



Joe Nokes, Commander

Camp Website: [www.humphreys1625.com](http://www.humphreys1625.com)

# *The Delta General*

June, 2013 Volume 16, Issue 6

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



## Camp News:

### Commander's Corner: Joe Nokes



Compatriots,

As always, I hope this edition finds you all well and hale. The weather has finally turned warm for the summer. And as the weather heats up heading into summer, SCV related activities and events are heating up across the Division and the Confederation.

The State Convention in Jackson is LESS than a month away. As a camp, we have been allotted six (6) delegates. This year is election year. Our very own Alan Palmer has opted to end his very successful reign as Division Commander. So, we as a Division have a very important decision to make: who elect to lead us into the last two years of the Sesquicentennial.

Furthermore, other offices will be open at both the Division and Brigade levels. As of now, our Brigade will need to elect both a Brigade Commander and Councilman. As above, I cannot stress how crucial it is that we select good, effective leadership to lead us these next two years.

With these issues in mind, we absolutely need as many of you as possible to attend the June meeting. We will be choosing delegates for State Convention. Also, I am quite sure there will be some discussion on the elections and the candidates for the various offices.

Notwithstanding all of this, in LESS THAN TWO months, National Convention is happening at Vicksburg. There will be a variety of proposed amendments to the National by-laws that will be voted on at the Convention. Again, the delegates we choose for Division Convention will likely be chosen for National Convention. Your input on this selection process is vital. Yes, YOUR voice is that important to our organization.

I realize that everyone is extremely busy at this time, so will close with this: We appreciate all that you do each and every day. And I urge each and every one of you to try to do just one extra little bit whenever possible.

Deo Vindice!!!

Joe Nokes

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 14-16 – 150<sup>th</sup> Battle of Hernando, MS Reenactment

June 21-23 – State Reunion in Jackson, MS

July 18-20- National Reunion in Vicksburg, MS

Battle of Iuka Reenactment – Labor Day Weekend

September 19-22 - National Reenactment at Chickamagua, GA

October 10-13 – Battle of Farmington, MS

## June 6 Meeting

The B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp # 1625 will hold its annually business meeting on Thursday, June 6 at 7:00 pm. Social begins at 6:30 with a meal provided by the ladies of the OCR. The OCR will also once again have their raffle and the notorious Chase the Yankee which has been eluding people for a year now. That Yankee sure is tricky and slippery but someone is sure to catch him soon and put him out of his misery.

Our speaker will present information on Boys State which has become an interest of the National Office in an effort to participate in such organizations to potentially recruit younger members into the organization.

Please make all plans to attend this meeting because this is your Camp and it cannot function without you and your voice.

## Adjutant's Report: Dan McCaskill

**7:00 pm** Commander Joe Nokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by 2nd Lt. Commander Junior Stillman. Joe welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting and then invited all to partake in the evening meal. After the meal, Joe reconvened the Meeting. Color Sergeant Chris Lewis led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy.

**Announcements:** The Museum of the Delta will have a special exhibit starting May 21st displaying artifacts belonging Captain William H. Ray who commanded Company K, 30th Mississippi Infantry, the unit we portray. He is also the Great, Great Grandfather of Alan Palmer; May 18th there will be a Memorial Service at Star City, AR and a re-enactment at Champion's Hill, MS; MS Division Reunion will be June 21-23 in Pearl/Jackson; and SCV National Reunion is in Vicksburg July 18-20. In August, Miss Ellie will give a program at The Museum of the Delta on "War on the Home Front. There is some type of event every weekend for the next several months.

**Officer Reports:** 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney reported that June's speaker will be Don Carlos who will talk on "Boys State" and how it can be beneficial to the Camp; 2nd Lt. Commander Junior Stillman reported that he is working to find new members; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that John Hallman had joined the Camp. This brings the Camp membership to 56; The Camp has \$ 1,394

Continued on page 2 . . .

Adjutant's report continued from page 1 . . .

in the checking account; the Church Fund has enough money to cover the use of the Fellowship Hall through May; As Camp Editor, Larry inquired about everyone receiving the Camp Newsletter; As AOT Councilman, Larry reported there would be a dedication ceremony in North Alabama for a memorial marking the surrender of Union General Streight to Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest ; Larry also announced that the MS Legislature approved giving \$ 250,000 for the Shiloh Monument; Earl McCown reported the MOS & B would have a state wide meeting at the Ripley country Club on April 13th; OCR President Missy Stillman presented James Taylor with three OCR Membership Certificates for his Camp's OCR Chapter..

**Camp Business:** With only five Camp members present, the Camp was unable to conduct any Camp business.

**Program:** The program for the night was "Trivia Night" based on the April issue of the Delta General. "Capture the Yankee" and raffle were postponed until next Meeting.

The Meeting was closed with a word of prayer from 2nd Lt. Commander Junior Stillman. Attendance for the Meeting was 11. This is the lowest in recent memory.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan McCaskill, Adj.

P.S. We were to have done a Camp Self – Assessment to see were we could look for allies in future Heritage fights. I sent the same survey to the membership by email a couple of days after the Meeting. To date, I have received a response from four (4) members out of 55. I have to say this is very disappointing.

## Order of Confederate Rose News

Ladies,

Missy Stillman and myself will nit be able to attend the meeting Thursday, but I will order a meat tray so sandwiches can be made at our Thursday meeting. With that being said, I need people to bring bread, condiments, chips, dips, snacks and drinks. We will be discussing State and National plans for Convention so I hope everyone turns out. Our Chapter will be ordering pens for the gift bags for National Convention. It will have our Chapter name on it and the pens can be used on I-pads and such. We also have two great gifts for the door prize drawing.

Annette McCluney, President



## The Delta General Newsletter Needs You!

Our Camp newsletter continuously needs your contributions! Currently all issues are being e-mailed out and stored on a data base on our website so people can read past issues. But, this editor needs your help with material. Got something you want in the newsletter? Send it to me. Please send your comments, photos, editorials, or whatever of interest related to the great southern cause to:

**confederate@suddenlink.net**

Gentlemen,

The National Headquarters, Sons of Confederate Veterans is starting a camp assessment of all Camps in the Confederation. The Mississippi Division Assessment is the pilot program. The purpose of the survey is determine the make-up of a Camp's membership which could lead to some allies when and if a Heritage Violation fight occurs in the future. Please answer the questions below and return to me as soon as possible. The information you provide will not be used outside of the SCV. Thanks for your help in this survey.

1. Are you a member of the Rotary? Y or N
2. Are you a member of the Lions or Kiwanis?
3. List other civic organizations, i.e. VFW, American Legion, Masons, etc.
4. Member of Chamber of Commerce? Y or N
5. Attend church? Y or N, If yes, what church?
6. Own a business? Y or N If yes, what is the name?
7. Appointed or elected Government Official? Y or N; If yes, what office?
8. Media experience? Y or N
9. Owner of property adjacent to a main highway or road? Y or N
10. Name of State Representative.
11. Name of U.S. Representative.
12. Name of U.S Senator.

Thanks,  
Dan McCaskill, Camp Adjutant

## Mississippi Division News: Mississippi Division Reunion

This year's host camp is The Lowry Rifles located in Pearl, MS. This year's event will be held on June 21 -23. All registered SCV members will receive a name badge, a convention medal, a program, and a bag of goodies. Registration at the door will receive the same as long as supplies last. This is a time for meeting other compatriots from various parts of the state and to experience how our division goes about handling the business for state division. See page 4 for registration form.

## 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Reunion June 21-23 – 2013 Jackson, MS. Reunion Schedule

### Friday June 21<sup>st</sup>

Cabot Lodge -Millsap

2:30PM - 5:30PM - Registration in hotel lobby

5:30 PM – 7:30PM - Commander's Reception and Jeff Davis Birthday cake in lodge area.

### Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>

7:00AM - 8:30AM - Registration in hotel lobby

8:00AM - 12:00 Noon - SCV Business Session in ballroom

2:00 PM – 5:00PM – Restored Confederate flag tour (Free) at Caper's building. (old archives) (MUST schedule for a time to attend between 2pm and 5pm when you pick up your registration packet at the reunion) Limited amount of people can tour. First come first serve.

7:00PM – Until – Awards Banquet in Ballroom.

### Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 AM – Confederate Memorial Service at Confederate Monument in front of Caper's building. (old archives) (Tentative)



## Looking for New Recruits!

When was the last time you tried to recruit a new member for the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Barksdale Camp? Do you ever approach anyone and ask if they are interested? Try it once in a while and you might be surprised to find out that there are prospective members just waiting to join. Don't just wait for someone to ask you first. Don't Shirk your duty as a member! Get out and recruit.

## National SCV News:

## National Reunion in Vicksburg, MS

Come to the "Gibraltar of the Confederacy" as the Mississippi Division holds its first National reunion in over 35 years. Make plans for July 18-20 to attend and let's make our numbers in Mississippi the largest delegation to attend. For those who have never been to a National Reunion here is your chance because it is in our own backyard. Mississippians should outnumber any delegation from any Division just because it's in our home state. For a registration form, look at page 5.

## Military Order of the Stars and Bars

If there are any interested persons in joining a chapter of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, the closest chapter of the Mississippi Society to the Delta area is the Brig/Gen Charles Clark Chapter that meets in conjunction with our SCV Camp. Membership in the Military Order of the Stars & Bars is limited to male descendants, either lineal or collateral, of the officer Corps who served honorably in the Army, Navy and other commands of the Confederate States of America and male descendants of the elected and appointed civilian officials of the Confederate States; the national Confederate Government; and the Five Civilized Tribes which allied with the Confederacy. All members must be at least twelve years old and ancestral documentation must accompany all applications for membership.

The Brig/General Charles Clark Chapter of the Mississippi Society meets in conjunction with our SCV Camp meetings every month. If you have an ancestor that was a Confederate Officer, please come out and join the Order! Help support and continue our cause! If interested, please contact the newsletter editor and or go to [militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org](http://militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org) for more information!





**OFFICAL REGISTRATION FORM**  
**118th Reunion – Mississippi Division,**  
**Sons of Confederate Veterans**  
**and 19th Reunion – Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose**  
**Rankin County – June 21-23, 2013**  
**Hosted by: The Lowry Rifles Camp #1740 Rankin County**

SCV MEMBERS NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ SCV CAMP & NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME (for badge): \_\_\_\_\_

OCR MEMBERS NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

OCR CHAPTER NAME AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

All registered SCV members will receive a name badge, a convention medal, a program, and a bag of goodies. Registration at the door will receive the same as long as supplies last. (OCR registrants will have a Tea in lieu of a medal.) **Please register for your respective organization below.**

**REGISTRATION AMOUNTS**

**SCV** on or before June 07, 2013 ..... **\$30.00 each for registration** ..... QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SCV** after June 07, 2013 ..... **\$35.00 each for registration** ..... QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OCR** on or before June 7, 2013 \$10.00 each after June 07, 2013 \$15.00 each ..... QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Ancestor Memorial:** Each memorial is \$10.00..... QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please Print or type each memorial on separate page, Thanks!)**

**Program Ads:** \$100.00 for full page; \$50.00 for half a page; \$25.00 for quarter page; \$15.00 for business card size advertising **(Please submit ad information on a separate page before May 15, Thanks!)**..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet Registration (per plate) \$30.00** ..... Qty \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(No Meal Registration after June 7, 2013) Dinner (TBD)** ..... **Total Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to: Lowry Rifles Camp #1740**

**Mail to:** Bill Hinson  
238 South Fox Hall Road  
Pearl, Ms. 39208

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Bill Hinson: (H) 601-936-9048; or email: [BHLH87@aol.com](mailto:BHLH87@aol.com)  
**Convention Hotel:** Cabot Lodge-Millsaps, Jackson, Ms. Reservations can be made by calling: 601-948-8650, ask for the Mississippi Division, SCV Convention Rates. Rates are \$109.00 + tax per night and plus happy hour from 5:30pm-7:30pm for hotel guest only. Reservations **MUST BE MADE** before June 07, 2013.



## Jefferson Davis Presidential Library in Biloxi will open Monday

BILOXI -- Years of construction are complete and the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library at Beauvoir will open Monday, Davis' 205th birthday.

"This has been a moment long in coming," said Bertram Hayes-Davis, great-great-grandson of Jefferson Davis and executive director at Beauvoir.

The original library and museum, along with the Confederate Soldiers Museum, were destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. Nearly eight years later, the new building off U.S. 90 behind the Beauvoir home combines the museums and architectural elements from those buildings. It brings forth the antebellum style with modern design befitting the stature of a presidential library, Hayes-Davis said. "It's a grand building," he said.

A weekend of activities organized by Andi Oustalet will lead to the library's ribbon-cutting Monday at 10 a.m. Tickets are still available for the black-tie reception and sneak peek at the library Saturday.

On Sunday, the community is invited to join about 40 descendants of the Confederate president at the Davis Family Reunion and Picnic on the grounds of Beauvoir starting at 11 a.m. The day will feature the Boogie Woogie Beauvoir Radio Show, a barbecue under the trees, a slate of speakers and even camels, Hayes-Davis said.



### **Distinguished speakers**

The Texas Camel Corps, which Davis spearheaded in the 1850s, will be represented among the speakers who will give insights into Davis' life. Along with Winston Churchill's great-grandson, who Hayes-Davis said sees many similar traits between Churchill and Davis, speakers are Lynda Crist, editor of the Papers of Jefferson Davis; Percival Beacroft, producer of the film "Jefferson Davis, an American President;" Ken P'Pool, deputy state historic preservation officer for the Mississippi Archives & History; OT Crowther, vice president of The White House of the Confederacy in Richmond, and Heath Lee, biographer of Varina "Winnie" Davis. Monday's ribbon-cutting is a free event and will be followed by a birthday celebration for Davis. He was a U.S. senator, Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce and the only president of the Confederacy, which makes this library in Biloxi the only Confederate Presidential Library.

Davis was invited to Biloxi by Sarah Anne Ellis Dorsey in 1877 to write his memoirs in a cottage at Beauvoir, which is now a National Historical Landmark. She left the property to him when she died a year later.

### **Re-imagined library**

A bronze statue of Davis from the original library now is displayed outside the new 24,500-square-foot building. Seals of the 13 Confederate states are part of the new building along with columns that mimic the columns on the Jefferson Davis home, architectural stars, a red, white and blue courtyard, a balcony overlooking the water and the presidential library with views of the new gardens.

Skylights and the use of clear cypress and stainless in the second-floor galleries provide light and create a backdrop to showcase the displays, which Hayes-Davis said are coming in the next phase of the museum following a campaign to raise money for the exhibits. The library will have exhibit halls for Davis, the Confederate soldier and traveling exhibits.

Until then, visitors will be able to watch three movies shown in the Beauvoir theater and visit the library and gift shop. Entrance to new building will be included in the admission to the house, the cemetery and Varina's Garden, which will restore the grounds to their 1889 appearance when planting is complete next month. Gene Peters, a landscape architect with Peters Land Services in Ocean Springs, was hired to re-create the gardens from original sketches. Through a grant from the National Park Service administered by the Archives & History department, he and his crew will plant 4,061 shrubs and rose bushes and 91 trees.

'A national destination'

Carol Hayes-Davis said the library and grounds are available for weddings and other special events. During a wedding last weekend, she said, the bride descended the wide steps of the Beauvoir house and the reception was at the library.

Bertram and Carol Hayes-Davis came to work at Beauvoir last summer and he said, "Look at the changes we've seen in the property." He said it's been a team effort by the local community, county and state.

"We have great vision that it will be a national destination," he said.

### **If you go**

Saturday: 7 p.m., Bertram Hayes-Davis and his wife, Carol, will host a Black Tie Gala at Beauvoir. Dinner followed by dancing to The Coast Big Band. Tickets are \$125 per person/\$200 per couple, and can be purchased by calling 234-4950 or emailing andioustalet@gmail.com

Sunday: 1 p.m., the Davis family reunion on the grounds of Beauvoir with entertainment by Delta Reign and The Boogie Woogie Beauvoir Radio Show, plus a slate of speakers. Tickets \$25 per person. Children \$10, under 5 free.

Monday: 10 a.m., the public is invited to the official ribbon-cutting to open the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library, followed by a celebration Jefferson Davis' birthday. Admission is free.



# 118<sup>th</sup> National Reunion Sons of Confederate Veterans Vicksburg, Mississippi, July 18 - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - Official Registration Form



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

SCV Camp Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration is required of all members attending Reunion. Guests do not pay registration but must pay for meals and events.

Normal (From September 1, 2012 until May 31, 2013) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$65.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late (June 1, 2013 until July 20, 2013) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Reunion Medal \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Numbered Special Edition Reunion Medal \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Forrest Cavalry Breakfast (Thursday) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chaplain's Breakfast (Friday) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Heritage Luncheon (Thursday) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Awards Luncheon (Friday) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MS Shiloh Monument Fish Fry (Friday Evening) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Debutante Luncheon (Saturday - free for Debutante, other female guests \$30.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Ball and Banquet (Saturday) \_\_\_\_\_ \$120.00 Couple/\$65.00 Single = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Tours and Performances

• Vicksburg NMP Tour (Thursday Morning 9:00 to 12:30) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• Vicksburg NMP Tour (Thursday Afternoon 1:30 to 5:00) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• "Gold in the Hills" Performance - (Thursday, limited 250 seats) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• Ladies Tour (Friday 9:00 AM to Noon) of Martha Vick House and Ladies Program and Tour of the Old Courthouse Museum (limited to 112 people) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ancestor Memorial \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To insure preregistration, please mail registrations by July 10, 2013. Medals are available while supplies last. The purchase cost of extra Reunion Medals will be refunded if supplies run out. Special Edition Medals are numbered 1 - 50 and numbers will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you would like a specific number(s), please make a note on your registration form. All profits from the MS Shiloh Monument Fish Fry go towards erecting a Mississippi Monument at Shiloh National Military Park. Meals and tours will not be available for at-the-door registrations.

**\*\* Note:** To guarantee meal tickets, registration must be received by July 1, 2013

Make Checks Payable to: **SCV Camp 1354 - 2013 Reunion**

Mail Checks to: **2013 SCV Reunion . . . PO Box 820731 . . . Vicksburg, MS 39180-0731**

Contact the Hampton Inn and Suites - 1-601-636-6100 (rates are \$119.00 a night) or the Quality Inn Suites (rates are \$64.00 a night)

- 1-601-636-0804. **\*\*\* (Hampton Inn and Quality Inn Suites are booked up see website for overflow hotel information)**

Ask for the "SCV Reunion Special Rate." All prices are subject to state and local taxes. For more information Contact: Alan Palmer, Committee Chairman -

662-719-9312 or cptalan61@yahoo.com or Andrew McCaskill, Committee Treasurer - andrewmccaskill@yahoo.com

Reunion Site: <http://2013scvreunion.homestead.com/Index.html>

For Immediate Release

## **Attorney General Investigation of Carnton Plantation and the Carter House SCV demands resignation of prominent board member**

The Sons of Confederate Veterans announced today that they have confirmed an ongoing investigation by the Tennessee Attorney General's office into historic nonprofit properties in Franklin, Tennessee. The properties and associations under investigation are Carnton Plantation and the state-owned Carter House, both managed by the Battle of Franklin Trust.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans and other interested parties had asked the state to look into allegations of mismanagement at these properties, and the SCV had hoped that any investigation might quietly take place, so as to minimize any further negative publicity into these historic properties. Sadly, the SCV has been provided with a widely circulated email from a prominent board member, Robert Hicks, author of *Widow of the South*, that seems to be a thinly veiled threat against any board member who might cooperate with the Attorney General's investigation. Mr. Hicks further calls the SCV "scum" and "losers" for helping to raise the questions that the state is now investigating.

Gene Hogan, National Heritage Chairman for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, stated, "While the SCV might dismiss the defamatory remarks aimed toward ourselves, we cannot ignore the context in which the remarks were apparently made, sounding so much as a warning to anyone who might question the management and financial questions swirling about these public benefit corporations." Hogan continued, "Tennesseans have a right to know that their historic properties are being properly managed, and their funds properly accounted for, and the Attorney General has a right to any information that might shed light on any alleged impropriety. Because Robert Hicks' main goal seems to be in keeping the Attorney General from finding a "smoking gun", the SCV requests that Mr. Hicks immediately resign from any boards affiliated with Carnton Plantation, the Carter House, or Battle of Franklin Trust. If he refuses to resign, we call upon the respective boards to demand his departure, the public good requiring it."

Mr. Hogan further stated, "Also, we call upon Marianne Schroer, wife of TDOT Commissioner John Schroer, to personally speak to the media regarding these allegations. We believe that nonprofit funds should be spent on historic preservation, rather than on highly paid consultants and lawyers speaking on her behalf."

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is an international organization of male descendants of Confederate soldiers and the nation's largest military history and genealogy society, and a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Formed in 1896, the SCV owns, operates, and manages many historic properties, including Winstead Hill Memorial Park in Franklin, the General N.B. Forrest Home in Chapel Hill, and Beauvoir, the last home of Jefferson Davis and the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library, both in Biloxi, Mississippi. Its headquarters are in Columbia, Tennessee, at historic Elm Springs.

Following are the complete remarks of board member Robert Hicks upon learning that the Attorney General had launched an investigation. Mr. Hicks is a longtime member of the board(s) and is author of the book entitled *Widow of the South*. His email:

"Eric, The consolation prize in all this is that there is nothing that will prove to be a smoking gun in any of it. Oh, it will cost thousands of dollars and many man-hours to put it all together. Both money and time that is paid for by visitors to the sites who, themselves, have spent their own hard-earned money to visit these sites.

But I don't believe that the dark forces behind this complaint to the AG care. They simply want to cause trouble, confusion and chaos. They are wolves in sheep's clothing who give lip service to our values - Southern values - but who are the antithesis of Southern values. When you threw your lot in to live here in the South, I bet you wanted to appropriate the highest of our values, not from the scum. You won't find anything honorable or noble with these folks.

The good news is that they will fail and eventually fall on their faces. They will huddle in their dens and rage, fantasizing and pretending they will win. But in the end they are nothing more than losers to a man, if you can call them men. Be of good cheer of this Good Friday. Know that others have suffered far greater than we ever will and know that through His triumph we have triumphed. He is Risen, Indeed."

Happy Easter,  
Robert Hicks [robthicks@aol.com](mailto:robthicks@aol.com)

## **Grave Robbers Arrested in Georgia**

**(May 24, 2013 - Augusta, Ga)** The graves of at least five people were desecrated by grave robbers earlier this year in Burke County, Georgia, including a judge, two Confederate soldiers, and two women. In addition, authorities discovered the scattered bones and skull of an infant. After an effective investigation by the Burke County Sheriff's Department, both suspects have now been detained and are awaiting trial. Upon obtaining the name of a second suspect as a result of the original arrest, the sheriff's department asked for the public's help in locating the second suspect. Not long after, the sheriff's department received a tip from a resident there in Burke County that the suspect was believed to be hiding out in the home of another man on Hancock Landing Road. According to Sgt. Sean Cochran of the Burke County Sheriff's Department, the second suspect had been keeping a low profile by disguising himself as a woman wearing wigs and dresses whenever he ventured outside the home. When officers burst into the home where the suspect was hiding, the suspect ran to the back door; but upon opening it, he was met face to face with "Storm," the German Shepherd of one of the DNR rangers assisting in the case. The suspect decided to take his chances with the officers inside instead but after a short tussle was detained.

The original suspect is also being held in Richmond County on methamphetamine charges. So far, only an 1817 penny which was taken by one of the suspects to a local pawn shop has been recovered. The Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans congratulates the Burke County Sheriff's Department for an outstanding job in quickly finding the suspects of this case. The Sons of Confederate Veterans is advocating for the maximum sentence upon conviction in this crime as a deterrent to all future would-be grave robbers in Georgia.

For more information, please contact Jack Bridwell, Division Commander for the Georgia Sons of Confederate Veterans at 1-866-SCV-IN-GA or view information online at [www.GeorgiaSCV.org](http://www.GeorgiaSCV.org).

## Sequicentennial Articles: The Siege of Vicksburg

Before the [American Civil War](#) the Mississippi river had been the most important commercial artery in the United States, the main route for the trade of the mid-west (then known as the north-west), and for much of the cotton trade. The outbreak of the civil war blocked the Mississippi to northern trade. Opening the river and restoring that trade became one of the main Union objectives during the first half of the war (despite the fact that the new railroads had already replaced the Mississippi as the most important trade route from the north west). Union control of the Mississippi would also serve to cut the Confederacy in half, isolated Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas, as well as cutting the land route to Mexico, an important route for bypassing the Union blockade of the south.

Initial progress had been good. The capture of New Orleans in April 1862 had blocked the Mississippi to southern trade, while the loss of Fort No. 10 threatened Southern control of the rest of the river. By the end of 1862 the only stretch of the river blocked to North ships ran between Vicksburg, Mississippi and Port Hudson, Louisiana. Even that stretch of water was not safe for southern ships, as Union warships from the south were able to slip past the guns of Port Hudson.

Nevertheless, Vicksburg remained a potent barrier on the river. Its guns controlled the river, apparently preventing Union ships getting south of the city. On land the city was protected by geography. The Mississippi had created a wide, wet, swampy valley, but with very clear edges, where higher, drier ground met the swamp. Vicksburg was situated at a point where the Mississippi River touched the eastern edge of its flood plain, with vast swamps to the north guarded by a series of 'bluffs' (the steep sides of the valley). The only dry ground was to the south of the city.

The problem facing [U. S. Grant](#), whose job it was to capture Vicksburg, was how to get his army on to that dry ground. An attempt to travel overland to the east of the river had come to grief in December 1862 when his vulnerable supply lines had been broken. Across the rest of the winter of 1862-3 Grant had attempted to find some way to bypass Vicksburg, normally involving some sort of canal building through the Mississippi swamps. Each ended in failure, and by the spring of 1863 Grant's reputation in the north was in serious danger.

The same was true in Vicksburg. Showing impeccable timing, on 16 April 1863 a gala ball was held in Vicksburg to celebrate the lifting of the Union threat. The dancing was sadly interrupted by the roar of gunfire from the gun batteries on the river. Grant had decided to run his fleet past the guns of Vicksburg, and use the survivors to ferry his army across to the east bank, below the city. By the end of April, 23,000 Union soldiers, soon reinforced to 40,000, were at loose south of Vicksburg.

This was something of a gamble on Grant's part. If Pemberton's 30,000 men could be combined with other Confederate forces in the area, then Grant would face an army the size of his own, operating in its home territory. However, in the first half of May Grant launched his most skilful campaign (Big Black River campaign, 7-18 May 1863). Moving north east along the line of the [Big Black River](#), he separated Pemberton from the forces being assembled at Jackson, under the eventual command of General Joseph Johnston. After defeating these forces at [Raymond \(12 May\)](#) and [Jackson \(14 May\)](#), Grant turned east and inflicted two serious defeats on Pemberton's field army at [Champion's Hill \(16 May\)](#) and [Big Black River \(17 May\)](#). On 18 May, Pemberton's army trooped back into Vicksburg having lost over 5,000 men.

### The Siege

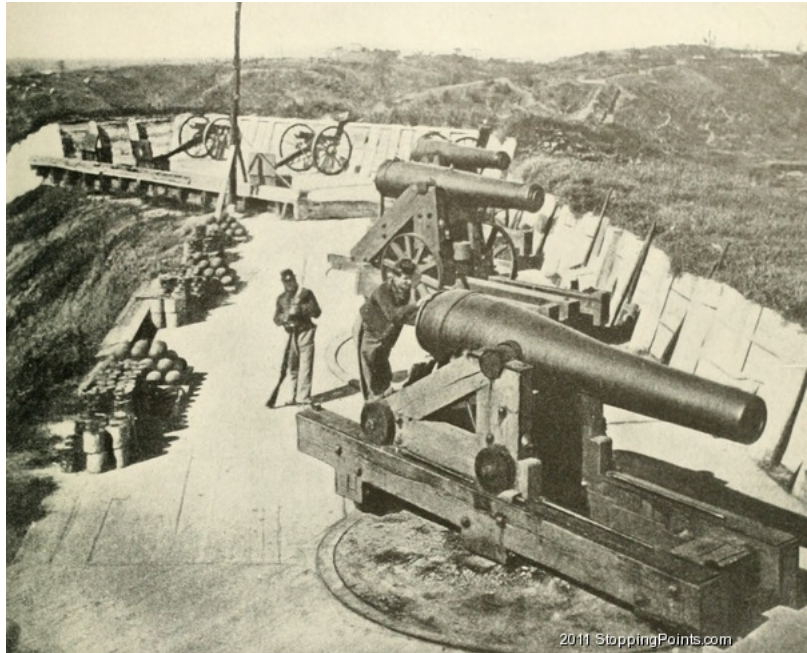
The following day (19 May) Grant's army arrived in front of the defences of Vicksburg. Grant decided to launch an immediate assault on the city. This was probably a good decision, although the attack was repulsed. Pemberton's men had suffered two serious defeats in the last three days, and at Big Black River had broken and fled without putting up any serious opposition. If they were still that demoralised, then there was a chance that a sudden attack would force a collapse.

Despite their recent defeats, Pemberton's Confederates were not so demoralised that they could not hold the defences of Vicksburg. The terrain around Vicksburg was ideal for construction of strong defences. Pemberton's engineers had spent the last seven months constructing those defences. The higher ground around Vicksburg was crossed by a series of streams, each of which had cut a deep, steep sided ravine, leaving a series of ridges. One of these ridges was used by the Confederate engineers. Nine forts, linked by trenches and rifle pits, combined to make the strongest defences seen in the war so far.

Their strength was confirmed by the repulse of a second, more carefully prepared Union attack on 22 May. Only now was Grant ready to settle down for a regular siege. He did not believe that these attacks had been a mistake. He was later to say that his men would not have been as patient in the siege if they had not tried and failed to assault the lines. He was also worried that Johnston was still in his rear, slowly increasing the size of his army (eventually it numbered some 30,000 men). Finally, the threat of disease in a southern summer made it preferable that the siege ended sooner rather than later.

Despite the strength of the defences, Vicksburg only hope was that Johnston, or some other Confederate commander, would come to the

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Vicksburg Continued from page 8 . . .

relief of the city. However, even now troop shortages were beginning to plague the Confederacy. Braxton Bragg had already sent two divisions west, weakening his army at a key moment. Robert E. Lee had the most available troops, and after Federal reverses at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville was under no threat of sudden attack. However, Lee was about to invade the north for the second time (the campaign of Gettysburg), and did not want to send troops west. West of the Mississippi there were not enough men to make much of a difference. Still, the commander in Louisiana, General Richard Taylor, at least made the effort, sending three brigades to attack Grant's supply line. When this expedition was defeated at Milliken's Bend (7 June 1863), the only hope for the defenders of Vicksburg was that Joseph Johnston would come to their rescue.

He was in no position to do so. He eventually had 30,000 men in his army, but many of them were inexperienced. They were poorly equipped and worst of all had little or no proper transport. As his army got bigger, so did Grant's, until 70,000 Union men surrounded Vicksburg, with seven divisions under [Sherman](#) facing east to deal with any Confederate counterattack.

Grant was not content to wait for hunger to force the surrender of Vicksburg. All across June his men constructed a series of trenches just as elaborate as the Confederate defences of the city, in a classical siege operation. Slowly these trenches crept closer and closer to the defences. Tunnels were dug under the Confederate lines, and mines exploded. The first mine, on 25 June, produced a big crater but little else – the defenders of the city had detected it and build a second line of defence further back, and a Union assault had been repulsed with heavy losses. A second mine, on 1 July, had destroyed a Confederate fort, but had not been followed by an assault. Grant had decided to wait until he could explode a series of mines and use the confusion to launch a general assault along the line. 'D-Day' was set for 6 July.

### The Surrender

In the end that attack was never needed. Inside Vicksburg food was running desperately low. On 28 June Pemberton had received an anonymous note from amongst his men asking him to surrender before the army deserted. On 1 July Pemberton consulted with his senior officers about the possibility of fighting their way through the Federal lines, and was told that his men were no longer physically capable of making the attempt.

Pemberton pondered his choices for a day, and then on the morning of 3 July white flags appeared on the Confederate defences. Grant and Pemberton met between the lines at 3 o'clock on the same afternoon. That meeting did not go well. Grant insisted on unconditional surrender, Pemberton refused. Later that day, Grant discussed these terms with his corps commanders, and the naval commander, Admiral Porter. After that conference, Grant revised his terms. This time the Confederate soldiers would be allowed to leave Vicksburg having given their parole not to fight again, unless officially exchanged for Northern prisoners. These more generous terms had two main purposes. The first was to reduce the stress on Grant's supply lines – 30,000 men would have been very difficult to transport north, and at end of their journey would probably have been paroled in Virginia anyway. Second, Grant hoped that 30,000 disaffected ex-soldiers wandering around the Confederacy would do a great deal of damage to morale.

Late at night on 3 July these terms were accepted. The following day, 4 July, was Independence Day. Pemberton was later to claim (unconvincingly) that he had timed the negotiations with that in mind, expecting to get better terms). Whatever the reason for it, the surrender of one of the most important places in the Confederacy on that date was a massive blow to southern morale, and provided a crucial boost to that of the north. 2,166 officers and 27,230 men surrendered at Vicksburg, and within a few weeks were scattering across the south with their tale of defeat.

The surrender of Vicksburg quickly led to the surrender of Port Hudson, now the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi. Once the garrison there were sure that Vicksburg had surrendered, they too capitulated (9 July). The Mississippi was now clear for northern ships. Only one week later the first ship reached New Orleans from the north. The Confederacy was permanently split in two. The Mississippi River, once the greatest link in the south, was now a great barrier.

The capture of Vicksburg promoted U.S. Grant to the front rank of Union generals. As the Union armies approaching Chattanooga, away to the north east in Tennessee, began to run into problems, Lincoln turned to Grant. After the great Confederate victory at Chickamauga on 19-20 September 1863, Grant was appointed to command of all Union armies between the Mississippi river and the Alleghany Mountains, and ordered to lift the siege of Chattanooga. He was on his way to supreme commander.

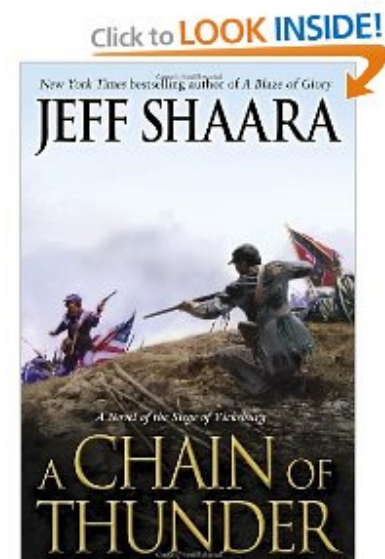
## Jeff Shaara's Newest Book Released on May 21

Continuing the series that began with *A Blaze of Glory*, *New York Times* bestselling author Jeff Shaara returns to chronicle another decisive chapter in America's long and bloody Civil War. In *A Chain of Thunder*, the action shifts to the fortress city of Vicksburg, Mississippi. There, in the vaunted "Gibraltar of the Confederacy," a siege for the ages will cement the reputation of one Union general—and all but seal the fate of the rebel cause.

In May 1863, after months of hard and bitter combat, Union troops under the command of Major General Ulysses S. Grant at long last successfully cross the Mississippi River. They force the remnants of Confederate Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton's army to retreat to Vicksburg, burning the bridges over the Big Black River in its path. But after sustaining heavy casualties in two failed assaults against the rebels, Union soldiers are losing confidence and morale is low. Grant reluctantly decides to lay siege to the city, trapping soldiers and civilians alike inside an iron ring of Federal entrenchments. Six weeks later, the starving and destitute Southerners finally surrender, yielding command of the Mississippi River to the Union forces on July 4—Independence Day—and marking a crucial turning point in the Civil War.

Drawing on comprehensive research and his own intimate knowledge of the

Continued on page 10 . . .



Shaara Continued from page 9 . . .

Vicksburg Campaign, Jeff Shaara once again weaves brilliant fiction out of the ragged cloth of historical fact. From the command tents where generals plot strategy to the ruined mansions where beleaguered citizens huddle for safety, this is a panoramic portrait of men and women whose lives are forever altered by the siege. On one side stand the emerging legend Grant, his irascible second William T. Sherman, and the youthful "grunt" Private Fritz Bauer; on the other, the Confederate commanders Pemberton and Joseph Johnston, as well as nineteen-year-old Lucy Spence, a civilian doing her best to survive in the besieged city. By giving voice to their experiences at Vicksburg, *A Chain of Thunder* vividly evokes a battle whose outcome still reverberates more than 150 years after the cannons fell silent.

#### **Praise for *A Chain of Thunder***

"[Jeff] Shaara continues to draw powerful novels from the bloody history of the Civil War. . . . The dialogue intrigues. Shaara aptly reveals the main actors: Grant, stoic, driven, not given to micromanagement; Sherman, anxious, high-strung, engaged even when doubting Grant's strategy. . . . Worth a Civil War buff's attention."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Searing . . . Shaara seamlessly interweaves multiple points of view, as the plot is driven by a stellar cast of real-life and fictional characters coping with the pivotal crisis. . . . [A] riveting fictional narrative."—*Booklist*

## **'Mississippians don't know and refuse to learn how to surrender'**

By TIM ISBELL — [ttisbell@sunherald.com](mailto:ttisbell@sunherald.com)

In May 1862, Adm. David Farragut made the first attempt to capture Vicksburg. Farragut sent an envoy asking the town to surrender. Col. James Autrey, military governor of Vicksburg, sent Farragut a defiant reply, "Mississippians don't know and refuse to learn how to surrender."

A year after Mississippi's defiant refusal to Farragut, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman overlooked Vicksburg from the ridge east of town.

Through a series of daring maneuvers and battles, Grant was on Mississippi soil and approaching Vicksburg from the east. Grant was confident that Vicksburg's battle-worn defenders were not up to repulsing a Federal attack.

Grant wanted to overwhelm the Confederates before they could recover from defeats at Champion Hill and Big Black River. On May 19, 1863, Grant launched an attack on the fortifications of Vicksburg. Sherman advanced down Graveyard Road, attacking Stockade Redan. The Federals were surprised to face a determined defense from the Confederates.

The 36th Mississippi Infantry poured deadly fire into Federal ranks as they attempted to climb a ravine protected by abatis, cross a 6-foot-deep, 8-foot-wide ditch before scaling the 17-foot-tall redan wall.

#### **Refuse to give in**

The first attack was repulsed, but Grant refused to give in, calling for an artillery barrage to soften up the Confederate line. Maj. Gen. Francis Blair led the next attack which failed to take Stockade Redan.

The assaults of May 19, cost Grant 157 killed, 777 wounded and eight missing compared to Confederate casualties of eight killed and 62 wounded. Despite failing to carry Vicksburg, Grant planned a more coordinated second assault.

On May 22, 1863, Sherman attacked down the Graveyard Road again but with one change in plan. The lead element of Sherman's attack was volunteers carrying planks to cross the ditch and ladders to scale the redan wall. This attack, called the Forlorn Hope, allowed regiments following behind to cross the ditch and scale the outer walls.

#### **A devastating fire**

Some Federals made it to the redan walls but could go no further. Others could only go as far as 100 yards from the redan. Along Sherman's front, his soldiers were subjected to devastating fire.

Further south, Maj. Gen. James McPherson's corps advanced down the Jackson Road, attacking the Great Redoubt and 3rd Louisiana Redan. Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. John McClernand attacked the 2nd Texas Lunette and Railroad Redoubt. McClernand achieved a brief breach in the Confederate line but was beaten back.

The May 22 assault was even more deadly than the previous attack. The Federals suffered 502 killed, 2,550 wounded, and 147 missing. Confederate losses were estimated to be 500 casualties.

Grant then decided to "out camp" the enemy, beginning siege operations on Vicksburg. For the next 44 days, the Federals kept Vicksburg's defenders under constant artillery and rifle fire.

#### **Picks and shovels**

The Federals traded their rifles for picks and shovels to dig sap lines up to Confederate entrenchments. Grant even allowed a series of mines dug and exploded under Confederate entrenchments to break their lines.

During the siege, the defenders and townspeople of Vicksburg were forced to live in caves dug into the hillside to escape the constant bombing. Confederate soldiers and Vicksburg citizens were forced to survive on reduced rations. Some people even ate rats for meals.

In early 1862, President Abraham Lincoln told all around him, "Vicksburg is the key. The war can never be brought to a close until the key is in our pocket." After two failed frontal assaults in May 1863, Lincoln would have to wait longer until the "key" was in the Union's pocket.

By TIM ISBELL — [ttisbell@sunherald.com](mailto:ttisbell@sunherald.com)



TIM ISBELL Stockade Redan was constructed to protect the Graveyard Road approach to Vicksburg. The fortification

## Confederacy makes another push into Union territory

Mid-May 1863 could very well be the time the Civil War was decided. On May 16 and 17, a decisive battle and decision was made that would bring forth catastrophic consequences for the Confederacy. Ulysses S. Grant defeated John C. Pemberton at the battle of Champion Hill and Jefferson Davis' Cabinet voted to allow Robert E. Lee to conduct a second invasion of the north. This time the invasion would stretch into Pennsylvania.

In Mississippi, Pemberton was contemplating his next move. Grant was in Mississippi, having won victories at Port Gibson, Raymond and Jackson. Pemberton found himself with conflicting approaches to the coming battle. Davis favored holding Vicksburg at all costs while Joseph E. Johnston thought it more important to sacrifice the town in order to defeat Grant.

Johnston had ordered Pemberton to march east with 22,000 men and unite forces, yet Pemberton hesitated. Calling a council of war, the majority of Pemberton's generals favored Johnston's plan of uniting at Clinton. A third option was introduced to march south and cut Grant's line of communication.

With his forces marching south, Pemberton received another dispatch from Johnston beseeching him to unite forces. Pemberton decided to attack Grant's line of communication until he was overcome with indecision. Pemberton redirected his army to turn northward to unite with Johnston. Grant had intercepted the dispatches between Johnston and Pemberton and was aware of their plans. On May 16, 1863, Pemberton and Grant's army ran into each other on the farm of Sid Champion. Upon seeing the Federals, Pemberton hastily deployed his army on a ridge east of Baker's Creek. Carter Stevenson commanded Pemberton's left, John S. Bowen manned the center and William W. Loring commanded the right.

Champion Hill was the key to Pemberton's defensive line. Grant recalled the hill was "one of the highest points in that section, and commanded all the ground in range."

Grant intended for John McClernand's XIII Corps to strike Champion Hill from the east while John Logan's division attacked from the north.



TIM ISBELL A replica of the original H. B. Coker house can be found on a portion of the Champion Hill battlefield.

Pemberton's army, forcing them to conduct a three-day march to join Johnston near Jackson. Champion Hill was the most significant battle in Grant's Vicksburg campaign. The Federals suffered 2,441 casualties compared to the Confederate's 3,839. Pemberton's defeat at Champion Hill opened the door for Grant to advance to Vicksburg.

On May 17, 1863, a second vote was taken on Lee's plan. Not everyone was for it. Lee's subordinate, James Longstreet favored sending troops to relieve the west and Postmaster General, John Reagan, thought the plan for a northern invasion foolhardy. Still, the Confederate Cabinet voted 5-1 in favor of Lee's second northern invasion. This invasion would end less than two months later with a defeat at Gettysburg.



TIM ISBELL Lloyd Tilghman was mortally wounded while holding the Confederate escape route open across Baker Creek at Champion Hill. A statue depicting Tilghman when he was wounded is at the Vicksburg National Military Park.

The Confederate defensive line was stretched thin and some of Stevenson's regiments gave way in the attack. The Confederate left was crumbling with Stephen D. Lee doing his best to hold the line. Pemberton sought reinforcements from both Bowen and Loring. Initially, both generals declined Pemberton's orders, stating they had masses of Federals in their front.

After Pemberton issued a second set of orders, Bowen marched to the sound of fighting while Loring still refused to move. Bowen launched a vicious counterattack against Hovey, forcing the Federals away from Champion Hill. Hovey recalled his division retreated, "slowly and stubbornly, contesting with death every inch of the field they had won."

Grant called for reinforcements for a renewed attack. Without support, Bowen's attack was losing its momentum. It was essential that Loring send reinforcements, but he still refused to do so. It was too late and the Confederate line collapsed.

Ordered to hold his position "at all hazards," Lloyd Tilghman heroically held the Confederate escape route over Baker's Creek open, saving Pemberton's army. In doing so, Tilghman was mortally wounded when shrapnel from cannon fire tore through his chest.

Loring's 6,500 men were cutoff from the rest of



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