



Joe Nokes, Commander

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

# The Delta General

August, 2012 Volume 15, Issue 7

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



## Commander's Corner: Joe Nokes

Compatriots,

This past month, we took a pilgrimage to the grave of our camp namesake, General Benjamin G. Humphreys. As someone visiting for the first time, I was awed by Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson. The huge cypress trees and hanging Spanish moss take one back in time. Seeing the grave of our namesake was a special moment to say the least. A visit to the grave of General Earl Van Dorn (also buried at Wintergreen) was a must, also. An equally humbling experience was strolling down the aisles of markers honoring the Confederates who died at Port Gibson during the Vicksburg campaign. I hate to sound cliché, but words cannot describe this experience; if you haven't been, you should go. If you have been, go again; you won't be disappointed.

Prior to this, a good sized group met at Grand Gulf Military Park for a picnic. We were joined by Bill Turney from the 9<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Infantry camp, and Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Bond and Conor Bond (MS Division Color Sergeant) of the Rankin Rough and Readys camp. I sincerely appreciate everyone who showed up and brought food and fun to the day. Just a personal note, I especially appreciated that members of 3 camps across 2 divisions of the SCV came together on this occasion. These are the kind of events that make for special days in our organization.

Last month, I urged all of us to constantly be on the lookout and available for potential new members. Well at the picnic, I was a bit taken aback upon meeting a new candidate for our camp, Robert Miller, only to learn that I live VERY near to him. Imagine driving 3+ hours to meet a potential member who lives about 2 miles away! This just goes to show that strange, wonderful things do happen. We need to always be aware of the potential that may be just around the corner.

Many thanks to those of you who attended Dr. Brandon Beck's book signing at the Museum of the Mississippi Delta. Dr. Beck provided a good lecture based on his new book, *Holly Springs: Van Dorn, the CSS Arkansas, and the Raid that Saved Vicksburg*. If you haven't already gotten a copy of this book, I urge you to do so. Just a reminder, our September meeting will be featuring Ms. Dian Bohnert, better known as "The Medicine Lady". Ms. Bohnert provided an amazing presentation for us last year that had all who attended buzzing. If at all possible, you WANT to attend this event. She has something for everyone, as the cliché goes.

In closing, to all of you, keep up the hard work. Remember, WE are the protectors or OUR legacy. It is up to us to carry on the work of our honorable ancestors. We cannot afford to let them down.

Deo Vindice,  
Joe Nokes

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13-16 – Battle  
of Farmington, MS

October 19-21 – Vicksburg  
Campaign

October 19-21 – Fall  
Muster at Beauvoir

## Welcome New Camp Member

Welcome our newest member Richard F. Miller. Richard's ancestor is James C. Murrell; Great, Great Uncle Private; Co. K, 11th TN Infantry who died in Service, 1864.

### Camp News:

## Door Prizes, Capture the Yankee, Show and Tell, and September Meeting

To revitalize interest in camp meetings, Lt. Commander Larry McCluney has encouraged a door prize raffle that is conducted and carried out by the OCR. The OCR has also revived the Capture the Yankee as a fund raiser. There is a red chip for every member in the Camp in the pot and a white chip for every OCR member. One blue chip symbolizing the Yankee. Chances are \$.25 cents each and whomever captures the yankee gets half the pot. That yankee has yet to be captured The pot is now up to \$38.00 and growing. Come to the meetings and let's see if you can capture that elusive Yankee.

Our September meeting will feature Diane Bonheur, aka. The medicine woman who will speak on backwoods home remedies used in the war.

## Adjutant's Report: Dan McCaskill

As Camp Adjutant, I was unable to attend the Meeting held at Grand Gulf Military Park on August 4th because of work, so this will be a very brief report.

First, I must start this report on a sad note. It was reported to me by Earl McCown that Compatriot Ralph O. Washington returned home to God and his Ancestors on July 24, 2012. Please keep Ralph's Family in your thoughts and prayers. On a happier note, the Camp did pick-up a new Camp Member at Grand Gulf. Let's welcome Richard F. Miller of Carrollton, MS who joined the Camp on the service of his Great, Great Uncle James C. Murrell who served as a Private in Company K, 11th Tennessee Infantry, dying in service in 1864.

The Grand Gulf Trip took the place of our regular Camp Meeting for the month of August. The Meeting was held at Grand Gulf in honor of Benjamin G. Humphreys' birthday. The Meeting was opened in the normal manner. Commander Joe Nokes announced up-coming events in the State. Larry reported that next month, Diane Bonheur would be our guest speaker. In October, our speaker will be Allen Doyle from Memphis. From the Adjutant, your annual dues of \$ 50 are now due and payable. You should have already received your renewal notice from the Division. You have until October 31st to make your payment but I ask that you do not wait until the last minute. One goal our Camp has never achieved is 100% renewal so I ask every member to help us reach this goal. On the financial front, the Camp has invested \$ 1,000 of Camp funds in the Profiting Sharing Plan of the 2013 Vicksburg National Reunion. Our return on our money will be much higher than the CD rate of return. After the meeting at Grand Gulf, the group made the trip to Evergreen Cemetery to place a flag and wreath on the grave of B/G Benjamin Humphreys.

The Meeting was dismissed with a word of prayer by Chaplain Earl McCown. Despite the hot temperatures of August, 15 made the trip to Grand Gulf.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan McCaskill, Adj.

## National Convention at Vicksburg 2013

Commander Palmer reports that the website to get all registration forms for Vicksburg in 2013 is up and running. Also, the motels are taking reservations at the Quality Inn Suites NOW, and starting August 1 at the Host Hotel, the Hampton Inn and Suites. For more information go to <http://2013scvreunion.homestead.com/Index.html>

## Notice to Camp Reenactors

Ok guys I need to know who is going to Farmington and Vicksburg. Registration is \$10.00 a person at Farmington, September 14-16. Walk-ons are welcomed. We will be going Federal for this event. Vicksburg Campaign, October 19-21 is \$20.00 per person and we must be pre-registered by September 20th. We will be going Confederate for this event.

I am asking that we preregister as a unit for Vicksburg out of Company funds. I can register us as a unit for Farmington or would you rather everyone register on their own as walk-ons? Need to know ASAP so I can take care of this out of Company funds. For those who went to Shiloh, Vicksburg will not be the rough terrain that we went through it will be more open ground. Once I get you registered, it will be up to you to reimburse the company.

Sing out guys I need to know.

Confederately,  
Larry McCluney

## Division News:

### Division Adjutant's Report

Compatriots,

Our fiscal year is coming to an end tomorrow, July 31st. You should be receiving your membership renewal notice soon. I am happy to report that Division membership grew by 158 members which translates to a 12.34 % growth rate. I want to commend all those who worked hard to produce this growth. We have more hard work ahead of us. We must retain our members and continue to grow. The long range goal of the Confederation is to have 50,000 members by 2016 which means the Confederation must grow at 13.3 % annually. To stay on track, the Division needs to grow by 14.33% or 206 members this coming fiscal year which can be a combination of new and past members. Our ultimate goal in this endeavor is to attain a membership of 2,150 or more by the end of 2015. If we can retain our members and half the current membership can recruit one member, we can attain our goal in one year! So, I implore every member to recruit, recruit, recruit!

Dan A. McCaskill, Adj.  
MS Division  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

## 2013 Mississippi Division Registration

Compatriots!

You can now access the 2013 Mississippi Division Reunion Registration Form at the link below. Please print out a copy and make sure you make extras and carry to you camp meetings, especially all of you commanders and adjutants! We at the Lowry Rifles Camp hope you all join us for what is promised to be a great reunion with lots of fun and activities. **Remember this years reunion is an election and by-law year!**

**Website - <http://lowryrifles.com/2013%20MS%20Division%20Reunion%20Registration%20Form.pdf>**

Thanks,

Marc Allen, Commander and Bill Hinson, Adjutant

## Recognition Due and Given

A hard worker at Beauvoir was recently recognized for his dedication to Beauvoir. Richard Flowers is shown receiving his recognition for Board Chairman Richard V. Forte, Sr. and Board Vice-Chairman Ed Funchess at a Board meeting on April 28, 2012.



## Message from the Commanding General; MOS&B



The *Military Order of the Stars and Bars* is a Confederate heritage group that while incorporating the word "military" in its title also embraces the civil leadership of the Confederacy in determining eligibility for membership. Similarly the membership of the Order includes those who have given both military and public service. The July issue of the *Officer's Call* provides an overview of the military service rendered by our membership. The August issue will consider our civil leaders.

Approximately 20% of those joining our Order have given military service. These are nearly equally divided between those that served in the ranks and those serving as officers. Our membership has included every enlisted, warrant and commissioned rank. Every branch of service is represented. Twenty-six flag and general officers have been identified, including four who are still living. A representative sample of some of our better known military members has been selected. These are presented in membership numerical order.

Members #11 & 49 are father and son. The father was Brigadier General William Preston Wooten [1873-1950] of North Carolina. He saw service in the Philippine Insurrection and in World War II. During the later he commanded the 14th Engineer Regiment and was Engineer of the III US Army Corps. Postwar he was the Chief Engineer of the Army of Occupation in Germany. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and being inducted as a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (British). During his career he also taught at West Point.

The son was Major General Sidney Clay Wooten [1907-2003] of Kentucky. General Wooten graduated from West Point in 1930. During his career he commanded Fort Devens in Massachusetts and Fort Dix in New Jersey. In World War II he commanded the 5th Infantry Regiment in Europe. In Korea he commanded the 17th Infantry Regiment and was the chief adviser to the South Korean Army. At Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, he oversaw the reception and resettlement of 30,000 Hungarian refugees who fled Hungary after the 1956 uprising there. His awards include the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, 2 Legion of Merits, Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He was active in *The Society of the Cincinnati*. Both father and son are buried in Arlington National Cemetery. MOS&B Founders

Member #26 is Major General Benjamin Franklin Cheatham [1867-1944] of Tennessee. General Cheatham's great-great-grandfather General James Robertson is considered to be the father of Tennessee. General Cheatham's father and namesake fought in the Mexican War and was himself a Major General in the Confederate Army.

General Cheatham's service included the Spanish American War, Philippine Insurrection, and World War I. He was appointed Major General in 1926. After retirement in 1930 he managed an 1100 acre plantation in Virginia and he became Resident Superintendent of Stratford Hall, the birthplace of Robert E. Lee. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal and the French Legion of Honor (Commander). MOS&B Founder

Member #45 is Major General Edgar Erskine Hume, Sr., MD [1889-1952] of Kentucky. General Hume re-ceived his medical doctorate from John Hopkins University. He served in World War I, World War II and Korea. His promotion to Major General came in 1949. He held a number of command positions both medical and otherwise. His decorations were numerous, including 3 Distinguished Service Medals, 5 Silver Stars, 4 Bronze Stars with "V," 4 Purple Hearts, Air Medal, Legion of Merit, Soldiers Medal and decorations from 38 foreign counties. At the time of his death he was the most decorated medical officer in American history, and may possibly be the only American officer wounded in each of the three wars in which he served.

General Hume died three weeks after his retirement as the Chief Surgeon of the Army's Far East Command and medical chief of the United Nations forces in Korea. At his death he was also President General of *The Society of the Cincinnati* and shortly before his death he presented

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MOS&B Continued . . .

the Society's badge to Sir Winston Churchill. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He was the author of over four hundred titles and had honorary degrees from 23 colleges and universities, enjoyed honorary citizenship in 40 Italian and Austrian cities, and he was an honorary colonel in the Royal Serbian Army. MOS&B Founder Member #98 is Major General Carl Raymond Gray, Jr. [1889-1955] of Minnesota. General Gray served in both World Wars I and II. During World War II he was the head of military railroads in Africa and Europe. Railroading was his heritage. His father was the president of the Union Pacific and the General was also the Vice President of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company. He authored *Railroading in Eighteen Countries: the Story of American Railroad men in the Military Railroad Service 1862-1953*.

General Gray was appointed the head of the Veterans Administration in 1947, a post he held until 1953. His awards included the Distinguished Service Cross, 2 Legion of Merits and the Bronze Star. His foreign decorations included the Italian War Cross for Merit, Order of the Crown of Italy, Knight Commander of the British Empire, 3 Officer Legion of Honors – French Croix de Guerre and the Order of Belgium. Member #601 is Admiral Joseph James "Jocko" Clark [1893-1971] of Oklahoma. Admiral Clark was a member of the Cherokee Tribe and in 1917 was the first Native American to graduate from Annapolis. He joined the MOS&B on the service of Brigadier General Stand Watie of the Cherokee Mounted Rifles.

During World War II Admiral Clark commanded the aircraft carriers Suwanee and Yorktown. In 1944 from his flagship the Hornet he commanded a task force in the Marianas campaign and the Battle of the Philippine Sea. He gained renown for his order to his ships to light up after dark to allow returning planes to land safely. During the Korean War he commanded the entire 7th Fleet. Admiral Clark retired in 1953. His awards included the Navy Cross, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit. He was also presented the Korean Order of Military Merit. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Member #1034 is Rear Admiral Ernest McNeill Eller [1903-1992] of Virginia. Admiral Eller graduated from Annapolis in 1925. During World War II he was aboard the USS Saratoga when it was torpedoed in 1942. He also participated in the subsequent landings on Makin and Okinawa. During the Korean War Admiral Eller was the Commander of the Middle East Force in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean area. He also fulfilled a number of assignments with NATO, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. He retired in 1954 and from 1956 to 1970 he was the Director of Naval History in the Navy Department. In 1967 he received the Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for Literary Achievement. His military awards included the Legion of Merit with the Combat "V."

Member # 2071 is Major General George Smith Patton, IV [1923-2004] of Massachusetts. General Patton was the fourth in his line to be named George Smith Patton – all four attended VMI. The first so-named was his great-grandfather – a Confederate Colonel with the Virginia 22nd Infantry. Our member's father was the famed General Patton of World War II, who commanded the Third US Army.

General Patton graduated from West Point in 1946. He served on active duty from 1946 to 1980. His service included the Berlin Airlift, Korea and three tours of duty to Vietnam. In 1970 he became the commanding officer of the US 2nd Armored Division – a unit that his father had commanded in North Africa. During his career he was awarded 2 Distinguished Service Crosses, 2 Silver Stars, 3 Legion of Merits, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Purple Heart.

Honorary Member – 1972 is General William Childs Westmoreland [1914-2005] of South Carolina. General Westmoreland commanded US military operations in Vietnam (1964-1968) and served as US Army Chief of Staff (1968-1972). He attended the Citadel and then accepted an appointment to West Point from which he graduated in 1936 as the top graduate. He also saw action during World War II and Korea. He is buried at West Point.

General Westmoreland's awards included 4 Distinguished Service Medals, 3 Legion of Merits, 2 Bronze Stars, 10 Air Medals, the Combat Infantryman Badge and decorations from 8 foreign countries.

Honorary Member – 2009 is Frank Woodruff Buckles [1901-2011] of West Virginia. Corporal Buckles was the last surviving American veteran of World War I. He drove ambulances and motorcycles near the front lines in Europe. During WWII he was captured as a civilian in the Philippines by the Japanese and interned for three years. In 1999 he was awarded the French Legion of Honor. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Gentlemen, every day matters! *YOU* are the Order and our future is in *YOUR* hands!

Respectfully,

**Toni Turk**, Commander General

## Order of Confederate Rose News

As a reminder to the members of the Ella Palmer Chapter, our annual membership dues are to be paid by August 31. We have a grace period till January 1. Renewals are \$20.00 and can be paid to Annette McCluney at the meetings or by mail:

Annette McCluney  
1412 North Park Dr  
Greenwood, MS 38930

Make Checks out to: Ella Palmer Chapter #9, OCR

It is my hopes that all our members will renew their membership because we have many new potential members interested in joining. We now have a new society website – [www.msocr.weebly.com](http://www.msocr.weebly.com) check it out to keep updated on MS Society news. Hope to see you on Thursday, September 6 as we welcome the Medicine Woman back for our program.





## National SCV News:



The Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) of the Cause for Southern Independence is upon us! The Sons of Confederate Veterans has established a unique way you can show support for our efforts and build a legacy for the future. It is the SCV Sesquicentennial Society! By joining this prestigious group you will help in supporting two projects very important to the future.

First- the General Executive Council made the commitment in October of 2008

to start the process to erect a new building on our property at Historic Elm Springs. One of the uses of this new building is to give us office space and return Elm Springs to its original grandeur. However the main function is to house The Confederate Museum. We are planning a museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. It will give an accurate portrayal of the Confederate soldier, something that is lacking in most museum and in the media. 75 % of the money received through this effort goes to that building fund.

Second-we need to leave a legacy for our Compatriots who will be the members and leaders of the SCV when the Bicentennial of the Cause for Southern Independence arrives 50 years from now. One can only guess at the obstacles they will have to face in putting forth an accurate commemoration. 25% of the money will go into a fund to be used by the SCV at that point in time.

Here is how you can take part. To join it is a minimum payment of \$200. ( You can give more if you wish!) You will receive a handsome SCV Sesquicentennial Society Medal and Certificate. This program will end at the close of the Sesquicentennial. You may pay all at once or you can make non-refundable installments of \$50 ( you will receive the medal and certificate when paid in full).

Send a check to:  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
c/o Sesquicentennial Society  
P.O. Box 59  
Columbia, TN 38402

Or you can call 1-800-MY-DIXIE to pay by credit card. You may also use the on-line donation page at <https://scv.secure-sites.us/donation.php>. At this time the on-line page does not have a \$200 option. You can select \$250 (donating an extra \$50) or you can donate \$100 twice. If you choose to pay by installment there is \$50 option. Be sure to put Sesquicentennial Society in the box marked purpose of payment.

## Report From Nation Convention 2012

Proposed constitutional amendments one and two pertaining to allowing camps to secede from their divisions were defeated. Proposed constitutional amendment three dealing with a minor wording change to section 13.4 dealing with discipline was approved. Proposed standing order amendment number one was withdrawn by the author, and proposed standing order amendment number two, clarifying language dealing with the prohibition of SCV members, camps and divisions from filing lawsuits without prior express consent of the GEC, was approved.

A paper ballot was used to select Richmond, Virginia as the 2015 site of the 120th SCV Annual General Reunion. Officers elected for 2012-2014 - Commander in Chief- R. Michael Givens; Lt. Commander in Chief- C. Kelly Barrow; ATM - Commander- M. Todd Owens; Councilman- Charles E. Lauret; AOT- Commander- Thomas V. Strain, Jr; Councilman- Larry Allen McCluney; ANV - Commander- Britton Frank Earnest, Sr; Councilman-Randall B Burbage. Also selected to serve on the General Executive Council Chief of Staff- Charles L. Rand III, Adjutant in Chief- Stephen Lee Ritchie, Chief of Heritage Defense- Eugene G Hogan II, Chaplain in Chief- Mark W. Evans, Judge Advocate in Chief- Roy Burl McCoy

### 2012 National Awards

- Dr. George R. Tabor Award is presented to the most distinguished camp in the SCV. The winner of this prestigious award, which is an extremely close competition every year, is the Finley's Brigade Camp 1614 of Havana FL, Graham F. Smith, Commander.
- Scrapbooks- Dr. B. H. Webster Award for the best Scrapbook for camps with fewer than 50 members was not awarded in 2012 as no entries were received. Judah P. Benjamin Award for the best Scrapbook for camps with 50 or more members is the Robert E. Lee Camp 239 of Fort Worth TX, James B. Turnage, Commander.
- Dr. James B. Butler Award for the best historical project was won by Litchfield Camp 132, Conway, SC, James E. Graham, Commander.
- General Stand Watie Award winner for the camp making the largest contribution to the Stand Watie Scholarship Fund was not awarded in 2012.
- Best Web Site- General Samuel Cooper Award for the best website is the William Kenyon Australian Confederates Camp 2160, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. <http://www.scvau.com/> James M. Gray, Commander.
- Newsletters- Dr. Paul Jon Miller Award winner for the best newsletter among camps with fewer than 50 members is The Round Mountain Report which is produced by the COL Daniel N. McIntosh Camp 1378, Tulsa OK, Kenneth H. Cook, Editor.

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## National Reunion Report Continued . . .

- S.A. Cunningham Award for the best newsletter among camps with 50 or more members is The Louisiana Tiger which is produced by the LTG Richard Taylor Camp 1308, Shreveport LA, Bobby G. Herring, Editor
- Dewitt Smith Jobe Award for the best Division newsletter is a tie and two awards were given to The Carolina Confederate, North /Carolina Division, Ron Perdue, Editor and the Palmetto Partisan, South Carolina Division, Bill Norris, Editor.
- Recruiting- Edward R. Darling Award for the top recruiter in the Confederation is awarded to Kyle Sims, a member of the COL Middleton Tate Johnson Camp 1648, Arlington TX. Compatriot Sims recruited 37 new members.
- Membership- General Nathan Bedford Forrest Award for the camp with the greatest gain in membership (plus 39 net) goes to COL W. M. Bradford/COL J. G. Rose Camp 1638, Morristown TN, Michael L. Beck, Commander.
- New Camps, Division- General A. P. Hill Award is a tie with five new camps each, and is awarded to the North Carolina Division, Thomas M. Smith Jr, Commander and the Georgia Division, Jack Bridwell, Commander.
- New Camps, Army- General Albert Sydney Johnston Award for the Army with the greatest gain in new camps, a total of 12, goes to the Army of Trans-Mississippi, W. Danny Honnoll, Commander.

## Individual Awards

- Hoover Law and Order Medal was presented to Sheriff Larry Dever, Cochise County, AZ.
- Rev. J. William Jones Christian Service Award is presented to Reverend Eric Gray Rudd (NC), Reverend David Andrew Taylor (AR), and a posthumous award to Reverend Jack Ray Griffin (AZ) all three of whom have emulated and perpetuated the orthodox Christian faith demonstrated by the soldiers and citizens of the Confederate States of America.
- Robert E. Lee Gold Medal, the second highest award which can be given to a SCV member, has been presented to Eugene G. Hogan II (SC), B. Frank Earnest Sr. (VA), and Thomas Y. Hiter (KY) for their exceptional contributions and service to the SCV.
- Jefferson Davis Chalice has been presented to Bragdon R. Bowling Jr. (VA). This is the highest award which may be bestowed on a member for service to the SCV and consists of an engraved silver chalice, a medal and a certificate.

## Non Member Awards

- The S. D. Lee Award, the SCV's highest award for nonmembers of the SCV was presented to Pam Trammell of Arkansas.
- The Horace L. Hunley Award, the SCV's second highest award for nonmembers was presented to Allen Roberson of South Carolina.
- The Dixie Defender Award, the SCV's third highest award for nonmembers was presented to Sarah Mosley of South Carolina

## Sesquicentennial Article:

**The Battle of Sharpsburg, Maryland, September 1862**

Dawn approached slowly through the fog on September 17, 1862. As soldiers tried to wipe away the dampness, cannons began to roar and sheets of flame burst forth from hundreds of rifles, opening a twelve hour tempest that swept across the rolling farm fields in western Maryland. A clash between North and South that changed the course of the Civil War, helped free over four million Americans, devastated Sharpsburg, and still ranks as the bloodiest one-day battle in American history.

The Battle of Antietam was the culmination of the Maryland Campaign of 1862, the first invasion of the North by Confederate General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. In Kentucky and Missouri, Southern armies were also advancing as the tide of war flowed north. After Lee's dramatic victory at the Second Battle of Manassas during the last two days of August, he wrote to Confederate President Jefferson Davis that "we cannot afford to be idle." Lee wanted to keep the offensive and secure Southern independence through victory in the North; influence the fall mid-term elections; obtain much needed supplies; move the war out of Virginia, possibly into Pennsylvania; and to liberate Maryland, a Union state, but a slave-holding border state divided in its sympathies.

After splashing across the Potomac River and arriving in Frederick, Lee boldly divided his army to capture the Union garrison stationed at Harpers Ferry. Gateway to the Shenandoah Valley, Harpers Ferry was a vital location on the Confederate lines of supply and communication back to Virginia. The 12,000 Union soldiers at Harpers Ferry threatened Lee's link south. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and about half of the army were sent to capture Harpers Ferry. The rest of the Confederates moved north and west toward South Mountain and Hagerstown, Maryland. Back in Washington D.C., President Abraham Lincoln turned to Major General George B. McClellan to protect the capital and respond to the invasion. McClellan quickly reorganized the demoralized Army of the Potomac and advanced towards Lee. The armies first clashed on South Mountain where on September 14 the Confederates tried unsuccessfully to block the Federals at three mountain passes – Turner's, Fox's and Crampton's Gaps.

Following the Confederate retreat from South Mountain, Lee considered returning to Virginia. However, with word of Jackson's capture of Harpers Ferry on September 15, Lee decided to make a stand at Sharpsburg. The Confederate commander gathered his forces on the high ground west of Antietam Creek with Gen. James Longstreet's command holding the center and the right while Stonewall Jackson's men filled in on the left. The Confederate position was strengthened with the mobility provided by the Hagerstown Turnpike that ran north and south along Lee's line; however there was risk with the Potomac River behind them and only one crossing back to Virginia. Lee and his men watched the Union army gather on the east side of the Antietam.

Thousands of soldiers in blue marched into position throughout the 15th and 16th as McClellan prepared for his attempt to drive Lee from Maryland. McClellan's plan was, in his words, to "attack the enemy's left," and when "matters looked favorably," attack the Confederate right, and "whenever either of those flank movements should be successful to advance our center." As the opposing forces moved into position during the rainy night of September 16, one Pennsylvanian remembered, "...all realized that there was ugly business and plenty of it just ahead."

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The twelve hour battle began at dawn on the 17th. For the next seven hours there were three major Union attacks on the Confederate left, moving from north to south. Gen. Joseph Hooker's command led the first Union assault. Then Gen. Joseph Mansfield's soldiers attacked, followed by Gen. Edwin Sumner's men as McClellan's plan broke down into a series of uncoordinated Union advances. Savage, incomparable combat raged across the Cornfield, East Woods, West Woods and the Sunken Road as Lee shifted his men to withstand each of the Union thrusts. After clashing for over eight hours, the Confederates were pushed back but not broken, however over 15,000 soldiers were killed or wounded.

While the Union assaults were being made on the Sunken Road, a mile-and-a-half farther south Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside opened the attack on the Confederate right. His first task would be to capture the bridge that would later bear his name. A small Confederate force, positioned on higher ground, was able to delay Burnside for three hours. After taking the bridge at about 1:00 p.m., Burnside reorganized for two hours before moving forward across the arduous terrain—a critical delay. Finally the advance started only to be turned back by Confederate General A.P. Hill's reinforcements that arrived in the late afternoon from Harpers Ferry.

Neither flank of the Confederate army collapsed far enough for McClellan to advance his center attack, leaving a sizable Union force that never entered the battle. Despite over 23,000 casualties of the nearly 100,000 engaged, both armies stubbornly held their ground as the sun set on the devastated landscape. The next day, September 18, the opposing armies gathered their wounded and buried their dead. That night Lee's army withdrew back across the Potomac to Virginia, ending Lee's first invasion into the North. Lee's retreat to Virginia provided President Lincoln the opportunity he had been waiting for to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Now the war had a dual purpose of preserving the Union and ending slavery.

## **Battle of Munfordville, Ky, September 1862**

The story of the battle of Munfordville really begins three years earlier with the completion of the Louisville and Nashville railroad bridge over the Green River south of Munfordville, Kentucky on July 1, 1859. Designed and supervised by German engineer Albert Fink, but built by local men, the bridge allowed the L&N to complete the link between the two cities. Almost 1200 feet long and 125 feet tall, the bridge was a technical marvel of its time that is still in use today.

[Sidney Johnston](#) [CS] ordered [Simon Bolivar Buckner](#) [CS] to occupy Bowling Green, Kentucky, which was taken on [September 18, 1861](#). The following month Johnston ordered Buckner to destroy the L&N bridge, about 8 miles from Buckner's family home outside Munfordville, to prevent a surprise attack on the Confederate position around Bowling Green. Although Buckner protested the order because of the bridge's importance to his hometown, Johnston's order stood. Buckner ordered the southern end of the bridge destroyed, dropping the span into the river below.

In response to his actions, Union cavalry raided Buckner's home, taking the crops and livestock. Rebuilding the bridge became a priority for both [Ulysses S. Grant](#) and [Don Carlos Buell](#), who intended to move south along the Tennessee River. They would need the railroad to supply their troops. On [December 6, 1861](#), northern stone masons led by Alfred Fink began working on repairing the extensive destruction caused by Buckner. To protect the men, Buell ordered Col. August Willich to send the 32nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry under Lt. Col. Louis Von Tebra in support of the Fink and his stonemasons. On [December 17](#), these Yankees completed a crossing of the Green River and engaged a superior Rebel force at Rowlett's Station under the command of Brigadier General Thomas C. Hindman [CS].

Alexander McCook arrived with a division of men to reinforce the Iowans following the battle. A brigade under James Negrey also arrived to defend the bridge. They began building the five-sided earth fort east of the bridge that would form the basic line of defense in the battle of Munfordville. Meanwhile, work on the bridge was completed on [January 9, 1862](#). The next day operations directed at central Tennessee began. McCook continued to work on the fort, adding a second fort about 100 yards west of the track that featured a rolled-log wall embraced by a strong dirt embankment.

Both McCook and Negrey's services were demanded further south for the attack on [Fort Henry and Fort Donelson](#) and the [Battle of Shiloh](#), but construction on the fort at Munfordville did not stop. Colonel John Wilder, shortly after his 31st birthday, assumed command of the garrison and continued the work on Fort Craig. Wilder was a good man for the job. He had built a career out of refitting older iron plants and the experience helped him organize the military effort to build the fort to defend the bridge.

The fort was completed as [Braxton Bragg](#) and the [Army of Tennessee](#) crossed the border into Kentucky (see the [Confederate Invasion of Kentucky](#)). Brigadier General James Chalmers and his Mississippians were leading the Army of Tennessee when they met John Scott, a Rebel cavalryman sent south by [Kirby Smith](#) in search of Bragg. Scott reported that the Green River Bridge was protected by a garrison of 1,800 raw recruits. Without orders, Chalmers agreed to return to the Green River bridge with Scott and participate in an early morning attack on the Union position.

Fog hung over the river valley, concealing from Chalmers the extent of the Union entrenchments. As the Confederate army approached, Wilder built a series of entrenchments joining the two forts. Chalmers decided to split his force so they could attack the fort and the stockade simultaneously, but the attacks were not coordinated. The first volley from the fort caught the Rebels off-guard, as did the first volley from the stockade. Chalmers men continued to advance, coming within a few feet of the Union works. He then ordered a bayonet charge against the works that were 10-feet high protected by an 8-foot ditch. The charge failed.

At about 9:30 am Chalmers decided to try a different tact and demanded an unconditional surrender from Wilder. Beginning with the words "To avoid further bloodshed," Chalmers claimed that Bragg was approaching and finished tersely with "...you cannot escape." Wilder did not believe Chalmers. He responded to the Mississippian that if he "...wanted to avoid further bloodshed you should keep out of the way of my guns." Wilder's response also contained an offer to allow Chalmers the opportunity to remove his dead and wounded from the battlefield, an offer Chalmers accepted.

When Bragg heard of Chalmers' attack he was not pleased. Bragg decided that to bypass the Union garrison would be bad for the morale of his soldiers, so on September 15th he began surrounding Munfordville with his army. Bragg had a secret weapon in Simon Bolivar Buckner, who had destroyed the southern end of the bridge the previous December. Buckner not only knew how to get to the other side of the Green River,

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Battle of Munfordville continued . . .

he also knew the fort's weaknesses. It had been designed to repel an attack from the south, but an attack from the north would be devastating. Furthermore, the south side of the bridge was lower than the north side, meaning that well-positioned Rebel sharpshooters would have a clear field of vision into the fort. By the evening of September 16th Bragg's troops were in place.

Then occurred what author James Lee McDonough considers to be "one of the one of the very unusual events of the war." Wilder wanted proof that the Confederates were not bluffing and he wanted to delay capture as long as possible. Just prior to the investment of the fort a regiment of Indiana volunteers had arrived and Wilder hoped that Don Carlos Buell would arrive with the [Army of the Ohio](#). On the morning of September 17, 1862, John Wilder entered the Confederate camp under a flag of truce. He then asked Buckner for advice, "I came to you to find out what I should do." It was fairly easy to prove that Bragg was not bluffing by showing Wilder the Confederate lines. Wilder agreed to surrender - at midnight. Wilder tied up the surrender with a two hour discussion of the term unconditional surrender, but finally Wilder signed. His troops surrendered on September 18 at 6:00 am.