



The Delta General

May, 2012 Volume 15, Issue 4

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



Commander's Corner: Joe Nokes

Compatriots,

I am extremely excited at recent and upcoming events within and around our camp. I would like to spend just a few words in order to relate to you some points of interest. Attendance remained up for our April meeting with over 25 members and guests. Our May meeting will have a "Trivia Night" contest with answers found in this very newsletter. (Please read carefully.) Also, there has been serious talk about reinstituting a Nathan Bedford Forrest picnic and a pilgrimage/picnic to the grave of our camp namesake Brigadier Benjamin G. Humphries. These events would occur during the summer months.

At our April meeting, Dr. Brandon Beck, the author of *Van Dorn, the CSS Arkansas and the Raid That Saved Vicksburg* provided a very educational talk on the link between General Earl Van Dorn and the *CSS Arkansas*. Dr. Beck also sold out of copies of his book (a very informative read, I would like to add). We need to extend many thanks to Dr. Beck for visiting us and to Lt. Commander Larry McCluney for getting Dr. Beck to our camp meeting.

We are continuing to have door prizes (with a raffle) run by the ladies of the Ella Palmer OCR chapter. The prizes continue to be exciting and are varied enough to suit many tastes. In our "Capture the Yankee" drawing, the "Yankee" is still up for grabs. Remember, you must be present to win.

While I am on the subject of the Ella Palmer OCR ladies, let me give them a heartfelt "Thank You" for the planned meal that we had at our April meeting. The ladies have taken it upon themselves to plan a basic meal each month for our camp meetings. Everyone is still encouraged to bring sides, drinks, and desserts to help round out the meal. If you have any questions or want to help, contact Annette McCluney or one of the other ladies for details of the upcoming month's plan.

Do not forget that the Mississippi Division Reunion is scheduled for June 8-10 in Brandon. Furthermore, National Reunion is scheduled for July 11-15 in Murfreesboro, TN. The time is fast approaching for both of these events. We need to complete registrations and preparations to attend these important events.

In closing, I want to acknowledge all the hard work that each of you does each and every day to make our organization a continued success. As Captain Issac Brown took the *CSS Arkansas* into battle with enemies on all sides, so too do we go into battle each day with enemies on all sides. Let us perform as admirably as the fine men aboard the *CSS Arkansas* and thereby honor all of our ancestors during our Sesquicentennial for the War for Southern Independence.

Deo Vindice,
Joe Nokes, Camp Commander

Door Prizes, Capture the Yankee, Show and Tell, and Trivia Night for May Meeting

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

Lt. Commander McCluney also announced the beginning of a show and tell session in May. A member or OCR member volunteer's to bring an object, book, video, whatever they find interesting about the war, and be given 5 minutes to present it to the Camp each month. The goal of this is to get more member participation and involvement in the Camp meetings. Remember this is your Camp and it only works if your involved. Earl McCown will be showing and telling in May.

This Month's Meeting will feature a Trivia Night, another plot to get you involved in the Camp meetings! Bring your thinking caps and be prepared for prizes if you win.

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Upcoming Events:

- 4/28 – Division Memorial Service at Beauvoir, Biloxi, MS at 2:00 PM
- 5/3 – Regular Camp Meeting
- Rienzi, MS Reenactment – 5/11-13
- 6/8-9 – MS Division State Convention in Brandon, MS

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Camp Adjutant's Report: Dan Mccaskill

The Camp Meeting of April 5, 2012 was called to order by Commander Joe Nokes at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Camp Chaplain Earl McCown. Color Sergeant Chris Lewis led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy. After the salutes, Chris read "The Charge" to the Sons of Confederate Veterans given to us by General Stephen D. Lee to remind everyone why we do what we do. A welcome was extended to all members and guests attending the Meeting including two possible new members and a possible transfer. The Commander invited all to partake in the evening meal brought by the ladies of the OCR before getting into the Meeting. The meal was "Taco Salad". The ladies announced that next month's meal would be "Sloppy Joes".

Camp Program: Larry McCluney introduced author Brandon Beck as our guest speaker. Brandon spoke on his new book "Holly Springs; Van Dorn, the CSS Arkansas and the Raid That Saved Vicksburg". Brandon gave an informative presentation on how Gen. Van Dorn thwarted Grant's attempts to take Vicksburg with his raids on Grant's line of communications culminating with the raid on Holly Springs. Brandon also told the saga of the CSS Arkansas from its beginnings in Memphis, building in Greenwood and Yazoo City and its attacks on the Federal fleet at Vicksburg. The Arkansas came so close to clearing the River from below Memphis to above New Orleans. Only bad engines led to the demise of the CSS Arkansas.

Announcements: Our Camp's Confederate Memorial Service will be Sunday, April 15th at 3:00 pm at the UDC Plot in the Greenville Cemetery. Our speaker will be Rev. Richard Hill. Plans for the service were finalized. Other Memorial Services would be Kosciusko on April 21st, Carrollton on April 25th and MS Division at Beauvoir on April 28th. That same day, the Battle Flag of the 46th Mississippi Infantry will be officially returned to the State of Mississippi and will be on permanent loan to Beauvoir.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney announced next month's program would be a "Trivia Night" and recommended that everyone read the next newsletter carefully. The June Program had not been set; July would be a Nathan B. Forrest Birthday and August would be a trip to Grand Gulf / Port Gibson to celebrate Benjamin Humphreys' birthday. 2nd Lt. Commander Junior Stillman was absent. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported the membership renewal of John Kelley who now lives in Shaw. This brings the Camp Membership to 55. Editor Larry McCluney inquired if anyone had trouble receiving the Delta General. Larry and the Commander would like to start a program where any Camp Member could talk about any subject for 5 minutes. Earl McCown reported that the Gen. Charles Clark Chapter of the MOS & B needed a few good men. As AOT Councilman, Larry announced that National has added \$ 5,000 to the reward for the recovery and conviction of the person or persons who stole Nathan B. Forrest's bust from the monument in the Selma Cemetery. As Beauvoir Trustee, the library was 92% complete and should be completed sometime in June. The company working on the library had filed for bankruptcy and that Beauvoir was withholding payment until the library was completed. OCR President Annette McCluney announced the OCR would conduct the raffle of door prizes and Capture the Yankee at each Camp Meeting. The Ella Palmer Chapter would provide some type of meal at each Meeting instead of relying on members bringing something to eat. This would take the worry of the possibility of not having food for the Meeting.

Camp Business: The only Camp business was finalizing preparations for the Memorial Service. The choosing of delegates to the State Reunion was postponed to the May Meeting. With no other business coming before the Camp, Commander Nokes asked Chaplain Earl McCown to dismiss the Meeting with a word of prayer. Attendance was 31 for the evening.

Camp's Confederate Memorial Service Held on Sunday, April 15



If you missed it, you missed a great time that was had by all. On Sunday, April 15, our Camp held its annual Confederate Memorial Service at the Greenville Cemetery. About 35 plus were in attendance. If you did not make the ceremony, please make all efforts to attend a ceremony somewhere during this month. It is your duty as a descendant of a Confederate Veteran to take time out and honor these men who made sacrifices for the cause of liberty.

(At right: Camp Commander Joe Nokes, MS Division Commander Alan Palmer, and AOT Councilman Larry McCluney lead the crowd in attendance in a rousing rendition of Dixie!)

Division News: Beauvoir Update



plumbing fixtures are being installed. The Beauvoir Gift Shop area is now largely finished, with walls and doors installed. The power is now on, and the Beauvoir House is now on the new electrical grid, with underground cabling, and generator backup online and complete. The hardwood paneling is now being installed, and the lighting fixtures are in.

Confederate Memorial Day Ceremonies for the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and Beauvoir will be held Saturday, April 28th, 2012 at 2 p.m. The Keynote Speaker will be Mississippi Division Commander Alan Palmer. The main topic of this year's ceremony will be the return of the 46th Mississippi Infantry Battle Flag, which will be housed at Beauvoir, in the new Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum. **This will be the first time since 1865 that the Flag will have been in it's home state of Mississippi.** 2012 will be the Year of Completion at Beauvoir! Kitchen Replica construction underway! Work is making good progress on the replica Kitchen on the northeast side of Beauvoir House. This is the LAST FEMA/MEMA funded building at Beauvoir. Work will be completed in May 2012.

Work continually progresses on our new Jefferson Davis Presidential Museum and Library building. The Confederate Seal has been installed over the entrance. The decorative masonry is nearing completion, and interior work has made major strides as well. The

Tilled-up marker a link to Civil War era grave



Gloria Bailey wanted to plant a garden behind her manufactured home on D.J. Johnson Road in Edwards. So she hired someone to plow the land. They unearthed more than dirt.

"We started to find these big chunks of concrete," she said. "I was picking them up and throwing them to the side. Then I found a giant piece." Bailey laid it aside and returned to examine it after the rain had washed it clean. "I could see writing on it," she said. "It said 'sacred' and 'Sarah Roberts, the wife of Isaac Roberts.' All I could do is holler, 'Lord have mercy.' I was blown away."

The concrete was actually part of an old tombstone - a grave marker that once stood in one of two Roberts family cemeteries in Edwards. Bailey, who purchased five acres 16 years ago, lives on the site of the Champion Hill Battlefield grounds and often sees tour groups "a tenth of a mile from her kitchen door."

She contacted members of Vicksburg's historical society and local historian Sid Champion V, who leads battlefield tours there. "They are thinking they are some Confederate soldiers or some of their family," Bailey said. "They are supposed to come out in two weeks and do some digging to see what is under there."

Gloria Bailey found this tombstone bearing the names Sarah and Isaac Roberts while creating a garden recently at her Edwards home. / Greg Jenson/The Clarion-Ledger

Continued on page 4 . . .

Civil War Era Grave story continued . . .

Champion, who operates a website about the Battle of Champion Hill with historical information about the area, said the battle that took place May 16, 1863, is known as the decision battle of the Vicksburg Campaign. Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant established his headquarters at the plantation of Champion's great-great-grandfather, Sid Champion. It was located in the middle of the battlefield and used as a hospital for wounded soldiers before burning sometime after Vicksburg surrendered. "As a matter of fact, I've even got the dining room table that was there at the time," Champion said. "You can turn the leaves over on the table and see the bloodstains of the men who were operated on that day." A gold signet ring with the initials 'SC' was later found on the battlefield and returned to the Champion family. Champion said the Roberts family was a wealthy planter family who lived in Edwards before and after the Civil War. "We're trying to find out how many people are buried there. Gloria has got to plant more vegetables in her garden," he laughed. Champion said he and several local historians have just begun researching the Roberts family and are trying to locate distant relatives to acquire more information.

It's possible the stone belongs to Isaac Roberts, who had a house on the battlefield, but Champion says there were several family members named Isaac Roberts, so it's difficult to say for sure which one this is. According to Champion's website, the Isaac Roberts house also played a prominent role during the Battle of Champion Hill. It served as Confederate commander Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton's headquarters and was also used as a hospital.

The house was bulldozed years ago, but a cistern remains in the weeds. Civilwaralbum.com says it's rumored Grant slept on the porch of the house the evening of May 16. Champion said he believes the last members of the Roberts family from this clan may have died in the late 1800s when yellow fever ravaged the South. He hopes to locate a radar detector that may help reveal how many people are buried in Bailey's backyard. "A lovely mystery has been dropped in my lap," Champion said. Is it common to find chunks of history in your backyard? "It's more common than you think," Champion said. "You go digging around in the proper locations, there's no telling what you are liable to find all the way back to the Woodland, Mississippian and Mound Builders time of the Indian periods. "I have picked up arrowheads and things that my friend, who is an archaeologist, has dated back several thousand years. Mississippi is just incredibly rich in historic things."

Board of Director Beauvoir Nominee

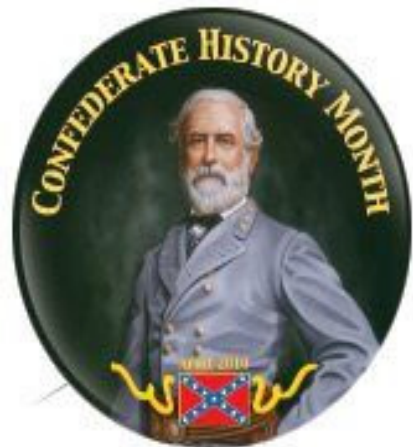
Dear Compatriots:

I'm writing y'all to announce my intention to seek election to the Board of Directors of Beauvoir. As you likely know, I was recently appointed to the Board to fill the position left vacant by Bert Davis. I little history on me:

- I have been a member of the SCV since 2002-3.
- I am a Life Member of the SCV & Mississippi Division
- I have 3 cars with SCV car tags! :)
- Past Commander of Col. J S Mosby Camp 1409 Kingsport, Tenn.
- Past Lt. Commander of Tippah Tigers Camp 868 Ripley, Miss.
- Surgeon of Tippah Tigers
- Mississippi Division Surgeon
- Surgeon in Chief SCV
- SCV Sesquicentennial Society Member
- Miss. Div. SCV Car Tag Committee Member
- SCV Brooks Medical Research Fund Committee Member
- SCV Corporate Sponsor since 2007

There may be more. This is off of the top..... Please, let me know if you all have any questions. God bless.

Deo Vindice,
Christopher J M Cummins, MD
Maj., MS ARNG
Blue Mountain, Miss.



Biloxi, MS. Heritage Rally - Beauvoir

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

FAYARD FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Compatriots of the Mississippi Division,

Beauvoir House is a very special place to me, having been born a few miles from its front gate and having fished as a youth in front of it in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

I love Beauvoir and am asking you, my Compatriots, to consider electing me to a second five year term to the Board of Trustees for Beauvoir. I humbly ask that you look over my qualifications and allow me to serve you on the Board.

1. I have been a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans since 1989.
2. It has been my privilege to serve as your Mississippi Division Chaplain under four different Commanders.
3. Presently I hold the office of Division Chaplain and the Chaplain for the Army of Tennessee.
4. I served as National Chaplain-in-Chief for two terms.
5. In the local Camp I have served as Commander, Adjutant and Chaplain.
6. On the state level besides serving as Division Chaplain, I have twice been Executive Councilman for the First Brigade.
7. I have received many honors at the state and national level including the Rev. J. William Jones Christian Medal, Stonewall Jackson Medal and the Robert E. Lee Medal.

Most of all I feel that my greatest qualification is a sincere love for Beauvoir.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Cecil A. Fayard Jr.

MOS&B News:

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

The Texas Society (Houston) are 75th Annual General Texas. San Antonio vacation spots in the Menger Hotel, built hotel west of the only in the middle of restaurants of San the famous Alamo. is the famous



through downtown San Antonio). Everyone must take one of the famous boat rides.

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

It is never too early to start making plans so mark your calendar accordingly. We encourage everyone to bring their families. Also there will be no formal bus tours. You will have time for touring, shopping, exploring or just relaxing in the afternoon. These kind of things is what San Antonio is famous for. You will enjoy this.

(REGISTRATION FORMS AND MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [HTTP://WWW.MILITARYORDEROFTHESTARSANDBARS.ORG/2012-ANNUAL-CONVENTION/](http://WWW.MILITARYORDEROFTHESTARSANDBARS.ORG/2012-ANNUAL-CONVENTION/)).

and the Texas Chapter #5 honored to be the host for the Convention in San Antonio, is considered one of the top South. Our hotel is the Old in 1858, probably the oldest Mississippi and is located not all the good shops and Antonio but also next door to A step away from the Menger RiverWalk (the river that flows

National News:

Resolution Adopted Against the Museum of the Confederacy

Resolution adopted unanimously by the GEC March 26, 2012

These being the facts: The Museum of the Confederacy has long been on a path to downplay it's role in commemorating the Confederacy. It is opening a new facility in Appomattox where it refuses to display a Confederate flag on a pole outside the building.

Thus be it resolved: The General Executive Council of the Sons of Confederate Veterans does call upon the Museum of the Confederacy to display a Confederate Flag on a pole on the outside of the Appomattox facility. That such a display is both historically accurate and morally necessary.

Be it also resolved: The General Executive Council of the Sons of Confederate Veterans does strongly urge it's Compatriots not to be participants in the opening ceremony of said facility. To do so lends credence to the claims of those refusing to display the Confederate flag in its proper station.

Message from the Commander-in-Chief Michael Givens

My letter to the Honorable Mr. Sam Carter, Board of Supervisors, Appomattox County, Va. You may wish to do something similar. Here is the gentlemen's email address: sam.carter@appomattoxcountyva.gov

Dear Supervisor Carter,

I hope you are well. I wish to make you aware of some rather disturbing events that have taken place at the Museum of the Confederacy. I am the president of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. We have been around since 1896 and have around 31,000 members today. My organization has been keenly interested in the Museum of the Confederacy for as long as we have been in existence. In the past the museum has been a grand defender of the Southern plight to gain self-government and has been used to tell the story of our common ancestors. Unfortunately, lately, and under the direction of Mr. Waite Rawls, the museum has taken a turn to the north. Recently Mr. Rawls attempted an effort to rid the museum's name of the word "Confederacy." He received much resistance from the community and he reversed his efforts (for now). With the new museum in your backyard he is once again senselessly fanning the flames of discontent. It boggles the minds of many a Southerner as to why there is to be NO Confederate flag flying outside of The Museum of the Confederacy.

There is a great deal of angst over this situation and my membership, joined by many others, is incensed. I bring this matter to you today because I know of your love for your community and I hope we share a common bond with our noble past. I would like to see the Museum a success that would not only benefit the truthful history of our region but bring prosperity to your fair city. Two weeks ago, with this same motivation, I called Mr. Rawls to speak with him about these present concerns. We spent over three hours on the phone over the weekend. I know that many people will be determined to see a flag fly outside of the museum and many will make their feelings known by protesting outside of the museum. I pleaded with Mr. Rawls to take action to divert this otherwise unnecessary disruption. But he only gave me weak excuses of not even considering their requests. He told me that your office would be "furious if he put a Confederate flag outside." He told me that the Mayor would be very upset, then he told me that his investors informed him that if he did anything controversial then they would withdraw their funds. With so many stories, I don't know what to believe therefore I am to believe none of it.

Due to Mr. Rawls' past views of the symbols of the Confederacy and his apparent agenda to pander to the politically-correct and the northern dollar, I lean toward the notion that it is Mr. Rawls and Mr. Rawls alone that wish for no Confederate flag to fly outside of the Museum of the Confederacy.

I could have helped resolve this problem long ago, but Mr. Rawls does not see fit to have the opinion of the largest and most respected heritage organization at their table to discuss matters so vitally important to us and our fellow Southerners.

I ask you today to help us change the mind of Mr. Rawls and let's find an amenable solution. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call. I am most,

Respectfully yours,

Michael Givens, Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans
(931) 442-1831 <http://scv.org/>

Report on the Forrest Bust Stolen in Selma, Alabama

Dear Gentlemen:

Please find attached the two billboards that we have put up in Selma - I hope you all approve...we think they look great...and the beauty of the one across the bridge...the long one...is that Rose Sanders will have to look straight at the General EVERY time she crosses that bridge headed to her propaganda museum, i.e. the voting rights museum! The other one is located on Broad Street...the main drag headed north outta town...located VERY high in the sky as well...hovering right over the Cheers Package Store...where the "demoncrats" go to buy their spirits! We think they are very strategically located and both signs are lighted! Hopefully, someone will come forward and be more loyal to their pocket and their "habit" than to Rose Sanders!

Butch & I and the Friends of Forrest want to express our deepest gratitude to the AlaDiv SCV and to the National HQ for committing this money in our quest to find the perpetrator(s) who stole the NBF Bust. This was NOT a scrap metal theft...it was a political statement! James Perkins is going to run for mayor again...and this was a "welcome back" gift! Y'all please pray for Selma...that George Evans will defeat James Perkins and we won't be dealing with him again!

We've just returned from Shiloh...for the Sesquicentennial Battle of Shiloh reenactment...at the Blue/Gray Alliance battlefield. We stayed at the Quality Inn in Savannah...while on our two-day trip there Butch & I spent close to \$1000 (gas, food, event tickets, commemorative T-Shirts, gifts at the Shiloh National Park gift shop, etc.)...which makes me think about all these other Southern towns that we go to (Franklin, TN, Savannah, GA, Charleston, SC, Gettysburg, PA, New Orleans, Corinth, MS, Linden, TN, Richmond, VA, Memphis, TN, Nashville, TN just to name a few!)...and many we have not visited yet...but the leaders of those towns have the vision and the fiscal responsibility to their community to capitalize on their historical assets to bring those tourist dollars into their economy. Selma Alabama is sitting on a historical goldmine...steeped very deep in several eras of history...but unfortunately the leaders of Selma...both at City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce do not have the vision or the courage to take a stand and develop our historic resources to bring those tourist dollars into our extremely depressed economy! As I have said many times...ordinarily when a historical monument is erected & dedicated, you plan the program, the people come, reflect on

Continued on page 7 . . .

Forrest Bust Story continued from page 6 . . .

the historical significance of the day, enjoy the fellowship and then go home & get on with your lives...NOT!!! Not in Selma, Alabama...because we are being held hostage by a lunatic fringe element in this town...that fought against the restoration of the St. James Hotel - screaming that it was a reminder of slavery times when folks came to stay at the hotel while buying & selling slaves on Water Ave...it reopened in about 1999...a class convention hotel - one of about 3 working historic hotels left in the country located on a river bank...this same element tried to stop the Battle of Selma from being produced here in the 1980's....it was reported during those early years of the Battle reenactment that the dollar turned over 7 times..generating over a million dollars into Selma's economy! Also, while Mayor Smitherman was still mayor so many years ago, the SCV National organization was in search of a location for their national headquarters...and were entertaining the prospect of locating in an antebellum house here in Selma...but ohhhhh noooooo....that lunatic fringe through a big fit...wrote to the paper that if Smitherman allowed the SCV to locate here it would only prove Selma to be the "racist" town it always had been! Tennessee...got it! A state that does not require state income tax to be paid!!!!

Now, the NB Forrest monument was erected in Oct 2000...unfortunately, the thug mayor defeated Mayor Smitherman and Perkins became Rose Sander's political puppet. The first 10 days that the monument was at the Smitherman Building Museum, THREE tour buses came to see it! Benny Austin & I held "class on the ground" over there one evening with a group of multi-cultural all inclusive and diverse students from Boston...they left that evening with a totally different perspective about the South and about Gen Forrest...which proves ignorance is our enemy...TRUTH and EDUCATION are our weapons! This monument was put here for historical & tourism reasons...our intent was to showcase Selma's 19th century history and pay homage to the military genius who came here to defend Selma from the invading yankees...inject a shot in Selma's economic arm and enhance Selma's tourist dollars....but obviously this is NOT the priority of "those people" in charge of this town. We listen to Rose Sanders' radio station (Hate 105) and all the hate & venom she spews on a daily basis...it is appalling that the FCC lets her get away with this!!! Plus, it really infuriates me that she is the wife of a looooong term state senator and his salary is paid with our tax dollars that go to their household!!! Rose Sanders & her husband Hank and their partner the late JL Chestnut single-handedly DESTROYED the Selma City School system in 1990...Gov. Guy Hunt had to send the National Guard back in here almost like in 1965!!! But the leaders of this town allow her to committ economic extortion against Selma and continue to dance to the beat of her drum...it was her radio talk show broadcast that obviously inspired someone to steal the NBF bust...she has been very vocal and visable with her contempt for Selma's 19th century history and especially Gen Forrest to the point the police have had to remove her from the city council chambers during the council meetings on many occasions!

This monument project was and is a labor of love for me...it was a dream come true to finally have a beautiful monument here honoring General Forrest who so richly deserved that honor for his courage to come to defend Selma when the battle was lost even before he got here with only about 3000 troops against mammoth odds of James H. Wilson's 13,000 plus raiders! We are planning steps of "extreme" security measures for the monument & replacement bust...and the entire Confederate circle...it will be a "security & beautification" project...and that's what we will focus on for the immediate situation. The WAR AIN'T over yet...we don't plan to surrender! The 13th Annual Forrest Celebration here at Fort Dixie will have a deeper meaning this year...due to the national reunion of the SCV in Murfreesboro, TN the second week in July, our celebration will be held on July 28...we invite you all to come this year...hopefully gas won't be \$6 a gallon...but y'all just pile up in a van or SUV and bring a bunch with you & share the expense! We are planning a special program this year that we feel sure will guarantee you the BEST day in Dixie you have ever had! Again, thank you to you ALL for your continued faithful support toward our efforts here in Selma to preserve our history, heritage and Southern culture!

Confederately yours,
Pat & Butch Godwin
Friends of Forrest, Inc

Civil War Curiosity (Fact or Fiction)

This comes from Compatriot Edd Reemes of the Houston, MS SCV Camp. Did you know that John Wilkes Booth is buried in Guntown, MS? He reports that local family members will not allow the grave to be disturbed using the old saying, "Let sleeping dogs lay." Who knows? You judge for yourself from the headstone that was discovered pictured at the right.



The Virginia Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coin is here!

Compatriots:

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

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

A single coin is yours for **ONLY \$99! No tax, shipping or handling need be added to your order.**

All proceeds from this program will go to the work of the SCV and **YOUR division can participate in the revenue sharing!** This is available to **ALL divisions, not just the 13 states of the Confederacy.**

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

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

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

Battle of Yorktown/Williamsburg, VA – May, 1862

In May 1862, the Confederacy's situation was desperate. The Union Army was advancing up the James River Peninsula, the Confederate ironclad VIRGINIA had been destroyed, and the Federals, having consolidated their hold on New Orleans, were steaming up the Mississippi River and seizing more Southern towns and cities. A fleet of Confederate ram vessels did successfully score serious blows on Union gunboats upriver, but that was one of the few consolations to the South at a time when it seemed that the Confederacy's days were numbered.

Through the end of April and into early May 1862, General George McClellan continued implementing his plans for the smashing blow that would drive the rebels out of their fortifications at Yorktown and along the Warwick river, clearing the way for a Federal advance up the James River Peninsula. Lincoln waited with strained patience. A request for Parrott guns drew a sharp response from the President on 1 May 1862:

**YOUR CALL FOR PARROTT GUNS ... ALARMS ME CHIEFLY
BECAUSE IT ARGUES INDEFINITE PROCRASTINATION.**

Both McClellan and Lincoln were undoubtedly relieved when McClellan jubilantly wired the War Department on 4 May:

**YORKTOWN IS IN OUR POSSESSION.
GEO. B. MCCLELLAN.**

That was perfectly true, but following telegrams showed it to be less inspiring than it seemed. Confederate General Joe Johnston had been waiting in an agony of anticipation for the blow to fall on Yorktown. Johnston knew that superior Federal forces would quickly overwhelm the town's weak defenses, and as Union siege machinery around Yorktown fell into place, Johnston decided it was time to get out.

On the afternoon of Saturday, 3 April 1862, Johnston's artillery began to fire busily and noisily as rain fell from the skies. The firing fell silent around midnight. By the next morning, the rain had stopped, and Federal probes found the trenches around Yorktown quiet and empty. The rebels had pulled out during the night, departing in such haste that they left behind 56 heavy naval guns, nearly all in perfect working order and some even with ammunition left stacked beside them. The rebels were not, however, in such a hurry that they failed to bury cannon shells connected to trip wires. These "torpedoes" killed several careless Federals, and McClellan angrily ordered that Confederate prisoners be put to work to dig up the "murderous and barbarous" devices.

Whatever dismay the escape of the Yorktown garrison might have caused in Washington, McClellan was pleased that he had forced the rebels out of their entrenchments without major bloodshed. In light of his inflated estimates of their strength, this was a significant accomplishment. Now that the Confederates were on the run, it was absolutely important to pursue them and hopefully catch them in disorder. The result was all the bloodshed anyone could have conceived of.

The Federals had been surprised by the evacuation of Yorktown and were cautious because of the torpedoes the rebels had left behind. Union cavalry didn't move out in pursuit until about noon, and the five divisions of infantry that followed didn't leave until hours later. The fact that the soldiers also had to march through a driving thunderstorm did not make their progress any faster, though it slowed down the Confederates as well.

McClellan wasn't supervising the advance. He remained in Yorktown to organize an amphibious leapfrog up the York that would hopefully cut off the retreating Confederates, and passed command of the advancing forces to Brigadier General Edwin Sumner, a 65-year-old regular who had been with the Army since 1819. Sumner was strict disciplinarian with a tremendous roaring voice that gave him the nickname "Bull". His men liked him for his bearing, toughness, and courage; unfortunately, he was also unimaginative and highly inflexible.

Federal cavalry caught up with the rebels late that afternoon. Johnston ordered several brigades of infantry under Major General James H. Meno to struggle to get away. Longstreet to perform a rearguard defense. The rebels occupied the second line of defenses east of Williamsburg,

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arranged around the earthwork fort that had been named Fort Magruder. The rearguard held up the Federal advance for the evening while Johnston and the rest of his men struggled to get away.

The next morning, 5 May, Sumner's men threw themselves at the Confederates during a torrential downpour. A division under Brigadier General Joe Hooker made contact in front of Fort Magruder early that morning and got into a long, stubborn fight. The Federals were eventually forced back as the rebels concentrated their forces against Hooker's men; for some reason, Sumner did not commit his other available forces to the attack. By about 4:00 PM, Hooker's division had been driven back about a mile and a half (2.4 kilometers), but then help finally arrived, in the form of a division led by Brigadier General Philip Kearny.

Kearny was the most dashing general in the Union Army. He had lost an arm in the Mexican War, made millions in private life, and distinguished himself in battles in Europe, leading charges with his horse's reins in his teeth while swinging a saber with his good arm. The war had brought him back home and now he was in his element. He moved his men up the road to the battle as fast as he could, ordering a column of wagons that impeded his movement to be thrown off the road or burned, shouting: "I will show you what fire *feels* like unless you set the torch to your cowardly wagons!" Kearny's men forced the rebels back again, while Kearny himself rode in the thick of the firing to motivate his troops: "Don't flinch, boys! They're shooting at me, not you!" The rebels definitely were shooting at him: two of his staff officers were shot from the saddle and killed as they followed him.

In the meantime, another fight was taking shape about two miles (3.2 kilometers) to the north. Earlier in the day, the Federals had found unoccupied fortifications along the Confederate lines, and had sent a brigade under Brigadier General Winfield Scott Hancock, a burly 38-year-old regular officer famed for his loud voice and fluent profanity. Hancock's brigade moved into the empty defenses about noon where they would be in a position to threaten the rebel flank. Hancock recognized he had an opportunity, but Sumner refused to send him the reinforcements he needed to exploit it. Then, at about 5:00 PM, Hancock noticed the Confederates massing to attack him. Longstreet had finally seen the threat, having been unaware of the empty fortifications, since the only person who really knew the layout of the defensive line was Magruder, who was down sick. Longstreet sent a division under Major General Daniel Harvey Hill and a brigade under Brigadier General Jubal A. Early to drive the Federals out.

The rebels hit Hancock's position hard. Hancock, who was too smart to simply blindly hold his ground, ordered his men to fall back over the crest of a ridge in the rear and then to lay low. The Confederates thought they had the Yanks on the run and excitedly pressed their attack up the ridge until they got about 30 paces from the top, when Hancock ordered his men to stand up and fire. The first volley smashed into the Confederate line, to be followed by more volleys that murderously cut up the startled rebels. As the enemy advance faltered, Hancock galloped to the front of the line and shouted in his thunderous voice: "FORWARD! CHARGE!" -- with the commands framed in a "blue haze" of Hancock's grand profanity. His men rushed forward with bayonets leveled into the now disoriented rebels, who broke and ran.

McClellan had arrived from Yorktown as Hancock's fight was developing and sent up reinforcements. By the time they got there, they weren't needed any more, since the Federals held the field; darkness was falling and the fighting was over. Longstreet had fulfilled his defense of the retreating Confederate army, and his men withdrew in the night. The Battle of Williamsburg was inconclusive, though it did result in plenty of casualties, numbering about 1,600 for the rebels and 2,200 for the Federals. It was significant in that both sides had shown their ability to fight, showing they were not the amateurs they had been at Manassas. Despite the bad weather, mud, and confusion, rebels and Yanks had fought as military units, not as a disorderly mobs. It also bred respect among the troops for their commanding generals, even though neither Johnston nor McClellan had been involved in the fight.

Johnston had been pressing forward with the main body of his force when he came upon an artillery piece that was mired in the mud. The lieutenant in charge of the battery was about to abandon it, as orders were that nothing should slow down the retreat, but Johnston said simply: "Let me see what I can do." -- and in one of the gestures that so endeared Johnston to his men, he got off the horse, waded into the mud in his general's uniform, took hold of a spoke, and shouted: "Now, boys! All together!" The gun was pulled free, and the story circulated around the army.

On his part, McClellan made the rounds of his regiments to buck up their morale, stopping to ask ritualistic questions of his men: "How do you feel, boys?!" "We feel bully, General!" "Do you think anything can stop you from going to Richmond?!" "NO! NO!"

Winfield Scott Hancock emerged as the star of the battle. HANCOCK WAS SUPERB, McClellan wired Washington, inadvertently angering both Hooker and Kearny who felt with justice that they had been through worse fighting, but McClellan managed to placate them. From that time on, the newspapers called him "Hancock the Superb".

The muddy and weary Confederates continued their retreat up the Peninsula, while on 6 May the amphibious move that McClellan had been planning went into operation. A division under Brigadier General William B. Franklin began to come ashore at Eltham Landing, at the head of the York River, to help establish a bridgehead at nearby West Point. Johnston ordered some of his forces to move forward to meet the Federal landing. The next morning the rebels hit the Yankees hard, inflicting about 200 casualties and bottling up the Union advance.

Much of the fighting was done by a brigade of Georgians and Texans under a 30-year-old West Pointer, originally from Kentucky but now a Texan, named Brigadier General John Bell Hood. Johnston had not wanted a large-scale fight since that might have slowed down his retreat, and he later reprimanded Hood: "General Hood, have you given an illustration of the Texas idea of feeling an enemy gently and then falling back? What would your Texans have done, sir, if I had ordered them to charge and drive back the enemy?" Hood replied solemnly: "I suppose, General, they would have driven them into the river, and tried to swim out and capture the gunboats."



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