



The Delta General

March, 2013 Volume 16, Issue 3

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



Camp News:

Commander's Corner: Joe Nokes

Compatriots,

As always, I hope you are all doing well. The Sesquicentennial mania continues in full. On March 8-9, our Living History will be at Fort Pemberton, sponsored by the camp in conjunction with the Museum of the Mississippi Delta. We need reenactors (contact Larry), and we need spectators. We will of course have materials on hand for the public, but a few knowledgeable "spectators" (you can call them "plants" if you like) could be invaluable. (Don't hate me; I'm just suggesting a tested and time-honored tactic.) In all seriousness, everyone who can attend will be greatly appreciated.

As always, let me remind you of a few upcoming important events. The SCV National Heritage Rally is set for March 16 at Beauvoir. The Library Dedication will take place during the Heritage Rally.

Our Camp Memorial at the cemetery in Greenville has been finalized for 7. Anyone interested in bring in the Color Guard, contact Larry or myself. Also, anyone wishing to dress in period attire is encouraged to do so. Please don't forget that the Memorial at Soldier's Rest in Vicksburg is set for April 20. I feel strongly that we need to support these as many of our Mississippi ancestors are interred in these beautiful of cemeteries. June is rapidly approaching for the State Convention in Jackson (less than four months). Furthermore, the National Convention is coming less than a month later (July). Many of the rooms set aside for the National have already been reserved; I know I got one of the last two at Quality Inn.

There are so many other events around the Confederation that this message does not have room to include. Read the rest of this fine publication for many of the others. Find an event (or events) that fits your schedule and attend. And bring a friend with you. Your support will lead to more support.

Forward the colors,
Joe Nokes

March 7 Meeting

The B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp # 1625 will hold its annually business meeting on Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 pm. We will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the formation of our Camp that night as well.

The OCR will once again have their raffle and the notorious Chase the Yankee which has been eluding people for a year now. That Yankee sure is tricky and slippery but someone is sure to catch him soon and put him out of his misery.

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

More and more of our members are taking an interest in the Mechanized Cavalry. Thus, for our March meeting, Bert King, Hattiesburg Camp Commander & State Mechanized Cavalry Captain, is going to make a to make a presentation on the Mechanized Cavalry to our camp during the March meeting. Lets make plans to lean more about a growing unit in our organization.

Adjutant's Report: Dan McCaskill

7:00 pm The Camp Meeting of February 7, 2013 was called to order by Commander Joe Nokes at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by 2nd Lt. Commander Claude "Junior" Stillman. Commander Nokes welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting. The Commander then invited all to partake in the evening meal. After the meal, Commander Nokes reconvened the Meeting. Adjutant Dan McCaskill 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 followed by the reading of "The Charge" given to us by

Gen. Stephen D. Lee by Commander Nokes. Commander Joe Nokes had the privilege of inducting Mike Campbell into the Camp as its newest member.

Program: This was the Camp's business meeting, therefore there was no speaker.

Continued on page 2 . . .



CONTENTS

Camp News – pp. 1-3

OCR News – p. 2

Museum of the
MS Delta – p. 3

Division News – pp. 3-4

National News –p. 5

Fort Pemberton – pp. 5-8

Battle of Hernando – p. 8

MOS&B – p. 9

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8-9 – Living History at
Fort Pemberton

March 16 – Heritage Rally at
Beauvoir and Grand Opening
of the JDPL

March 23 – Reenactment at
Port Hudson

April 6 – Symposium at the
Museum of the MS Delta

April 14 – CS Memorial Day
at Greenville Cemetery

Adjutant's Report Continued . . .

Announcements: There are many events in the near future for the members to choose from. The Re-enactment of the Battle for the Texas Hospital at Quitman will be the last weekend of February; The MS Division Executive Council Meeting will be March 2 in Jackson; March 7 Camp Meeting will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Camp; March 8 & 9 there will be a Living History at Ft. Pemberton in Greenwood; the National Heritage Rally and Presidential Library dedication will be at Beauvoir on March 16th; April 6th will be a symposium at Cottonlandia Museum on the War; April 14th will be the Camp's Confederate Memorial Service; April 20th will be the rededication of Soldier's Rest in Vicksburg; April 27th is Division Confederate Memorial Service at Beauvoir; MS Division Reunion will be June 21-23 in Pearl; and SCV National Reunion in Vicksburg July 18-20.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney announced the speaker for March will be Bert King, commander of the Hattiesburg Camp who will speak on the Mechanized Cavalry. 2nd Lt. Commander Junior Stillman reported on the funeral service of Compatriot Dee Taylor and how the family was coping with the loss. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that Camp membership was now 52. He also reported that new and past members could now prorate their National and Division Dues which would save them a little money. As Camp Editor, Larry inquired about everyone receiving the Camp Newsletter. As AOT Councilman, Larry reported that AOT Commander Tom Strain intends to run for 1st Lt. Commander-in-Chief. This was decided because Mark Evans from South Carolina intended to run for the same office which would give SC too many members on the GEC. He also announced that the GEC would fight the renaming of Forrest, Jeff Davis and Confederate Parks in Memphis by the City Council. Division Commander Alan Palmer reported that the hotels in Vicksburg were filling fast for the Reunion. He also reported that members of the Division will be meeting with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves to discuss legislation that would help with the Shiloh Monument, preservation of the Battle Flags and the car tag issue. OCR President Annette McCluney reported that the funds raised at the Lee-Jackson Banquet were enough for the Ella Palmer Chapter to pay the traveling expenses for Kirk Fields and his wife to come to Greenwood for the opening of the "War Comes to the Delta Exhibit".

Camp Business: The first order of business was a motion made by Dan McCaskill to hold the Camp's Confederate Memorial Service on Sunday, April 14th at 3:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Jimmy Alford. After some discussion, the motion passed. It was also decided that Junior Stillman would ask Brother Richard Hill to be our speaker. The next order of business was a motion by Dan McCaskill that the Camp purchase a half page ad in the National Reunion Program as a showoff support. A second was made by George Brumfield and the motion passed. The final order of business was the Financial Report and Proposed 2013 Budget presented by Adjutant Dan McCaskill. After little discussion, a motion was made and duly seconded to accept the Financial Report and approve the Camp Budget. The motion passed. With no other business coming before the Camp, Commander Nokes turned over the Meeting to the ladies for the raffle and Capture the Yankee. With no other business, the Meeting was adjourned with a word of prayer from Junior Stillman. Attendance for the Meeting was 20.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan McCaskill, Adj..

Order of Confederate Rose News

Ladies,

We will have sandwiches at our Thursday meeting using the leftover meat from the Banquet once again I think everyone enjoyed that at our February meeting. I need people to bring bread, condiments, chips, dips, snacks and drinks. We will be discussing State and National plans for Convention so I hope everyone turns out. We also need to make plans for Confederate Memorial Day Service at Greenville to be held on April 14. I want to remind everyone of the Symposium at the Museum of the MS Delta on April 6.

Annette McCluney, President

Mississippi Mechanized Cavalry News

Hi Guys,

Captain King is going to make a presentation to our SCV Camp at the March meeting. While there he will swear-in our 2 newest members, Steve Sweet & Mike Campbell.

The next Cavalry event is going to be at Beauvoir on March 16th. In addition to the dedication of the new library there will be a parade and other events. Captain King informed me that Colonel Stone is going to attend, so this will probably be our best chance ever to meet and talk to him. In addition there will be cavalrymen from other states, so let's make a good showing. We will leave Greenwood the morning of Friday, March 15th on our bikes. Some wives are going, so bring yours if you can talk her into the trip. We are staying at the New Motel 6 on Beach Blvd. only .8 miles from Beauvoir. There are many other activities going on in Biloxi that weekend, such as a Ford Mustang Rally and a Volkswagen Rally.

The next Cavalry event will be the rededication of the monument at Soldiers Rest in Vicksburg on April 20th. This will be a down and back the same day trip. More details on that later.

I encourage to familiarize yourself with our company website, <http://www.scvmc1g.org/>. Pay particular attention to the calendar of events. There are many events taking place this year and the calendar is full of them.

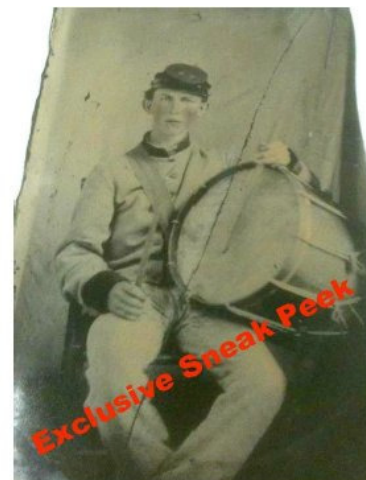
After we go on Daylight Savings Time I would like for us to start taking trips to battlefields in Mississippi. Most of them we can do in a day, but to do the Corinth, luka, and Shiloh we should plan on an overnigher. Be thinking about which we should attend first. Any questions, suggestions or comments, either call (662-897-8146) or email me.

Richard Dillon

War Comes to the MS Delta Report

Well it seems the exhibits at the Museum of the MS Delta is a hit. They are still being well attended and for Black History month, Minor Buchanan presented a power point presentation on Holt Collier. Cheyl Taylor reports that over 80 people attended that night and almost everyone bought a book.

On March 9, the Camp reenactors will be involved with a Living History at Fort Pemberton in the observance of the 150th Anniversary of the battle. On April 6, the Museum will have a Symposium on the War on the MS Delta and the Camp reenactors will be involved in a Living History at the fort as well.



Mississippi Division News:

Thank You from the Taylors

Three weeks ago Christopher Dee Taylor, our grandson's life ended tragically. Dee as he was known by all, possessed a vibrant personality, a Honor Roll student, member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Boy Scouts of America and a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. In February of 2006 Dee made his profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. It was my privilege as his grandfather to baptize him in to the fellowship of Faith Baptist Church. Dee lived with us off and on for several years and the grandfather/grandson relationship was close. We shared many conversations, many talks about life and about our faith. His sudden and tragic death devastated our family, to say the least, and even now we are finding it hard to adjust. This has been said so that you will know that everything that you have done has been used of God to help heal the wound. Our family appreciates each condolence sent, whether by US Postal Service, e-mail, phone call or other means, when they are combined they form a hedge of comfort, love and understanding around us. We appreciate the love offerings given in Dee's memory. We are deeply grateful for all the prayers offered up to God on our behalf. From the local Camps throughout the Mississippi Division, The Army of Tennessee, and the National Headquarters, the outpouring of care and compassion was heart touching and healing. The Sons of Confederate Veterans is a family, and as a family, has diligently, with heart felt emotion, ministered to our family when we needed it the most.

Continue to pray for us. Romans 8:28 is still true, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Thank you from all of us!

James & Linda Taylor, grandparents; Rodney & Melissa Gray, Dee's mother and step-father; Jami Sierra Taylor & Talia Stovall, sister and neice; Christopher Armstrong, Dee's father; Jimmy & Mellissa Taylor & Jimiann, Uncle and Aunt and cousin; Stephanie & Scottie Bardo & Breanna & Amayiah, Aunt, Uncle and cousins

Mississippi Troops in Georgia Need Our Support

Dear Cmdr Palmer,

I hope this letter finds you well and your Division growing. The John McIntosh Kell Camp 107 in Griffin, Georgia is taking on a special project and we would like for your Division to help us out. Here in Griffin, we have a Confederate Cemetery called Stonewall. There are 571 Confederates buried there and so far, we have identified 65 Mississippi Soldiers but there maybe more. Our camp would like to decorate their grave with a 12" x 12" Confederate Battle Flag on Confederate Memorial Day each year but we just simply don't have the money to do so. The cost for the flag is \$1.00

If your Division would like to purchase a flag for each of the soldiers above, please make the check out to: John McIntosh Kell Camp 107 or Ruffin Flag Company and send it to :

Charles Kelly Barrow
1st Lt. Commander, John McIntosh Kell Camp 107, SCV
621 Forrest Avenue
Griffin, Georgia 30224

Thank you for your time
Deo Vindice!

Charles Kelly Barrow, 1st Lt. .Cmdr,

National Heritage Rally March 16th

There will be a National SCV parade and rally starting at the Coast Coliseum and ending at Beauvoir House. All present for this event will be allowed to go inside the new Presidential Library. This is not the official dedication, but a chance for us members to get a sneek peek of the new structure. It should be a lot of fun.

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

SCV MEMBERS NAME(S): _____

TITLE: _____ SCV CAMP & NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # (H) _____ (C) _____ EMAIL _____

SPOUSE NAME (for badge): _____

OCR MEMBERS NAME(S): _____

OCR CHAPTER NAME AND NUMBER: _____

GUEST NAME: _____

GUEST NAME: _____

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

REGISTRATION AMOUNTS

SCV on or before June 07, 2013.....\$30.00 each for registrationQTY _____ \$ _____

SCV after June 07, 2013.....\$35.00 each for registrationQTY _____ \$ _____

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

Ancestor Memorial: Each memorial is \$10.00..... QTY _____ \$ _____

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

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

Banquet Registration (per plate) \$30.00Qty _____ \$ _____

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

Make Checks Payable to: Lowry Rifles Camp #1740

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

CONTACT INFORMATION: Bill Hinson: (H) 601-936-9048; or email: BHLH87@aol.com

Convention Hotel: Cabot Lodge-Millsaps, Jackson, Ms. Reservations can be made by calling: 601-948-8650, ask for the Mississippi Division, SCV Convention Rates. Rates are \$109.00 + tax per night and plus happy hour from 5:30pm-7:30pm for hotel guest only. Reservations MUST BE MADE before June 07, 2013.

National SCV News: Heritage Report

Compatriots:

I wrote to you the other day about the VMFA situation, but as you know, there are great problems in Memphis -- specifically, renaming of parks as a means of demeaning our Confederate heroes. Our men there have a legal defense fund, also. Their information follows my message.

Note: Alabama Division checked in quickly w/ a donation on the VMFA issue.

PLEASE CONSIDER BOTH OF THESE BATTLES. THIS IS AS SIMPLE AS IT GETS -- 1) PROTECTING THE PRESERVATION OF OUR ANCESTORS' NAMES THROUGH PRESERVING MONUMENTS and 2) PROTECTING OUR ABILITY TO PROCLAIM THEIR HISTORY IN PUBLIC.

Gene Hogan
Chief of Heritage Defense (866) 681 - 7314

Gentlemen & Ladies,

Please forward this to all of your members, friends, and associates, everywhere.

The SCV & UDC members of the Memphis area call on you for help. Last week, in an act of lunacy, the Memphis City Council voted to rename our 3 Southern parks in Memphis. Forrest Park will become Health Sciences Park. Confederate Park will become Memphis Park. And Jefferson Davis Park will become Mississippi River Park. OUR CONFEDERATE HERITAGE IS BEING ERASED. We plan legal action against the City of Memphis to stop this brazen attempt to eradicate our heritage. We desperately need the help of all of our SCV and UDC members and friends from all across the country and the world

Lee Millar
SCV Spokesman, Memphis

SCV & UDC

Join us to Save our Parks

The Memphis City Council has passed a resolution to change the names of our 3 Southern 100-year old parks.

We MUST Preserve our history. We will FIGHT this injustice.

Help us save Forrest Park, Confederate Park and Jefferson Davis Park

Contribute to the Park Defense Fund:

Mail your check to : PO Box 11141 Memphis, TN 38111

If you can send \$100, or even \$20, or more, it will help in our upcoming legal actions against the city.

citizenstosaveourparks@gmail.com <http://citizenstosaveourparks.org/>

N. B. Forrest Camp 215, R. E. Lee Camp 1640, Wigfall Greys Camp 1560, J. R. Chalmers Camp 1312, General Forrest UDC 1194, Gayoso UDC 2423, Memphis

Sesquicentennial Article

WALTER WILLIAMS: Would an uncensored Lincoln win an Oscar tonight?

Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" has been a box-office hit and nominated for 12 Academy Awards, including best picture, best director and best actor for Daniel Day-Lewis, who portrayed our 16th president.

I haven't seen the movie; therefore, this column is not about the movie but about a man deified by many.

My colleague Thomas DiLorenzo, economics professor at Loyola University Maryland, exposed some of the Lincoln myth in his 2006 book, "Lincoln Unmasked."

Now comes Joseph Fallon, cultural intelligence analyst and former U.S. Army Intelligence Center instructor, with his new e-book, "Lincoln Uncensored."

Fallon's book examines 10 volumes of collected writings and speeches of Lincoln's, which include passages on slavery, secession, equality of blacks and emancipation. We don't have to rely upon anyone's interpretation. Just read his words to see what you make of them.

In an 1858 letter, Lincoln said, "I have declared a thousand times, and now repeat that, in my opinion neither the General Government, nor any other power outside of the slave states, can constitutionally or rightfully interfere with slaves or slavery where it already exists.

In a Springfield, Ill., speech, he explained, "My declarations upon this subject of negro slavery may be misrepresented, but can not be misunderstood. I have said that I do not understand the Declaration (of Independence) to mean that all men were created equal in all respects."

Debating with Sen. Stephen Douglas, Lincoln said, "I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of ... making voters or jurors of Negroes nor of qualifying them to hold office nor to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races, which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality."

Continued on page 6 . . .

Walter Williams Continued . . .

You say, "His Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves! That proves he was against slavery."

Lincoln's words: "I view the matter (Emancipation Proclamation) as a practical war measure, to be decided upon according to the advantages or disadvantages it may offer to the suppression of the rebellion." He also wrote: "I will also concede that emancipation would help us in Europe, and convince them that we are incited by something more than ambition."

At the time Lincoln wrote the proclamation, the war was going badly for the Union. London and Paris were considering recognizing the Confederacy and considering assisting it in its war effort. The Emancipation Proclamation was not a universal declaration. It detailed where slaves were freed, only in those states "in rebellion against the United States." Slaves remained slaves in states not in rebellion -- such as Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware.

The hypocrisy of the Emancipation Proclamation came in for heavy criticism. Lincoln's own secretary of state, William Seward, said, "We show our sympathy with slavery by emancipating slaves where we cannot reach them and holding them in bondage where we can set them free."

Lincoln did articulate a view of secession that would have been welcomed in 1776: "Any people anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up and shake off the existing government and form a new one that suits them better. ... Nor is this right confined to cases in which the whole people of an existing government may choose to exercise it. Any portion of such people that can may revolutionize and make their own of so much of the territory as they inhabit."

But that was Lincoln's 1848 speech in the U.S. House of Representatives regarding the war with Mexico and the secession of Texas. Why didn't Lincoln feel the same about Southern secession? Following the money might help with an answer.

Throughout most of our history, the only sources of federal revenue were excise taxes and tariffs. During the 1850s, tariffs amounted to 90 percent of federal revenue. Southern ports paid 75 percent of tariffs in 1859. What "responsible" politician would let that much revenue go? Write to Walter E. Williams, a professor of economics, at Department of Economics, MSN 3G4, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030-4444. Email: wwilliam@gmu.edu.

Battle of Fort Pemberton

The **Yazoo Pass Expedition** was a joint operation of Major General [Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee](#) and Rear Admiral [David D. Porter's Mississippi River Squadron](#) in the [Vicksburg Campaign](#) of the [American Civil War](#). Grant's objective was to get his troops into a flanking position against the Rebel defenders. The expedition was an effort to bypass the Confederate defenses on the bluffs near the city by using the backwaters of the [Mississippi Delta](#) as a route from the [Mississippi River](#) to the [Yazoo River](#). Once on the Yazoo, the Army would be able to cross the river unopposed and thus achieve their goal. The operation would require a deep penetration into enemy territory that was dominated by water, so cooperation between the two services was necessary. The Army was led by Brigadier General [Leonard F. Ross](#). Naval commander was Lieutenant Commander Watson Smith, who was in extremely poor health; his health was an important factor in the ultimate failure of the expedition.

The expedition began on February 3, 1863 with the breaching of a [levee](#) on the Mississippi River, allowing water to flow from the river into a former channel that connected with the Yazoo River through a series of other waterways. The attacking fleet passed through the cut into [Moon Lake](#), through the Yazoo Pass to the Coldwater River, and then into the Tallahatchie, which combines with the Yalobusha to form the Yazoo River, which met the Mississippi a short distance above Vicksburg. From the start, the expedition was delayed by natural obstacles that were more serious than the perfunctory Confederate resistance, so forward motion was as little as ten miles (16 km) a day. Because progress was so slow, the Confederate Army under Lieutenant General [John C. Pemberton](#) was able to set up a fort and block passage of the Federal fleet near the town of [Greenwood](#), Mississippi. The Federal fleet did not approach the fort until March 11; then, the [ironclad gunboats](#) of the fleet were repulsed in a series of gunfire exchanges on three separate days. The Army troops present could not contribute significantly to the battle because of the nature of the ground, much of which was under water.

Following the third repulse on March 16, Lieutenant Commander Smith's health failed him completely, and he turned command over to Lieutenant Commander James P. Foster. Foster and Ross decided to withdraw to the Mississippi. They were temporarily persuaded to try again when they met reinforcements for the Army, but they resumed their retreat when the new army commander, Brigadier General [Isaac F. Quinby](#), saw the futility of further attacks. The entire force had returned by April 12, and the expedition was over.

The [Vicksburg Campaign](#) was bogged down in early 1863, following the repulse of the Union forces under Brigadier General [William T. Sherman](#) at Walnut Hills (or [Chickasaw Bayou](#)) late the previous year. Major General [Ulysses S. Grant](#) wanted to keep his troops busy until he could begin active campaigning later in the spring, so he ordered them to undertake several moves that would give the appearance of activity but would not bring on a major battle. Grant, writing in his memoirs long after the event, stated that he did not have great confidence that any of them would prove successful, although he was prepared to take advantage of them if they did.^[2] One of the operations he put in motion became known as the Yazoo Pass Expedition because it used a waterway of that name.

The western part of the state of Mississippi, from the Tennessee state line to the north and Vicksburg at the south, is a part of the [flood plain of the Mississippi River](#). As such, it is quite low; in many places, it is in fact lower than the level of the river. The region is therefore occupied by numerous marshes, brakes, sloughs, bayous, lakes, creeks, and rivers that in the geologic past were parts of the river bed. Until the middle of the nineteenth century, overflow from the Mississippi continued to pass into these waters, and they could be used as alternatives to the main river for water transportation. One such route left the Mississippi at a point a little south of [Helena](#), Arkansas, passed through Moon Lake (an [oxbow lake](#), i.e. a former loop of the river that had been cut off when it changed course), and followed the Yazoo Pass to the Coldwater River. The Coldwater is a tributary of the Tallahatchie River, which combines with the Yalobusha to form the [Yazoo River](#) at [Greenwood, Mississippi](#). The Yazoo then flows 188 miles (303 km), to reenter the Mississippi a short distance above Vicksburg. This changed in 1856, however, when the coming of the railroad induced the state to drain some of the land for agricultural uses. To that end, they built artificial levees to confine the river to its main course. Deprived of its principal source, the water level behind the levee dropped as much as eight feet (approximately 2.5 m).^[3]

Continued on page 7 . . .

Fort Pemberton continued . . .

The Army and Navy had distinct but not incompatible reasons to get their forces to the east of Vicksburg. Grant wanted to get his soldiers onto dry ground with no rivers between him and the Confederate defense. Once that was done, he believed that he could flank Pemberton's Confederate army. At the same time, he could divert a part of the expedition up the Yazoo River to destroy a railroad bridge that was enabling the enemy to threaten his own line of communications. Porter's purpose was to use his armored gunboats to destroy Rebel shipping at Yazoo City. He emphasized that any enemy ironclads must be destroyed, if possible on the stocks. Although the two services had divergent goals, this did not affect the expedition adversely; its ultimate failure is ascribed to other causes.^[4]

A preliminary survey by Acting Master George W. Brown in the tinclad *USS Forest Rose* confirmed the feasibility of the operation, and on February 3, 1863 a group of some 400 pioneers under Lieutenant Colonel [James H. Wilson](#) dug two gaps in the levee at the site where the Old Yazoo Pass had formerly met the Mississippi. At this time, the difference in water level between the river and the former stream bed was eight feet (2.5 m), so the water rushed through the openings with great vigor, enlarging the gap and carrying away everything in its path. By the next day, the gap had increased in size to 80 yards (73 m). The flow was so great that the vessels assigned to the expedition could not safely enter for several days. The flotilla of gunboats and army transports passed through the gap on February 24 and immediately proceeded into Moon Lake.^[5]

The naval contingent consisted of seven gunboats and a tug. Five of the gunboats were of a type known colloquially as "tinclads," vessels of light draft carrying thin armor capable of protection only against infantry weapons: *USS Rattler*, *Marmora*, *Signal*, *Romeo*, and *Forest Rose*. The other two were the larger and heavier *Baron De Kalb*, one of the original *City class ironclads*, and *Chillicothe*, an inferior second-generation copy. Later, another gunboat, *Petrel*, and two rams, *Lioness* and *Fulton*, would join the expedition. Lieutenant Commander Watson Smith led the flotilla from his flagship *Rattler*.^[6]

The Army contributed nine infantry regiments that were carried in thirteen transports. An additional 600 or so soldiers were sent aboard the tinclads to defend them, if necessary, from Rebel boarding parties that could be expected in an operation so deep in enemy territory. Grant would have sent more troops, but a shortage of available transports prevented him from doing so. The troops were a part of the XIII Corps, under the command of Brigadier General [Leonard F. Ross](#). Later, they would be reinforced by a column led by Brigadier General [Isaac F. Quinby](#), who ranked Ross.^[7]

The Confederates in the meantime were not idle. Lieutenant General [John C. Pemberton](#) was aware of his opponents' intent as soon as the levee had been breached, if not before, and he gave orders to Major General [William W. Loring](#) to stop them. He immediately organized some work details to block the Yazoo Pass and Coldwater River by felling trees across the streams, but they were largely ineffective. The obstructions were quickly removed by Union army engineers under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Wilson. More serious, however, was a fort that Loring ordered to be built a few miles upstream from the point where the Tallahatchie and Yazoo Rivers combine to form the Yazoo. A peculiarity of the courses of the Tallahatchie and the Yazoo is that they flow past each other on opposite sides of a neck of land that is only a couple of hundred yards (or meters) wide.^[8] Here, Loring's men made a barricade of cotton bales, covered them with layers of dirt, and mounted a pair of heavy guns. This hastily-constructed earthwork was named "Fort Pemberton," or sometimes "Fort Greenwood." He had other batteries lining the bank of the Tallahatchie almost all the way to the Yazoo, and still others on the Yazoo. In addition, he had built a boom or raft that could be swung out to block the stream, and in the channel just downstream of this he scuttled a ship, the former *Star of the West*.^[9]

Loring had time to set up the defense because the progress of the Union flotilla was painfully slow. Instead of pushing ahead with his ironclads, Lieutenant Commander Smith insisted that the entire force, gunboats and transports alike, should move together. They could move only in daylight hours, but Smith continued to recoil his vessels during the day. Furthermore, they would waste hours in the early mornings and would stop at midday for lunch. Moving faster than the current, according to Smith, "brings us foul."^[10] Ross protested strongly against the lack of urgency, as did Smith's second in command, Lieutenant Commander James P. Foster. Their pleas were disregarded. Smith's torpor may have been a result of his declining health; he had been sick when the expedition started, but he had stayed on, hoping that he would improve when his fleet was in motion. Instead, he only got worse, and he eventually had to relinquish command to Foster. By then, however, it was too late.^[11]

The Union flotilla finally arrived in the vicinity of Fort Pemberton on March 11, more than five weeks after the levee at Yazoo Cut had been breached. A probe sent out by the Army, accompanied by *Chillicothe*, found that the terrain near the fort was too marshy to support an attack by infantry. The attack would have to be carried out by the gunboats, aided by whatever artillery could be brought ashore and brought to bear. Not even all of the gunboats could participate; because the river was rather narrow, only two boats could engage at a time, and these only bows on to the enemy.^[12] The initial probe was followed by a more determined bombardment by *Chillicothe* and *Baron De Kalb*. In this action, *Chillicothe* sustained the most serious injury of the operation. A shell from Fort Pemberton passed through one of her gun ports while the 11-inch (280 mm) gun was being loaded, striking the shell and causing both to explode. The gun itself was not harmed, but 14 members of the gun crew were killed or wounded. Another man was killed by a later hit. *Baron De Kalb* did not suffer any significant damage, because of her superior construction and because the Confederate gun crews concentrated their fire on the more vulnerable *Chillicothe*.^[13] The next day (March 12) was given over to repairing the damage suffered by the gunboats, and giving them additional protection by placing cotton bales on the foredecks. Smith also landed a pair of 30-pounder Parrott guns, one from his flagship *Rattler* and the other from *Forest Rose*. He also sent ashore a 12-pounder howitzer. They were sited some 800 yards (730 m) from the fort, and were, like the guns in the fort, shielded by cotton bales covered with dirt.^[14]

The two ironclads returned to action on March 13, this time assisted by the shore battery and the mortar boat. The Confederate gunners again concentrated their fire on *Chillicothe*. Although she lost only three wounded among her crew, the pounding she took from the enemy artillery loosened many of her armor plates and generally revealed the inadequacy of her construction. *Baron De Kalb*, although not punished so severely, lost three of her officers and men killed and three others wounded. The Rebels lost some of their men also, when a shell entered a magazine. Although it did not explode, its fuze set fire to the ammunition stored there, and the fire killed one man and burned 15 others. Another shell killed a man and wounded two others. At the end of the day, Fort Pemberton was basically unscathed; the gunboats, however,

Continued on page 8 . . .

Fort Pemberton Continued . . .

particularly *Chillicothe*, had been badly battered. Smith failed to note that the Confederate fire was slackening at the end of the day, their ammunition supply being depleted.^[15]

Smith spent the next two days repairing his vessels and landing a broadside 8-inch (210 mm) gun taken from *Baron De Kalb*. He and Ross decided to make a determined assault on Monday, March 16. The ironclads would be pushed closer to Fort Pemberton than before in order to be better able to silence its guns. They would advance side by side with the mortar boat lashed between them. Infantry would follow in tinclads behind them, ready to go ashore as soon as the guns in the fort were knocked out and a suitable landing place could be found. The planned attack collapsed almost immediately when a series of shot or shell hit *Chillicothe's* casemate. The impact buckled the armor plates in such a manner that the gun port stoppers could not be raised. *Chillicothe* was forced to retire, and Smith decided to pull the relatively undamaged *Baron De Kalb* out of action also. That was essentially the end of the Union effort. Smith finally realized that his health was impeding the expedition, so he turned command over to his second-in-command, Lieutenant Commander [James P. Foster](#).^[16] Foster and Ross decided together that further effort would be futile, so the flotilla began to withdraw the next day. They had not gone far when they encountered a group of Union transports bringing in reinforcements under the command of Brigadier General [Isaac F. Quinby](#), whose appointment predated that of Ross and who therefore ranked him. Quinby ordered Ross to go back down the river to renew the attack, and he persuaded Foster (whom he could not order) to accompany him. A few desultory probes were launched in the next several days, but Quinby found what Ross already knew, that the land was unsuitable for an infantry assault. Quinby received orders from Grant to return to the Mississippi, where he and Ross were needed for the next assault on Vicksburg. The flotilla withdrew from Fort Pemberton for the last time, and by April 14 all had returned.^[17]

Notes:

1. Joiner, *Mr. Lincoln's Brown Water Navy*, p. 125.
2. Grant, *Memoirs*, p. 297.
3. Shea and Winschel, *Vicksburg Is the Key*, pp. 68–69. ORN ser. I, v. 24, p. 258 states that the date of building the levee was 1853.
4. Hearn, *Admiral Porter*, p. 179. See also Porter's orders to Watson Smith, ORN ser. I, v. 24, p. 244.
5. Hearn, *Admiral Porter*, pp. 179–182. Shea and Winschel, *Vicksburg Is the Key*, p. 69.
6. Joiner, *Mr. Lincoln's Brown Water Navy*, p. 125. ORN ser. I, v. 24, p. 245.
7. Hearn, *Admiral Porter*, pp. 182, 184.
8. At present, a part of the Tallahatchie flows through a crossover channel near the former site of Fort Pemberton, thus in effect making the land opposite the city of Greenwood an island. The crossover did not exist in 1863.
9. *Star of the West* was famed for her role in the first attempt to resupply Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor in the final days of the Buchanan presidency. She turned back in the face of secessionist gunfire (this was before the Confederacy was established), and the Civil War was postponed for another two months. Later, on April 17, 1861, she had been captured off the coast of Texas and taken into Confederate service. Her name was changed officially at that time to *Saint Philip*, but almost everyone continued to refer to her by her former name. See Tucker, *Blue and Gray Navies*, p. 228.
10. ORN I, v. 24, p. 262.
11. Smith's health was indeed failing, and he was sent North for medical treatment as soon as the expedition returned to the Mississippi, but he died soon after. See Soley, "Naval Operations," *Battles and Leaders*, v. 3, pp. 561–563.
12. This was at any rate in keeping with Porter's orders to Smith, which told the latter not to use the tinclads against Confederate artillery. ORN ser. I, v. 24, p. 244.
13. Hearn, *Admiral Porter*, p. 183. ORN I, ser. I, v. 24, pp. 246–247.
14. ORN I, ser. I, v. 24, p. 247. Hearn, *Admiral Porter*, p. 183.
15. Hearn, *Admiral Porter*, pp. 183–184.
16. Hearn, *Admiral Porter*, p. 184. Milligan, *Gunboats Down the Mississippi*, p. 135.
17. Milligan, *Gunboats Down the Mississippi*, p. 136.

BATTLE OF HERNANDO

All we can tell you about the upcoming Battle of Hernando is what we gleaned from a February 19, 2013 article by Robert Lee Long in the *Desoto Times Today*. "The battle will take place at Mussacuna Plantation, 5000 Robertson Gin Road, southwest of the historic town square off U.S. Hwy. 51 and Oak Grove Road and south for about two and a half miles near the intersection of Robertson Gin and Clifton Roads."

Compatriot Allen Latimer stated in his article above that it will take place in June. As soon as we receive information from someone regarding ads, dates, times and ways in which members can help, we will pass it on to our readers.

We hope someone will forward information for the April issue. Time is getting close and we would like to see this be successful.



150TH YEAR

BATTLE OF HERNANDO

June 14-16, 2013

EVERYONE WELCOME
GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM

REGISTRATION
FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH

BATTLES
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
AT 2:00 PM

DINNER & DANCING
TO FOLLOW BATTLES

\$5 Admission • Reenacted at an Original Civil War Site

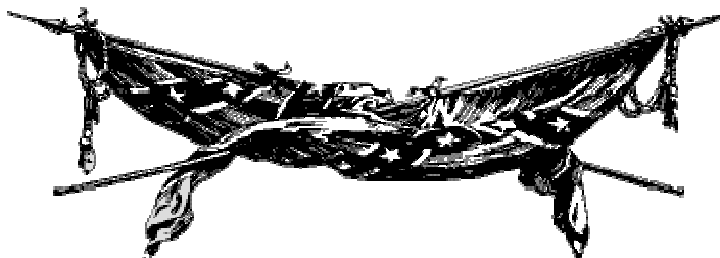
MUSSACUNA PLANTATION
5000 ROBERTSON GIN ROAD
HERNANDO, MS 38632

CONFEDERATE
1896
SONS OF
VETERANS

HERNANDO

VISIT WWW.SAMUELAHUGHEYCAMP1452.COM FOR MORE INFO

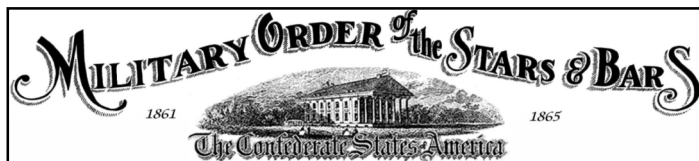
Final Reminder
Make Your Plans To Attend
Confederate Heritage Rally 2013
Biloxi, MS- Beauvoir - March 16, 2013



Sons of Confederate Veterans - 150 Years of History, Heritage & Honor
Confederate Heritage Rally 2013 Biloxi, MS- Beauvoir
 March 16, 2013 Dedication of Jefferson Davis Presidential Library



The 2013 Sesquicentennial Event/Confederate Heritage Rally will be held Saturday March 16th 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.



Welcome to the Military Order of
The Stars and Bars

INVITATION TO MEET WITH COMMANDER GENERAL

Commander General Toni Turk will be in Southaven on April 30 to meet with MOSB members and all others interested in membership in the MOSB. He is making a tour throughout the South visiting with members in their home areas. It offers both the CG and members the opportunity to meet outside the hectic times of conventions. While it is always a pleasure to see national officers at conventions, both Society and national, time is very limited due to schedules.

Here is our chance to join with him, enjoy his company and discuss needs of our chapters and societies. All are welcome. We will include more in-depth information in our next issue.

Please spread the word among members and prospective members about this meeting. He is traveling a long way from his home in Utah to meet with us, so we owe him the respect to make him feel welcome.



76th General Convention
Military Order of Stars and Bars
May 28-June 1, 2013 Holiday Inn, Springdale, Arkansas
Make plans to attend.

THE DELTA GENERAL

1412 North Park Dr
Greenwood, MS 38930

We are on the Web!
www.humphreys1625.com



Don't be a Straggler!
Come to the Meetings!

