,000 men to fight Joe Hooker's 90,000 soldiers on this part of the battlefield. Learning that Hooker's right flank was vulnerable, Lee decided to send Jackson with 30,000 men to attack the Union weak spot.

The meeting lasted much of the night. According to tradition, Lee and Jackson sat on cracker barrels during part of the conference. Afterwards the generals got a brief sleep. The next morning, James Power Smith of Jackson's staff noted that Jackson had a fever.

Early on the morning of May 2, Lee and Jackson met for the last time. As Jackson led his men down to Furnace Road, Lee never saw Jackson again. This famous sketch of the last meeting captures the spirit of the moment, but the hills in the background are a figment of the artist's imagination.



## CAUSES FOR MISSISSIPPI SECESSION – JANUARY 9, 1861



In the momentous step which our State has taken of dissolving its connection with the government of which we so long formed a part, it is but just that we should declare the prominent reasons which have induced our course. Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery-- the greatest material interest of the world. Its labor supplies the product which constitutes by far the largest and most important portions of commerce of the earth. These products are peculiar to the climate verging on the tropical regions, and by an imperious law of nature, none but the black race can bear exposure to the tropical sun. These products have become necessities of the world, and a blow at slavery is a blow at commerce and civilization. That blow has been long aimed at the institution, and was at the point of reaching its consummation. There was no choice left us but submission to the mandates of abolition, or a dissolution of the Union, whose prin-

ciples had been subverted to work out our ruin.

That we do not overstate the dangers to our institution, a reference to a few facts will sufficiently prove.

The hostility to this institution commenced before the adoption of the Constitution, and was manifested in the well-known Ordinance of 1787, in regard to the Northwestern Territory.

The feeling increased, until, in 1819-20, it deprived the South of more than half the vast territory acquired from France. The same hostility dismembered Texas and seized upon all the territory acquired from Mexico.

It has grown until it denies the right of property in slaves, and refuses protection to that right on the high seas, in the Territories, and wherever the government of the United States had jurisdiction.

It refuses the admission of new slave States into the Union, and seeks to extinguish it by confining it within its present limits, denying the power of expansion.

It tramples the original equality of the South under foot.

It has nullified the Fugitive Slave Law in almost every free State in the Union, and has utterly broken the compact which our fathers pledged their faith to maintain.

It advocates negro equality, socially and politically, and promotes insurrection and incendiarism in our midst.

It has enlisted its press, its pulpit and its schools against us, until the whole popular mind of the North is excited and inflamed with prejudice.

It has made combinations and formed associations to carry out its schemes of emancipation in the States and wherever else slavery exists.

It seeks not to elevate or to support the slave, but to destroy his present condition without providing a better.

It has invaded a State, and invested with the honors of martyrdom the wretch whose purpose was to apply flames to our dwellings, and the weapons of destruction to our lives.

It has broken every compact into which it has entered for our security.

It has given indubitable evidence of its design to ruin our agriculture, to prostrate our industrial pursuits and to destroy our social system.

It knows no relenting or hesitation in its purposes; it stops not in its march of aggression, and leaves us no room to hope for cessation or for pause.

It has recently obtained control of the Government, by the prosecution of its unhallowed schemes, and destroyed the last expectation of living together in friendship and brotherhood.

Utter subjugation awaits us in the Union, if we should consent longer to remain in it. It is not a matter of choice, but of necessity. We must either submit to degradation, and to the loss of property worth four billions of money, or we must secede from the Union framed by our fathers, to secure this as well as every other species of property. For far less cause than this, our fathers separated from the Crown of England.

Our decision is made. We follow their footsteps. We embrace the alternative of separation; and for the reasons here stated, we resolve to maintain our rights with the full consciousness of the justice of our course, and the undoubting belief of our ability to maintain it.

**The Delta General  
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**SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS  
SESQUICENTENNIAL SOCIETY**

The Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) of the Cause for Southern Independence is upon us!

The Sons of Confederate Veterans has established a unique way you can show support for our efforts and build a legacy for the future. It is the SCV Sesquicentennial Society! By joining this prestigious group you will help in supporting two projects very important to the future.

First- the General Executive Council made the commitment in October of 2008 to start the process to erect a new building on our property at Historic Elm Springs. One of the uses of this new building is to give us office space and return Elm Springs to its original grandeur. However the main function is to house The Confederate Museum. We are planning a museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. It will give an accurate portrayal of the Confederate soldier, something that is lacking in most museum and in the media. 75 % of the money received through this effort goes to that building fund.

Second-we need to leave a legacy for our Compatriots who will be the members and leaders of the SCV when the Bicentennial of the Cause for Southern Independence arrives 50 years from now. One can only guess at the obstacles they will have to face in putting forth an accurate commemoration. 25% of the money will go into a fund to be used by the SCV at that point in time. Here is how you can take part. To join it is a minimum payment of \$200.( You can give more if you wish!) You will receive a handsome SCV Sesquicentennial Society Medal and Certificate. This program will end at the close of the Sesquicentennial. You may pay all at once or you can make non-refundable installments of \$50 ( you will receive the medal and certificate when paid in full).

Send a check to: Sons of Confederate Veterans  
c/o Sesquicentennial Society  
P.O. Box 59  
Columbia, TN 38402

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**ATTENTION: Address Changes:**

**If anyone in our Camp has a mailing address change, e-mail address change, or has not received their Newsletter; please contact Larry McCluney at 662-453-7212 or e-mail - [confederate@windjammercable.net](mailto:confederate@windjammercable.net)**