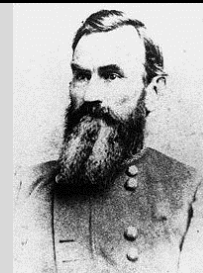




# The Delta General

July, 2014 Volume 17, Issue 7

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



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – July 3
- July 10-13, MOS&B National convention in Charleston, SC
- July 16-19 2014 National Reunion, hosted by the 10th Brigade, South Carolina Division; North Charleston, S.C.  
<http://www.scv2014.org/>
- Heritage Rally in Franklin, TN – September 13

## Camp News:

### Commander's Message – Joe Nokes

To all,

Well, the Mississippi Division Convention has come and gone. The event was held in Corinth and was a success. Many thanks to the Corinth camp for their efforts. While I am at it, thanks to all of our camp members who attended the convention.

Now, we are on the fast track to the SCV National Convention in Charleston, South Carolina. By now, you all know that our own Larry McCluney is campaigning for the office of AOT Commander. We need to give all of our support to Larry in his bid for this important and prestigious office. At our camp meeting scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be handling business and making preparations for two important events. First, we need to vote on the camp's position on candidates and legislations for the aforementioned National Convention so that the camp's delegation can properly represent you. Second, we need to finalize some preparations for our August "meeting" which will take the form of a pilgrimage to Port Gibson to the grave of our camp namesake, General Humphreys.

Now that all the news is done, I would like to relate to you some lines from a young Confederate that can just as well apply to us today. The following excerpt is taken from a letter written by Sergeant Abe Bostick of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry.

"We are living in one of the great historical epochs of the world and the crisis of the time is now upon us . . . I don't mean that we, in the event of continued disasters, will be subjugated: that can never be done: but it will decide in a great measure upon what terms our independence will be obtained."

This letter was written during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862. As I read these words recently, I could not help but relate them to our present times. We are in the last year or so of the Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence. And I, for one, still do not feel entirely subjugated (even though there has been a massive effort to do just that for a long time now). Moreover, I agree with Abe that complete subjugation "can never be done" to those of us whose hearts and minds remain free and clear.

I remain your fellow "un"subjugated friend,  
Joe Nokes

### Ella Palmer, OCR Report: Sandra Stillman, President

First, I want to remind everyone of our up and coming State Reunion in Corinth, MS on June 6-8. This year is an election year for State Officers and to hear reports.

The Corinth 333 and General M.P. Lowrey 1608 Chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will host a gathering for all ladies and girls on the morning of June 7th in Corinth at the Library, just across from the 1st Baptist church, in conjunction with the Sons of Confederate Veterans State Reunion. from 9-10 am. All ladies and girls are invited to come and enjoy a cup of coffee, tea or bottle of water before a trip to the green market for a morning of fun. Open to all ladies as they come to Corinth with husbands or boyfriends or others, as we welcome you all to Historic Corinth Mississippi! The address to the Corinth Library is 1023 North Fillmore, Corinth, MS 38834. See yall there! Details: Contact Pam Mauldin: [pgmauldin@comcast.net](mailto:pgmauldin@comcast.net)

Second, we will have our meeting on June 5 and I hope to see a great turn out as we help the men prepare for their reunion as well.

### Lt. Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

July; I will be the speaker for our July meeting. The subject will be the capture and the capture site of President Jefferson Davis.

August; Pilgrimage to Grand Gulf / Port Gibson and for September: Our Speaker will be "The Medicine Lady", Diane Bonert.

### Mechanized Cavalry Report: Richard Dillon, Cpl

Three of the North West Squad members, Johnny Gaugh, Richard Miller, and Richard Dillon, rode to the Brice's Crossroads Reenactment. It was a great ride and a chance to visit with the North East Squad.

We will certainly ride to Grand Gulf / Port Gibson, so plan on going. I'll send a text or email informing you of the date and time as soon as it is determined.

If you have a ride you would like to make, let me know.





## **Brig/General Charles Clark Chapter, MOS&B**

IMPORTANT: Don't forget the annual convention in Charleston, South Carolina, Thursday, July 10th to Saturday, July 12th. Headquarters will be Doubletree Hilton at 181 Church Street in the heart of the Historic District. Double Tree by Hilton Hotel & Suites Charleston - Historic District 181 Church Street, Charleston, South Carolina, 29401, USATEL: 1-843-577-2644 **(Give code of "MOSB" when making your reservation to receive the special rate of \$159/night)**

## **Adjutant's Report for June, 2013 – Dan McCaskill**

Commander Joe Nokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by Compatriot Junior Stillman. Joe welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting and then invited all to partake in the evening meal provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR. After the meal, Joe reconvened the Meeting. Color Sergeant Jimmy Alford was absent. Joe led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy and then read "The Charge" given to us by Gen. Stephen D. Lee.

**Program:** Our guest speaker for the evening was Doug Adams, whose program was "Forrest at Brice's Crossroads". This was very timely with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Doug touched on some of Forrest's early career, his strategy and reasons for the time and place of the battle of Brice's Crossroads, some of Forrest's post-war events and gave a quiz on Forrest and his tactics. There were 10 questions and a bonus question. Two tied with a perfect score, Joe Nokes and Larry McCluney who were both awarded a cash prize of \$ 50 each in Confederate script.

**Announcements:** The Division Reunion will be held in Corinth, MS June 6-8, 2014. The following weekend, June 13-15, 2014 will be the 150<sup>th</sup> Reenactment of the of Brice's Crossroads. The National Reunion will be held in North Charleston, SC July 16-21, 2014. George Brumfield announced that Jimmy Alford would be having surgery the coming week and asked members to keep Jimmy in their prayers.

**Officer Reports:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Richard Dillon announced that there will not be a speaker for the July Meeting which is July 3<sup>rd</sup> but we will have a DVD program. August will be our pilgrimage to Grand Gulf & Port Gibson to honor B/G Benjamin Humphreys. The September speaker will be the "Medicine Lady". 2nd Lt. Commander Brent Mitchell was absent; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that little had changed since the last Meeting. The Camp is well within its budget with \$ 2, 191 remaining. No new or past members had been recruited since last meeting. The Membership Renewal Statements should be mailed to members the first part of July. The Camp's collection for the Confederate Headstone has surpassed the halfway point at \$ 296 with \$ 179 needed to purchase one Confederate Headstone. As Camp Editor, Larry inquired if anyone had problems receiving the Camp Newsletter; OCR President Sandra Stillman announced that their members were preparing for the State OCR Reunion at Corinth..

**Camp Business:** The following members will be going to the Division Reunion as the Camp's Delegation: Joe Nokes, Chairman, Larry McCluney, Richard Dillon, Alan Palmer and Dan McCaskill. There were six proposed By-Law amendments that were discussed by the members. A motion was made by Larry McCluney and seconded by Kenneth Ray to have the members of the Camp Delegation vote on the proposed amendments in the best interest of the Camp. The motion passed. It was also discussed that the members of the "Beauvoir Corporation" would be electing a new Director, confirming an appointed Director to fill a vacancy and to confirm two nominations by the Beauvoir Board of Directors for the Board of Trustees. This voting would be one man, one vote. With no other business coming before the Camp, Commander Nokes entertained a motion to adjourn which was duly made by Robert Strawbridge and seconded by Kenneth Ray and passed.

George Brumfield won the raffle and the Yankee eluded capture again. Attendance for the evening was 24. Compatriot Junior Stillman dismissed the Meeting with a word of prayer.

## **Mississippi Division News**

### **Statue is Underway by Kimble Johnson**

Thought I'd provide you with some pictures (attached) showing you what the Mississippi Monument at Shiloh will look like. This email goes out to all who have been involved in, or are interested in this project. At the time the pictures were taken, the sculptor had yet to add a few details to the maquette, such as the lock plates, hammers, and sights to the Enfield rifles. I apologize for the poor quality of the pictures and I hope to have some better ones available in a month or so, but I think you can tell that this will be a very nice monument and a fitting tribute to the Mississippi troops who fought at Shiloh.

As you probably know, Mississippi is the only state that had a significant number of troops engaged in the Battle of Shiloh that does not have a monument of any kind to honor its troops who fought there. Approximately 17 percent of the Confederate Army at Shiloh consisted of Mississippians, the second highest percentage of any Confederate state. And of the 10,699 Confederate casualties in the battle (1,728 of which were killed), the proportion of Mississippi casualties was as least as high. The 6th Mississippi Infantry Regiment, formed from men in counties around Jackson, suffered especially horrendous losses. In approximately 30 minutes on the morning of April 6, 1862, 300 of the 425 men engaged at Rhea Field became casualties. It is estimated that approximately 50 of these men were killed outright and buried in a mass grave on the southern end of the field. This casualty rate of 70 percent earned "The Bloody Sixth," as the regiment came to be known, the distinction of having the fourth highest casualty rate of any Confederate infantry regiment in a single battle during the War Between the States. The devotion to duty of these men in the 6th Mississippi is representative of all Mississippians who fought at the Battle of Shiloh. After a little over 150 years, these men will finally be recognized by the people of Mississippi. And I personally thank you for any part you had in this effort.

Mississippi Monument details:

- Cost: \$400,000 (\$250,000 appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature, \$150,000 from private funds).
- Design: Three 8-foot bronze figures atop a 6 foot, 2 inch granite base.
- Sculptor: Dr. Kim Sessums, an OB/GYN doctor from Brookhaven, MS; Dr. Sessums was the sculptor of the African-American Monument erected in Vicksburg NMP in 2004.
- Location: Monument will be erected at Rhea Field in Shiloh NMP.
- Dedication date: Sometime in 2015, but not before April.



## SCV National News:

### National Reunion in Charleston, SC

Compatriots,

Beginning July 16<sup>th</sup> and running through July 19<sup>th</sup>, the 119<sup>th</sup> SCV National Reunion will be held at the North Charleston Convention Center, located in North Charleston, SC. The location is central to many of Charleston's historical locations. The harbor sights, the gardens, maritime center and historic homes are but a few of the options available for visitors to Charleston. First and foremost, we the members of the this grand heritage of honor organization will meet in reunion to conduct business, elect new officers and continue paving the way for the future of the organization.

We are requesting that camps bring their colors to the opening ceremonies for a grand procession into the convention hall. Please bring a single base to post you camp colors.

The reunion committee would like to pass on to you that there are spots available for all meals and tours. The window is closing for registering for events at the convention. The reunion committee will soon be sending numbers the caterers. The Meet and Greet Harbor Tour will have heavy hors d'oeuvres to eat on the trip through the historic Charleston harbor past the sights where the War for Southern Independence began. The preservation luncheon is honored to have Allen Roberson, Director of the SC Confederate Relic Room & Military Museum as the speaker. Mr Roberson will be bringing flags from the SC Confederate Relic Room & Military Museum. These original Confederate flags have been preserved with the help of the SC Division SCV. Mr. Roberson will be giving presentation on preserving these artifacts of our heritage.

The Heritage Dinner presents the opportunity to hear Ben Jones. You may remember Mr. Jones as Cooter Davenport in the original and real show the Dukes of Hazard. Mr. Jones is a life member of the SCV and staunch defender of our Confederate Heritage. The Hunley Tour and Fort Tour will provide and insight to the defenses of Charleston. Eighteen debutantes will be presented at the grand ball. There is still time to register for the convention, tours and other events. Every registered member will get a reunion medal, convention program and an opportunity to see your Confederate brethren from around the country. Registration information can be found on the reunion website given [www.scv2014.org](http://www.scv2014.org) We look forward to seeing you in July 2014 SCV Reunion Committee. (Registration form found on page 4)

## Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence Articles:

### This Month's Issue of the Delta General is Dedicated to General Nathan Bedford Forrest

#### The Grand Fabrication of the Fort Pillow Attack

It is almost as difficult to find consistent information about the incident at Fort Pillow as it is to determine the moral significance of its outcome. Scholars disagree about exactly what transpired on April 12, 1864 at Fort Pillow, when General Nathan Bedford Forrest captured the fort with his 1,500 troops and claimed numerous Union lives in the process (Wyeth 250).

It became an issue of propaganda for the Union, and as a result the facts were grossly distorted. After close examination it is clear that the <sup>3</sup>Fort Pillow Massacre<sup>2</sup> (as it became known by abolitionists) was nothing of the sort. The 1,500 troops under the command of General Nathan Bedford Forrest acted as men and as soldiers in their capture of Fort Pillow.

It is first necessary to understand what happened in the battle before any judgment can be made. A careful study performed by Dr. John Wyeth revealed the following information: from April 9-11, 1864, troops under the command of Ben McCulloch, Tyree Harris Bell, and Brig. General James Chalmers marched non-stop to Fort Pillow to begin their assault under the command of General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Confederate sharpshooters claimed the lives of several key Union officers during the morning assault on the fort. The losses included the commanding officer Major Lionel F. Booth and his second in command shortly after that. These losses created a complete breakdown of order and leadership among the Union troops within the fort. (251)

During the morning engagement, the gun boat the New Era was continually attempting to shell the Confederate forces from the Mississippi, but with minimal success. The Union forces fought back heartily until around one o'clock in the afternoon, when both sides slowed down. Around that time the New Era steamed out of range to cool its weapons. It had fired a total of 282 rounds, and its supplies were almost totally exhausted. During this hiatus in the firing, while Confederate troops waited for supplies that would arrive around three o'clock, Forrest was injured when his horse fell on him after being mortally wounded (252).

When the supplies arrived, Confederate troops under a flag of truce delivered a message from Forrest that said, <sup>3</sup>My men have received a fresh supply of ammunition, and from their present position can easily assault and capture the fort,<sup>2</sup> (253). Forrest demanded <sup>3</sup>the unconditional surrender of the garrison, <sup>2</sup> promising <sup>3</sup>that you shall be treated as prisoners of war<sup>2</sup> (253). This agreement was refused by Major William F. Bradford using the name of Major Booth, and Forrest was left with no option but to attack (Long & Long 484).

Without a word, Forrest rode to his post, and a bugle call began the charge. The soldiers stormed the fort under the cover of sharpshooter fire. The Union spent their rounds on the charging mass, and the second wave was to all intents and purposes a <sup>3</sup>turkey shoot.<sup>2</sup> As hordes of soldiers came over the wall, a considerable number of Union lives were lost to point blank fire, an action that was deemed murder by the northern press. (255) However, it must not be forgotten that those Union troops who died were in the process of reloading their rifles. Even knowing that they were severely outnumbered, they had demanded the fight (Henry 255)

By this point most of the Union officers in the fort had been killed, and the remaining troops fled the fort toward the river where they had provisions waiting. There was also a plan for the New Era to shell the Confederate troops in the fort with canister, but the shelling never happened. (Confederate troops were waiting at the bottom of the fort to prevent access to the supplies by the Union forces. With the Union flag still flying upon the fort and Union forces still firing on the run, Confederate troops claimed many more lives on the river bank.

It was reported by Colonel Barteau that they made a wild, crazy, scattering fight. They acted like a crowd of drunken men. They would at one moment yield and throw down their guns, and then would rush again to arms, seize their guns and renew the fire. If one squad was left as prisoners ... it would soon discover that they could not be trusted as having surrendered, for taking the first opportunity they would break lose again and engage in the contest. Some of our men were killed by Negroes who had once surrendered (256).

The report of Lieu-tenant Daniel Van Horn, Sixth U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery confirmed this in which he reported: "There never was a surrender of the fort, both officers and men declaring they never would surrender or ask for quarter."

... continued on page 5



**Sons of Confederate Veterans  
119<sup>th</sup> National Reunion  
North Charleston, SC  
July 16-19, 2014  
1864 - H. L. Hunley - 2014**



**Individual Member Registration (Basic Registration is required for ALL members attending the reunion)**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Early Registration (Thru March 31, 2014) (\$55.00 Each)   | Qty. _____ x 55 = _____                             |
| Late Registration (After March 31, 2014) (\$65.00 Each)   | Qty. _____ x 65 = _____                             |
| Wed, July 16: Harbor Meet & Greet Tour (\$65.00 Each)   | Qty. _____ x 65 = _____                             |
| Thurs, July 17: General Forrest Cavalry Breakfast (\$30.00 Each)  | Qty. _____ x 30 = _____                             |
| Thurs, July 17: C. Irvine Walker Preservation Luncheon (\$35.00 Each)   | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____                             |
| Thurs, July 17: General Johnson Hagood Heritage Dinner (\$35.00 Each)   | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____                             |
| Thurs, July 17: Ladies Tour (\$35.00 Each)  | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____                             |
| Thurs, July 17: Fort & Battlefield Tour (\$35.00 Each)  | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____                             |
| Fri, July 18: Gen. Ellison Capers Chaplains Breakfast (\$30.00 Each)  | Qty. _____ x 30 = _____                             |
| Fri, July 18: Lt. Richard Kirkland Awards Luncheon (\$35.00 Each)   | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____                             |
| Fri, July 18: H.L. Hunley Tour (\$40.00 Each)   | Qty. _____ x 40 = _____                             |
| Sat, July 19: Mary Boykin Chesnut Debutante Luncheon (\$30.00 Each) (Debutantes Free)                         | Qty. _____ x 30 = _____                             |
| Sat, July 19: Gen. Wade Hampton III Grand Banquet and Debutante Ball: (Single: \$70.00)<br>(Couple: \$130.00) | Qty. _____ x 70 = _____<br>Qty. _____ x 130 = _____ |
| Numbered Medal (\$150.00 Each) (Limited to 150 Medals)  | Qty. _____ x 150 = _____                            |
| Additional Reunion Medals (Non Numbered) (\$35.00 Each)   | Qty. _____ x 35 = _____                             |
| Ancestor Memorials (Printed in Program) (\$10.00 Each) (Attach Ancestor Memorial Form)                        | Qty. _____ x 10 = _____                             |

***Make Check payable to Low Country SCV and mail to address below***

**Grand Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Due to the nature of tour booking and catering demands, all tour and meal purchases are considered to be final. No refunds will be issued. The 2014 National SCV Reunion Committee does reserve the right to limit or cancel any tour prior to the reunion due to limited booking of reservations. In the event there is a cancellation of any tour, the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SCV Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV Division: \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ Real Son: ☐

Camp Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Camp #: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

***Contact the Embassy Suites, North Charleston, SC at 1-843-747-1882 for room rates, availability and reservations.  
Ask for the 2014 SCV Reunion Rate.***

**Tenth Brigade, South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans**

David Rentz, 2014 SCV Reunion Chairman,

**[www.scv2014.org](http://www.scv2014.org)**

**Mail Checks To: Low Country SCV, P. O. Box 1170, Ladson, SC 29456-1170**



With this type of activity, it is under-standable how a superior force could claim so many casualties. However, the issue is not so clear to Civil War historians. The first and the information that different

For example, in a historical it is reported that Forrest's slightly inflated from the In this same account ended as a mob scene with 247).

It was distorted information Union as propaganda against General Kilpatrick was quoted Negroes to the fences, set fire Negroes to death<sup>2</sup> (Hurst understandable why

The Congressional after the event. It stated <sup>3</sup>that flag of truce to place which the more readily to after the fall of the fort <sup>3</sup>the indiscriminate slaughter

white or black, soldier or civilian<sup>2</sup>; that this was <sup>3</sup>not the results passions excited by the heat of conflict, but of a policy deliberation decided upon and unhesitatingly announced<sup>2</sup>; that several of the wounded were intentionally burned to death in huts and tents about the fort; and the <sup>3</sup>the rebels buried some of the living the dead.<sup>2</sup> (Henry 260)

LT Van Horn reported that "Lieutenant John D. Hill, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, was ordered outside the fort to burn some barracks, which he, with the assistance of a citizen who accompanied him, succeeded in effecting." This accounts for the barracks allegedly burned by Confederates in which wounded Union soldiers were supposed to have perished.

Union officers were in charge of burials and made no such report of living burials.

In the intensive studies performed by Dr. John Wyeth there were more than fifty soldiers that were present at this battle who gave sworn testimonies contradicting these findings. (260) This suggests that the Union fabricated the truth to aid in its own cause. The fact is that most of what was said about Forrest's unethical actions were false accusations.

Testimonies from several different sources (both Union and Confederate) claim that there were no movements under the flag of truce, but that they had their positions hours before. (Henry 260) It is true that the losses were huge in this battle, but that is typical of many significantly unbalanced battles. According to Wyeth there was only one incident of force against the Union after the Union flag came down, and that resulted in an on the spot arrest.

LT Van Horn's report makes no mention of any "massacre" or misconduct on the part of Forrest or his men and was for a time a prisoner himself, reporting "I escaped by putting on citizen's clothes, after I had been some time their prisoner. I received a slight wound of the left ear" This entire incident was blown totally of proportion. It is tragic to lose even one life, but on a battle field, death is inevitable. This event became a monumental point in the war because of exaggeration and lies told by Union supporters. These lies strengthened the Union cause and further blemished the reputation of Confederate forces. Morally, there is no fault in Forrest's actions.

#### Reference Materials:

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Long, E. B. and Barbara Long. The Civil War Day by Day-An Almanac. New York: Doubleday, 1971.

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Federal Official Records, Series I, Vol. 32, Part 1, pp. 569-570

Report of Lieutenant Daniel Van Horn, Sixth U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery, of the capture of Fort Pillow

Student Essay - Cal Poly

Numbers 16. Report of Lieutenant Daniel Van Horn, Sixth U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery, of the capture of Fort Pillow – Federal Official Records, Series I, Vol. 32, Part 1, pp. 569-570

#### HDQRS. SIXTH U. S. HEAVY ARTILLERY (COLORADO,

Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tenn., April 14, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the battle and capture of Fort Pillow, Tenn.:

At sunrise on the morning of the 12th of April, 1864, our pickets were attacked and driven in, they making very slight resistance. They were from the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry

Major Booth, commanding the post, had made all his arrangements for battle that the limited force under his command would allow, and which was only 450 effective men, consisting of the First Battalion of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, five companies of the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry and one section of the Second U. S. Light Artillery. (Colorado, Lieutenant Hunter.

Arrangements were scarcely completed and the men placed in the rifle-pits before the enemy came upon us and in ten times our number, as acknowledged by General Chalmers. They were repulsed with heavy loss; charged again and were again repulsed. At the third charge Major Booth was killed, while passing among his men and cheering them to fight.



biggest problem has to do with historians base their opinions on account written by Carl Sandburg troops stood 6,000 strong. This is actual 1,500 that were present. Sandburg claims that the <sup>3</sup>battle wholesale lynching<sup>2</sup> (Sandburg

such as this that was used by the the South. After the incident saying Forrest had <sup>3</sup>nailed to the fences, and burned the 321). With reports like this, it is abolitionist were outraged. Committee released a summary the rebels took advantage of a themselves in <sup>3</sup>position from charge the upon the fort<sup>2</sup>; that rebels commenced in an sparing neither age nor sex,

Continued on page 6 . . .

Fort Pillow continued from page 5 . . .

The order was then given to retire inside the fort, and General Forrest sent in a flag of truce demanding an unconditional surrender of the fort, which was returned with a decided refusal.

During the time consumed by this consultation advantage was taken by the enemy to place in position his force, they crawling up to the fort. After the flag had retired, the fight was renewed and raged with fury for some time, when another flag of truce was sent in and another demand for surrender made, they assuring us at the same time that they would treat us as "prisoners of war."

Another refusal was returned, when they again charged the works and succeeded in carrying them. Shortly before this, however, Lieutenant John D. Hill, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery, was ordered outside the fort to burn some barracks, which he, with the assistance of a citizen who accompanied him, succeeded in effecting, and in returning was killed.

Major Bradford, of the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, was now in command. At 4 o'clock the fort was in possession of the enemy, every man having been either killed, wounded, or captured.

There never was a surrender of the fort, both officers and men declaring they never would surrender or ask for quarter. [Emphasis added, ed.] As for myself, I escaped by putting on citizen's clothes, after I had been some time their prisoner. I received a slight wound of the left ear. I cannot close this report without adding my testimony to that accorded by others wherever the black man has been brought into battle. Never did men fight better, and when the odds against us are considered it is truly miraculous that we should have held the fort an hour. To the colored troops is due the successful holding out until 4 p. m. The men were constantly at their posts, and in fact through the whole engagement showed a valor not, under the circumstances, to have been expected from troops less than veterans, either white or black.

The following is a list of the casualties among the officers as far as known: Killed, Major Lionel F. Booth, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored); Major William F. Bradford, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry; Captain Theodore F. Bradford, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry; Captain Delos Carson, Company D, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored); Lieutenant John D. Hill, Company C, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored); Lieutenant Peter Bischoff,\* Company A, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored). Wounded, Captain Charles J. Epeneter, Company A, prisoner; Lieutenant Thomas W. McClure, Company C, prisoner; Lieutenant Henry Lippett, Company B, escaped, badly wounded; Lieutenant Van Horn, Company D, escaped, slightly wounded. I know of about 15 men of the Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored) having escaped, and all but 2 of them are wounded.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, &c.,

DANIEL VAN HORN,

2nd Lieutenant Company D, Sixth U. S. Heavy Artillery (colored).

Lieutenant Colonel T. H. HARRIS,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

Destruction and Reconstruction: Personal Experiences of the Late War; Richard Taylor, Lieutenant-General in the Confederate Army. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 549 and 551 Broadway, 1879, pp.200 I doubt if any commander since the days of lion-hearted Richard has killed as many enemies with his own hand as Forrest. His word of command as he led the charge was unique: "Forward, men, and mix with 'em!" But, while cutting down many a foe with long reaching, nervous arm, his keen eye watched the whole fight and guided him to the weak spot. Yet he was a tender-hearted, kindly man. The accusations of his enemies that he murdered prisoners at Fort Pillow and elsewhere are absolutely false. The prisoners captured on his expedition into Tennessee, of which I have just written, were negroes, and he carefully looked after their wants himself, though in rapid movement and fighting much of the time. These negroes told me of Mass Forrest's kindness to them.

"Was There a Massacre at Ft. Pillow?" John L. Jordan, Tennessee History Quarterly VI (June 1947), pp 99-133:

"...burial details were composed of Union troops under Union officers, a fact which clears Forrest's men of the charges that they buried Negro wounded alive...Union casualties may have amounted to less two hundred killed, wounded, and missing

[http://www.southernlegacy.org/Southern\\_Legacy/Articles-Information\\_files/Ft.%20Pillow%20essay.pdf](http://www.southernlegacy.org/Southern_Legacy/Articles-Information_files/Ft.%20Pillow%20essay.pdf)

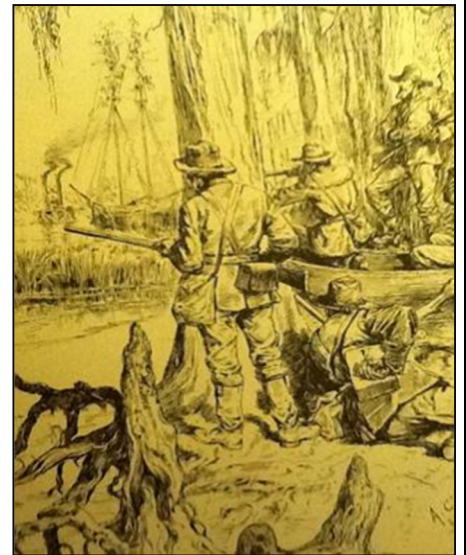
[http://shnv.blogspot.com/2013/07/the-grand-fabrication\\_3.html](http://shnv.blogspot.com/2013/07/the-grand-fabrication_3.html)

## **Aaron Forrest and the Yazoo Pass**

Born in Bedford County, Tennessee, on July 13, 1821, Nathan Bedford Forrest was the first of twelve children. With little formal education, Bedford Forrest moved with his family to Mississippi in 1834, and after his father's death in 1837, was left with the responsibility of supporting the entire family. Despite his lack of a formal education, Forrest excelled in business (including the slave trade) and by the time of the Civil War was a very wealthy man. Of course, Forrest (right) is best known as a military genius. Rising from private to Lieutenant General, he is rightfully considered one of the greatest generals the war produced. Nathan Bedford Forrest was not the only Forrest who fought in the Civil War, however. In fact, four of Nathan Bedford's brothers also served in the Confederate army, all of them achieving an officer's rank. Two of them, Jeffrey and Jesse, were colonels, while William and Aaron served as captains. All have interesting stories, but it is Aaron who is the subject of today's discussion. Of all the Forrest brothers in the war, Aaron suffered perhaps the most embarrassing defeat imaginable.

Aaron Forrest (1828-1864) was seven years younger than his brother Nathan. In Memphis, Aaron was a partner with his older brother at "Forrest & Maples" as a dealer in slaves. By 1858, Aaron had his own slave business in Vicksburg. By 1860, the A.H. Forrest and Company ceased operations and Aaron joined the war effort as a soldier in the Sixth Battalion, Mississippi State Troops. With the rank of captain, Forrest commanded a cavalry company. Operating mostly as scouts, Forrest's company was in the Mississippi Delta in the spring of 1863. It was during the Yazoo Pass Expedition that Forrest had his brief brush with infamy.

The Yazoo Pass Expedition was a joint operation between the Union army and navy to bypass Vicksburg's defenses by utilizing the rivers of the Delta region to move down toward Vicksburg. On February 3, 1863, the Federals blew the levee along the Mississippi River at Moon Lake and flooded the area. Entering Moon Lake through the breached levee, the Union gunboats and transports began making their way toward their objective, which



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was to get into the Coldwater and Yazoo rivers. To do that, however, the fleet had to navigate a series of tortuous and twisting waterways. Their task was hampered by natural obstacles and trees felled by Confederate partisans across the channel. The result was an extremely slow and difficult advance. All along the way, men under the command of Capt. Aaron Forrest, one of the few Confederate units in the region, took shots at the soldiers on board the vessels, cut down trees ahead of the fleet, and watched and reported on the progress (or lack thereof) of the Federal expedition.

Toward the beginning of the movement into the Yazoo Pass, Captain George W. Brown, acting master of the Forest Rose, and Lt. Col. James H. Wilson, Grant's chief topographical engi-neer, decided to take a skiff (i.e., a small boat) into the Pass ahead of the fleet to reconnoiter what lay ahead (Wilson's map of the Yazoo Pass is above). Watching from the riverbank was Capt. Forrest's company, ready to fire on the little party (which included an armed guard). Seeing Wilson's uniform, however, and perhaps confusing Capt. Brown's pilot's insignia for a Union general, Forrest decided to let the small vessel pass by in hopes of bagging the whole party further upstream. The thought of capturing two or more brigadier generals was perhaps just too good to pass up. Just as they were about to spring the trap, however, Forrest's men heard the unmistakable sound of movement in the woods toward the Confederate position. Thinking he had been outflanked by a Union landing party, Forrest's men fell back. In the meantime, Wilson and Brown escaped the trap laid for them, rejoining the fleet in Moon Lake. Unaware of the danger facing them, Brown and Wilson would have no doubt been captured by the young Captain Forrest. They were not saved by Union troops, however. In fact, the noisy group turned out to be a pack of wild pigs running through the woods!!

To be fair, Capt. Forrest never filed a report about his encounter with the pigs (and who could blame him) and the only account we have of this incident comes from Capt. Brown, written many years after the war, and recorded as a footnote in Ed Bearss' Vicksburg Campaign trilogy.\* If true, though, it's probably the only time in the war that a Forrest was defeated by a pig.

Aaron Forrest did not survive the Civil War to contest the story, falling victim to pneumonia in 1864. His brother Jeffrey, who rose to command a cavalry brigade under big brother Nathan, was killed at Okolona the same year. One of the men in the skiff, however, not only survived the war but went on to high command. James H. Wilson, one of Grant's most trusted lieutenants, would eventually be promoted to major general, commanding cavalry in both the eastern and western theaters. In 1865, Wilson (right) led a crushing raid through Alabama and Georgia, during which his troops burned the University of Alabama, defeated Nathan Bedford Forrest at Selma, captured Columbus, Georgia, and, in May, 1865, captured none other than President Jefferson Davis.

The near capture of James Wilson, then, becomes one of many 'what ifs' of the Civil War. If captured by Aaron Forrest, Wilson, rather than rising through the ranks to high command and leading some of the final campaigns of the war, might have simply disappeared. But for the timely arrival of a pack of porcine pretenders, James H. Wilson himself might have been nothing other than a footnote in history.

\* The account was related to Brown by Cadwallader C. Washburn, who probably got the story from captured Confederate soldiers. In December, Washburn had commanded the failed Union expedition to Grenada, ending with the Battle of Oakland. See <http://andspeakingofwhich.blogspot.com/2012/06/battle-of-oakland.html>.

Photo and Image Sources:

- (1) Forrest: <http://library.thinkquest.org/05aug/00158/nathanbedfordforrest.html>
- (2) Map: [http://www.28thwisconsin.com/gifs/moonlake\\_wilsonmap.jpg](http://www.28thwisconsin.com/gifs/moonlake_wilsonmap.jpg)
- (3) Confederate partisans: From The American Heritage Century Collection of Civil War Art
- (4) Pig: <http://www.posters.co.uk/Civil-War-Soldiers/53563>
- (5) Wilson: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_H.\\_Wilson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_H._Wilson)

## **Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest: A Summary of Some of His Achievements.**

Bishop Gailor, of Tennessee, contributes to the Sewanee Review for January, 1901, a very readable sketch of the military career of General Nathan Bedford Forrest, the Confederate cavalry leader, of whom General Sherman once wrote: "After all, I think Forrest was the most remarkable man our civil war produced on either side."

Forrest's first engagement, at Sacramento, Ky., illustrated the tactics that he followed with such marked success throughout the war--dismounting about one-third of his men in front as skirmishers, and then attacking with the others in two divisions on flank and rear.

Passing over the surrender of Fort Donelson, to which Forrest refused to be a party, and which Bishop Gailor characterizes as "disgraceful," the next important action in which Forrest had a part was Shiloh, where he captured a battery, and on the retreat to Corinth he "saved the Confederate army from destruction by checking Sherman's advance."

Forrest's subsequent exploits are thus related by Bishop Gailor: "Within three weeks, however, he was again ready for action, and made a raid into Middle Tennessee that astounded his enemies, and so began the marvellous career of audacity and success that ended only with the civil war. With 1,500 men he swooped upon the fortifications at Murfreesboro, destroyed the railway station and the forts, took 1,200 prisoners, including two brigadier-generals--Crittenden and Duffield--destroyed \$700,000 worth of stores, captured sixty wagons, 500 mules and horses, one battery of artillery, and escaped in safety with the loss of but sixteen killed and twenty-five wounded. The country swarmed with Federal troops, and Forrest's escape reads like a chapter in fiction. General Buell wrote: "Our guards are gathered up by Forrest as easily as he would herd cattle. Why don't you do something?" "After checking Buell's advance upon Bragg, who had marched into Kentucky, Forrest was again relieved of his command (November, 1862), and was ordered back to Tennessee to raise and equip another, if he could.

"By December 1st a new brigade of 2,000 men had gathered around him at Columbia; but they had virtually no arms, ammunition or other equipment, and the only source of supply was the enemy's garrisons. Forrest accordingly ventured to cross the Tennessee river, though it was patrolled by gunboats, and marched with his small brigade into West Tennessee in the face of more than 12,000 Federal troops. He eluded pursuit, captured Colonel Ingersoll and his command, near Jackson, captured the garrison at Forked Deer creek, then captured Trenton and its garrison, and again Union City with its garrison, and destroyed immense quantities of stores. Being surrounded finally by three brigades, he attacked one after the other, and made his escape in safety, taking with him 500 recruits, full supplies of arms, ammunition, horses, and clothes for his men, together with five pieces of artillery, eleven cannon, thirty-eight wagons and teams, and 1,500 prisoners."

In his account of Forrest's raid into West Tennessee, in 1863, Bishop Gailor quotes the words of "a northern correspondent," who wrote: "In the face of 10,000 Federal troops, Forrest, with less than 4,000, has marched right through the Sixteenth Army Corps, nine miles from Memphis, carried off 100q wagons, 200 cattle, 3,000 conscripts, destroyed several railroads and many towns." In his successful attack on General William S. Smith, Forrest stated that he had 2,500 men engaged against 7,000.

Summarizing General Forrest's personal characteristics, Bishop Gailor says: "He was a man of immense physical strength and size, and as resolute and audacious in personal encounters as in open battle. His temper was terrific when aroused, and his language was often violent and profane, but never vulgar or obscene. He detested uncleanness, as he despised wanton cruelty and oppression. In the midst of the battle, when his own life was in peril, he was known to rescue a woman and a child from danger and carry them to a place of safety. While he thrashed a scout with hickory switches

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for giving him second-hand information, he degraded one of his best officers for trifling with the affections of a woman. He was unlearned, but not illiterate. A pen, he said once, reminded him of a snake; and his spelling was consistently wrong, but his natural eloquence could move his troops to enthusiasm. He did not know the first principles of the drill, being astonished at the effect of a trumpet-call upon disciplined soldiers, and yet, in his general plan of battle he instinctively adopted mature tactics of Napoleon. He exercised an authority as a general that was absolutely intolerant of the slightest variation or disobedience, and yet he was the genial companion of his subordinates, and was foremost in exposing himself in every battle. He had twenty-nine horses killed under him, and with his own hand slew thirty men."

**Southern Historical Society Papers. Vol. XXIX. Richmond, Va., January-December. 1901.**