



# The Delta General

November, 2011

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The official publication of the Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, MS Division, SCV

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## OUR NEXT CAMP MEETING IS NOVEMBER 3, COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR CAMP

The past year has seen a drop in attendance to our Camp meetings because of various activities that take place on the third Thursday of each month that we have had to compete with. Thus, at our last June Camp meeting, it was voted on by the membership to change our regular Camp meetings to the first Thursday of each month so we would not have to compete with Masons, Scouts, and other groups that usually meet on that designated time. We will still meet at the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola, at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Just changing from third Thursday to first Thursday of the month.

If you have not paid your renewals by now this may be your last issue of the *Delta General*. To renew, you will need to pay a late fee to be reinstated. Check with Dan McCaskill for the amount. Make check out to SCV and mail to:

Dan McCaskill  
205 Cypress St,  
Leland, MS 38756-3108

This December also is our election time for new officers. Anyone interested in running for any of the Camp offices should begin putting serious thought into this and announcing their candidacy. The elected offices include: Commander, Lt. Commander, 2nd Lt. Commander, Adjutant, and Color-Sgt. Anyone interested in knowing the duties of these offices should consult the Camp By-laws online at [http://www.humphreys1625.com/Benjamin\\_G\\_Humphreys\\_Camp\\_By-Laws\\_-\\_2009a.pdf](http://www.humphreys1625.com/Benjamin_G_Humphreys_Camp_By-Laws_-_2009a.pdf)

Remember, for those who do not renew their dues, this could be your last issue of the *Delta General*. There is too much exciting things happening as we go into the second year of the Sesquicentennial you do not want to miss or be left out on.

## Upcoming Events:

- 11/3 – Camp Meeting
- 11/11-13 – Wirt Adams' Raid, Natchez, MS – Federal Impression
- 12/1 – Regular Camp Meeting – Election Year
- Old Courthouse Museum Ball in Vicksburg, MS
- 1/28/12 – Camp Lee/Jackson Banquet

## HUGE 2012 MISSISSIPPI DIVISION, SCV CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN BRANDON, MS

For at least the past 116 years the Mississippi Division, SCV has held an annual Reunion and Convention. The many host SCV Camps have been in various locations over the years. From the Tennessee line to the Gulf Coast and from the Mississippi River to the Alabama line.

The Mississippi Division's Time & Place Committee approved the 2012 Reunion / Convention be hosted by Camp #265 and that it take place in Brandon.

Camp Commander Tim Cupit feels to be named the host Camp is a honor. However, with that honor comes a tremendous responsibility. A Camp is responsible for providing an entire weekend of entertainment for SCV and OCR members and, in most cases, their families. As a matter of fact, for some families, this is their only summer vacation. A host Camp must also provide facilities for SCV and OCR business.

Under the leadership of our Camp Commander, Tim Cupit, Camp #265 hopes to have the largest, most memorable Reunion / Convention in 117 years. Their Camp is planning this SCV Convention - unconventionally and that is a good thing. Over the next months, Tim and Becky Cupit will be traveling throughout the Division promoting the Convention. Their goal is to visit every Camp in the Division to get the word out and take registration orders. If interested in more information about the Convention contact: Tim Cupit @ 769-251-0091. Or email: [timcupit@comcast.net](mailto:timcupit@comcast.net)

Take time out to make plans to attend what seems to be an exciting weekend of fun and activities.

## WELCOME NEW CAMP MEMBERS

### Richard L. Dillon

Ancestor: Great, Great Grandfather William Franklin Tyson  
Pvt; Co. A, 4th NC Cav

### Michael A. Lavender

Ancestor: Great, Great Grandfather James K. Polk Wicker  
Pvt; Co. B / E, 6th AR Inf

Lets Welcome these gentlemen to our Camp and our SCV Family!!



## CAMP NEWS:

### ADJUTANT'S REPORT: DAN MCCASKILL

The Camp Meeting of October 6, 2011 was called to order by Commander Junior Stillman. The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Camp Chaplain Earl McCown. Dan McCaskill led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy. A welcome was extended to all members and guest attending the Meeting.

The SCV Application of Richard Dillon of Greenwood was presented to the members by Adjutant Dan McCaskill. Richard is joining on the record of his Great, Great Grandfather William Franklin Tyson; Private, Company A, 4th North Carolina Cavalry. After a brief discussion, Alan Palmer moved that the Camp accept Richard Dillon's application for membership. Earl McCown seconded the motion and it passed.

**Officer Reports:** 1st Lt. Commander Gator Stillman was absent. 2nd Lt. Commander Ronnie Stewart brought a potential member, Bill Brummett, to the Meeting. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the Camp had received 40 renewals, 3 new members and 1 re-instatement as of the Meeting. This represents a 75% renewal rate. Financially, the Camp is well within its fiscal budget. The account balance stands at \$ 1,458.17 of which \$ 614.40 is Fiscal 2010 budget. Larry reported he had to re-issue the Newsletter because the Adjutant's Report published was from August. Larry reported that the Cottonlandia Event was a great success. There were over 50 in attendance and the museum Director wanted us back to do another program. Kenneth Ray, Gator Stillman and Philip Neal manned tables out front with period artifacts and research material to help anyone trying to find a Confederate Ancestor.

Upcoming events announced are: MS Division Executive Council Meeting October 8th in Pearl, MS starting at 10 am; Earl announced he would be in Magnolia, AR for the annual memorial to Gen. John Porter McCown on October 8th ; Fall Muster at Beauvoir in Biloxi Oct. 14 – 16; Greenville Cemetery Tour, Saturday, October 29th starting at 5:00 pm, Dan McCaskill will be at the Confederate Plot; Beauvoir Board Meeting on November 5th at Beauvoir starting at 10 am and Jefferson College Re-enactment November 11-13.

**Camp Business:** Larry McCluney had contacted AOT Commander Tom Strain to be our speaker at our Lee – Jackson Banquet in January. For Tom to be able to come, Larry informed the members we would have to move the date of the Banquet. After a brief discussion, Larry moved that the date be changed to January 28th, it was seconded by Earl McCown and the motion passed.

**Camp Program:** Our program for the evening was a report from Division Commander Alan Palmer on what was going on in the Division. He reported on the Memorial Services for Mississippi's last two Real Sons held in Corinth the previous weekend; He announced the meeting of the 1st Brigade Sesquicentennial Committee Meeting in Batesville on October 8th ; Alan reported on the status of the return of the 46th Mississippi Infantry Battle Flag to Mississippi; gave an update of the return of the remains of Henry Coleman to Vicksburg in 2013; reported on the progress of raising funds for a Mississippi Monument at Shiloh and finally a brief update on the 2013 National and said he would be greatly disappointed if fewer than 200 Division members failed to attend.

With no other business coming before the Camp, Junior asked Earl to dismiss the meeting with a word of prayer. Thanks goes to those who brought food and drinks to the Meeting.

Attendance was 23 for the evening.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan McCaskill, Adj.

## 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 MEMBER RECIEVES AWARD

While attending the annual McCown Memorial at Magnolia, Arkansas, Earl McCown was presented the "General J. O. Shelby Award" (for those outside the Division or within the Division that have been the most helpful to the Arkansas Division in preserving the heritage of the South). This was awarded at the Arkansas Division SCV Convention. On behalf of the Cam, congratulations Earl for a job well done. You deserve it.

—

## Sons of Confederate Veterans

honors

**Earl M. McCown**  
with the  
**Gen. J.O. Shelby Award**

*to those outside the Division or within the Division that  
have been the most helpful to the Arkansas Division  
in preserving the heritage of the South.*



Arkansas Division  
Harrison, Arkansas

April 1, 2011  
Date



*R. Mark Kellerman*  
Commander

*W. Danny Howell*  
Chief of Staff



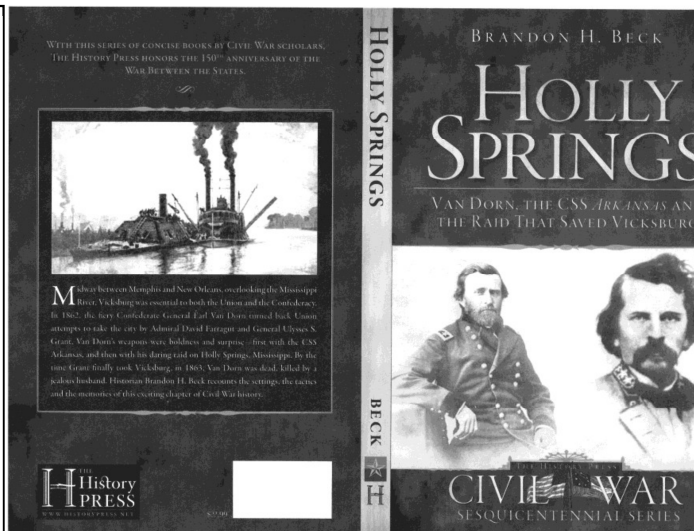
## DIVISION NEWS:

### NEW BOOK RELEASED BY DIVISION MEMBER

Compatriot Brandon Beck, Lt. Cmdr. of the Lt. Gen. Stephen D Lee Caledonia Rifles Camp #2140 will have a new and interesting book released around November 9th according to Amazon.com. The book tells of the exploits of Gen. Van Dorn leading up to and including the raid on Union supplies in Holly Springs, Mississippi. The price of the book should be around \$20. You can pre-order it on Amazon now.

If you haven't purchased his previous book, *The Battle of Oko-lona: Defending the Mississippi Prairie*, you may want to pick that one up also. It received a three and one half star rating on Amazon. The story begins by recounting the general situation of the war in 1864 and focuses on the Mississippi prairie and its importance to the Confederate war effort. Each of the opposing forces is examined along with their respective commanders and explains what their objectives were and as well as the obstacles they faced.

Dr. Beck is a retired professor of Civil War history at Shenandoah University in Virginia. While there he founded the McCormick Civil War Institute.



## DIVISION NEWS:

### FROM THE DIVISION COMMANDER: ALAN PALMER

Gentlemen of the Mississippi Division

I hope this issue of the JDL finds all of you in good health and spirits. There are many events that have taken place or are in the planning stages around our state and I encourage all of you to participate as much as possible. We have been successful in recruiting new members to our organization lately but as always retention is the main concern. Encourage your fellow members to renew their membership so that we may continue with all of our programs and obligations. Every member is important, those that can participate physically, and those that cannot because of work, or infirmity's, it takes us all to get the job done.

I would like to take a moment to make a report to the division that I think you will appreciate. Many years ago now there was an organization known as the 'STATES RIGHTS BRIGADE', headed by Nathan Dobbs. The Dobbs boys were members of this division as well as head of the largest ever reenactment group in the state. For several years they raised money for a Shiloh monument fund which grew to some thirty thousand dollars. Toward the end of the life of the brigade, politics as always became involved, feelings were hurt, and accusations of wrong doing in regards to the thirty thousand dollars were flying. The rumors were not true! That money was placed by them in the care of the State Archives, and I am happy to say that I received a call from the Chairman of the Mississippi Monuments Commission this week to confirm that the money has been moved to the State Shiloh Monument Fund. This money greatly boosts the North East Mississippi's efforts to erect a monument to Mississippi troops at Shiloh. We lost men from the Mississippi division when the brigade broke up and it was in a large part due to a rumor that was untrue. We must always remember to treat each other as we would be treated, rumor's are the worst kind of attack because you never know for sure where they started and you know as well as I that every time it is told it grows in scope and viciousness. Rumors have destroyed reputations and even started wars, and we must as an organization representing "honor" as something we hold dear be most honorable with each other, we should expect no less from each other nor tolerate it. I would rather have a man come at me with a sword than a rumor, the sword I can defend against with my .380 if necessary, the rumor may de-destroy me before I even know it was thrust at me.

Once again I would like to mention that we will be hosting the National Heritage Rally at Beauvoir in 2013. It will most likely be in Feb or March of that year, and it could bring a lot of recognition and needed revenue to Beauvoir. Make plans to attend because there will be members there from all over the confederation as well as the entire GEC. This years of course was at Montgomery, AL, and next year it will be at Richmond along Confederate Avenue ending at the Davis monument. Beauvoir will be the culmination of remembrance of Jefferson Davis and will also coincide with the grand dedication of his Presidential Library (second dedication). Of course within a few months after this event will be the National Reunion at Vicksburg! Every camp in Mississippi should be represented at Vicksburg and we should have the largest turnout ever from Mississippians.

This will be the first National reunion to be held in Mississippi in 29 years come 2013. It will also be the first ever in Vicksburg, not to mention it will be the 150th anniversary of the siege. Make your plans next year for 2013, we should outnumber all other delegates combined!

I enjoy seeing you at different events across the state and if I haven't been to your area yet, give me time and I will come. I am encouraged by all the events planned throughout our state and look forward to attending all of them I possibly can. Please don't let disappointment with me keep you from participating, I am but human and very apt to make mistakes. We are not a perfect organization because we are made up of imperfect souls, but let's be kind to each other by giving each other the benefit of the doubt, and continue to work toward the greater cause for which we all do what we do, and dedicate so much of ourselves to accomplish. God bless the bond that keeps us strong in southern brotherhood.

Sincerely

Alan Palm, Cmdr Ms Div SCV

**Be proud of your state and let others know you're from Mississippi!**



**Wear a Mississippi Division pin Or display a Mississippi Division decal**

**Get either as a thank you gift for  
Only a \$5.00 contribution to:**

**The Mississippi Division Heritage Education and Defense Fund**

## MAILING NOTICE ABOUT CONFEDERATE VETERAN MAGAZINE

Gentlemen,

To ensure that your Confederate Veteran magazine is correctly delivered in a timely manner, please visit this link below to check if GHQ has your correct mailing address on file:

<http://www.scv.org/checkData.php>.

To check your data at this link, you will need your SCV ID Number. You will find it printed above your name on the mailing label of the Confederate Veteran magazine.

Changes of address can be made on this link, reported by emailing Bryan Sharp at [membership@scv.org](mailto:membership@scv.org), or by calling GHQ at 1-800-380-1896 ext. 201.

The Confederate Veteran magazine is mailed under a nonprofit organization bulk mail rate which costs the SCV about \$0.50 per magazine in postage. The post office will normally not forward mail under this class and they discard the magazines that are undeliverable. If you move and do not inform GHQ of your new address, you will not receive your magazine as it will not be forwarded by the post office.

In addition to the issue of delayed or non-delivery, when GHQ sends a replacement magazine to those that call and enquire as to why they did not receive their Confederate Veteran, it requires that an additional magazine to be printed and costs Headquarters an additional \$2.28 in first class postage. Please report all changes of address to GHQ as soon as possible.

Your cooperation is appreciated and will greatly reduce GHQ mail expense.

Confederately,  
Bryan A. Sharp, National Membership Coordinator  
SCV HQ / Elm Springs  
1-800-380-1896 ext. 201

## JOIN THE MOS&B! SEE EARL McCOWN FOR MORE DETAILS

The War Between the States produced some of the most outstanding civil and military leaders in the history of mankind. To perpetuate the idealism that animated the Confederate Cause and to honor the courage, devotion and endurance of those who dedicated their lives and services during four years of devastating war, and who, throughout the dreadful decade of reconstruction, labored heroically for the restoration of self-government as the most precious heritage of the American Revolution, male descendants of the officers who honorably served in the Army, Navy and other commands of the Confederate States of America and male descendants of the elected and appointed civilian officials of the Confederate States; the national Confederate Government; or the Five Civilized Tribes which allied with the Confederacy, unite to establish The Military Order of the Stars and Bars, a patriotic and fraternal Society.

If eligible, we invite you to [join](#) our prestigious organization – celebrating its 73rd anniversary and the only active heritage organization founded by Confederate Veterans.

Max Lee Waldrop, Jr.,  
Commander General  
Military Order  
of the Stars and Bars



## GET YOUR MS DIVISION BEAUVOIR LISCENSE PLATE TODAY!

The Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has commissioned a Beauvoir License Plate in honor of the Sesquicentennial of The War Between the States for all Mississippi Residents!



This Commemorative License Plate is now available at your County Tax Collector's Office, and will only be available for issue in 2011, so be sure to GET YOURS NOW!!! Funds from the issue of this beautiful limited edition plate will be used for the benefit of Beauvoir. If you don't see it, ASK FOR IT!!!!

## FALL MUSTER DRAWS REENACTORS, CROWDS TO BEAUVOIR

BILOXI -- The 25th Annual Fall Muster at Beauvoir, a two-day festival of Civil War history, began Saturday with 280 re-enactors, vendors and entertainers setting up tents on the grounds of the retirement home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. "We take a lot of pride in trying to teach history accurately," said Provost Marshall Terry Bailey.

Saturday's events included infantry and artillery drills, a battle re-enactment and an evening dance with live music. Living history camps are set up throughout the property.

Charlie Schmitz is with the Washington Artillery Re-Enactors of New Orleans, a 100-member group.

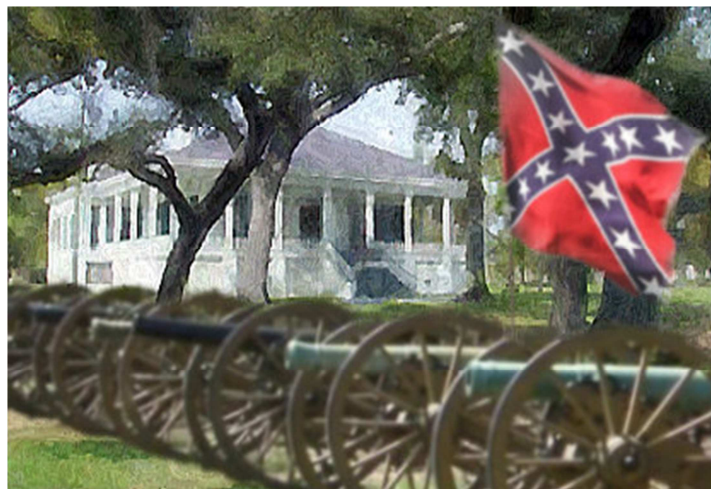
He said the Washington Artillery served as honor guard for Jefferson Davis's body when it was moved from its original resting place in New Orleans to Richmond, Va.

The body went through every southern capital city and passed by Beauvoir, where the adjacent railroad tracks were scattered with rose petals.

Stephen Ellison gave a tour of his historically accurate camp. Ellison was dressed as a Confederate Marine, an Alabama "Yellow Hammer", and has been participating in re-enactments for 15 years.

Gerald Syphrite said he became interested in re-enacting because he was interested in history and wanted to find a hobby he could participate in with his family.

His family is known for their "camp cooking." "And the girls and I like playing dress-up," said his wife, Laura.



## WAS THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIER A REBEL?

By W.R. Hammond. *Southern Historical Society Papers*, Volume 28, page 247.

In *The Green Bag* for December, 1899, and January, 1900, this question is answered by Bushrod C. Washington. His argument is cleancut, strong and convincing. His conclusion agrees with that of all southern men and must be the verdict of posterity. He argues the legality of the course pursued by the seceding States, and plainly shows that the people of that section were not Rebels. No fair minded man can read history and deny the correctness of his conclusions. Quoting from unquestioned authority, he makes plain, beyond all controversy, that there was never any intention of any of the States in the original compact of union to give up the reserved rights not expressly delegated to the general government under the constitution. His argument, than which nothing can be clearer, is, that the North broke the compact and that the South, for that reason and that alone, sought to withdraw. Candid men must admit that the compact was broken by the North. Admitting this, they must justify the South in the course taken by her people. The union was a union of political societies upon an agreed basis, and that basis was the constitution. Hamilton, as quoted by Mr. Washington, expresses this clearly, "If a number of political societies enter a larger political society, the laws which the latter may enact pursuant to the powers entrusted to it by its constitution must necessarily be supreme over those societies. But it will not follow from this that the acts of the larger which are not pursuant to its constituted powers but which are invasions of the residuary authorities of the smaller societies, will become the supreme law of the land. These will be merely acts of usurpation, and will deserve to be treated as such."

That Congress committed these acts of usurpation cannot now be denied, and the election of Mr. Lincoln in 1860, upon a platform pledged to override the constitution, as interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States, was an unmistakable expression on the part of the people of the North of a determination to disregard the solemn mandates of that instrument which formed the bond of union between the sections. This determination once formed and expressed, the South had the legal right to withdraw from the compact, quietly and peaceably, as she did. This right was clearly recognized by Mr. Webster, who was a statesman of much larger caliber than Harriet Beecher Stowe. He did not hesitate to say, at the same time that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* made its appearance, that if the northern States willfully and deliberately refused to carry into effect that part of the constitution which protected the southern people in the possession of their property, and Congress refused to provide a remedy, the South would no longer be bound to observe the compact. "A bargain," he said, "cannot be broken on one side and bind the other side." These words were not heeded at the North, but the false and scandalous utterances of Mrs. Stowe were allowed to drown them, and a flood of fanaticism swept over that section of our country, which culminated in the crime of 1860, and the terrible tragedy of the Civil War. There are MEN in the North who know this now, and there will be more of them as the years go by; and the verdict of posterity will be that if the sober and statesmanlike utterances of Daniel Webster had been allowed to prevail at the North, instead of the fanatical words of Harriet Beecher Stowe, who was no more worthy of comparison with that broad-minded and patriotic American than a rush light to the sun; the horrors of the war might have been averted, and the problem of being rid of the evil of slavery, which bound the white man to one end of the chain and the black man to the other, would have been wrought out by the consent of the South itself, on peaceful lines, under the constitution and not in violation of it. That this would have been done before the close of the nineteenth century, if antagonisms had not been roused and kept alive by the fostering of the abolition sentiment at the North, and that the condition of the black man would be much better today than it is, can scarcely admit of a doubt. Abolition should have been the result of growth, not of revolution; and might have been wrought out patiently by means of the constitution, and should not have been brought about in bitter spite of it.

In the second series of *Appleton's Popular Library*, published in 1852, is an essay published from *The London Times*, in which the author reviews *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and predicts the evils that were liable to result from the book. He is no sympathizer with slavery, but shows that he was opposed to it with all his might. I will close this review by quoting a part of what he says. Let us remember that these words were written by an Englishman nearly fifty years ago: And be it stated to the credit of the slave owners of the South that they are fully alive to the danger of the portentous struggle, and have of late years shown no indisposition to help in their own emancipation as well in that of the slave, provided they may only escape the dire catastrophe we speak of. It is certain that a large class of slave owners in the South are most desirous to relieve their soil of the stain and inconvenience of slavery, if the tremendous step can be taken with safety to all parties concerned in the act of liberation. The efforts made in the South to

improve the condition of the slave show at least that humanity is not dead in the bosom of the proprietors. Mrs. Stowe has certainly not done justice to this branch of the subject. Horrors in connection with slavery – itself a horror – unquestionably exist, but all accounts – save her own and those of writers actuated by her extreme views – concur in describing the general condition of the Southern slave as one of comparative happiness and comfort such as many a free man in the United Kingdom might regard with envy. One authority on this point is too important to be overlooked. In the year 1842 a Scotch weaver named William Thompson traveled through the Southern States. He supported himself on his way by manual labor; he mixed with the humblest classes black and white, and on his return home he published an account of his journeyings. He had quitted Scotland a sworn hater of slave proprietors, but he confessed that experience had modified his views on this subject to a considerable degree. He had witnessed most of the slave-holding States; he had lived for weeks among negroes in cotton plantations, and he asserted that he had never beheld one-fifth of the real suffering that he had seen among the laboring poor in England. Nay, more, he declared: "That the members of the same family of negroes are not so much scattered as those of workingmen in

***A bargain cannot be broken on one side and bind the other side."***

***Daniel Webster***

Scotland, whose necessities compel them to separate at an age when the American slave is running about gathering health and strength." Ten years have not increased the hardships of the Southern slave. During that period colonization has come to his relief; education has, legally or illegally, found its way into his cabin, and Christianity has added spiritual consolations to his allowed, admitted physical enjoyments. It has been justly said that to these men of the South who have done their best for the negro under the institution of slavery must we look for any great effort in favor of emancipation and they who are best acquainted with the progress of events in those parts declare that at this moment "there are powerful and irresistible influences at work in a large part of the slave States tending toward the abolition of slavery within these boundaries." We can well believe it. The world is working its way toward liberty, and the blacks will not be left behind in the onward march. Since the adoption of the American Constitution seven States have voluntarily abolished slavery. When that Constitution was proclaimed there was scarcely a free black in the country. According to the last census, the free blacks amount to 418,173, and of these 233,691 are blacks of the South, liberated by their owners, and not by the force of law. We cannot shut our eyes to these facts. Neither can we deny that, desirable as negro emancipation may be in the United States, abolition must be the result of growth, not of revolution; must be patiently wrought out by means of the American Constitution, and not in bitter spite of it. America cannot for any time resist the enlightened spirit of our age, and it is manifestly her interest to adapt her institutions to its temper. That she will eventually do so if she be not a divided household – if the South be not goaded to illiberality by the North – if public writers deal with the matter in the spirit of conciliation, justice, charity and truth, we will not permit ourselves to doubt. That she is alive to the necessities of the age is manifest from the circumstances that, for the last four years, she has been very busy preparing the way for emancipation by a method that has not failed in older countries to remove national trouble almost as intolerable as that of slavery itself.

Richmond, VA. 1900.



## MISSISSIPPI DIVISION, SCV HONORS ITS LAST TWO REAL SONS

On October 2nd a number of heritage groups joined forces to pay tribute to two actual sons of the men who wore the rebel gray in the American Civil War. On Sunday Corinth's Col. W.P. Rogers Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans uphold memorial services for Mississippi's last two "True Sons" who died earlier this year — Willie Cartwright and James Nelms. These two sons of Alcorn County and the Confederacy were cousins as well.

"Both of them passed away in the summer and we knew we wanted to hold a memorial for them when the weather cooled off," explained Buddy Ellis, Second Brigade Commander for the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "I've been telling people these guys were the last two True Sons of Mississippi — there are no more, and there will be no more, so we're going to really try to do something nice for these guys." Cartwright, who passed away on May 7 at the age of 94, was the son of Private John Harvey Cartwright of the 1st Mississippi Infantry. Private John Harvey was wounded twice in battles in Virginia.

Nelms — son of James Joseph Nelms, who was a 16-year-old Confederate soldier-in-training at the war's end — died a month later on June 7 at the age of 92. Before they passed their membership made the Corinth SCV Camp the only in the nation to claim two True Sons as members. The memorial ceremonies begin at 2 p.m. Sunday with a service honoring Cartwright at Forrest Memorial Park. At 4 p.m. local law enforcement will provide an escort as the memorial moves to Nelms' resting place, the Holly Baptist Church Cemetery. The memorial services will include a salute by reenactors, period music and special guest speakers.

The assembly of living history reenactment groups coming together for the memorials includes the 15th Miss., 17th Miss., 48th Miss., and several others from Mississippi and Tennessee. Confederate States Marine Color Guards presented 5' by 8' flags to the two men's families. "That's something we've never done before at outdoor events," Ellis said of the flag presentation.

SCV Mississippi Division State Commander Alan Palmer was the featured speaker for the memorials. Other high-ranking SCV members, including Larry McCluney, Army of Tennessee Councilman, was in attendance. Ladies from local and regional chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy — dressed in mourning black — will assist with the wreath-laying part of the memorial program. The Mechanized Cavalry, a group of SCV members on motorcycles, are expected to attend. Confederate string band Lost Cause will provide period music for the memorial ceremonies. Local buglers James Embrey and Mark Houston will close the memorial services with an echoing rendition of "Taps."

"Both families are really looked forward to this happening and a lot of reenactors really wanted to get involved," said Ellis.

## PICTURES FROM CORINTH



Above (L to R) Pic 1 — OCR President Becky Cupit and Vice President Annette McCluney look on during the ceremony. Pic 2 — Larry McCluney presents a battle flag to the family. Pic 3 — Larry introduces Alan Palmer as the guest speaker.



Left Pic — Marine Color Guard leads in the Rifle squad during the ceremonies. Right Pic — Alan is happy to oblige the ladies of the OCR with a group hug. He also said, "Earl I bet your jealous now."

## SESQUICENTENNIAL NEWS; 150 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH: THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF A.L. PEEL, 19<sup>TH</sup> MS INFANTRY

- November 1, 1861 - Capt Hardin took a wagon & went to the junction after some things for our company 8 men from our company wet in to centreville to throw up Breastworks. I washed some socks & left camp for Brigade guard at 3 p.m. as soon as I relieved the guards the 1st time it commenced raining. I had to stand around the fire to keep as dry as possible. It soon got very dark dreary & cold. I had to relieve the guards every 2 hs, some half a mile off, So I would stumble into water & mud to my knees get wet as the Devil, then get smoked nearly to death trying to get dry & so untill day light, it kept raining an all day & my mess didn't bring me a thing to eat. Was relieved at 5 p.m. came to camp got some dry clothes & something to eat, a good many of the tents have blown down. Pryor is quite sick with fever. Capt Hardin was disappointed & only got one Box from the junction
- November 2 - This is Sunday. I cleaned my gun. We had inspection, hung my blankets out to dry Dave went out to the road got some shugar &c, Dr Hyer tried to pass the Pickets they arrested him & brought him in to camp. He says that Add is doing very well One of the McClung riflemen died yesterday
- November 3 - We had company drill this morning. Capt Hardin made a Fire place in his tent. he have out some Blankets to those who had but one. I wrote a letter to send home by Dr Hyer..
- November 4, 1861 - We have spent the day as usual drilling, I washed some clothes &c
- November 5 - had company drill to day Dave went out to the road & got some Pumpkin Pies eat to many got sick. Add came form Warrenton, he is very well give a very good description of the place.
- November 6 - It rained last night we had no Revelle this morning I slept a little later than usual. I & my messmates went out cut & halled some wood, it is very windy & cold Lou is quite sick Alfred halled 2 loads of wood rails &c, this evening I & Capt Dave & Black had a game of ? to night.
- November 7, 1861 - It is sill windy & cold We had no drill kept fires &c to keep comfortable B. F. Mckie came from Richmond he looks very well.
- November 8 - I am Corp of the guard have one prisoner he was put under arrest Three weeks ago for stabbing a man his name is W. Stepensan This has been a very pleasant day. I wrote a letter. Ludovick started to Warrenton he is quite sick. Dave & Peter came back from working on the Breastworks brought some Honey Roberts frait came from Richmond I got a cap & over coat. I am now sitting by a fire at the guard house
- November 9 - I was relieved from guard at 8 a.m. Peter & I washed some clothes and it commenced raining so that we could'nt dry them, We thn made a fireplace in our tent dried our selves, it is raining so that we ca'nt cook supper. We made our dinner of Honey & crackers. Got our supper & went to Sleep by a nice fire which reminded us of our once happy Homes,
- November 10, 1861 - [The last entry was Nov. 9]

## BATTLE OF BELMONT, NOVEMBER 1861

Perhaps most famous as [Ulysses S. Grant](#)'s first battle, Belmont, Missouri was little more than a ferry landing with a small general store and a mill nearby in 1861. It did have a Confederate camp with a small garrison under the command of Colonel James Tappen and an artillery battery under Lieutenant Colonel Beltzhoover. When word reached [Leonidas Polk](#) that a force of Union soldiers left Cairo on transports, the Western Confederate commander ordered [Gideon Pillow](#) across the Mississippi with roughly half the garrison from Columbus, Kentucky. The Battle of Belmont ensued.

When Leonidas Polk (called "The Bishop" by just about everybody) seized Columbus, [Kentucky](#), on [September 4, 1861](#), Ulysses S. Grant advanced his headquarters from Cape Girardeau, [Missouri](#) to Cairo, [Illinois](#), about 30 miles downriver on the Mississippi and just north of the river's confluence with the Ohio. On [September 6, 1861](#), Grant surprised just about everyone by seizing Paducah, Kentucky in response to Polk's action.

That September and October small armies maneuvered in Missouri and Grant's commander, [John C. Fremont](#), proved to be a better explorer than he was a general. The largest battle, at Wilson's Creek, saw the death of Nathaniel Lyon, which some northerners blamed on Fremont, especially in Congress. Then Fremont issued a decree that could be interpreted as freeing the slaves in his department. Lincoln ordered him to rescind the order.

It was at this time that Grant decided to make a bold move against the Confederates, not because of any strategic offensive advantage, but because of command changes he felt were about to happen. He viewed his command of the Mississippi River as threatened, and said as much in a letter to his wife. He had an excellent assignment and there were many higher ranking generals "that have commands inferior to mine for me to retain it."

The war had not been going as well as expected for the North. Early victories in [Western Virginia](#) were offset by [Bull Run](#) and the disaster at [Ball's Bluff](#). The North was hungry for a victory. [George McClellan](#) replaced [Winfield Scott](#) as [General-in-Chief, U. S. Army](#) on [November 1, 1861](#). McClellan and Grant had a history going back to 1854 when McClellan reported Grant's drinking on duty. Additionally, when Grant went to see McClellan in search of a command the new General Commanding had refused to meet him.

On [November 2, 1861](#) [Abraham Lincoln](#) removed Fremont and McClellan removed his senior officers from command of the Department of the West. Command devolved to David Hunter and the Department was to be broken up into several smaller departments. It was time for Grant to act before a new commander arrived. A short time before being relieved, Fremont ordered Grant to "demonstrate" against Polk's Confederates in Columbus to stop The Bishop from reinforcing Confederate General Jeff Thompson in Missouri.

Grant sent orders for an operation to the commander of the Union forces in Paducah, Brigadier General Charles Ferguson Smith. The former West Point instructor was ordered to move south. To augment Polk's belief that the overall objective of the mission was Columbus, Kentucky, Grant landed a small force on the eastern bank of the Mississippi River.

On the Kentucky side of the Mississippi River bluffs rise some three hundred feet. General Polk placed three cannon, a ten-pounder, an eleven-pounder and the "Lady Polk," a massive Columbiad, atop these bluffs. As Grant's force approached the location of the intended landing, the Confederate guns opened fire and the Union gunboats replied. Aware of a force of federals moving on Jeff Thompson's position at New Madrid, Leonidas Polk felt this advance indicated a general attack on Confederate positions...exactly what "Sam" Grant wanted him to believe.

The main Union force, led by the gunboats *Tyler* and *Lexington*, moved south along the west bank of the Mississippi River. The Yankees landed less than three miles from the Confederate camp early in the morning of [November 7](#). Grant's first boat tied up near Hunter's Farm around 8:00 am and his men were moving inland at 8:15. Almost immediately, they were spotted by a Mississippi cavalryman out foraging. Within minutes he alerted the Rebels at Camp Johnston. In his official report Grant said the landing site was "just out of range of the rebel batteries at Columbus," however men on the transport, including surgeon Jacob Brinton, reported that [shot](#) passed over their heads and landed on the Missouri riverbank.

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Battle of Belmont Continued from page 7 . .

In front of the Union line lay a dry slough, then a cornfield and finally, Gid Pillow's Confederates behind a low ridge. Cavalry screened both Union flanks, but Grant's right flank was well-anchored by a pond, so he pushed those horsemen forward in an attempt to catch Pillow's flank. This failed when Pillow reinforced the line. Grant also tried to get around on Pillow's right, but this attempt was easily repulsed with the artillery. Still, the relentless advance of Grant's men pushed the Rebels back.

In his official report, Gideon Pillow claims during the fighting some of his Rebels began to run out of ammunition. Beltzhoover's battery, according to Pillow, was the first unit to fall silent, followed by another regiment and part of a third. Pillow then claims to have ordered three successive bayonet charges. According to the brigade commanders, Pillow did order a charge after about "7 or 8 rounds had been discharged." (the Confederates had been issued 40 rounds per man). The Rebels advanced, about half-way to the Union line, using fallen timber to protect themselves, then retreated.

Today, the 1861 bed of the river is known as "Chute Number 3" and extended across the present-day river bed to the Kentucky side. Some of the battlefield was covered by the Mississippi when the federal government rerouted the river to protect nearby residents in the late 1930's. Islands No. 2, 3 and 4 appear to be part of the Missouri land mass as does Wolf Island (Island No. 5). The land that could be confused with Wolf Island is Middle Bar and did not exist in 1861. Additionally, the land south of Cairo has been changed by a series of levies and revetments and is constantly dredged.

According to Grant's report, McClelland's federals drove Pillow's Confederates back for over two miles. As the Rebels backed into their camp they broke, running for the protection of the cliffs, where they huddled for safety. They received support from the Kentucky side of the river in the form of an artillery barrage, stopping Grant's men well short of the cliff.

Meanwhile, the Union forces, many of whom were raw recruits, began looting the camp. Officers (especially McClelland) began addressing groups of soldiers, thanking them for their performance and telling them how the Union Army would win the war. Grant, according to his memoirs, was dismayed by the behavior of his officers more than the behavior of the recruits.

While the looting was occurring, Pillow's men moved along the cliffs and began forming a line between Grant and the transports. Additionally, two steamers loaded with Confederate troops were crossing the Mississippi and looked like they would land to the north of Belmont, between the Union forces and the transports. Pillow's men formed a line north of camp, and had been reinforced by a small group of Rebels under the command of [Benjamin Franklin Cheatham](#). Leonidas Polk was crossing the river on the steamers, moving close to a division of Cheatham's men to the battle.

Suddenly, a bugle called the federals to attention. They were well-drilled and responded quickly to the call, lining up only to find out that their line of retreat had been cut. Grant expressed surprise that so many officers thought this meant defeat. Grant told the men that they had fought their way in, they would fight their way out and began to advance.

They quickly pierced the Rebel line as the reinforcements were landing. Rebels chased the retreating bluecoats, finding knapsacks, dead and wounded. They stopped at the field hospital and began moving toward the riverbank. Grant returned down the bank "a few hundred yards" to watch the reinforced Rebel infantry push towards his transports through a cornfield. Briefly emerging from a forest the enemy in the cornfield failed to spot him, but on the other side of the cornfield Bishop Polk commented to his men, "There is a Yankee; you may try your marksmanship on him if you wish." Luckily for Grant, it was too far for any of the staff officers to take action.

Grant, barely making it back to the last transport to leave, rode his horse up the gangway. In the aftermath both Union and Confederate newspapers claimed victory (the battle is viewed as indecisive by today's historians). Gideon Pillow's actions during the battle and his inability to file an accurate report brought him under scrutiny of the Confederate high command.