



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

# *The Delta General*

Richard Dillon, Camp Commander



## The Death of Stonewall Jackson



May 2016, Volume 19, Issue 5

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

## CONTENTS

1. Camp & Society News
  - Commander's Note – p. 2
  - Adjutant's Report – p. 2
  - Lt. Commander's Note – p. 2
  - About May's Speaker – p. 2
  - SCVMC Report - p. 2
2. Division News
  - Upcoming Events – p. 3
  - State Convention Reg. – p. 4
3. National News – p. 6
4. Historical Articles
  - Death of Stonewall – pp. 7-12

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – Thursday, May 5, 2016, 7:00 PM at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Indianola
- Division Reunion, June 10-12, 2016 at Beauvoir

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## Camp News:

### Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

April has been a grand month for us. There were Confederate Memorial Services within the state every weekend.

In addition to our Camp's service I attended the service conducted by the UDC in Carrollton, Mississippi. Their Guest Speaker was Camp Adjutant and AOT Commander, Larry McCluney.

Larry's speech was OUTSTANDING! I had heard Larry speak on several occasions, so I knew he would deliver a speech that was not to be missed, but on Sunday afternoon, April 17, 2016, Larry was on top of his game. In his speech he listed most every reason we and our ancestors are being attacked for and then gave a reasonable explanation for each. He held the crowd's attention like you would not believe. I only wish more of you had taken advantage of the opportunity to hear his oratory. GREAT JOB, Larry!!!

## Camp Meeting, April, 2016

### Adjutant's Report – Larry McCluney

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

7:30 PM – Business – A reminder was given about the Carrollton Memorial, Division Memorial at Beauvoir, and Oxford Memorial. The OCR reported three new Chapters in Ponotoc, Brandon, and Florence, MS. Commander Dillon asked Larry McCluney to request Steve Miller to advertise our Car Tag to help boost sales through his contacts.

Program – was given by Ron Kelly of Helena, Arkansas. He spoke about the new information on Cleburne before the war that was discovered in various newspapers and memorials that were given after the war and how they were conducted. He also showed some artifacts that were collected from the Helena Battlefield.

Meeting was closed with a prayer.

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

This month, I have acquired a special guest: Mr. Al Arnold. Mr. Arnold's Great Grandfather was General Lee's Orderly throughout the war. Mr. Arnold will be giving a detailed presentation about his Great Grandfather's service, which should give a new look at both the personal and professional sides of General Lee and bring attention to all of the non combat and logistical personnel like Mr. Arnold's ancestor, who made great contributions to the struggle for our cause. It's very important to remember all the folks like Mr. Arnold's ancestors who never carried a rifle, loaded a cannon, or wielded a saber while mounted, but had they never served, we might not be celebrating and defending our heritage today. Remember, amateurs talk tactics, professionals talk logistics. Be sure to come and hear this month's speaker, he will without a doubt be one of the best we've heard.

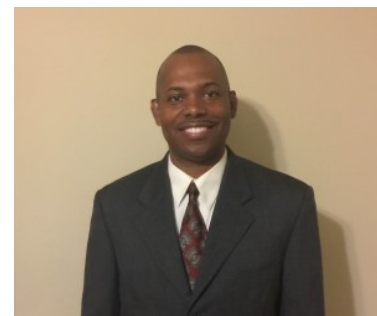
### May Speaker/Program

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

### Mechanized Cavalry Report

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

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





## **Elections at 2016 Division Convention**

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

## **Articles governing Beauvoir**

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

## **Beauvoir Executive director**

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

## **Friends of Beauvoir**

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

Here is an Invitation to give the Past a Future!

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



*121st Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose Reunions  
Beauvoir*

June 10-12, 2016 in Biloxi, Mississippi  
**2016 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Host hotels**

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

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

**Reunion Contact Information:**

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

**Make Checks Payable to:**

LTG Nathan Bedford Forrest  
1353

**Mail Registration Form  
and Payment To:**

Jessie Sanford  
106 East 6<sup>th</sup> ave  
Petal, MS 39465

**Reunion Program  
Advertisements:**

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

Please submit  
advertisement information  
and order form prior to  
May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maker of the proposed change:

Allen C. Terrell, SCV #244448

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

#### NATIONAL SCV NEWS

### AL JAZEERA HOST CALLS OUT PRO-CONFEDERATE ‘COMMANDER’ FOR ‘TRYING TO PRESERVE A RACIST PAST’ -

David Edwards --05 APR 2016

Al Jazeera host Del Walters challenged a supporter of Mississippi's Confederate Heritage Month on Tuesday for "trying to preserve a racist past."

Earlier this year, Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant (R) declared April as Confederate Heritage Month, but [failed to mention slavery](#) in his proclamation.

On Tuesday, Sons of Confederate Army of Tennessee Commander Larry Allen McCluney Jr. defended the state holiday as "nothing unusual" during an appearance on Al Jazeera

"The Confederate soldier lost," host Del Walters pointed out. "And he lost a long time ago. Isn't it time to let it go?" McCluney argued that "we should try to remember, respect and revere that particular history."

But Walters wondered if Confederate Heritage Month was the right way to learn about the history of the Civil War, noting that McCluney's Sons of Confederate Veterans website sold the film "Birth of a Nation," which he said was "considered to be one of the most racist films ever made."

"How do you bridge that gap between people who say you are trying to preserve a past, while others argue you are trying to preserve a racist past?" Walters asked.

"That a matter of opinion," McCluney replied. "Because in our organization, we have blacks, we have Jews, we have people from various different backgrounds that are members because we were a diversified army during that time during the Civil War."

The Army of Tennessee commander added that "Birth of a Nation" was labeled as racist today, but was not considered racist when it was made in 1915.

"We wouldn't fly the Imperial flag of Japan or the Nazi flag in this country," Walters said. "They won't fly it in Japan, they won't fly it Germany. So why should this country fly the Confederate flag and celebrate these causes when the South lost the Civil War."

"We are remembering the actions of those men that defended their homes from an invasion," McCluney insisted, adding that it was unfair to single out the Confederate flag when racists also flew the American flag and the Christian flag.

"The South itself is a very distinct region," he said. "If you look at it from a conservative point of view, I would say the North and the South is still divided."

Watch the video from Al Jazeera America, broadcast April 5, 2016 on YouTube.

(Our compliments to Commander McCluney on doing an excellent job of defending our Heritage. We can say that Commander McCluney had the last word on this subject as far as AL JAZEERA is concerned. Their station was taken off of the air as of April 12.)





## The Death of Stonewall Jackson

It was around 9 p.m. on May 2, 1863, during what would later be known as the Battle of Chancellorsville in central Virginia. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, with a few aides, was in front of Confederate lines scouting the federal position. The day had been a horrible one; Jackson, a senior general under Robert E. Lee, had attacked the Union's right flank, demolishing the XI Corps. But the Union troops regrouped and counterattacked, and night fell on a confusing, bloody scene. Thousands were dead; thousands more would die in the coming days. Jackson had decided to venture forth to see the damage and plan for the next day. Suddenly there was a shot; then a volley. They came from the 18th North Carolina Regiment, who mistook the general and his party for Union cavalry. Jackson's horse bolted, charging into the trees. He checked him with difficulty. "Cease firing!" yelled Lt. Joseph G. Morrison, Jackson's brother-in-law and a member of his entourage. "You are firing into your own men."

But the chaos continued. "Who gave that order?" replied Major John D. Barry of the 18th. "It's a lie! Pour it into them, boys!" The North Carolinians obeyed with another volley.

Jackson was hit three times. His horse bolted again. This time it could be stopped only by two of his aides. When the firing stopped, Jackson's men gathered around him. It took a few minutes for them to realize that their general, a living god who ranked just below Robert E. Lee in the Confederate pantheon, had been seriously wounded. "How do you feel, General?" asked Capt. R.E. Wilbourn after he halted Jackson's horse. "Can you move your fingers?"

Jackson could not. His arm was broken. A musket ball had broken two bones in his right hand; a second bullet hit the left forearm. The third wound was the most dire: the bullet struck him about three inches below the left shoulder, severing the artery and breaking the bone. Jackson, nearly fainting, was helped from his horse. His aides supported him as he staggered into the woods to lie down. They gave him a little whiskey, which the teetotaling general resisted before drinking. Then they applied a tourniquet to stop the bleeding.

A federal attack seemed imminent. The general had to be moved. The officers tried to walk him back to Confederate lines, but it became obvious that he was too weak. They placed him on a stretcher, just as Union artillery opened fire. Canister and grapeshot ripped through the woods and struck sparks on the road. One of the stretcher-bearers fell, wounded in both arms. An officer caught the handle of the stretcher just in time; Jackson did not fall.

The firing continued. The soldiers lay around Jackson, shielding him with their bodies. Shortly thereafter, still under fire, they again tried to help the wounded general walk. Again he was too weak. They returned him to the litter. They had not gone far before one of the bearers tripped. This time Jackson fell. He groaned in pain.

Finally the party found a horse-drawn ambulance. Morrison got in to hold the general's wounded arm. At Chancellor's, the house from which the battle took its name, the men were joined by Jackson's friend and medical director for his unit, Dr. Hunter McGuire. "I am badly injured, Doctor; I fear I am dying," Jackson told him. "I am glad you have come. I think the wound in my shoulder is still bleeding." The situation was grave. "I found his clothes still saturated with blood," wrote McGuire, "and blood still oozing from the wound." McGuire put his finger on the artery. "Then I readjusted the handkerchief which had been used as a tourniquet, but which had slipped a little." If he hadn't done so, McGuire said, "he would probably have died in 10 minutes."

Jackson was in tremendous pain, but controlled it, wrote McGuire, "by his iron will." Still, the doctor noted that his lips "were so tightly compressed that the impression of his teeth could be seen through them."

McGuire administered whiskey and morphine, and rode with Jackson in the ambulance to a field hospital some four miles away. There, Jackson was stabilized in a hospital tent. A team of doctors assembled. Chloroform would be administered, McGuire told Jackson around 2 a.m. His wounds would be examined. Amputation was probable. Did the general consent?

"Yes, certainly, Dr. McGuire, do for me whatever you think best."

The anesthetic took effect. "What an infinite blessing!" said Jackson. He repeated the last word "Blessing ... blessing ..." as he drifted off. The musket ball was removed from his right hand; then his left arm was amputated.

Afterward, Jackson seemed to be doing well. He ate and drank and talked to visitors about military matters and theology. He also sent Morrison to Richmond to bring Anna — Jackson's wife and Morrison's sister — to be with him as he convalesced. One puzzling and disturbing episode: a pain in his side. Jackson told McGuire he had injured it during his fall from the litter the night before. McGuire examined him and found nothing.

Meanwhile, the Battle of Chancellorsville continued; May 3 was the second-bloodiest day of the war. Robert E. Lee feared the hospital would be overrun. He sent word for Jackson to be moved, suggesting Guinea Station, some 27 miles east and south on the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad. From there, Jackson could easily be evacuated further south if necessary.

The move was accomplished Monday, May 4. "The rough teamsters sometimes refused to move their loaded wagons out of the way for an ambulance until told that it contained Jackson," McGuire wrote, "and then, with all possible speed, they gave the way and stood with hats off and weeping as he went by." The country people brought such gifts of food as were to be had from their meager stores "and with tearful eyes they blessed him and prayed for his recovery."

At Guinea Station Jackson seemed to be recovering. He settled into the plantation office of "Fairfield," the home of the plantation owner Thomas Chandler, and slept well the first night. McGuire was optimistic. He was also vigilant, strictly limiting the number of visitors and watching through the night while Jackson slept.

Jackson's chaplain, the Rev. Beverly Tucker Lacy, arrived the next day. He held a bedside prayer service, which deeply gratified the profoundly religious Jackson. Lacy later took Jackson's amputated arm to Ellwood, his brother's nearby home, and buried it in the family cemetery, and returned the next morning for another prayer service. That evening, thinking that Jackson's recovery was underway, McGuire allowed himself to sleep on the couch in the sickroom.

Jackson awoke with nausea around 1 a.m. He directed his body servant, Jim Lewis, to wet a towel with cold water and place it on the painful area on his side. Lewis wanted to wake McGuire. Jackson refused, knowing how much sleep the doctor had lost the last few nights. The

hydrotherapy continued until dawn, with Jackson's pain increasing. When McGuire awoke and examined his patient, he diagnosed pneumonia, certainly resulting from his fall from the litter the night he was wounded.

Mrs. Jackson arrived with their infant daughter as the crisis was unfolding. She seemed to sense the prognosis immediately. More doctors arrived. There were consultations, prayers and hymns. Jackson sank into delirium, talking as though he were still commanding his troops. Then he would rally, talking to his wife and playing with his daughter. "Little comforter," he called her, still insisting to those around him that he would recover. He was relieved to learn that Lee had won the field at Chancellorsville, though at an almost incomprehensible cost of 13,000 casualties, against the Union's 17,000.

But Jackson continued to decline, and by Sunday, May 10, McGuire was certain that he would not last the day. Mrs. Jackson went into him and, weeping, broke the news. Jackson sent for McGuire. "Doctor," he said, "Anna informs me that you have told her I am to die today; is it so?"

McGuire answered in the affirmative. "Very good, very good," said Jackson. "It is all right."

He tried to comfort his wife. After he died, he said, she should return to live with her father, who was "kind and good." They discussed his wish to be buried in Lexington, Va., near where they had lived when he taught at the Virginia Military Institute.

There was a farewell visit with his daughter. "Little darling," he called her. "Sweet one."

Before sinking into a final delirium, he took note of the time. "It is the Lord's Day," he said. "I have always desired to die on Sunday." He then began talking as though he was still on the battlefield: "Order A.P. Hill to prepare for action! Pass the infantry to the front!" Jackson died at 3:15 p.m. His final words: "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees."

## How in the World Did They Shoot Jackson?

It's one of the best-known stories of the Civil War: Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson is accidentally shot by his own men during the Battle of Chancellorsville and then dies a few days later. His death, perhaps, alters the course of the war itself.

Today, visitors to the Chancellorsville battlefield can walk the ground where Jackson's story unfolded—but appearances can be deceiving. The land has changed. The environment has changed. The ambience has changed. The ground does not tell the story as clearly as it once did, and even Jackson's own legacy has added to the difficulty of appreciating the extent to which darkness and confusion reigned on the night of May 2, 1863—and what an unlikely accident Jackson's wounding really was.

After fighting on May 1, Union Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker had placed his Army of the Potomac in a defensive position around the crossroads of Chancellorsville, Va. Hooker anchored his army's left flank on the Rappahannock River, 2.5 miles northeast of the crossroads; to the west of Chancellorsville, however, the army's right flank hung in the air along the Plank Road, also known as the Orange Plank Road. The Federal right flank was nearly two miles from Hooker's headquarters at the Chancellor House.

For his part, General Robert E. Lee realized he faced far superior numbers—Hooker still had about 70,000 troops—so he sent scouts to look for a weak point in the Union line. The scouts soon discovered the unprotected Union right flank.

That night, seated on a pair of cracker boxes by a campfire, Lee and Jackson hatched a plan. Lee, with 14,000 men, would hold Hooker's attention. At the same time Jackson, with more than 28,000 men, would slip around the front of the Union army and hit its vulnerable right flank.

The resulting march lasted nearly all of May 2. By 5 p.m., only two of Jackson's three divisions were in position. Jackson couldn't afford to wait for Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill's division, still coming up. He had only a few hours of daylight to make his assault.

Jackson's battle line centered on the Plank Road and stretched past each side of the road for half a mile. When the line swept forward, it caught the Union army's XI Corps, under the command of Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard, completely by surprise. While some Federal units stubbornly resisted the attack, the Confederate advance inexorably rolled forward some 1.5 miles.

"So complete was the success of the whole maneuver, and such surprise of the enemy, that scarcely any organized resistance was met with after the first volley fired," Brig. Gen. Robert Rodes recalled. "They fled in the wildest confusion."

Union battery commander Hubert Dilger did his best to slow the Confederate advance, as did XI Corps brigade commander Colonel Adolphus Buschbeck, who threw up a west-facing line of infantry and artillery near the Wilderness Church to meet the Confederate threat. But it was the terrain more than anything that slowed the Confederates. This area was known as "the Wilderness"—70 square miles of dense, tangled forest. Iron furnaces had been processing the area's rich iron ore reserves since the mid-1700s. To fire the furnace boilers, owners had clear-cut the surrounding forests and used the timber for fuel. By the 1860s, though, a thriving second-growth forest of pucker brush, thick bushes, thorn-covered vines and plenty of scrub had sprung up. The trees, on average, were 30 feet high. Union soldiers said sunlight would not penetrate to the forest floor, even at the brightest point of the day.

This forest absorbed much of the sound of the Confederate advance. While many Union soldiers heard the Rebel Yell that accompanied the initial attack, not one mentioned hearing the bugle calls that signaled it. Likewise, Union commanders farther down the line didn't hear the attack on the XI Corps and didn't know about it until Howard's soldiers began retreating past them, nearly a half hour after the assaults began. If noise couldn't penetrate the dense vegetation, humans didn't fare much better. Trying to stay in battle formation was nearly impossible. Some units advanced faster than others as soldiers got caught in the tangles and tripped on the vines. The uneven terrain compounded the difficulties. Hills and gullies, knolls and swales, all hidden by the brush, further impeded their progress.

"We could see absolutely nothing of the enemy, nor of any other part of our own lines," recalled Confederate Major Robert Stiles; "indeed the entire region was a gloomy thicket and our infantry line so stretched and attenuated that the men were scarcely in sight of each other." "We could not see what was going on around us for the brush," wrote Private David Holt of the 16th Mississippi. "[T]he fighting was hot and close" because of "the thick underbrush."

In an attempt to rally the men of the broken XI Corps, the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry rode into the fray—west along the Plank Road and running headlong into Jackson's men. The 8th was thrown into disarray, losing three officers, 30 men and 80 horses before cutting their way out. The presence of those horsemen on the battlefield would have indirect but nonetheless important repercussions later in the evening.



By 8 p.m., the last traces of sunlight vanished. Although a full moon soon rose in the clear sky, the Wilderness, with its thick foliage, was a place of shadows. The one exception was the Plank Road, which came west from Fredericksburg as the main thoroughfare and along which the Union line had originally been formed. Part of the road was macadamized with crushed gravel, which shone white in the moonlight. The Confederate advance had, by this point, reached the Plank Road's intersection with a country lane called the Bullock Road. Here, the 18th and 28th North Carolina regiments, supported by the 50th Virginia, extended the Confederate line northeast, with the right flank of the 18th North Carolina resting on the Plank Road itself. On the south side and a few hundred feet to the right rear, the 37th and 7th North Carolina regiments extended the Confederate line south. The 33rd North Carolina, thrown out in a wide arc in front of the entire formation, served as skirmishers.

Jackson's keen eyes saw an opportunity in the midst of the tangled forest. He could continue pressing the attack forward along the Plank Road, or he could veer to the northeast along the path of the Bullock Road, allowing him to cut off the Federals' escape back to U.S. and Ely's fords. With the Union army then trapped between Jackson and Lee, Jackson's men could serve as the hammer to crush the Federals against the anvil of Lee's forces. Regardless of which option he chose, Jackson knew he had to maintain the initiative. If he halted his attack until dawn, Union infantry could dig in overnight. Jackson did not want to attack fortified positions in the morning.

As he weighed his options, Jackson decided to get a first-hand look at the situation. But the impenetrable darkness of the Wilderness presented a challenge. The Plank Road offered the only clear path for travel.

Jackson soon learned of an alternative, however. His guide, Private David Joseph Kyle of the 9th Virginia Cavalry, told him of a road that "ran sorter parallel with the plank road and came out on it about a half a mile below." The Mountain Road was an old logging road less than two miles long. It didn't show up on maps, but Kyle knew the road well; he and his family lived on the Oscar Bullock Farm, which sat at the far end of Bullock Road.

Jackson, Kyle and seven others rode forward on the Mountain Road, passing through the line of the 18th North Carolina. Jackson's party rode about 200 yards forward, not quite reaching the 33rd North Carolinians in their skirmish line. Jackson could hear the Federals, not far to the east, digging in. It was all he needed to know.

As Jackson turned back toward his line, several important things were happening almost simultaneously. Not far away, Hill was doing some reconnaissance of his own. He did not have a local guide, however, and did not know about the Mountain Road, so he and his nine-member party took the more exposed route along the Plank Road, almost parallel with Jackson.

Farther down the Confederate line toward the south, a lost Federal unit, the 128th Pennsylvania Infantry, wandered into the no-man's land between the skirmishers of the 33rd North Carolina and the main Confederate line. The Pennsylvanians were quickly captured, but their presence, which had been undetected by the skirmishers, left the Confederates on edge.

Soon a Federal horseman showed up, sparking a firefight. Spooked, the far right of the Confederate line opened up, firing mostly at nothing—and like a contagion, more and more Confederates joined in the shooting. The wave of musket fire rolled north along the Confederate line.

The rolling thunder first caught Hill's party, exposed in the moonlight out on the Plank Road. Only Hill himself was unscathed; everyone else in his party was killed, wounded or carried toward enemy lines on the back of a bolting horse. The fire also ripped across Jackson's front.

"Cease firing! You are firing into your own men!" yelled Lieutenant Joseph G. Morrison, Jackson's brother-in-law and staff member, whose horse was shot in the initial volley.

The North Carolinians were veterans who'd seen every trick—and besides, hadn't Federal cavalry been caught behind the lines just hours before? There were dead horses and horsemen near the road and in the woods. And weren't these horsemen coming from the direction of the Union lines? "It's a lie," the North Carolinians responded. Another volley erupted.

Jackson was around 90 yards from the front line. At that range, a smoothbore musket has about a 1-in-16 chance of hitting its target—and that's if the shooter has a clear range of fire. Jackson's party was riding through a thick forest, in the dark. Jackson would have cut an especially dark figure because he was wearing a long, black India-rubber raincoat. The roadbed had, over the years, cut into the earth so that it ran a few yards below the level of the surrounding terrain; that road embankment essentially served as additional protection. "[T]he thickness of the woods afforded some shield," too, one of Jackson's staffers later said.

Still, one staffer was killed and another wounded; the others escaped untouched—except, of course, for Jackson.

The circumstances had been ripe for disaster: a corps commander scouting in front of his lines; soldiers deploying in the forest, in the dark, in a pitched battle; lost infantrymen and horsemen wandering through the woods; the threat of a Union counterattack at any moment. Still, the chances of Jackson getting shot were incredibly small. So how and why did it happen?

Those questions have been debated and discussed for 150 years. The story has been recounted and analyzed in letters, books and scholarly articles—some of them more reliable than others.

But fewer things can shed light on the story like walking the ground.

Years later, as the legend of Stonewall Jackson grew, people wanted to track down the exact location where Jackson was wounded. But there was considerable disagreement and uncertainty. Eyewitness and second-hand accounts varied. To some of Jackson's admirers, marking the exact spot wasn't as important as marking the general area. Sometime between 1876 and 1883, those admirers placed a granite boulder—the "Jackson Rock"—along the Plank Road, not the Mountain Road, so it would be visible to tourists and travelers.

In June 1888, admirers erected a more formal monument just 20 feet away. James Power Smith, one of Jackson's former staff officers, helped choose the spot. "When we were selecting a location for the monument," he wrote, "the present site was selected, as being on the [Plank] road—somewhat elevated—and as being a fair compromise.... It is only a few rods from the exact spot wherever that was."

Today, a large hedge blocks a traveler's view of all but the very top the monument. But its presence behind the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center—and the original granite bolder 20 feet away, placed after the war to mark the vicinity of Jackson's wounding—can serve as a source of confusion to uninformed visitors.

Eventually, the Mountain Road vanished. At least one account from 1903—only 40 years after the battle—suggests the ever-encroaching forest had swallowed the road by then.

Traces of the road were further obscured when the visitor center was built in 1963. The National Park Service's philosophy then was to put visitor centers as close as possible to the most pivotal portion of the battlefield. The Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center sits astride the original path of the Mountain Road, and only by luck did the building not obscure the spot where Jackson was wounded—although for years, Park Service historians were convinced Jackson had been shot in the corner of the visitor center's auditorium.

As recently as the mid-1990s, historians differed on the exact place where Jackson was shot. The issue was finally put to rest when a team of historians, led by Robert K. Krick and armed with dozens of pieces of documentary evidence, mapped and measured the entire area. They found, nearly lost among the trees, the old roadbed of the Mountain Road, and they were able to pinpoint Jackson's location—some 15 yards off the northeast corner of the visitor center. Today, a newly installed wayside sign stands across the road from the spot.

The Mountain Road underwent restoration in 2007, making it more visible to visitors who can now walk part of its length. At the far end, another wayside marks the farthest point of Jackson's reconnaissance trip. Another 50 yards through the woods beyond that, about where the visitor center's driveway comes into the parking lot from Virginia Route 3, is where the skirmish line of the 33rd North Carolina had been positioned.

Battlefield visitors can retrace Jackson's last ride—from that farthest point of his reconnaissance, then back along the Mountain Road toward where the visitor center now stands. And when visitors emerge from the canopy of trees that arches over the road, they will stand on the spot where Jackson was mortally wounded.

Even so, what they see provides an incomplete picture of what really happened. First of all, modern visitors cannot truly appreciate the nature of the Wilderness. Recent development has cleared away most of the forest, creating the impression of far more open space than actually existed in 1863. Housing developments, gas stations and shopping centers—not to mention the widened Route 3—belie the once-wild nature of the area and obscure some of the key areas on the battlefield. The site of the 8th Pennsylvania cavalry charge, for instance, is now a private resort just down the road from the park's visitor center.

What forest remains has had 150 years to mature. The trees are much taller, and the high canopy casts heavy shadows, choking out all but the most shade-loving plants. There are fewer ground-level plants than in 1863, so the brush is far less dense. Trees and brush have been thinned in the area around the battlefield visitor center so that there's considerable open space. In some places, there's even well-trimmed lawn punctuated by a few tall maples. Standing at the spot where Jackson was wounded, one might think he was exposed and vulnerable. Bullock Road—the location of the Confederate line—is clearly visible fewer than 100 yards away, and aside from the visitor center itself, there's not much in between.

From the Bullock Road, it would seem Jackson and his party were emerging from a tunnel of trees into an open area. In the moonlight, the horsemen would still be little more than silhouettes—easily mistaken for Federal cavalry. But in May 1863, the line of sight from Bullock Road to Jackson was impenetrable. The only open view was directly down the Mountain Road itself. That means six to eight men at most—the men standing at the intersection of the Mountain Road and the Bullock Road—had a clear shot at the approaching horsemen. The other 290 or so men of the regiment would've been shooting through dense thickets.

The ground around the visitor center muddles the story of Jackson's wounding in another important way. The building itself sits on a hillock, which may suggest to some visitors that Jackson had a degree of cover or, conversely, that he "sprang up" from behind the hill as he crested it.

Mountain Road did rise slightly as it neared the Bullock Road from the spot where Jackson was wounded, but postwar photographs indicate that, overall, the ground was fairly level. That means the North Carolinians would have been looking slightly downhill into the cut of Mountain Road with no intervening mound of dirt.

But Mountain Road itself poses the greatest challenge to trying to imagine the events of that night. It is nearly impossible to get a clear sense of road conditions when Jackson was wounded—for starters, the battlefield closes at dusk and hiking after dark is prohibited. The high canopy of the modern forest does blot out most of the light from even a full moon, but the openness underneath belies the claustrophobic thickness that pressed in on Jackson and his men from the roadsides.

Given the four lanes of traffic on Virginia Route 3, there's never a shortage of noise on the battlefield, which, again, affects our ability to understand the environment of 1863. The traffic makes it impossible to appreciate the acoustical shadows—the places where the sounds of battle couldn't carry—that plagued the Union army. As the Confederate wave advanced and battle raged nearby, areas of the battlefield remained silent. Such silence is impossible to find today.

With any battle, walking the ground can help to better understand what happened and why—and Chancellorsville offers many such opportunities. But Jackson's story has been confounded by changes to the site. Those changes have allowed visitors easier access to one of the war's most famous spots—and if the landscape isn't exactly what witnesses saw in May 1863, at least the story is still there. It just needs to be coaxed out.

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## "The Most Fatal of All Acute Diseases:" Pneumonia and the Death of Stonewall

### Jackson by Dr. Mathew Lively

As night fell and a full moon rose in the sky, Lieutenant General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson was becoming increasingly impatient. Although he had just orchestrated one of the most successful flank attacks in military history, he wanted more.

It was May 2, 1863, and the second day of the Battle of Chancellorsville was coming to a close. The men of Jackson's Second Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, had attacked the unsuspecting right flank of the Union army and had driven it back nearly two miles before confusion and darkness stalled the action. Anxious to continue the attack, Jackson quietly rode beyond his main battle line to scout the position. The men of the 18th North Carolina Infantry, however, were unaware that Jackson was ahead of them in the dark woods. As the general and his staff returned toward the line, the edgy soldiers mistook the riders for Federal cavalry and opened fire. Three bullets struck Jackson—two in the left arm and one in the right hand.<sup>1</sup>

With Union artillery fire showering the road around them, members of Jackson's staff desperately tried to remove him to safety. Using the woods along the side of the road for cover, the men carried Jackson on a stretcher at shoulder height to clear the tangled underbrush. Suddenly, one of the litter bearers tripped on a vine and dropped his corner of the stretcher. The abrupt tilt caused Jackson to roll off the litter and crash to the ground. The hard fall caused further damage to the artery in his injured arm, and fresh blood began flowing from the wound.<sup>2</sup>

They brought Jackson by ambulance to a field hospital located one mile behind the Confederate line. Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire, medical director of the Second Corps, arrived at the location shortly after the ambulance. Using his finger, McGuire immediately compressed the artery above the wound in Jackson's arm, stemming the bleeding. He then rode with the general to a larger corps hospital farther to the rear. Still in shock from the loss of blood, Jackson was placed in bed and kept warm, still, and quiet. Two and a half hours later, he was deemed stable enough to undergo surgery. McGuire removed the ball from Jackson's right hand and then amputated the left arm two inches below the shoulder.<sup>3</sup>

Jackson's initial recovery from surgery was promising. So much so, in fact, that he was transported 27 miles by wagon to an estate near Guiney Station, Virginia, the following day; the overall plan being to evacuate him by train to his home in Lexington, Virginia, for recuperation. Sadly, however, "the great and good Jackson" would never make that journey alive.

Four days after his amputation, Jackson began to experience chest pain and difficulty breathing. A close examination by McGuire would reveal the problem – pneumonia in the right lung. Despite around-the-clock medical care, Jackson's health would slowly deteriorate over the next three days, culminating in his death on May 10, 1863.<sup>4</sup>

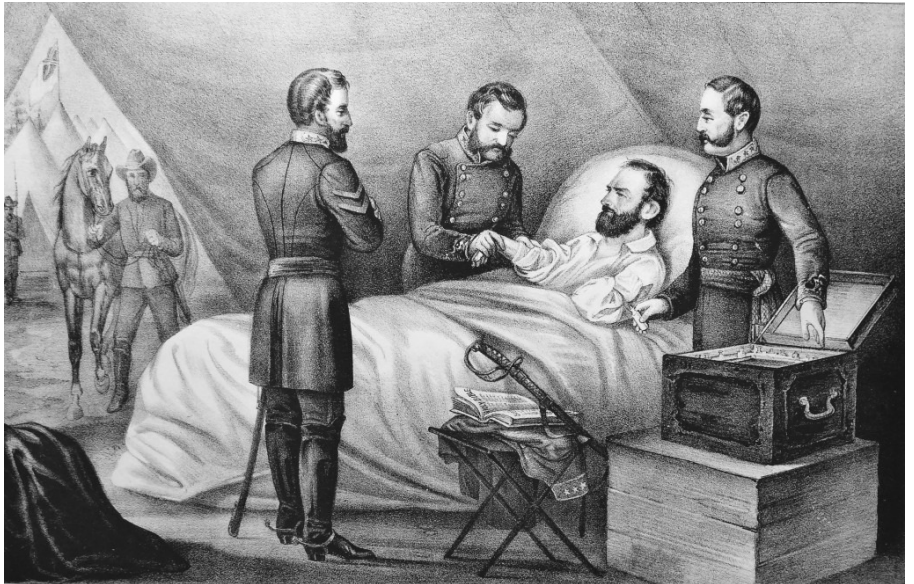
Pneumonia was often a deadly illness in the 19th century. Sir William Osler, considered by many to be the father of modern medicine, described pneumonia in the late 1800s as "the most fatal of all acute diseases." During the Civil War, the illness had a mortality rate of 24%, making "inflammation of the lungs and pleura" the third most common cause of death from disease during the conflict. But why?<sup>5</sup>

In scientific terms, the Civil War was fought toward the end of the "Dark Ages" of medicine. Bacteria had yet to be discovered as a cause of disease and, consequently, no antibiotics existed. This lack of scientific knowledge in relation to disease transmission resulted in 19th century physicians having few, if any, useful means by which to combat infections. Without antibiotics to alter the course of a serious infection, bacteria would often enter the bloodstream and lead to the systemic—and many times fatal—condition of sepsis.

Prior to the advancement of the germ theory, the contraction of disease was believed to result from an imbalance in the natural humors, or fluids, of the body—a theory dating back to ancient Greek medicine. Treatment at the time centered on removing the excess fluid from the body that was believed to be causing the disease. Fortunately, the bleeding of patients as a treatment for diseases like pneumonia was losing favor among Civil War physicians, but other harmful therapies survived. The liberal use of cathartics, or medications to purge the gastrointestinal tract, was standard treatment at the time for most diseases, including pneumonia. Depleting an ill patient of fluids through the administration of such "medicines" undoubtedly resulted in more harm than good.

Once it was discovered that Stonewall Jackson had pneumonia, his physicians began treating him with the accepted, albeit misguided, therapies of the 19th century. He was given mercury as a laxative and antimony to induce vomiting. Cupping and blistering agents were applied to his chest to "draw" the pneumonia out of his lungs and to the surface of the skin. More appropriately, he was given opium, typically in the form of morphine, to decrease his pain and make him more comfortable.<sup>6</sup>

Jackson's physical condition and health at the time were also adversely affected by other factors. The day before his wounding, he had contracted a head "cold," from which he was still suffering after his surgery. Additionally, Jackson had lost a large amount of blood from his injury, and he likely suffered a bruised lung when he fell from the litter. It was in this bruised lung that McGuire and the other physicians believed his pneumonia developed.<sup>7</sup>



Continued on page 12. . .

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More recently, physicians reviewing Jackson's case have, at times, questioned whether pneumonia was his actual cause of death. Some maintain instead that Jackson died of pyemia (an early term for sepsis) that came from an infected operative site. On a pathological level, Jackson did have pyemia, but the organisms that cause sepsis must have a source from which to enter the bloodstream. In the case of Stonewall Jackson, the two most likely sources were either his operative site or his pneumonia. Dr. Hunter McGuire repeatedly documented in his later writings that Jackson's operative site never showed signs consistent with a wound infection. His course of illness was, however, consistent with the natural history of pneumonia when it is unaltered through the use of antibiotics.<sup>8</sup>

So what was the cause of Jackson's death? In medical terms, "cause of death" is defined as the "the disease or injury that initiated the train of events leading to death." For Stonewall Jackson, the most likely conclusion—as his physicians maintained at the time—is that pneumonia was the initial disease triggering the sepsis that led to his death.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>James P. Smith, "Stonewall Jackson's Last Battle," *The Century Magazine* 32, no. 6 (1886), 921-926.

<sup>2</sup>"The Wounding of Stonewall Jackson – Extracts from a Letter of Major Benjamin Watkins Leigh," *Southern Historical Society Papers* 6 (1878), 230-234.

<sup>3</sup>Hunter H. McGuire, "Last Wound of the Late Gen. Jackson (Stonewall) – The Amputation of the Arm – His Last Moments and Death," *Richmond Medical Journal* 1 (1866), 403-412.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup>William Osler, *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*, 3rd ed. (New York, 1898), 108-137; Smart, Charles, ed. *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion* (Washington, D.C., 1888), pt. 3, vol. 1, 751-810.

<sup>6</sup>McGuire, "Last Wound of the Late Gen. Jackson."

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup>Matthew W. Lively, "Stonewall Jackson (1824-63) and the Old Man's Friend," *Journal of Medical Biography* 19 (2011): 84-88.

<sup>9</sup>Walter E. Finkbeiner, Philip C. Ursell, and Richard L. Davis. *Autopsy Pathology: A Manual and Atlas*, 2nd ed. (Philadelphia: Saunders, 2009).