



The Delta General

June, 2012 Volume 15, Issue 5

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



Commander's Corner: Joe Nokes

Compatriots,

I hope this finds you all well and healthy. As spring leads into summer, our list of events continues to grow and expand.

Our June meeting will be on June 7th (at the Church). Our speaker is Larry Mangus who will be speaking on Civil War Relics. This looks to be a great speaker with a great presentation.

The very next day, June 8th, is the opening of the SCV State Convention for the Mississippi Division in Brandon. The Convention is sponsored by the Rankin Rough and Readys Camp. Tim Cupit has announced that starting at 11:00 AM on Friday the 8th, there will be a Civil War Relics Show to kick off the weekend. The entire weekend looks to be educational, exciting, and just plain fun. Becky Cupit has assured me that there will be a very "kid friendly" atmosphere, so bring the whole family.

July also looks to be a very busy month. For our camp meeting, we are looking at having a pot-luck supper for Nathan Bedford Forrest's birthday and for August, we voted to move our Camp meeting to Saturday, August 4, 11:00 AM at the Grand Guld Military Park just outside of Port Gibson. We will be having a pot luck picnic and paying homage to Gen. Humphreys by placing flowers on his gravesite.

Of course, the SCV National Reunion is scheduled for July 11-15 in Murfreesboro, TN. Any of you planning to go to National should be aware that prices increase for registrations after May 31st.

Owing to all of the activities going on at the present time, I will be brief and close with this: summer was always a busy time for our ancestors and they did not shirk from what was needed. We should all strive to live up to their example and do all that we can (and just a little bit more) during the upcoming "summer campaign" months.

Deo Vindice,
Joe Nokes, Camp Commander

Door Prizes, Capture the Yankee, Show and Tell, and Guest Speaker for June Meeting

To revitalize interest in camp meetings, Lt. Commander Larry McCluney has encouraged a door prize raffle that is conducted and carried out by the OCR. Last month's door prize winners won a Civil War Sesquicentennial picture frame and a Save the Battle Flags Collectors Mug. Both prizes were won by Compatriot Wade Johnson's family. The OCR has also revived the Capture the Yankee as a fund raiser. There is a red chip for every member in the Camp in the pot and a white chip for every OCR member. One blue chip symbolizing the Yankee. Chances are \$.25 cents each and whomever captures the yankee gets half the pot. That yankee has yet to be captured The pot is now up to \$21.00 and growing. Come to the meetings and lets see if you can capture that elusive Yankee.

Our May meeting also featured our first show and tell session by Earl McCown. Earl shared his collection of Centennial and Sesquicentennial Stamps as well as original Civil War Stamps. Thanks Earl for sharing. Our June meeting will feature Joe Nokes for show and tell. Who knows what he has to show, come and see.

Our guest speaker will be Commander Larry Mangus of the Corinth Camp. He will bring relics from the past to share with us. The OCR will be providing a meat tray, they are asking people to bring drinks and a dessert to go on the side.

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Upcoming Events:

- **Regular Camp Meeting**
– Larry Mangus,
Commander of the
Corinth Camp,
Speaking
- **6/8-9 – MS Division**
State Convention in
Brandon, MS
- **6/19 – Book Signing at**
Cottonlandia - **BORN**
TO BATTLE: Grant and
Forrest—Shiloh,
Vicksburg, and
Chattanooga: The
Campaigns that
Doomed the
Confederacy, By Jack
Hurst

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Camp Adjutant's Report: Dan Mccaskill

The Camp Meeting of May 3, 2012 was called to order by Commander Joe Nokes at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Camp Chaplain Earl McCown. Color Sergeant Chris Lewis was absent, so Commander Joe Nokes led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy. After the salutes, Joe read "The Charge" to the Sons of Confederate Veterans given to us by General Stephen D. Lee to remind everyone why we do what we do. A welcome was extended to all members and guests attending the Meeting. The Commander invited all to partake in the evening meal brought by the ladies of the OCR before getting into the Meeting. The meal was "Sloppy Joes". The ladies asked for donations for next month's meal. **Camp Program:** The program for the night was "Trivia Night". Larry McCluney provided a questionnaire on a wide range of topics on the War for Southern Independence such as "Persons, Site, Actions and Things"; "Places: Small & Large, Obscure & Famous; "War on the Water: Salt & Fresh" just to name a few. This was fun and we learned a little obscure history about the War. Prizes were given to Joe Nokes and Earl McCown for getting the most correct answers. Prizes were also given to the ladies. A sample of the questionnaire is attached. Next month's program will be given by Larry Mangus of the Corinth Camp. His topic will be Oddities and Rarities of the War. He will have artifacts for you to look at and guess the use, and then he will explain what it is and what it was used for.

Announcements: The Oxford Memorial Service will be this Sunday, May 6th for any who wish to attend. The State Reunion will be in Brandon June 8-10. The National Reunion will be in Murfreesboro, TN July 11-15.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney announced next month's program would be "Oddities & Rarities of the War" by Larry Mangus of the Corinth Camp. July the Camp will celebrate Nathan B. Forrest's Birthday with an indoor picnic. A motion was placed before the Camp to revive our pilgrimage to Port Gibson / Grand Gulf to celebrate the birth of Benjamin G. Humphreys in August by Earl McCown and seconded by Dan McCaskill. The motion passed and it was decided to meet at Grand Gulf for dinner at 11:00 am. 2nd Lt. Commander Junior Stillman was absent. It was reported that Jimmy Alford of Cleveland plans to join the Camp at the June Meeting. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported the membership has not changed and the Camp had \$ 1,392 in the checking account. Dan also presented an offer from the Civil War Courier for every subscription a member sells; the Camp would receive \$ 10 from Civil War Courier. Also, he has the latest Flag Cup depicting the Flag of the 46th MS Infantry which was recently returned to Mississippi. Anyone wanting Flag Cups need to contact Dan. Editor Larry McCluney inquired if anyone had trouble receiving the Delta General. Earl McCown reported that the Gen. Charles Clark Chapter of the MOS & B needed a few good men. Larry, as Beauvoir Trustee, gave an update on the progress at Beauvoir. It is hoped that the library will be completed in March of 2013. OCR President Annette McCluney reported that member Sandra Stillman was still in the ICU at University Hospital in Jackson and asked for donations to help with travel expenses for the Stillman Family. **Camp Business:** The only Camp business was set the delegation for the State Reunion. Members from the Camp who plan to attend are Joe Nokes, Chairman; Larry McCluney; Earl McCown; Dan McCaskill and Kenneth Ray. With no other business coming before the Camp, a motion was made to terminate the business session by Earl McCown, seconded by Earl Allen and passed.

The first "Show and Tell" was presented by Earl McCown. Earl talked about and displayed stamps issued about the War and even showed us some real Confederate Stamps.

The Meeting was dismissed with a word of prayer by Chaplain Earl McCown. Attendance for the evening was 13.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan McCaskill, Adj.

Camp Meetings for July and August, 2012



If you missed it, you missed a great time that was had by all at our last Camp meeting. For our July meeting, the Camp voted to have a Forrest Birthday Celebration. We will celebrate General Forrest's Birthday with a social and possibly a guest speaker for the evening on the General.

For our August Camp meeting, we will make a pilgrimage to Grand Gulf Military Park just outside of Port Gibson for a Saturday Picnic. Afterwards we will explore the park and travel to the Port Gibson Cemetery to lay flowers on Gen. Humphreys grave. This is a family affair so we want kids, wives, everyone involved. The date for the August meeting will be Saturday, August 4, at 11:00 AM. We will meet at the Pavilion on the hill as soon as you enter the park. There are ceiling fans there and a nice shade. Perfect for a picnic. Everyone will bring a dish and we will put it all together. Mark your calendars and make plans for this special weekend and enjoy the fellowship as



we get the opportunity to honor two great men during July and August. Maybe we can even have a cake made for the August meeting to honor General Humphreys.

Division News: Beauvoir Update



Above: Richard Flowers is honored for his services at Beauvoir at the Board Meeting.



Confederate Memorial Day Ceremonies for the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and Beauvoir was held on Saturday, April 28th, 2012 at 2 p.m. The Keynote Speaker for this year's event was Mississippi Division Commander Alan Palmer. This year's event drew several hundred people, as the main topic of this year's ceremony was the return of the 46th Mississippi Infantry Battle Flag, which will be housed at Beauvoir, in the new Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum. **This is the first time since 1865 that the Flag will have been in its home state of Mississippi.**

Work is nearing completion on the replica Kitchen on the northeast side of Beauvoir House. This is the LAST FEMA/MEMA funded building at Beauvoir. Work will be completed in May 2012.

Work continually progresses on our new Jefferson Davis Presidential Museum and Library building. The Confederate Seal has been installed over the entrance. The concrete work has been completed, decorative masonry is nearing completion, and interior work is nearing completion as well. The plumbing fixtures have been installed. The Beauvoir Gift Shop area is now largely finished, with walls and doors installed. The flooring is now being installed, and major progress has been made with the interior millwork. Completion is scheduled for Summer 2012!

Mississippi United Daughters of the Confederacy President Frances Woodruff has selected pieces of the original UDC Archway to build a new Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway marker near Grenada, MS.

Below: White marble floor tile being put down in the Presidential Library. The Great Seal of the Confederacy used as door handles to the Library. The Flag of the 46th MS Infantry returns.



MS Division Commander Alan Palmer Gives Them What For

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors on Monday voted to NOT observe Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday in April

*****Read Below*****

May 7, 2012

Clarion Ledger's Request

Mr. Palmer, good afternoon! I am sending this through my personal rather than company email because the company email kicked it back ... We are doing a story for tomorrow's newspaper and I wanted to talk to you for a comment if I could. The Hinds County Board of Supervisors on Monday voted to NOT observe Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday in April, the state-observed holiday, but instead to move it to Good Friday, which is already traditionally a state holiday. The motion was brought by District 5 Supervisor Kenneth Stokes, who said that celebrating Confederate Memorial Day is an affront to black residents. The motion was opposed by District 4 Supervisor Phil Fisher, who said that moving the holiday is a failed attempt to change history, and that whether you agree with the state's history or not, you should recognize it.

Moving the holiday could also pose problems in that it will now be observed on Good Friday, a religious holiday for many that has its own observances. I wanted to ask some members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans if this is a move you would oppose, and why. I can be reached at 601- 573- 2920 and would love it if you could give me a call, or I'd be happy to call you if you would give me a number. I'd also appreciate an emailed response if that would work better for you.

This is for a story for tomorrow's paper so I would so appreciate a response soon if you are able. Thanks so much ...

Ruth Ingram Cummins, The Clarion Ledger

May 8, 2012

The Commander's Responds

Ms Cumins

I will allow this email response to be my response for your article. I am opposed to the moving of any state recognized holiday by any county or city government of the state of Mississippi. The idea that Confederate Memorial day is somehow an affront to Mr. Stokes personally does not in itself give him the right to override a lawful Mississippi holiday or change it's day of observance. There are many under his jurisdiction both black and white that do enjoy observing the holiday and his personal opinion should not be allowed to interfere with that observance on the day set aside many years ago by our state government.

I take these actions as an affront to my heritage and to the heritage of all Mississippians both black and white. It is not white history or black history rather it is Mississippi's history, our history. You cannot raise one group up by putting another group down as history has painfully taught us all or so I thought. I think this is something Mr. Stokes should realize, and understand, and remember his oath to support the laws of the State of Mississippi. I do not know of a provision in state law that allows for any Mississippi Municipality or County Government to change the observance days of legally recognized state holiday's. If we allow this to stand then no holiday is safe.

Commander Alan Palmer,
Mississippi Division Sons
of Confederate Veterans

Biloxi, MS. Heritage Rally - Beauvoir

The **2013** Sesquicentennial Event/Confederate Heritage Rally will be held Saturday March 16, in Biloxi, MS at Beauvoir. The dedication ceremony for the new Jefferson Davis Presidential Library will be the showcase of the program. Make your plans now to attend. More information will be forthcoming as plans are being made. Mark the date on your calendar.

MOS&B News:

75th Annual General Convention - San Antonio, Texas June 7-9, 2012

The Texas Society and the Texas Chapter #5 (Houston) are honored to be the host for the 75th Annual General Convention in San Antonio, Texas. San Antonio is considered one of the top vacation spots in the South. Our hotel is the Old Menger Hotel, built in 1858, probably the oldest hotel west of the Mississippi and is located not only in the middle of all the good shops and restaurants of San Antonio but also next door to the famous Alamo. A step away from the Menger is the famous RiverWalk (the river that flows through downtown San Antonio). Everyone must take one of the famous boat rides.

The Convention Committee has decided to provide as much free time as possible to those attending because to get the real feel of San Antonio you must leave the hotel and get down on the RiverWalk where the shops and cafes are. Also since June has some uncomfortable weather we are encouraging casual wear as much as possible.



Flag returns after 147 years

By PRISCILLA LOEBENBERG - Special to the Sun Herald

BILOXI -- The Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans observed Confederate Memorial Day on Saturday at Beauvoir, the home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the 46th Mississippi Infantry Battle Flag, which was recently received from the Hall of Flags in Springfield, Ill. The flag left Mississippi in 1865. Capt. Mike Bieser of the 46th Infantry Re-enactors said it has been a 25-year dream of his to see the flag returned to its home state.

The transfer was made possible through cooperative efforts of the Mississippi National Guard and Illinois National Guard. The flag will be on permanent display at Beauvoir. The flag was captured during the Civil War, Bieser said. "When the war ended, the men were released, but the flag has been a prisoner of war for over 147 years," he said. Bieser said the flag will rest now near the graves of some of the soldiers who went with it into battle.

Commander of the Mississippi Division Alan Palmer said the flag was an important means of communication during battles. When a flag bearer went down, said Palmer, another soldier would throw down his musket to take his place. In the midst of battle, it was often the only way soldiers knew where to rally and make sure they were not left behind.

The observance included attendees in regular clothes as well as re-enactors in period dress. The ceremony had a floral tribute and musket salutes for the battle flag and the soldiers.

National News:

Proposed Standing Orders to Be Voted On at National Convention

Compatriots,

The following letter was mailed to each Camp Commander in the Confederation regarding proposed Amendments to the Standing Orders of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Please review and share with your Camp members. You can also find a link to the credentials forms for the Reunion at the following link. <http://www.scv.org/pdf/2012Credentials.pdf>

May 10, 2012

Dear Compatriot,

The annual Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will soon be upon us, and I and the other members of the General Executive Council hope we will see you and members of your Camp there. This year we are meeting in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, July 11-14 and it promises to be a memorable Reunion.

Attached you will find two proposed amendments for the Standing Orders of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. These are being provided to your Camp per the requirements of Article 16 of the Constitution of the Sons of Confederate Veterans which requires that any proposed amendments to the Constitution or the Standing Orders be "sent to each Camp in good standing at least thirty (30) days and not more than ninety (90) days in advance to the address on record at General Headquarters". Please share these amendments when the camp next meets so your camp can be prepared to vote on these amendments at Murfreesboro.

These proposed amendments to the Standing Orders, and the previously published amendments for the Constitution, can also be found on the scroll on the front page of [scv.org](http://www.scv.org), on the SCV Blog and have also been distributed via the Telegraph.

Deo Vindice!

Charles Rand

Adjutant In Chief

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 2012 REUNION

PROPOSED STANDING ORDER AMENDMENT NO 1:

This amendment would add a section to Article 3 of the Standing Orders. This amendment is proposed by the General Executive Council. The new proposed section is:

3.6: Each Camp of the Confederation shall establish and maintain an official Camp email address with the General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. This email address may be used by General Headquarters, if directed by the General Executive Council, for sending the Camps official correspondence and notices.

Reasoning: If each Camp has an email address it will enable the Sons of Confederate Veterans to more easily communicate information to the Camps in a timely matter. While we currently have electronic distribution of information on the Telegraph, only a limited number of members (approximately 25%) are subscribed to this service. This amendment will allow for official distribution of required notices directly to the Camps by use of their unique email address. It is intended that email distribution of notices to the Camps will be purposefully limited to items such as official notices and information and important Heritage Defense information so as to keep the number of notices distributed to a low level. Given the advances in technology and communication it is imperative the Sons of Confederate Veterans adopt modern methods of communication in order to be effective in fulfilling our mission in the 21st Century.

PROPOSED STANDING ORDER AMENDMENT NO 2:

This amendment will replace the existing language of section 9.5 in its entirety with new language. This amendment is proposed by the National Disciplinary Committee. The following is the existing language of section 9.5 of the Standing Orders: 9.5 No legal action against or on behalf of the general organization Sons of Confederate Veterans, its officers and/or members shall be undertaken or entered into by any

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Standing Orders Continued from page 5 . . .

member or group of members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in which that member or group of members proposes to act as (a) representative(s) or agent(s) of the Sons of Confederate Veterans without prior approval of the General Executive Council. If a proposed legal action is presented to the General Executive Council for approval, the petition shall be distributed in writing to all members of the Council prior to the filing of the same. The petition shall state the name(s) and address(es) of the party (parties) against whom the petition is proposed to be filed. The affirmative vote of the members of the Council shall be necessary for Council approval of such legal action. If any legal action is filed without the approval of the Council, the member(s) filing such action shall be subject to expulsion from the Sons of Confederate Veterans in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Standing Orders which relate to expulsion of members.

Below is the proposed language which would replace the existing section 9.5 in its entirety:

9.5 No member, group of members, camp, division or any other subdivision of the Sons of Confederate Veterans may initiate any civil litigation wherein they act, or attempt to act, with standing and name (directly or indirectly) any member (in their capacity as member or officer of the Sons of Confederate Veterans), any subdivision or the Sons of Confederate Veterans as a whole as defendant or plaintiff without the prior express consent of the General Executive Council (GEC). The same shall apply to naming any member (in his capacity as a member or officer of the Sons of Confederate Veterans), subdivision or the Sons of Confederate Veterans as a whole as a third party in an already initiated civil litigation.

Petition for said approval shall be distributed in writing to all members of the GEC, stating the name(s) and address(es) of all parties in the proposed litigation, and a brief description of the nature and necessity of the proposed litigation. All reasonable administrative remedies (petitions, motions, hearings etc. before camp/division executive councils, division conventions, etc.) available shall be attempted by petitioner(s) prior to submitting such petition to the GEC, or the GEC may refuse consideration of the petition. A majority vote of the GEC shall be required for approval of the petition

The GEC shall not delay consideration (other than for failure to attempt all available administrative remedies) on the petition to the point it would jeopardize the proposed litigation (such as past filing deadlines), and no later than the next regular meeting of the GEC. Failure to abide by this section is a serious offense and subject to discipline, including expulsion, in accordance with the Constitution and Standing Orders.

Reasoning: This section of the Standing Orders results in more disciplinary cases (and more acrimonious ones) than any other section. Because of its nature (a prohibition on civil lawsuits) this section is subject to more technical attacks and arguments by those accused of violating it, and misunderstandings by many members beyond those accused, than any other section. As a result, the Disciplinary Committee has attempted to both strengthen and clarify the language.

For example, accused members have attempted to claim the "general" organization is only the national organization, and that their suit wasn't "against or on behalf" of the organization because they were suing a single officer. This invokes the legal concept (theory) of "standing" without using the word, so the language here has been changed to reflect in more precise legal language what exactly is being prohibited. Further, in the old language "no legal action" could be interpreted broadly. For example if a camp filing a police report when something is stolen considered a "legal action", or is someone who is arrested for displaying a Battle Flag at a convention hotel and offers a legal defense in the case taking "legal action"? So again, the more precise "initiate any civil litigation" is used in the proposed wording.

The proposed language also emphasizes the common legal requirement of "exhausting administrative remedies". This means that a member or group of members do not go straight from a disagreement to a lawsuit, but they must attempt all other remedies, such as making a motion at their division convention. Courts routinely dismiss cases which have not attempted all administrative remedies.

Finally, language preventing the GEC from withholding consideration on a petition is added as a safeguard. Finding language which contemplates all possible circumstances which might invoke section 9.5 is difficult, but the Disciplinary Committee feels these revisions help in many circumstances.

Officers and members need to keep in mind that both the existing and proposed language is broad, and would include lawsuits initiated by camps or divisions in circumstances such as suits over car tags, etc. If a camp or division is going to initiate a suit, the procedures in 9.5 must be observed.

The Virginia Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coin is here!

Compatriots:

The Virginia Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coin is here! Now you can honor the contribution of the Old Dominion as well as acquire a valuable keepsake from this significant and profound period of historical observance.

These 1 oz. coins are beautiful - minted with a glossy finish and bearing 3-D images of Generals Lee and Jackson on the obverse, the "Sic Semper Tyrannis" state seal on the reverse. Like all the coins, they are made, 100%, of .999 purity silver, not merely plating or overlay, with each coin being serially numbered (only 3000 of each state). The product of the [The Highland Mint](#), the coins are encased in a protective capsule and will arrive in a black velvet box with their certificate of authenticity.

A single coin is yours for **ONLY \$99! No tax, shipping or handling need be added to your order.** All proceeds from this program will go to the work of the SCV and **YOUR division can participate in the revenue sharing!** This is available to ALL divisions, not just the 13 states of the Confederacy.



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CSA Coins from page 6 . . .

Go to csacoins.com and view the newly released Virginia coin and all the others, also. You'll see their images, front and back, as well as the stories behind them. As you enter the website, you'll be greeted by the *Premium Collection*, a presentation of all 13 coins arrayed in the familiar Southern Cross formation, reminiscent of the Battle Flag. Each coin will carry a consistent serial number and will be placed in a handcrafted wooden display case. This product is the maximum experience of the CSA Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coin Collection.

On the reservation form you will be asked for a *Promotional Code*. This is nothing more than your state's two-character postal code (i.e. AL, NC, TX, etc.). **For each coin purchased using your code, your division will earn \$12.** Furthermore, **for each 500 coin orders with your code, your division will receive a \$1000 BONUS.**

So, get the word out and start earning funds for your division! Link to the website... use your division and camp newsletters... prepare fliers... be creative. Help us to market this one-of-a-kind product well beyond the bounds of the SCV. Earn revenue on ANY purchase, not just those from SCV members. Make the Sesquicentennial memorable for you and a financial success for your division. Visit csacoins.com today!

Sesquicentennial Article:

The Death of Turner Ashby

Born October 23, 1828, at Rose Bank, near Markham in upper Fauquier County, Virginia, Ashby demonstrated his horsemanship talents at an early age by winning top prizes at jousting tournaments. While in his mid-twenties, Ashby organized his friends into a cavalry company known as the Mountain Rangers to protect his neighborhood from ruffians accompanying the construction crews of the Manassas Gap Railroad. Following John Brown's raid at Harpers Ferry in mid-October 1859, Ashby's company mustered into the Virginia militia to perform guard and picket duty at Charles Town during the Brown trial and execution.

When the War erupted sixteen months after Brown's execution, Ashby figured prominently in the plot to capture the Harpers Ferry arms factory and weapons' warehouses. Certain of Virginia's secession vote, Ashby and his brother Richard, along with former governor Henry A. Wise and other conspirators, persuaded Governor John Letcher to order Virginia militia to Harpers Ferry. When the Old Dominion seceded on April 17, Ashby immediately led forces in that direction. Unfortunately for the Virginians, as they awaited reinforcements on Bolivar Heights two miles west of Harpers Ferry, vigilant U.S. regulars torched the arsenal at 10:00 P.M. on April 18, destroying fifteen thousand small arms. Ashby led his cavalry into town too late to save the arsenal, but his men did help extinguish fires in the armory buildings.

While serving at Harpers Ferry during the spring of 1861, Ashby came under command of Colonel Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. Jackson assigned Ashby to guard Potomac River fords and bridges from Harpers Ferry to Point of Rocks, Maryland. While in this capacity, Ashby's command assisted Maryland men across the river to join the Confederacy and interrupted Baltimore and Ohio Railroad traffic and the passage of boats on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. In addition, Ashby convinced Jackson and Jackson's successor at Harpers Ferry, Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, that he should be lieutenant colonel of the newly organized 7th Virginia Cavalry. On July 23, 1861, Ashby received his official appointment as second in command of the Seventh Cavalry, but he soon exercised control over half the regiment, conducting independent operations away from the regiment's ailing commander, Col. Angus W. McDonald. When McDonald retired in February 1862, Ashby became the 7th Cavalry's colonel on March 12.

During the summer and early fall of 1861, Ashby's mission was to protect the border counties of the lower Shenandoah Valley and to

systematically destroy the B & O Railroad between Martinsburg and Harpers Ferry.

Meanwhile, the Confederate War Department had authorized Ashby to raise additional cavalry companies and to organize the first Confederate horse artillery (Chew's Battery). By March 1862, Ashby's Seventh Cavalry had ballooned into 27 companies – nearly three times the size of a typical regiment. Such a large force proved impossible to organize and administer, and Ashby's ignorance of drill and discipline further reduced his cavalry's efficiency.

To correct this unpalatable situation, Jackson, in late April, stripped Ashby of his cavalry and ordered it to report to two infantry brigadiers. Ashby submitted his resignation and threatened to organize an independent command. Jackson quickly backed down, explaining in a letter to Gen. Robert E. Lee, "if I persisted in my attempt to increase the efficiency of the cavalry it would produce the contrary effect as Colonel Ashby's influence, [which] is very popular with his men, would be thrown against me." Jackson continued to object, however, to Ashby's promotion to brigadier general, once stating, "he has such bad discipline and attaches so little importance to drill, that I would regard it as a calamity to see him promoted." Despite Jackson's reservations, Ashby became a brigadier on May 23, 1862.

Although Ashby failed Jackson's discipline tests, the cavalry commander's incessant scouting and screening missions accounted for much of Stonewall's stealth and success during the cross-country movements of the Shenandoah Valley campaign. Yet on two occasions Ashby

blundered. The first occurred at [Kernstown](#), when Ashby misinformed Jackson, reporting that a retreating Union column consisted of only four companies of infantry. Jackson subsequently attacked on March 23, and when he encountered James Shields' entire division of nine thousand men, Stonewall was forced to retreat in his only defeat of the War. Ashby's second failure occurred following the defeat of Nathaniel P. Banks at Winchester on May, 25. As the routed Federals fled north toward the Potomac, Ashby failed to cut off the Union retreat, primarily because his companies were scattered and many of his troopers were plundering captured wagons. As a disappointed Jackson noted in his official report, "had the cavalry played its part in this pursuit... but a small portion of Banks's army would have made its escape to the Potomac."

General Ashby's final role in the Valley campaign occurred as Jackson's army retreated south and east from Harrisonburg toward Port



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Republic. As the Confederates' rear guard, Ashby had frustrated and delayed Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont's advance in the main valley. On June 6, 1862, however, two miles south of Harrisonburg, the 1st New Jersey Cavalry, led by Sir Percy Windham, rashly attacked Ashby's position on Chestnut Bridge. Ashby annihilated Wyndham's cavalry, but the affair soon produced an infantry engagement. While Ashby was leading the Confederate infantry into action, a bullet from a Pennsylvania Bucktail pierced his heart, killing him instantly. Jackson wrote to General [Imboden](#): "Poor Ashby is dead. He fell gloriously. I know you will join with me in mourning the loss of our friend, one of the noblest men and soldiers in the Confederate army."

Though Ashby had lacked skills in military organization and ignored drill and discipline, his scouting abilities, equestrian skills, and reckless daring earned him the sobriquet "White Knight of the Valley" (in some sources – "Black Knight"), as well as much praise and respect. Stonewall Jackson's report of the Harrisonburg engagement provided an appropriate eulogy for him: "As a partisan officer I never knew his superior; his daring was proverbial; his powers of endurance almost incredible; his tone of character heroic, and his sagacity almost intuitive in divining the purposes and movements of the enemy." Ashby, originally buried at the University of Virginia cemetery, was reinterred at the Stonewall Cemetery in Winchester on October 1866.

Battle of Cross Keys, VA, June 8, 1862

The **Battle of Cross Keys** was fought on June 8, 1862, in [Rockingham County, Virginia](#), as part of [Confederate Army Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's](#) campaign through the [Shenandoah Valley](#) during the [American Civil War](#). Together, the battles of Cross Keys and [Port Republic](#) the following day were the decisive victories in [Jackson's Valley Campaign](#), forcing the Union armies to retreat and leaving Jackson free to reinforce Gen. [Robert E. Lee](#) for the [Seven Days Battles](#) outside [Richmond, Virginia](#).

The hamlet of Port Republic, Virginia, lies on a neck of land between the North and South Rivers, which conjoin to form the [South Fork Shenandoah River](#). On June 6–7, 1862, Jackson's army, numbering about 16,000, bivouacked north of Port Republic, Maj. Gen. [Richard S. Ewell's](#) division along the banks of Mill Creek near Goods Mill, and [Brig. Gen. Charles S. Winder's](#) division on the north bank of North River near the bridge. The [15th Alabama Infantry](#) regiment was left to block the roads at Union Church. Jackson's headquarters were in Madison Hall at Port Republic. The army trains were parked nearby.^[3]

Two [Union](#) columns converged on Jackson's position. The army of Maj. Gen. [John C. Frémont](#), about 15,000 strong, moved south on the Valley Pike and reached the vicinity of [Harrisonburg](#) on June 6. The division of Brig. Gen. [James Shields](#), about 10,000, advanced south from [Front Royal](#) in the Luray (Page) Valley, but was badly strung out because of the muddy Luray Road. At Port Republic, Jackson possessed the last intact bridge on the North River and the fords on the South River by which Frémont and Shields could unite. Jackson determined to check Frémont's advance at Mill Creek, while meeting Shields on the east bank of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. A Confederate signal station on [Massanutten](#) monitored Union progress.^[4]

Late in the day on June 7, Frémont's advance guard encountered Jackson's pickets near Cross Keys Tavern. A few shots were fired and the Union cavalry fell back onto their main body, which was approaching. Darkness prevented further developments.^[5]

Colonel [Samuel S. Carroll](#), at the head of a regiment of Union cavalry, supported by an artillery battery and a brigade of infantry, was sent ahead by Shields to secure the North River Bridge at Port Republic. Shortly after dawn (June 8), Carroll scattered the Confederate pickets, forded the South River, and dashed into Port Republic. Jackson and his staff raced down the main street from headquarters and across the bridge, narrowly eluding capture (three members of his staff were captured: Col. [Stapleton Crutchfield](#), Lt. Edward Willis, and Dr. [Hunter McGuire](#)).^[6] Carroll deployed one gun aimed at the bridge and brought up another. Jackson directed the defense, ordering Captain [William T. Poague's](#) battery to [unlimber](#) on the north bank. Captain James McD. Carrington brought up a gun from the vicinity of Madison Hall to rake the Main Street. Col. Samuel V. Fulkerson led his [37th Virginia Infantry](#) in a charge across the bridge, where the gun at the opposite end was firing on them with grape shot, to drive the Union cavalry out of the town. Carroll retreated in confusion, losing his two guns, before his infantry could come within range. Three Confederate batteries unlimbered on the bluffs east of Port Republic on the north bank of the South Fork and fired on the retreating Federals. Carroll retired several miles north on the Luray Road. Jackson stationed Brig. Gen. [William B. Taliaferro's](#) brigade in Port Republic and positioned the [Stonewall Brigade](#) near Bogota with the artillery to prevent any further surprises.^[7]

Meanwhile, Frémont, with Col. [Gustave P. Cluseret's](#) brigade in the lead, renewed his advance from the vicinity of Harrisonburg. After driving away the Confederate skirmishers, Cluseret reached and deployed his right flank along the Keezletown Road near Union Church. One by one, the Union brigades came into line: Brig. Gen. [Robert C. Schenck](#) on Cluseret's right, Brig. Gen. [Robert H. Milroy](#) on his left, and Brig. Gen. [Julius H. Stahel](#) on the far left, his left flank near Congers Creek. Brig. Gen. [William H. C. Bohlen's](#) and Col. [John A. Koltes's](#) brigades were held in reserve near the center of the line. A regiment of Union cavalry moved south on the road to secure the right flank. Batteries were brought to the front.^[8]

Ewell deployed his infantry division behind Mill Creek, Brig. Gen. [Isaac R. Trimble's](#) brigade on the right across the Port Republic Road, Brig. Gen. [Arnold Elzey's](#) in the center along the high bluffs. Ewell concentrated his artillery (4 batteries) at the center of the line. As Union troops deployed along Keezletown Road, Trimble advanced his brigade a quarter of a mile to Victory Hill and deployed Courtenay's (Latimer's) battery on a hill to his left supported by the [21st North Carolina Infantry](#). The 15th Alabama, which had been skirmishing near Union Church, rejoined the brigade. Trimble held his regiments out of sight behind the crest of the hill.^[9]

Frémont determined to advance his battle line with the evident intention of enveloping the Confederate position, assumed to be behind Mill Creek. This maneuver required an elaborate right wheel. Stahel's brigade on the far left had the farthest distance to cover and advanced first. Milroy moved forward on Stahel's right and rear. Union batteries were advanced with infantry lines south of Keezletown Road and engaged Confederate batteries. Stahel appeared oblivious to Trimble's advanced position. His battle line passed down into the valley, crossed the run,

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and began climbing Victory Hill. At a distance of "sixty paces", Trimble's infantry stood up and delivered a devastating volley. Stahel's brigade recoiled in confusion with heavy casualties. The Union brigade regrouped on the height opposite Victory Hill but made no effort to renew their assault.^[10]

Stahel did not renew his attack but brought up a battery (Buell's) to support his position. Trimble moved the 15th Alabama by the right flank and up a ravine to get on the battery's left. In the meantime, Ewell sent two regiments ([13th](#) and [25th Virginia](#)) along the ridge to Trimble's right, attracting a severe fire from the Union battery. With a shout, the 15th Alabama emerged from their ravine and began to climb the hill toward the battery, precipitating a melee. Trimble advanced his other two regiments ([16th Mississippi Infantry](#) on the left and [21st Georgia Infantry](#) on the right) from their position on Victory Hill, forcing back the Union line. The Union battery limbered hastily and withdrew, saving its guns. A Union regiment counterattacked briefly, striking the left flank of the 16th Mississippi, but was forced back in desperate fighting.^[11] Trimble continued advancing up the ravine on the Confederate right, outflanking successive Union positions. In the meantime, Milroy advanced on Stahel's right, supported by artillery. Milroy's line came within rifle-musket range of the Confederate center behind Mill Creek and opened fire. Union batteries continued to engage Confederate batteries in an artillery duel. Bohlen advanced on the far Union left to stiffen Stahel's crumbling defense. Milroy's left flank was endangered by Stahel's retreat, and Frémont ordered him to withdraw. Jackson brought Taylor's brigade forward to support Ewell if needed, but Taylor remained in reserve on the Port Republic Road near the Dunker Church.^[12]

Seemingly paralyzed by the decimation of Stahel's brigade on his left, Frémont was unable to mount a coordinated attack. He ordered Schenck's brigade forward to find the Confederate left flank south of Union Church. Ewell reinforced his left with elements of Elzey's brigade. Severe firing erupted along the line but quickly died down. Confederate Brig. Gen. Elzey and Brig. Gen. [George H. Steuart](#) were wounded in this exchange. Frémont withdrew his force to Keezletown Road, placing his artillery on the heights to his rear (Oak Ridge). Artillery firing continued.^[13]

Union casualties totaled 557 killed and wounded and 100 captured, while the Confederates lost fewer than 300 men.^[14] At dusk, Trimble pushed his battle line forward to within a quarter mile of the Union position, anticipating a night assault. Confederate accounts describe the Union soldiers going into camp, lighting fires, and making coffee. Schneck sent out a company to probe the Confederate positions after dark, but after a brief skirmish the company withdrew and no other engagements took place. During the night, Ewell ordered Trimble to withdraw without making the attack.^[15]

Notes

1. Salmon, p. 49.
2. Salmon, p. 49; [National Park Service battle summary](#). Krick, p. 49, states "about 5,000". Eicher, p. 265, and Esposito, text for map 53, state 6,500. The [NPS report on battlefield condition](#) states 8,500.
3. [NPS report on battlefield condition](#); Krick, pp. 33–35.
4. Krick, p. 34–36.
5. Tanner, p. 293.
6. Krick, p. 72, states the three men were prisoners "for varying periods of time"; Robertson, p. 432, lists only Crutchfield and Willis as captured, based on Willis's account in the [Southern Historical Society Papers](#); the [NPS report](#) on battlefield condition cites only two staff members captured.
7. Tanner, pp. 288–93.
8. Cozzens, pp. 460–61.
9. Cozzens, pp. 457–59.
10. Cozzens, pp. 461; Krick pp. 173, 180.
11. Cozzens, pp. 495–67.
12. Krick, p. 219–22, 232.
13. Krick, pp. 260, 264–65.
14. Tanner, p. 295.
15. Krick, p. 271–72

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- [National Park Service battle description](#)
- [CWSAC Report Update](#)
- [NPS report on battlefield condition](#)

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