

The Delta General

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com



McGavock Confederate Cemetery in Franklin, Tennessee

November 2025, Volume 28, Issue 11

Dedicated to the Memory of Brigadier General Benjamin G. Humphreys

Commander's Comments — Michael Anthony

Greetings men and ladies of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp, the Brigadier General Charles Clark Chapter of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, the Ella Palmer Chapter of the Order of the Confederate Rose, and our friends and followers who read this newsletter. By the time you read this newsletter, the ghosts and goblins of Halloween have passed, and we are into November. Hopefully, the days will feel like autumn and not summer! (You never know in Mississippi!) But as we think ahead toward the Thanksgiving holiday; it is important to remember the "thanks" in "Thanksgiving". Yes, the food and family are wonderful, and the anticipation of shopping for, and decorating for, Christmas are exciting, but Thanksgiving also needs to be a time of reflection and gratitude.

In one of history's ironies, Thanksgiving is a holiday born out of our great Southern Struggle for Independence, but it was Federal President Abraham Lincoln who first declared the fourth Thursday of the month as a day to pause and give thanks. Obviously, a day of Thanksgiving and reflection began in the days of the Pilgrims of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. For over two hundred years, there were celebrations of Thanksgiving all over the United States, but only after Lincoln's proclamation of a National Day of Thanksgiving that the holiday we know today was born. As the States of the former Confederacy rejoined the Federal Union, they adopted Thanksgiving as their holiday as well.

What follows is not an all-encompassing list of what I am thankful for; however, it is what is germane to this venue. I am thankful for Private John Samples, the brother of my grandfather's grandfather, who left his home in Milledgeville Georgia to take up arms in defense of his State and his homeland. I am thankful he returned alive from the War. I am thankful for all the men who took up arms in defense of their country: The Confederate States of America. I am thankful that we are rediscovering the diversity of the Confederate fighting force and learning about the Black, Jewish, Latin, and Indian soldiers and sailors who fought in defense of Constitutional liberty and freedom. I am thankful we live in a Country whose Constitution allows the Sons of Confederate Veterans to exist, and to honor and venerate our brave ancestors. I am thankful for our American President who supports true Constitutional liberty and freedom and the defense of, and teaching of true American history and heritage. And finally, I am thankful for my friends in the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp, the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Ella Palmer Chapter of the Order of the Confederate Rose who teach me, make me smile and laugh, and are my brothers and sisters in Living the Charge.

This Thanksgiving, remember to give thanks for your Confederate ancestors; and all those who came before you to remember them and never allow the Cause for which they fought to die. And then remember all your blessing under God; and enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with the people who bring joy and happiness to your life.

Deo Vindice,
Michael

Editor's Note:

Because Commander Anthony may or may not be able to attend the Camp meeting because of a DEC meeting in Jackson, there is no guest speaker. I myself will not be able to attend as well since I will be on another book signing. For our December meeting everyone bring a finger dish for our Christmas meeting, Let us have time for fellowship and enjoy each other's company as well as a meeting.

Looking for New Recruits!

When was the last time you tried to recruit new members for the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp?
Do you ever approach anyone and ask if they are interested? Try it once in awhile and you will find that there are prospective members waiting to hear about our organization.
Don't just wait for someone to ask you first.

Lead the Charge!

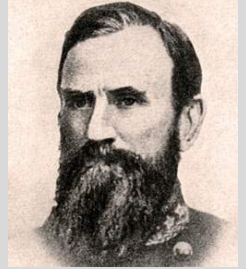


Camp Meeting Saturday, November 8, 2025

The ladies of the OCR would also like that if any camp members like to donate items for the silent auction for the Lee/Jackson Banquet in January please see Annette McCluney or contact her at 662-444-0262.

Camp Meeting Dinner Menu provided by the OCR:

- ◆ Unknown at the time of publication



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Larry McCluney, Editor:
Confederate @suddenlink.net

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Adjutant's Report—Dan McCaskill

October 11, 2025

Call to Order: At 6:00 PM CDT by Commander Michael Anthony
Opening Prayer and Blessing: Camp Chaplain Earl McCown
Pledge and Salutes: Camp Color Sergeant Earl Allen, Jr.
Reading of The Charge: Camp Color Sergeant Earl Allen, Jr.

Commander Michael Anthony welcomed everyone to our monthly Camp Meeting. While the ladies prepared the evening meal, Commander Anthony moved on Officer Reports.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney reported he would be searching for a speaker for our November Camp Meeting. Larry also reported on some changes at SCV Headquarters at Elm Springs. A security gate has been installed and the number of security cameras have been increased on the property. The need for walking security has been terminated saving the organization thousands of dollars per year. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported the Camp has a checking account balance of \$2,464 which includes \$100 toward the Camp's of \$500 for the Camp's donation for the Black Confederate Monument at Beauvoir and \$84 raised at Carrollton's Pioneer Days. The only expenses since last Camp Meeting were registration fee of \$30 for Carrollton's Pioneer Days and a reimbursement of \$76 to Dan McCaskill for the Betsy Ross Flag and Ann's work on the canopy. At this point, 40.4% of the Annual Budget has been spent. **MOSB:** Commander Earl McCown reported there are 7 Camp Members who qualify for membership in the MOS&B and we need to push to get some to join. **OCR: Chapter President** Sandra Stillman stated we need to start collecting items for the upcoming Lee-Jackson Banquet. Items can be brought to the Camp Meetings for donation.

After Officer Reports, Commander Anthony recessed the Meeting for the evening meal of grilled hot dogs provided by the ladies of the OCR. Larry McCluney helped with the grilling.

Old Business: 1) **1894 State Flags:** David Floyd and Dan McCaskill combined funds to purchase a total of 150 of the 12x18 inch 1894 MS State Flags at a cost of \$61. 2) **Carrollton Pioneer and Pilgrimage Days:** the recruiting table was considered a success. A Friends of the SCV was signed up and dues collected; we have one very high probable new Camp Member with five more good chances; \$84 was raised with donations for Flags. Helping out on the table were David Floyd, Ann McCaskill, Michael Anthony, Thomas and Maranda Haik, Mitch Costilow, Gator Stillman, and Mark Hathaway 3) **Confederate Headstones:** A response was heard from the MO Camp stating that the first Saturday in May would be suitable for the Confederate Memorial Service and Headstone Dedications. This will be Saturday, May 2, 2026

New Camp Business: 1) **Lee-Jackson Babquet:** Michael Anthony presented a request for the main entrée at the Lee-Jackson Banquet. After discussing the matter, it was proposed that an entrée be divided between baked chicken and spiral ham. A motion was made by Earl McCown to accept said menu. Earl Allen seconded the motion and the motion passed without objection.

2) **Officer Elections:** With Officer Elections scheduled in December, Commander Anthony opened the floor for anyone wishing to seek an office. Following is the slate of candidates and the office they are seeking: Commander: Michael Anthony; 1st Lt Commander: David Floyd; Adjutant: Dan McCaskill; Color Sergeant: Earl Allen. Anyone wishing to seek an office can throw the hat into the ring at a Camp meeting. 3) The annual 990ez e-postcard has been filed with the IRS.

Commander's Report: Michael Anthony reported that a MS Division Workshop will be held at the War Memorial Building in Jackson, MS on November 8, 2025. The doors will open at 8:00 AM with the Workshop starting at 9:00 AM and should conclude around 3:00 PM. Following the Workshop there will be a meeting of the MS Division Executive Council.

Past- Commander-in-Chief Larry McCluney presented to Camp Commander Michael Anthony the Camp's 21st Century Heroes streamer for its participation in the 21st Century Heroes Program.

Program: Larry McCluney presented a program on his newest publication titled "Paradox of Freedom: A History of Black Slaveholders in America." It was a very good presentation and to learn the whole story, contact Larry for a copy of his book.

Upcoming Event: 2025 Fall Muster at Beauvoir October 17-19. With no other business coming before the Camp, a motion to adjourn was duly made, seconded and the motion passed without objection. The Meeting was closed with prayer and the singing of Dixie. Attendance for the

meeting was 10. Next Camp Meeting will be November 8, 2025.

The Chaplain's Pen — Earl McCown

"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."
 John 5:39-40



Bible study will not give you eternal life. You could memorize the entire Bible and be able to discuss minute issues of biblical scholarship and yet fail to experience the truths found in its pages. It is a subtle temptation to prefer the book to the Author. A book will not confront you about your sin; the Author will. Books can be ignored; it is much harder to avoid the Author when He is seeking a relationship with you.

The Pharisees in Jesus' day thought God would be pleased with their knowledge of His Word. They could quote long, complicated passages of Scripture. They loved to recite and study God's Law for hours on end. Yet Jesus condemned them because, although they knew the Scriptures, they did not know God. They were proud of their Bible knowledge, but they rejected the invitation to know God's Son.

Can you imagine yourself knowing all that God has promised to do in your life but then turning to something else instead? You may be tempted to turn to substitutes. These substitutes aren't necessarily bad things. They might include serving in the church, doing good deeds, or reading Christian books. No amount of Christian activity will ever replace your relationship with Jesus. The Apostle Paul considered every "good" thing he had ever done to be "rubbish" when compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ (Philippians 3:8). Never become satisfied with religious activity rather than a personal, vibrant, and growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Christ desires to enter into a relationship with you; it's your choice, you can play games with your life, or you can come to Jesus Christ. Once you accept this relationship with Him, He will never leave you nor reject you. That's one of His many promises to us.

As you read this, may God bless you in your endeavors to serve Him!





Brig/General Charles Clark **Chapter 253, MOS&B**

Craving excitement?.... Let's look at some: I think the story of the Steamboat Sultana will satisfy your hunger for need of excitement!

Sultana was a commercial side-wheel steamboat which exploded and sank on the Mississippi River on April 27, 1865, killing 1,864 people in what remains the worst maritime disaster in United States history. Sultana was constructed of wood in 1863 in Cincinnati, Ohio, she was intended for the lower Mississippi cotton trade. The steamer registered 1,719 tons, and normally carried a crew of 85. For two years, she ran a regular route between St. Louis and New Orleans and was often commissioned to carry troops during the War Between the States. Although designed for a capacity of only 376 passengers, she was carrying 2,127 when three of the ship's boilers exploded and caused it to sink near Memphis, Tennessee. The disaster overshadowed the killing of President Abraham Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth just the day before. No one was ever held accountable for the Sultana disaster!

Under the command of Captain James Cass Mason of St. Louis, Sultana left St. Louis on April 13, 1865 bound for New Orleans. On the morning of April 15, she was tied up at Cairo, Illinois, when word reached the city that President Lincoln had been shot in Washington, D.C. Immediately Captain Mason grabbed an armload of Cairo newspapers and headed south to spread the news, knowing that telegraphic communication with the southern states had been totally cut off because of the recently ended War.

Upon reaching Vicksburg, Mississippi, Mason was approached by Captain Reuben Hatch, chief quartermaster at Vicksburg, with a proposal. Thousands of recently released Union prisoners of war, who had been held in the Confederate prison camps at Cahaba, near Selma. Alabama and Andersonville below Atlanta, Georgia, had been brought to a small parole camp outside of Vicksburg to await release to the northern states. The U.S. government would pay \$2.75 per enlisted man and \$8.00 per officer to a steamboat captain who would take a group north. Knowing that Mason needed money, Hatch suggested that he could guarantee Mason a full load of about 1,000 prisoners, if Mason would give him a kickback. Mason quickly agreed to Hatch's offer, hoping to gain much money through the deal.

Sultana left Vicksburg traveled downriver to New Orleans, continuing to spread the news of Lincoln's assassination. On April 21st, Sultana left New Orleans with about seventy cabin and deck passengers and a small amount of livestock. She carried a crew of 85. About ten hours south of Vicksburg, one of Sultana's four boilers sprang a leak. Under reduced pressure, the steamboat limped into Vicksburg to get the boiler repaired and pick up her promised load of prisoners.

While the paroled prisoners, primarily from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia, were brought from the parole camp to Sultana. A mechanic was brought down to work on the leaky boiler. Although the mechanic wanted to cut out and replace the ruptured seam, Mason knew such a job would take a few days, and might cost him his precious load of prisoners. Mason and his chief engineer convinced the mechanic to make temporary repairs, hammering back the bulged boiler plate and riveting a patch of lesser thickness over the seam. Instead of taking two or three days, the temporary repair took only one. Following the repair, Sultana boarded the paroled prisoners. Although Hatch had suggested that Mason

might get as many as 1,000 released Union prisoners, a mix-up with parole camp books and suspicion of bribery from other steamboat captains caused the loading officer to place every man at the parole camp on board Sultana, believing the number to be less than 1,500. Although Sultana had a legal capacity of only 376 passengers, by the time she cast off from Vicksburg on the night of the 24th, she was severely overcrowded with 1,950 paroled prisoners, 22 guards from the 58th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 70 fare-paying cabin passengers, and 85 crew members a total of 2,127 people. The prisoners were in a weakened condition due to their long incarceration and associated illnesses, they were packed into every available space. Cabins were already occupied by fair-paying passengers. The overflow and crowding was so severe that in some places the decks began to creak and sag and had to be supported with heavy wooden beams.

Sultana spent two days traveling upriver, fighting against one of the worst spring floods in the river's history. At some places, the river overflowed the banks and spread out more than three miles wide. Trees along the bank were almost completely covered until only the very tops of the trees were visible above the swirling, powerful water. On April 26 Sultana stopped at Helena, Arkansas for a short time. Sultana arrived in Memphis around 7 p.m., and the crew off loaded 120 tons of sugar from the hold. Near midnight, Sultana left Memphis, leaving behind about 200 men. She went a short distance to take on a new load of coal from the coal barges, and then, about 1:00 a.m., started north again.

Around 2:00 a.m. on April 27, 1865, when Sultana was about seven miles north of Memphis, its boilers suddenly and violently exploded, killing many people instantly. First one boiler exploded, followed a split second later by two more. The massive steam explosion went up at an angle, tearing through the crowded decks above and completely destroying the pilothouse. Without a pilot to steer the Sultana, she became a drifting, burning hulk. The violent explosion threw some deck passengers into the water and blew a very large gaping hole in the boat. First the boilers exploded, then the smokestacks fell; the starboard smokestack fell backward into the blasted hole, and the port smokestack fell forward into the crowded forward section of the upper deck. The forward part of the upper deck collapsed onto the middle deck, killing and trapping many in the wreckage. Fire from the furnace room set the remaining structure into a raging inferno. Survivors panicked and raced for safety of the water, but in their weakened condition, they soon ran out of strength and began to cling to each other, causing whole groups to drown together. Passengers who survived the initial explosion had to risk their lives in the icy spring runoff of the Mississippi River or burn with the boat. Many died of drowning or hypothermia. Some survivors were plucked from the tops of semi-submerged trees along the Arkansas shore. Bodies of victims continued to be found downriver for months, some as far as Vicksburg. Many bodies were never recovered. Most of Sultana's officers, including Captain Mason were among those who perished.

The exact death toll is unknown. May 19, 1865, less than a month after the disaster, the Commissary General of Prisoners who investigated the disaster, reported an overall loss of soldiers and passengers at 1,238. In February 1867, the Bureau of Military Justice placed the death toll at 1,100. In 1880, the United States Congress, in conjunction with the War Department, reported the loss at 1,259. The official count by the United States Customs Service was 1,547. In 1880, the War Department placed the number of survivors at 931, but most recent research places the number at 263. The dead soldiers were interred at Fort Pickering cemetery, located on the south shore of Memphis. A year later, these bodies were moved to the Memphis National Cemetery on the northeast side of the city.



Are you eligible for membership in the MOSB?

The members of the MOS&B are descendants of the Confederate Officer Corps and elected government officials. We are dedicated to the preservation and education of the memory of our ancestors and the traditional values of our Southern Heritage.

Address all general business or advertising correspondence to MOS&B IHQ, P O Box 1700, White House, TN 37188-1700. Or you can contact Earl McCown for information. Join in the fight to preserve the memory of the Officer Corps.

The official cause of the Sultana disaster was determined to be the mismanagement of water levels in the boilers, exacerbated by the fact that the vessel was severely overcrowded and top-heavy. As the steamboat made her way north following the twists and turns of the river, she listed severely from side to side. This caused the water levels to be inconsistent in the boilers, contributing to the explosion of the boilers. The official inquiry found that the boilers exploded because of the combined effects of careening, low water levels in the boilers, and the faulty repair made a few days earlier.



Despite the magnitude of the disaster, no one was ever formally held accountable. Captain Frederic Speed, a Union officer who sent 1,950 paroled prisoners to Vicksburg from the parole camp, was charged with grossly overcrowding Sultana and pled guilty. However, the Judge Advocate General of The United States Army overturned the guilty verdict because Speed had been at the parole camp all day and had not personally placed a single soldier on the Sultana. Captain George A. Williams, who had placed the men on board; he was a regular Army officer, and the military refused to go after one of its own. Captain Hatch, who had concocted a bribe with Captain Mason to crowd as many men onto Sultana as possible, had quickly quit the service to avoid a court-martial and then had gone into hiding. Captain Mason of Sultana, who was ultimately responsible for dangerously overloading his vessel and ordering faulty repairs to her leaky boiler, had died in the disaster. In the end, no one was ever held accountable for what remains the deadliest maritime disaster in United States history.

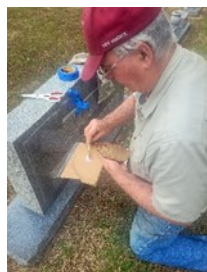
Wikipedia was kind enough to allow me access to this moment in history; and I present it to you; for your reading and enjoyment. There is more to this story, but I'll save that for another time.

Honor of Another Kind



Our first duty in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is to honor our Confederate Ancestors. Even after suffering a bitter defeat in their quest for independence, future generations of our forefathers answered the call to serve the United States in seven major wars and many smaller conflicts. Our fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers, uncles, brothers, cousins, and nephews answered the call to serve, including the ladies. Compatriot Dan McCaskill does his small part to honor these men and women who served their country.

He does this by placing VA Medallions on the headstones of Veterans in the Stoneville-Leland Cemetery that show no indication of their service to the United States. The Veteran's Administration has very stringent regulations and document requirements they follow so there will not be any "stolen valor." Honor is given where honor is due. Out of the 150 applications submitted, the success rate has been 85%.



Denials for a medallion were for several reasons. The most common was no documents were found by the VA in their depository in St. Louis to confirm active-duty service. A medallion for service prior to World War I is not allowed. Others were denied because the VA had issued a niche (5x5 inch bronze plaque) or a headstone was previously issued. With an issued headstone, probing will be required to find the sunken headstones.

To date, one hundred twenty-eight VA Medallions have been placed on the headstones of U. S. Veterans giving them the honor they deserve. This will aid the members of the Rotary find Veterans as they place U.S. Flags on grave sites in preparation for Veterans Day. Just like our Confederate Ancestors, these men and women



answered the call of their country and preformed their duty honorably to their fullest. Honor them this coming November 11th, Armistice Day / Veterans Day, by placing a Flag or flowers on their gravesite.

Side note, the Stoneville-Leland Cemetery is the final resting place for eight Confederate Veterans who are honored each April 26th, Confederate Memorial Day.

BEAUVIOR

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



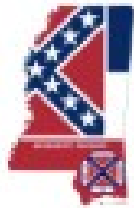
*Beauvoir - Post-war home of Jefferson Davis.
Biloxi, Mississippi*

Friends of Beauvoir

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



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



28OCT25

RE: Division Executive Council Meeting & Workshop

Good afternoon gentlemen,

Things have been busy since our last DEC meeting and I wish to thank each of you for the work you do for the Mississippi Division to honor our ancestors. I wish to bring you all up to date on an important change for the November 8th DEC meeting.

Originally, we had planned to host a workshop and training seminar as part of our November 8th DEC meeting. Due to a few scheduling conflicts and some unforeseen circumstances, we have made the decision to postpone that workshop to our March DEC meeting, which is set for March 14th. We want the best possible experience for our members, as well as a good turnout for this much needed event. This extra time will allow us to not only better plan the event itself, but more time to promote it as well. We will further discuss this during the November 8th meeting. **We will still have our regularly scheduled DEC meeting beginning at 10:00 am in the War Memorial Building in Jackson on November 8th.** We are simply moving the workshop from this meeting date to the next.

In regard to the November 8th meeting, please email all reports to Chief of Staff Putnam no later than Wednesday, November 5th. Brigade Commanders, all we need for these reports are the highlights of what is going on in the Camps of your respective Brigades. Events (both those that have happened since the last DEC meeting and those scheduled to happen soon) and any announcements or issues of concern should be the primary focus. If anyone has anything they wish to have placed on the agenda, or if anyone is wishing to address the Council, please email both myself and Chief Putnam as soon as possible. The agenda will be set on November 5th.

I apologize for the last-minute change of schedule and ask for your understanding on same. My primary concern is that we maximize the turn out for this work shop and provide the necessary information and tools for not only our officers, but also our individual members to be successful. Working together and staying positive, we will achieve our goals.

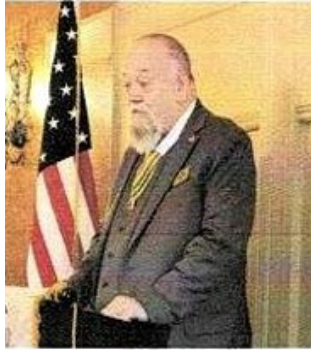
For the Cause,

Forrest S. Daws
Commander, Mississippi Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans

National News

Lt Commander-in-Chief Candidacy Announcement Roy P. Hudson

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of purpose that I announce my intent to run for the esteemed office of Lieutenant Commander-in Chief of The Sons of Confederate Veterans in 2026. My journey as your AOT Councilman has allowed me the privilege of traveling extensively throughout our Confederation, meeting so many of you and, most importantly, truly listening to your concerns. I am now ready, more than ever, to act decisively on those insights.



This decision to seek higher office was affirmed by the unwavering encouragement of compatriots from all three armies. I eagerly anticipate making formal announcements at our reunion in Houston, where I look forward to engaging in meaningful conversations with many of you.

We are part of a truly great organization, and I firmly believe we possess the potential not just to survive, but to truly thrive and grow even stronger! It's time for the SCV to boldly go on the offensive to attract new members and expand our reach, and I have a clear plan to accomplish just that. My vision for our future is rooted in a fundamental truth: the undeniable strength and vitality of the SCV lie within our local Camps. Therefore, I commit to dedicating every ounce of my authority and effort at the National Level to ensuring that all our actions and initiatives are squarely focused on empowering and supporting our Camps, providing them with the resources and guidance they need to succeed and flourish.

With your steadfast support and the help of God, I am confident that we will achieve remarkable success together.

I invite you to reach out to me directly at scvroynudson@gmail.com with any questions or thoughts you may have. I look forward to hearing from you!

Deo Vindice
Roy P. Hudson

Candidate Announcement - Charles Lauret for Lt. CiC, 2026

"I, Charles E. Lauret, am officially announcing my candidacy for the position of Lieutenant Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans at the 131st Annual Reunion which will be held next year in Lexington, Kentucky. I am excited at the prospect of serving you and the Charge on the SCV national level and at a time when the man in charge of recruiting and retention is so vitally important in the face of dwindling numbers. Stepping up to take charge in these times when many historical and genealogical organizations are suffering similar membership issues is no small task. I am eager and excited to take on this challenge. I am asking you to put my experience and knowledge to work toward this goal as your Lt. CiC. I feel confident that with the men and tal-



ent we have, that working together we can not only stop this trend, but grow instead.

I am married to my wife of 33 years, Amy and we have three grown children and two grandchildren. I am a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church and serve as Deputy Grand Knight in our Knights of Columbus Council. I am a Marine Corps Veteran, a retired law enforcement officer with over 28 years of service. I am a 2009 graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, having obtained a B.S. degree in Behavioral Science.

I have been a member of the SCV since 2000 and have since become a life member of both the SCV and the Louisiana Division. I originally joined as a member of the Bernard Eble HQ Camp in Louisiana and went straight to work helping to form the Gen. Alfred Mouton Camp #778 of Opelousas, La. Upon chartering, I served as 1st Lt. Commander and subsequently Commander, an office which I am currently acting in until elections in the fall. In addition to serving my Camp, I have also served the Louisiana Division. I have served as Commander of the Southwest Brigade, 1st Lt. Commander and then Commander 2008 to 2010. In 2010, I was appointed Chief Aide de Camp serving on CiC Givens's staff. From 2012 to 2016, I served as Councilman and Commander of the Army of Trans Mississippi. From 2016 to 2020, I had the distinct honor and privilege to serve in the appointed position of National Chief of Staff for Commanders in Chief Tom Strain and Paul Gramling. I also served as Chief of Staff of the Louisiana Division from 2018 to 2022. I served again as ATM Councilman from 2022 to 2024. My previous service on the General Executive Council for ten years was enriching and provided me with vast experience in the operation of our organization. I am proud to say that during my tenures in all of the aforementioned positions, I have cultivated and always had positive working relationships with fellow GEC members and members across the Confederation.

In choosing to run, I want to bring to the table a positive solutions-based approach to challenges we face, develop plans to continue the making of a larger footprint in the digital landscape, improve upon the efforts that increase visibility and fundraising for the Southern Heritage Center and all of its facilities. I have some great ideas that I look forward to sharing with you in the coming months. Just remember, the Lt. CiC is one person and one person cannot and should not fight this fight alone. It's going to take all of us and I want to be the man in that position to work with you and for you to capitalize on the promotional successes and programs we have seen over the last few years and to implement new and more successful ones. If you want someone with the success of the SCV and its future in mind, someone with a proven resume of dedication to service on all levels and someone ever mindful that all we do is for the honor of our illustrious Ancestors, I ask for your support in electing me as Lt. Commander in Chief in 2026." Charles Lauret Website: www.LAURET4DIXIE.com Contact: clauret.scv@gmail.com Facebook: Charles "SCV" Lauret/Instagram: @LAURET4DIXIE/X: @Lauret4Dixie



Monday and Thursday Nights @7:00 PM CT. Go to Facebook and look it up.

SOUVENIR

2026 KENTUCKY CAMPAIGN

131st Sons of Confederate Veterans



National Reunion
131scv.org



JULY 16-19
LEXINGTON

HOSTED BY THE KENTUCKY DIVISION BLUEGRASS BRIGADE









TO ALL SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, WHERESOEVER DISPersed THROUGHOUT THE BROAD LAND,
AND GIVE YOU GENUINE FRATERNAL AND KENTUCKY WELCOME TO OUR METROPOLIS OF THE SOUTH

FOR FULL REUNION DETAILS, HOTEL RESERVATIONS, AND REUNION REGISTRATION:

131scv.org

CONTACT INFORMATION: KentuckyBlueGrass2026@gmail.com (606) 289-2925



EASILY REACHED BY INTERSTATE OR WITHIN AN
HOUR OF CINCINNATI AND LOUISVILLE AIRPORTS



CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE BLUEGRASS,
JUST MINUTES FROM THE LEXINGTON AIRPORT!

131scv.org



Griffin Gate Marriot

See the Marriot

Lexington, Kentucky - the heart of the Bluegrass!

*We have reserved a select number of rooms - Monday & Tuesday nights are already near capacity. Consider staying at **The Beaumont Inn** in Harrodsburg, Kentucky (same group rates) and touring the nearby Perryville Battlefield early in the week.*

Still plenty of available rooms - Thursday thru Saturday, but they are filling quickly. Reserve your rooms early.

If the hotel site will not easily accept your reservation - call 502-229-2925 and we will increase the number of available rooms.

131st Sons of Confederate Veterans National Reunion

Griffin Gate Resort and Conference Center Lexington, Kentucky

July 15-19, 2026



REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Member # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

SVC Camp Name _____ Camp # _____ State _____

Your Rank, Title or Position _____

Spouse Name (for name badge) _____

DATE:	TIME:	EVENT:	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
ALL		SCV Only Reunion Registration includes 1 Medal (All SCV Members must pay for Registration.) Early Registration at: Houston \$90/After Houston \$110) Registration Ends June 20, 2026	\$90.		
Sat July 11, 2026	5:00 pm	"Welcome to Kentucky!" BBQ No Charge . Please check for attending/how many			
Tues July 14, 2026	6:00 pm	Dinner- Battle of Richmond - Phil Seyfrit	\$85.		
Wed July 15, 2026	9am-5pm	Richmond Battlefield Tour - Lunch included	\$90.		
Thurs July 16, 2026	6:45-7:45	Chaplain's Breakfast	\$55.		
Thurs July 16, 2026	12:30-1:30	Heritage Luncheon	\$65.		
Thurs July 16, 2026	1:45-6 pm	Kentucky Military Museum Tour and Bourbon Tour	\$85.		
Fri July 17, 2026	6:45-7:45	History Breakfast	\$55.		
Fri July 17, 2026	12:15-1:30	SCV Awards Luncheon	\$65.		
Fri July 17, 2026	6:45-7:45	Mechanized Cavalry Breakfast	\$55.		
Sat July 18, 2026	6-7 pm	SCV Awards Banquet and Ball	\$130.		
		EXTRA Ancestor Memorial Ad (1 free with registration) to submit extra ancestor use the back of this form or separate sheet	\$10.		
		EXTRA Reunion Medal (note: 1 medal is included with registration)	\$35.		
		2026 Numbered (1-25) Reunion Medal (This medal is NOT included with registration)	\$110.		
		FINAL TOTAL - Registration Only _____ PAID _____ CHECK _____ <i>Prices for Tours and Meals will be determined at a later date.</i>			

Make Check Payable to : 2026 SCV Reunion
Mail to: Kentucky Bluegrass 2026 / Kris Hawkins
P.O. Box 122 Harrodsburg, KY 40330

The Death of Major-General Patrick Cleburne



In the early afternoon of 30th November 1864 Brigadier-General Daniel C. Govan stood with his Division Commander Major-General Patrick Cleburne on Winstead Hill, Tennessee. As they prepared their troops for an attack on the fortified Federal positions around the town of Franklin, Govan looked out across the exposed plain over which the Army of Tennessee must advance. Their prospects of success looked bleak. Govan was the last to speak to Cleburne prior to the assault, remarking to him: 'Well General, there will not be many of us that will get back to Arkansas.' Cleburne, who Govan felt appeared despondent, replied: 'Well Govan, if we are to die, let us die like men' (1). While Govan did survive to see Arkansas once again, by day's end, in the words of his former Adjutant Captain Irving A. Buck, 'the inspiring voice of Cleburne was already hushed in death' (2).

The Confederate assault against the Union centre at the Battle of Gettysburg, 'Pickett's Charge', has become the iconic symbol of a desperate but futile Southern effort to break their enemy's line. However, the Confederate assault by the Army of Tennessee at

Franklin was both larger and bloodier. The heaviest of the fighting took place in a period of two hours, with the general engagement lasting some five hours. When the battle ended, at least 8,500 Union and Confederate soldiers were casualties (3). The unimaginable carnage effectively destroyed the Army of Tennessee; apart from the colossal casualties experienced amongst the rank and file, no less than six Confederate Generals were killed or mortally wounded. Amongst them was Corkman Patrick Cleburne, the most highly regarded Division commander in the army and the highest ranking Irishman in the Confederacy.

But what of Cleburne's final moments? Captain Buck, who was absent from Franklin due to wounds received at Jonesboro in September 1864, was eager to ascertain the particulars of Cleburne's death in so far as was possible. He corresponded with members of the Army of Tennessee present at Franklin and also collected as much published information as he could relating to his old commander's demise. The results of his research were published as part of his 1908 book *Cleburne and his Command*. His correspondence with Brigadier-General Govan added further detail with regard to Cleburne's movements:

'After receiving his final orders we were directed to advance, which was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. We had to advance across an old open common, subjected to the heavy fire of the Federal forces. We met the enemy in a short space of time and carried the first line commanded by General Wagner [this force had foolishly been holding a position well in advance of the main Union line]. When that line was broken, General Cleburne's object seemed to be to run into the rear line with the fleeing Federal's from Wagner's division. About that time General Cleburne's horse was killed. His courier brought him another, and as he was in the act of mounting, this horse was killed. He then disappeared in the smoke of battle, and that was the last time I ever saw him alive. I spoke to his aide-de-camp, Mangum, and told him I was sure the General would be killed, as I did not see how he could escape with his life under such terrific fire, and as he never again appeared in the lines, confirmed my opinion that he was

The site where Patrick Cleburne was killed, exceptional efforts led to the restoration of this part of the battlefield, formerly the site of a Pizza Hut. General Govan had also corresponded with Captain Dinkins for an article in the *New Orleans Picayune* where he added further detail to Cleburne's experience at Franklin. When Cleburne's first horse was killed under him Govan was nearby, and he noted that the mortally wounded animal's momentum carried the horse and rider nearly to the ditch on the outside of the Federal entrenchments. The second horse was struck by a cannonball from the direction of the Cotton Gin while Cleburne was in the act of mounting. At this point the Irishman moved forward towards the enemy works on foot, waving his cap and encouraging his men to advance. According to Govan Cleburne's body was eventually found some twenty yards from where he had last seen him. Another officer to comment on Cleburne's whereabouts was C.W. Frazer who had served in Cleburne's Division up to the Battle of Murfreesboro, and who wrote a history of the 5th Confederate Regiment after the war. This unit was principally made up of Irishmen from Memphis, and Frazer maintained that the General sought out the Regiment at Franklin, 'charged in with it, and died with it' (5).

The following morning the death of Patrick Cleburne was confirmed. Mr. John McQuade of Vicksburg, Mississippi takes up the story: 'I and two others were the first to discover his dead body at early dawn the next morning. He was about 40 or 50 yards from the works. He lay flat upon his back as if asleep, his military cap partly over his eyes. He had on a new gray uniform, the coat of the sack or blouse pattern. It was unbuttoned and open; the lower part of his vest was unbuttoned and open. He wore a white linen shirt, which was stained with blood on the front part of the left side, or just left of the abdomen. This was the only sign of a wound I saw on him, and I believe it is the only one he had received. I have always been inclined to think that feeling the end was near, he had thus laid himself down to die, or that his body had been carried there during the night. He was in his sock feet, his boots having been stolen. His watch, sword belt and other valuables were all gone, his body having been robbed during the night' (6). McQuade approached an ambulance picking up wounded men and dead officers under the charge of Reverend Thomas Markham. Cleburne's body



was placed beside that of Brigadier-General John Adams and taken to the McGavock residence at the nearby Carnton Plantation. There Generals Cleburne, Adams, Strahl and Granbury would lie side by side on the porch prior to their burial. Earlier in the year Cleburne had become engaged to Susan Tarleton of Mobile, Alabama. On 5th December 1864 Susan was walking in the garden in Mobile where she and Patrick had become engaged. A boy on the street selling papers shouted out the days headline 'Reports from Tennessee! Cleburne and other Generals killed'. She promptly fainted (7).

Major-General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne was initially interred at Rose Hill near Franklin. His body was moved to St. John's Church, Ashwood, Tennessee thereafter; Cleburne had passed the cemetery a few days earlier during the advance into Tennessee and had remarked that it was 'almost worth dying for, to be buried in such a beautiful spot' (8). In 1870 he would be moved once again, this time returning to his adopted State in Arkansas, where he remains in Maple Hill Cemetery, Helena.

The impact of the death of Major-General Patrick Cleburne was keenly felt. No less a personage than Robert E. Lee described him as 'A meteor shining from a clouded sky'. The memory of the Irishman remains strong in the United States today. He has had locations named for him in Alabama, Arkansas and Texas, a Confederate Cemetery named after him in Georgia, been the subject of a number of books, has had a society set up in his honour, a statue erected at the scene of perhaps his greatest victory in Ringgold, Georgia, and a park created at the scene of his death in Franklin. In stark contrast, he remains virtually unheard of in his native country, a situation which it is hoped can be altered in the not too distant future.

(1) Buck 1959: 290-1; (2) Ibid: 282-3; (3) Jacobsen 2006: 440; (4) Buck 1959: 291; (5) Frazer 1886: 151; (6) Buck 1959: 292; (7) Joslyn 2000:184; (8) Buck 1959: 280

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At Right: Statue of General Cleburne in Helena, AR.

Many wounded and dead were spread out on the porch at Carnton

"Our loss of officers in the battle of Franklin on the 30th was excessively large in proportion to the loss of our men. The medical director reports a very large proportion of slightly wounded men."

- John Bell Hood, writing two days after the battle to Confederate Secretary of War, James A. Seddon.

The bodies of several dead Confederate Generals (Cleburne, Granbury, Strahl, and Adams) were laid out on the porch at Carnton (see above) after the battle on November 30, 1864. The South lost 53 of 100 regimental commanders in the field at Franklin. Granbury's brigade alone lost 70% of their regimental commanders. Undeterred, Hood would unmercifully throw his beleaguered Army of Tennessee against Thomas in another suicidal attack just two weeks later, effectively destroying his army. He would be replaced within weeks of the loss at Nashville, having led the Army of Tennessee for roughly six months.

"Following the battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864, the house became a Confederate field hospital. During the night following the five-hour battle, the McGavocks and their two children Hattie (age nine) and Winder (age seven) assisted the surgeons and tended to the needs of the wounded. Several hundred eventually came to Carnton and 150 died that first night. Bloodstains are still visible in several rooms. They are heaviest in the children's bedroom, which was used as an operating room. The bodies of Confederate Generals Cleburne, Granbury, Strahl, and Adams were brought to Carnton's rear porch and placed on its lower level awaiting removal to their final burial places. Most of the over 1,750 Confederate dead were buried on the battlefield, their graves marked by wooden headboards inscribed with the soldier's name, company, and regiment. Over the months, the writing faded, and the markers began to disappear."

The Carnton Plantation is a historic house museum located in Franklin. Randal McGavock (1768-1843), builder of Carnton, emigrated from Virginia in 1796 and settled in Nashville. He was involved in local and state politics and eventually served as mayor of Nashville, 1824-25. Around 1826 McGavock moved his family to the recently completed Carnton to farm and raise thoroughbred horses until his death in 1843. After his death, his son John inherited the plantation and continued to farm the land until his own death in 1893. The McGavocks grew wheat, corn, oats, hay, and potatoes, in addition to raising thoroughbred horses"

The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture



Charles C. Frierson of Company F was wounded while bearing the 15th Mississippi's colors during the Confederate attack at Franklin

CAUSES OF SECESSION: WHY THE SOUTH LEFT THE UNION

FROM ASSOCIATED CONTENT NEWS BY BRIAN TUBBS

Editor's Note:

When I first read this article I thought, hmmmmmm someone is finally going to realize that we were right. Then you get to the writer's last point. This is what we will be facing in the next five years people. Educated people trying to convince everyone that we were wrong and they will be doing it in some of the nicest ways in an effort to make themselves less threatening, more wiser on the subject as authorities, and taking advantage of an uneducated America.

The American Civil War remains the bloodiest war in American history, costing more lives than any other conflict ever fought on North American soil.

When Confederate General Robert E. Lee sat down with Union General Ulysses S. Grant to surrender the legendary Army of Northern Virginia, the American Civil War was in its fourth year -- and had claimed the lives of over 600,000 Americans. This did not include the hundreds of thousands wounded (in many cases, in both body and soul) and the unprecedented devastation the war had brought to families, communities, and society overall.

Though the shooting has long since stopped, the controversy in many ways continues on. What caused the American Civil War? Could it have been prevented? What lessons should we as Americans today learn from it?

States' Rights vs. a Strong Central Government

The most significant dividing point between North and South, which led eventually to war, was the issue of states' rights. Obviously, the flashpoint of this disagreement centered around slavery, but North and South had sparred over this philosophy on other issues as well, including tariff policy. The South believed that the states were sovereign and were obliged to the U.S. government, only so long as they voluntarily consented to the U.S. Constitution. By contrast, the Unionists held that the states were subordinate to the U.S. Constitution and part of a perpetual Union.

The Civil War was fought over this fundamental difference, more so than the specific disagreement over slavery. Consider that Abraham Lincoln, in his 1861 Inaugural Address, made it abundantly clear he would not interfere with the "peculiar institution" of slavery in the South. No federal troops were sent into the South to liberate slaves -- not in 1860 or 1861, when the southern states actually seceded.

It is true that the southern states bit-

terly protested the northern states for their refusal to return fugitive slaves, and were outraged at the Lincoln administration's policy of stopping the expansion of slavery.

What's more, these grievances were the very reasons cited to justify secession. But that's the point. They were cited to justify secession, not war. The Confederacy made no effort to invade the North to force it to comply with their wishes on slavery. Incoming President Abraham Lincoln set the stage for war by refusing to let the seceding states go in peace.

Of course, a very strong argument could be made that Lincoln was perfectly justified to act as he did, since the southern states were violating Article I, Section 10 of the US Constitution (not to mention the "supremacy clause" of Article VI) by withdrawing from the Union and forming their own nation. And two of his predecessors (George Washington and Andrew Jackson) had threatened or used military force to restrain or discourage local and/or regional unilateralism.

Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and Two Visions for America

North and South each entertained different visions for the United States. The South fully embraced Thomas Jefferson's class-based, agrarian "utopia," and strongly resisted Alexander Hamilton's desire to move the U.S. economy toward banking, commerce, and industry.

Early battles in this contest included the the National Bank, the assumption of state debts by the new federal government, foreign trade, neutrality toward Europe, and of course the admission of new states and territories. So committed, in fact, was the North to European trade, that New England Federalists conspired for their own secession during the War of 1812.

The outcome of these intense political and economic battles was the proliferation of trade and industry in the North, the deepening of slave-based agriculture in the South, and an uneasy slave state -- free state balance in the new territories and states. This made violent confrontation inevitable, as the peoples of the North and South grew further apart culturally, socially, and economically.

From an economic perspective, the South felt increasingly threatened by the North. The North had most of the industry, most of the jobs, and most of the people (thanks in large part to immigration). The North would then force through tariff policies that would compel southerners to buy from the North, rather than from overseas. This would take money from the South literally at the expense of the North. The only thing the South had was agriculture,

and it seemed (to them) that the North was striking at that as well with its anti-slavery policies.

Slavery

The most divisive issue leading up to civil war was, of course, slavery. Slavery had been a reality in virtually every nation or civilization since ancient times, but North American slavery was based on the European exploitation of African tribal warfare and slave practices. It had been customary for African tribes to wage war and take slaves (as part of war or negotiation) for centuries. The Europeans seized on this by purchasing some of these slaves from victorious African tribes. This horrific and evil abuse of African culture opened the Pandora's Box -- and led to centuries of shame and suffering.

The first slave ships arrived in Jamestown in 1619, and African slaves quickly became the backbone of the New World's agricultural economy. The early North American economy, especially in the agrarian South, became as dependent on human bondage as we today are on oil.

Shortly after the American Revolution, all the northern states outlawed slavery and many abolitionist societies were founded throughout the nation. Among the early supporters of abolition were John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, and Benjamin Rush. Even slave-holding Founders like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and George Mason spoke out against slavery -- and took some (albeit modest) action against slavery. George Mason, for example, was one of the most vocal opponents of the slave trade.

But...Eli Whitney's cotton gin changed the course of the South. Once the cotton gin solidified the South as "King Cotton" and made slavery irresistibly profitable to the plantation elite, an eventual Civil War became inevitable. Before the cotton gin, very few southern politicians defended slavery on moral grounds. They just preferred to dodge the issue. After the cotton gin, the South began advancing arguments that the African race was destined for slavery by God.

The South Was Wrong

Modern-day defenders of the South go too far in asserting that the South was right. While some of the northern states were technically in violation of the fugitive slave clause, this hardly rose to the standard for revolution set by the Founders in the Declaration of Independence. If anyone's "unalienable rights" were being violated, it was those of the slave, and not the southern plantation owner.

Brig/Gen. Benjamin G.
Humphreys Camp
#1625
1412 North Park Dr
Greenwood, MS
38930

E-mail:
confederate@suddenlink.net

Website:
www.humphreys1625.com



Nevertheless, detractors of the South are too quick to issue blanket condemnations of the Civil War era southern people. Most people in that day did not step outside of their respective situation to objectively evaluate the issues like 21st century armchair quarterbacks can do. What most southern families were focused on were

the Union armies moving through their lands.

It's time for us to recognize that the South was wrong, but to also recognize that the southern people of that day paid dearly for being wrong. And, as Lincoln pointed out, the North paid a high price too. Why? Because the North was far from innocent in the nation's culpability with slavery.

Perhaps the best lesson or call to action that Americans today can take from the Civil War is found in the words of the Confederacy's leading hero. Following the surrender of his army, General Robert E. Lee said: "I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the reestablishment of peace and harmony."

Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

LT. GENERAL STEPHEN DILL LEE, COMMANDER GENERAL,
UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, APRIL 25, 1906.