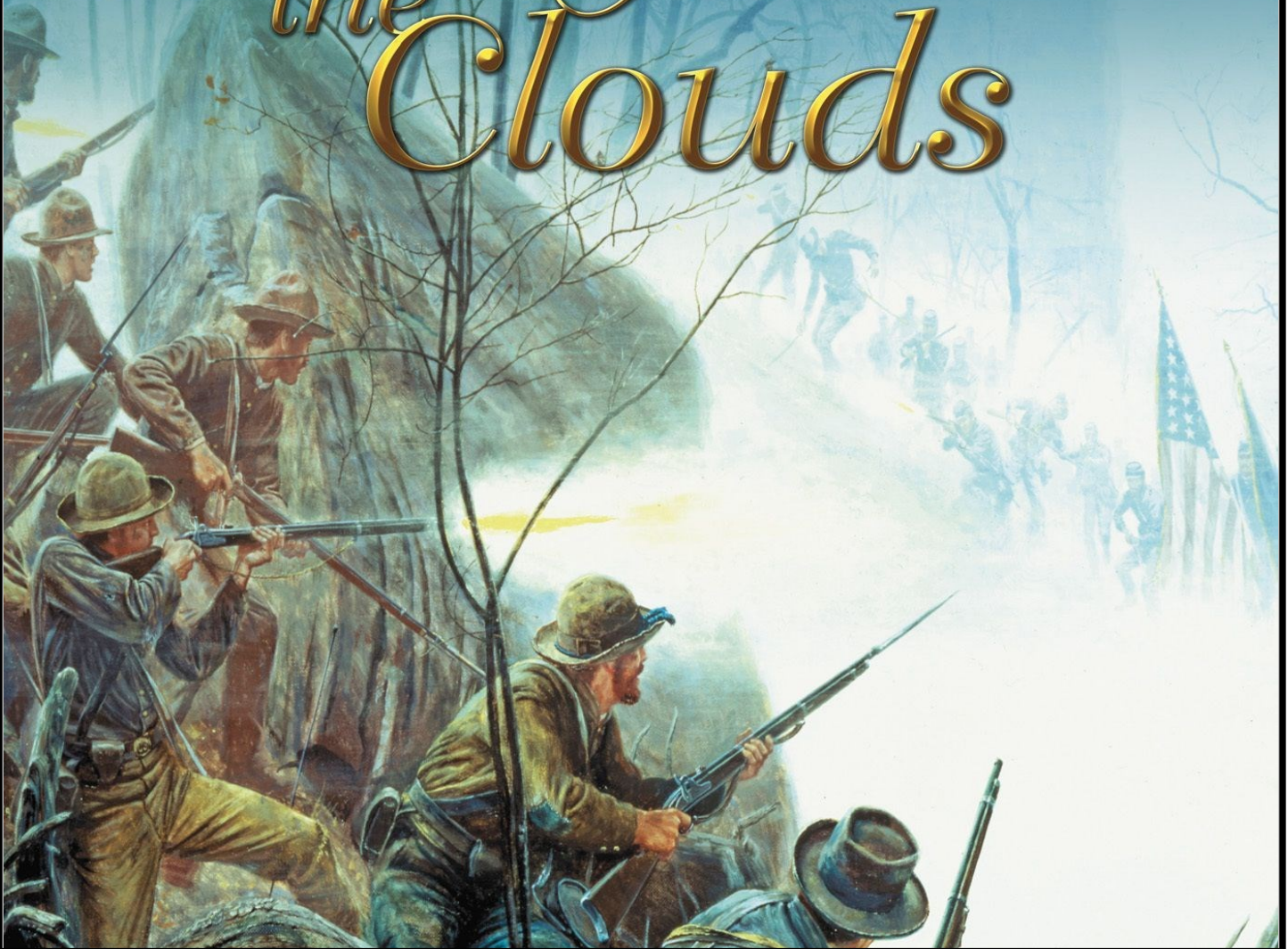


# *The Delta General*

## *Battle Above the Clouds*



### **This Issue:**

## **Battle Above the Clouds Trivia Night at Meeting**

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

November 2024, Volume 27, Issue 11

Dedicated to the Memory of Brigadier General Benjamin G. Humphreys

## Commander's Comments — Michael Anthony

November is here; and along with falling leaves, cold nights and sunny days, comes thoughts of the end-of-year holidays, beginning with Thanksgiving. For many people, Thanksgiving is a time to gather with family and eat a lot of delicious food, perhaps enjoy one (or several) strong drinks, and watch football. People are thankful for so many things in their lives, and often express these things during the Thanksgiving meal. As the Son of a Confederate Veteran, I am thankful for my past and my present. In the past, I had an ancestor who was willing to leave his home, family, and farm; and perhaps even life on Earth, to fight for Constitutional Liberty, States' Rights, and the preservation of home. In the present, I am thankful for my Confederate brothers who also had brave ancestors and who recognize like I do, that it is my mission to venerate and honor my Confederate ancestors.

November is a special month for the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp, as we welcome not one, but two, new members! It is rare for a Camp to get two new members at the same time, so this is a momentous cause for celebration. During our monthly meeting on Saturday, November 9, I will have the honor of inaugurating David Floyd into our Camp and we all will welcome him as the first truly new member of our Camp; meaning, not a member who rejoined our Camp or transferred from another Camp, in five years. We will also recognize Mark Hathaway, who was inaugurated during the October meeting and will welcome Junior Stillman back into our Camp. These men recognize that honoring their ancestors and preserving and promoting their Confederate heritage is worth doing. They understand that Confederate history is American history, and they are willing to confront the forces of ignorance and hate that want to defame, deny, and destroy Confederate history and heritage. Thank you men for your willingness to take the Oath to Live the Charge.

The Benjamin G Humphreys Camp's Annual Lee-Jackson Memorial Banquet is Saturday, January 11 2025. This is the Camp's most important annual meeting and it is important that all Camp members come to see each other, enjoy learning about Confederate heritage and history, and share in their honor and reverence for their ancestor. Our speaker will be the Mississippi Division Lieutenant Commander Forrest Dawes, who is a very well known speaker of Confederate Monuments and Monument preservation. The Lee-Jackson Banquet is also the major fundraiser for the Order of the Confederate Rose because they host a silent auction featuring Confederate themed items donated for the auction. Please consider donating any Confederate themed items to the auction and then bid on somebody else's donation at the auction, so the Order of the Confederate Rose wins twice. The ladies of the Order of the Confederate Rose are the best friends of the men of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp, so please remember to help these wonderful ladies during their auction.

Thank you for taking your time to read this edition of "Commander's Comments" and for your interest in the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Your interest and willingness to Live the Charge will preserve the honor and dignity of our Confederate ancestors and the Cause for Which They Stood in perpetuity. Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday, and remember to thank your ancestor for his service in the Armed Forces of the Confederate States of America. Deo Vindice.

## From the Chaplain's pen... Earl McCown

### Skeletons in the Closet

Genealogy is a popular pursuit of many people. People love finding out details about their ancestors. Sometimes they find more than they anticipated. They may find some skeletons in the family closet. Some of our ancestors may have been unseemly characters.

Do you know there are some unseemly characters in Jesus' family line? (Read Matthew 1:1-17). You probably haven't heard many sermons preached from the genealogies. When you read the Bible you probably wonder why they are even in the Bible. But there is not a wasted word in God's Word. God included the ancestors for a reason. I like to read them and look at the questionable people in Jesus' genealogy and maybe see why God included them.

There are surely skeletons in the closet. There are some interesting names included in the genealogy of Jesus. First, there are names of women and these women are Gentiles. Women didn't normally appear in Hebrew genealogies. But, God had them included here for some reason.

First, there was Tamar (Genesis 38:24-26). She made herself a prostitute and her customer was her father-in-law. She wasn't exactly a person you'd expect to find in the lineage of Jesus Christ. But, God had her there for a purpose. Second, there was Rahab (Joshua 2). Another prostitute. Not only do we find her in Matthew 1, but also in the Hall of Faith of Hebrews 11. God has her here for a purpose. Third, we find Ruth, another foreigner. A twice married lady and King David's great grandmother. God has her here for a purpose. Let's not forget Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:3). A lady with loose morals, to say the least. She got pregnant by King David while she was still married to another man. God has her here for a purpose. These women are all questionable characters. What do you think God's purpose of having them here in the genealogy of Jesus is?

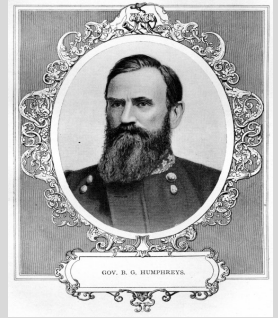
Purpose 1. To show us the providence of God. [*"Providence is God's control of circumstances so that His will and His purposes are fulfilled."* - Warren Wiersby]. God is in control. He does not condone sin. But, He does make sure His will prevails and His purposes are fulfilled. Even sin and evil can't stop God from carrying out His plan.

Purpose 2. To show us the faithfulness of God. God had promised Israel to raise up a King in the line of David. Israel's hope was in the Messiah God had promised. They were looking for a deliverer. God was true to His Word, He did bring the Messiah. He not only came to deliver the Jews but everyone who would turn to Him. Even in the worst of circumstances, God is true to His Word. These ladies we've looked at would not be our choices to bring about the birth of Jesus, but God is faithful.

Purpose 3. To show us the grace of God. The Jews didn't deserve a Messiah at all. At one time, they were worshipping false gods. Abraham and David were sinners. Abraham lied twice about his wife, bringing shame on himself, his wife, and his God. David committed adultery, killed many men, had Uriah, Bathsheba's husband killed, and he was a terrible father. And yet, God had grace. The Jews didn't deserve a deliverer at all. But God's grace was with them all throughout the thousands of years. God added Tamar's son, Perez to the line of Judah. God's grace made Rahab the great-great-grandmother of David. God's grace gave Ruth a godly husband and brought Obed, Jesse, and David. God's grace made Bathsheba the mother of Solomon.

Are you in need of the providence, faithfulness, and grace of God? It's all still available to you today.

It is available for the Christian. God is still at work in your life. He is still faithful to His promises to you, and He still offers grace in forgiveness. It is available for the non-Christian as well. God can be working in your life to day. After all, He came to *"seek and save the lost."* He promises that He will save all who repent and turn to Him. His promises are true and unfulfilling. He offers His grace to you to day. May God bless you all!



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Larry McCluney

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## Lee/Jackson Banquet— January 11, 2025

Lets make plans to attend our annual Lee/Jackson Banquet at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be MS Division Lt. Commander Forrest Daws. The ladies will have their Silent Auction with many prizes. If you have any prizes to donate please bring them to the meeting in November and give them to Annette McCluney.

Let us all turn out for this get together and fellowship to celebrate two great Southern men's birthdays.



## Adjutant's Report — Dan McCaskill

October 12, 2024

**Call to Order:** At 6:10 PM CDT by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Larry A. McCluney, Jr.

**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.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Larry A. McCluney, Jr. welcomed everyone to our monthly Camp Meeting. Checking with the ladies and learning the evening meal was not quite ready; a little Camp business was conducted.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Larry A. McCluney, Jr. had the pleasure of inducting Mark Hathaway into the Camp as our newest member. Mark was presented his Membership Certificate, MS Division Member Pin, MS Division Challenge Coin and a SCV decal. Welcome Mark, our 43<sup>rd</sup> member!

The Meeting was recessed for the evening meal provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter #9, OCR.

**Officer Reports:** **Commander:** Absent; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Larry McCluney reported the Recruiting Table at the Carrollton Pilgrimage and Pioneer Days was a success. Larry thanked Joe Nokes for paying for our spot at the Pilgrimage. Larry thanked Annette McCluney, Ann and Dan McCaskill, Tommy McCaskill, and Michael Anthony for helping at the table. Camp Member Mitch Costilow stopped at the table for a short while. A new member was recruited and several more expressed an interest in the SCV. Past member and Charter member Gary Pierce stopped to visit and he also expressed an interest in re-joining the Camp. Also, it was reported that \$277 was raised for the Confederate Headstone bringing the total raised to \$317. Money needed is \$540. It was a great day. Our Lee-Jackson Banquet will be January 11, 2025 and our speaker will be MS Division 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Forrest Daws. Adjutant Dan McCaskill placed the name of David W. Floyd before the Camp for consideration for membership. After a brief discussion Gator Stillman made a motion to approve David Floyd's application for membership in the Camp. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and passed without objection. Adjutant McCaskill also reported Junior Stillman has paid his dues to re-join the Camp. These additions bring the membership up to 45. Financially, the account balance stands at \$2,545 with only \$14.60 spent from the budget for stamps. Less than half of the budget has been spent. **Newsletter Editor:** Larry apologized for the lateness of the newsletter. There were some technical difficulties getting the newsletter to the Adjutant. Everyone present at the meeting stated they enjoyed the newsletter. **OCR:** Missy stated anyone wishing to donate an item for the Lee-Jackson Banquet raffle to let a member know what the item is and if possible, to bring it to the next Camp Meeting. **MOSB** has one new member pending and is trying to get past members to rejoin the chapter.

Larry gave a brief update on the Grenada County Confederate Memorial which the city of Grenada took down. A lawsuit has been filed by the Mississippi Division to stop the re-erection of the monument behind the fire station in the woods. Instead, have the Memorial Monument placed in the Confederate Cemetery. The lawyer for the Division is Don Barrett.

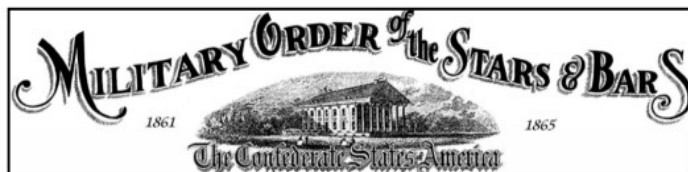
**Camp Business:** Larry asked for a motion to adopt the Minutes of the September Camp Meeting as printed in The Delta General. Earl McCown made the motion to adopt the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and the motion passed.

**Program:** Larry McCluney present a very interesting program on the life of the CSS Arkansas. Construction started in Memphis, TN in mid-1861. When Memphis was threatened, the Arkansas was moved south to Yazoo City and the Arkansas' sister ship was burned. With the continued threat from the yankees, she was again moved upriver to Greenwood where construction was continued. Construction was delayed by having material for the Arkansas redirected to other ships. Finally armed and threatened by Federal gunboats, the Arkansas went out to meet the enemy. Defeating the gunboats, the Arkansas continued down river and inflicted much damage to the combined Federal fleets on its way to Vicksburg.

The Arkansas suffered much damage and loss of life. Before all repairs had been made, General Earl Van Dorn ordered the Arkansas to attack the fleet South of Vicksburg. On the way, one of the engines failed which forced the running aground and burning the Arkansas. The active service of the Ironclad Arkansas was only 24 days. If the Arkansas had suitable engines, it could have cleared the river of federal ships and no siege of Vicksburg would have happened.

With no other business coming before the Camp, Gator Stillman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Earl McCown and the motion passed without objection. Attendance for the meeting was 13. Next Camp Meeting will be November 9, 2024.

The Camp Meeting was closed with a word of prayer by Camp Chaplain Earl McCown and the singing of Dixie.



## General Charles Clark Chapter, MOS&B

Greetings from B/G Charles Clark Chapter 253, MOS&B.

The Battle of Old River Lake (Ditch Bayou), at Lake Village, Arkansas, was fought between Federal Army troops, numbering 6,000 and Confederate Army troops numbering 800. Federal troops were commanded by Brigadier General Joseph Mower. Confederate troops were commanded by General Colton Greene. This skirmish was fought from June 5 to June 6, 1864.

Union forces marched into Confederate-held lands in Chicot County, Arkansas. The ensuing battle resulted mainly in a stalemate, each side achieving its goals. The Confederate troops succeeded in delaying the Federal forces' advance into the South, while dealing more casualties to the opposing army than they themselves received. Federal casualties: 180; Confederate casualties: 100. The Federals succeeded in advancing toward their goal: Lake Village.

The Confederate objective was to delay the Federal advance. Although they had no real hope of defeating the Federals in a major battle, by using small scale skirmishing tactics, they were slowly able to inflict casualties on the Union Army. During the evening and morning of June 5 and 6, General Mower positioned his troops and proceeded to march on Lake Village. They were soon confronted by Confederate soldiers who would fire a few shots and retreat to cover. Later, these retreating soldiers ended up in General Colton Greene's encampment, where his main force was located. Along with Greene's troops and accompanying artillery, the Confederates attempted to delay the Union advance, then ended the battle and withdrew to Parker's Landing. The Union troops advanced to Lake Village, camped there overnight, and the next rejoined the flotilla on the Mississippi River at Columbia.

I report this minor event only to highlight one of the lesser know Confederate officers. I present, Colton Greene (July 7, 1833 – September 23, 1900). Green joined the Confederate army as Captain in the Missouri State Guard in 1861. In August of that year, Greene saw his first combat at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, near Springfield, Missouri. On October 28, Greene was appointed Colonel in the Missouri State Guard, later that year he was also appointed Brigadier General in the State Guard. In 1864 was leading a brigade and was acting Brigadier General in the Confederate States Army.

Listed as "acting" Brigadier General in CSA, he does not appear in Ezra Wagner's 'Generals in Gray'.



**SCV Chat — Every Monday Night on Facebook at 7:00 PM  
Central time and on Thursday Nights at 7:00 PM for Look  
Around the Confederation**

## **Beauvoir and Division News**

### **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.

### **Bricks for Beauvoir**

Honor your Confederate ancestors while supporting Beauvoir. Each brick that you purchase will be engraved with your ancestors rank, name, unit, and company. The memorial bricks will be laid creating a sidewalk from the UDC Arch to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate soldier. For more information on these opportunities, please visit [www.visitbeauvoir.org](http://www.visitbeauvoir.org) or contact Beauvoir directly at (228) 388-4400

## **Mississippi Division News**

### **2025 Mississippi Division Reunion**

#### **Pickwick Landing, TN**

**June 6-8, 2025**

Compatriots of the Mississippi Division SCV and Ladies of the Mississippi Society OCR,

We are honored to invite you to the 2025 Mississippi Division Annual Reunion, hosted by Col. William P. Rogers Camp 321. The Reunion will be held on June 6-8, 2025, at the Lodge at Pickwick Landing State Park, Pickwick Landing, TN.

Our Annual Reunion serves as a gathering of our compatriots, families, and friends. It is a time when we come together to transact the business of our organization but also as a time to celebrate our shared honorable heritage, reflect on our achievements from the past year, and envision the future of our organizations. Please make plans to join us for a memorable week-end.

Our host hotel is the Lodge at Pickwick Landing, located on the banks of the Tennessee River in Pickwick Landing, TN. The Lodge offers 119 rooms, all of which directly face the Tennessee River, as well as a great restaurant and bar. Room Rates are \$155.00 a night. Please use Group Code 8244 to receive this room rate when booking.

Pickwick is close to many sites of the War for Southern Independence: the battlefields of Shiloh, Brice's Crossroads, Corinth, and Davis Bridge. The state park also offers some amazing fishing and golfing. Registration is now open, and we encourage you to secure your spot at the reunion at your earliest convenience. Please take advantage of our early registration rates.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Reunion Planning Committee at [msdivadjutant@gmail.com](mailto:msdivadjutant@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you next June at Pickwick!

In the Bonds of the Old South,

Mike Moore, Chairman  
2025 Reunion Host Committee

### **Donate Today!**

As many of you know by now, the Grenada City Council recently removed the Grenada Confederate Monument. Mississippi State Law is very clear about the requirements for any municipality that is relocating a monument. The law states, "The governing body may move the memorial to a more suitable location if it is determined that the location is more appropriate to displaying the monument." Instead, the Council voted to relocate the monument, it was arranged and offered to have the monument placed in the Confederate section of the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Grenada. The Council ignored this offer, even after hearing pleas at a public meeting from locals and state officials. Instead, the Council voted to move the Monument to a location in the woods behind a fire station south of town, with no road or path leading to the location. The law is clear. A more appropriate location was offered and turned down in favor of a less appropriate location. This willful disregard for Mississippi Law came after the Council illegally covered the Monument up for four years. Again, Mississippi Law states, "None of the following items (War Between the States Monuments), structures, or areas may be relocated, removed, disturbed, altered, renamed or rededicated" Keeping the Monument covered was another blatant disregard for Mississippi Law and a slap in the face of not only the residents, but of every descendant of someone who sacrificed themselves for military service. People want

action taken, and we want to help. If you would like to donate for legal expenses, we need your help. The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. Help us do something. **Help us help the people of Grenada. Donate today.**

**Checks may be made out to the Mississippi Division SCV and mailed to:**

**Mississippi Division SCV  
108 County Road 5131  
Booneville, MS 38829**

## **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.*







## 2025 SCV MS Division Reunion

### Registration Form

129<sup>th</sup> Reunion – Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

31<sup>st</sup> Reunion – Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose

Pickwick Landing, TN – June 6-8, 2025

Hosts: Col. W.P. Rogers Camp 321 SCV and Ladies of Col. W.P. Rogers Chapter 25, OCR



SCV Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV Camp Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

OCR Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

OCR Chapter Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

*All registered SCV members will receive a name badge, a convention medal, a program, and a bag of goodies (quantities limited). Registration at the door will receive the same as long as supplies last. OCR members will receive a medal if payment is provided below.*

### REGISTRATION AMOUNTS

SCV Member – on or before May 6, 2025, \$60.00 / After May 6, 2025, \$70.00 QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OCR Member – on or before May 6, 2025, \$30.00 / After May 6, 2025, \$35.00 QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Commander's Reception - on or before May 6, 2025, \$25.00 per person QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Awards Banquet – on or before May 6, 2025, \$50.00 per person QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(NO RECEPTION OR BANQUET REGISTRATION AFTER MAY 6, 2025, INCLUDING WALK-UPS)

Individual Ancestor Memorial - \$10.00 each QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Half Page Ancestor Memorial - \$40.00 each QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Full Page Ancestor Memorial - \$100.00 each QTY \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL REGISTRATION AMOUNT =====> \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Make Checks Payable to **Col. W.P. Rogers Camp 321** & Mail to:  
Camp 321 C/O: Dwight Johnson, 3470 CR 100, Corinth, MS 38834

SCV Contact: Mike Moore (732) 962-5335 OCR Contact: Laura Moore (662) 416-7949

### HOTEL INFO

The Lodge at Pickwick Landing  
120 Playground Loop, Counce, TN 38326  
(888) 867-2757  
or online at:

[www.tnstateparks.com/lodges/pickwick-landing](http://www.tnstateparks.com/lodges/pickwick-landing)

Use Group Code **8244** when booking for \$155.00 room rate.



## Confederate Legion's First Training Session

Beauvoir, Gulfport, Mississippi  
November 16, 2024

What does joining the SCV's Confederate Legion (CL) mean for the individual CL member? In the CL's early days (2018), it meant members joined by donating \$50.00 with the assurance that at least 90% of their donation would be used to promote the Cause. Promotion efforts included local radio and newspaper advertisements. This is still an important factor, but it means much more. This means that CL members (Confederate Legionnaires) will be the catalyst for positive camp action and promote the Cause within their local community. How this can be effectively done will be explained in a series of CL Training Sessions. The first will be held on November 16, 2024, at President Davis' last home, Beauvoir in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The best way to preserve local monuments and prevent weak politicians from banning displays of Southern symbols in public areas and at local events is to act affirmatively well before the attack emerges. Presenting a positive image to local politicians, community associations, and other local agents of influence will prevent many anti-South attacks from emerging. Those attacks that do emerge will be much easier to defeat. Confederate Legionnaires are key to the successful efforts of the SCV to win in the Court of Public Opinion. What are some of the things that the camp can do to make sure you are winning in the local Court of Public Opinion?

Every camp should have someone, preferably a Confederate Legionnaire, appointed as the camp's Heritage Promotion Officer. The camp's Heritage Promotion Officer should prepare a list of all local elected officials' names and e-mail addresses. A digital copy should be e-mailed to every camp member. After a camp activity is completed, such as a veteran's grave site restoration, a photo of the event with a short two or three-line description should be e-mailed to every potentially friendly (moderate to conservative) elected official. Local agents of influence within the community, such as the Lions Club and ministers, should also receive a copy. Include the URL and QR Code link to the National SCV's two-minute video ad describing the SCV and the National Confederate Museum. Much more will be covered in this one-day training session. If you are already a Confederate Legionnaire or if you are interested in becoming a part of the movement, join us on November 16, at Beauvoir. A training will be held at Elm Springs on March 29, 2025. Others are in the plans. If your Camp, Brigade, or Division would like to host a training session, contact us.



(Left) Ron Kennedy speaking at the Thomas O. Benton SCV Camp in Monroe, Louisiana, September 18, 2024. Ron is holding up a copy of the Confederate Legion Handbook. This book will be provided to those who attend the CL training sessions. Note our new CL logo on page 3.

Ron was invited to speak about his new book *Reconstruction: Destroying a Republic and Creating an Empire* but took the opportunity to promote the CL and the upcoming training session.



## SHOW YOUR PATRIOTISM—GET OUT THE VOTE 2024

Beginning in October the National SCV in conjunction with camps and divisions will be running numerous 30-second radio and video ads encouraging all patriotic citizens to exercise their right to vote in the 2024 presidential election. Our local communities must understand that as America's longest-operating veterans' organization, the SCV is patriotically committed to encouraging all voters, regardless of their political affiliation, to exercise their right to vote.

This is just one of the many ways in which local camps, divisions, and national SCV can help the SCV to win in the Court of Public Opinion. Voters and political officeholders in the local community will hear our ads and understand who we are, and that we are actively promoting traditional, patriotic, American values.

Below is the video link to the ad. Please share it on your social media.

<https://youtu.be/jwcevmsi-gU>

Contact us if your camp would like to participate.



If you love these flags, then you understand that our Confederate ancestors were fighting for the same thing our Colonial ancestors were fighting for—the right of self-determination, the right of self-government—**Freedom!**

**Join the Confederate Legion and help the SCV spread the truth about the War for Southern Independence.**



### We Can Win in the Court of Public Opinion

The good news is that we are winning, and we have the data to prove it! In 2023, the National SCV commissioned a nationwide opinion poll regarding the use of Federal dollars to remove the Arlington Monument and the renaming of military bases named for Southern heroes. The poll demonstrated that 60% of Americans (not just Southerners) did not approve of using taxpayer funds for such projects. Another public opinion poll commissioned by the National SCV asked conservative voters in 16 Southern States if they approved removing monuments of traditional American heroes, including Confederate heroes. This poll demonstrated that 80 to 90% of Southern conservatives **do not** favor the removal of our monuments. Since most Southern counties vote moderate to conservative (Red counties), most of our monuments should be safe. We have at our disposal, an important **public opinion leverage** to use to protect our Southern heritage in these counties. It is the Confederate Legionnaire's responsibility to encourage their local SCV Camp to take steps to inform elected officials and the public about the large numbers of folks who support keeping our monuments and allowing the public display of Confederate flags and symbols. Confederate Legionnaires in their local camp should make sure their local SCV members understand this leverage, how to use it, and become actively involved in enlarging and using that public opinion leverage.

Confederate Legionnaires are key to the SCV winning in the Court of Public Opinion!





# Sons of Confederate Veterans

## 130th Annual National Reunion

Houston, Texas      July 17-20, 2025



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV Camp Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Current Rank, Title, or Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name (For Name Badge): \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Please only provide your spouse's name if they are attending a Reunion Meal or Tour. Spouses **DO NOT** need to pay for registration.*

Date	Time	Event	Price	Qty	Total
SCV REUNION EARLY BIRD	REGISTRATION	ALL SCV MEMBERS MUST REGISTER (through May 31, 2025) includes medal & program	\$75.00		
SCV REGULAR REUNION	REGISTRATION	ALL SCV MEMBERS MUST REGISTER (June 1, 2025 through July 7, 2025) includes medal & program	\$85.00		
Thursday, July 17, 2025	12:00 PM	Heritage Defense Luncheon	\$48.00		
Thursday, July 17, 2025	1:45 PM	Battle of Galveston Tour/Dinner/Cemetery Tour	\$100.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	7:30 AM	Chaplain's Breakfast	\$38.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	12:00 PM	SCV Awards Luncheon	\$48.00		
Friday, July 18, 2025	1:45 PM	Battle of San Jacinto Tour/ Dick Dowling Grave	\$40.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	7:30 AM	Mechanized Cavalry Breakfast	\$38.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	8:30 AM	Ladies Tour to Galveston - Moody Mansion/ Lunch/ Museum	\$70.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	6:00 PM	Commander in Chief Reception	\$30.00		
Saturday, July 19, 2025	7:00 PM	SCV Banquet/Debutante Presentation/Grand Ball <i>Note: Dress Attire is Coat &amp; Tie or Period Uniform</i>	\$80.00		
Ancestor Memorials ~ Each		<i>You Must Submit Ancestor Info on Separate Form</i>	\$10.00		
Extra Reunion Medal		Note: 1 Medal is included with your registration, order extras here	\$25.00		
Reunion Medal		Limited Edition - Numbered 1-100. Note: This medal is NOT included with registration.	\$100		
		<b>FINAL TOTAL - Registration, Tours, Extra Medals</b>			

*Please Make Checks Payable to: "Texas Division SCV"*  
*Mail the Form & Check to **733 W 3rd Ave. Corsicana, TX 75110***



# HANGED! AN INNOCENT MAN?

## Thomas Caleb Dula.

By Robert Taylor (ACWRTQ).



**O**f all the stories we've covered in the past 102 issues of this Australian study journal, and of all our guest speakers, none amaze me more than the story of *Tom Dula*. I had an interest in this young man even before I stepped up to the ranks of *civil-war* enthusiasts. I took an instant liking to the song "*Tom Dooley*" in 1958 when it was released on record by *The Kingston Trio*, not realising, until recently, that it had *civil-war* connections. In those days before T.V. in New Zealand and Australia I used to sing it at regular Saturday night parties, as was the custom in those days when each guest was expected to perform an item of some kind. We would have tap-dancing, magical tricks, minstrel shows, a piano-accordion and many songs. This was before we all became a nation of spectators.

*"Hang down your head Tom Dooley  
Hang down your head and cry,  
Hang down your head Tom Dooley  
Poor boy you're bound to die".*

**I** didn't know the song's true story of a Confederate soldier hanged for a murder he didn't commit. Time and misfortune may have tainted the legend and certainly it has become somewhat *stretched* over time. The only image we have of *Tom Dula* is included here

but cannot be verified, although it appears in many accounts and on book covers purporting to be *Tom Dula*. He is shown on the previous page in a Confederate uniform.

**F**irstly, the name '*Dula*' is pronounced in the accent of the time and heard as '*du:lei* and with dialect became '*du:li* "*Dooley*". Given the date of his sentence in 1868 it puts the whole case in suspicious light as few former Confederate soldiers, in those post-war years of *Reconstruction*, could expect a fair trial. More than a shadow of doubt hangs over the *Dula* case and I would like to highlight the facts for you. You should note that somewhere along the line the story was twisted until it became immortalised in song. Various people sang different versions of the song before the Trio



who took the ballad without acknowledging the person they first heard singing it, folklorist *Frank Warner* who in turn had learned the song from *Frank Proffitt*, renown for folk songs. Warner first heard *Proffitt* during one of his frequent sessions at the *Proffitt* home in *North Carolina*. He in turn first heard it performed by his *Aunt Nancy Prother* whose parents knew *Tom Dula*, and the two women involved in the story, *Laura* and *Anne Foster*. Anne's name appears in two spellings, such as 'Ann' but in a Blog site descendants spell her name with an 'e'. After hearing *The Kingston Trio* version, *Frank Warner* took them to court to settle copyright issues, ultimately resulting in royalty payments from the Trio and others who had also performed the song over the years.

**"This time tomorrow  
Reckon where I'll be,  
Down in some lonesome valley  
Hangin' from a white-oak tree".**

**T**he Kingston Trio folk/pop music group launched a folk revival of the late 50's starting in the *San Francisco Bay* area nightclub scene; *Dave Guard*, *Bob Shane* and *Nick Reynolds* quickly rose to international fame with sales of what was then a new and innovative medium, *Long Playing Records (LPs)*. *Tom Dooley* swept them into the charts selling over 3 million copies as a single. Four of the groups LPs charted among the 10 top-selling albums in November and December 1959. A group licensed the name and continues to perform as *Kingston Trio* to this day. *Dave Guard* died in 1991, *Nick Reynolds* in 2008 and *Bob Shaw* passed away in 2020.



**T**here are various, rather seedy accounts of *Tom Dula* and his dalliances with local women. I have chosen not to include these as I feel they are irrelevant and likely more in the realm of village gossip that no doubt flourished in the community at the time. The rumours were further enhanced to taint the life of a brave soldier who, through circumstance, was compelled to fight for the freedom of his State. We know *Dula* played fiddle and was described as being very good looking, this branded him a ladies' man. Some accounts have him playing banjo. *Tom* did use his musical talents during the war, his muster roll lists him as a musician and drummer.

**B**orn 23 June 1844, *Tom's* family was destitute on an *Appalachian* hill-country homestead in *Wilkes County, North Carolina*. He had three brothers and a sister *Eliza*. *Tom* grew up with the *Foster* girls who were neighbours, he and *Anne* became childhood sweethearts. However before the war, *Anne Foster* married an older man, *James Melton*, a former cobbler and neighbour who also served in the war taking part in the *Battle of Gettysburg*. Three months before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, 15 March 1862, *Tom* had enlisted in the Confederate army as a private in *Company K, 42<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina Infantry Regiment*. Wounded several times in battle, *Tom* fought at *Petersburg, Virginia* 18 June 1864, one of the bloodiest battles of the war. His brothers died in the war leaving *Tom* as his mother's



sole remaining son. He and Melton were captured and sent to a prison camp, with Tom being released after the war in April 1865.

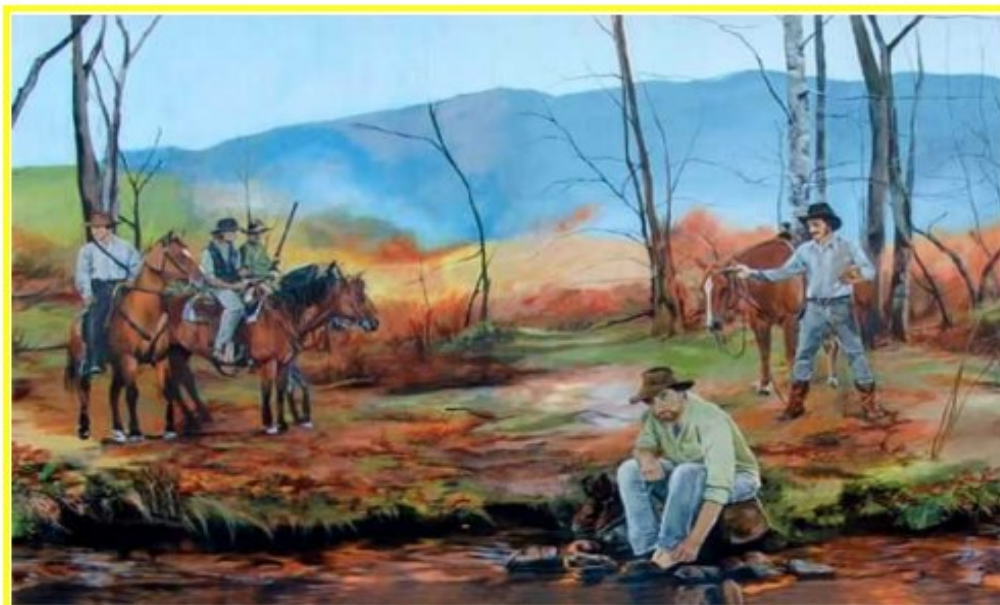
**T**om Dula resumed his relationship with Anne and also with Laura Foster, Anne's cousin. According to oral history, Laura became pregnant and hoped to elope with Dula. To this end she left home 25<sup>th</sup> May 1866 on her father's horse and was never seen alive again. This is where the rumour mill fuelled gossip with some claiming Anne, in a jealous rage, killed Laura. Dula, not wishing her to be hanged for the crime, took the blame by running away. The obvious question is, if Tom murdered Laura, why didn't he take her horse to make his getaway? Why did he walk all the way to Trade, Tennessee? So long was the walk that he wore out his boots! It was Anne who led authorities to Laura's body in a shallow grave. Anne's cousin Paula Foster testified that Anne had shown her the grave site one night to make sure it was well hidden. Once uncovered, Laura's badly decomposed body was found with her legs drawn up to fit a shallow grave. She had been stabbed once in the chest. The love triangle is a common thread but while on the surface looks rather obvious, Dula's role in the murder is still hotly debated. In the Kingston Trio song *Grayson* is mentioned. This is

Colonel James Grayson U.S. of Trade, Tennessee (Seen on left). After the murder, Tom worked for Grayson under the false name of Tom Hall.

**"This time tomorrow  
Reckon where I'll be  
Hadn't been for Grayson  
I'd a been in Tennessee".**



**T**om had walked all the way from Wilkes County to the Grayson farm, on his worn out boots. Obviously aware he was wanted for murder, Tom stayed long enough to buy a new pair of boots and shortly after left the farm. Once Dula's true identity became known to Grayson he attempted to find the sheriff but being unable to locate him, decided to lead a posse himself, capturing and bringing Dula in.



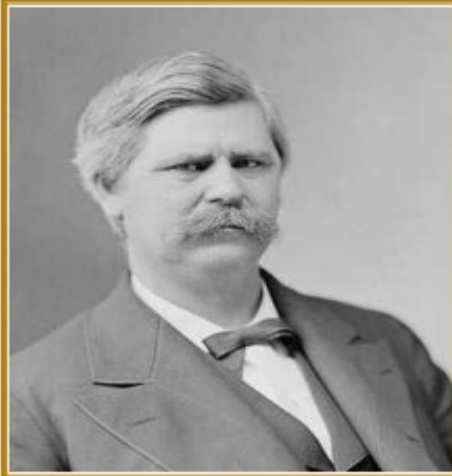
The Capture of Tom Dula. A mural by artist Christy Dunn, Mountain City, Tennessee. Dula's feet can be seen to be secured under the horse-Editor.

**T**he mural painting by artist Christy Dunn exists in Mountain City, Tennessee portraying the capture of Tom Dula. Apparently Grayson tied Tom's feet under the belly of the horse to prevent him escaping. Once delivered to custody, Grayson has nothing else to do with the story other than that



the *North Carolina General Assembly* reimbursed *Grayson* \$62.50 for expenses. There is some speculation that this was a reward. At the court trial, a former *North Carolina Governor*, *Zebulon Vance*, represented *Dula* free of charge. *Dula* was listed as too poor to pay any of the costs of his two murder trials. Throughout the trial and for the rest of his life *Tom Dula* maintained his innocence. Such was the wild speculation, it seemed to *Zebulon Vance* that *Dula* was not likely to receive a fair trial in *Wilkesboro* so he had the trial moved to *Statesville*.

*"I met her on the mountain  
There I took her life.  
Met her on the mountain  
Stabbed her with my knife".*



Defending lawyer Zebulon Vance.

**R**egardless of pleas of innocence, *Dula* was found guilty and although he appealed was again convicted; a supposed accomplice, *Jack Keaton* was set free. At the gallows *Dula*, forever the soldier, stood bravely saying, "*Gentlemen, do you see this hand, I did not harm a single hair on that fair lady's head*". He delivered a 1 hour speech before the hanging in *Statesville*, 1st May 1868 amid considerable controversy. One of the many stories still circulating is that *Tom* served under *Zebulon Vance's* 26<sup>th</sup> *North Carolina Regiment* where he played banjo in the army band and gave performances for *Colonel Vance*, this has proven to be one of many false rumours simply fuelled by the fact that *Vance* was *Dula's* defence lawyer at the trial.

**I**n 2001, citizens of *North Wilkesboro* presented a petition to *North Carolina Governor Mike Easley* seeking a posthumous pardon for *Tom Dula* but it failed. However *Tom* was acquitted of all charges when a petition was distributed in *Wilkes County*. Because it wasn't an official action, it was deemed to have no legal standing. It seems *Reconstruction* in the Southern States is still with us. In 1874, *Anne* was seriously injured in a wagon accident and never recovered from her injuries. On her death-bed, *Anne Melton (nee Foster)* confessed to the murder of *Laura* in a fit of jealousy and begged *Tom* to help her conceal the body. It's said that in her final moments, wracked with guilt, a delirious *Anne* saw black cats on the walls of her room and could smell and hear bacon frying. The relevance of that evades me. We are left to wonder at the courage of *Tom Dula* who took to the grave his knowledge of who really killed *Laura*. Amongst the great sadness surrounding this tragic story is also the grieving mother who, through war and its vindictive aftermath, lost all four sons.

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Gillam Grayson (right) and Henry Whittier (rear) with the Greer sisters in 1927. Folk music was a very popular form of entertainment and was a way of preserving history during and long after the War Between the States-Editor.  
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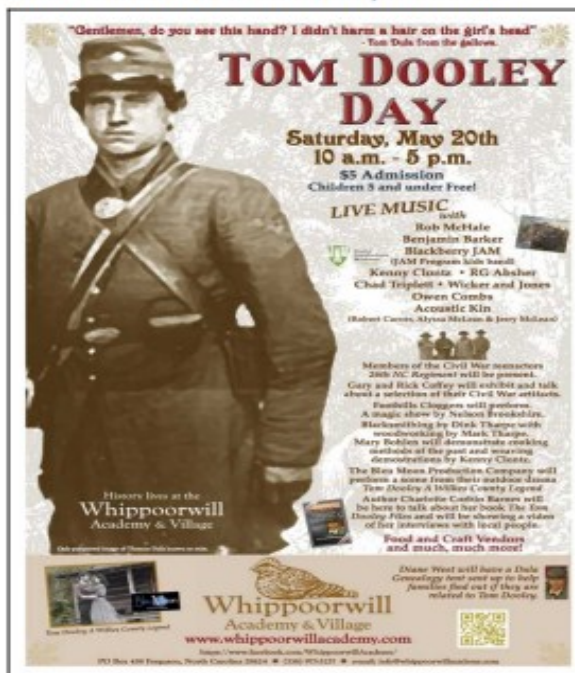
**L**ong before *The Kingston Trio* took up the song, a band with a descendant of *Grayson* performed a similar version with different lyrics in 1927. Gillam Grayson was photographed with the band in



*Boone, North Carolina.* Ironically, the *Grayson's* continued to profit from *Tom's* demise, such is the true nature of folksong and legend. Today the matter is still alive and flourishes in song and folklore. It stirs 'bushfires' of Internet Blogs and certainly throws light on the fact that many Confederate soldiers may have faced the prospect of a biased justice system in the years after the war. The same soldiers are *villain-ised* even to this day proving nothing much has changed; justice is indeed both blind and deaf. Today, post-traumatic stress syndrome would be taken into account for such claims. Having survived horrible wounds and the trauma of inhumane prison conditions, before returning to a destitute life in post war South. In future, when you hear the song, spare a thought for the brave little soldier, guilty only of answering the call of his country and the desperate pleas of a woman he loved. *Tom Dula's* grave headstone, like so many Southern memorials and grave sites, has been vandalised and smashed with hammers. It's claimed that was done by people wanting a piece as a souvenir. Even in death poor *Tom* is persecuted. Today's descendants of *Anne* must live with their ancestor's remarkable place in history. It's not for me to muddy the waters, they are muddy enough and perhaps we will never know the full truth.

**B**efore he died, *Dula* penned an in-depth account of his life. A number of books have been published about him and a movie. *Tom* also left a note exonerating *Anne* of all involvement in the crime. His pleas of not guilty should at least have raised questions about how he could have known whether or not *Anne* was involved. I guess we will never know the full truth, available books present differing accounts. Either way it was a simple *Appalachian Hill* country boy who could never have perceived songs about him would be sung in faraway Australia, 158 years later. Perhaps we identify *Tom Dula* with our own legendary hero *Ned Kelly*. In 2017 the *Whipperwill Academy and Village in North Carolina* celebrated *Tom Dooley Day* on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**I**n later life, I became friends with a folk singing legend in *New Zealand*, *Phil Garland*, sadly no longer with us. Like *Tom Dula's* song, *Phil* wrote his own lyrics and helped preserve pioneer life in the country and of our early whalers. The song "*Hang Down your head Tom Dooley*" not only captures fond moments of my youth and happy family gatherings on a Saturday night, it captures the story of a... "*poor boy*"...who, perhaps regardless of innocence and duty to country, due to the love of a woman was... "*bound to...die*". You can't help but admire that kind of rascal.



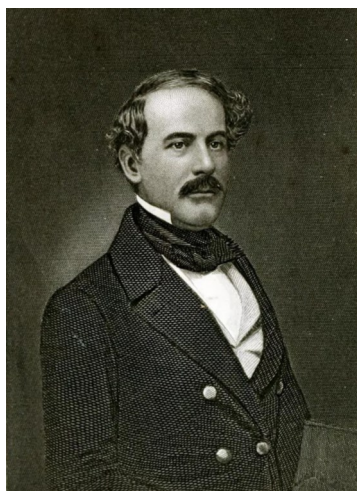

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## Robert E. Lee: "I Declined the Offer"

William Connery, September 30,  
2024, [blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org)



**Robert E. Lee as he would have appeared when making his decision to resign at Arlington in 1861 | NPS**

In March 1861, Robert E. Lee met with Gen. Winfield Scott at the United States War Department. For three hours, the old general and his favorite subordinate spoke together. What was said during that conversation was never revealed. But Scott's known opinion to secession—despite being from Virginia—his admiration for Lee, and his desire to assure strong leadership for the army allow us to reasonably reconstruct part of the dialogue. Scott likely told Lee that he would soon be promoted to colonel and hinted that, should Scott himself be too feeble to take the field, he would recommend Lee as his second-in-command. If Lee responded to Scott's overtures, it was probably with the sentiment that if Virginia seceded, he would follow her, as he considered his primary obligation to be to his state. When Lee left, it was reported that Scott's manner was "painfully silent."

About the same time Lee got a letter written dated March 15 from LeRoy Pope Walker, the Confederate States of America's Secretary of War. This letter was a direct offer of a commission as brigadier general—the highest rank then authorized—in the army the South was forming. The letter read: "You are requested to signify your acceptance or non-acceptance of said appointment, and should you accept, you will sign before a magistrate the oath of office herewith and forward the same, with your letter of acceptance to this office." After many years of slow promotion, honors were now coming quickly: a colonelcy in one army and a generalship in the rival service. There is no record of Lee's reply to this offer from the Confederacy, but it is likely he ignored it. What is certain is that he was not enticed by the promise of high position. Lee felt alle-



**It was in this room at Arlington where Lee informed his family that he had resigned. | NPS**

giance to only two governments: that of Virginia and that of the Union. As long as these two entities did not conflict, and as long as Virginia did not join the Confederacy, there was no thought of a third.

By March 28, Lee had been promoted to full colonel in the U.S. Army and had taken the oath of allegiance to the U.S. Constitution. On the morning of April 18, with no news yet from the Virginia Secession Convention in Richmond, Lee rode over the bridge to visit Francis Preston Blair, whose home stood across the street from the Presidential Mansion. Blair promptly explained his reason for the meeting. A large army, he said, would soon be called into the field, and President Lincoln had authorized him to ask Lee if he would accept the command.

This was a significant offer: command of an army of 75,000, perhaps even 100,000 men; the chance to apply all he had learned in Mexico; the realization of a soldier's highest ambition; the full support of the government; the companionship of many of his most capable comrades; and the rank of major general. Yet Lee's response was clear: "If the Union is dissolved and the government disrupted, I shall return to my native state and share the miseries of my people and save in her defense, I will draw my sword on no one." There he made the fateful reply he later recounted of the interview: "I declined the offer he made me to take command of the army that was to be brought into the field, stating as candidly and as courteously as I could, that though opposed to secession and deprecating war, I could take no part in an invasion of the Southern States."

Bidding farewell to Blair, Lee went directly to General Scott's office. He sensed Scott's deep interest in his decision, and as soon as he had arrived, he told him what Blair had offered and his subsequent refusal. "Lee," said Scott, deeply moved, "you have made the greatest mistake of your life, but I feared it would be so."

That was all, as far as Lee was concerned. He had long before decided, instinctively, what his duty required, and the allure of supreme command, with all that a soldier craved, did not tempt him to equivocate for an instant or to see if there were not some way he could keep his own honor and still have the honor he understood the president had offered him.

## The Battle Above the Clouds — Lookout Mountain

The **Battle of Lookout Mountain** also known as the **Battle Above the Clouds** was fought November 24, 1863, as part of the Chattanooga Campaign of the American Civil War. Union forces under Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker assaulted Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Tennessee, and defeated Confederate forces commanded by Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson. Lookout Mountain was one engagement in the Chattanooga battles between Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Military Division of the Mississippi and the Confederate Army of Tennessee, commanded by Gen. Braxton Bragg. It drove in the Confederate left flank and allowed Hooker's men to assist in the Battle of Missionary Ridge the following day, which routed Bragg's army, lifting the siege of Union forces in Chattanooga, and opening the gateway into the Deep South.

After their disastrous defeat at the Battle of Chickamauga, the 40,000 men of the Union Army of the Cumberland under Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans retreated to Chattanooga, Tennessee. Bragg's Army of Tennessee besieged the city, threatening to starve the Union forces into surrender. Bragg's troops established themselves on Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain, both of which had excellent views of the city, the Tennessee River flowing through the city, and the Union's supply lines. Lookout Mountain was actually a ridge or narrow plateau that extended 85 miles (137 km) southwest from the Tennessee River, culminating in a sharp point 1,800 feet (550 m) above the river. From the river the end of the mountain rose at a 45° angle and at about two thirds of the way to the summit it changed grade, forming a ledge, or "bench", 150–300 feet (50–90 m) wide, extending for several miles around both sides of the mountain. Above the bench, the grade steepened into a 500-foot (150 m) face of rock called the "palisades". Confederate artillery atop Lookout Mountain controlled access by the river, and Confederate cavalry launched raids on all supply wagons heading toward Chattanooga, which made it necessary for the Union to find another way to feed their men.<sup>[7]</sup>

The Union government, alarmed by the potential for defeat, sent reinforcements. On October 17, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant received command of the Western armies, designated the Military Division of the Mississippi. He moved to reinforce Chattanooga and replaced Rosecrans with Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas.<sup>[8]</sup>

Thomas launched a surprise amphibious landing at Brown's Ferry on October 27 that opened the Tennessee River by linking up Thomas's Army of the Cumberland with a relief column of 20,000 troops from the Eastern Theater's Army of the Potomac, led by Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker. Supplies and reinforcements were thus able to flow into Chattanooga over the "Cracker Line", greatly increasing the chances for Grant's forces. In response, Bragg ordered Lt. Gen. James Longstreet to force the Federals out of Lookout Valley, directly to the west of Lookout Mountain. The ensuing Battle of Wauhatchie (October 28–29) was one of the war's few battles fought exclusively at night. The Confederates were repulsed, and the Cracker Line was secured.<sup>[9]</sup>

On November 12, Bragg placed Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson in overall command for the defense of the mountain, with Stevenson's own division positioned on the summit. The brigades of Brig. Gens. John K. Jackson, Edward C. Walthall, and John C. Moore were placed on the



bench of the mountain. Jackson later wrote about the dissatisfaction of the commanders assigned to this area, "Indeed, it was agreed on all hands that the position was one extremely difficult to defense against a strong force of the enemy advancing under cover of a heavy fire."<sup>[10]</sup> Thomas L. Connelly, historian of the Army of Tennessee, wrote that despite the imposing appearance of Lookout Mountain, "the mountain's strength was a myth. ... It was impossible to hold [the bench, which] was commanded by Federal artillery at Moccasin Bend." Although Stevenson placed an artillery battery on the crest of the mountain, the guns could not be depressed enough to reach the bench, which was accessible from numerous trails on the west side of the mountain.<sup>[11]</sup>

Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman arrived from Vicksburg, Mississippi, with his 20,000 men of the Army of the Tennessee in mid-November. Grant, Sherman, and Thomas planned a double envelopment of Bragg's force, with the main attack by Sherman against the northern end of Missionary Ridge, supported by Thomas in the center and by Hooker, who would capture Lookout Mountain and then move across the Chattanooga Valley to Rossville, Georgia, and cut off the Confederate retreat route to the south. Grant subsequently withdrew his support for a major attack by Hooker on Lookout Mountain, intending the mass of his attack to be by Sherman.<sup>[12]</sup>

On November 23, Sherman's force was ready to cross the Tennessee River. Grant ordered Thomas to advance halfway to Missionary Ridge on a reconnaissance in force to determine the strength of the Confederate line, hoping to ensure that Bragg would not withdraw his forces and move in the direction of Knoxville, Tennessee, where Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside was being threatened by a Confederate force under Longstreet. Thomas sent over 14,000 men toward a minor hill named Orchard Knob and overran the Confederate defenders.<sup>[13]</sup>

Surprised by Thomas's move against Orchard Knob on November 23, and realizing that his center might be more vulnerable than he had thought, Bragg quickly readjusted his strategy. He recalled all units within a day's march that he had recently ordered to Knoxville. He began to reduce the strength on his left by withdrawing Maj. Gen. William H.T. Walker's division from the base of Lookout Mountain and placing them on the far right of Missionary Ridge. He assigned Hardee to command his now critical right flank, turning over the left flank to Carter Stevenson. Stevenson needed to fill the gap left by Walker's division from the mountain to Chattanooga Creek, so he sent Jackson's brigade of Cheatham's Division and Cummings' brigade of his own division into that position. (Jackson himself continued as temporary division commander on the mountain.) Stevenson deployed Walthall's brigade of 1,500 Mississippians as pickets near the base of the mountain, withholding enough for a reserve for Moore's brigade, which would defend the main line on the bench near the Cravens house.<sup>[14]</sup>

The Union side also changed plans. Sherman had three divisions ready to cross the Tennessee, but the pontoon bridge at Brown's Ferry had torn apart and Brig. Gen. Peter J. Osterhaus's division was stranded in Lookout Valley. After receiving assurances from Sherman that he could proceed with three divisions, Grant decided to revive the previously rejected plan for an attack on Lookout Mountain and reassigned Osterhaus to Hooker's command.<sup>[15]</sup>

On November 24, Hooker had about 10,000 men<sup>[2]</sup> in three divisions to operate against Lookout Mountain. Acknowledging that this was too large a force for a simple diversion, "Grant finally acceded to Thomas's persistent demand that a more serious effort be made." Hooker was ordered to "take the point only if his demonstration should develop its practicability."<sup>[18]</sup> Hooker ignored this subtlety and at 3 a.m. on November 24 ordered Geary "to cross Lookout Creek and to assault Lookout Mountain, marching down the valley and sweeping every rebel from it."<sup>[19]</sup>

Hooker did not plan to attack Stevenson's Division on the top of the mountain, assuming that capturing the bench would make Stevenson's position untenable. His force would approach the bench from two directions: Whitaker's brigade would link up with Geary at Wauhatchie, while Grose's brigade and Osterhaus's division would cross Lookout Creek to the southeast. Both forces would meet near the Cravens house. Osterhaus's division was in support: Woods's brigade was assigned to cover Grose and cross the creek after him; Williamson's brigade was assigned to protect Hooker's artillery near the mouth of Lookout Creek.<sup>[20]</sup>

Hooker arranged an impressive array of artillery to scatter the Confederate pickets and cover his advance. He had nine batteries set up near the mouth of Lookout Creek, two batteries from the Army of the Cumberland on Moccasin Point, and two additional batteries near Chattanooga Creek.<sup>[21]</sup>

Geary's expected dawn crossing of Lookout Creek was delayed by high water until 8:30 a.m. First to cross the footbridge was Cobham's brigade, followed by Ireland's, which formed to Cobham's left and became the center of Geary's battle line. Candy's brigade then extended the Union left down to the base of the mountain. Whitaker's brigade followed in the rear. From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m, Geary's skirmishers advanced through the fog and mist that obscured the mountain. Contact was made with Wal-

thall's pickets 1 mile southwest of Lookout Point. The Confederates were significantly outnumbered and could not resist the pressure, falling back but leaving a number behind to surrender. Hooker ordered an artillery bombardment to saturate the Confederate line of retreat, but the effect was minimized because of poor visibility and the fact that the two forces were almost on top of each other.<sup>[22]</sup>

Much of the ground over which we advanced was rough beyond conception. It was covered with an untouched forest growth, seamed with the deep ravines, and obstructed with rocks of all sizes which had fallen from the frowning wall on our right. The ground passed over by our left was not quite so rough; but, taking the entire stretch of the mountain side traversed by our force ... it was undoubtedly the roughest battle field of the war.

Sergeant major of the 96th Illinois<sup>[23]</sup>

### Battle of Lookout Mountain

Part of the [American Civil War](#)



Harper's weekly illustration of the battle

Date	November 24, 1863
Location	Chattanooga, Tennessee 35.017°N 85.342°W
Result	Union victory

Belligerents	
 United States	 Confederate States
Commanders and leaders	
 Joseph Hooker	 Carter L. Stevenson
Units involved	
<b>Military Division of the Mississippi:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Army of the Cumberland (Hooker's Command):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>XI Corps</li><li>XII Corps (parts)<sup>[1]</sup></li></ul></li></ul>	<b>Army of Tennessee:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2 brigades from Cheatham's Division</li><li>2 brigades from Stevenson's Division</li></ul>
Strength	
~12,000 <sup>[2]</sup>	8,726 <sup>[3]</sup>
Casualties and losses	
671 total (89 killed 471 wounded 111 captured/missing) <sup>[4][5][6]</sup>	1,251 (including 1,064 captured or missing)



The Union pursuit of the skirmishers was halted around 11:30 a.m. 300 yards southwest the point when Ireland and Cobham encountered Walthall's reserve southwest of the Cravens house. The two Confederate regiments repulsed Ireland's first attempt at assaulting their fieldworks. A second assault succeeded, enveloping and outnumbering the Confederates 4 to 1. Despite Walthall's attempt to rally his men, he could not prevent a disorderly retreat back toward the Cravens house. The Union brigades kept up their pursuit past the point and along the bench.<sup>[24]</sup>

As Geary's men appeared below the point around noon, Candy's brigade advanced across the lower elevations of the mountain, clearing the enemy from the east bank of Lookout Creek. Hooker ordered Woods's and Grose's brigades to begin crossing the foot bridge over the creek. Woods moved east at the base of the mountain, Grose moved up the slope. These movements isolated part of Walthall's Brigade and the entire 34th Mississippi was forced to surrender, along with 200 men from Moore's picket line.<sup>[25]</sup>

Moore was reluctant to take action. At 9:30 he had sent a message to Jackson asking where he should deploy his brigade and Jackson's reply at 11 a.m. expressed his frustration that Moore had seemingly forgotten the plan to defend the line at the Cravens house.<sup>[26]</sup> Peter Cozzens criticized Jackson's poor performance in leading the defense:

There was bungling aplenty among the Confederate commanders on Lookout Mountain that day, but no one displayed greater negligence than did Jackson. He remained glued to his headquarters ... near the base of the cliff. He was nearly a mile from the line he had been charged to defend. In his report of the battle, Jackson tried to excuse his dereliction of duty by arguing that his headquarters was a good spot from which to receive both commands from Stevenson on the summit and reports from the front line. That may have been true, but his presence was badly needed nearer the Cravens house. Jackson lacked even the presence of mind to call for reinforcements; Stevenson had to offer them.<sup>[27]</sup>

When Stevenson heard the fighting between Walthall and Geary, he ordered Pettus to take three regiments from the summit to assist Jackson. By this time, Moore's Alabamians were moving up amidst Walthall's retreating men, and they fired on Ireland's New Yorkers from 100 yards. Unable to see the size of the force resisting it through the fog, the Union men retreated beyond a stone wall. Moore's 1,000 men took positions in the rifle pits facing the wall and waited for the inevitable counterattack. Ireland's men were too exhausted to make an immediate move. As Whitaker's brigade arrived after 1 p.m., they stepped over Ireland's men and rushed into the attack. Candy's brigade was moving up the mountain side on Whitaker's left, followed by the brigades of Woods and Grose. Moore could see that he was being significantly outflanked on the right and chose to fall back rather than be surrounded.<sup>[28]</sup>

All of the Union brigades, including Ireland's tired men, began the pursuit. Hooker was concerned that his lines were becoming intermingled and confused by the fog and the rugged ground and they were tempting defeat if the Confederates brought up reinforcements in the right place. He ordered Geary to halt for the day, but Geary was too far behind his troops to stop them. Hooker wrote, "Fired by success, with a flying, panic-stricken enemy before them, they pressed impetuously forward."<sup>[29]</sup>

Moore's brigade was able to escape in the fog and Walthall had adequate time to form a rough defensive line 3–400 yards south of the Cravens house. His 600 men took cover behind boulders and fallen trees and made enough of a racket to dissuade Whitaker's men from moving against them. By this time Pettus's brigade of three Alabama regiments had descended from the summit and came to Walthall's assistance after 2 p.m.<sup>[30]</sup>

Hooker sent to Grant alternating messages of panic and bluster. At 1:25 p.m., he wrote that the "conduct of all the troops has been brilliant, and the success has far exceeded my expectations. Our loss has not been severe, and of prisoners I should judge that we had not less than 2,000." At around 3 p.m., he wrote "Can hold the line I am now on; can't advance. Some of my troops out of ammunition; can't replenish." Responding to a plaintive message sent from Whitaker, General Thomas approved the transfer of Brig. Gen. William P. Carlin's brigade (XIV Corps) to aid Hooker. (Carlin was delayed for hours attempting to cross the river and reported to Geary at 7 p.m., playing no role in the combat.) But by sunset, a confident Hooker informed Grant that he intended to move into Chattanooga Valley as soon as the fog lifted. He signaled "In all probability the enemy will evacuate tonight. His line of retreat is seriously threatened by my troops."<sup>[31]</sup>

Bragg responded to a request by Stevenson for reinforcements by

sending Col. J.T. Holtzclaw's brigade under the condition that it be used only to cover a Confederate withdrawal from Lookout Mountain, ordering Stevenson at 2:30 p.m. to withdraw to the east side of Chattanooga Creek. Stevenson was reluctant to break contact until his troops on the summit could escape on the Summertown Road into the Chattanooga Valley. The brigades of Walthall, Pettus, and Moore were ordered to hold on for the rest of the afternoon. For hours through the afternoon and into the night, the six Alabama regiments under Pettus and Moore fought sporadically with the Union troops through dense fog, neither side able to see more than a few dozen yards ahead nor make any progress in either direction.<sup>[32]</sup>

By midnight, Lookout Mountain was quiet. Pettus and Holtzclaw received orders at 2 a.m. to march off the mountain. Postwar writings of both Union and Confederate veterans refer to a brilliant moon, which slipped into the blackness of a total lunar eclipse, screening the Confederate withdrawal.<sup>[34]</sup>

That night Bragg, stunned by the defeat on Lookout Mountain, asked his two corps commanders whether to retreat from Chattanooga or to stand and fight. Hardee counseled retreat, but Breckinridge convinced Bragg to fight it out on the strong position of Missionary Ridge.<sup>[35]</sup> Accordingly, the troops withdrawn from Lookout Mountain were ordered to the left flank of Bragg's army.<sup>[36]</sup>

On November 25, Hooker's men encountered difficulty rebuilding the burned bridges over Chattanooga Creek and were delayed in their movement toward the left flank of Bragg's remaining forces on Missionary Ridge. They reached the Rossville Gap as Thomas's men were sweeping over Missionary Ridge. Hooker faced his three divisions to the north and drove into Bragg's flank, furthering the disruption of the Confederate line, sending the Army of Tennessee into full retreat. Hooker continued his role in the campaign with his unsuccessful pursuit of the Confederates that was beaten back at the Battle of Ringgold Gap.<sup>[37]</sup>

Casualties for the Battle of Lookout Mountain were relatively light by the standards of the Civil War: 671 Union, 1,251 Confederate (including 1,064 captured or missing).

<sup>[6]</sup> Sylvanus Cadwallader, a war reporter accompanying Grant's army, wrote that it was more like a "magnificent skirmish", than a major battle.

<sup>[38]</sup> General Grant, whose focus was on the northern end of Missionary Ridge—and who was usually partial to the achievements of his key subordinates in the Western armies—later denigrated Hooker's achievement, writing in his memoirs, "The battle of Lookout Mountain is one of the romances of the war. There was no such battle and no action even worthy to be called the battle on Lookout Mountain. It is all poetry."<sup>[39]</sup> Nevertheless, the action was important in assuring control of the Tennessee River and the railroad into Chattanooga and endangering the entire Confederate line on Missionary Ridge. Brig. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, quartermaster general of the Union Army, observing the fog-shrouded action from Orchard Knob, was the first writer to name it the "Battle Above the Clouds".<sup>[40]</sup>

I have been the instrument of Almighty God. ... I stormed what was considered the ... inaccessible heights of Lookout Mountain. I captured it. ... This feat will be celebrated until time shall be no more.

Brig. Gen. John W. Geary, writing to his wife.<sup>[33]</sup>



Summit of Lookout Mountain, c. 1864



Battlefield, c. 1865



## Notes [ edit ]

1. ↑ Only the Second Division.
2. ↑ <sup>*a b*</sup> McDonough, p. 130; Cleaves, p. 196; Korn, p. 130.
3. ↑ Hallock, p. 131; Korn, p. 131, cites 7,000.
4. ↑ *Return of casualties in the Union forces (XI and XII Corps)*: Official Records, Series I, Volume XXXI, Part 2, [page 83](#)↗
5. ↑ See also Union casualties in [Battle of Missionary Ridge](#).
6. ↑ <sup>*a b*</sup> Korn, p. 136; Taylor, Samuel, [North Georgia History](#)↗, cites 710 Union, 521 Confederate; Hebert, p. 265, cites 362 Union, 1,250 Confederate.
7. ↑ Cozzens, pp. 15-16.
8. ↑ Woodworth, *Six Armies*, pp. 148-49.
9. ↑ Woodworth, *Six Armies*, pp. 159-67; Korn, pp. 89-95; McDonough, pp. 76-94; Eicher, pp. 602-04.
10. ↑ Cozzens, p. 117.
11. ↑ Connelly, p. 270; McDonough, pp. 134-35.
12. ↑ Woodworth, *Six Armies*, p. 172; McDonough, pp. 108-09.
13. ↑ Korn, pp. 120-21; Woodworth, *Six Armies*, pp. 180-81; McDonough, pp. 110-16; Hebert, p. 263; Eicher, pp. 605-06.
14. ↑ McDonough, pp. 124, 126; Cozzens, pp. 139-42; Hallock, p. 131; Esposito, text to map 116.
15. ↑ McDonough, pp. 129-30; Cozzens, pp. 143-44; Woodworth, *Nothing but Victory*, p. 465.
16. ↑ Eicher, pp. 601-02.
17. ↑ Cozzens, pp. 408-15.
18. ↑ Cozzens, p. 144.
19. ↑ Cozzens, p. 160; Woodworth, *Six Armies*, pp. 185-86; McDonough, pp. 130-37.
20. ↑ Cozzens, pp. 159-160.
21. ↑ McDonough, p. 133; Cozzens, pp. 162-63.
22. ↑ Cozzens, pp. 165-74; McDonough, pp. 131-35.
23. ↑ Cozzens, p. 168.
24. ↑ Cozzens, pp. 174-78; McDonough, p. 133.
25. ↑ Cozzens, pp. 179-80.
26. ↑ Cozzens, p. 180.
27. ↑ Cozzens, p. 181.
28. ↑ Cozzens, pp. 181-86.
29. ↑ Cozzens, p. 187.
30. ↑ Korn, p. 133; McDonough, pp. 137-39; Cozzens, pp. 188-90; Eicher, p. 607.
31. ↑ Cozzens, pp. 190-91.
32. ↑ Cozzens, pp. 192-97; Hallock, pp. 132-34.
33. ↑ McDonough, p. 142.
34. ↑ Cozzens, p. 197; Sword, p. 227; [NASA Five Millennium Catalog of Lunar Eclipses](#)↗
35. ↑ Cozzens, p. 196; Hallock, p. 136; McDonough, p. 140.
36. ↑ Woodworth, *Six Armies*, pp. 190-91; Eicher, p. 609.
37. ↑ Eicher, 610; Hebert, 266; McDonough, 211-12; Woodworth, *Nothing but Victory*, p. 478; Cozzens, pp. 244-45, 313-19, 370-84; McDonough, pp. 211-12, 220-25.
38. ↑ Korn, p. 136.
39. ↑ McDonough, p. 142; Korn, p. 136.
40. ↑ Hebert, p. 265; McDonough, p. 129.
41. ↑ [Walker, The Soldier Artist](#)↗, *NPS Civil War Series*

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- [National Park Service battle description](#)↗
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LT. GENERAL STEPHEN DILL LEE, COMMANDER GENERAL,  
UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, APRIL 25, 1906.