

The Delta General

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com



Happy Birthday General Nathan Beford Forrest!

July 2025, Volume 28, Issue 7

Dedicated to the Memory of Brigadier General Benjamin G. Humphreys

Commander's Comments — Michael Anthony

Greetings men and ladies of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp, the Brigadier General Charles Clark Chapter of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, the Ella Palmer Chapter of the Order of the Confederate Rose, and our friends and followers who read this newsletter. The summer is fully upon us, and in the world of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Mississippi Division, it means reunion time. The Mississippi Division recently concluded its Annual Reunion, which was ostensibly about business, but it was really about the more important parts of being a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans: friendship, fellowship, and coming together to support a common Cause. If you were fortunate enough to spend the weekend or just the day at Pickwick Lake just north of our State line, you were treated to delightful views, a pleasant and cozy lodge, and the company of people who, like you, are the proud decedents of a Confederate Veteran.

Of course, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Mississippi Division must conduct business to successfully function. But I will argue that the most important function of both the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Mississippi Division is bringing people together to support and uphold a common Cause. In his famous book Bowling Alone, Robert Putnam observes that every successive American generation since the Greatest Generation has seen a movement away from common activities toward individual pursuits. He first recognized this phenomenon when his local bowling league folded due to lack of interest. From bowling to watching movies and so many other activities, people are not joining groups in the way they were for much of American history. In the last twelve or so years, the rise of social media use has divided and fragmented Americans in ways previously unthinkable, and now it is very clear that the youngest generation of Americans is the most socially isolated, anxious, and depressed group of people in our great nation.

Being a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, or the Order of the Confederate Rose brings us together and provides a sense of belonging, unity, and need. You will never be alone if you are a member of these organizations and participate in the activities sponsored by each of them. If you want to do something and be involved, there is something for you to do. If you want to meet people who share your interests and values, you are in the right place. If you want to prevent the destruction of Confederate and American history by people who don't care to understand or recognize you, you are in the right place. If you want to be a leader of men or women, you are in the right place. All of us are working toward a common goal: the preservation of the good name of the Confederate soldier and to uphold the Cause for which he fought. There is something greatly rewarding about working with others to achieve a goal you value and believe is righteous. There is something wonderful about meeting new people and making new friends. And there is something satisfying knowing that you are needed and your contributions are valued.

Reunions are valuable and every member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Military Order of the Stars and Bars, and Order of the Confederate Rose should attend a Division or National Reunion at least once. You will learn more about your organization and its operation, you will meet your commanding officers, you will be able to vote on items which impact your organization; and most importantly, you will see old friends and make new ones.

Unfortunately, I will not be attending the National Reunion this year; but if you go, have a wonderful time in Houston. Take lots of pictures and tell me all about it; I know you will have so much fun!

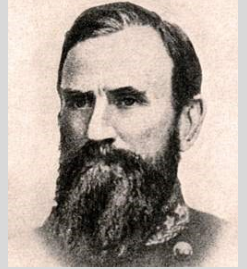
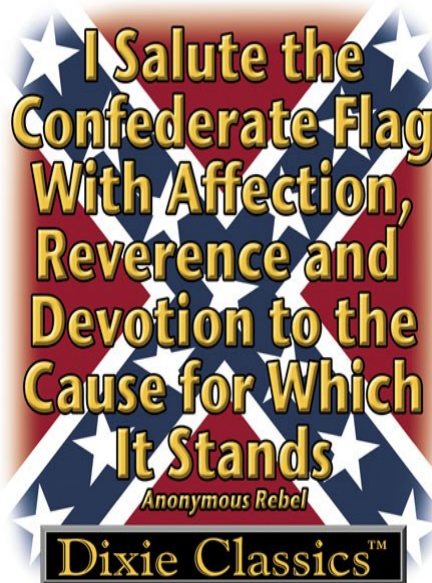
Deo Vindice,
Michael

Adjutant's Report — Dan McCaskill (No Report, June's Minutes will be in the August Issue)

No July Camp Meeting because of National Convention. Our Meetings will resume on August 9, 2025. Same place, same time.

Time to Renew Your Dues!

Its Almost that time of year to renew your dues. Two years in a row we have been 100% renewal, lets go for a third year. Don't be a shirker and do your duty. Remember to pay before August 31. You should have your renewal notice by now and you can pay online to the Camp through Venmo on our website. Just go to www.humphreys1625.com



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The Chaplain's Pen — Earl McCown

Go Ahead and Sing

*"There is no one righteous, not even one."
Romans 3:10*

The opening words of Psalm 33 should make all of us a little uneasy. The invitation to sing to God should create within all of us at least some hesitation to open our mouths.

After all, the writer of this psalm is inviting righteous people to worship God: *"Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him."* (Psalm 33:1, NIV). I don't know about you, but those words make me want to stop, step back, and simply be silent.

Who among us can claim to be righteous or upright? Who among us can claim to be worthy of worshipping God? If righteousness is a requirement for getting close to God, aren't all of us far removed? When a person is righteous in God's sight, that person keeps God's law. **The** righteous person loves God and his or her neighbor perfectly. So who of us can say, "That's me! The psalmist is describing me. Let's sing"? None of us can.

There is only One who is righteous – Jesus Christ. Jesus fulfilled the will of God perfectly. His obedience to His Father never wavered or failed. Yet He was punished for our sins. He suffered for the ones He loves, so that they might be pardoned and made righteous.

This is the only way we can worship God – through Jesus Christ, By faith in Christ we are made righteous. So let's go ahead and sing!

Prayer

Father, it is not by any goodness of our own that we pray to you, But by faith we come to you in Christ's name, praising you for your goodness to us.
Amen.



Over 16,000 Brave Confederate Heroes Need Your Help!



There is no greater honor that you can pay to our ancestors than to erect a grave marker at an otherwise unmarked grave!

The Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee wishes to thank The Society of the Order of the Southern Cross for their generous grant which has allowed us to mark the graves of forty-two Unknown Confederate Soldiers. This project has enhanced the appearance of the cemetery and honors our revered Confederate ancestors who rest here.



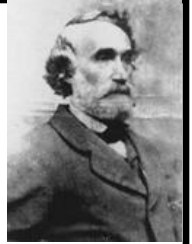
We are respectfully challenging SCV Divisions to consider sponsoring upright markers for unmarked graves from your respective states. The Oakwood Restoration Committee will walk you through the process of sponsoring a veteran, ordering the marker, having it properly lettered, etc. **We have found another, less expensive source for upright granite markers. The cost has dropped to \$450 engraved. We will install the markers at no charge!** Donations for the upkeep of the cemetery are also greatly appreciated.

The Confederate soldiers buried in Oakwood Cemetery deserve to be remembered. Won't you help us?

Oakwood Restoration Committee
C/o Richard A. Moomaw
69 Old Kiln Lane
Mt. Jackson, Va. 22842
rmoomaw@shentel.net

Learn more about Oakwood at: <https://www.scvvirginia.org/oakwood-overview>

Brig/General Charles Clark Chapter 253, MOS&B



Greetings:

I open these remarks to send Happy Birthday Greetings to Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Born in Bedford County, Tennessee, July 13, 1821.

I would like to share one of my favorite War Song of the Confederacy:

"DEAR MOTHER I'VE COME HOME TO DIE"
By E. Bowers.

The following beautiful lines are based upon facts, and will call forth the sympathy of every mother's heart. Many a boy wounded, or sick, and changed in health, came home to die, and many, alas, were not permitted to look into the faces of their loved ones again. I attended the funeral of a young fellow, whose last words were: "Give my love to mother, and tell her I will meet her in Heaven." As the years wear on the reunions are occurring in a better land, and many a boy has been restored to the circle which was broken by the rude red hand of war.

DEAR MOTHER, I remember well
The parting kiss you gave me,
When merry rang the village bell -
My heart was full of Joy and glee;
I did not dream that one short year
Would crush the hopes that soared so high!
Oh, mother dear, draw near to me;
Dear mother, I've come home to die.

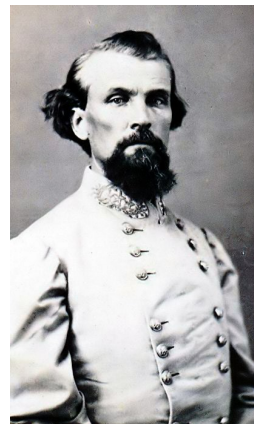
CHORUS:

Call sister, brother, to my side,
And take your soldier's last good-by,
Oh, mother dear, draw near to me!
Dear mother, I've come home to die.

Hark! Mother, 'tis the village bell;
I can no longer with thee stay;
My country calls, yo arms! To arms!
The foe advances in fierce array!
The vision's past – I feel that now
For country I can only sigh.
Oh, mother dear, draw near to me!
Dear mother, I've come home to die.

Dear mother, sister, brother, all,
One parting kiss – to all good-by:
Weep not, but clasp your hand in mine,
And like a soldier die!
I've met the foe upon the field,
Where foes contending scorned to fly;
I fought for right – God bless you all! -
Dear mother, I've come home to die.

(Copied from War Songs and Poems of the Southern Confederacy)



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

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.



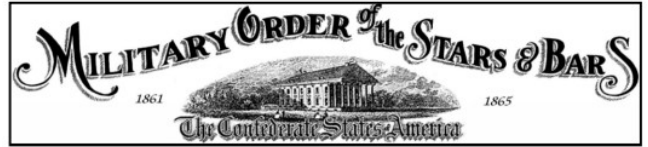
*Beauvoir - Post-war home of Jefferson Davis.
Biloxi, Mississippi*

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.



*The Jefferson Davis Presidential Library located on the grounds of
Beauvoir in Biloxi, Mississippi.*



Compatriots,

If you are receiving this bulletin that means the Order is back up to full ability to communicate with the membership. For the past few months, we have been without a Communications General and at the same time we have lost our ability to create and publish social posts through group emails.

I am pleased to announce that thanks to Executive Director (ED) Jon Trent and our new Communications General Jason Boshers we are now able to provide information for you in a timely and professional manner. ED Trent has spent hours rebuilding email contact lists and Communications General Boshers has been familiarizing himself with our branded communication templates. Their work to get our group email communication back up and running is so important to each one of us. I offer my special thanks to Executive Director Trent and Communication General Boshers for all their time and effort in accomplishing this most important mission.

I know it must seem like you have been kept in the dark or even worse that the Order has forgotten about you but that is not the case. All I can say is THANK YOU for your patience.

I am reminded of the proverb "steel sharpens steel," in the case of our communication with each other. We as individuals and as an Order improve and grow through interaction with others. This medium allows us to surround ourselves with positive influences and engage in constructive communication. This leads to growth of the Order both in numbers and ability to meet our purposes and principles stated in the Order's Constitution.

In our organization we see this "steel sharpens steel," every time we work with our chapter or society genealogist. When we ask the genealogist to help us find information for a supplemental application as individuals, we are growing our family story and strengthening our understanding of where we come from. The genealogist that is helping us is sharpening his skills as a researcher. Our communication through this medium allows us to share ideas that can be used throughout the Order, making us sharper and stronger.

Our 88th Annual MOS&B Convention was held in Foley, Alabama in May and was a big success. I believe everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves. The host chapter received many complements on the hotel accommodation, Lower Alabama Country Boil Commander's Reception, Forrest Cavalry Corps Breakfast, Awards Luncheon, Ft. Morgan Tour, Friday night's supper at the Hotel Magnolia, Prayer Breakfast, and the Commander General's Banquet. I want to add special thanks to our official photographer, Ron McBride, for photographing each event, award presentations and recipients, as well as individual/couples/groups.

There were four other events that also took place during the convention. On Thursday afternoon, the MOS&B held its pre-convention GEC Meeting. The National Daughters of the CSA Officer's Corps held a GEB meeting Thursday and their Annual Business Meeting on Friday. The Lee Society held its Annual Meeting on Saturday afternoon. Also on Saturday afternoon, the Alabama Society held its Annual Meeting which was highlighted by the presentation of the charter to Commander John Rather for the newly reactivated Admiral Franklin Buchanan Chapter #58, Mobile, AL.

I hope you will consider attending the 89th Convention in Harrison, AR next year. Our compatriots in Arkansas are hard at work planning an outstanding convention for us. It looks like it will be another great convention that I know we will all enjoy. Look for information on our website, <https://www.mosbhq.org/> and in our Officer's Call.

We are continuing to recruit new members into our organization, and I express to them my welcome. Our Genealogist General and Society/Chapter Genealogist are continuing to do excellent work which allows our MOS&B to continue to grow when most other organizations are not maintaining their memberships.

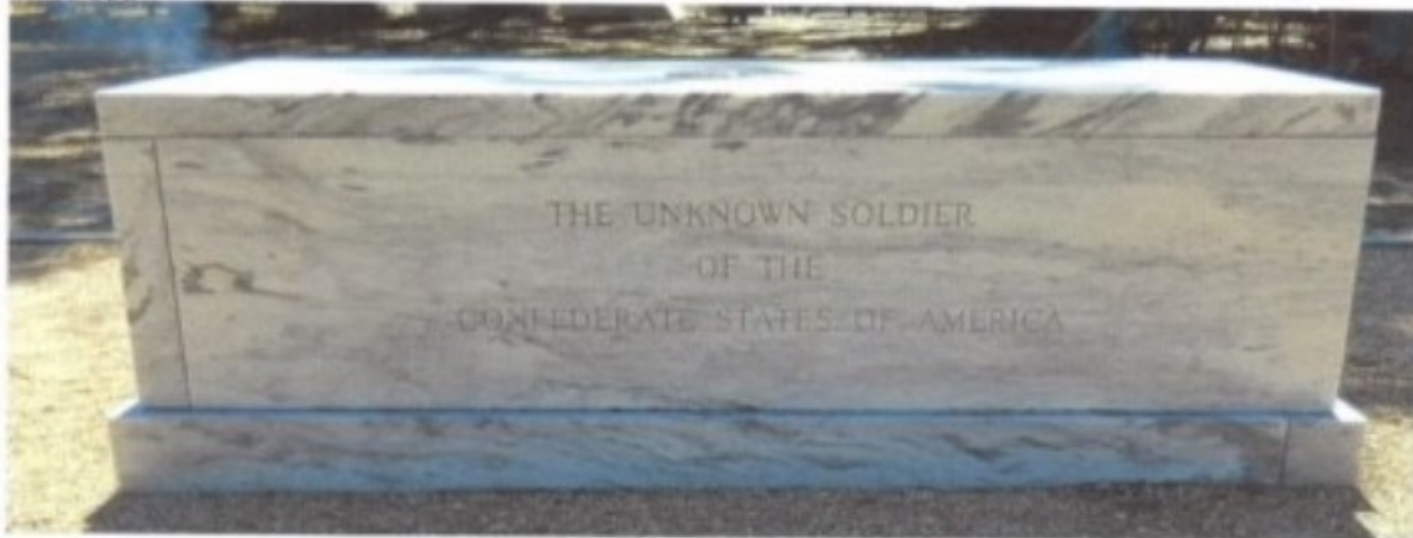
Have a great summer! Enjoy your travels, your family, your and friends.

In the Bonds of the Old South,
Tommy Rhodes Commander General

P.S. Don't forget to send in your society/chapter photos to our Officer's Call Editor. Let us know what you are doing.

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:

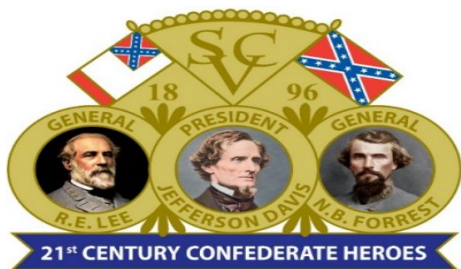
Bricks for Beauvoir
Mail to: Bricks for Beauvoir
2244 Beach Blvd
Biloxi, MS. 39531

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

Example:

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

SCV National News



21st Century Confederate Heroes

The National Sons of Confederate Veterans welcomes you to the 21st-Century Confederate Heroes. Your generous donation will serve to remember and honor our Confederate Heroes and our beloved Southland. The program comes with many perks.

- 1) Flag streamer or Neck Ribbon a. If you submit as an individual, you will receive a neck ribbon with a 21st Century Confederate Heroes medal on the ribbon. b. If you submitted as a camp, division or organization, you will receive a 21st Century Confederate Heroes streamer for your flag.
- 2) Paver – a paver placed on the Walkway of Confederate Heroes from the Museum to the Forrest Plaza
- 3) Certificate – A certificate documenting for future generations your membership as a Confederate Hero
- 4) A copy of the hardcover book 21st Century Confederate Heroes with a page dedicated to the information provided by you that details the individual or camp, etc. you wish to memorialize. Up to three photos may be included
- 5) Donor recognition in the National Confederate Museum – A Television will be placed inside the Museum's gift shop. This TV will display PowerPoint slides of the information 21st Century Confederate Heroes members provide. It can be you, your family, your ancestor, your camp, etc.
- 6) A Flag flown from the Forrest Plaza – One of the purposes of the 21st Century Confederate Heroes is to restore the Forrest Plaza. Once the plaza has been rebuilt and the flagpole is placed, every month for a year a donor will be drawn to receive the flag flown the previous month.
- 7) A QR Code on a sign will be placed near the Forrest Plaza identifying all those who donated \$1,000 or more to the restoration of the Forrest Plaza prior to the 21st Century Confederate Heroes campaign.

Notes:

Make checks out the Sons of Confederate Veterans and note 21st CCH in the memo line of your check.

For more information contact Commander-in-Chief Walter D. Kennedy at: CiC@scv.org

Or contact National HQ by mail or email:

SCV, P.O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402

exedir@scv.org



THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATE MUSEUM AT ELM SPRINGS

The truth about the South's struggle to form a new nation is under attack as never before. The National Battlefield Parks have been taken over by the "it's all about slavery" provocateurs. Museums have changed their collections and interpretations to present what they call the cultural history of the War for Southern Independence. In reality this new perspective is nothing more than South bashing. The forces of political correctness have gone into high gear. They attempt to ban any and all things Confederate through their ideological fascism.

There needs to be at least one place where the people of the South and others can go to learn an accurate account of why so many struggled so long in their attempt to reassert government by the consent of the governed in America!

The General Executive Council of the Sons of Confederate Veterans made the commitment in October of 2008 to start the process to erect a new building that will have two purposes. One of the uses of this new building will be to give us office space and return Elm Springs to its original grandeur. However the main function is to house The Confederate Museum. We are planning a museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. At the SCV Reunion in July of 2009 the GEC set up a building fund for this purpose. One of the goals is to provide an accurate portrayal of the common Confederate soldier, something that is currently absent in most museums and in the media.

These plans have now become a reality. The ground breaking has taken place and the museum is now open.

Take this journey with us and support the museum as a donor or join the Friends of the Museum today!

Send Donations to:
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Attn: National Confederate Museum
P.O. Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402

Or you can call 1-800-MY-DIXIE to pay by credit card.

www.theconfederatemuseum.com



SCV_CHAT
RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE
ONE WEEK AT A TIME

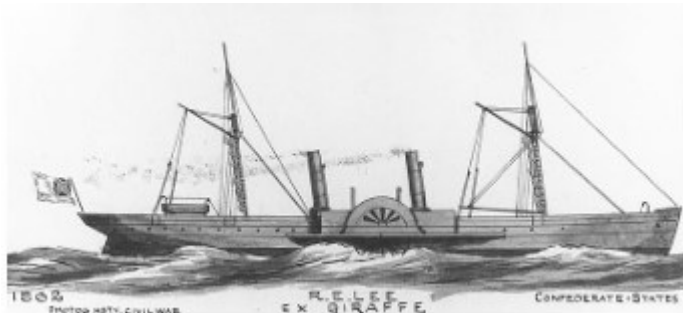
**SCV Chat — Every Monday Night on Facebook at 7:00 PM
Central time and on Thursday Nights at 7:00 PM for Look
Around the Confederation**

Message from the Commander-in-Chief

Modern Blockade Runners

One key element that kept our people in the struggle for independence after we were invaded was courageous blockade runners. Although the enemy had a stranglehold on our ports, by using non-traditional methods, Confederate Merchant Marines were able to supply valuable supplies to our beleaguered nation. Notice that these sailors had to think outside the box of traditional naval techniques and action to circumvent the Yankee blockade. Today, there is a blockade on the truth about Southern history and heritage. Too often, even well-meaning and some not-so-well-meaning conservative commentators will join with left-wing activists and push a false narrative about our history. Thankfully, we have at our disposal many techniques to "run the blockade" and get our needed supplies, that is, the TRUTH, around the media/social blockade.

Each SCV camp must elect or appoint a heritage officer. This individual must be in communication with their division heritage officer and the national Chief of Heritage Operations. The camp officer must be knowledgeable about the tools and methods that the SCV is now implementing to "break the blockade." Therefore, I am asking each SCV Camp to send one or more members to one of our Confederate Legion Training lectures. The next lecture will be held at Elm Springs in Columbia, TN, on September 6th. Remember, the Confederate blockade runners had to adapt their methods of conducting commerce. Many new and different ships and strategies were employed—they had to learn how to fight the new battle. The same is true for SCV members and Camps. Become a modern Blockade Runner!



Confederate Legion Training Secessions

The era of wokeness is not over, but it has been dealt a harsh blow. Americans are beginning to suffer from woke/political correctness, BLM, NAACP, and Antifa fatigue. Today, we have a golden opportunity to reconnect with our fellow Southerners—but how do we do it? The "how to" is detailed in our CL Training sessions. Discover how "cleaning tombstones" and holding camp meetings can be leveraged to boost public support, gain recognition from local elected officials, and attract new members.

Mark the date, September 6, and plan on learning new ways to advance our cause.

Keyboard Warriors

Promoting the Cause

Easy and Effective!



It is a new form of political/social warfare. Our ancestors braved shot and shell, but we are called to brave the insults of neo-Marxists. Our keyboards are our weapons. Join the Confederate Legion, attend the September 6th Confederate Legion's training sessions, and learn how to become an effective Confederate Legion Keyboard Warrior!



Ron Kennedy holding new CL Handbook

5 Women of Gettysburg

The Battle of Gettysburg—fought July 1 to 3, 1863—is often told through generals and battlefields, but the women of the town fought a different kind of war. They nursed the wounded, buried the dead, fed hungry soldiers, and recorded the devastation around them with grit and compassion. Here are five remarkable women whose courage shaped the town's story—and whose legacies still linger today.

Tillie Pierce



When the chaos of war rolled into Gettysburg in July 1863, 15-year-old Tillie Pierce fled with her neighbors—the Shriver family—seeking refuge at a farmhouse on the southern edge of town. They thought they were escaping danger, but fate had other plans. Just beyond their doorstep, brutal combat erupted at Little Round Top. Amid cannon fire and chaos, Tillie found herself transformed from schoolgirl to battlefield nurse—rushing water to parched lips, tending shattered limbs, and comforting the dying.

Years later, her extraordinary eyewitness account became a memoir—*At Gettysburg: Or What a Girl Saw and Heard at the Battle*—offering a rare glimpse of the Civil War through the eyes of a courageous teenage girl.

"The whole landscape had been changed," she wrote, "and I felt as though we were in a strange and blighted land."

Her story is still in [print today](#).

Hettie Shriver



Hettie Shriver was just 24 years old, the mother of two young daughters, when 170,000 Union and Confederate soldiers descended on Gettysburg. Her husband, George Shriver, had joined the Union army at the outbreak of war, leaving Hettie to manage their elegant brick home on Baltimore Street alone.

When fighting erupted at her doorstep, Hettie fled with her daughters and their neighbor, 15-year-old Tillie Pierce, to her parents' farm on the southern edge of Gettysburg. There, she stayed to nurse the wounded and help bury the dead.

On July 7, Hettie returned to a shattered town. Miraculously, the Shriver home was still standing—barely. Confederate soldiers had occupied it during the battle, converting the attic into a sharpshooter's nest. Bullet holes riddled the walls, furniture was smashed, and the pantry had been ransacked.

George returned briefly for Christmas later that year, but just after returning to Cole's Cavalry, he was captured and sent to the notorious Andersonville Prison in Georgia, where he died in December 1864. Financial hardship forced Hettie to sell the home in 1866. She moved to High Street and eventually remarried.

The Shriver House was painstakingly restored in 1996 to how it appeared during the Civil War and today operates as a [heritage museum](#).

Jennie Wade



Perhaps Gettysburg's most famous civilian, 20-year-old Jennie Wade had sought refuge at her sister Georgeanna's home when the fighting erupted. Georgeanna had just given birth, and Jennie, along with their mother, stayed to care for the new mother and her infant son. As the battle raged around them, Jennie baked bread and offered water to nearby Union troops. But then, tragedy struck.

On the morning of July 3, while kneading dough in the kitchen, a stray bullet pierced two closed doors and struck Jennie in the heart, her corset tragically trapping the fatal shot. Union soldiers wrapped her body in a quilt and carried her to the cellar, where her grieving family rode out the final hours of the battle.

Jennie was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery, where a U.S. flag flies perpetually in her honor—one of the few sites in the country where a flag is flown continuously for a woman.

Her sister's home has since become a memorial and museum, known today as the [Jennie Wade House](#).

Margaret "Mag" Palm



Margaret "Mag" Palm was a washerwoman and domestic servant living in Pennsylvania, though she was most famous for serving as a conductor on the Underground Railroad in Gettysburg. Perhaps it was her ability to assist so many escapees that drew the attention of southern slaveowners, because one day in 1858, after doing the washing at Joseph Tuckey's home, three men seized her, tied her hands, and tried to push her into a horse-drawn carriage—presumably to take her South.

A newspaper account of the day stated she possessed "more than ordinary muscular power" as she fought off her attackers, even biting off one of their thumbs to free herself. Later, she implicated Ferdinand Buckingham, Philip Snyder, and Tuckey as her abductors and brought them to court—and won.

When the Battle of Gettysburg broke out, she and her husband, Alfred, were renting a house from a fellow African American in Gettysburg. Knowing the threats of being abducted into slavery, they fled town ahead of the Confederate Army's arrival. After the war, they remained in Gettysburg for the rest of their lives. Palm died on October 25, 1896, at the age of 67; she is buried in [Gettysburg's Lincoln Cemetery](#).

Elizabeth Thorn



As the wife of a Gettysburg cemetery caretaker, Elizabeth Thorn's role became more prominent when war came to town in 1863. Her husband was off serving in the Union Army, leaving her at home, six months pregnant.

As the battle waged, Evergreen Cemetery became a makeshift hospital and burial ground for fallen soldiers. She tirelessly carried water from the cemetery's well to wounded soldiers. And, with only the help of her elderly father, she buried more than 90 Union soldiers who died during the battle.

Her contributions were recognized in 1904 when the federal government awarded her a pension.

Today, you can visit her cemetery—[Evergreen Cemetery](#)—and view the tombs of soldiers she buried. Here, too, is the Gettysburg Women's Memorial, a bronze statue depicting a heavily pregnant Elizabeth wiping sweat from her brow. Her tombstone is just up the hill, where she was laid to rest in 1907 next to her husband.

US Army To Bring Back Original Name of 7 Military Bases



Above: One of the largest military installation bases in the world, Fort Bragg, located in North Carolina.

Forrest : Memphis' first White Civil Rights Advocate

Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest (1821-1877) was a renowned Southern military leader and strategist during the War Between the States. During the Civil War, Forrest's Confederate cavalry wrecked havoc among Union forces throughout the mid-South. He gained worldwide fame from his many battlefield successes, but the war-time heroics have overshadowed his post-war work as a community leader and civil rights advocate. He fought fiercely on the battlefield, yet was a compassionate man off the field. After the war, Forrest worked tirelessly to build the New South and to promote employment for black Southerners. Forrest was known near and far as a great general, and was a well-respected citizen by both blacks and whites alike.

The Independent Order of Pole-Bearers Association (predecessor to the NAACP) was organized by Southern blacks after the war to promote black voting rights, etc. One of their early conventions was held in Memphis and Mr. Forrest was invited to be the guest speaker, the first white man ever to be invited to speak to the Association.

After the Civil War, General Forrest made a speech to the Memphis City Council (then called the Board of Aldermen). In this speech he said that there was no reason that the black man could not be doctors, store clerks, bankers, or any other job equal to whites. They were part of our community and should be involved and employed as such just like anyone else. In another speech to Federal authorities, Forrest said that many of the ex-slaves were skilled artisans and needed to be employed and that those skills needed to be taught to the younger workers. If not, then the next generation of blacks would have no skills and could not succeed and would become dependent on the welfare of society.

Forrest's words went unheeded. The Memphis & Selma Railroad was organized by Forrest after the war to help rebuild the South's transportation and to build the 'new South'. Forrest took it upon himself to hire blacks as architects, construction engineers and foremen, train engineers and conductors, and other high level jobs. In the North, blacks were prohibited from holding such jobs. When the Civil War began, Forrest offered freedom to 44 of his slaves if they would serve with him in the Confederate army. All 44 agreed. One later deserted; the other 43 served faithfully until the end of the war. Though they had many chances to leave, they chose to remain loyal to the South and to Forrest. Part of General Forrest's command included his own Escort Company, his Green Berets, made up of the very best soldiers available. This unit, which varied in size from 40-90 men, was the elite of the cavalry. Eight of these picked men were black soldiers and all served gallantly and bravely throughout the war. All were armed with at least 2 pistols and a rifle. Most also carried two additional pistols in saddle holsters. At war's end, when Forrest's cavalry surrendered in May 1865, there were 65 black troopers on the muster roll. Of the soldiers who served under him, Forrest said of the black troops: Finer Confederates never fought. Forrest was a brilliant cavalryman and courageous soldier. As author Jack Hurst writes: a man possessed of physical valor perhaps unprecedented among his countrymen, as well as, ironically, a man whose social attitudes may well have changed farther in the direction of racial enlightenment over the span of his lifetime than those of most American historical figures.

When Forrest died in 1877 it is noteworthy that his funeral in Memphis was attended not only by a throng of thousands of whites but by hundreds of blacks as well. The funeral procession was over two miles long and was attended by over 10,000 area residents, including 3000 black citizens paying their respects.



The Military Career of Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest

Lieutenant-General Nathan Bedford Forrest in 1865, private of Cavalry in 1861. As Senator Daniel has said, "what genius was in that wonderful man! He felt the field as Blind Tom touches the keys of the piano. 'War means killing,' he said, 'and the way to kill is to get there first with the most men.' He was not taught at West Point, but he gave lessons to West Point." His career was quite as brilliant and devoted in its allegiance to duty in peace as it was in the conflict of arms.

His father's family had moved from Virginia, before the Revolution, to North Carolina, where every member able to bear arms at that time fought in the cause of independence. His parents moved thence to Bedford county, Tennessee, where he was born July 13, 1821. In

1834 he moved with his father to Marshall county, Mississippi, where the latter soon died,

leaving young Forrest to support the widow and family with no resources other than a small hill farm. He undertook this work with such devotion and energy, that while neglecting his own education he provided liberally for that of his brothers and sisters, and going into business at Memphis became able to purchase a large plantation, and at the outbreak of the war was one of the wealthiest planters in Tennessee.

Soon after entering the Confederate service June 14, 1861, as a private in White's mounted rifles, he obtained authority to raise a regiment of cavalry, the equipment of which he purchased at his private expense at Louisville. With great ingenuity and daring he brought these supplies to Memphis after eluding the Federal authorities and defeating a body of troops with a force of seventy five Kentucky Confederates he had called to his aid. With his regiment he joined the forces at Fort Donelson, and after distinguishing himself in the conflict with the Federals, led his men through the enemy's lines when surrender was determined upon.

Joining Albert Sidney Johnston, he was in the heat of the fight at Shiloh, and though wounded refused to leave the field until the safety of the army was assured. Subsequently, the Federals having occupied middle Tennessee, Colonel Forrest made a series of brilliant cavalry movements into that territory that made his name famous throughout America.

Promoted brigadier-general July 21, 1862, he hung upon Buell's flank during the movement into Kentucky, protected Bragg's retreat, and while the army was in winter quarters actively covered the Federal front at Nashville, continually doing damage to the enemy. In 1863, in an effort to break Rosecrans' communications, he entered Tennessee with less than one thousand men, captured McMinnville, and surprised the garrison of 2,000 at Murfreesboro, capturing all the survivors of the fight, including General Crittenden.

General Streight, having started on a cavalry raid to Rome, Ga., was pursued and caught up with, and so impressed by Forrest's demand for surrender, that he turned over his entire command, which was in such disproportion to their captors that Forrest had to press into service all the citizens in reach to assist in forming an adequate guard.

In the great battle of Chickamauga he commanded the cavalry of the right wing, and was distinguished in the fight, but he was so dissatisfied with the incompleteness of this Confederate victory that he tendered his resignation. Instead of its acceptance he was promoted major-general and assigned to the command of all cavalry in north Mississippi and west Tennessee, and the guardianship of the granary of the Confederacy. With a small force he entered west Tennessee and recruited several thousand hardy volunteers, which, with some veteran troops, he welded into the invincible body known as "Forrest's Cavalry."

In February, 1864, General Smith with seven thousand mounted men was sent against him in co-operation with Sherman, but was utterly routed at Okolona and Prairie Mound. In return Forrest rode through Tennessee to the Ohio river, and captured Fort Pillow, Union City and other posts with their garrisons. In June 8,300 Federals under General Sturgis entered Mississippi. Forrest had only 3,200 men, but at Brice's Cross Roads he struck the straggling Federal column at its head, crushed that, and then in detail routed successive brigades until Sturgis had suffered one of the most humiliating defeats of the war, losing all his trains and a third of his men.

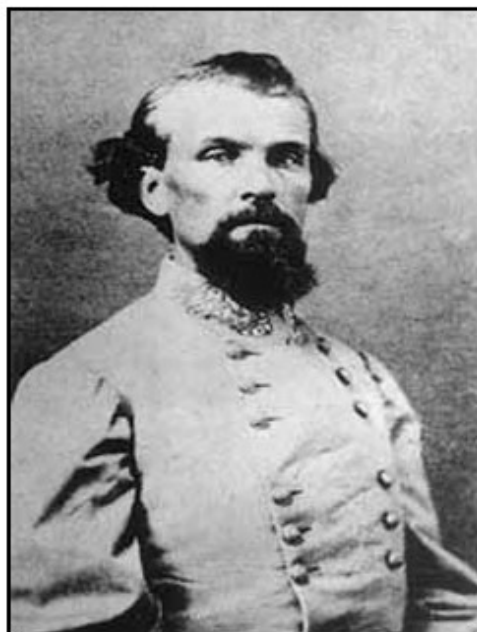
Gen. A. J. Smith renewed the invasion with 14,000 men, but retreated after a desperate battle at Harrisburg, near Tupelo. Re-organizing his beaten forces Smith again advanced with reinforcements from Memphis, and Forrest was compelled to foil the enemy by taking half his force and making a sixty-hour ride to Memphis, the daring entry of which compelled Smith's rapid retreat. Then for a time General Forrest made havoc with the Federal transportation, garrisons and depots in Tennessee, exploits crowned by the capture and destruction of six million dollars' worth of the enemy's supplies and a gunboat fleet, at Johnsonville, "a feat of arms," wrote Sherman, "which I must confess excited my admiration."

After the fall of Atlanta he joined Hood at Florence, and fought at Franklin and Nashville. As commander of the rear guard of the retreating Confederate army, Forrest displayed his most heroic qualities, with hardly a parallel but the famous deeds of Marshal Ney while covering Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.

In February, 1865, he was promoted lieutenant-general, and given the duty of guarding the frontier from Decatur, Ala., to the Mississippi. With a few hundred hastily gathered men he made his last fight at Selma, and on May 9 he laid down his arms. It is stated that he was 179 times under fire in the four years, and he said, "My provost marshal's books will show that I have taken 31,000 prisoners."

After the war he was president of the Selma, Marion and Memphis railroad until 1874. He died at Memphis, October 29, 1877. By European authority he is pronounced the most magnificent cavalry officer that America has produced.

LT. GENERAL NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST'S FAREWELL TO HIS TROOPS



By an agreement made between Lieut.-Gen. Taylor, commanding the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, and Major-Gen. Canby, commanding United States forces, the troops of this department have been surrendered.

I do not think it proper or necessary at this time to refer to causes which have reduced us to this extremity; nor is it now a matter of material consequence to us how such results were brought about. That we are BEATEN is a self-evident fact, and any further resistance on our part would justly be regarded as the very height of folly and rashness.

The armies of Generals LEE and JOHNSON having surrendered, you are the last of all the troops of the Confederate States Army east of the Mississippi River to lay down your arms.

The Cause for which you have so long and so manfully struggled, and for which you have braved dangers, endured privations, and sufferings, and made so many sacrifices, is today hopeless. The government which we sought to establish and perpetuate, is at an end. Reason dictates and humanity demands that no more blood be shed. Fully realizing and feeling that such is the case, it is your duty and mine to lay down our arms -- submit to the "powers that be" -- and to aid in restoring peace and establishing law and order throughout the land.

The terms upon which you were surrendered are favorable, and should be satisfactory and acceptable to all. They manifest a spirit of magnanimity and liberality, on the part of the Federal authorities, which should be met, on our part, by a faithful compliance with all the stipulations and conditions therein expressed. As your Commander, I sincerely hope that every officer and soldier of my command will cheerfully obey the orders given, and carry out in good faith all the terms of the cartel.

Those who neglect the terms and refuse to be paroled, may assuredly expect, when arrested, to be sent North and imprisoned. Let those who are absent from their commands, from whatever cause, report at once to this place, or to Jackson, Miss.; or, if too remote from either, to the nearest United States post or garrison, for parole.

Civil war, such as you have just passed through naturally engenders feelings of animosity, hatred, and revenge. It is our duty to divest ourselves of all such feelings; and as far as it is in our power to do so, to cultivate friendly feelings towards those with whom we have so long contended, and heretofore so widely, but honestly, differed. Neighborhood feuds, personal animosities, and private differences should be blotted out; and, when you return home, a manly, straightforward course of conduct will secure the respect of your enemies. Whatever your responsibilities may be to Government, to society, or to individuals meet them like men.

The attempt made to establish a separate and independent Confederation has failed; but the consciousness of having done your duty faithfully, and to the end, will, in some measure, repay for the hardships you have undergone.

In bidding you farewell, rest assured that you carry with you my best wishes for your future welfare and happiness. Without, in any way, referring to the merits of the Cause in which we have been engaged, your courage and determination, as exhibited on many hard-fought fields, has elicited the respect and admiration of friend and foe. And I now cheerfully and gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the officers and men of my command whose zeal, fidelity and unflinching bravery have been the great source of my past success in arms.

I have never, on the field of battle, sent you where I was unwilling to go myself; nor would I now advise you to a course which I felt myself unwilling to pursue. You have been good soldiers, you can be good citizens. Obey the laws, preserve your honor, and the Government to which you have surrendered can afford to be, and will be, magnanimous.

N.B. Forrest, Lieut.-General - Headquarters, Forrest's Cavalry Corps
Gainesville, Alabama - May 9, 1865

History of the Forrest Equestrian Monument

In 1887, ten years after the death of one of the South's greatest heroes Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, efforts were begun to raise money for a statue to be erected in his memory. Three gentlemen of Memphis, James E. Beasley, Col. W.F. Taylor and W. W. Schofield began canvassing for donations toward this monument fund. During the early years of their work, small contributions were received, but in November 1891 the Forrest Monument Association was incorporated.

The following officers were elected to lead the Association. Gen. S.T. Carnes, President, Gen. George W. Gordon, Vice-President, James E. Beasley, Treasurer, and Judge J.P. Young, Secretary. Also named were thirteen Directors who represented the who's who of Memphis at that time.

Immediately following this organization, a fundraising benefit was given by the Old Lyceum Theater Company. Various donations followed during the years of 1892 and 1893. During 1894, a number of Confederate Veterans organized a drill team designated as Company A, UCV. Their first order of business was to challenge the "Chickasaw Guards" of Memphis to a competitive drill. The cash prize of \$1,927.45 was won by Company A and received as the largest donation to the Forrest Monument fund to date.

By January 1900, the cash and signed pledges to the Association amounted to \$14,000. In June 1900, interested Ladies of Memphis formed an auxiliary and deserve special mention for their work. For in October 1904, they turned over to the Association treasury \$2,955.51 of solicited donations.

The cornerstone for the monument was laid during the May 1901 UCV Reunion in Memphis. In August 1901, sculptor Charles H. Niehaus was contracted to produce the bronze statue of General Forrest astride his favorite horse "King Phillip." It took three years for the modeling of the statue and nearly nine months for the casting. The marble work was done by the Ross Marble Co. of Knoxville and is of Tennessee marble. The bronze casting of more than heroic size, being one and one-half life size, weighs 9,500 pounds. Height of the monument is 21 feet 6 inches, including the equestrian of 12 feet. Height of the pedestal is 7 feet, and the terrace 2 feet 6 inches. The total cost of this magnificent tribute to the "Wizard Of The Saddle" was \$32,359.53. Casting was done in Paris France at the well known foundry of E. Guret June. The statue was shipped by steamer to New York, and then to Savannah, and from there by rail to Memphis, arriving here on April 8, 1904. The Forrest Monument Association, believing that the most appropriate place for the remains of Gen. Forrest would be beneath the foundation of this splendid statue, obtained the consent of his son, Capt. William Montgomery Forrest. The bodies of Gen. Forrest and his wife were re-interred from the Forrest family plot at Elmwood Cemetery to Forrest Park on November 11, 1904.

The dedication ceremony took place on May 16, 1905 beginning at 2:30 p.m., with 30,000 Southerners from seven States attending. Following the various speeches, the little eight year old great granddaughter Kathleen Forrest Bradley, finally pulled the cord that unveiled the magnificent memorial and Professor Arnold's band cranked up "Dixie."

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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.