



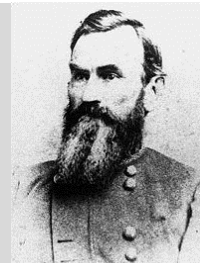
Joe Nokes, Commander

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

The Delta General

June, 2014 Volume 17, Issue 6

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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – June 5
- June 6-8, 2014 2014 Division Reunion, hosted by Col. W.P. Rogers #321; Corinth, Miss.
- July 10-13, MOS&B National convention in Charleston, SC
- Mech Cav Ride – June 14-15
- July 16-19 2014 National Reunion, hosted by the 10th Brigade, South Carolina Division; North Charleston, S.C.
<http://www.scv2014.org/>
- Heritage Rally in Franklin, TN – September 13

Camp News:

Commander's Message – Joe Nokes

To all,

This weekend, the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Pickett's Mill will occur on part of the original battlefield near Atlanta, Georgia. I will have the honor to be at this event, and will be participating as a member of the 8th/19th (Consolidated) Arkansas Infantry. If you will indulge me with a brief history lesson, this unit was part of Govan's Brigade, Cleburne's Division. This unit was in the thick of the fighting and took heavy losses. But through their efforts, the entire Confederate position was saved from being flanked by the Federal troops under General Sherman. Why do I include this information, you might ask yourself?

Well, next Thursday, June 5th, the camp WILL have our monthly camp meeting at the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola. At the meeting, discussion of the events that will be taking place at the Mississippi Division State Convention will occur. Finalizing our camp delegates will also take place. These men will take your vote, your democratic voice, to the State Convention. Said State Convention will begin the very next day. Yes, State Convention is Friday June 6th through Sunday June 8th in Corinth, Mississippi.

I urge each and every one of you that can to attend the meeting. If you do not voice YOUR opinion and cast YOUR vote, you will be giving up one of the fundamental rights for which our ancestors fought, and often died. Like the men at Pickett's Mill, and those at Brice's Crossroads in a couple of weeks, we must give our all for the Cause. Furthermore, we must stand together now and in the future. We cannot allow ourselves to be flanked. And trust me, friends and compatriots, there are many enemies who would love to turn our flank so that they can roll up our position. Will we let them? Will we sit still and let them hand us defeat? Or will we move faster and hold our position? I think I will choose to move faster and push THEM back, like our brave ancestors in that late spring/early summer of long ago.

I hope to see you all next Thursday. Forward the Colors!!!

I remain your humble servant,
Joe Nokes

Ella Palmer, OCR Report: Sandra Stillman, President

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

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

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

Lt. Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

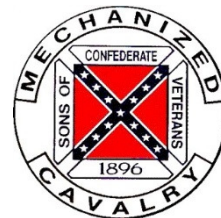
Our speaker for June will be Doug Adams. Doug has addressed the camp on several occasions, the most recent being the 2013 Lee - Jackson Banquet. With the 150th anniversary of The Battle Of Brice's Crossroads coming in June, Doug will talk about the battle from a very different perspective. Believe me -- you do not want to miss this presentation.

August will be our annual pilgrimage to visit the grave of our camp namesake, Brigadier General Benjamin G. Humphreys, and picnic at Grand Gulf State Park.

In September The Medicine Lady, Diane Bonert, will be our speaker.

Mechanized Cavalry Report: Richard Dillon, Cpl

We are planning to ride to the Brice's Crossroads reenactment the weekend of June 14 & 15. If you haven't talked, emailed, texted, or smoke signaled me, please let me know if you plan on going.





Brig/General Charles Clark Chapter, MOS&B

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

Adjutant's Report for February, 2013 – Dan McCaskill

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

Program: Our guest speaker for the evening was General P. G. T. Beauregard, aka Larry McCluney. Larry gave an excellent "first person" telling of the life of General Beauregard from his birth until he took his new post in Virginia in 1864.

Announcements: There will be a Living History at Ft. Pemberton outside of Greenwood the weekend of May 2-3. The Division Reunion will be held in Corinth, MS June 6-8, 2014. The National Reunion will be held in North Charleston, SC July 16-21, 2014.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Richard Dillon was absent. 2nd Lt. Commander Brent Mitchell was absent; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that no camp funds had been spent since last Camp Meeting. The Camp's collection for the Confederate Headstone has surpassed the halfway point at \$ 283. \$ 481 is needed to purchase one Confederate Headstone. As Camp Editor, Larry inquired if anyone had problems receiving the Camp Newsletter; no other officer reports were given.

Camp Business: There were brief discussions whether to move the next two months Camp Meeting nights. Our June Meeting night falls on June 5th with the Division Reunion starting on June 6th. A motion was made by Kenneth Ray to keep the June 5th Camp Meeting, 2nd by Larry McCluney and passed. At this meeting, the proposed By-Laws amendments will be discussed and the Camp's Delegation verified. Our July Meeting falls on the 3rd and some felt this would interfere with plans to celebrate the 4th of July. A motion was made by Larry McCluney to keep the scheduled meeting date, seconded by Alan Palmer and was passed. No other business came before the Camp.

With the low attendance, 12, the raffle and "Capture the Yankee" were postponed until next meeting. Compatriot Junior Stillman dismissed the Meeting with a word of prayer.

Mississippi Division News:

2014 MS Division, SCV Reunion in Corinth, MS June 6-8 2014 - Information

Compatriots!

The Colonel William P. Rogers Camp is honored to host the 2014 State Convention. The following is some additional information that may be helpful to you. The registration forms are available at this site - battleofcorinth.com.

- **Motels** - Headquarters Motel – Holiday Inn Express is located at the junction of Routes 45 & 72, the Hampton Inn is across the street. The SCV rate of \$89 a night is good if rooms are booked before May 23, 2014. The price is the same at both motels.
- **Historical Tours:**
 1. We are offering an early bird tour of the Davis Bridge Battlefield on Friday June 6, at 1:00 pm. The tour will be led by NPS Ranger Tom Parson the leading expert on the battle. This is a pristine site that is seldom seen by visitors. A real treat!
 2. On Saturday afternoon we will offer a bus tour of the many battlefield sites in Corinth- (Limited to 55 persons). A driving/walking tour will also be available for those who want to do it on their own.We do need to know the number of persons wanting to go on these tours so we can provide guides and buses so please indicate your interest on the Registration Form.
- 3. On Sunday we recommend a tour of nearby Shiloh and the Brice's Crossroads Battlefields.
- **For the Ladies:** - Corinth has a number of very interesting shops with many different choices. On Saturday morning from 8:00 am to approximately 3:00 pm there will be Corinth's monthly "Green Market" where local persons sell their Arts and Crafts and homemade items like jellies, pickles, baked goods, clothes, and jewelry. No trip to Corinth would be complete without a trip to Borroum's Drugstore (opened in 1865) for an old fashion ice cream treat and a "Slugburger." Directions will be provided.
- **Friday Evening Reception:** - Our Friday night opening reception will be held at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center. It is a wonderful building on the Corinth Battlefield with great exhibits on the Battle of Shiloh and the Battle of Corinth. We look forward to having you in Corinth where history comes alive!

SCV National News:

Chaplain's Corp Report

Dear Chaplains and Friends of the Corps:

Our annual Chaplains' Conference is planned for June 19 - 20, at the Providence Baptist Church, June 19 and 20, 1441 Erickson Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA. Our opening service is on Thursday evening, at 7:00 p.m. On Friday, we shall have speakers throughout the day and also times of fellowship. Friday's noon meal will be served at the church. . For accommodations, we recommend The Village Inn, 4979 S, Pike, Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Their website address is <http://www.thevillageinn.travel/>. Their telephone numbers are (800) 736-7355 / (540) 434-7355). Please see the program and speakers following this announcement.

It will be a blessing to have you present. Wives are encouraged to attend. We also welcome visitors. If you need more information or help, please send an email or call my cell phone, (864) 631.8952.

Yours in Christ's service,
Mark W. Evans, Chaplain-in-Chief

National Reunion in Charleston, SC

Compatriots,

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

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

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

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

Confederate Heritage Rally 2014 - Franklin, TN

September 13,2014 – times to be determined. March into Franklin from Winstead Hill to the CSA Monument.

As was the case for the previous Rallies, here are the parade line up and rules.

- **Order for Parade** - SCV Color Guard, Members of the GEC, Re-enactors Units, Divisions in order of Secession, Divisions whose States were not Confederate States in order of Statehood, Others wishing to march

General Information

- **Dress**- re-enactors in uniforms in compliance with their unit's rules. Those marching with divisions or other groups may wear Confederate uniforms as well. Those not in uniform are asked to be appropriately dressed. Any clothing(or message on clothing) that is deemed inappropriate by the organizer will be required to be removed or the individual will not be allowed to march
- **Flags acceptable:** Any Confederate Flag,State Flags, Division Flags, Camp Flags, Re-enactor unit flags and any historic or current US flag.
- **Flags not acceptable:** novelty type flags, flags of organizations other than the SCV or flags and/or banners with messages deemed inappropriate by the organizers.
- **Materials:** No signs or banners made be included with out the consent of the organizers. No printed or recorded materials made be distributed with out the consent of the organizers. Any one who can not or will not follow the guidelines will not participate.
- **Media:** every unit , division or other group would do well to designate a spokesman for their group who is experienced in dealing with the media and is well spoken. Designated spokesmen should be sure to dress appropriately. It would be best that any one approached by a member of the media defer to their designated spokesman for comments. This applies if you are randomly approached any where during the day. At the actual event it is best to direct the press to SCV General Officers.

Sale of New License Plate Continues to Explode in Georgia

(ATLANTA - May 30, 2014) The figures are just now beginning to come in from the Georgia Department of Revenue, but already sales of the new specialty license plate featuring the Confederate battle flag are setting record numbers. The newly designed plate for the Sons of Confederate Veterans just became available in February, followed by a national media frenzy over the new design which so prominently features the battle flag across the entire length of the plate. Some members of the media, as well as leaders of groups who oppose Southern heritage, attempted to dismiss the specialty plate back in February saying that it would not attain much success among Georgia drivers, especially considering the increased tag fees for specialty plates added by the state of Georgia in recent years. The numbers that are now coming in from February and March, however, tell a much different story.

Sales of the SCV plate in February were up 175 percent over January, and March sales were double those in January. In all, nearly 500 of the plates were sold in Georgia during the month of March alone according to the Department of Revenue. The number of Georgia vehicles bearing the Confederate battle flag continue to grow in spite of the predictions of its naysayers to the contrary. At the current rate, it is likely that more than 5,000 of the plates will be traveling on Georgia roads by the end of the year.

Georgia SCV Division Adjutant Tim Pilgrim reports that this is the highest number of specialty plates sold since well before the state raised the cost to motorists by more than double the original rate. Yet, in spite of the spike in cost for the plate, more and more Georgians are requesting it every week, making it the only specialty plate in Georgia to have seen an actual increase in sales since the new fees went into effect in the last few years.

The increased interest in the plate has even led to confrontations with county tag office employees in several counties around the state who temporarily refused to allow the purchase of the plate by individuals requesting it. Some tag office employees were reportedly telling those who requested it that they must be members of the organization in order to have the plate, which is not the case in Georgia. Other tag office employees in at least one county told motorists that a "final" decision on allowing the plate had not yet been made so they could not offer it. Members of the SCV immediately moved to clear up these issues with each of the local tag offices who were in violation of state law and all have now complied, albeit some reluctantly.

The surge in sales of the SCV license plate, especially in light of the opposition to it, demonstrate a growing support for Southern heritage in Georgia and a stiffening of resistance among the population at large to the never-ending demands of political correctness.

For more information about the Sons of Confederate Veterans or the sale of SCV license plates in Georgia, please call 404.271.8473 or contact the Georgia Division SCV online at www.GeorgiaSCV.org



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



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

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

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

Grand Total _____

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

Name: _____ SCV Member # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

SCV Division: _____ , _____ Real Son: ☐

Camp Name: _____ Camp #: _____

Guest(s) _____

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

Tenth Brigade, South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

David Rentz, 2014 SCV Reunion Chairman,

www.scv2014.org

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

Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence Articles:

The Battle of Brices' Crossroads

The **Battle of Brice's Crossroads** was fought on June 10, 1864, near Baldwyn in Lee County, Mississippi, during the American Civil War. It pitted a 4,787-man contingent led by Confederate Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest against an 8,100-strong Union force led by Brigadier General Samuel D. Sturgis. The battle ended in a rout of the Union forces and cemented Forrest's reputation as one of the great cavalymen. The battle remains a textbook example of an outnumbered force prevailing through better tactics, terrain mastery, and aggressive offensive action.^[citation needed] Despite this, the Confederates gained little through the victory other than temporarily keeping the Union out of Alabama and Mississippi.

Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman had long known that his fragile supply and communication lines through Tennessee were in serious jeopardy because of depredations by Forrest's cavalry raids. To effect a halt to Forrest's activities, he ordered Gen. Sturgis to conduct a penetration into northern Mississippi and Alabama with a force of around 8,500 troops to destroy Forrest and his command. Sturgis, after some doubts and trepidation, departed Memphis on June 1. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, alerted of Sturgis's movement, warned Forrest. Lee had also planned a rendezvous at Okolona, Mississippi, with Forrest and his own troops but told Forrest to do as he saw fit. Already in transit to Tennessee, Forrest moved his cavalry (less one division) toward Sturgis, but remained unsure of Union intentions.

Forrest soon surmised, correctly, that the Union had actually targeted Tupelo, Mississippi, located in Lee County, about 15 miles (24 km) south of Brice's Crossroads. Although badly outnumbered, he decided to repulse Sturgis instead of waiting for Lee, and selected an area to attack ahead on Sturgis's projected path. He chose Brice's Crossroads, in what is now Lee County, which featured four muddy roads, heavily wooded areas, and the natural boundary of Tishomingo Creek, which had only one bridge going east to west. Forrest, seeing that the Union cavalry moved three hours ahead of its own infantry, devised a plan that called for an attack on the Union cavalry first, with the idea of forcing the enemy infantry to hurry to assist them. Their infantry would be too tired to offer real help and the Confederates planned to push the entire Union force against the creek to the west. Forrest dispatched most of his men to two nearby towns to wait.

At 9:45 a.m. on June 10, a brigade of Benjamin H. Grierson's Union cavalry division reached Brice's Crossroads and the battle started at 10:30 a.m. when the Confederates performed a stalling operation with a brigade of their own. Forrest then ordered the rest of his cavalry to converge around the crossroads. The remainder of the Union cavalry arrived in support, but a strong Confederate assault soon pushed them back at 11:30 a.m., when the balance of Forrest's cavalry arrived on the scene. Grierson called for infantry support and Sturgis obliged. The line held until 1:30 p.m. when the first regiments of Federal infantry arrived.

The Union line, initially bolstered by the infantry, briefly seized the momentum and attacked the Confederate left flank, but Forrest launched an attack from his extreme right and left wings, before the rest of the federal infantry could take the field. In this phase of the battle, Forrest commanded his artillery to unlimber, unprotected, only yards from the Federal position, and to shell the Union line with grapeshot. The massive damage caused Sturgis to re-order the line in a tighter semicircle around the crossroads, facing east.

At 3:30, the Confederates in the 2nd Tennessee Cavalry assaulted the bridge across the Tishomingo. Although the attack failed, it caused severe confusion among the Federal troops and Sturgis ordered a general retreat. With the Tennesseans still pressing, the retreat bottlenecked at the bridge and a panicked rout developed instead. The ensuing wild flight and pursuit back to Memphis carried across six counties before the exhausted Confederates retired.

The Confederates suffered 492 casualties to the Union's 2,240^[1] (including 1,500 prisoners). Forrest captured huge supplies of arms, artillery, and ammunition as well as plenty of stores. Sturgis suffered demotion and exile to the far West. After the battle, the Union Army again accused Forrest of massacring black soldiers.

The following is a list of artillery pieces captured by Forrest:^[2]

- One 3-inch (76 mm) steel gun, rifled
- Three 6-pounder James bronze guns, rifled
- Two 3.8-inch (97 mm) James bronze guns, rifled
- Five 6-pounder bronze guns
- Two 12-pounder bronze howitzers
- Three 12-pounder Napoleon bronze guns

In correspondence with General Sturgis, Colonel Alex Wilkin, commander of the 9th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment gave several reasons for the loss of the battle.^[3] He stated that General Sturgis, knowing that his men were under-supplied, having been on less than half rations, had been hesitant to advance on the enemy, but had done so against his better judgment because he had been ordered to do so. When the cavalry had engaged the enemy, many of the infantry had been ordered to advance double-time to support the cavalry, and in their weakened condition, many had fallen out in the advance. Those who did arrive were exhausted at the beginning of the battle, while the Confederates were fresh, and well fed owing to a large supply in their rear.

The roads were also wet due to a recent rain storm, that slowed the advance of the supply wagons and ammunition train, and several men were employed to try to make the roads passable. Additionally, the horses pulling the trains were poorly fed because there was little in the way of forage for them to eat along the way. This accounted for Forrest's capture of the artillery and supplies.

Intelligence had entirely favored the South, because the Confederates had been constantly fed information about the position and strength of the Union army from civilians in the area, while Sturgis had received no such intelligence. Because of this information, the South had been able meet the Union Army at a place where they could ambush Sturgis and make retreat as difficult as possible (Tishomingo Creek was in their rear with only a single bridge as a crossing point.) This place was close to the Confederate supply depot, and very far from the Union's.

When the retreat had occurred, with food and supplies exhausted, many of the Union soldiers were unable to retreat with the rest because of fatigue. This was much of the reason why so many Union soldiers were captured during the battle.

Finally, Wilkin stated that the rumors that Sturgis had been intoxicated during the battle were entirely false.

The battle is commemorated at Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site, established in 1929. The National Park Service erected and maintains monuments and interpretive panels on a small 1-acre (4,000 m²) plot at the crossroads. This is the spot where the Brice family house once stood. The Brice's Crossroads Museum is in Baldwyn, Mississippi, just over a mile from the battlefield. Brice's Crossroads is considered one of the most beautifully preserved battlefields of the Civil War.

In 1994 concerned local citizens formed the Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield Commission, Inc., to protect and preserve additional battlefield land. With assistance from the Civil War Trust (formerly the APCWS and the Civil War Preservation Trust), and the support of Federal, State, and local

Continued on page 6 . . .

governments, the BCNBC, Inc. has purchased for preservation over 1,330 acres (5.4 km²) of the original battlefield. ^[4] Much of the land purchased came from the Agnew Family in Tupelo who still owns some of the battlefield property. ^[5] The modern Bethany Presbyterian Church sits on the southeast side of the crossroads. At the time of the battle this congregation's meeting house was located further south along the Baldwyn Road. However, the Bethany Cemetery adjacent to the Park Service monument site predates the Civil War. Many of the area's earliest settlers are buried here. The graves of more than 90 Confederate soldiers killed in the battle are also located in this cemetery. Union dead from the battle were buried in common graves on the battlefield, but were later reinterred in the National Cemetery at Memphis, Tennessee.

The roads that form Brice's Crossroads lead to Baldwyn, Tupelo, Ripley, and Pontotoc, Mississippi. Tupelo is the county seat for historic Lee County, Mississippi. The roads, paved today, are still a major route into Lee, Prentiss, and Union counties, with thousands of cars traveling through the national battlefield to reach other destinations.

Notes

- Current, Richard N. chief editor. *Encyclopedia of the Confederacy*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993. "Brice's Cross Roads, Mississippi," by Brian S. Wills
- O.R., Series I, Vol. XXXIX, Part 1, p. 227.
- Andrews, C. C., ed. (1891). *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars 1861-1865*. St. Paul, Minn: Printed for the state by the Pioneer Press Co. pp. 420–426.
- <http://www.bricescrossroads.com/news.aspx>
- The Agnew family also gave Samuel Agnew's diary to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Samuel Agnew was the minister of Bethany Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in the 1870s-1902. His diary recounts his experiences during and after the battle. It recounts in detail the aftermath of the engagement and the effect it had on the community. A link to the article is provided in the external links section.

References

- National Park Service battle description
- U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1880–1901.
- CWSAC Report Update

Petersburg - June 15, 1864 - April 2, 1865

For more than a month, Grant and Lee had fought almost daily battles. Grant used his 100,000 man army to pound the Confederate lines, but Lee's undersized army had not broken. Both armies had suffered extraordinary casualties. Grant had lost 60,000 men, Lee about half that. But Grant could afford the greater casualties; the North's superior human and material resources could more easily refill the holes left by the month's brutal fighting.

Therefore, Grant resolved to continue the campaign that had been waged through the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor. But in June he tried a slightly different strategy. Rather than just pound Lee's lines, he would cut the supply lines to Richmond and force the capital to be abandoned.

On 12 June Grant began to move his army to Petersburg. The railroads that fed the Confederate capital ran through the town located about 20 miles south of Richmond. Grant knew that the town's defenses had been drained in order to re-enforce Lee's shrinking army. Therefore, he sent Benjamin Butler's Army of the James ahead to scope the Petersburg defenses and launch an initial attack.

Butler sent General William "Baldy" Smith to attack the northeastern end of the Southern lines. And Smith actually made real headway against this part of the city defenses. But he also met considerable resistance—enough that he overestimated the force in front of him. In reality, his 16,000 men were facing a defensive force of less than 2500—many of them members of the Home Guard—old men and young boys. Had Smith pressed the attack the city would almost certainly have fallen. Instead, over the night while Smith delayed, Lee was able to fast march re-enforcements to the city. Grant also reached Petersburg during this period. But now rather than find the city occupied by Butler's army, as it easily could have been, he found a well fortified string of Confederate lines manned by more than 50,000 soldiers.

On 16 June, Grant tried to break through these strengthened Confederate lines—but his men received a ferocious shelling that left 8000 killed or wounded. He therefore called off the attack and deployed his huge 90,000-man army along a 40 mile line that reached the edges of Richmond. He then hunkered down for a long siege.

After a month, Grant half-heartedly approved a novel but risky plan proposed by Lt. Col. Henry Pleasants, a mining engineer in civilian life. Pleasants suggested that a mine shaft, dug underneath Confederate lines, and then filled with explosives, could deliver a devastating shock to the enemy troops and create a gap through which Union forces could breach Confederate lines. By late July, the 500' tunnel had been completed; on 30 July, just before dawn, 8000 lbs of gunpowder were detonated.

Ambrose Burnside, who had taken charge of the project in an attempt to redeem his reputation after the fiasco at Fredericksburg, had trained a division of African American troops for the assault. But at the last minute, his use of black troops was questioned by General Meade who worried about the political fallout should the assault fail. The white troops plugged into their place were woefully unprepared—and consequently, when the gunpowder exploded, opening a huge crater in the middle of the Confederate lines, they rushed into it for cover, rather than around it as the black troops had been trained.

"Like a turkey shoot," one Southern soldier described the carnage that ensued. As Union troops scrambled down into the crater, Confederate troops rushed to its edge and fired mercilessly at the men packed in the bottom of the pit. Never a quick learner, Burnside sent in a second division. By the time it was over, almost 4000 Union soldiers had been killed or wounded.

Following this disaster, Grant resolved to be patient. He approved minor actions aimed at extending his lines, but Christmas and New Year's passed with conditions largely unchanged. Finally, in March 1865, with both Petersburg and Richmond desperately low on supplies, Lee tried to break through Grant's lines at Fort Stedman. If successful, he might not only have broken the siege, he might have been able to link up with Joe Johnston, engaged in an equally desperate fight against Union General William Tecumseh Sherman in North Carolina. But the last ditch effort failed. At the end of the month, Grant's already much-larger army (now 100,000 men) was further strengthened by the arrival of 12,000 cavalymen. Part of General Phillip Sheridan's army that had recently swept through the Shenandoah Valley, Grant sent them immediately against the forces guarding

. . . Continued on page 7

... Petersburg Continued from page 7

Lee's right flank. At Five Forks, Sheridan's men took the crossroads on 1 April (no fooling) allowing Grant to sweep behind Lee's defensive perimeter. The next day, Grant launched a massive attack at the center of Lee's lines quickly overwhelming the badly outmanned and overstretched defenses. Within hours the battle was lost.

Lee and a portion of his army escaped. But his position was truly desperate. With about 30,000 men, he attempted to skip past the Union lines and flee south where he might rendezvous with Joe Johnston in North Carolina. But with Generals Grant and Sheridan pressing him from behind and along his left flank, Lee could only move westward. By 7 April, Sheridan had managed to cut off this westward flight and Grant asked Lee to surrender.

On 9 April, Generals Grant and Lee met at Appomattox Courthouse. Grant reminded Lee that they had earlier met, during the War with Mexico. Then they quickly agreed to terms. No prisoners would be taken; Lee's men would be allowed to return home. Confederate officers could keep their side arms; common soldiers could keep their horses. Then the two men shook hands and moved outside. For a few moments Lee seemed to lose himself in quiet thought. Then he climbed on his horse, tipped his hat to Grant and the Union officers who had removed theirs out of respect for the Virginian, and rode off to join his men.

Remembering Jefferson Davis: A True American Hero By Calvin E. Johnson Jr.



“Never teach your children to admit that their fathers’ were wrong in their efforts to maintain the sovereignty, freedom and independence which was their birthright”

----- Jefferson Davis.

June 3, 2014, is the 206th birthday of Jefferson Davis who was born in Christian County, Kentucky, on June 3, 1808. Memorials to Jefferson Davis include Georgia's Stone Mountain memorial carving of Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, the Davis Monument on Monument Avenue in Richmond, Virginia, the Jefferson Davis Monument State Historic Site a Kentucky State Park commemorating the birthplace of Jefferson Davis President of the Confederate States of America, and.... In 1931, a bronze statue of Jefferson Davis,

sculptured by Virginia's Augustus Lukeman, was given to the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. by the State of Virginia.

Davis served the United States as a soldier, statesmen and Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce. He was also the first and only President of the Confederate States of America.

Davis' father, Samuel Emory Davis, served in the Revolutionary War and participated in the siege of Savannah. Three of Jeff's older brothers served in the War of 1812, two under General Andrew Jackson. His father was from Georgia and mother Jane Cook Davis, daughter of a noted Baptist Preacher, was from North Carolina.

Jefferson Davis was a strong Unionist but also a strong defender of the United States Constitution. Davis was indicted for treason but was never tried because some felt this might have been an indictment against the United States itself. He was however unjustly imprisoned for two years in Fort Monroe, Virginia before his release in 1867.

Here are a few of his accomplishments:

- He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point.
- Fought valiantly in the War with Mexico.
- Served as United States Senator from Mississippi.
- Served as U.S. Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce.
- Was first to suggest the transcontinental railroad to link Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
- First to suggest Panama Canal Zone
- Suggested the purchase of Cuba
- Appointed Robert E. Lee as Superintendent of United States Military Academy at West Point.

Visiting Beauvoir, the last home of Jefferson Davis and Presidential Library, is a good way to better understand this man Davis.

Jefferson Davis' last marriage was said to be a good one to Varina, who gave him two sons and two daughters (Jefferson, Margaret, Winnie and Billy). Winnie was nicknamed (Daughter of the Confederacy) as she was born during the time of the War Between the States. Billy was killed by an accidental fall at the Confederate White House in Richmond and in 1864, an abused black child named Jim Limber was adopted by the Davis family. Jefferson Davis died between 12:30 AM and 1:00 AM on December 6, 1889. The news of his death hit the front page of most Southern and even Northern newspapers like this:

On December 13, 1889, the New York Times reported the Davis Funeral being the grandest ever seen in the South. The Sermon at Metairie Cemetery was delivered by Bishop Thompson of Mississippi. Bishop Gallaber delivered a brief sketch of Jefferson Davis' life...And a Church Choir sang an old time favorite "Rock of Ages" to end the service.

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