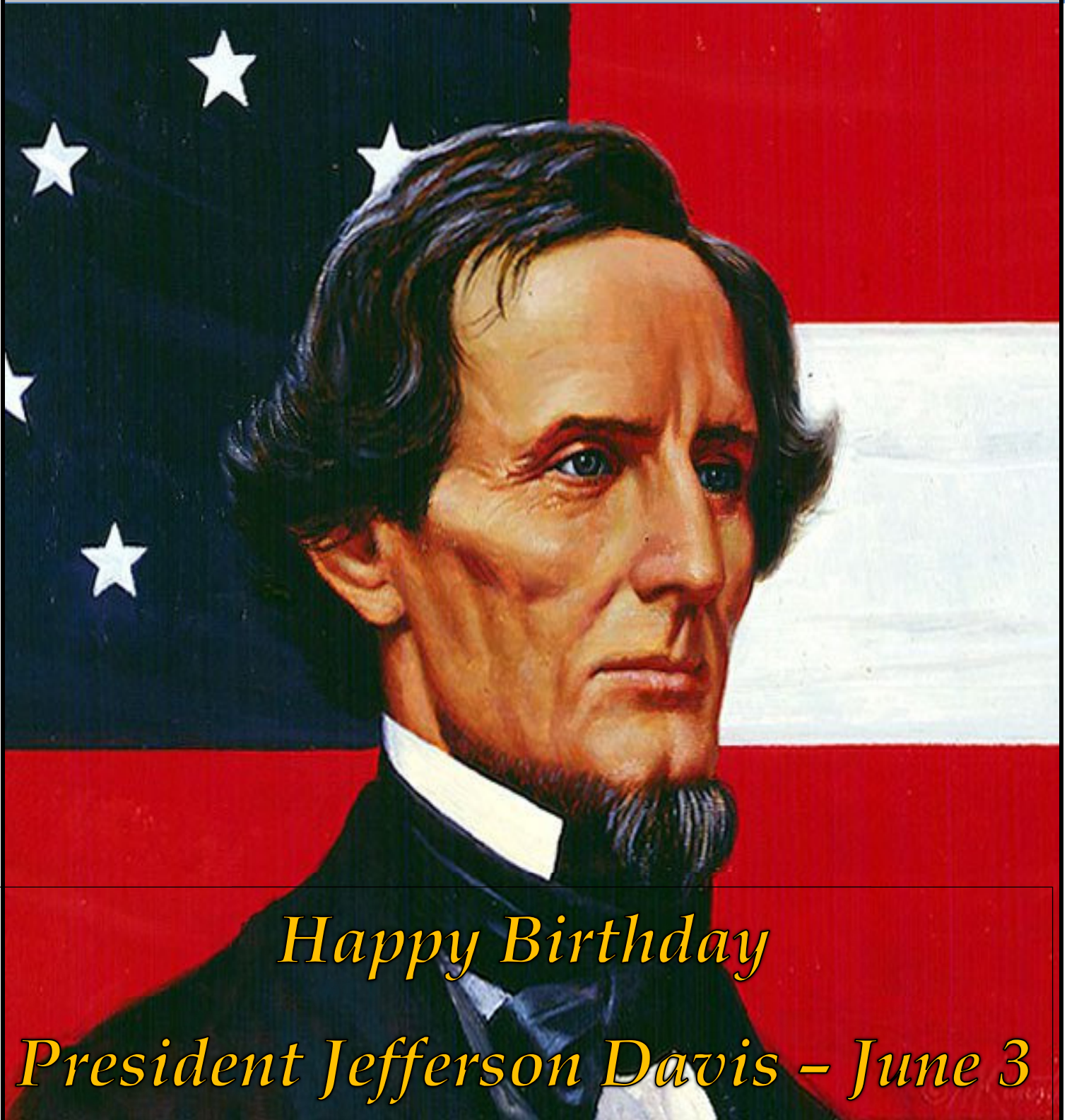




Camp Website: [www.humphreys1625.com](http://www.humphreys1625.com)

# *The Delta General*

Richard Dillon, Camp Commander



June 2016, Volume 19, Issue 6

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – Thursday, June 2, 2016, 7:00 PM at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Indianola
- Division Reunion, June 10-12, 2016 at Beauvoir

### CAMP COMMANDER

Richard Dillon

[rld846@gmail.com](mailto:rld846@gmail.com)

### EDITOR

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Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys  
Camp #1625, SCV  
website: [www.humphreys1625.com](http://www.humphreys1625.com)

## Camp News:

### Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

June's meeting will be our last opportunity to discuss the various matters that will be voted on at the Division Reunion. I encourage each of you to be present in order to make your desires and opinions known.

Also, we will be selecting voting delegates for the Reunion. If you wish to be a delegate, please, let me know.

Please, continue to include 2nd Lt. Commander, Jimmy Alford, in your prayers as he battles cancer.

## Camp Meeting, April, 2016

### Adjutant's Report – Larry McCluney

7:00 PM – Commander Dillon opened the meeting with a word of prayer. Pledges and the Charge were given. Afterwards, members participated in fellowship with the meal provided by the ladies of the OCR.

7:30 PM – Program – was given by Al Arnold who is a physical therapist that lives in Madison Mississippi. He grew up in the Northeast Mississippi region graduating from Shannon High School in 1986. Al lived in the small town of Verona during his youth years. He attended Jackson State University and graduated Magna Cum-Laude from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, School of Physical Therapy in 1991. Al was voted most outstanding student by the faculty at UMMC and currently works in the home health industry in the Jackson metropolitan area. He came to the knowledge of his Confederate ancestor in 2008. He started to search for an understanding of why, how, what and when did his great-great grandfather serve during the Civil War. His journey has led him to embrace his Confederate heritage and the roles of slaves in the Civil War. He is a member of the Civil War Roundtable in Jackson, MS. He has a desire to see more African Americans study the Civil War and their connections to this vital part of America's history. To this aim, he has written this book. He believes the Civil War history is Black history.

Business – Discussion about the upcoming State Reunion was made and asked volunteers to be delegates. Was tabled until the June meeting. Commander Dillon asked Larry McCluney to request Steve Miller in April to advertise our Car Tag to help boost sales through his contacts. Update was given and sales have increased.

Meeting was closed with a prayer .

### Lt. Commander's Report – Brent Mitchell

At the time of publication, there was no report from the Lt. Commander.

### Ella Palmer Chapter, #9, OCR; President Sandra Stillman

Ladies,

June 10-12 on the Mississippi Gulf Coast will be our Society's Annual Reunion in conjunction with the Mississippi Division, SCV's Annual Reunion. This year's reunion will be held at Beauvoir and I encourage everyone to make plans to attend. This will be an election year and our Chapter's voice should be heard.

I look forward to seeing each and everyone at our Chapter's meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> where we will be discussing important business about the Reunion.

### Mechanized Cavalry Report

The SCVMC is now working with all States that have MC Annuals scheduled so that the dates will be changed to not conflict with our Division Annuals. We have more 1G members in the Division leadership than ever and that is where we need to be as SCV members. If I am not mistaken Mississippi Division Annual is always the first weekend of June and the Mechanized Cavalry Annual for 2016 will be 15-18 June 2016 at Cedar Key Florida, so start making plans for both now. Budget your time and money for these two events next year starting today even if you have to miss other events.

The following are the scheduled Annuals..... 2016 Florida (15-18 Jun 2016 at Cedar Key Florida); 2017 North Carolina 2018 South Carolina; 2019 Texas





## **Elections at 2016 Division Convention**

At the Mississippi Division 2016 convention, the division will elect a member of Beauvoir board of directors. This is a very important position and we must elect the gentleman we believe will look after the best interest of Beauvoir. It is our choice, choose wisely. The following two gentlemen have announced that they are running for the seat. Mike Wooten and Joe Abbott.

## **Articles governing Beauvoir**

As announced last July, an independent committee began rewriting the articles governing Beauvoir and their work was approved by a unanimous vote of the Combined Boards of Beauvoir on Feb 13, 2016. By state corporate law a copy of the articles must be mailed to every member of the corporation (you) at least 30 days prior to a meeting of the corporation. As you read this notice Greg Stewart is printing copies and addressing envelopes to achieve this end but as you can imagine with over 1400 members this is quite the task so be patient as some will get their copy before others. If you have not received a copy by May 1 please let myself or Greg know so we can try to get a copy to you. If you have recently moved or had a change of address that is different than what Division Adj. Dan McCaskill might have please let us know asap. The amended articles will be voted on as a whole at our meeting in June during the SCV Ms Div Reunion in Biloxi.

## **Beauvoir Executive director**

Beauvoir is extending the search for a new Executive Director until April 23. The plan voted on by the combined boards is to conduct interviews after the business meeting on Saturday June 11, allowing the newly elected Trustee and Director to set in on the interviews, select the new ED, and present them during the banquet that night to the membership.

## **Friends of Beauvoir**

Beauvoir the Home of Jefferson Davis is Owned and Operated by the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Here is an Invitation to give the Past a Future!

Go to [http://www.beauvoir.org/Support\\_Beauvoir/index.html](http://www.beauvoir.org/Support_Beauvoir/index.html) for details

## **Mississippi Division 2016 Proposed Bylaw Change**

Proposed Change to Article 26 of the Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Bylaws As Amended in Convention June 07, 2014.

Proposed Change: Delete Article 26 from the Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE 26 -- BEAUVOIR BOARDS OF DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES**

Section 1 -- The Members of the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees for Beauvoir shall

be elected and shall function under the provisions of the amended Charter of Incorporation of the "Mississippi Division of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans," dated the second (2nd) day of July, 1954, or as it may be amended.

A. These two Boards may, by agreement, function as a Combined Board.

B. The incumbent President of the Mississippi Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy shall be an ex officio Member of the Board of Trustees, without vote. She shall serve during her incumbency. If unable to attend any meeting of the Board of Trustees, she is authorized, in writing, to appoint another Member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy as her personal representative to attend in her stead.

C. Any Member of the Board of Directors or Board of Trustees, who, having attained the age of seventy-five (75) years, shall become an Emeritus Member of the respective Board of which he was a Member on the 3rd day of June next following their 75th birthday and thereby relinquish their seat on their respective Board.

D. Each Emeritus Member shall have the privilege of attending and participating in all meetings of their former Board, be assigned committee work or other specially assigned work by their former, Board, and hold office on the former Board. Each Emeritus Member, currently serving, shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of office of elected Board Members not inconsistent with the Charter of Incorporation of the Mississippi Division, United Sons of Confederate Veterans, or the laws of the State of Mississippi. Each board member required by age to go Emeritus after ratification of this amendment shall not be a voting member of said board or boards.

E. The Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees, meeting as a Combined Board, are authorized to create an "Advisory Board" to council and advise with the Combined Boards concerning matters relating to the operation and maintenance of "Beauvoir -- The Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library" and to select such persons who, in the judgment of the



Combined Board, possess the qualifications, character, integrity, judgment, and reputation to aid and assist in the promotion of Beauvoir and its purpose. F. The Mississippi Division Commander shall be an ex officio voting Member of the Board of Trustees during his term of office.

Rationale: The Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans has no authority to have any such language concerning the operation of the Beauvoir Board of Directors or Board of Trustees in its Bylaws. The language of Article 26 is or should be contained in the Beauvoir Articles of Incorporation and their Bylaws.

Maker of the proposed change:

Allen C. Terrell, SCV #244448

Maj. Gen. William T. Martin Camp #590, Natchez, MS

**Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans - 2016 Division Annual Reunion  
June 10-12 2016  
Reunion Agenda**

Friday

- 1:00 -8:00 pm: Vendor setup and Sales
- 1:00-4:00 pm: Reunion Attendee Registration Jeff Davis library main lobby
- 4:00-7:00 pm: Mississippi Division Staff Meetings
- 7:00-8:00 pm: Commanders Reception and Social with music by Mr. Gonzales

Saturday

- 7:00- 8:30 am: Reunion Attendee Registration Jeff Davis library main lobby
- 7:00 am-2:00 pm: Vendor Sales
- 7:30 am MS Division Color Guard Muster (Main Lobby)
- 8:00 am-8:30 am: Opening Ceremony/ All Registered Members and their Guest are welcome
- 9:00 am-12:00 am: MS Division Business Meeting/Registered Division SCV Members only
- 9:00 am-12:00 am: Registered OCR Ladies Tea and Breakout Meeting

\*\*\*\*\*Break for Lunch\*\*\*\*\*

- 2:00 pm-5:00 pm: Optional Tour of Beauvoir
- 6:00- 7:00 pm LTG Forrest Social
- 7:00 pm until Dismissed: MS Division Reunion Awards Banquet
- Guest Speaker: Mr. Grady Howell

Sunday

- 8:00 am Memorial Services at Confederate Cemetery Beauvoir

On behalf of the LTG Nathan B. Forrest Camp Membership and Staff  
We sincerely hope you enjoy your stay and please have a safe trip home!



**121st Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
and the 22nd Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose Reunions  
Beauvoir  
June 10-12, 2016 in Biloxi, Mississippi  
2016 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**



SCV MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CAMP: \_\_\_\_\_

OCR MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OCR CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST'S NAME FOR BADGE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV EARLY REGISTRATION (PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31st, 2015)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

SCV REGULAR REGISTRATION (JAN. 1st, 2015 TO MAY 22nd 2016)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

SCV LATE REGISTRATION (POST-MARKED ON OR AFTER MAY 23rd 2016)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$45.00 \_\_\_\_\_

OCR REGISTRATION ON OR BEFORE MAY 22nd, 2016, \$10.00 EACH. AFTER MAY 23rd, 2016 \$15.00\*\*\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

ADULT SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$20.00 PER ADULT \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S PLATE (12 AND UNDER) SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$12.50 PER CHILD \_\_\_\_\_

ANCESTOR MEMORIAL (COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$10.00 EACH ANCESTOR \_\_\_\_\_

VENDOR TABLE (AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE, COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM) \_\_\_\_\_

REUNION PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT (SEE BELOW RATES / COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)\*\*\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

LAST HOME OF PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS SATURDAY AFTERNOON TOUR  
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT LOCATION)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ **FREE TO REGISTERED ATTENDEES!**

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

All Registered SCV / OCR members will receive a Name Badge, Reunion Medal, Reunion Program, and a "Reunion goodie bag".

Late Door Registration will receive the same only as long as supplies last.

OCR Registrants will have a Ladies Tea in lieu of a Reunion Medal.

All registrations submitted for the amounts specified above must be post-marked appropriately within the specified time-frame.

No refunds to be distributed for cancellations on or after June 01, 2016.

\*\*\*For your convenience, ALL events will be held at Beauvoir\*\*\*

**Host hotels**

South Beach Biloxi  
1735 Beach Blvd  
228-456-9003/888-599-7093  
www.sbbeachhotel.com  
discount code: JDPL

Regency Inn & Suites  
11969 Bobby Eleuterius Blvd  
D'Iberville, MS 39540  
228-396-1570  
regencyinnbiloxi@yahoo.com  
discount code: Beauvoir

**Reunion Contact Information:**

**Host Camp Commander:**  
Jessie Sanford  
Jessiesanford101@comcast.net  
Phone: 601-447-1929

**Make Checks Payable to:**

LTG Nathan Bedford Forrest  
1353

**Mail Registration Form  
and Payment To:**

Jessie Sanford  
106 East 6th ave  
Petal, MS 39465

**Reunion Program  
Advertisements:**

\$100.00 for Full Page  
\$50.00 for Half Page  
\$25.00 for Quarter Page

Please submit  
advertisement information  
and order form prior to  
May 1st 2016.



***TO THE POLITICALLY INCORRECT***  
*You are invited to attend the*  
**SOUTHERN HERITAGE CONFERENCE**  
**&**  
**CONFEDERATE CEILIDH**

Sponsored by the equally politically incorrect Jones County Rosin Heels, SCV Camp #227

**August 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**Bethlehem Baptist Church, 838 Reid Rd., Laurel, MS.**

Featuring:

**Dr. Cary Kimbrell, Sr. Pastor Bethlehem Baptist Church**  
**Pastor Don Elbourne, Lakeshore Baptist Church, Bay St. Louis, MS**  
**and**  
**Dr. John "Roll Tide" Killian (3 time winner of MOSB Oratory contest)**

Our theme will be pro Flag and all three speakers, who are Southern Baptist preachers, will take to task, the leaders of today's SBC for calling the SBC Founders heretics,  
when they themselves are the heretics!

It is time to take on the "*religious*" leaders who have become Pawns of Satan!

*"(T)o tar the sacrifices of the Confederate soldier as simple acts of racism, and reduce the battle flag under which he fought to nothing more than the symbol of a racist heritage, is one of the great blasphemies of our modern age!" ("Main Currents In American Thought," 1928 by Vernon Louis Parrington, quoted in "Born Fighting: How The Scots-Irish Shaped America" page 225, by James Webb)*

**And it appears we have a great many blasphemers in the SBC!**

**Admission to the Conference and Ceildhi is \$15.00 per person  
or \$25.00 per family (extended). (Meals not included)**

Preachers and Office Holders are admitted FREE (They'll either enjoy it or they need it!)

**Proposed Program:**

Doors for the Conference will open at 6:00PM on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

Program will begin at 7:00PM

Speakers

We Will Adjourn at 9:00PM

Doors Will Open at 8:30AM on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

Program Begins at 9:00AM

Speakers

12:00 LUNCH (Reservation Required)

1:00 Conference continues

Speakers

5:00PM Conference Program Adjourns

5:30PM DINNER (Reservation Required)

Door Prizes/Announcements

6:00 - 7:00 CONFEDERATE CEILIDH

Armed Confederates and Armed Scotsmen will POST THE COLORS  
and the ladies are invited to wear your period dresses.

Otherwise dress is casual

~Conference Ends ~

**SOUTHERN HERITAGE CONFERENCE, August 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Laurel, MS**  
Advanced registration is required for meals.

**YES WE'RE COMING!**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

THERE WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_ OF US FOR LUNCH @ \$10.00 Ea.

THERE WILL BE \_\_\_\_\_ OF US FOR DINNER @ \$15.00 Ea.

CONFERENCE ADMISSION \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 for Family (We use the Southern  
"definition" of Family by the way)

CONFERENCE ADMISSION \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 For Individual

**I want to purchase an ad in the Conference Program:**

¼ Page \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Includes admittance to conference for individual  
½ Page \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Includes admittance to conference for Family  
Full Page \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Includes admittance to conference for Family  
Sponsorships \$250.00 and up \_\_\_\_\_ (Note, with a sponsorship, your admittance and  
meals (reservations must still be made) are covered and you have a free full page ad of your  
choosing!

HERE'S MY CHECK (No Cash Please!) FOR \_\_\_\_\_ (Postdated is OK) made out  
to Jones County Rosin Heels, Camp #227 SCV

**Note: We have to tell the Church how many meals to prepare by no later than 8:00am on Wednesday  
August 16<sup>th</sup>, so, PLEASE fill out the form and mail your check ASAP to:**

**SOUTHERN HERITAGE CONFERENCE  
PO BOX 52  
LAUREL, MS #9440**

Rooms for those who wish to stay overnight, will be blocked until August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at the Comfort Suites in  
Laurel, on Leontyne Price Blvd (formerly Beacon Street) at a bargain rate of \$76.00.  
Call 601-649-2620 for reservations. Be sure to mention you're attending the Southern Heritage  
Conference to Get the Low Rate!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact: Carl Ford or John Cox  
509 Central Ave., Suite 246, Laurel, MS 39440.  
Phone: 601-649-1876 or Fax: 601-428-4478  
E-mail: [csaford@hotmail.com](mailto:csaford@hotmail.com)

**~ DEO VINDICE ~**

**PLEASE POST TO ALL SOUTHERN AND SCOTTISH SITES!**



## Initiative 58 - Save the State Flag of Mississippi

Gentlemen of the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans,

First, I would like to thank everyone who came out this past weekend to attend the Heritage Committee meeting. A special thank you to all who took part and made comments during the meeting. If you were unable to attend you missed a good meeting. If you have not heard, we are in trouble on Initiative 58. We have less than 10% of the total needed. We have conducted how to meetings and still people seem not to understand how to fill out the petition form.

We must move forward, develop a strategy and work it until Nov 5<sup>th</sup> and beyond. If you think it will be over, then you are sadly mistaken. This will be going on for years to come or until we give up. You may not agree with me and others, we cannot afford to lose this fight. If we do they will erase everything our ancestors fought for and OUR CHARGE requires us to protect. We will join many other organizations in the Dust Bend of history if we lose this fight.

I am asking for volunteers who are willing to work on a committee charged with developing our strategy going forward. We must have a plan of action if we are to get any additional funds from the public or the national SCV. Don't make the mistake that we are defeated. We are by no means defeated. I am not willing to give up. As it relates to Initiative 58, I will quit on November 6<sup>th</sup> and not before. Do we have an uphill fight? Yes, sir we do. There were not any fights that our ancestors went into that were not an uphill fight. I remind you of what Gen NB Forrest said, "Charge them both ways and keep the skitter on".

If you get this message, please take it to your camp and discuss with them and make plans. If you need some funds, put a request together with details on what type of advertising is planned, newspaper, radio, billboard, etc. How much it will cost and how long it will run. I will take it to the finance committee and get you some help.

All of you who have been working, this is not meant for you. This is for those who have not been engaged in this flag fight. *When all is said and done, will you be able to look into the mirror and be satisfied with the man looking back at you? Will you ancestors be proud of your efforts? Please contact me to join the fight.*

Joseph (Joe) Abbott, MS DIV HC Co-Chairman  
1036 Abbott Lane Summit, MS 39666  
(H) 601-684-5376 (C) 601-810-7132 E-mail jabbott1036@cableone.net

## The flag of the state of Mississippi is in serious jeopardy. WILL YOU HELP?

She has flown since the 1800's, dutifully representing you, your parents, grandparents and their parents. She has been carried by Mississippians from the Spanish-American War through the great World Wars, to Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, as well as modern conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

She has been an unwavering symbol of our state and all Mississippians, through times of tumult and times of prosperity. She represents no singular face- she encompasses all faces of proud Mississippians, young, old, and departed. AND SHE IS IN DANGER NOW.

She NEEDS YOUR HELP. Will YOU help to preserve her? Initiative 58 is a state initiative to Keep and Preserve the Flag of Mississippi. Such an undertaking requires money and manpower to collect the requisite number of signatures to Keep our Flag. We are leading this effort but we need every available donation to do so. WILL YOU HELP?

### National SCV News

## Letter from the Commander-in- Chief, Kelly Barrow

Compatriots and friends,

As many of you are by now aware the U.S. House of Representatives on May 19, 2016 passed H.R. 4974 - Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017. Adding to H.R.4974, an amendment was introduced and passed that will prohibit large scale displays of the Confederate Flag in VA Cemeteries (National Cemeteries) such as at mass Confederate graves; however, it would still permit families to place small individual Confederate flags on graves for a very limited amount of time, two days a year. Presumably the federals will then remove any flags left by family members.

This amendment is unacceptable to the members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and also to all citizens who have any common sense and believe that the U S Constitution truly allows free speech and expression by its citizens. Even though the House of Representatives passed this bill, it can still be stopped or altered in the Senate. I encourage each of you, and your families, to contact your U.S. Senators today <http://www.senate.gov/general/contacting.htm> and tell him or her to vote NO to H.R. 4974. Remind these public servants that the branch of government in which they serve, previously approved Public Law 85-425 signed into law by President Eisenhower in 1958 that bestowed full veterans rights to Confederate Soldiers and their widows which made them equal with all other American Veterans of our nation's wars. These soldiers deserve equal rights, and they can no longer defend their own sterling reputations. We, who are their descendants, must carry this fight for these brave men.

Deo Vindice!

Charles Kelly Barrow, Commander-in-Chief  
Sons of Confederate Veterans



## Candidate for AoT Councilman, Jason Boshers

Compatriots,

With a heart embedded with the Confederate Soldiers good name and a mind on the future of the Sons of Confederate Veterans; I announce my candidacy for the office of Army of Tennessee Councilman.

I have been a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for 10+ years and I am also a Life Member. I am a Life Member of the Tennessee Division where I have been the Editor of the Division newsletter; The Forrest Escort; since 2008 and I was recently appointed Chief Of Staff for the Tennessee Division and I am the Communications Director. I am a Life Member of Murfreesboro Camp #33 and I am the camp newsletter editor.

I believe in the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I believe in the Confederate Soldiers and The Cause. The blood of the Confederate Soldier I was named after flows through my veins. I seek the AoT Councilman position with the only agenda of forwarding our cause and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

I ask for your support and I will see you in Texas in July. Follow and like my candidacy on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/JasonBoshersforAoTCouncilman/>

## The Other Jefferson Davis

Jefferson Davis, love him or hate him, was an unusual man. During a long and frequently cataclysmic life, his favorite job, according to his wife Varina, was serving as a U.S. senator from Mississippi from 1847 to 1851 and again from 1857 to 1861. During these relatively peaceful days, Davis made his reputation as an outspoken and eloquent advocate of slavery and states' rights, shining up the résumé that would later make him president of the Confederacy—the role that has defined his place in history.

But anyone who studies the Washington years soon makes the acquaintance of a second, more elusive, Davis. Despite his credentials as a southern firebrand, and unlike most of his Senate colleagues, Davis nurtured a transcendent vision of the United States as a great nation far more substantial than the sum of its fractious, disunited parts. This was no small thing. Examination of the congressional record during the 1850s reveals a collection of individuals who regarded the federal government primarily as a nuisance to be tolerated only to the extent that it provided money for new lighthouses, river harbors, and post offices. The only national issue worthy of debate—albeit incessant debate—was slavery, but even that had a frequently provincial cast. Slavery, most southerners thought, was none of the federal government's business. And except for outright abolitionists, many northerners had no quarrel with slavery in the states where it already existed. They just did not want it to spread.

States' rights was bread and butter for any southern Democrat, and Davis could argue the case as well as anyone. But throughout the 1850s—a time of growing polarization, bitterness, and, finally, desperation—Davis also championed nationhood. He articulated his vision in many ways. He advocated increasing the size of the country's tiny (almost 14,000 soldiers) army and de-emphasizing volunteers and militia. He was on the board of regents of the new Smithsonian Institution, which he saw as a national center for learning. He regularly invited visiting scholars and scientists—what Varina called “savans”—to his home to discuss new ideas of national import. In 1857, with tensions over slavery escalating to crisis, he wrote to President James Buchanan about the need to improve liberal arts education at West Point. Leadership “to maintain the honor of our flag,” he wrote, “requires a man above sectional prejudices, and intellectually superior to fanaticism.”

But Davis's most lasting legacy as a nation-builder, both figuratively and literally, was as a prime mover in the mammoth project to expand the United States Capitol from a small, cramped, statehouse-like building with an attractive central rotunda into a sprawling, magisterial seat of government with separate, marble-faced wings for the Senate and House, and a soaring new dome made of cast iron. The U.S. Capitol, as we know it today, would never have existed without Jefferson Davis. In many ways, it is his building.

There were good practical reasons to enlarge or, as it was called then, “extend” the Capitol. The United States had won an enormous tract of land in the Mexican War in 1848, the same year gold was discovered in California. By 1850, California had moved to the front of a long line of territories seeking statehood. There would be more senators and more House members. Congress needed more space.

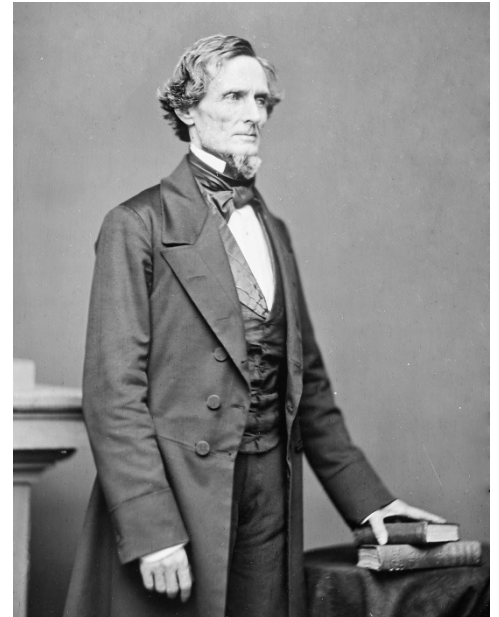
And new chambers. The House (today's Statuary Hall) had acoustics so poor that several students of Congress blamed the chamber's chronically abusive and bellicose ambience not on actual political divisions, but on the apoplectic frustration of members forced to scream to be heard by colleagues standing less than ten feet away. As for the Senate, the chamber was too hot in summer, too cold in winter, and in dire need of extra gallery seats for the immense audiences who thronged the debates for a chance to see Clay, Webster, Benton, Houston, Douglas, Davis, and other luminaries at work. In an era of one-term, nondescript, and frequently dreadful presidents, senators were the big celebrities of national politics.

Davis, however, had another simple, yet transcendent, reason to enlarge the Capitol: A great nation needed a great seat of government, not a glorified statehouse. During the 1850 debate to obtain an initial appropriation of \$200,000 for the project, one senator scoffed at the price tag. Such a paltry sum, even in 1850 dollars, was simply an excuse to start something whose cost would easily eclipse anything the Senate could then imagine. This was true, and Davis started to minimize the project to make it more palatable, then suddenly stopped. What if it did cost more? he asked: “If this Union continues together, and this continues to be the seat of Government, I have no idea that any plan which may now be suggested will finally answer all the wants of the country.” Eventually, he said, “I think it likely” that Congress may have to “cover the whole square with buildings.”

Davis won the money on that day, but only by a vote of 24–21. Then, throughout the 1850s, both as a senator and as the mid-decade secretary of war under President Franklin Pierce, he kept the project alive and eventually made it thrive, even though his national vision increasingly contradicted his own loyalties to Mississippi. In the end, of course, he chose Mississippi and the Confederacy, but one could speculate that were it not for blood ties, he could perhaps have gone the other way.

To anyone seeking the origin of Davis's uncommon nationalism, the protagonist is not much help. This is the fault, however, not of Davis, but of the Union Army, which raided and torched his Mississippi plantation in 1863, destroying most of his personal correspondence. This event has left a substantial doughnut hole in the archive. We know a considerable amount about what other people thought of Davis, but very little of what Davis thought—at least privately—about other people.

Fortunately, the Jefferson Davis Project, headquartered at Rice University in Houston, has gone a long way toward filling this gap. The Davis Project is the official compiler of Davis's papers. After forty-eight years and thirteen volumes, the work led by Lynda Crist is coming to an end. Volume 14, the last, will be submitted to the Louisiana State University Press next year.





Prior to their work, most of what was known about the pre-Civil War Davis had been published as part of a ten-volume set of mostly official papers—campaign speeches, floor debates, congressional reports, and the like—and a single volume of private correspondence that had escaped destruction. The Davis Project broadened this core collection substantially by mining federal government records, newspaper archives, and caches of private documents and personal papers of those who knew Davis.

What emerges is the portrait of a man who, in many respects, could be described as a national citizen long before he became a Mississippian. He was the youngest of ten children of a backwoods Mississippi cotton planter. He spent most of his childhood away from home in boarding schools, finally ending up at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he almost got thrown out three times before graduating in the bottom third of his class in 1828. He was not much of a scholar and, as a newly minted officer, not much of a soldier.

All evidence suggests that during the next seven years, which he spent riding the western frontier from outposts in Michigan and Oklahoma, he did little to grow up. The only thing he clearly cared about was Sarah Knox Taylor, the daughter of Col. Zachary Taylor, his commanding officer at Ft. Crawford, in Michigan Territory. But Taylor did not want his daughter, “Knox,” to marry a soldier, and one can hardly blame him in Davis’s case. Davis’s friends described him as a hell-raiser with a hair-trigger temper. One disagreement with Taylor made Davis so furious that he contemplated challenging Taylor to a duel. He backed off when a friend pointed out that if he wanted so badly to marry Knox, shooting at dad would not help. In 1835, Davis resigned his commission and immediately married Knox. Taylor neither opposed the marriage nor attended.

Less than three months later, however, Davis and Knox both fell ill with malaria. Davis recovered, but Knox did not. A widower at 27, Davis went home to Mississippi to become a planter under the tutelage of his oldest brother Joseph.

There is no surviving record of Davis’s thoughts or feelings at what was probably the defining moment of his life. His professional accomplishments up to that time were negligible, and he had lost the only thing he had ever wanted, just months after obtaining it. He must have been devastated.

It was probably during these early years when the seeds of his nationalism were sown. He had attended school in Mississippi, Kentucky, and New York, built forts in the snowy reaches of the northern plains, and suffered hunger and thirst as a dragoon in forced marches across Oklahoma Territory. Until he went “home,” after Knox’s death, he had never had a firm anchor in Mississippi. Instead, as a wandering student and a wandering soldier, he had probably seen as much of the United States as anyone his age anywhere in the country.

Relatively little is known about the years between 1835 and 1840, but it seems that Davis became something of a recluse, even as he was building his plantation, growing cotton, buying slaves, and discussing philosophy and politics with his brother Joe. But by the time he emerged in 1840 as a delegate to the state Democratic convention, Davis had become a Mississippian, a politician, and an adult. His old reputation was soon forgotten. The new Davis was smart, conscientious, well-read and well-spoken. The sardonic wit was still there, but the sense of fun was gone. He was intensely loyal to a very few friends, but he made enemies easily and held grudges. His temper had not improved.

He worked to help win Mississippi for James K. Polk in 1844, married Varina Howell in February 1845, and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives a few months later. He did not stay long, however, resigning in mid-1846 to command a regiment of Mississippi volunteers and join his former father-in-law—now Gen. Zachary Taylor—who was commanding U.S. troops in northern Mexico.

And this was the final piece of Davis’s nationalism. He went off to the Mexican War mostly for the excitement and to advance his political career, a motive he did not try to hide. In a letter to his sister Lucinda, he suggested that “if occasion offers it may be that I will return with a reputation.” The strategy worked. He distinguished himself at the Battle of Buena Vista, and parlayed a hero’s welcome at home into a U.S. Senate seat. He was an immediate star—tall and lean, ice-blue eyes, ramrod-straight and walking at first with a cane while he recovered from shrapnel wounds to his foot.

He quickly made his mark as an eloquent defender of slavery, but at the same time, below the surface, his nationalism was taking shape. The catalyst for this maturation was probably Zachary Taylor. Before the Mexican War, Davis and Taylor had barely known each other, and what little evidence exists suggests that their relationship had grown from mutual dislike to tolerance, then to moderate cordiality and had stopped there.

But during the war and especially afterward, the two men developed a deep mutual trust and confidence. The record of this relationship has survived today in a series of letters in which Taylor, both during and immediately after the Mexican War, consulted with Davis on a profound, personal level about his hopes and misgivings as he decided whether to run for president in 1848.

Taylor held nothing back, and what he had to say would have buried him politically if it had seen the light of day. Taylor was one of the biggest slaveholders in the country, but he told Davis he favored admitting California to the Union as a free state, and was sure that Congress would never allow another slave state. Taylor had made his peace with these views, which were anathema to Davis and most southerners. Further, Taylor was a war hero himself, and potentially a very formidable presidential candidate—and he was a Whig. Davis’s Democrats, meanwhile, were struggling with Michigan’s frumpy Lewis Cass as their standard-bearer. Davis had no political reason to like Taylor and every reason to oppose him, but he never breathed a word. Taylor was duly elected, and never veered from what he had told Davis. Had he not died suddenly of illness after only fourteen months in office, Taylor may have precipitated a showdown over slavery eleven years before it finally happened. Like Davis, he was an unusual man. Unlike Davis, he has been all but forgotten by historians.

Davis taught Taylor politics, and although only the general’s side of the correspondence has survived, it is probably safe to say that Taylor taught Davis nationalism. Taylor was a career military officer and had had many more years than Davis to travel the breadth of the United States and see its potential. It seems likely that Taylor transmitted these views to his former son-in-law, who, with a briefer biography but one remarkably like his own, would quite reasonably have incorporated Taylor’s life lessons into his subsequent political persona. This could be why Davis, the indifferent young officer, became the U.S. Army’s staunchest political advocate during the 1850s. He came to regard the army as a force for unity in the country, and sought out the Armed Forces Committee chairmanship during both his Senate stints, which were sandwiched around his years as secretary of war.

Davis won the initial Capitol appropriation, but abandoned Washington after the Mississippi Democratic party begged him to come home and run for governor. Hampered by illness and a late start, Davis lost a close election and spent a year on his plantation. He returned to Washington to join Pierce in March 1853.

Davis found the Capitol project underfunded and in disarray, with several eager power brokers looking to take it over as a patronage plum. Whoever controlled the project had several hundred jobs to dispense. Aside from the federal government itself, the Capitol extension was the biggest employer in the District.

The secretary of the Department of the Interior, nominally in charge of the Capitol, asked Davis to send him a U.S. Army engineer to superintend construction. Davis liked this idea so much that he induced Pierce to transfer the Capitol from Interior to his own department. Then he named U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Capt. Montgomery C. Meigs as engineer-in-charge. This was the perfect solution to keep the congressional dogs at bay. Any sniper looking to pick off Meigs and take control would have to contend with an implacable and vindictive Davis. Not a happy prospect.

For the next four years, Davis flicked aside all challenges and kept the money flowing. He, Meigs, and architect Thomas U. Walter assumed the new building would have to last a millennium. They stinted on nothing. Walter imagined and designed a soaring cast-iron dome to replace the leaky, wooden fire hazard that preceded it. Meigs made the marble façade twice as thick, ordered window frames of iron instead of wood, bought special English tiles for the floors, and hired Italian immigrant Constantino Brumidi to paint frescoes for the ceilings and walls and to decorate the rooms in an ornate, spectacular “high style.” When congressional skeptics complained that the décor was too sumptuous for a homespun, no-nonsense country like the United States, Davis ignored them. When Meigs and Walter needed more money, Davis got it for them.

Only once did parochialism intrude on Davis’s vision. When it came time to choose the design for a statue to stand atop the new dome, sculptor Thomas Crawford created an ethereal female figure, exquisite in every respect except that she wore a felt “liberty cap,” the symbol from classical antiquity of a

manumitted slave. Davis did not like liberty caps, having told Meigs in a memo that the cap “is the sign of a freedman,” while “we were always free, not freedmen, not slaves just released.” Meigs suggested Crawford think of something else. The end result, standing atop the dome today, is *Freedom Triumphant in War and Peace*, an unusual blend of Roman goddess and Indian princess crowned by an “eagle” headdress which looks like a rooster with its mouth open. This, too, is part of Davis’s legacy.

Davis lost absolute power over the Capitol when Pierce left office in 1857. Back in the Senate for the last four pre-war years, he fought several battles for the project, but its survival was no longer in doubt. With war approaching, the rest of Congress finally began to see Davis’s point of view. The new Capitol became a potent symbol, both nostalgic—what might have been; and hopeful—what the United States might become, if only it survived. “I shall never hesitate, whenever a proper appropriation is called for the completion or the embellishment of the Capitol of my country, to vote for it with pleasure,” Georgia Rep. Joshua Hill said during House debate to fund Capitol construction in 1860. “I desire to make this Capitol the seat of a national constitutional government of the American people for a thousand years to come.”

Davis resigned his Senate seat and left Washington on January 21, 1861. On December 2, 1863, five months after Gettysburg, *Freedom* was mounted atop the Capitol Dome, and at the end of 1865, Brumidi finished the *Apotheosis of Washington*, the fresco in the ceiling of the Rotunda. Davis was in a military prison by then.

Indicted for treason, but never tried, Davis was freed after two years. He tried a few business ventures without success, then finished his days as a figure revered in the South for his dignity and refusal to disavow the rightness of his cause. He never returned to Washington, and never saw the completed Capitol, the living symbol of the national vision he had abandoned.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Guy Gugliotta is a prize-winning journalist based in New York and the author of the recently published *Freedom’s Cap: The United States Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War*.

## Tucker’s Marine Brigade

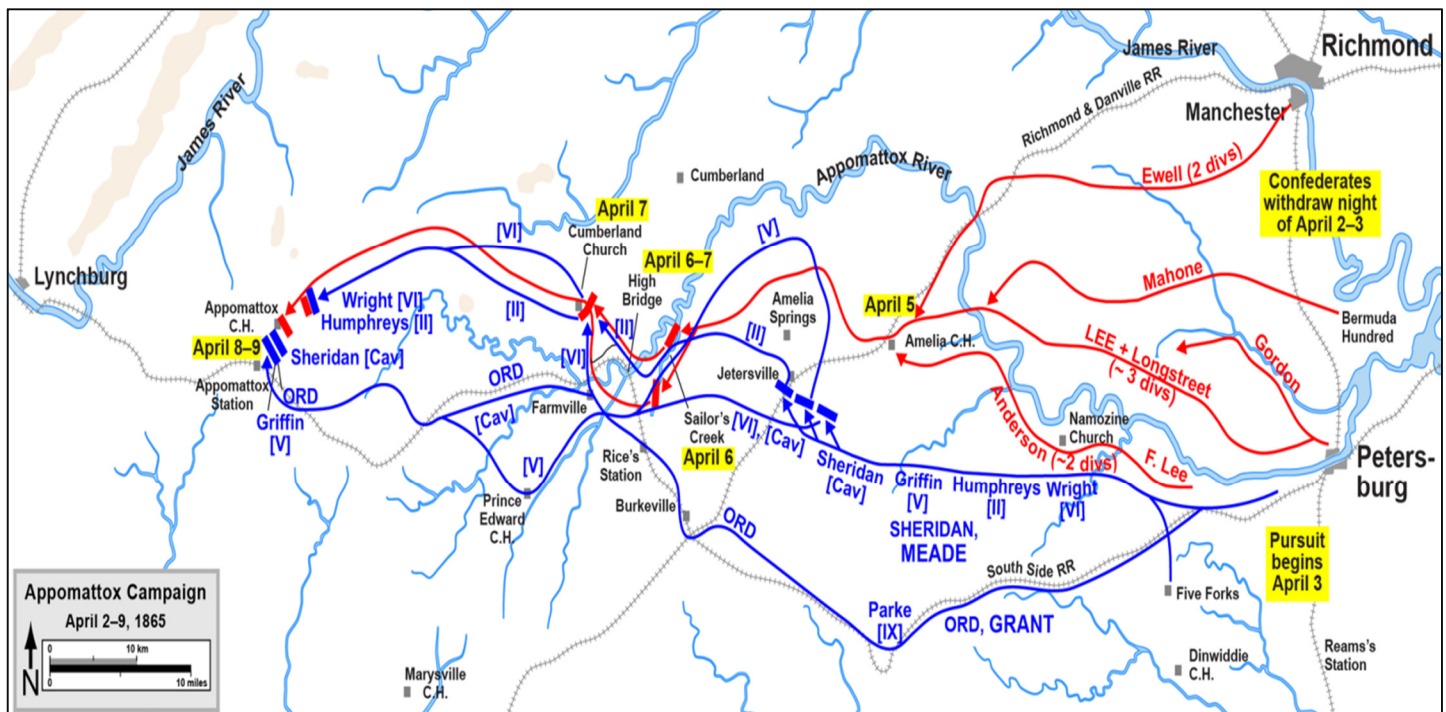
### Confederate States Marine Corps

#### From Drewry’s Bluff to Appomattox Court House 1865 by Ray Davidson

In 1998, Confederate States Marines Charles Cleaper, James Hicks and Joe Johnson names finally were added to the exhibit on Black Confederates at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. A tribute and belated honor to a story worth telling of grey coated warriors that served to the honor of the Corps.

Cleaper, Hicks and Johnson enlisted in the Confederate Marine Corps in Charleston, South Carolina and served aboard the Confederate States Ship (CSS) *Chicora* until March 1865. The Confederate States Marine Corps (CSMC), as well as the Confederate States Navy, authorized recruitment of one black for every five whites recruited. These Marines and sailors served alongside their white counterparts in integrated units. Several skilled pilots on Confederate gunboats were “men of color” and held an officers rank. One such pilot was Moses Dallas, who served with the Savannah Squadron from 1862 to 1864. A letter from the Savannah Squadron Commander to the Secretary of the Navy gives us a small glimpse of the value of blacks to the Confederate Navy:

“I have also been compelled to increase the pay of Moses Dallas from \$80 to \$100 per month in order to retain him. He is a colored pilot and is considered the best inland pilot on the coast.



Later Dallas was on the expedition that captured the Federal gunboat USS *Water Witch* on the rainy night of June 3-4, 1864. He was among six Confederates killed in action during the firefight that erupted as they boarded the ship. Another black Confederate Naval Officer, Ben Newell, piloted the captured gunboat back to harbor.



In early spring 1865 the Union Army was making a concerted effort to capture Richmond, the Southern capitol and defeat Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. All Confederate States Marines along the east coast were ordered to Drewry's Bluff for defense of Richmond.

The only obstacle that protected Richmond from a river approach was Fort Darling on Drewry's Bluff, overlooking a sharp bend on the James River their eight cannons in the fort, including field artillery pieces and five naval guns, some salvaged from the Virginia, commanded the river for miles in both directions. Guns from the CSS Patrick Henry, including an 8-inch smoothbore, were just upriver and sharpshooters gathered on the river banks. An underwater obstruction of sunken steamers, pilings, debris, and other vessels connected by chains was placed just below the bluff, making it difficult for vessels to maneuver in the narrow river.

Blunting previous Union nautical assaults Drewry's Bluff remained an integral part of Richmond's defense until the fall of Petersburg and Richmond in 1865. The garrison at Drewry's Bluff took part in the evacuation of Richmond and Petersburg. Once Fort Darling had been abandoned by the retreating Confederates, the Union forces quickly cleared a path through the obstructions in the James River beneath Drewry's Bluff. On April 4 President Abraham Lincoln and his son Tad passed the fort on the way up the James River to visit Richmond.

#### BATTLE OF SAYLER'S CREEK

At Drewry's Bluff, Cleaper, Hicks and Johnson and the men of the Charleston Squadron joined with remnants of the Wilmington (NC) Squadron and Virginia based personnel to form "Tucker's Marine Brigade" that was named after its commander, Commodore John R. Tucker.

The Battle of Saylor's Creek was fought April 6, 1865, southwest of Petersburg. Tucker's

Marine Brigade had joined up with two Confederate divisions led by Maj. Generals Curtis Lee and Joseph B. Kershaw. These two divisions made up nearly one fourth of the retreating Confederate army. At Saylor's Creek they were cut off by Sheridan's cavalry and elements of the Union II and VI Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

Tucker's Marine Brigade was the only Confederate unit that didn't break under the first Federal charge. After repulsing the charge, the Brigade – numbering 300 to 400 men, was surrounded by six Union divisions. Tucker would not surrender and counterattacked, smashing the 37th Massachusetts Infantry into fragments and tearing into the 2nd Rhode Island in hand to hand combat.

Withdrawing to a wooded area, these Confederate Marines repulsed multiple Federal attacks. Tucker's Brigade was resilient and did so much damage that the Federal generals estimated the "Marine Brigade" to number some 2,000 men. Tucker was ultimately talked into surrendering towards the end of the day.

Note: The Saylor's Creek battlefield was designated a national Historic Landmark in 1985.

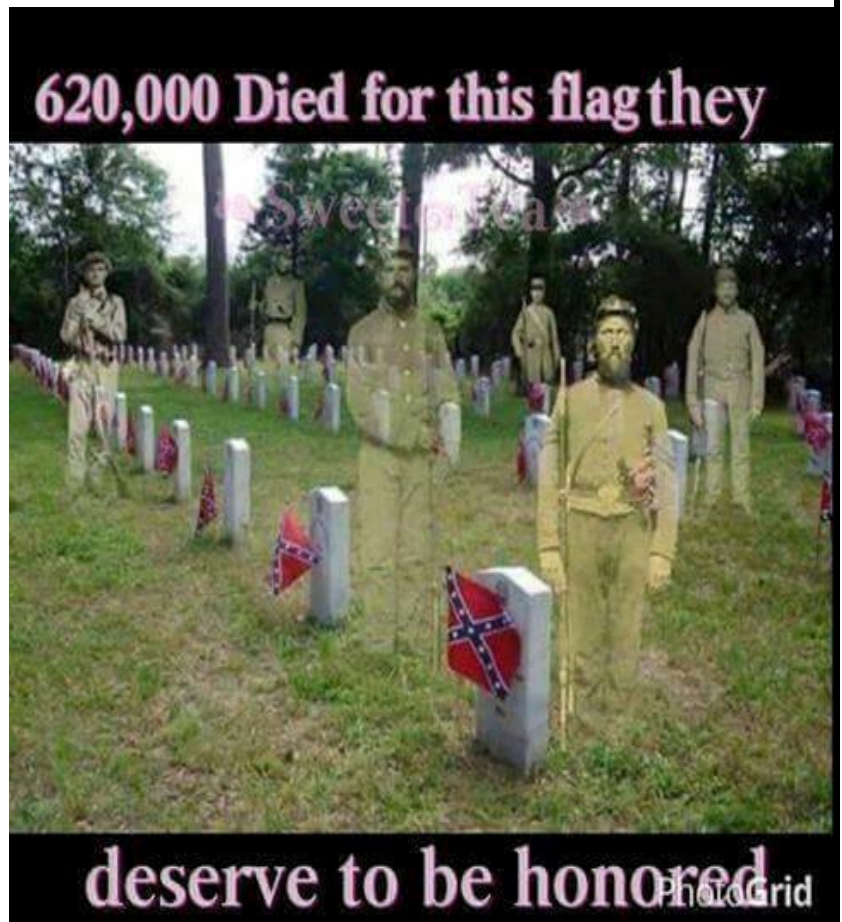
#### APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE AND THE LEGACY

The remnants of Tucker's Brigade; four Confederate States Marine Corps officers and 21 enlisted Marines withdrew to Appomattox and surrendered with General Lee on April 9, 1865. The ranking Confederate Marine Officer was 1stLt Richard Henderson (former USMC Commandant Gen. Archibald Henderson's son). Standing proudly with Henderson were Charles Cleaper, James Hicks and Joe Johnson, "free men of color" who served with distinction as Confederate States Marines.

From Peter Doré "English Friends of the South"



Don Troiani's Painting of the CS Marines



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