

This Month's Issue observes the Vicksburg Campaign.



NO June meeting because of State Convention in Biloxi, MS

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com June 2023, Volume 26, Issue 6 Dedicated to the Memory of Brig/ General Benjamin G. Humphreys

Commander's Comments — Larry McCluney

Compatriots,

Welcome to the June edition of the Delta General. Just a reminder, there will not be a Camp meeting this month because of the conflict of meeting time and State Reunion in Biloxi, MS. This is an election year and we will be voting on new State Officers.

I was excited to see almost 40 people at our Camp's anniversary meeting. If you missed it, you missed a great meeting and fellowship. For those who missed the meeting, renew your efforts to rejoin us in July. I know life tends to get in the way of things at times but we have a duty as descendants of Confederate Veterans to attend and participate. That duty is stated in our Charge and the oaths you took when you joined this organization. One Saturday evening out of a month is not much to ask of

you to participate in your Camp's activities and meetings. Remember, our ancestors gave 365 days of four years. Can you not give one evening a month to participate? There are other ways you can participate such as attend your Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet once a year, attend your Camp's Memorial Day Service once a year, support our activities such as the new headstone our Camp erected that our Camp paid for or give money toward projects such as the \$1,200 we collected to help with the National project to rebuild the pedestal for the Forrest Equestrian Statue at Elm Springs. Robert E. Lee said, "You should do your duty in all things. You can never do more, you should never wish to do less." Remember the Charge? "To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish." Let us all rededicate ourselves to carry out our DUTY and set our priorities to set aside this time to attend meetings and support our Camp activities as we wind this fiscal year down. Remember, "If not US, Who? If not Now, When?"

In closing, remember, it's dues time again. For those of you who have received your notice you have noticed there is no Camp Dues shown. Our Annual Camp Dues are \$10 per member. Please make your check payable to B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys # 1625. The bank will not accept the check otherwise.

Camp Adjutant's Report — Dan McCaskill

On this night, our members and guest gathered to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp 1625, SCV and the 25th Anniversary of the Ella Palmer Chapter #9. OCR. At 6:00 pm. Commander Larry McCluney called the meeting to order and asked Camp Chaplain Earl McCown to open the Meeting with a word of prayer. This was followed by Color Sergeant Earl Allen leading everyone in the Pledges and salute to the Flags along with the reading of The Charge. Commander McCluney welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the many quests among whom were SCV Executive Director Adam Southern and his wife Kayla; History-in-Chief Forrest Daws; MS Division Commander Conor Bond; 2



nd Lt. Division Commander Dennis Brown; MS Division Adjutant Mike Moore; MS Division 2nd Brigade Councilman, Terry Arthur; MS Division 1st Brigade Councilman Boyd Coker; MS Division 5th Brigade Councilman-elect Harrison Daws; 2 nd Lt. Commander Wm P. Rogers Camp Chuck Landry; Past MS Division Commander Alan Palmer; MS Society MOS&B Commander Stan Howell; Past MS Society MOS&B Commander Earl McCown; MS Society OCR President Suzi Bond White; Past MS Society OCR Presidents Missy Stillman and Annette McCluney. With all the introductions completed, Commander McCluney asked Camp Chaplain McCown to bless our evening meal.

After the evening meal, the General Charles Clark Chapter # 253, Military Order of Stars & Bars was rechartered. Pictured from left are members Jackson McCaskill, Tommy McCaskill, Commander Earl McCown and Dan McCaskill. Administrating the oath is MS Society MOS&B Commander Stan Howell and looking on is MOS&B Adjutant General Mike Moore. Note pictured are members Nathan McCaskill, Mitch McCown and John McCown.

Continued on page 3



Contents of this Issue:

Camp News pp. 2-4, 6-8

- Commander's Report
- ♦ Adjutant's Report
- Camp Chaplain

• Guardian Program

Division News pp. 3, 9

 Bricks for Beauvior/ Beauvior

<u>National News pp. 4-5, 10-12,</u> <u>19-22</u>

- National Reunion in Hot Springs, Ark 2023
- Confederate Legion
- Brick's at Elm Springs
- Friends of Elm Springs
- Friends of the National Confederate Museum
- Benches at Elm Springs
- Confederate Legion

Articles pp. 13-18

- Siege of Vicksburg
- Prof. Edward Smith Passes
- General Patton, CSA Larry McCluney Camp Commander / Editor:

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Chaplain's Corner — Earl McCown

Confederate generals' hope in God took solid form as they practiced works of charity for their fellow human beings. They knew that, as Christians, they were called on to believe, to hope and to practice works of charity. Jesus had called His diciples to show charity to all. We see this call in many Scriptures in the Holy Bible, such as:

Galatians 6:2, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Matthew 20:28, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Mark 12:31, "...thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself..."

The generals were in a position where they could and often did show charity to their soldiers, to civiliand, and their enemies. A key component of Christian charity was the spreading of the Good News, and many highranking officers spread the Gospel among their men. The motives for performing this duty were both heavenly and earthly. On one hand, every believing Christian had a responsibility to his or her Master to spread the truth as he or she received it. These new believers were supposed to spread the Good News and were called to be more loving and giving than before their conversion. However, these heavenly benefits were not the only ones Confederate generals could expect to produce throught the spreading of the Gospel in their regiments.

They also expected Christian converts to be harder working, more loyal, less likely to desert, and more willing to endure trials joyfully and patiently as their Master did when He suffered. Of course, they realized that only in the most fervent converts would all of the above mentioned changes occur, but they expected a degree of change in all who came to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. And we should expect no less of new converts today!

Adjutant's report continued from page 2

With this being an election year in the Division and having six candidates for Division Office present, Commander McCluney gave each a few minutes to speak to the membership. The candidates are as follows: Dennis Brown, Commander; Forrest Daws, 1st Lt. Commander; Terry Arthur, 2nd Lt. Commander; Mike Moore, Adjutant; Boyd Coker, 1st Brigade Commander and Dan McCaskill, 1 st Brigade Councilman.

After the politicking, Commander McCluney conducted the little Camp Business. Camp Adjutant reported on the two funding projects of the Camp. The Forrest Plaza Project had raised \$1,135 and that project was closed. The new project was raising money for the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs which to date has raised \$85. We are asking for donations with the money raised to be given to Headquarters at the National Reunion in Hot Springs, AR. Delegates to the MS Division Reunion at Beauvoir June 9-11 are Larry McCluney, Dan McCaskill and Gator Stillman. The Camp is intitled to four delegates so one more delegate is needed. Other business was a motion made by Michael Anthony to accept the minutes from the last Camp Meeting. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and the motion passed. Next item was a motion by Kenneth Ray for the Camp to support all the candidates present for their respective offices. The motion was seconded by Earl McCown and passed. The next item was a motion by Alan Palmer directed the Camp's Delegation to vote on all motions in the best interest of the Camp. The motion was seconded by Michael Anthony and the motion passed. A motion was made by Michael Anthony to close the Business Session. The motion was seconded by Alan Palmer and the motion passed.

With the Camp Business completed, Larry McCluney introduced Executive Director Adam Southern who gave an informative power point presentation on the National Confederate Museum at Columbia, TN. After Adam's excellent presentation, Missy Stillman announced the winners of the OCR Silent Auction. They were: Dennis Brown; Tommy McCaskill, twice; Boyd Coker; Ann McCaskill; Dodie Palmer and Annette McCluney. The meeting was closed with a prayer from Chaplain Earl McCown and the signing of Dixie. Attendance for the evening was 30

Humbly Submitted, Dan A. McCaskill, Camp Adjutant



BEAUVIOR

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



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

Friends of Beauvior

For as little as \$25 annually, you can become a member of the Friends of Beauvior. Membership includes tour admission and a 10% discount at the Beauvior gift shop.



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

The Delta General — June 2023, Volume 26, Issue 6

Guardians needed

Everyone knows the atmosphere in this country where it comes to anything Confederate. Last summer we saw how vulnerable our Memorials were to the rioters. Sadly, it has spread to the cemeteries the place where the left wants all the Memorials moved. In the past few weeks, the Sleeping Lion Memorial to the Confederate dead in Oakwood Cemetery in Atlanta, GA has been removed. Our Confederate Dead and our Memorials are at risk to removal and vandalism. This why we need Guardians to watch over our Memorials and burial sites of our Confederate Dead. Most of our members live in Counties with Confederate Memorial Monuments and all live near a cemetery where Confederate Dead are buried. The Mississippi Division has the MS Division Guardian Program for burial sites where a person adopts a burial site or several sites and watches over the site ensuring it is properly cared for. The Division now has the MS Division Monument Guardian Program. With this program, a person signs up to keep watch on a Memorial. There is a contact person to report any vandalism and/or threats of removal. If anyone is interested in this program please see the attached application and information to find out more on the following pages.

<u>National SCV News</u> Join the Confederate Legion

• Individuals and organizations can join. Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is not required.

• Businesses, associations and S.C.V. camps can join.

• An individual member can organize an independent Confederate Legion group and name it whatever he/she likes.

• Members are expected to follow moral standards, obey the law, and participate in the Southern Victory Campaign.

• Credit cards and checks are accepted. Credit card payments can be recurring.

• Payments are tax deductible because the S.C.V. is a 501 (c) (3) entity.

• Members receive an ID card, certificate, access to support and communications. Most of all, you get the satisfaction of knowing you're part of the offensive!

Dues and donations are used to mount a two-prong offensive that we call the Southern Victory Campaign. It's led by the Heritage operations Committee of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Phase One of the campaign offensive involves direct action by the Heritage Operations Committee of the S.C.V. Prong Two involves direct action by individual and group members of the Confederate Legion. Objectives include:

• Reestablishing public support for the principles of liberty held by the founders of the United States and the Confederate States of America. Rebuilding respect for the Confederate States of America that preferred to leave the Union rather than abandon the principles of liberty like the Northern states were doing under Leftist influences of that day and age.

For those interested in more information on how you can help "Make Dixie Great Again" go to <u>https://www.makedixiegreatagain.com/</u>



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

THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATE MUSEUM AT ELM SPRINGS The truth about the South's struggle to form a new nation is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.theconfederatemuseum.com

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Forrest's Last Ride



Forrest's Last Ride is the name of the project to reconstruct the gravesite of Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife Mary Ann Montgomery Forrest on the grounds of Historic Elm Springs and the National Confederate Museum. This will be a very large project as the plaza is 50 feet deep and 75 feet wide. Everything that was with the graves is now on the grounds and waiting to be reconstructed. The Equestrian Statue, which is the headstone of the graves will be repaired and returned to its rightful place. This project is for the repair, reconstruction, and placement of the Forrest Gravesite in its entirety and as intended by the artist Charles Henry Neihaus.

On September 18, 2021, we gathered to lay to rest, Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife Mary Ann Montgomery Forrest were on the grounds of Historic Elm Springs. On October 1, 2022, the General Executive Council voted to rebuild the entire plaza as it was originally Constructed. The estimated cost to reconstruct the entire plaza is \$150,000. Currently, \$76,000 has already been raised. This project is being done by the great-great-grandsons of General Forrest and the General Executive Council.

This cannot happen without your help and donations. This cannot be built until the money has been raised. If you wish to contribute, please send your donations to SCV National.

To pay by check: Please make your check payable to SCV National with <u>Forrest Plaza</u> in the memo line and mail to:

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

To pay by phone: call 931-380-1844, ext. 209

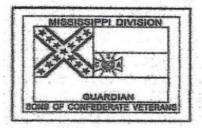
To pay online: https://scv.org/paypal-donations/

You take them down, and we will put them back up!



Mississ	ippi Guardian Program	m Application
Turn Ap;	Dication into Division Guardian Co	mmittee Chairman
Name of Applicant:		
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Zip Code:	Phone #: ()	_
E-Mail Address:		-
Location:		
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Location of Grave: (<i>include r</i>	name of cemetery, city and county):	
Marker on Grave denoting C	Confederate Service:	Cross of Honor?
Documentation of Confeder	ate Service: <u>List book, service record,</u>	etc_,
Confederate Veteran's grave in the event I cannot carry out m	n here is true and accurate. I agree to accordance with the GUARIAN PROG y duties, I shall notify the Review Con n revoke my status as a GUARDIAN fo	RAM rules for as long as I am nmittee immediately. I also un
Applicant Signature:		Date://
Committee Chairman:		Date://_
	Mail Application, Map and Photo	
	Mississippi Division Guardian Prog 123 Douglas Street Bruce, MS. 38915	

Mississippi Division Guardian Program



- <u>Purpose:</u> The program is designed to honor the memory of our Confederate ancestors and through its implementation will provide the preservation of their final resting places and will document for future generations their sacrifices.
- Eligibility: Any Mississippi Division camp member in good standing, who is at least 12 years of age and who has demonstrated his desire and ability to serve as a GUARDIAN. All compatriots are encouraged to participate in the program to honor our ancestors and to protect their final resting place.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- (A) He shall care for and protect the grave(s) of a Confederate Veteran, ensuring that the gravesite is kept clean and well maintained year round. He shall perform these duties personally unless he is physically unable because of health reasons. At no time shall these responsibilities be passed on to another without the approval of the GUARDIAN committee for the Alabama Division.
- (B) He will be responsible to appropriately mark the grave so it is designated as a final resting place of a Confederate Veteran. This can be by stone, plaque, Cross of Honor, etc. He will also be responsible for replacing or repairing any marker that is worn, damaged or destroyed.
- (C) He shall personally visit the grave a minimum of two times a year to include Confederate Memorial Day or at least one week prior. He shall place a wreath or a small Confederate flag or both on the grave.

APPLICATIONS, REVIEWS & APPROVAL:

- (A) Individuals who wish to participate in the GUARDIAN program must complete and submit the Guardian Application form to the Mississippi Division Guardian Committee Chairman. The Committee Chairman will then forward the application on to the Guardian Committee for approval. The application must be accompanied with a map showing the location of the gravesite along with written driving instructions to the cemetery. A before photograph of the gravesite must also be submitted before approval. An after photograph can be submitted for the file as work is completed.
- (B) The applicant must also remit a one-time \$10.00 fee with the application to cover the cost of the GUARDIAN pin and certificate, which will be awarded upon the candidate's approval for membership in the GUARDIAN program. The fee is non-refundable.
- (C) Individuals who are not accepted into the GUARDIAN program will be given an

explanation in writing by the Review Committee. The applicant can request an appeal

of the decision. The Review Committee will review the applicants appeal and render a

decision. The decision of the Review Committee is final.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Multiple Gravesites: GUARDIANS may care for more than one gravesite and will be

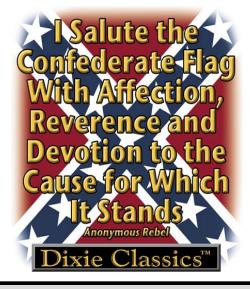
recognized by the Guardian Review Committee. Special certificates or indications on the Guardian pin may be authorized to signify the care of multiple veterans' graves. Normally no more than 25 gravesites will be authorized for a Guardian to care for. The Review Committee may authorize more than 25 on a case by case basis under the advice of the applicants Camp Commander.

- (A) Forfeiture of Guardian position: A Guardian who cannot meet the requirements of his position due to relocation, health or other reasons must notify the Review Committee. All fees are non-refundable.
- (B) <u>Bequeathing of GUARDIAN position</u>: A Guardian may transfer his responsibilities as a Guardian to another SCV member in good standing with prior approval by the Review Committee. There is a \$10 fee for transferring the Guardianship. This fee will cover the new Guardian's membership pin and certificate. If he is already in the Guardian program there will be no fee to cover the certificate designating the new guardianship he is undertaking.
- (C) <u>Revocation of GUARDIAN status</u>: The Review Committee may revoke the status of a participant in the Guardian program if he fails to carry out his duties and responsibilities as outlined. The Committee reserves the right to inspect, with or without notice, any GUARDIAN'S Confederate Veteran's gravesite to confirm compliance with all of the rules and regulations specified in the program.
- (E) Wilderness Gravesite: This is a gravesite that is completely neglected or abandoned in

a remote area. Application for this special designation must be accompanied with before

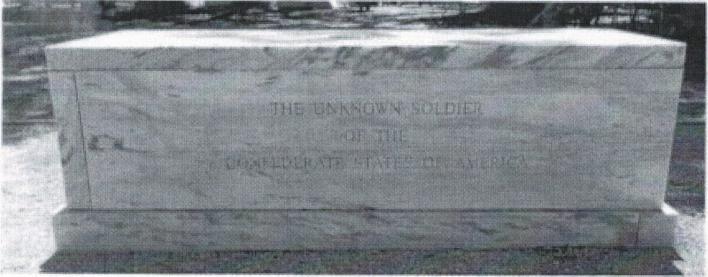
and after pictures of the gravesite and the Guardian must meet all other requirements of

the program.



Bricks for Beauvoir and the Tomb of the Unknown Solider

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



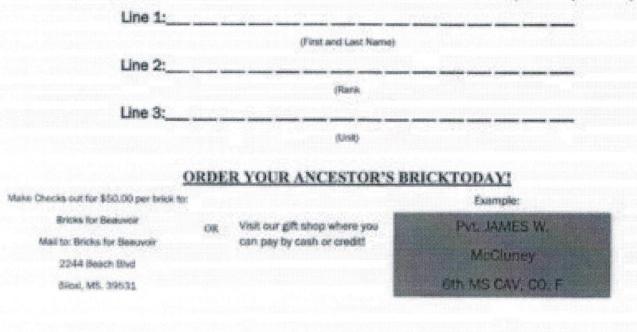
Each brick that you purchase will be engraved with your ancestors rank, name, unit and company. Memorial bricks will be laid, memorializing your ancestor, in a sidewalk from the UDC Arch to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Solider at Beauvoir.

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

Ancestral Brick Order Form

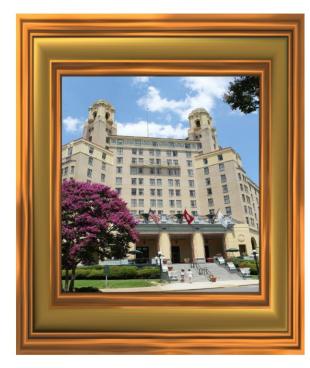
Instructions: Use the lines as laid out no more than 15 spaces per line..You may use abbreviations when

necessary. Please include your name and address, for confirmation letter. (See Sample Below)





The Arlington Hotel is the Official Hotel of the 2023 SCV National Reunion





10

The Arlington Hotel is located at 239 Central Avenue in historic Hot Springs. The vast majority of the reunion events will happen in facilities at the Arlington Hotel Tel: (501) 623-7771 (800) 643-1502 Website: <u>www.arlingtonhotel.com</u> email: <u>info@arlingtonhotel.com</u>

Room Rates:

Single/One Adult: \$109.00Double/Two Adults: \$109Mineral Water Room: \$149.00*** Make sure to mention 2023 SCV Reunion to receive the special Reunion Rate!***

Make Your Room Reservations Now! Registration Info will soon follow!

From the Army Commander

Men of the Army,

It has been a very busy spring all across the Confederation. Confederate Memorial Day services were held by Camps and Divisions all across the Army. The National Confederate Memorial Service was hosted by the Georgia Division at Stone Mountain Park. It was a fantastic event and Commander Tim Pilgrim and the men of Georgia are to be commended for their efforts. Photos of many of the services are in this issue.

Reunion season is upon us. I was honored to attend the Tennessee and Kentucky reunions. It always lifts your spirits when you see your fellow SCV brothers at reunion. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi will hold their reunions in the first two weekends in June. Support your Division reunion by attending and let your voice be heard. The Division is not just one man. Ideas need to be shared and programs explained so the goals can be met.

The National Reunion being held this year at Hot Springs, Arkansas is rapidly approaching. If you have not registered yet, you can do it online by clicking the link at SCV.org or fill out the registration form in your *Confederate Veteran* magazine. I hope to see many of you in Arkansas!

One item of business that will be discussed and voted on at the National Reunion is the amendment to allow the Commander in Chief and Lt Commander in Chief to serve for two terms instead of being limited to the current one term concept we follow now. There are pros and cons to the proposed amendment. One thing that a lot of people seem to forget is we allow multi term officers at every level in the organization <u>but two</u>, **Why**?

I have read the rationale in the *Confederate Veteran* on both sides of the issue. The rationale against states that the CiC after his term ends still serves for three more administrations which could be 16 years total. So why not amend the proposed amendment to say that the CiC after serving his term (whether it is one term or two) will serve on the GEC for two administrations. This will reduce the possible length of time served by two years. Another point not made, is although this change would allow the CiC and Lt. CiC to serve a second term it does not mean that all of them will. Health issues, family issues etc. might make them decide to only serve one term and not run for the second term or maybe they are doing a poor job and the membership decides we need a change. There is no guarantee of re-election. Lastly, if he is doing a great job, would we not want to have him lead us for two more years? The new, improved model is not always as good as what you already have. Food for thought.

11

Speaking of elections, the reunion in Hot Springs marks the halfway point of my term. I am on my second term so I cannot run again. I realize it is still a year away but Army members need to start thinking of candidates for both the Commander and Councilman positions and encourage that man to run. Carl Jones is also serving his second term as Councilman and cannot be reelected to that position. The election will be in 2024 at Charleston, South Carolina.

I can't let an issue go by without mentioning the museum and the progress being made. I hope that you have heard about the loan program started between the SCV and the Tennessee State Archives. The first items loaned to us were the LeMat revolver carried by General Gideon Pillow during the war, the mold of the Confederate Seal (one of 5 made) solid silver and the one on loan belonged to Varina Davis. The last item was the regimental flag of the 5th Tennessee. These items will rotate out and others will rotate in over a designated time period. Other notable items donated include a huge portrait of Sam Davis, items from the Caddo Parish Monument time capsule from Louisiana including a UCV flag from the reunion held in Shreveport along with other items such as newspapers, medals, etc. More and more items are coming in to enhance the presentation at our museum. If you have not been, it might be time to schedule a trip.

Good things are on the horizon!

Jimmy Hill Commander, Army of Tennessee

From the Army Councilman

Compatriots,

I had a discussion recently with an individual who, no matter what evidence I provided that rebutted his position, insisted that the secession of the Southern States in 1860 and 61 was "all about slavery". These people exist on both sides of the political aisle and they are radically persistent in the maintenance of their own ignorance. It is generally centered around pure virtue signaling, but nonetheless they exist and their shallow, non-contextual and simplistic look at the realities of our history are popular among a significant number of people, north and South. This is what we're up against. The good news is that I do not believe they're in the majority, or that if they are that everyone who's of that belief is as dogmatic about their refusal to be persuaded by truth and well supported contrary opinions.

On the other side of this argument is us. We are the folks who've actually put some amount of effort into understanding what the South really contended for. We are not in the majority either. I believe that the majority is that group of people who are in the middle, and those are the folks that we need to persuade to our side.

This brings me to a question for you- Why did you join the SCV? Was it just to be in a "club"? To get a certificate? What led to your decision to join? Regardless of your answer to that question, I hope that you will take to heart the mission of the SCV and that is to "vindicate the Cause" that the Confederate soldier offered his life in defense of. That cause, in a nutshell, was independence and the right to self-government.

In order to vindicate their Cause I would submit that we must understand it. We must study everything we can in order to come to a point to where we can explain the truths of the Confederacy and of our Southland. Secondly, we must become active members. We must participate in Camp, Brigade, Division, Army and National activities that help to carry our message forward to the "middle ground" in America. We must seek to "create evangelists" for our Cause. Members are great, but what we need are activists. There are a lot of folks out there who, while not members, agree with us and who respect our history and our monuments. We need them assisting us. Perhaps they don't want to join the SCV. Perhaps they're not qualified. Fine. Can they write a handful of letters each year to governing officials who may either be against us or on the fence concerning issues that affect us? Suppose that you have a 30 man Camp in your local area, but each member recruits ten people- neighbors, other family members, co-workers, etc -to write letters and make phone calls on our behalf. If this is done, your local school board, County Commission, State Legislator is hearing from 3 HUNDRED people instead of thirty. This can be persuasive.

If you joined the SCV to protect our Heritage and to ensure that the lessons and legacy of our ancestors is carried forward, now is the time to get involved. You and I are the only people standing between our history and those who want to eradicate it. We cannot allow this, and we need help in our fight. The strongest bulwark we have to protect our history is the local Camp. We need the Camps to be engaged, vibrant, active and energetic in their local efforts. We need Camps with strong leadership and dedicated members who are willing to network and gain allies in the local community.

We are planning another Army Workshop where we will offer training and information on how to improve your Camp and your efforts. Keep your eyes open for the information on this as it is made available and I hope to see you there.

Carl Jones AOT Councilman

The Delta General — June 2023, Volume 26, Issue 6

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>U. S. Grant</u>, 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 forc es 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 <u>Big Black River</u>, he separated Pemberton from the forces being assembled at Jackson, under the eventual command of General Joseph Johnston. After defeating these forces at <u>Raymond (12 May)</u> and <u>Jackson (14 May)</u>, Grant turned east and inflicted two serious defeats on Pemberton's field army at <u>Champion's Hill</u> (<u>16 May</u>) and <u>Big Black River (17 May</u>). 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

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 <u>Sherman</u> 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 there 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.

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

By TIM ISBELL - 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 reday wall.

Refuse to give in



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

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 — <u>ttisbell@sunherald.com</u>

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 Johnson. Grant had intercepted the dispatches between Johnston and Pemberton and was aware of their plans.



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.

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.

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

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.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. SMITH Distinguished Scholar and Preeminent Expert on Black Confederates Passes March 11, 2023



Publisher's Note, by Gene Kizer, Jr. - I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Professor Edward C. Smith of Washington, D.C. in March. He was a beloved friend of

many in the Sons of Confederate Veterans and when he spoke at the SCV National Reunion in Lexington, Kentucky August 12, 1993, he was introduced with thunderous applause as "Professor Ed Smith, black Confederate."

He taught at American University for 45 years becoming the first tenured African-American professor at AU, and he cofounded American University's Civil War Institute.

At the 1993 Reunion, Professor Smith said that blacks fought enthusiastically for the South in the War Between the States for the same reason they fought for the Colonists in the Revolutionary War, which he called "the first Confederacy." It was about defending home and family, same as for whites. Remember, Crispus Attucks was the first man killed in the American Revolution and he was of African and Indian descent.

In his talk, Professor Smith pointed out that most abolitionists were not pro-black, they were anti-black and wanted to get rid of blacks. They didn't want blacks anywhere near them, especially in the West. Even Lincoln did not believe blacks and whites could live together. He wanted to send blacks back to Africa or into a place they could survive. See Colonization After Emancipation, Lincoln and the Movement for Black Resettlement (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2011) by Phillip W. Magness and Sebastian N. Page.

Smith was indignant at the politicized fraud that often passes for history in this now-Woke age.

He discussed slavery and how it was dying out and likely would not have lasted another generation. There were already over 500,000 free blacks in the country, some 260,000 in the South, more than in the North. There were 60,000 free blacks in Virginia alone.

He talked about the social intimacy that exists today and back then in the South between blacks and whites, which could never exist in the North or West. The South was a multicultural, mostly integrated, bi-racial society as opposed to the North that was overwhelmingly white. Five Northern states had laws that forbid blacks from even visiting much less living there including Lincoln's Illinois. Jim Crow laws started in the North and were there a long time before moving South according to C. Vann Woodward in his famous work, The Strange Career of Jim Crow.

Professor Smith said there is overwhelming proof that black Southerners marched alongside white Southerners as soldiers in Confederate armies, not segregated and in the back of the line as they were in the Union Army.

Smith mentions one prominent Yankee observer, Dr. Lewis

H. Steiner, Inspector of the United States Sanitary Commission, who observed the exit of Stonewall Jackson's army from Frederick, Maryland in 1862:

Wednesday, September 10, 1862: At 4 o'clock this morning the Rebel army began to move from our town, Jackson's force taking the advance. The movement continued until 8 o'clock P.M., occupying 16 hours. The most liberal calculation could not give them more than 64,000 men. Over 3,000 Negroes must be included in the number. They had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie-knives, dirks, etc. They were supplied, in many instances, with knapsacks, haversacks, canteens, etc., and they were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederacy army. They were seen riding on horses and mules, driving wagons, riding on caissons, in ambulances, with the staff of generals and promiscuously mixed up with all the Rebel horde.

There could have been many more blacks than 3,000 since Dr. Steiner began observing at 4:00 a.m., before light, and could have missed many light-skinned blacks.

Professor Smith spoke of black loyalty on the home front where there were wholesale avenues of escape throughout the war. He pointed out that most blacks stayed home and ran the economy and protected women and children whose husbands were off on distant battlefields. Smith maintains that blacks had it within their power to make the War Between the States a "four-week war" had they chosen to side with the invading Yankees and sabotage, poison, rape and pillage, but of course they did not. They were stead fast in their loyalty to the South, which enabled the War Between the States to be a bloody four-year contest with 750,000 deaths and over a million maimed that ended only after the South was utterly exhausted of manpower, and largely destroyed.

Contrast that with the Yankee army that was 25% foreign, many of whom had come here with only the shirts on their backs, signing up to get clothes and Union Army enlistment bounties.

Professor Smith's long, loud standing ovation at the end was heartfelt and well-deserved.

Professor Smith's Funeral Mass will be April 17, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC.

Below is his complete obituary.

Edward C. Smith

On March 11, 2023, Professor Edward C. Smith peacefully passed away. Smith, a third-generation Washingtonian, was 80 years old.

His professional academic career began in 1969 when he cofounded The Heights School, and he taught there until the 1970s. Almost simultaneously, he began teaching at American University from 1969 -2014. While at AU, Smith became the first African-American educator to earn a tenured professorship, and he was a co-founder of American University's Civil War Institute.

From 1976-1978, Smith took a sabbatical from AU and worked at the White House in the Carter Administration. He was deputy speech writer for presidential assistant Midge Costanza. In 1997, in collaboration with two Catholic Study Centers, he co-founded the Youth Leadership Foundation. Since 1997, the organization has supported character development in more than 4,000 students in the DMV.

Smith's words, humor, and insights will be missed by family, friends, and former students. He is survived by his children Todd, Dawn, Christopher, Austin, and SGT Chad, as well as his grandson Coby. Predeceased by the late SSG. Justin.

On Monday, April 17, 2023 at 10 a.m., his funeral mass will be held at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle located at 1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Washington, DC. Immediately following, the interment ceremony will take place at Washington National Cemetery in Hillcrest Heights, Maryland, where Professor Smith will be buried with his late wife Mary Magdalene Jefferson Smith and near his late mother Rachel Willis.

(Obituary Published by The Washington Post on Apr. 9, 2023.)

The Delta General — June 2023, Volume 26, Issue 6

GENERAL FOCUS George S. Patton-The General who Never Was.



E ven though many of our readers are generations apart, most will know who General George S. Patton was. This remarkable general died in Belgium and I have visited the site of the car crash where he died. Famed for fancy pearl-handled six-shooters carried on the hip, he took the war to his Nazi enemies, wherever he went they quaked in their jackboots. Like many of the leading American generals during WW2 he had a relative in the War Between the States. Lt. Col. George S. Patton CSA, his grandfather was wounded and captured during the Battle of Scary Creek, WV, July, 1861. George Smith Patton was born 26 June 1833 in Fredericksburg, Virginia and raised in Richmond. Son of politician John Mercer Patton. George graduated from Virginia Military Institute (VMI), Class of 1852, second in a class of 24. After graduation, he studied law and practiced in Charleston, Virginia (now West Virginia). He married Susan Thornton Glassell in 1855.

Lt. Col. George S. Patton CSA

hen the American war broke out, he served in the 22nd Virginia Infantry of the Confederate

States of America, rising from Captain to Colonel of the regiment. As Lt. Colonel he was wounded in the shoulder at the *Battle of Scary Creek* in present-day *West Virginia* 17 July 1861 and left on the field where he was captured. He was again wounded at *Giles Court House*, this time in the stomach. At the *Battle of Opequon*, also known as the *Third Battle of Winchester*, he was mortally wounded and died 25 September 1864. An extraordinary military record and determination to do his duty.

11

★ e's interred at the Stonewall Cemetery in Winchester. The Confederate Congress had promoted Colonel Patton to brigadier general; however, at the time, he had already died of battle wounds, so the promotion was never official. He had several brothers who also fought for the Confederacy, and one, *Lt. Col.* Waller T. Patton, another VMI graduate, was mortally wounded at Gettysburg 3 July 1863. The first Patton in America was born Robert Patton in Ayr, Ayrshire, Scotland, who emigrated to Culpeper, Virginia, from Glasgow, Scotland, in either 1769 or 1770.



George S. Patton Jr. accompanied by his father on the left in 1919, as they visit the grave of George S. Patton Sr. and Waller T. Patton C.S.A. Stonewall Cemetery Winchester, Va.-Editor

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/Stop-the-Purge-of-Southern-History-and-Heritage-670128639693597/

The Delta General — June 2023, Volume 26, Issue 6



Friends of The Confederate Museum at Elm Sprin¢s Annual Membership Application

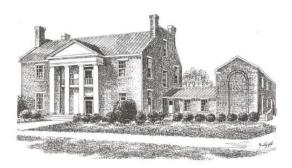
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