

The Delta General

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

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The Battle of Atlanta

July 15, 1864—The Battle of Tupelo

July - 2019, Volume 22, Issue 6

The Delta General

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Commander's Report:

Larry McCluney

My Fellow Compatriots,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying this lovely Summer weather we are having. By now you have heard that we have a new Division Commander, one of our former members, George Conor Bond. I could not think of a better, deserving person. He represents then next generation of leaders that we so surely need if our organization is to make that next step.

I want to thank the ladies for their support with the food. Once again a great job ladies.

We will not have a Camp meeting this July because it is the July 4th weekend and many of us will be with family and making preparations for the National Reunion in Mobile, AL. If you have never been to a National Reunion, I encourage you to take advantage of this one since it is close-by. We will meet again the first Saturday of August for the next Camp meeting. Remember, dues renewals are now due. Please make all haste to renew your dues. Deadline is July 31, with a grace period ending August 31.

We miss all of our brothers and sisters of the Camp so please try to make an effort to renew old friendships with us and bring a friend to our next Camp meeting in August.

Live the Charge,
Larry McCluney, Commander



Adjutant's Report — From Meeting — Dan McCaskill

6:00 pm: The Meeting was called to order by Commander Larry McCluney. Compatriot Dan McCaskill was called upon to open the Meeting with a word of prayer and blessing. This was followed by Color Sergeant Earl Allen leading everyone in the Pledge and salutes to our Flags followed by the reading of "The Charge" given to us by L/G Stephen D. Lee.

Program: There was no program this evening. We did have Conor Bond, candidate for Division Commander give his campaign speech. Some of his points were Long Range planning for the Division; the Make Dixie Great Again Campaign; complete Vision 2020 which focuses on growth of the Confederation and Monuments Across Mississippi.

Officer Reports: We dispensed with Officer Reports and concentrated on Camp and Reunion business. As required, as Adjutant I must report that the Camp has \$ 1,080.56 in its account, up slightly from our last Meeting.

Camp Business: Headstone Project: three Confederate Headstones have arrived at Dave's Monuments in Greenwood. After a brief discussion, Joe Nokes made a motion to pick-up the headstones at 9 am on Saturday, June 22nd and install the three stones in the Greenville Cemetery and straighten other headstones as needed. The motion was seconded by Richard Dillon and the motion passed. At this time, Kenneth Ray made a motion for the Camp to go into Executive Session to discuss the proposed Constitutional Amendments and candidates running for Division office. The motion was seconded by Joe Nokes and passed. The Camp went into executive session at 6:55 pm. A motion was made by Kenneth Ray to come out of Executive Session and was seconded by Joe Nokes and the motion passed. The Camp came out of Executive Session at 7:30 pm.

The Camp Delegates selected for the 124th Division Reunion are Joe Nokes, Dan McCaskill, Chairman, Gabriel Nokes and Gator Stillman.

With the July Camp Meeting falling just ahead of the 4th of July weekend and a week ahead of the National Reunion Joe Nokes made a motion to cancel the July Camp Meeting. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and the motion passed.

To get a jump on our Lee-Jackson Banquet, the Camp voted to schedule the banquet for January 18, 2020 at the 1st Presbyterian Church with Conor Bond as our speaker. More information will be coming forth as the time gets closer.

This is an election year for Camp Officers. Zack Kiker has taken a job in Arkansas and has moved there. We will need members to step forward to fill the officer spots. The election will be at our December Meeting.

We had a new member join the Camp, Roland Webster from Sidon, Mississippi. When the opportunity arises, welcome Roland to the Camp.

Membership Renewal Statements have been mailed and you should have received yours by the time you read this. Please get your annual dues to me as soon as possible. Don't forget about the Optional Giving. The Division's Heritage Defense Fund has been drained with two State Flag initiative so please give what you can.

A motion was made, duly seconded and passed to adjourn. Traveling grace was given by Larry McCluney and the Meeting was closed with the singing of Dixie. Attendance for the evening was 16.



Brig. General Benjamin G.
Humphreys Camp #1625, SCV

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Camp Commander

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From the Chaplain's pen... Earl McCown

"Very Much Different, Very Much the Same."

In addition to the basic statement of Christian doctrine formulated in 381 A.D. at the Council of Constantinople, each denomination had a variety of doctrines specific to its organization. Even when doctrines were held in common, some denominations emphasized the importance of certain articles of faith more than others. Thus, given the multitude of denominations, at first it may seem difficult to visualize Confederate generals, or nineteenth-century American society as a whole, having one faith, instead of a multitude of denominations of connected but ultimately distinct faiths based on the person of Jesus Christ.

Despite differences in their doctrinal beliefs, their personal journeys of faith, although shaped to some degree by denomination-specific doctrines, were remarkably compatible. For instance, a faithful Episcopalian like Robert E. Lee could worship with a staunch Presbyterian like Thomas Jonathan Jackson.

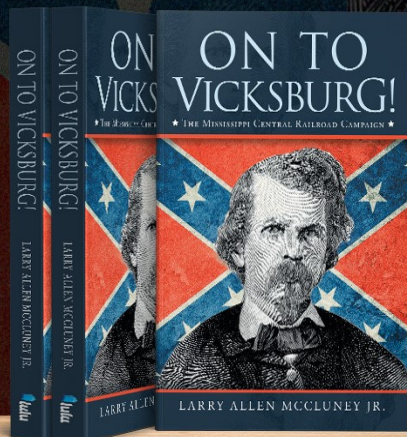
The essential unity of Christian faith the generals shared allowed them to visualize their cause as a holy one pursued by fellow Christians. Common experiences of their religion served to associate Christians with each other, while at the same time allowing them to react differently to the new forces shaping their denominations. Because of such commonalities, and need for Southern unity, few if any generals refused to worship with their fellow Protestants, even if they were from different denominations. For instance, even though Stonewall Jackson belonged to the Presbyterian Church and served faithfully as a deacon, he "...thought of himself as a Christian rather than a Presbyterian."

Jackson's second wife, Mary Anna Jackson, confirmed her husband's open-mindedness and willingness to engage in Christian fellowship with both fellow Protestants and Roman Catholics. It has been written that Robert E. Lee, though a devoted Episcopalian, also spiritually welcomed "Christians of every name."

Other generals, however, were not as willing to accept and tolerate denominational differences as were Lee and Jackson.

I will take up from here next month.....

**Remember When
Southern Boys
Were Proud of
Their Heritage?
Some
Still Are!**



ON TO! VICKSBURG!

THE MISSISSIPPI CENTRAL RAILROAD CAMPAIGN

LARRY ALLEN MCCLUNEY JR.

Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant became commander of all federal forces in the region of Mississippi and east Louisiana in October 1862. For the next nine months, he fought for control of Vicksburg and the Mississippi River, and the Mississippi Central Railroad Campaign was the first in a series of attempts to capture the Confederate citadel. It would end in failure because of a daring raid at Holly Springs, Mississippi, made by Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn. Larry Allen McCluney Jr. examines the campaign as Grant followed the railroad through the Mississippi towns of Holly Springs, Abbeville, Water Valley, Oxford, Coffeeville, and the outskirts of Grenada where his advance was halted, forcing him to return to Holly Springs after Van Dorn's raid. The book addresses a too-little examined phase of Grant's greater Vicksburg Campaign: His initial intent to take the "Gibraltar of the Mississippi" by going through Jackson, Mississippi, on the Mississippi Central Railroad.

This is the second book of a series on Grant's early attempts to take Vicksburg written by Larry McCluney released by Lulu Press. has been a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for twenty-five years. He serves as a national officer of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and is a past chairman of the combined boards of the nonprofit that oversees Beauvoir, the Last Home of President Jefferson Davis. He earned a master's and bachelor's degree in history from Mississippi State University. He has taught history at Greenwood High School in Greenwood, Mississippi, for twenty-five years and at Mississippi Delta Community College for fourteen years. He previously published *The Yazoo Pass Expedition: A Union Thrust into the Delta*. He lives in Greenwood, Mississippi, with his wife of twenty-five years, Julia Annette.

REMEMBERING

Remembering is the act of becoming aware of a past event, someone from the past or knowledge from the past. As members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, we were given The Charge by General Stephen D. Lee. Part of that Charge is "the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history...". The first step in defending his good name is to know who he is and one way we know him is by marking his final resting place. Remember the old saying "Out of sight, out of mind"? By marking his grave site, he will never be forgotten.

For the past three years, the Camp has been working toward obtaining four Confederate Markers for Veterans buried in the Old Greenville Cemetery. The Camp raised money for one stone but waited for impending changes to VA rules before purchasing the stone. Our initial attempt to acquire the stones failed and Robert Edwards from Arkansas was able to get one stone. Subsequent attempts for the other three stones were denied by the VA because the exact burial sites were not known (an unknown requirement) and that we qualified only for a "Memorial Stone" which are reserved only for U.S. Veterans and Confederate Veterans were not considered U.S. Veterans by the VA.

This put us back to square one of purchasing the headstones. At the March Camp Meeting, a motion was passed to divert unused funds from the Initiative 62 Fund (which failed) to the Headstone Fund and purchase three upright marble headstones even though we would be \$371 short of the purchase price. Dan McCaskill pledged to advance the shortfall so the stones could be ordered and the Camp would commit to raise the needed money. We did this because of the projected 12 - 14 week backlog. At the end of the meeting, a contribution of \$100 was made by one member. An email was sent to raise the additional \$271 on or about March 4th.

To date, four additional members have made contributions to this cause. That is five (5) out of forty-two (42) members. For those who can't come to the Meetings or don't participate in any Camp events, this is the easiest way that you can meet The Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans. How hard is it to write a check, put a stamp on an envelope and drop it into the mail? Why can't you do this little thing to honor three Confederate Veterans? If you feel compelled to make a donation, you can mail it to me at the below address and please make your check payable to "SCV". If you have mailed a donation, thank you.

Remember, this organization is about honoring our Confederate Ancestors and the Cause for which they fought. It is not about self-glorification!

God Bless The South,
Dan A. McCaskill
205 Cypress Street
Leland, MS 38756

Mississippi Division News

THIS IS SO WRONG!

The Chancellor of OLE MISS ordered the removal of \$500 worth of flowers today honoring deceased Mississippi Soldiers. People it's been brought to our attention that the substitute Chancellor had the nerve to have the beautiful new flowers from the florist removed from the monument. He's the same one who had them removed during Graduation under false pretenses that the flowers were unsightly. It's not the flowers that needs to be removed. It's the Substitute Chancellor. Anybody who is offended enough by flowers no less to take extreme measures against the only thing that people can give to pay their respects has no place heading an Institute dealing with people or watching over our University.

This Needs to Be Made Viral ASAP!!

SOME (more) FACTS ON THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI CAMPUS CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL STATUE

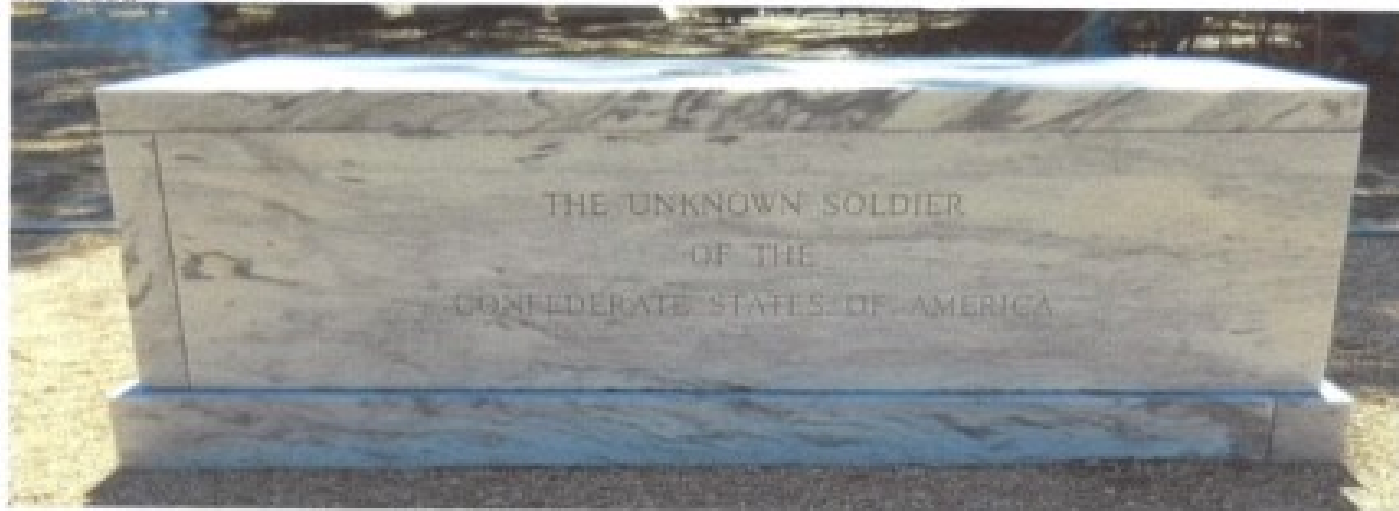
I understand that there are people who say that the Memorial Confederate statue at the University of Mississippi, really has nothing to do with the University. They say this because it is placed there by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and it is dedicated to the Lafayette County Civil War dead. Those 2 groups have nothing to do with the University, right? WRONG! (one of the first lessons you should learn as a UM student, is that Oxford and Ole Miss are joined at the hip, allow me to explain below) In 1892 about a dozen Lafayette County women formed a Confederate Memorial Association. They aimed to raise some kind of monument to the Lafayette County Confederate Civil War dead. In 1900, a United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter was formed in Oxford, and almost all the original committee women joined the UDC, still with the aim of a monument to the Lafayette County CW dead. There were about 35 members of the first monument committee, and the Lafayette County UDC, total, from 1892 to 1906. That is when the Memorial statue was placed on the Circle at the University. Seven of those UDC women were UM Professors wives, out of about 21 Professors per year. Three of the UDC Ladies were UM Trustees wives. That was probably all of the Trustees wives who lived in Oxford. Four of the Lafayette County UDC Ladies were UM Alumni wives. Several of the other ladies had sons, or brothers, at the University. But, "that statue has nothing to do with the University". It gets better. :-) Two UM Professors helped with writing the text on the monument. The monument is dedicated to the 432 Lafayette County Confederates who died in the War. That number includes 10 dead University Greys and 8 dead UM alumni. THEY, are represented by that monument.

The monument was placed on the UM campus to also remember the dead of 2 cemeteries, St. Peters in Oxford. There are 2 wartime, dead University Greys buried there, and one wartime, dead UM alumni buried there. The other cemetery is the UM Confederate campus cemetery. The 700 plus men buried there, died in the University buildings, and in the Circle in tents. Included in that campus cemetery is one University Grey, and one UM alumni. University of Mississippi Professors, their wives, and the wives of several Trustees helped to nurse, watched die, and helped to bury those boys who died at the University. The UDC Ladies did NOT forget them when they put the monument up. They could not! "But, but, that statue has nothing to do with the University!" I think you know differently now. It has a GREAT deal to do with the University of Mississippi. Please SHARE. Knowledge is power.



Bricks for Beauvoir and the Tomb of the Unknown Solider

Honor your confederate Ancestors by purchasing an Ancestral Memorial Brick for \$50.00 each in the Memorial sidewalk of the Confederate Cemetery at Beauvoir. The plans for the sidewalk are nearing completion, so if you want a brick put down for your ancestor you need to get your order in soon, so as not to miss out.



Each brick that you purchase will be engraved with your ancestors rank, name, unit and company. Memorial bricks will be laid, memorializing your ancestor, in a sidewalk from the UDC Arch to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Solider at Beauvoir.

Detach and send in the form below to the address listed to order your bricks.

Ancestral Brick Order Form

Instructions: Use the lines as laid out no more than 15 spaces per line. You may use abbreviations when necessary. Please include your name and address, for confirmation letter. (See Sample Below)

Line 1: _____

(First and Last Name)

Line 2: _____

(Rank)

Line 3: _____

(Unit)

ORDER YOUR ANCESTOR'S BRICK TODAY!

Make Checks out for \$50.00 per brick to:

Bricks for Beauvoir
Mail to: Bricks for Beauvoir
2244 Beach Blvd
Biloxi, MS. 39531

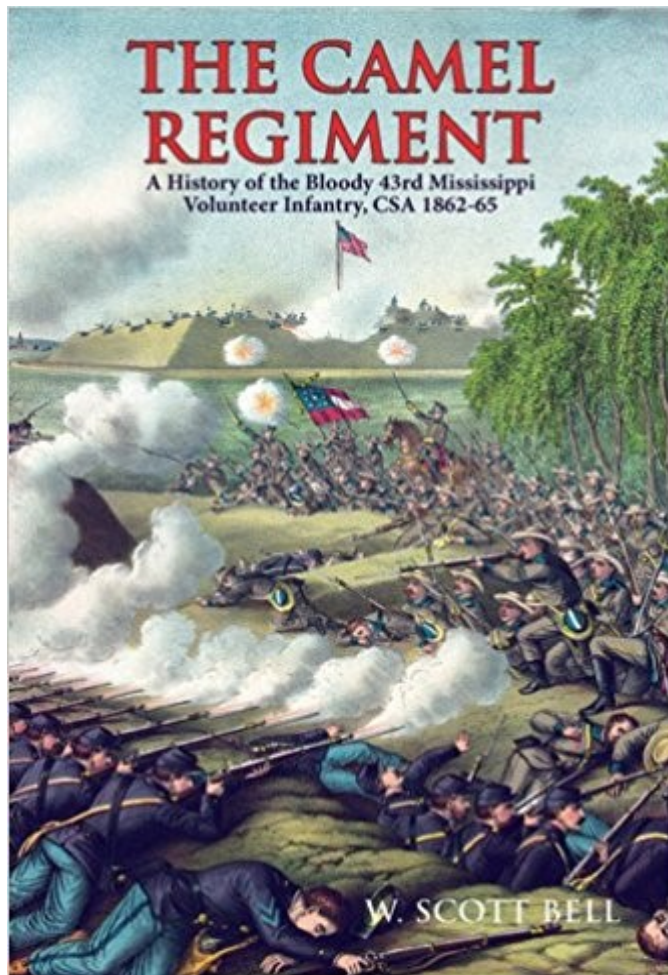
OR

Visit our gift shop where you
can pay by cash or credit!

Example:

Pvt. JAMES W.
McGluney
6th MS CAV, CO. F

TRUTH AND CORRECTION ABOUT SOME INFORMATION PRESENTED



Just a few comments about Douglas the camel, to correct some incorrect statements about "Old Douglas," the Confederate camel, mistakes not caused by the editor, but by a continuing series of people who don't do their homework and fill in the gaps in their stories by making assumptions:

1. We know exactly how Douglas the camel came to be in the 43rd MS Infantry. He was a pet at Trinity Plantation in Lowndes County, AL. When Lt. William Hargrove of that plantation joined the 43rd, he gifted heroic Col. William Hudson Moore with the animal to carry the Colonel's kit. The Colonel, who traveled light, in turn, assigned the camel to the regimental band, which had more stuff to carry.
2. Douglas did cause a stampede near Iuka and one soldier of the regiment was killed.
3. The Union army did not eat Douglas. Douglas was killed within the Confederate lines and was eaten by the starving men of the 43rd and Hebert's Brigade. The Union army was incredibly well-supplied at Vicksburg.
4. Douglas was not killed by a single Union sharpshooter. An officer (probably of the 31st IL Infantry) ordered a group of his sharpshooters to fire a volley at Douglas, causing his death. The Confederates did respond, on the orders of an officer in the 3rd MO Infantry. The Confederate volley actually wounded the IL officer who had ordered Douglas' assassination.

Editor's Note: The preceding article was sent at the request of this editor as clarification of an article in the last issue of The Southern Comfort. Jim Huffman is an authority on this incident as he is one of the authors, along with Scott Bell, on the following book. Our sincere thanks to him for taking the time to add to this story. Take the time to order one of the books. You will find the information listed below where one may be purchased.

Anyone interested in the complete story of Old Douglas and the remarkable "Camel Regiment" should purchase or check out a copy of the regimental history of the command "Camel Regiment, The: A History of the Bloody 43rd Mississippi Volunteer Infantry, 1862-65"

[https://www.amazon.com/Camel-Regiment-Mississippi-Volunteer- Infantry/dp/1455623075/ref=sr_1_fkmrnull_1?keywords=43rd+Mississippi&qid=1556559231&s=gateway&sr=8-1-fkmrnull](https://www.amazon.com/Camel-Regiment-Mississippi-Volunteer-Infantry/dp/1455623075/ref=sr_1_fkmrnull_1?keywords=43rd+Mississippi&qid=1556559231&s=gateway&sr=8-1-fkmrnull)

BEAUVIOR

Beauvoir, the historic post-war home of President Jefferson Davis, is owned and operated by the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. There are several ways that you can participate in the continued preservation of this beloved landmark located in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Friends of Beauvoir For as little as \$25 annually, you can become a member of the Friends of Beauvoir. Membership includes tour admission and a 10% discount at the Beauvoir gift shop. Bricks for Beauvoir Honor your Confederate ancestors while supporting Beauvoir. Each brick that you purchase will be engraved with your ancestors rank, name, unit, and company. The memorial bricks will be laid creating a sidewalk from the UDC Arch to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate soldier. For more information on these opportunities, please visit www.visitbeauvoir.org or contact Beauvoir directly at (228) 388-4400

Beauvoir - Post-war home of Jefferson Davis. Biloxi, Mississippi



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Help Save General Forrest



The Memphis City Council has passed a resolution to remove the Forrest Equestrian Statue from Forrest Park and to dig up the graves of General Forrest and his wife MaryAnn from beneath the statue.

The SCV and the Forrest family descendants must raise money to fight the city in this second attack on General Forrest. We need your help.

Help us to save the graves and monument of General Forrest

Can you, or your camp or Division donate \$100, \$500 or \$1000 to the defense ?

Please sign me up as a supporter. No membership fee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contribute through PayPal at our ally at : www.citizenstosaveourparks.org

Please donate to our cause: Amount \$ _____ check number _____

Forrest Park Defense Fund

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124

*Curt Fields as
General Ulysses S
Grant*

*Thomas Jessee as
General
Robert E Lee*

July 3, 2019



APPOMATTOX

The Last 48 Hours

This presentation is an examination of the written communications between the generals from April 7th-April 9th, 1865. Learn what was happening in both armies during this exchange and what both men were thinking at the end of the American Civil War. This performance is presented with awareness and reverence for the soldiers of both armies.

The Strand Theater
7pm

**This show brought to you
by the Baer House Inn
and The Strand Theater**

One Night Only

Plans and Design by Alex Klein for
Appomattox 1865 Foundation

Tickets \$15

www.strandvicksburg.com

Highway 61 Coffee Shop
1101 Washington Street Vicksburg MS



Breakfast With the Generals

155 years ago, the fate of our nation hung in the balance.
Vicksburg was the key to Victory.

Thursday, July 4, 2019 ~ 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Baer House Inn

1117 Grove Street, Vicksburg, MS 39183

\$12/person ~ \$8/under 10

Enjoy an all you care to eat buffet breakfast while dining with living historians who share their knowledge of the happenings in and around Vicksburg during the 47-day siege of 1863.



124th MS Division Reunion Report by Dan McCaskill

I was asked to give a brief report on the 124th Reunion of the Mississippi Division in Brandon, Mississippi. This Reunion brought to an end the first two years of healing of the rift within the Division by out going Commander Jeff Barnes. There is still work to be done by our new Commander and the officers who will be supporting him.

This past Reunion in Brandon, MS was one of the biggest with 42 out of 48 Camps represented at the Reunion. The Rankin Rough and Ready's Camp did a superb job of putting on the Reunion. During the business session, three out of four proposed Constitutional amendments were passed. As stated earlier, this was an election year and our new slate of Division Officers is as follows: George Connor Bond, Commander; Stan Rhoda, 1st Lt. Commander; Dennis Brown, 2nd Lt. Commander; Mike Moore, Adjutant; Danny Toma, 1st Brig. Commander; Jamie Johnson, 1st Brig. Councilman; Bill Latham, 2nd Brig. Commander; James Taylor, 2nd Brig. Councilman; Trent Lewis, 3rd Brig. Commander; Aubrey Everett, 3rd Brig. Councilman; Louis Foley, 4th Brig. Commander; Chris Merck, 4th Brig. Councilman; Oran Thomas, 5th Brig. Commander; and Charlie Schmitz, 5th Brig. Councilman. At the banquet, our Camp and members brought home two awards. The Philip H. Fall Telegraphic Award for small Camp Newsletter: Larry McCluney ("The Delta General") and the Col. Charles E. Hooker Publication Award: Larry McCluney's book ("On to Vicksburg"). Dan McCaskill received a Resolution from the Mississippi Division for his eight years serving as Division Adjutant.

The 125th Reunion of the Mississippi Division in June 2020 will be in Vicksburg. I hope to see many of you there.



National SCV News

Make Dixie Great Again! Join the Confederate Legion!

Greetings Compatriots,

The Southern Victory Campaign and its motto, "Make Dixie Great Again," is taking the fight to our adversaries. It is the movement for the Sons of Confederate Veterans to take back the narrative from the Cultural Marxists & Cultural Cannibals that have declared war on the South. We have been on the defensive for too long during this Second Reconstruction. It is time to hoist the colors high and deliver the truth about our History... our Heritage to the general public. Getting that message out has an advertising expense. In order to place traditional & digital ads in markets that will ultimately activate our fellow Southerners, we need money to pay for those ads-thus, the Confederate Legion. The Confederate Legion is a volunteer group of people, SCV and non-SCV members, who donate a minimum of \$50 per year to the Cause. These funds will be used to pay for the SCV's ongoing PR campaign. No less than 90% of the funds collected will be used to buy pro-South ads and point the general public to our web site for more information. With ads purchased by the Confederate Legion plus those purchased by local camps for their local stations, the SCV will cover the South with positive news about our honorable heritage. This will have a positive impact on the political establishment that up to now has had little to fear from us-but with your help that will change!

Join the Confederate Legion today! You can donate by going to www.makedixiegreatagain.com More information on the Southern Victory Campaign & "Make Dixie Great Again" may be found on the official campaign website. A soldier in the Cause, Brian McClure National SCV Deputy of Communications & Networking

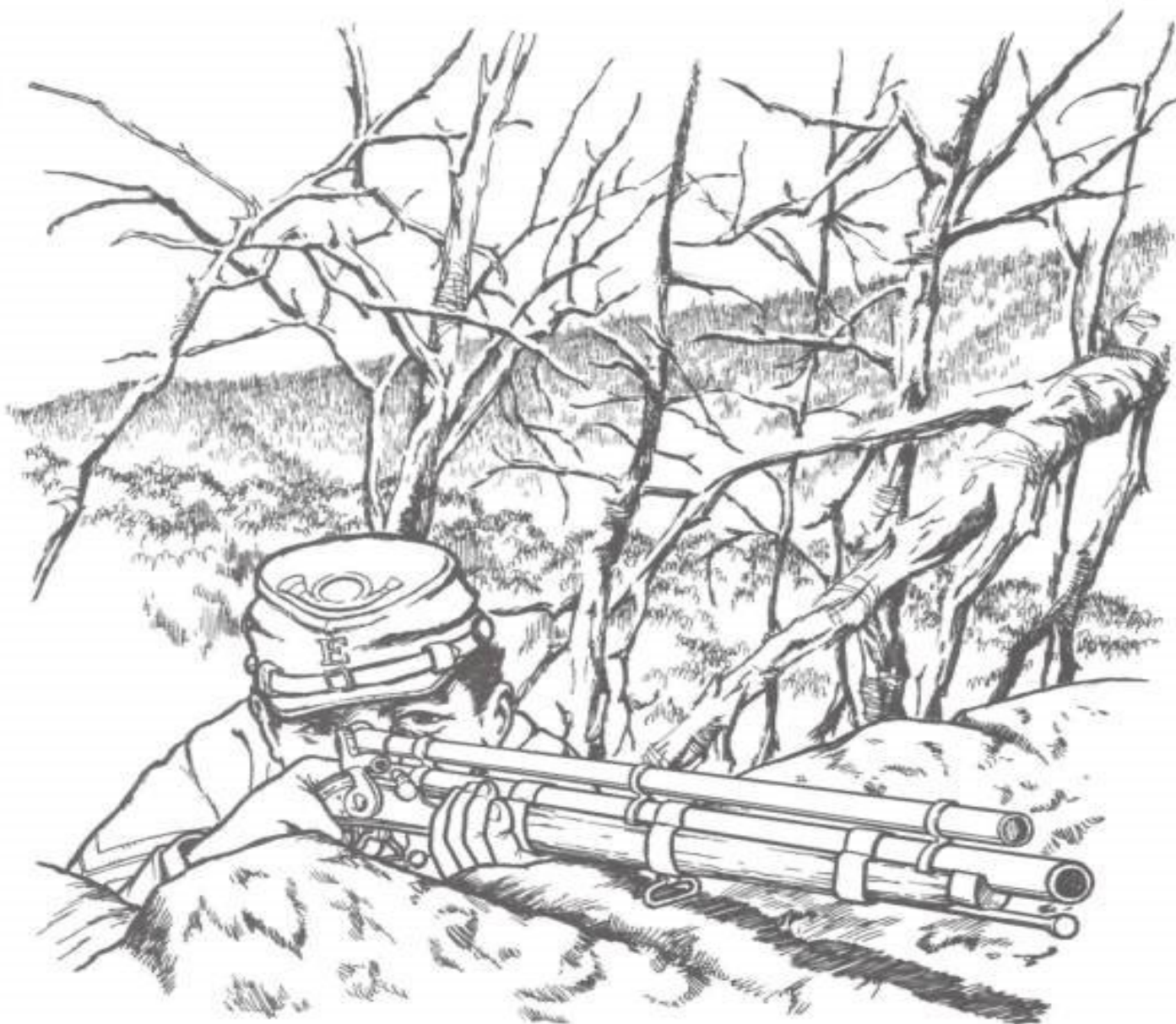


Note:
Confederate Legion membership dues and donations are used almost exclusively for a two-thrust marketing and public relations effort which is part of the Southern Victory Campaign led by the Sons of Confederate Veterans.
Objectives include:

- Rebuilding public support for the principles of liberty that America's founding fathers gave us.
- Rebuilding respect for the Confederate States of America that preferred to leave the Union rather than abandon the principles of liberty as the Northern states were doing under Leftist influences of the day.

You may enroll in the Confederate Legion and make additional donations here on the Online Store by selecting payment of \$50, \$75, or \$100. If you wish to donate more please print and mail the following form to the General Headquarters, Sons of Confederate Veterans.
https://www.makedixiegreatagain.com/uploads/1/2/2/2/122298064/mgda--_membership_donation_app.pdf

"Can you Spare less than \$2.00 a month to become a member? Is less than \$2.00 a month too much to ask for to preserve the memorials and memory of our Confederate Ancestors?"



A Sharpshooter Takes Aim

Here we see a sharpshooter at work. Called a sniper in later wars, this accurate marksman sometimes used a specially made rifle fitted with a telescopic sight. This sharpshooter is armed with a

standard Springfield infantry rifled musket fitted with such a sight. He has crept out to a secluded elevation between the lines to do his deadly work.



The Battle of Atlanta

Eyewitness to the Battle of Atlanta

In late July 1864, Major General William T. Sherman's Union army closed in on General John B. Hood's Confederate army defending Atlanta. On July 20 Hood lashed out against the Union right wing north of the city. Repulsed but undaunted, Hood turned to strike the Federal left wing, Major General James B. McPherson's Army of the Tennessee, east of Atlanta. He deployed Major General Benjamin F. Cheatham's corps northeast of the city and sent Lieutenant General William J. Hardee's corps around McPherson's left flank with orders to crush the Army of the Tennessee on the morning of July 22. Both corps were then to assail the rest of Sherman's host.

Among the blue-clad soldiers moving against Atlanta was Major Thomas T. Taylor of Georgetown, Ohio. Twenty-seven years old and dashing handsome, Taylor was a lawyer and sometime newspaper editor who had been with the 47th Ohio since the fall of 1861. During the opening phase of the Atlanta Campaign, Taylor had remained with his regiment, part of Major General John A. Logan's XV Corps, Army of the Tennessee. In mid-May he had been placed in command of Brigadier General Morgan Smith's divisional skirmishers, 15 companies in all. By July 22 he was highly adept in skirmish tactics, as will be seen in the following passage from the letter he wrote four days later to his wife, Netta, describing what he saw, experienced, and did during the Battle of Atlanta, 'the most eventful day of this campaign.' Taylor's letters have been lightly edited for clarity.

An the morning as usual at daylight I went down to the skirmish line to learn the condition of things. Soon Gen'l Morgan L. Smith sent an order to move forward my line and feel the enemy. I pushed forward and soon began driving his [the enemy's skirmish] line. At his skirmish pits I redressed it [Taylor's own line] and advanced on his main works and soon drove his skirmishers in, but without giving them time to form I hurried forward with a shout and a volley which set the rebels skeddaddling and a regiment of reserves in full and rapid retreat. In the main [out-lying] works I again dressed the line and pursued them, capturing a few prisoners and two lines of skirmish pits and drove them square into their [main] works and occupied with my line a portion of the corporation of Atlanta, not more than 600 yards from their forts. Here they served us with 'minnies' [mini bullets], case and solid shot and shells. I soon discovered where their skirmish pits were and made my line crawl forward in some places within 20 yards of them and build rail barricades. I found one set [of his own skirmishers] timid and awkward and I had to crawl up to a point where I wished a post, show them the bearings and range and help them build it ...

Their skirmishers were kept so close [to the ground] that I had only two wounded by musket balls. One solid shot knocked down a rail pile and buried the men under it. A Captain thought destruction had come and wished to retire but I make it a point never to give up my ground if my flanks are protected [and] so they rebuilt it. I sent back for shovels to dig good pits but our Division General was not at liberty to send them to us. Our men in authority appeared to think the enemy were evacuating Atlanta because they were moving columns to the left. About 9 or 10 a.m. Logan's Senior Aide came out and I showed him how earnestly they [the Confederates] were working in town upon their fortifications and asked if it looked like an evacuation. He said no. I then asked him for tools, but they came not. Our Commanders appeared infatuated with the thought of evacuation of Atlanta.

After a time two regiments of infantry and a section of artillery were sent out as a second reserve. I laid down and got a good nap and awoke about 12 1/2 m. Just after I got up Lieut. [Adolph] Ahlers [of the 47th Ohio] and two men were wounded near me and I was struck with dirt, bark or something and Ahlers reported me wounded. My negro went to the rear with the horses, but came back. About 1 p.m. I moved to a high point in the line and sat down. Firing soon commenced and became very heavy on the extreme left and in the rear ...

Oh! how anxiously I listened and waited, how anxious for the cheers! The enemy cheered before [his] charges, our men cheered after repulsing [them]. For two hours they appeared to drive our line back until it was at almost right angles with my [the XV Corps'] line. Can you imagine how my heart throbbed, every pulsation grew more rapid. There I sat under a big oak tree...only 600 yards from the main line of [enemy] works, from which solid shot was being thrown and case & shells, too, with fearful rapidity at and over us. I was anxious not from fear, but dread that we might lose our advantage, the ground we had gained and again be compelled to retake it by charges. At three o'clock the tide of war seemed rolling back. I could not mistake those cheers and that firing—the enemy at last were checked and being driven oh, how rapidly. At 4 p.m. we had regained our old lines and the fighting on the left had subsided like a fierce rain & wind storm, [and] only gusts and sobs sounded in the ear.

My attention was called from this by a Captain saying: 'Look, Major, look!' What a grand sight—I was almost entranced by it. The enemy's [Major General Thomas C.] Hindman's Division of 25 regiments [commanded by Maj. Gen. John C. Brown] were moving out of the works and deploying in line of battle. How well they moved, how perfectly and how grandly did the first line advance with the beautiful 'battle flags' waving in the breeze [and] not an unsteady step nor a waver was perceptible in it. Anon they moved by the right flank, then halted and fronted and a second line was formed. I saw them complete it and an Officer rode a short distance from us to advance their skirmish line & [I] ordered several of the men to shoot him but they failed. I then saw the 4th Div [skirmish] line [to the left] break and run, called my line to attention and remained until I saw their line of battle approach within 250 yards of us.

By the retreat of the 4th Div. [skirmishers], my left was exposed and I marched back to my first reserve. Here I shall tell you that as soon as I saw the 2nd [Confederate battle] line form and the advance toward us begin, I sent back word. At the reserve we halted and again opened [fire] on the enemy, drove in his skirmishers and, when the line flanked us on the left and was within about fifty yards [I] rallied on the 2nd reserve. Here we made a fine little fight and broke their [skirmish] lines but being outflanked we were compelled to fall back. In making this distance part of the time I moved leisurely and part lively—picked up a canteen of coffee and moved for the [Union] works when some miserable [Southern] traitor with murder stamped on his countenance deliberately shot at me. But I was a little too far away & his bullet almost spent struck me a glancing blow in the muscles of my left thigh as I was lifting my leg to run. I knew if I was hurt it would bleed in my boot so I went on as rapidly as I could as other bullets were dropping too close to make it at all pleasant.

The rebels reformed and advanced upon our main line in three columns. Two columns moved up on our right...and were both after a heavy fire severely repulsed and took refuge behind some outbuildings and a large house where they reformed. About twenty yards from our works on the left of the rail and wagon roads is a ravine which at the railroad was so thick [with] undergrowth as to completely screen as well as protect an advancing column. The railway through our lines is built in a cut about 15 feet deep. On the left of the railway was a section of artillery occupying three rods [about 50 feet]. [The] width of cut at top [is] 3 rods [and] between cut & wagon road on right of railroad is a space four rods wide [65 feet], protected by a log earthwork terminating a few feet from the railway. The wagon road is almost two rods [33 feet] wide and on the right of this road was a section of artillery [two cannons] occupying about three rods more and all of this space of 15 rods had only one company in position [and only] one platoon [of] 16 men...was between the [artillery] section in the space between the wagon and rail roads. The cut was open and clear, nowhere was it occupied by troops nor blockaded, the wagon road was likewise open and unoccupied by works or troops. When Col. [Wells S.] Jones, 53rd Ohio, came for the reserve, he suggested to Gen'l Smith & [Brigadier General John] Lightburn the propriety of burning said outbuildings & placing his regiment in rear of this artillery to support it and shut the gaps, yet they disdained the proffer and they were not filled.

Concealed by the dense smoke of the artillery the first we saw of the third [enemy] column it was rushing in the gap in the wagon road around the low works between the rail & wagon roads and over the parapet at the guns. Every one was surprised but none thought of moving, the platoon between the guns fired and fought with bayonets & butts of their muskets, the other platoon lying down in the rear of it could not fire without killing their comrades and artillerymen in their front. Some of the men [in the platoon] were bleeding at the ears and nose from the concussion, yet fought until all were killed, wounded and captured except four.

I started across the road to move the other platoon to make it effective when I happened to look at the upper end of the cut and saw a column of rebels deploying from it. This 2nd [Union] platoon was shut in by a line of fire on every side and to avoid capture retired. Simultaneously the whole line began to fall back. Gen'l Smith moved over to the right & Lightburn went off on a run. I heard no order given and after vainly trying to rally the men dashed into the woods, where on a small ridge I halted a few men and again tried to form [a line]. Then, hearing someone shouting halt, I went to the road supposing it was one of our officers trying to form the line. I came within five feet of a rebel officer on a white horse with a flag in his hand and a revolver in the other. I took this in at a glance, he said 'Halt! we'll treat you like men.' I said, 'Hell, stranger, this is no place for me to halt!' and went for the bushes. I told a man at my elbow to shoot him. When I got out of his reach I went slow and got some men of the 47th to go down and run off two caissons which the artillery had abandoned. I then went down to the works. Lt. Col. Wallace & Capt. [Hananiah D.] Pugh [of the 47th Ohio] while striving vainly to form a line were captured, [Capt. Charles] Haltentof wounded and Adj't. [John W.] Duecherman wounded. Only four officers [of the 47th Ohio] were left.

I was relieved as Div. Picket Officer to take command of the regiment and reformed it very quickly and then was ordered forward and marched up the road some distance by the flank ... I [then] was ordered into line [and] to fix bayonets and to retake the works [with] one small company and [some men] from other regiments [who] joined me ... I advanced on the 'double quick' and got within a few feet of the works, when such was the hail storm of fire and bullets which swept over us that both flag staffs were shot off, the regiment's standard was torn from the staff by the fragment of a shell, one color bearer killed, and a color corporal wounded, [and] others as a matter of course fell. Finding I was completely flanked [I] withdrew to avoid capture.

On account of an entanglement and the dense undergrowth in my rear, the command became separated. Meeting a line upon a ridge in the rear advancing I halted and with them made a second assault. A portion of the regiment under Capt. [Joseph L.] Pinkerton went to the right of the railroad. I kept on the left, we reached the point I reached in the first assault but were again compelled to fall back. This time we went to an open field when reforming as best we could, [then] again advanced. Upon reaching the crest of the first ridge the men halted and laid down to avoid the sheet of bullets which swept over ... I pushed through the line, dashed ahead, shouting, cheering and exhorting [but] only one man followed. I went fifty yards in this manner and finally halted and gave three lusty cheers, [then] without waiting I pushed on and in a moment had the pleasure to see that the line was hurrying [forward]. I soon struck another line [of Federal troops] on the left which had halted. I sent Capt. Pinkerton & Lieut. [William] Brachman with a portion of the regiment again on the right, while I with the rest of it and the remainder of [the men from other regiments] pushed up immediately on the left, pouring a continuous and deadly fire upon the enemy, driving them from their works and recapturing a section of artillery upon the left of the railway which the [Rebels] had turned upon us ...

Lightburn said we had disgraced ourselves. I told him 'that was enough of that! I would show him whether we had.' I had no idea that I had such determination, such stubbornness or strength. I was almost frantic, yet perfectly sane—directed the entire line. All the officers obeyed me and ran to me for advice and directions. I saw men perform prodigies, display the most unparalleled valor. One man, Joseph Bedol [Bedall] of Co. 'D', was surrounded and knocked by rebels, he came to, jumped up & wounded them and knocked a fourth down with his fist and escaped.

Dear, I would not write this to any other one as it seems egotistical, but is nevertheless true. The men of the Division give me credit for much more.

Following the Battle of Atlanta Sherman moved the Army of the Tennessee west of the city for the purpose of cutting the railroad to Macon, Hood's sole remaining supply line. Hood countered by sending Lieutenant General Stephen D. Lee's corps to block this thrust while another corps under Lieutenant General A.P. Stewart swung around the Union right flank. Before Stewart could do this, Lee attacked on the morning of July 28, bringing on the Battle of Ezra Church. Two days later Taylor described to his wife what ensued:

Well dear, on the 28th of July we had another big fight ... After moving forward and occupying a part of the ridge, the enemy were discovered moving around the right. To check this I was ordered over on the right and deployed. This extension of the line only made them move further to the right but we dashed over an open field and [took up a] position on a road. Presently I saw a column of the enemy move from a wood a short distance in front, [then] pass up a ravine near my left and between the 53rd Ohio and the 47th. To prevent them from cutting me off, I moved out of the road & half way across the field behind the crest [of the ridge]. This movement thwarted their designs and after a heavy fire the column retired to the woods [beyond the ridge].

Again I advanced but shortened my line by moving obliquely to the left and connecting with the 53rd. We first took position about 10 a.m. and from that time had very lively work. After advancing to the fence [along the Lick Skillet Road] I placed men on posts of observation who discovered the enemy still moving to the right and likewise massing in our front. Of this I sent word to the Division Commander who said 'Now I know it is so when Major Taylor sends word.' After a short time the enemy made his appearance, this time moving from the woods, in line of battle and then moving by the flank in three or four columns. We held our position, firing heavily and doing much execution but finding them too heavy to check we retired to the crest of the hill or ridge before mentioned where we made a stubborn stand from which we were driven by another forward movement of the enemy. This time they were moving by right of Co[mpanies] to the front, in columns of regiments, followed by a line of battle with bayonets fixed. This meant work and again we were compelled to retire. In the meantime we had been reinforced by one regiment [the 54th Ohio] but it was impossible to withstand this avalanche of bayonets and again

we retired.

I halted behind a fence in the skirt of the woods and gave one shot [volley]. [Then] Col. [name illegible] hollered to look out or I would be cut off as they [the Confederates] were rushing up a hollow passing in our rear. At the same time I received notice from the right and beheld a [Confederate] column...both on the left and right, the enemy converging [and] leaving us a gap only about two or three hundred yards in width to escape through. All three regiments hurried through this and escaped the enemy [by] only about 50 yards

Our [new] line was formed upon [a ridge] at least half a mile from the line [just abandoned] and as it afterwards turned out this move of ours saved the day. Immediately upon gaining this ridge we reformed...as best we could behind the yard and garden fences and fought the enemy as they charged our position. We maintained our ground until they moved right up to us and pressed us over the hill by superiority of numbers but we were not yet defeated Every officer and man in the Division knows me and will fight under my orders, therefore, I began rallying men and officers and started after a gallant Captain of the 53rd Ohio up the hill, leading a varied lot of men and shouting and cheering to the best of my ability and having every one do likewise

We took possession of the hill and I got a color bearer of the 54th & one of [the] 53rd Ohio and rushed to the garden fence through a perfect storm of bullets and exhorted but only three or four ventured to follow, as the rebels, deeply chagrined to think so small a force had made them yield such a position gave us volley after volley which made us move from the garden fence to a less exposed position

We then had a little independent fight of our own—four regiments under Col. Jones, 53rd Ohio. [The fourth regiment was the 37th Ohio]. He arranged our lines so as to give us complete cross fire over every part of the ground in our front. This we had to do as our four regiments were compelled to hold over a mile of space and we had many gaps and this was the only way by which we could defend them, [because] across these gaps we had only small skirmish lines. This occurred about noon [according to Confederate reports it was much later than that]. After this time the enemy made four successive assaults; my men fought from open ground, almost as clear as our yard except [for] a few brush [heaps] which I [had] piled up in front of the lines to offer some slight obstacle to their approach

At half past three we were relieved by the 81st Ohio and at 5 p.m. again went on duty. We lost ten wounded and three captured. The Commander of the III Division [Harrow's] thanked me and said he believed my fire had saved him twice. I never saw more stubborn assaults & more bloody repulses. Three times they were compelled to go back and leave colors standing on the field. We soon learned that the same Division [Brown's] was in our front that charged us a few days ago and we did our best to repay them for the heavy loss which was inflicted upon us by them on that occasion. How well we accomplished this you can judge when I tell you they left 300 dead in our front, [and] altogether we buried 900 of them in front of the 15th A.C. after they had been most of the night engaged in removing their killed and wounded

The 53rd & 47th Ohio brought on the whole affair. [If] I can, the General [Smith] said, be recommended for Colonel, he will do so and he says the Generals above him will take pleasure in recommending me A rebel officer, a prisoner taken on the 28th inst. said 'Hood has about enough [men] left to make two more killings.' Co. 'F' [Taylor's former company] had William Weber [from Georgetown] slightly wounded by an explosion of his load by ramming. I can't give you any more particulars. Wait until I get home.

Taylor next fought in the Battle of Jonesboro (August 31-September 1), which resulted in Hood evacuating Atlanta. Starting on November 15 Taylor participated in Sherman's March to the Sea until December 13, when during the storming of Fort McAllister outside of Savannah a bullet sliced off his right index finger. This ended his combat career but not his wartime letters to his wife, which by the time he was mustered out in July 1865 totaled nearly 300.

The Battle of Tupelo (or Harrisburg)

General Lee made no report of the battle of Tupelo, or Harrisburg, during the war. It is therefore deemed pertinent to add to this account the following in way of explanation at this late day:

"It is a duty which we surviving Confederates owe our families and posterity to prepare and have in accessible form as many facts as possible in regard to the war, that historians in the future may not be in doubt or in the dark. It is not too late yet to correct some errors of record or omission. As a people at large we were not in a humor or favorable condition to write much about the great struggle until its memories began to fade, and the participants still living were greatly scattered and reduced in numbers." As for myself, the busy demands of an active and exacting life have given me no time until the last three years to examine or study the exciting scenes of the great struggle of the sixties.

"The time has come when undue loyalty, sentiment and partisanship must give way before the cold facts of history as recorded in official reports and justice must be done to the American soldier without partiality or favor, and facts ought not to be suppressed because they affect the reputation of a dead man. The United States government has done what no other government ever did. It has prepared in 130 volumes the reports, correspondence, telegrams, maps and official material of the great struggle, giving equal credence to the papers on both sides. From this material history will be written, and while survivors may give their memories of events, these can only color or bring light on doubtful records. The facts are potent in official record, and will have right of way. 'Memory after a long lapse of time is not always reliable.' It is easy to criticize and attack in the light of circumstances that were not known at the time.

"The facts are, that Gen. Forrest never rendered a report to me during or after the war. I never had access to these reports, till they appeared in 1892, in the official record of the war by the United States government. I left the battlefield of Harrisburg to go to the great battles around Atlanta, and amid those scenes I had no time to dwell on my campaign in Mississippi. Gen. Forrest, too, was actively engaged. The great struggle was pressing everywhere to a speedy ending. Events followed events rapidly. I reported the battle in three brief telegrams to the War Department, awaiting an opportunity to make a full official report, which opportunity never came, but Gen. Forrest received all subordinate reports and made his official report direct to department headquarters, and not through me.

"I assert that the reports of Gen. Forrest, Gen. Chalmers and Gen. Buford, and the letter of Gen. Roddey, and the other reports, will bear out my version of the battle of Harrisburg, and that no other version will bear the test of military scrutiny. I have given only the statements, or stated facts, as reported by Forrest, Chalmers, Roddey, Buford, A. J. Smith, and others, as given in their respective official reports, except, that Roddey wrote a letter, and made no official report. I make no inferences, deductions or statements of my own"

As might have been supposed, the disastrous defeat of Gen. Sturgis at [Brice's Cross Roads](#) June 10th, 1863, nettled the Federal commanders, Generals Grant, Sherman, and Washburn and taken in connection with Gen. Forrest's previous successes in West Tennessee and elsewhere, led them to determine to organize a sufficiently large force to destroy or get rid of him. The right wing of the 16th army corps, commanded by Gen. A. J. Smith, had arrived in Memphis from Louisiana (on its way to reinforce Gen. Sherman in Georgia). Two thousand men of this force had been sent to LaFayette to meet the routed army of Gen. Sturgis and save it.

It was decided that the two divisions of the 16th army corps at Memphis should form the nucleus of a new army to defeat and destroy Gen. Forrest. To the two veteran divisions of infantry, under Gen. Mower and Col. Moore was added a large negro brigade of infantry under Col. Bouton, making an infantry force of 11,000 men. A division of cavalry under Gen. Grierson, numbering 3,200 men, was to accompany the expedition and also eight batteries of artillery.

This force was organized under careful orders with every available resource, so that it was one of the most complete armies of its size sent into the field during the war.

Gen. Sherman (Serial No. 98, Rebellion Records, p. 121, line 15) telegraphing the Union Secretary of War, says: "I will order Smith and Mower to make up a force and go out and follow Forrest to the death if it cost 10,000 lives and breaks the treasury. There never will be peace in Tennessee till Forrest is dead." The same general, in a telegram to Washburn, says: "It was Gen. Grant's order, that Smith was required, after his fight, to pursue and continue to follow Forrest. He must keep after him till recalled by me or Gen. Grant."

All the resources of Gen. Sherman's department, including the garrisons on the Mississippi river and in the State of Tennessee, and in Gen. Canby's department, whose headquarters were at New Orleans, were ordered to co-operate with the great expedition intended to crush Forrest, and under the command of Gen. Andrew J. Smith, Gen. Slocum at Vicksburg made two expeditions into the interior of Mississippi (July 2 July 9). As a further diversion Canby was ordered to move a large infantry force from his department and co-operate with Admiral Farragut in taking Mobile. He was also ordered to send a cavalry raid from Baton Rouge to cut the M. & O. Railroad south of Meridian. Gen. Rosseau concentrated a force of 3,000 cavalry at Decatur, Ala., and ordered to strike the railroad at Opelika, Ala., and go towards Montgomery and Selma, Ala. Gen. Rosseau was informed by Gen. Sherman that Gen. Canby would take care of the garrison at Mobile. The cavalry in the vicinity of Memphis was so numerous that Gen. Washburn, in addition to the 3,200 cavalry with Gen. Smith, sent 1,000 more to Vicksburg by boat, to assist in drawing attention from Gen. Smith's expedition, intended to crush Forrest. Gen. Smith started with his well organized expedition from Lagrange, Tenn., on July 5th, 1864. His orders were to find and "follow Forrest to the death if it cost 10,000 lives and breaks the treasury."

On the Confederate side, Gen. Lee, as stated, had been relieved of the personal command of his troops in the field. His cavalry division had been sent to reinforce Gen. Johnston, when Gen. Polk went from Mississippi with his (Folk's) two divisions of infantry, and Lee was now in command of the department succeeding Gen. Polk. On June 22nd, Gen. Lee reported that the formidable expedition organizing under Gen. Smith was more than a raid, and that it was a well organized army to invade Mississippi, from the West Tennessee border. President Davis was now thoroughly aroused as to the danger from Memphis, Tenn. He ordered Gen. Lee to concentrate his cavalry for the protection of his own department, saying that drafts to help Gen. Johnston had already been too great from Gen. Lee's command; and that only the infantry force under Gen. Polk was authorized to aid Gen. Johnston (Serial No. 78, Rebellion Records, page 658). At the same time Gen. Lee (June 23) was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General. On June 28th Gen. Lee reported that Gen. Smith was ready to move from Salsbury, Tenn., into Mississippi. On the same date Gen. Forrest, at Tupelo, Miss., telegraphed Gen. Lee: "I am suffering from boils. If enemy should move out I desire you to take command of the forces. Our force is insufficient to meet this command. Can't you get help?" The Confederacy was at this time pressed, as it always was during the war, by the great numbers and resources of the Union armies. Mobile, which was now in Gen. Lee's department, had only an infantry force of 2,500 men to meet any land attack. Farragut's fleet of 17 vessels was off the harbor, and Gen. Canby was ready to attack the city with a large army reported by the spies at 20,000 men, organized at New Orleans to attack Mobile for the purpose of co-operating with Farragut's fleet. This was reported by Gen. Lee July 7th, to the authorities at Richmond. Mobile was the most important point in the department, holding the entrance of the rivers leading into Alabama from the south. From the small garrison at Mobile only 600 men could be drawn temporary to reinforce the cavalry force to meet Gen. Smith (See Maury's Telegram Serial No. 78). The enemy was making a second raid to Jackson, July 6th, to distract attention from Smith. The raid of Gen. Rosseau from Decatur, Ala., southward into Alabama, was reported ready to move also, and did move about that time.

To meet Gen. Smith, Gen. Lee could assemble only 7,500 men under Gen. Forrest, 1,500 of whom were without horses. The only addition was 600 artillery men temporarily armed as infantry, from the small Mobile garrison. Gen. Adams was watching the raid under Gen. Slocum from Vicksburg, and a small cavalry force was still in Alabama, protecting the railroads. Out of this force of 7,500, the effectives could not reach over 6,600 men, and part of this force had to be horse holders during the battle. It was intended by Gen. Lee and Gen. Forrest, to get Smith if possible to come as far south as Okolona and there fight him. Negroes were impressed and entrenchments made. The uneasiness about the safety of Mobile suggested this plan so as to be convenient to Mobile, in case it was attacked by land. Gen. Forrest (although not in good health) had remained in command of all his troops, and they were all his except the artillerymen from Mobile. He carefully arranged his troops to meet the enemy, and reported constantly their approach, which was very slow and with the utmost caution to prevent surprise. Smith was determined not to be caught as Sturgis had been, and doubled up and defeated before he could form a good line of battle. From the start Forrest's advanced pickets had skirmished slowly from Ripley southward to Pontotoc. Smith arrived north of that place on July 10th. Here he was in line of battle a mile long, his flank and rear most carefully guarded against surprise.

On July 11th and 12th he pressed beyond Pontotoc on the Okolona road 9 miles, but was met and driven back, and he gave up any further attempt to move southward. Gen. Forrest, in his report, says: "The delay of the enemy at Pontotoc produced the impression that he designed to fall back toward Memphis, and after a short consultation, it was determined to accept battle wherever he offered it and to attack him if he attempted to retreat." With this understanding Gen. Lee ordered everything moved to the front. The weather was excessively warm, and Forrest's dismounted cavalry made slow and painful marches from Okolona, first towards Pontotoc and then to Tupelo, so that when the battle was fought, after the long march, these troops arrived only about 800 strong on the field, and that after the battle.

On the 13th of July, much to the surprise of Generals Lee and Forrest, Gen. Smith, after meeting with but slight resistance in his advance towards Okolona, gave up any further effort in that direction, and moved his whole force suddenly and rapidly towards Tupelo, due east from Pontotoc 18 miles. As decided on by Generals Lee and Forrest, he was at once attacked in the rear by Gen. Forrest, with Mabry's brigade, Forrest's old regiment and his escort company while Gen. Lee directed Generals Chalmers and Buford to move from their positions on the Pontotoc road, and strike the enemy to the north on the road to Tupelo.

Gen. Chalmers with one brigade (Rucker's) struck the flank of the enemy, 8 miles west of Tupelo at Bartram's shop, and for a time had 'possession of his train. But the enemy's infantry rallied and forced back Gen. Rucker, after he had destroyed some wagons and killed some mules. Gen. Forrest soon joined Gen. Chalmers from the enemy's rear. Gen. Buford attacked the enemy nearer Tupelo with Bell's brigade, on his flank while marching. After an hour's engagement the enemy drove back this portion of Buford's command. At 9 p. m. Gen. Forrest had all his command united two miles from Harrisburg, at the intersection of the Harrisburg and Verona and Pontotoc and Tupelo roads the enemy being in his immediate front at Harrisburg.

The enemy, on reaching Harrisburg near Tupelo, faced about and formed a double line of battle facing west, or in the direction of Pontotoc, with a front of two brigades. The 1st division of the 16th army corps (Gen. Mower) had its left on the Pontotoc road, the 3rd division, 16th army corps (Col. Moore) had its right on the left of the 1st division. The brigade of negro infantry was in the rear of the 3rd division, facing the left flank. The cavalry division under Gen. Grierson was in the rear, protecting the train and the right flank. The artillery (8 batteries) was divided between the two divisions of infantry and cavalry. After daylight on the morning of the 14th, the line of battle was moved forward some distance. (See report of Gen. Mower, Col. Murray, and Col. Bouton.)

In accordance with the understanding to accept battle wherever the enemy offered it, and when it was found he would not advance farther south, Gen. Forrest, after reconnoitering the position of the enemy during the night, arranged his troops for battle about daylight on the 14th of July. All the troops present were in his immediate command. The dismounted troops (about 800) had not yet arrived on the field. The line of battle was arranged as follows: Roddey's division of Alabamians was placed on the extreme right with Hudson's battery of artillery. Mabry's brigade, which had been drawn from the vicinity of Jackson, Miss., to reinforce Gen. Forrest, was on the extreme left, while Buford's division was in the center, the left of Crossland's Kentucky brigade resting on the Pontotoc road, with Bell's Tennessee brigade immediately in the rear of Mabry's brigade; but this brigade was afterwards put between Crossland's and Mabry's brigades, making the right of Bell's brigade rest on the Pontotoc road; Morton's, Rice's and Thrall's batteries being in good position to take part in the attack. Chalmer's division of the three brigades of Neely, McCullough and Rucker, and the dismounted men as they arrived, were to form the second line or reserve for the entire line of battle, with two batteries of artillery. The entire command was dismounted for battle. Leaving out the horse holders the Confederate force did not exceed 6,000 or 6,500 men, as against 15,000 of the enemy, mostly veteran infantry.

The order of battle was given by Gen. Lee for Buford and Mabry to make a front attack, as the left and center of the enemy was covered by these commands, while Gen. Forrest at the same time was to swing Roddey's division around on the enemy's left and press it back. A signal gun was to be fired on the Pontotoc road between Bell and Crossland as the order for a general and simultaneous advance to attack the enemy. Every precaution was taken to accomplish this general movement. Both Gen. Lee and Gen. Forrest understood the desperate venture. They knew no reinforcement could be had, as all the armies of the Confederacy were facing superior numbers and resources, and everywhere Confederate armies at this stage of the war had to fight against great odds or not fight at all. On this occasion not to fight would have been to have given up the great corn region of Mississippi, the main support of other armies facing the enemy on more important fields. Whatever others may say, Gen. Lee and Gen. Forrest were in perfect accord as to delivering battle, and Gen. Forrest personally never shrank from this responsibility before or after the bloody battle.

The battle was really precipitated before it was intended, by the arrival of two reliable scouts, who reported that the enemy were evidently preparing to retreat from Tupelo northward towards Memphis on the Ellistown road. Forrest was prepared to believe this, as he states in his report: "The delay of the enemy at Pontotoc produced the impression that he designed to fall back towards Memphis." He felt and believed all that could be done, was to fight Smith and risk the results. He advised immediate attack; his blood was up; the fire of battle was in his eye. He said that if he was in command, he would not hesitate a moment, that his scouts reported the enemy preparing to retreat on the Ripley road, (as they did the next day). Gen. Lee ordered the attack and said: "If it is to be a fight, let us fight to the bitter end, the troops are yours, select which wing you will command in person, and I will take the other." Forrest took the right wing, which was to swing around the enemy's flank. Lee took the left wing for the front attack to be made on Mower's division, and the right of Moore's division, which was covered by Buford's Kentucky brigade on the right of the Pontotoc road.

At the signal agreed on Gen. Lee ordered the left wing to attack. Never did troops move with greater gallantry and impetuosity; gradually they advanced to the front driving the skirmishers of the enemy, until within 50 yards of their line, where the fire of the enemy was so severe that they lay on the ground, fighting desperately for nearly three hours. The Kentucky brigade on the right of the Pontotoc road had been cautioned to move surely and steadily, but it was impossible to restrain the ardor of the men, and they charged forward for nearly the entire distance. Being ahead of the troops on the right and left they drew on themselves the concentrated fire of both wings of the enemy, and after unsurpassed gallantry, some of the men falling within the lines of the enemy, they were driven back with great slaughter. Gen. Lee ordered Chalmers's division to form on the left. He found that Chalmers had received conflicting orders. Chalmers says: "As soon as they became well engaged, I was ordered (by Gen. Lee) to advance, and while moving, received three different orders. From Gen. Forrest I received an order to move to the right and support Gen. Roddey. From Gen. Lee, to move to the left and support Gen. Mabry. And from Gen. Buford, an order stating that I could by direction of Gen. Lee, relieve him on the center. Major Gen. Forrest being my immediate superior, I obeyed his order and moved to the right, but before I had reached the desired position, another order from Gen. Lee, in person, divided my command, leaving McCullough's brigade in reserve, and moving Rucker's brigade to the left, to charge at double quick with a shout." Neely's brigade was sent to Forrest. Rucker's brigade, after considerable delay, caused by the conflicting orders Gen. Chalmers received and his movement to the left in obeying Gen. Forrest's order, was put on the left of Mabry and Bell, who were still holding their positions and fighting desperately. The brigade was led by both Chalmers and Rucker, but arrived too late to do much good, as the ammunition of Bell and Mabry was about exhausted, and they had met with severe losses. If any troops could have carried the lines in front of them, these brave men would have done it.

In all that has been described Gen. Lee was most intently engaged with the details of the death struggle in his immediate presence and front, but he noticed a concentrated fire of artillery and infantry on the brave troops immediately under his command, Bell, Mabry and Rucker's brigades, from the artillery and infantry in the left wing of the enemy. (See reports of Grassland and reports of Federal officers in left division). The enemy's artillery in his front (Lee's) had been silenced or driven off, owing to the close proximity of our men. The enemy's left wing then seeming to be, as in fact it was not, engaged by any Confederate troops in its front, Gen. Lee moved to the right, to see what was the cause. He soon met Gen. Forrest, and said to him: "Why did you not carry out the plan of attack?" Forrest replied: "Buford's right had been rashly thrown forward and repulsed. In the exercise of my discretion I did not move Roddey forward, but I have moved him to the left, and formed a new line." Gen. Lee said: "In doing as you did, you failed to carry out the plan of battle agreed on." Gen. Lee replied it was too late then to remedy the matter and he ordered the three brigades of Bell, Mabry and Rucker to withdraw. Under the cover of McCullough's brigade of Chalmers's division, these heroes withdrew in order from, in proportion to the number actually engaged in their immediate front, perhaps the bloodiest field of the war. The enemy did not pursue and did not leave their line of battle. The writer wants to say here that he was on many battlefields during the four years, but he never saw greater gallantry or tenacity of purpose shown, than was shown by the troops of the brigades of Rucker, Mabry, Bell and Crossland, and the batteries of Rice, Morton, and Thrall. He will always esteem it an honor, to have personally commanded such heroes.

As to the change in the plan of battle by Gen. Forrest, he says in his report:

"Lieutenant General Lee gave the order to advance and directed us to swing the right around upon the enemy's left. I immediately repaired to Gen. Roddey's right, with all possible speed, which was nearly a mile distant, and after giving him the necessary orders in person, I dashed across the field in a gallop for the purpose of selecting a position in which to place his troops (See Roddey's letter), but on reaching the front I found the Kentucky brigade had been rashly precipitated forward and were retiring under the murderous fire concentrated upon them. I seized their colors and after a short appeal, ordered them to form a new line, where they held their position. The terrific fire which was poured upon the gallant Kentucky brigade, showed that the enemy were supported by overwhelming numbers in an impregnable position. Wishing to save my troops from the unprofitable slaughter I knew would follow any attempt to charge his works, I did not push forward Gen. Roddey's command when it arrived, knowing it would receive the same concentrated fire which had repulsed the Kentucky brigade. I ordered forward four pieces of artillery and formed a new line on the Tupelo and Verona road. Meantime the troops on my left were hotly engaged, and Mabry's, Bell's, and Rucker's brigades were steadily advancing."

Gen. Roddey never made an official report of this battle, but in a letter Gen. Lee has, he says:

"My remembrance of the battle of Harrisburg is substantially, that I was ordered by Gen. Forrest to swing the troops under my command around on the enemy's left, covering the railroad south of his position, and to advance to the attack. The movement was executed so far that the troops were in line facing the enemy's left and had sufficiently advanced to drive his skirmish lines on his main force (compare with Forrest's report), when Gen. Forrest overtook us, and ordered an immediate retreat to the place where the horses were left, saying at the same time, that Buford was badly cut up, and his only reliance for the protection of his stores, lay in keeping my troops in position to keep the enemy from capturing them, adding, as I remember, that he had no other troops he could spare or rely upon for such purposes."

Gen. Roddey really got in place in full time, and the negro skirmishers on the extreme left of the Union line were driven in before the Kentuckians made their charge. Gen. Smith says:

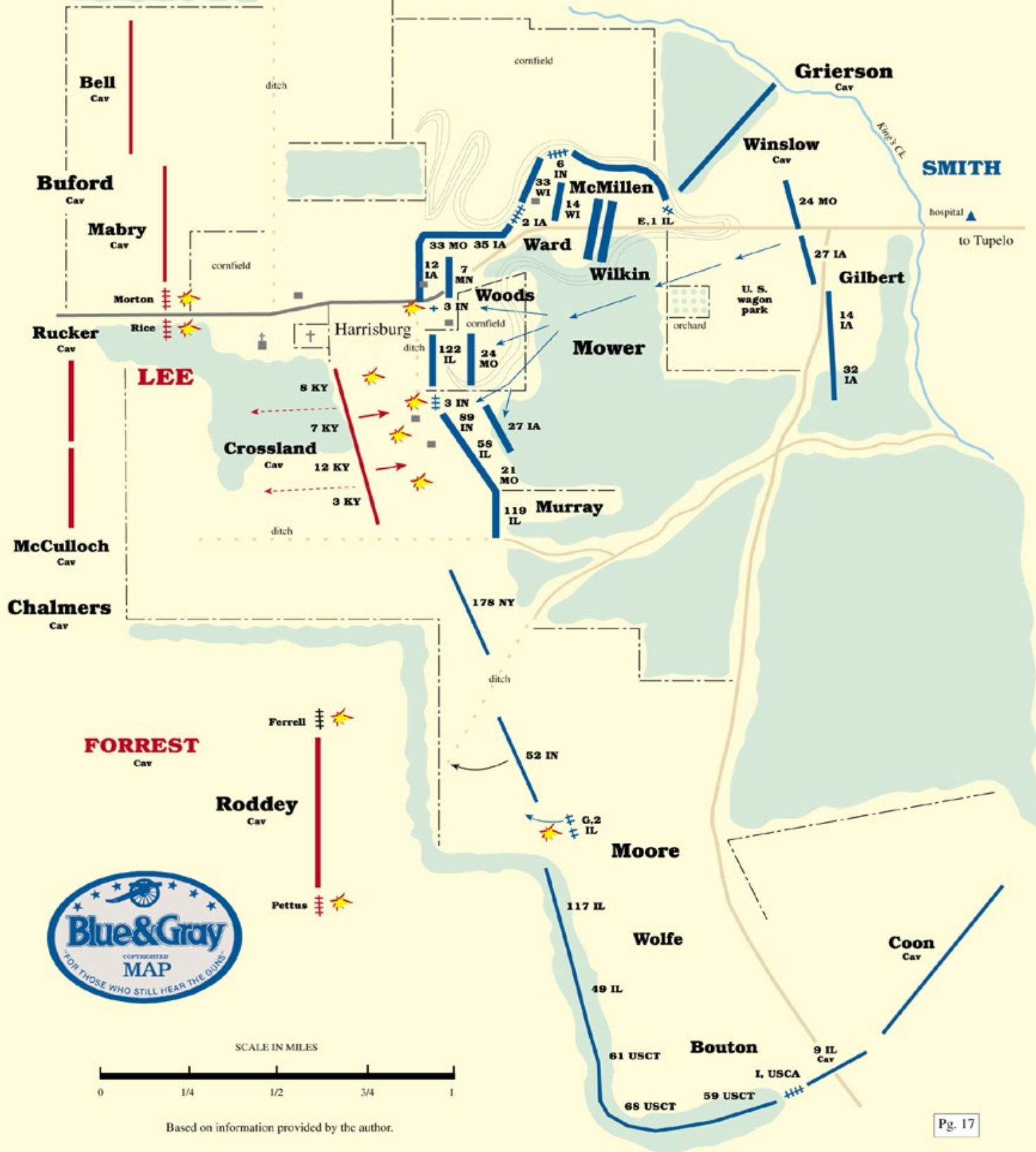
"On morning of the 14th the battle opened by the enemy attempting to secure a commanding position on our left. Advancing the third brigade of the third division into line with the remainder of the division and throwing out the brigade of colored troops on the left of the third, but facing nearly to its left flank, we easily drove the enemy from the hill and retained possession of it during the entire battle. At about 7.30 a. m. the enemy advanced in line upon the right of the third division, near the Pontotoc road."

There was no fighting on the enemy's extreme left in the morning, except as described by Roddey and agrees with Gen. Smith's report. We see, too, that Roddey had secured a commanding position, an important hill on the field and had to give it up.

About noon, soon after the withdrawal of the right wing, Gen. Lee ordered Forrest to form a new line of battle near Mrs. Sample's house. This line was strengthened and the enemy invited by demonstration to attack, but he did not move out of his own chosen position. At night the enemy began burning all the houses at and near Harrisburg, showing preparation for retreat or movement in some direction. He was shelled by artillery during the burning. Gen. Forrest with Rucker's brigade mounted moved cautiously to the extreme left of the enemy, approached very near, and about 10 p. m. opened fire on them. In reply, a very loud and most continued infantry fire was provoked, but it over-shot Forrest and little or no damage was done. At the same time Buford's division being moved occupied the road between the enemy and Verona, to oppose any advance in that direction.

Battle of Tupelo (Harrisburg)

July 14, 1864 — Phase 1
Crossland's Attack & Repulse



On the morning of July 15th the enemy made no movement apparently in any direction. Gen. Buford was ordered to move up towards Tupelo, and attack the enemy; Gen. Chalmers with a mounted brigade of his division was ordered to move to the enemy's right and see what he was about, while Gen. Roddey was moved towards Harrisburg to attack the enemy. After severe skirmishing by Gen. Chalmers, he drove the enemy back until he could see the Ellisville and Tupelo road. At 12 o'clock he saw the enemy in retreat on the road and reported the fact to Gen. Lee. At once all the commands closed on Tupelo, and began pressing the enemy. At Harrisburg Gen. Lee and Gen. Forrest met, and Lee ordered Forrest to take immediate charge and pursue and harass the enemy with his entire command. The retreat of the enemy began at 10 o'clock on July 15th, (Col. David Moore commanding 3rd division 16th army corps).

The retreat was with the same extreme caution and vigilance that had marked the advance of the enemy and his defensive battle. Gen. Buford came up with the rear of the enemy, going into camp at Old Town Creek, 5 miles from Tupelo, and with Rice's battery and one thousand men, attacked the rear guard, and shelled their camp. He stampeded the enemy's cavalry and train, as shown by reports of Gen. Mower and Col. McMillan (Union officers) in their official reports. But several brigades of infantry soon recrossed the creek and drove Buford back. In meantime Gen. Forrest had arrived and in the engagement was wounded. He ordered Gen. Chalmers, who had just arrived with McCullough's brigade, to withdraw the troops. Gen. Forrest sent word to General Lee of his wound, and the necessity of his relinquishing the command. Gen. Lee at once galloped to the front, assumed command, and ordered the troops not to withdraw. Gen. Chalmers says:

"At the same time that I received this information I received orders from Gen. Forrest to assume command and withdraw the troops, as he was wounded. I returned at once to the rear and found our men falling back, and the enemy pressing up to the position on which I had left my brigade, and Col. McCullough severely wounded. I sent orders to Gen. Buford at once to form his men, and received an answer that he could not form. On repeating my order I was told that he had formed three companies. I drew McCullough's brigade back about 400 yards in line mounted. We waited about one hour to see if the enemy would advance. As he did not, I ordered the brigade back to its camp in accordance with instructions I had received to withdraw the troops, and went in person in search of Lieutenant Gen. Lee. I found him striving to rally Gen. Buford's division and determined not to withdraw. Gen. Buford was ordered to picket the position, which we then held and I was ordered to relieve him at 3 o'clock next morning Gen. Chalmers pursued the enemy two days."

Gen. Chalmers in his report says:

"I cannot close this report without mentioning the robbing and desolation which attended the march of the invading army. Not only were non-combatant citizens maltreated, their houses rifled of clothing, money and other valuables, besides the theft of every pound of bacon and every ounce of meal, but the same course of rapine and cruelty was shown towards unprotected widows and orphans, who were stripped of their all, and in many cases turned out of doors, with nothing left save the wearing apparel on their persons. Cows and calves were killed from mere wantonness, and left in private yards and on public thoroughfares."

The action at Town Creek about ended the battle of Harrisburg, or Tupelo. For the numbers engaged it was one of the bloodiest battles of the war. The Confederates lost 210 killed and 1,116 wounded, making a total of 1,326 killed and wounded. The enemy lost 674 killed, wounded and missing; total on both sides, 2,000 men. The loss to Confederates in valuable field officers was fearful. Three brigade commanders were wounded, Rucker, McCullough and Crossland. Col. Isham Harrison and Lieutenant Colonel T. M. Nelson of the 6th Mississippi were killed, also Lieutenant Colonel J. B. Cage, 14th Tennessee; Lieutenant Colonel Sherrill, 7th Kentucky, and Major Robert McKay, 38th Mississippi, and many others were wounded. The loss of company officers was in like proportion in killed and wounded. Buford's division, including Marby's brigade with Bell and Crossland lost 996 men, killed, wounded and missing, over 40 per cent of those engaged, Bell losing 400, Crossland 306 out of 800 engaged, Marby 291. The 38th Mississippi, commanded by Col. J. H. Jones, went into action with 300 men. Every field and line officer except one was killed or wounded, and only 44 men out of the 300 escaped unharmed.

The enemy left the field and his wounded behind him, and the telegrams and reports show that the expedition did not accomplish what was expected. Gen. Smith did not do, after his fight, as he was required by Sherman, "persevere and continue to follow Forrest," but from Pontotoc seemed to have but one idea: viz., to stand on the defensive and get away from him. He never left his lines, but was always on the defensive. His first dispatch, July 18th, says: "We met Lee and Walker (Forrest) at Tupelo, and whipped them badly on three different days. * * * I bring back everything in good order, and nothing lost." He reports no trophies of victory, no guns, only 60 prisoners (no doubt wounded Confederates). He was met by an order from Gen. Sherman to Gen. Washburn (July 20th): "Order Smith to pursue and keep after Forrest all the time," and another: "It was Gen. Grant's special order, that Gen. Smith was required after his fight to pursue and continue to follow Forrest." These telegrams tell the tale, and show Gen. Smith's superiors were greatly disappointed in the results, and reflected on him. He had a splendid army of veteran infantry. The only time Gen. Grierson gave Smith's cavalry a chance was at Town Creek, when one of Grierson's brigades was stampeded by Gen. Buford with only 1,000 men.

If ever a commander had a good opportunity to move out of his lines and pursue Forrest, Gen. Smith had on this occasion, after the withdrawal of the Confederate left wing. But the dead Confederates on his lines and at thirty paces from his guns inspired him with prudence and caution even after his claimed success. He claimed his enemy lost 1,800 men, and he only 674; certainly he was still strong enough, and the enemy much weaker than before, as he saw it on the field. Smith claimed also he was out of rations and had only 100 rounds per gun for his artillery. He was ordered to take 20 days rations, and they gave out in ten days; 100 rounds to a gun would have fought another battle. He certainly was very long preparing for his expedition and he could have seen that he had no spoiled bread. He was also in a corn region and his troops killed, wantonly, enough cattle to have furnished beef for his command.

On the Confederate side blunders and mistakes complicated matters. The troops were all of Forrest's command, and he should have had supreme command, but he insisted on Gen. Lee's, the department commander, assuming the responsibility and being present. Forrest had just won his splendid victory at Brice's Cross Roads over Gen. Sturgis, and his troops had confidence in him. Gen. Lee used this argument to insist on his commanding on the field, but he said no; that the responsibility was too great, and that his superior in rank should assume and exercise the command; that he considered the Confederate troops inadequate to defeat Smith. He also said his health was not good and Gen. Lee must take charge. The first unfortunate circumstance was the precipitate charge of the Kentuckians; they drew on themselves the fire of both wings of the Union army before the troops on right and left of them were up. While the conflict was raging on the left wing, Gen. Forrest changed the plan of battle by withdrawing Roddey and forming a new line with Roddey, the dismounted men, and Neely's brigade. This caused all the artillery in the Federal third division, several batteries in all, and most of the infantry, to fire continuously into the flank of the brigades of the Confederate left wing. Col. Murray, of the 89th Indiana, commanding the 1st brigade, 3rd division on Mower's left, his right resting on the Pontotoc road, says:

"Enemy formed several lines on right of Pontotoc road, directly in front of Mower's left brigade. The entire artillery of my line (12 guns), with 122 Ill's (regiment) occupying my right, opened up and continued most of the time of the action a murderous cross fire on the enemy in that wood field and contributed very much to the glorious results of the day, in driving back and repulsing the enemy from their position."

The right wing of the Federals was also reinforced by troops sent from their left wing when Rucker became engaged.



Atlanta in Ruins



**General Sherman burned Atlanta and marched on
to the sea.**

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Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

LT. GENERAL STEPHEN DILL LEE, COMMANDER GENERAL,
UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, APRIL 25, 1906.