

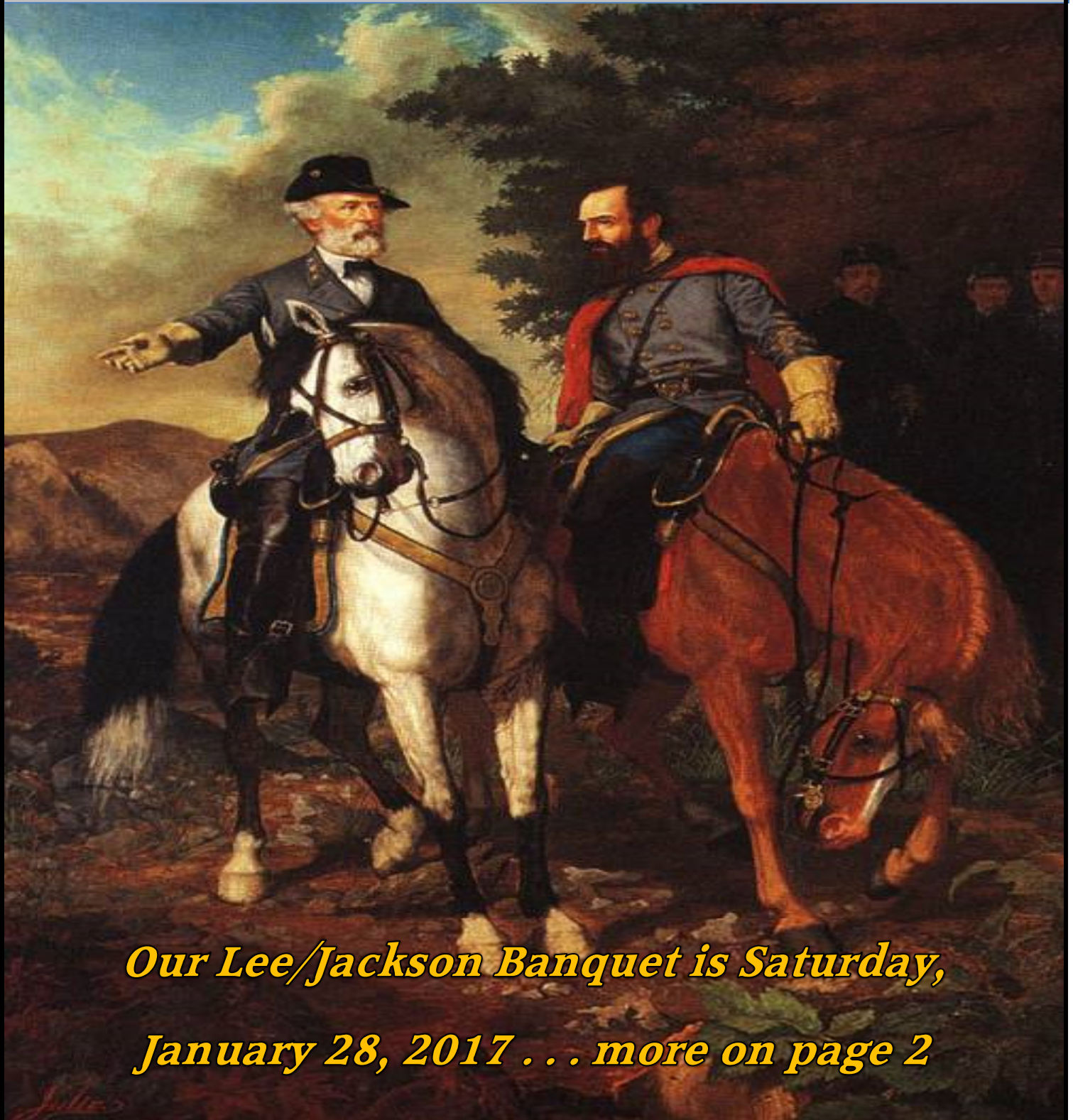


Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com



The Delta General

Richard Dillon, Camp Commander



***Our Lee/Jackson Banquet is Saturday,
January 28, 2017 . . . more on page 2***

January 2017, Volume 20, Issue 1

Dedicated to the memory of Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Camp Meeting – Thursday, January 5, 2017, 7:00 PM at 1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Indianola**

CAMP COMMANDER

Richard Dillon
rld846@gmail.com

EDITOR

Larry McCluney - (662) 453-7212
confederate@suddenlink.net

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Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys
Camp #1625, SCV
[website: www.humphreys1625.com](http://www.humphreys1625.com)

Camp News:

Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

Compatriots,

As we bring 2016 to a close, I sincerely hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

The year 2016 was a year with many ups and downs concerning "Our Cause." Although, the election of Donald Trump will not solve all of our problems, I think he will certainly be better for us than his predecessor or opponent. If for no reason other than his election, I think 2017 will be a better year for the SCV.

As I have stated in previous Newsletters, we need you to attend our Camp Meetings. When you make your New Year's resolutions, why not resolve to attend at least 1 more meeting than you did last year. We are not Uncle Sam, but WE NEED YOU!

Happy New Year, and I hope to see you at the Lee Jackson Banquet.

Camp Meeting, December, 2016

Adjutant's Report – Larry McCluney

There was a crowd for the December meeting as we reached out to past members and encouraged them to renew their dues. We had three renewals at the meeting bringing our membership to 51. For the first time in several years our camp is showing growth. We will be implementing this method of calling up members reminding about the meeting on a monthly basis and encouraging old members to renew their dues since it has met with success.

At the meeting during the business session, we continued planning for our Lee/Jackson Banquet. The Banquet will be held at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall where we have our meetings on January 28, 2017. Social hour will be at 6:00 PM and supper at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be Alan Doyle of the General Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp in Memphis, TN who will speak on General Forrest. Doyle is the Captain of Morton's Battery reenacting group and a highly respected historian on General Forrest.

The menu will be smoked ham, smoked pork shoulders, and smoked leg quarters furnished by the Camp from Bozz Hawgs Bar-B-Q. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish and e-mail Larry McCluney at confederate@suddenlink.net with what your bringing.

There will be a camp meeting on January 5 to finalize these details.

Ella Palmer Chapter, #9, OCR; President

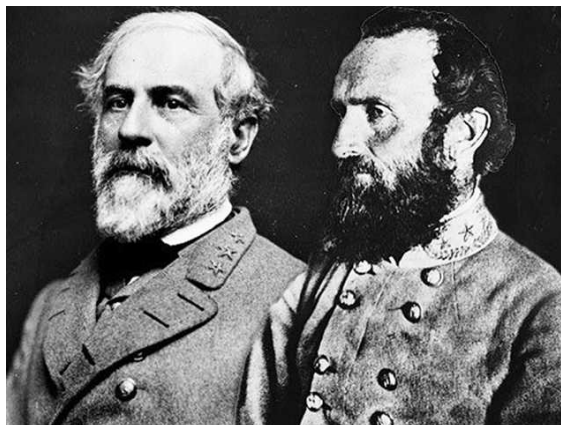
Sandra Stillman

Ladies of the OCR,

Now is the time that we should be planning for the Lee/Jackson Banquet. We need to be collecting gifts for our raffle and planning our decorations for the night. Please forward to me all gifts and decoration ideas. We will meet on January 5 to finalize these activities at our Camp meeting.



Camp Lee and Jackson Banquet, January 28, 2017



Honor these two great men with your presence at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 27, 2017. Guest speaker will be Alan Doyle of the Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp in Memphis, TN. He will speak on General Forrest. Attire is dressy Casual or Period dress. The main entrée (Pull Pork, Smoked Ham, and Leg quarters provided by BoZZ Hawgs Bar-B-Q) provided by Camp. We ask everyone to bring a side dish. Please contact Larry McCluney about what you are bringing at confederate@suddenlink.net or call 662-453-7212. Social Hour is at 6:00 PM Meal is at 7:00 PM. The OCR will have a raffle as well.

March in Monroe, LA for Mardi Gras

This use to be an annual thing for our Camp members to participate in and have fun. Lets make plans now to participate next year, February 18, 2017 at 6:00 PM. Mark your calendars as the Camp voted to participate.

Mississippi Division News

November 19 EC Report from 1st Brigade Executive Councilman

I attended the EC meeting on Saturday the 19th. Several things were discussed, including that the flag fight would more than likely start again at the beginning of the year and we all need to be calling our senators and representatives right now to find out where they stand on our flag of 1894. Bro. Ray Peacock and Jessie Sanford will be leading up the Heritage Committee taking over for Joe Abbott. I know both of these men and they will be great leaders for the Mississippi SCV Division.

In the coming year I would like to issue a challenge for all members to stand up for your ancestors, be outspoken, be seen but most all "Live the Charge" that was given to us by Stephen D. Lee. I have told several others that my line is drawn in the sand and you will not have to question where I will be or what I will do.

Thanks again for letting me contribute to the newsletter and thank you for your hard work and dedication to the newsletter.

Stanley Rhoda, Corporal Smiley
1st Brigade Councilman

Meet and Greet

The Mississippi Division will sponsor a "meet and greet" for the Mississippi state legislator's on 9 January, 2017, at a place that is yet to be determined. This will be our chance to personally contact the legislators and interact with them on the opening day of the 2017 legislative session. This will be an alcohol free event. The press will not be invited or allowed to attend. We will speak to those legislator's attending about our concerns with the Mississippi 1894 flag and how we would like any proposed legislation to die in committee.

Needless to say, we must and will be on our best behavior. Attending Division members will be required to wear an appropriate coat and tie/suit. Our OCR ladies are requested to wear appropriate evening attire.

We anticipate the event to start at 5 PM and last for about two hours. More information about this event will follow as details are worked out. In any event, **DO NOT POST OR COPY ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT TO ANY SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLET!**

Doing so may pressure legislator's to not attend. This is Division business and not a public event. Please address any questions to myself or Marc S. Allen, the Division Public Affairs Officer(msdivpao@gmail.com).

Louis P. Foley, Sr
Commander, Mississippi Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans
msdivcommanderlou@gmail.com

Confederate Memorial Month Service

Thanks to bryan for the picture



The John C. Pemberton Camp has been asked by the Mississippi Division and we have accepted the offer to host the 2017 Mississippi Division Confederate Month Memorial Service. The service will be held on Saturday April 23 2017 at Soldiers Rest. The service will also be for the newly installed Coopers Well dead.



MEC unfurls bicentennial banner. Could a new state flag be next?

BY [ADAM GANUCHEAU](#) OCTOBER 26, 2016

The Mississippi Economic Council unveiled a bicentennial banner Wednesday in front of an audience of the state's most powerful business and political leaders.

Staffers for the MEC, which serves as the state's chamber of commerce, unfurled the banner to long applause on stage at the group's annual Hobnob event. The banner features the state seal on three horizontal red, white and blue bars. The left side of the flag reads, "Established 1817" and on the right "2017 Bicentennial."

In any other state, the unveiling might not make headlines. But in Mississippi – the lone state that has not removed the Confederate battle flag emblem from its official state flag – it is met with great attention. Before the flag was even walked off the stage after the announcement, a handful of business leaders near the stage murmured about whether the banner could ultimately replace the state flag. The MEC led efforts to remove the Confederate emblem from the state flag in 2001, when Mississippians voted almost 2-to-1 to keep the current state flag in place. During Wednesday's announcement, MEC President Blake Wilson carefully pointed out, "This is a banner, not a flag."

After the event, Wilson said the intention of creating the bicentennial banner was not to replace the current state flag, though it could bring about discussion of potential changes.

"You've got a brand that disenfranchises 37 percent of your population (who are African Americans), so why would you use that brand?" Wilson said. "It's not a brand that brings people together. ... We're not pushing or suggesting this is an alternative flag. But what we're saying is this might be a way to celebrate one banner. Where it goes after that, what discussion that helps stimulate, what that helps gravitate to, we'll just have to see what people have to say."

Conceptualizing and designing the banner has been in the works since early summer, Wilson said. Gov. Phil Bryant, after his speech at the Neshoba County Fair in July, told Mississippi Today the idea was being worked on. Bryant suggested the banner could fly above Jackson's Civil Rights Museum, slated to open in 2017.

"People will start acclimating themselves to it (after we unveil it)," Bryant said in July. "And since it's a banner, state agencies can fly it, city halls can fly it, you know like the POW things you see. It's a banner."

Allan Hammons, who owns a marketing firm in Greenwood, designed the banner, Wilson said. MEC ordered about 200 banners in different sizes, and they have begun giving them to businesses across the state. In the next few weeks, MEC will reach out to other businesses around the state to determine the level of interest.

Wilson said he told Bryant of the idea over the summer, but MEC has not worked with the governor's office on the banner design or implementation. The governor, who did not immediately respond to questions about the banner Wednesday, has long said he believes the flag issue should go back to the ballot for Mississippians to decide.

All but one of the state's eight public universities, Delta State University, have removed the flag from their campuses. Numerous city and town halls across the state, as well as public schools, have done the same.

During the 2016 legislative session, 19 bills that dealt with the state flag died in committee before making it to the floors for votes.

House Speaker Philip Gunn, the most prominent current politician to publicly oppose the state flag, was not immediately available for comment about the banner Wednesday. Gunn's spokeswoman, Meg Annison, said that the speaker stands by his previous statements, offering support to change the state flag.

"I have not wavered in my viewpoint that we need a different flag to represent Mississippi," Gunn said in February. "I have spoken with many House members both individually and collectively and have tried to convince them to adopt my view. ... The flag is going to change. We can deal with it now or leave it for future generations to address. I believe our state needs to address it now."

Wilson said he purposefully chose three young MEC staffers to unfurl the flag on stage for Wednesday's announcement, as "they're the next generation." He said he hears complaints from businesses in Mississippi "all the time" regarding the current state flag, and that his hope is the flag will change soon.

"It's a problem, particularly for multi-state employers because some of them have pretty strong anti-discrimination policies and about symbols and all that," Wilson said. "Hopefully, over time, we can get our arms around it and find a way. We're going to participate in any discussion that comes along, but this is not being promoted in any way as an alternative to the flag. But it may create a discussion that others may come up with their design that shows there's other ways of approaching it."



2017 Mississippi Division Reunion

This is an election year for Mississippi Division officers. The reunion will be in Oxford Mississippi. The Annual Division Convention shall commence at 12 noon on the Friday following the 3rd of June (Jefferson Davis' birthday) unless otherwise ordered by the Division Convention or the Executive Council. This would put the 2017 meeting on the 9th of June in 2017.

2017 Mississippi Reunion Officer Announcements

Commander of the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans,

- Marc S. Allen

3rd Brigade Commander

- Trent Lewis

Beauvoir Board of Directors

- Mike Wooten

Upcoming Mississippi Division Reunion Locations

2017 The University Greys camp 1803 and Calhoun Avengers Oxford, Ms

2018 Private Samuel A. Hughey camp 1452 Southaven, Ms

2019 The Rankin Rough and Ready's camp Brandon, Ms

Upcoming National Conventions

2017 Memphis Tennessee July 20-22 2017

2018 Franklin Tennessee

2019 Mobile Alabama

Court hears case on renaming Forrest Park in Memphis



The statue of Nathan Bedford Forrest sits in Health Sciences Park near downtown Memphis. The Tennessee Historical Commission rejected a move by Memphis City Council to relocate the controversial statue and grave of the civil war general who was also [not] the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan from the park. Mike Brown/The Commercial Appeal

[Katie Fretland](#), katherine.fretland@commercialappeal.com 5:28 p.m. CST December 20, 2016

Legal arguments over the renaming of the park containing a statue of Nathan Bedford Forrest returned to Chancery Court this month.

Lawyers for the City of Memphis and the Sons of Confederate Veterans Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp No. 215 are asking for judgment in their favor over whether or not the Memphis City Council's resolution renaming three parks on Feb. 5, 2013 was valid. Forrest Park was renamed Health Sciences Park, located near the University of Tennessee Health Science Center; Confederate Park near Court Avenue and North Front Street was renamed Memphis Park; and Jefferson Davis Park at Riverside Drive and Court Avenue was renamed Mississippi River Park.

The council's resolution came a day after a bill was introduced in the state legislature proposing that no "statue, monument, memorial, nameplate, plaque, historic flag display, school, street, bridge, building, park, preserve, or reserve which has been erected for, or named or dedicated in honor of, any historical military figure, historical military event, military organization, or military unit, and is located on public property, may be renamed or rededicated."

The city has argued, in part, that the City Council possesses "broad and complete authority" to control city parks, including the renaming of parks which is allowed through resolution or ordinance, and that the decision to rename the parks was supported by then-Mayor A C Wharton.

According to court documents, Health Sciences Park was named by city ordinance in 1899 as Bedford Forrest Park. It features a statue of the former slave trader, Confederate general and grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

PRAISE FOR LEE AND JACKSON

By Chuck Baldwin January 6, 2010
NewsWithViews.com

January is often referred to as "Generals Month" since no less than four famous Confederate Generals claimed January as their birth month: James Longstreet (Jan. 8, 1821), Robert E. Lee (Jan. 19, 1807), Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson (Jan. 21, 1824), and George Pickett (Jan. 28, 1825). Two of these men, Lee and Jackson, are particularly noteworthy.

Without question, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson were two of the greatest military leaders of all time. Even more, many military historians regard the Lee and Jackson tandem as perhaps the greatest battlefield duo in the history of warfare. If Jackson had survived the battle of Chancellorsville, it is very possible that the South would have prevailed at Gettysburg and perhaps would even have won the War Between the States.

In fact, it was Lord Roberts, commander-in-chief of the British armies in the early twentieth century, who said, "In my opinion, Stonewall Jackson was one of the greatest natural military geniuses the world ever saw. I will go even further than that--as a campaigner in the field, he never had a superior. In some respects, I doubt whether he ever had an equal."

While the strategies and circumstances of the War of Northern Aggression can (and will) be debated by professionals and laymen alike, one fact is undeniable: Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. Jackson were two of the finest Christian gentlemen this country has ever produced. Both their character and their conduct were beyond reproach.

Unlike his northern counterpart, Ulysses S. Grant, General Lee never sanctioned or condoned slavery. Upon inheriting slaves from his deceased father-in-law, Lee freed them. And according to historians, Jackson enjoyed a familial relationship with those few slaves that were in his home. In addition, unlike Abraham Lincoln and U.S. Grant, there is no record of either Lee or Jackson ever speaking disparagingly of the black race.

As those who are familiar with history know, General Grant and his wife held personal slaves before and during the War Between the States, and, contrary to popular opinion, even Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation did not free the slaves of the North. They were not freed until the Thirteenth Amendment was passed after the conclusion of the war. Grant's excuse for not freeing his slaves was that "good help is so hard to come by these days."

Furthermore, it is well established that Jackson regularly conducted a Sunday School class for black children. This was a ministry he took very seriously. As a result, he was dearly loved and appreciated by the children and their parents.

In addition, both Jackson and Lee emphatically supported the abolition of slavery. In fact, Lee called slavery "a moral and political evil." He also said "the best men in the South" opposed it and welcomed its demise. Jackson said he wished to see "the shackles struck from every slave."

To think that Lee and Jackson (and the vast majority of Confederate soldiers) would fight and die to preserve an institution they considered evil and abhorrent--and that they were already working to dismantle--is the height of absurdity. It is equally repugnant to impugn and denigrate the memory of these remarkable Christian gentlemen.

In fact, after refusing Abraham Lincoln's offer to command the Union Army in 1861, Robert E. Lee wrote to his sister on April 20 of that year to explain his decision. In the letter he wrote, "With all my devotion to the Union and the feeling of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, my home. I have therefore resigned my commission in the army and save in defense of my native state, with the sincere hope that my poor services may never be needed . . ."

Lee's decision to resign his commission with the Union Army must have been the most difficult decision of his life. Remember that Lee's direct ancestors had fought in America's War For Independence. His father, "Light Horse Harry" Henry Lee, was a Revolutionary War hero, Governor of Virginia, and member of Congress. In addition, members of his family were signatories to the Declaration of Independence.

Remember, too, that not only did Robert E. Lee graduate from West Point "at the head of his class" (according to Benjamin Hallowell), he is yet today one of only six cadets to graduate from that prestigious academy without a single demerit.

However, Lee knew that Lincoln's decision to invade the South in order to prevent its secession was both immoral and unconstitutional. As a man of honor and integrity, the only thing Lee could do was that which his father had done: fight for freedom and independence. And that is exactly what he did.

Instead of allowing a politically correct culture to sully the memory of Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. Jackson, all Americans should hold them in a place of highest honor and respect. Anything less is a disservice to history and a disgrace to the principles of truth and integrity.

Accordingly, it was more than appropriate that the late President Gerald Ford, on August 5, 1975, signed Senate Joint Resolution 23, "restoring posthumously the long overdue, full rights of citizenship to General Robert E. Lee." According to President Ford, "This legislation corrects a 110-year oversight of American history." He further said, "General Lee's character has been an example to succeeding generations . . ."

The significance of the lives of Generals Lee and Jackson cannot be overvalued. While the character and influence of most of us will barely be remembered two hundred days after our departure, the sterling character of these men has endured for two hundred years. What a shame that so many of America's youth are being robbed of knowing and studying the virtue and integrity of the great General Robert E. Lee and General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

Furthermore, it is no hyperbole to say that the confederated, constitutional republic so ably declared by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence of 1776 and codified into statute by the U.S. Constitution of 1787 was, for the most part, expunged at the Appomattox Court House in 1865. After all, it was (and is) the responsibility of the states to be the ultimate vanguard of liberty. Without a tenacious, unrelenting defense of liberty by the sovereign states, we are reduced to ever-burgeoning oppression--which is exactly what we see happening today.

Thankfully, freedom's heartbeat is still felt among at least a few states. State sovereignty resolutions (proposed in over 30 states), Firearms Freedom acts (passed in 2 states--Montana and Tennessee--and being proposed in at least 12 other states), official letters (Montana), statements (Texas Governor Rick Perry), and resolutions (Georgia and Montana) threatening secession have already taken place.

Yes, freedom-loving Americans in this generation may need to awaken to the prospect that--in order for freedom to survive--secession may, once again, be in order. One thing is for sure: any State that will not protect and defend their citizens' right to keep and bear arms cannot be counted on to do diddysquat to maintain essential freedom. It is time for people to start deciding whether they want to live free or not--and if they do, to seriously consider relocating to states that yet have a heartbeat for liberty.

I will say it straight out: any State that will not protect your right to keep and bear arms is a tyrannical State! And if it is obvious that the freedom-loving citizens of that State are powerless to change it via the ballot box, they should leave the State to its slaves and seek a land of liberty.

I, for one, am thankful for the example and legacy of men such as Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. They were the spiritual soul mates of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. They were men that loved freedom; they were men that loved federalism and constitutional government; and they were men of courage and understanding. They understood that, sometimes, political separation is the only way that freedom can survive. Long live the spirit of Washington, Jefferson, Lee, and Jackson!

Traveller. A difficult horse but Robert E. Lee loved him and made him famous

The reason I chose Traveller is because I know nothing about Southern history and because it seems that Robert E. Lee was in the minority in his love for this particular horse... Traveller wasn't your garden variety, easy to love, easy to ride horse. He was a bit of a pain.

It gives me pleasure to write about a horse that most would dump but that one cherished – and from that, they built a very strong, unbreakable bond.

From all accounts, Traveller was difficult, high strung, a bit unruly, pranced or jiggled wherever he went and was generally on Defcon 1 most of the time.

But, he was also striking and regal. He wasn't too tall, conformed well, of good flesh and was a flashy dappled grey horse with a black mane and tail.

Here is how Traveller was described before he was sold to General Lee:

Greenbrier (his name then)... was greatly admired in camp for his rapid, springy walk, his high spirit, bold carriage, and muscular strength. He needed neither whip nor spur, and would walk his five or six miles an hour over the rough mountain roads of Western Virginia with his rider sitting firmly in the saddle and holding him in check by a tight rein, such vim and eagerness did he manifest to go right ahead so soon as he was mounted.

There are other accounts that don't hold Greenbrier in such acclaim... Oh sure, he was pretty and spirited, but not that many wanted to ride him, if you know what I mean...The first time General Lee saw Greenbrier, owned by Joseph Broun, he called the mount, "My Colt". Hmmmmm. I guess you don't mess with a General when he wants your horse...

Actually, that wasn't exactly how it happened. The owner of young Jeff Davis (Traveller's born name in honor of the Confederate president) was honored to have General Lee take an interest in his colt.

Luckily, I found a first hand account of that encounter and the subsequent sales transaction. Here you go:

"In view of the fact that great interest is felt in the monument about to be erected to General Lee, and that many are desirous that his war-horse should be represented in the monument, and as I once owned this horse, I herewith give you some items respecting this now famous war-horse, Traveller.?"

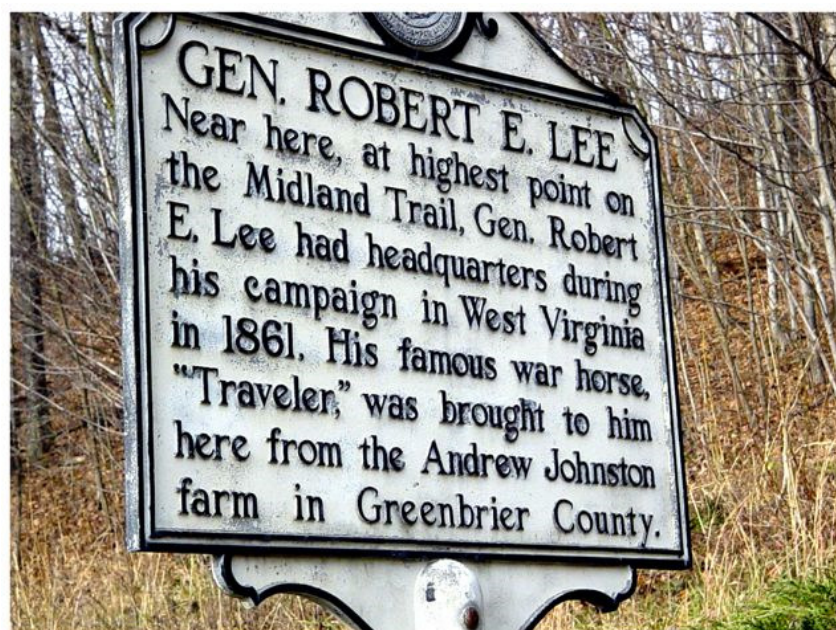
"He was raised by Mr. Johnston, near the Blue Sulphur Springs, in Greenbrier county, Virginia (now West Virginia); was of the 'Gray Eagle' stock, and, as a colt, took the first premium under the name of 'Jeff Davis' at the Lewisburg fairs for each of the years 1859 and 1860. He was four years old in the spring of 1861. When the Wise legion was encamped on Sewell mountain, opposing the advance of the Federal Army under Rosecranz, in the fall of 1861, I was major to the Third regiment of infantry in that legion, and my brother, Captain Joseph M. Broun, was quartermaster to the same regiment.?"

"I authorized my brother to purchase a good serviceable horse of the best Greenbrier stock for our use during the war.?"

"After much inquiry and search he came across the horse above mentioned, and I purchased him for \$175 (gold value), in the fall of 1861, from Captain James W. Johnston, son of the Mr. Johnston first above mentioned. When the Wise legion was encamped about Meadow Bluff and Big Sewell mountains, I rode this horse, which was then greatly admired in camp for his rapid, springy walk, his high spirit, bold carriage, and muscular strength.

"When General Lee took command of the Wise legion and Floyd brigade that were encamped at and near Big Sewell mountains, in the fall of 1861, he first saw this horse, and took a great fancy to it. He called it his colt, and said that he would use it before the war was over. Whenever the General saw my brother on this horse he had something pleasant to say to him about 'my colt,' as he designated this horse. As the winter approached, the climate in the West Virginia mountains caused Rosecranz's army to abandon its position on Big Sewell and retreat westward. General Lee was thereupon ordered to South Carolina. The Third regiment of the Wise legion was subsequently detached from the army in Western Virginia and ordered to the South Carolina coast, where it was known as the Sixtieth Virginia regiment, under Colonel Starke. Upon seeing my brother on this horse near Pocotalipo, in South Carolina, General Lee at once recognized the horse, and again inquired of him pleasantly about 'his colt.'"

"My brother then offered him the horse as a gift, which the General promptly declined, and at the same time remarked: 'If you will willingly sell me the horse, I will gladly use it for a week or so to learn its qualities.' Thereupon my brother had the horse sent to General Lee's stable. In about a week the horse was returned to my brother, with a note from General Lee stating that the animal suited him, but that he could not longer use so valuable a horse in such times, unless it was his own; that if he (my brother) would not sell, please to keep the horse, with many thanks. This was in February, 1862. At that time I was in Virginia, on the sick list from a long and severe attack of camp fever, contracted in the campaign on Big Sewell mountains. My brother wrote me of General Lee's desire to have the horse, and asked me what he should do. I replied at once: 'If he will not accept it, then sell it to him at what it cost me.' He then sold the horse to General Lee for \$200 in



currency, the sum of \$25 having been added by General Lee to the price I paid for the horse in September, 1861, to make up the depreciation in our currency from September, 1861, to February, 1862.?

"In 1868 General Lee wrote to my brother, stating that this horse had survived the war—was known as 'Traveller' (spelling the word with a double l in good English style), and asking for its pedigree, which was obtained, as above mentioned, and sent by my brother to General Lee."

TRAVELLER IN BATTLE

Evidently, this horse may have been spooky and hot, but he was brave. It is stated that Traveller went into battle more than any other Civil War horse. In fact, several accounts stated that General Lee's men had to often grab Traveller and push him to the back of the pack because General Lee could not be on the front lines — even though the horse wanted to be there. A recount:

Some of the most dramatic incidents involving Lee and Traveller occurred during the Overland campaign in 1864, when soldiers literally grabbed the horse's reins to prevent their commander from personally leading attacks on six occasions between May 6 and May 12.

The most notable incident occurred in the Wilderness on May 6, when soldiers of the Texas Brigade surrounded Traveller and shouted, 'Lee to the rear!' That day Traveller carried Lee until well after midnight, and when they finally returned to camp, Lee dismounted, and overcome with exhaustion, he threw his arms around Traveller's neck to hold himself up.

Joseph Broun's brother, Thomas L. Broun, praised Traveller for needing 'neither whip nor spur, and would walk his five or six miles an hour over the rough mountain road of Western Virginia...such vim and eagerness did he manifest to go right ahead so soon as he was mounted.' It was often reported that Lee rode Traveller over 40 miles a day. In fact, Lee re-named Jeff Davis "Traveller" because of his ability to walk quickly.

A BIT DIFFICULT, HOWEVER

As much as Lee loved his horse, Traveller was known to be a bit difficult. He jiggled everywhere he went. He had to be in the front of the line. He reared. He spooked. He was fussy.

There was the time that Traveller reared and broke both of Lee's hands... and there was the time that Lee has his son, Robert Jr, ride Traveller. This was supposed to be an honor but here is the tale described by Junior:

The general (his father) had the strongest affection for Traveller, which he showed on all occasions, and his allowing me to ride him on this long march was a great compliment. Possibly he wanted to give me a good hammering before he turned me over to the cavalry. During my soldier life, so far, I had been on foot, having backed nothing more lively than a tired artillery horse; so I mounted with some misgivings, though I was very proud of my steed. My misgivings were fully realized, for Traveller would not walk a step. He took a short, high trot — a buck-trot, as compared with a buck-jump — and kept it up to Fredericksburg, some thirty miles. Though young, strong, and tough, I was glad when the journey ended. This was my first introduction to the cavalry service. I think I am safe in saying that I could have walked the distance with much less discomfort and fatigue. My father having thus given me a horse and presented me with one of his swords, also supplied my purse so that I could get myself an outfit suitable to my new position, and he sent me on to join my command, stationed not far away on the Rappahannock, southward from Fredericksburg.

THE LOVE AFFAIR

It seems the love and respect for each other was mutual. Here is how Traveller felt about General Lee:

One afternoon in July of this year, the General rode down to the canal-boat landing to put on board a young lady who had been visiting his daughters and was returning home. He dismounted, tied Traveller to a post, and was standing on the boat making his adieux, when someone called out that Traveller was loose. Sure enough, the gallant grey was making his way up the road, increasing his speed as a number of boys and men tried to stop him. General Lee immediately stepped ashore, called to the crowd to stand still, and advancing a few steps gave a peculiar low whistle. At the first sound, Traveller stopped and pricked up his ears. The General whistled a second time, and the horse with a glad whinny turned and trotted quietly back to his master, who patted and coaxed him before tying him up again. To a bystander expressing surprise at the creature's docility the General observed that he did not see how any man could ride a horse for any length of time without a perfect understanding being established between them.

Here is how General Lee felt about Traveller... this excerpt is from a letter to his daughter when she had commissioned an artist to paint Traveller:

If I were an artist like you I would draw a true picture of Traveller — representing his fine proportions, muscular figure, deep chest and short back, strong haunches, flat legs, small head, broad forehead, delicate ears, quick eye, small feet, and black mane and tail. Such a picture would inspire a poet, whose genius could then depict his worth and describe his endurance of toil, hunger, thirst, heat, and cold, and the dangers and sufferings through which he passed. He could dilate upon his sagacity and affection and his invariable response to every wish of his rider. He might even imagine his thoughts, through the long night marches and days of battle through which he has passed.

But I am no artist; I can only say he is a Confederate grey. I purchased him in the mountains of Virginia in the autumn of 1861, and he has been my patient follower ever since — to Georgia, the Carolinas, and back to Virginia. He carried me through the Seven Days battle around Richmond, the Second Manassas, at Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, the last day at Chancellorsville, to Pennsylvania, at Gettysburg, and back to the Rappahannock. From the commencement of the campaign in 1864 at Orange, till its close around Petersburg, the saddle was scarcely off his back, as he passed through the fire of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and across the James River. He was almost in daily requisition in the winter of 1864-65 on the long line of defenses from Chickahominy, north of Richmond, to Hatcher's Run, south of the Appomattox. In the campaign of 1865, he bore me from Petersburg to the final days at Appomattox Court House. You must know the comfort he is to me in my present retirement....Of all his companions in toil, 'Richmond,' 'Brown Roan,' 'Ajax,' and quiet 'Lucy Long,' he is the only one that retained his vigor. The first two expired under their onerous burden, the last two failed. You can, I am sure, from what I have said, paint his portrait. R.E. Lee

RETIREMENT AND DEATH

Lee spent his final years as president of Washington College in Lexington, Va., where Traveller was allowed to graze the campus. He lost numerous hairs from his mane and tail as admirers plucked them for souvenirs. Ha! I read a letter from General Lee to his daughter where he stated that Traveller is going BALD from all the students grabbing hair samples!

Lee became ill in September 1870, and on October 12 he died at his home in Lexington. Traveller walked behind the hearse at Lee's funeral and continued to be well cared for up until his death in June 1871. After stepping on a nail and contracting tetanus, commonly known as lockjaw, Traveller was euthanized. Traveller was initially buried behind the main buildings of the college, but was unearthed by persons unknown and his bones were bleached for exhibition in Rochester, New York, in 1875/1876.

In 1907, Richmond journalist Joseph Bryan paid to have the bones mounted and returned to the college, named Washington and Lee University since Lee's death, and they were displayed in the Brooks Museum, in what is now Robinson Hall.

The skeleton was periodically vandalized there by students who carved their initials in it for good luck. In 1929, the bones were moved to the museum in the basement of the Lee Chapel, where they stood for 30 years, deteriorating with exposure. (So sad...)

Finally in 1971, Traveller's remains were buried in a wooden box encased in concrete next to the Lee Chapel on the Washington & Lee campus, a few feet away from the Lee family crypt inside, where his master's body rests.

I love this part... The stable where he lived his last days (directly connected to the Lee House on campus) traditionally stands with its doors left open; this is said to allow Traveller's spirit to wander freely as he did when he was alive.

The Delta General
Larry McCluney, Editor
1412 North Park Dr
Greenwood, MS 38930

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However, the 24th President of Washington & Lee (and thus a recent resident of Lee House), Dr. Thomas Burish, caught strong criticism from many members of the Washington & Lee community for closing the stable gates in violation of this tradition. Burish later had the doors to the gates repainted in a dark green color, which he referred to in campus newspapers as "Traveller Green."

I guess he was trying to redeem himself... but I like it.

WAS TRAVELLER A WALKING HORSE?

Many people think Traveller was a Tennessee Walking Horse. I've heard he was what became a Kentucky Saddler which then became the Saddlebred. Maybe... But for sure, his sire wasn't. Traveller's sire was Grey Eagle, a great Thoroughbred race horse who was also grey.

FINAL THOUGHTS

There is a horse for everyone. The great Traveller was considered gorgeous and difficult. But, he was greatly loved, and still is...

