

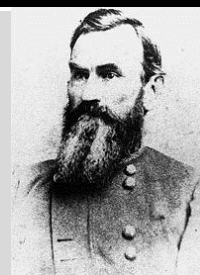
Joe Nokes, Commander

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

The Delta General

September, 2013 Volume 16, Issue 9

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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 5 – Camp meeting

September 19-22 - National
Reenactment at Chickamauga,
GA

October 3 – Camp meeting

October 10-13 – Battle of
Farmington, MS

October 17-19 – Fall Muster at
Beauvoir

November 7 – Camp Meeting

November 8-10 – Wirt Adams
Raid in Natchez, MS

December 5 – Camp Meeting

Camp News: Commander's Corner: Joe Nokes

Friends,

As always, let me open by sending greetings to all of you.

Our Living History at the Museum of the Mississippi Delta was a success! Although we did not set a new record, we still helped the MotMD pull in over 200 spectators. Many thanks go to Kenneth, Gator, Missy, and Sandra for manning the SCV recruiting table. Also, thanks go to Richard for bringing Mechanized recruiting materials. They gathered a nice stack of serious contacts from the event. If you missed the event, you missed a treat. A sash worn by Captain Ray of the 30th Mississippi was unveiled. For those of you who may not know, Captain Ray is the ancestor of Alan Palmer and his family (Katie, Alana, and Keelie). As I mentioned in last month's message, camp elections are fast approaching in December. We have already received word on some potential candidates for camp offices. This info will become public in the near future. And to continue from last month, we need to continue planning for our Lee Jackson Banquet in January. Lt. Commander McCluney has already secured a guest speaker. We will make the public announcement at the September camp meeting.

Please don't forget about Fall Muster at Beauvoir that is fast approaching in October. This event is always high on many peoples' list to make. It promises to once again be an awesome weekend.

I want to remind everyone that we ARE having a positive impact in the community and in the state. Keep up the good work. One last reminder: Come to the September meeting and bring a friend to enjoy a good time. (Inside information: the OCR ladies will have a special item for the raffle this month, one that you don't want to miss out on a chance for.)

Deo Vindice!!!

Joe Nokes, Commander

Welcome New Member and Welcome Back Old Member

Welcome Brent Mitchell to our Camp. Bent is a descendant of his Great, Great Grandfather Pvt. Thomas William Dugan, Company H, 7th Texas Infantry. When you see Brent please take the time out to welcome him and his lovely wife Ryan to our Camp.

We also would like to take this opportunity to welcome back an old member who has moved back into the area, Bryan McRaven. This brings our membership up to 58.

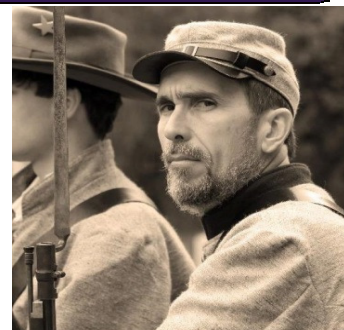
Guest Speak for Camp Meeting on September 5th

Our guest speaker will be W. Michael Hurley, Regional Sales Coordinator

- Independent Agent Representing Aflac Texas/South Valley
- American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus (Aflac)

Mr. Hurly will be speaking on the 30th MS, a unit that is very dear to a lot of members of our Camp especially the reenactors in our Camp that portray the 30th MS, Co. K. Lets turn out in great numbers as we welcome our speaker from the Texas Division.

The OCR will once again have the raffle, dinner, and "Capture that Elusive Yankee". The pot is up to \$97.00 now. Will someone finally capture him.



Adjutant's Report – Dan McCaskill

7:00 pm Commander Joe Nokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was opened with an invocation and blessing by Brother John Hallman. Joe welcomed all members and guests attending the Meeting and then invited all to partake in the evening meal provided by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR. We had two members from the Seven Generals Camp in Helena, AR visiting. After the meal, Joe reconvened the Meeting. Color Sergeant Chris Lewis led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and salutes to the Flag of Mississippi and the Battle Flag of the Confederacy followed by a reading of "The Charge" by Stephen D. Lee. Commander Nokes had the pleasure of inducting John Hallman as our newest Camp member.

Announcements: August 24, 2013 will be the closing of the Museum of the Delta's Exhibit "War Comes To The Delta". They will have a special exhibit of Captain Ray's possessions. Captain Ray was captain of Company K, 30th Mississippi Infantry and is an ancestor of Alan Palmer. They need re-enactors for living history and demonstrations plus volunteers for the recruitment table.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney reported that the September Meeting will be Michael Hurley of Houston, Texas. His topic for the evening will be Company K, 30th Mississippi Infantry; Camp; 2nd Lt. Commander Junior Stillman reported that he is working to find new members; Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the Camp had a new member joining the this evening, Brent Mitchell. This will bring the Camp membership up to 57. Also attending was a former Camp Member, Bryan McRaven who has moved back to Leland and plans to transfer his membership back to the Camp. ; The Camp has \$ 1,341 in the checking account and the Church Fund empty. Dan received \$ 85 in donations for the Church Fund which will be used to pay the church through the end of July. Membership renewals are starting to arrive with 16 paid members thus far. As Camp Editor, Larry inquired about everyone receiving the Camp Newsletter; As AOT Councilman, Larry reported that the AOT lapel pins sold out at the National Reunion and he would get an allotment as soon as more arrive. The park situation in Memphis has not changed. The City Council ignored over 1000 letters from citizens of Memphis wanting to retain the names of the three parks. There was not one letter showing support of changing the names. National is creating a website on Gen. Forrest to supply information on the General in order to give us ammo to fight back. Larry reported that the Museum of the Confederacy is planning to join the PC organizations Tredegar Ironworks and the VA Historical Society which could mean selling of the museum and locking-up the collection. OCR Society President Missy Stillman thanked Larry for helping them with the OCR Meetings at the 2013 National Reunion in Vicksburg. Missy also thanked the McCaskill Families for their hard work making the 2013 Reunion a memorable Reunion.

Camp Business: Commander Nokes reminded everyone that Camp Officer elections will be held this December. He asked if anyone was interested in a position to please make their announcement. Joe also plans to appoint a "Scrape Book Committee" before stepping down as Commander. Joe put the question of our future Lee-Jackson Banquet on the floor for discussion. A motion was made by Gator Stillman to select either January 18th or 25th as our Banquet night depending on our speaker. The motion was seconded by John Hallman and was passed. A discussion on speakers was next to being on the floor. Gator made a motion to rank the names discussed in the following ranking: 1. Kirk Fields; 2. Walter Donald Kennedy; 3. Sid Champion with a fourth name to be presented by the September Meeting. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and was passed. With no other business coming before the Camp, Joe turned the meeting over to the ladies for the raffle and Capture the Yankee. The Yankee eluded capture again. The pot is now approaching \$ 100.

Program: The program for the evening was the various reports by AOT Councilman Larry McCluney plus a review for Vision 2016 which is designed to make the SCV a bigger and more effect force in protecting and forwarding the Cause for which our Ancestors fought. The Meeting was closed with a word of prayer from John Hallman. Attendance was 24.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan McCaskill, Adj.

Order of Confederate Rose Report: Annette McCluney

Ladies,

I hope you are enjoying the summer and staying cool as we come to the closing months of summer. I have some new and refreshing raffle prizes from Beauvoir. For the Black Tie event held at Beauvoir in honor of the opening of the Library and Jefferson Davis' 205th Birthday, I have wine glasses that were used at the event and mason jars with handles that were used to serve beer. All of these have the Beauvoir logo on them and make a great addition to your wine glass collection. Remember, these proceeds from the raffles pay for the meal we serve every month. Our Capture the Yankee is now \$97.00 and is doing well.

We will once again serve a meat platter for the September meeting since that went well. I will get the meat tray, bread, fixings, and desert, I need people to bring drinks and chips.

We need to start thinking about our Lee/Jackson raffle and start gathering raffle prizes. I know its early, but, never too early to gather prizes. Also, election time is coming up and we need to be thinking of new officers for the 2014-2016 term. This year marks the 15th Anniversary of our Chapter we have come a long way and have seen many faces travel through our Chapter and some have crossed over during those 15 years. Thanks goes out to our founding members as we look forward to another 15 years.

Annette McCluney, President

**Interested in joining the Mechanized Cavalry,
See Richard Dillon for more details!**



Mississippi Division News: Beauvoir Needs Volunteers

- **OPEN CASTING CALL:**

On Thursday, September 5th at 6:30 p.m. there will be a casting call for all SCV members along with the general theater community to portray characters in Beauvoir's first Historical Cemetery Tour since Hurricane Katrina that will be on Tuesday, October 8th from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m...

The roles available are:

- Six Caucasian males between the ages of 40 and 75

The tour will showcase the lives and time of seven individuals buried in the historic cemetery. Each character will have a script based on the lives of each person which are based off research provided by Mrs. Jane Sullivan. Each person will have a chance to try out for the role and the best person for each character will be chosen.

The auditions will be held on Thursday, September 5th at the Bond-Grant House: 932 Howard Ave., Biloxi, MS 39530 @ 6:30 p.m. (two doors down from Josette's).

The night of October 8th will include:

Character reenactments (The mansion will NOT be open for tours)

Docents to guide the groups to the cemetery

Dulcimer Group Performance

50 minutes informational video

Gift Shop open

Food for purchase (provided by Southern Flavor Catering)

This night has the potential to bring in hundreds of people from around the coast, including many school aged children, and will also hopefully tap into the hundreds of people here for 'Crusin the Coast'.

If you have any further questions please call Michelle Rodriguez at (228) 388-4400 ext.211 or email at mrodriguez@beauvoir.org or Kali Beavers at (228) 388-4400 ext. 217 or kbeavers@beauvoir.org. Thank you and good luck!

- **Cemetery Tour October 8th 5:30-through 7:30pm**

On October 8th Beauvoir will have their first annual cemetery tour. We are thrilled to begin this yearly event and hope to have a handful of volunteers who know the history of the home, the property, and Jefferson Davis. Any offering of your time will be greatly appreciated. These are a few of the positions we will need volunteers to fill during this event:

4-5 Group leaders- Tours will be broken up into 20-25 people per group and each tour will enter the grounds from the library building in 15 minute increments. The group leaders will have to be very prompt as they move their group from one place to the next. The group can only spend 15 minutes at each point of interest and then move on to the next so please wear a watch. The leaders will stay with their group throughout the entire tour until they reach the end. You will also have to keep your group entertained as you move them through the property; we will provide you with basic facts to talk about during this time.

4-5 Atrium greeters- We are planning on this area to be full of people waiting to go on a tour, buying tickets, and making gift shop purchases. So volunteers will be needed to keep the chaos to a minimum. A volunteer will be at the front doors directing guests to the ticket counter. 2 Volunteers in the atrium area helping with the line. 1 Volunteer by the tour staging area forming guests into groups.

3 Gift shop helpers- 1 volunteer by each register to put wristbands on guests. We would like to see volunteers dressed in period but it is optional.

If you are interested in volunteering the sooner you let us know the better!! ***The deadline is September 27th***

Please Contact:

Kali Beavers at kbeavers@beauvoir.org or 228-388-4400 ext 217

Michelle Rodriguez at mrodriguez@beauvoir.org or 228-388-4400 ext 211

- **Fall Muster 2013 October 19th and 20th 9am-5pm**

Greetings to all SCV, UDC, and OCR members!!!! For the 2013 Fall Muster we are looking for volunteers to help both Saturday and Sunday. We hope you'll join us as Beauvoir takes a trip back in time to The War Between The States. We will greatly appreciate any offering of your time. These are the positions that we hope to fill with volunteers:

4-6 Gift shop/ Atrium greeters- This area is going to be extremely full of people and we need help keeping things from getting out of hand. We need 2 volunteers greeting people at the front doors and directing guests to the admissions desk to purchase their entrance tickets. 2 more volunteers at the back doors directing guests to the crafts area, bathrooms, and making sure everyone has paid their entrance fees. 1-2 volunteers in the gift shop and atrium area for directions and possible help in the gift shop.

2-4 House docents- We will need 2 volunteers on the front porch and 2 volunteers on the back porch to entertain guests and give historical facts about the property, Jefferson Davis, The War, etc.

2-3 Crafts Helpers- We will have a children's crafts area set up on the library loggia. Kids + Glue = well you get the picture. So we need some volunteers to supervise here as well.

Please keep in mind that these positions are not set in stone and they may change throughout the day or the list might get longer as the day goes on. Also, we would like to see volunteers dressed for the time period however it is completely optional. If you plan to dress in period let us know!!!

If you are interested in volunteering the sooner you let us know the better!! ***The deadline is October 1st*** Please Contact: Kali Beavers at kbeavers@beauvoir.org or 228-388-4400 ext 217

Michelle Rodriguez at mrodriguez@beauvoir.org or 228-388-4400 ext. 211

- **Christmas at Beauvoir 2013 November 7th through January 5th 4:30pm-8:30pm every Thursday-Sunday(except Thanksgiving)**

We hope you'll join us for the fun and excitement of celebrating the season in the spirit of giving as volunteers generously contribute their time, talents, energy, and enthusiasm to help us bring this event to life and to create a source of holiday joy for many. This will be our second annual Christmas at Beauvoir celebration. We will greatly appreciate any offering of your time and hope that we will see each volunteer more than once throughout the season. We are looking not only for volunteer workers but also entertainers.

Entertainment: We would like to fill our evenings with music and acting on stage. This year we are reaching out into the community and hope that we will be privileged enough to have entertainment from every corner of the community from student groups to veterans. Here is a list of a few performances we hope to have, however we welcome other ideas if you can think of something besides what is listed below:

- Choir (singing Christmas chorals)
- Orchestra or Band (playing Christmas themed music)
- Theatre (plays or acts centered around Christmas)
- Acted out Christmas stories
- Individual singers or musicians

Workers: This year we will need several volunteer workers that are willing to work 5 hour shifts from 4pm to 9pm, however we can be flexible. As the season progresses the list of jobs may change or even get longer! Please note that positions may vary from night to night and you might be asked to move from one to the other. However we will do our best to place volunteers where they will be the most successful. Here are the positions we are hoping to fill:

- Set up and Break down- Right before we open at 4:30 and after we close at 8:30 we will need 2+ volunteers to set up and break down. Also cleanup right before and after the event as well. Possibly helping breakdown and setup with stage entertainment throughout the night.
- Parking lot attendant- 1 to 2 volunteers will be needed in the parking lots along with our regular security to help with traffic and directing guests from the parking lot to the front entrance.
- Greeters- 2+ volunteers inside the front entrances to direct people towards the ticket counter, and make sure the first thing every guest does is purchase their admission ticket. Also handing out programs and answering general questions.
- Gift shop assistants- 2 volunteers inside the gift shop to assist guests in finding what they are looking to purchase, and to help in loss prevention (make sure guests don't walk out without making their purchases). This does not include being behind the register counter.
- Gift-wrapping extraordinaires- 2-3 volunteers to wrap gifts purchased in the giftshop.
- Direction experts- 2 volunteers stationed at the rear doors giving directions to locations of interest out on the property
- Theatre/Beauvoir Room- 2-3 volunteers to hand out snacks and refreshments.
- Crafts- 2-4 volunteers to help with the crafts booth. This will be a busy area full of kids making pomanders, pew dolls, gingerbread cookies, Christmas cards, etc.
- Games- 1 volunteer to supervise the game area and make sure games run smoothly and stay fun for all guests. We will have games such as corn hole, horse shoes, and human checkers.
- Train- 1 volunteer to collect train tickets at the train station, entertain guests waiting for a train ride, also help guests board the train.
- Santa's helper- 1 volunteer to greet the children who have come to see Santa and maintain the line.
- Santa's photographer assistant- 1 volunteer to help Santa and the photographer.
- Storyteller- 1 volunteer to tell Christmas stories throughout the night.

Please note that Christmas at Beauvoir is an old fashioned wonderland set in the year 1889. We would like to see volunteers dressed for the time period however it is completely optional. If you are interested in wearing period costume let us know! Everything will have to be pre-approved.

If you are interested in volunteering the sooner you let us know the better! Please Contact: Kali Beavers at kbeavers@beauvoir.org or 228-388-4400 ext 217 Michelle Rodriguez at mrodriguez@beauvoir.org or 228-388-4400 ext 211 Andi Oustalet at andioustalet@gmail.com or 228-234-4950

The volunteer deadline is November 1, 2013. WE HOPE EVERYONE IS AS EXCITED ABOUT THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON AS WE ARE!! HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE AT THE 2ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AT BEAUVOIR!!!

Third Saturday of the Month Living History

This is a chance to help every third Saturday of the month at Beauvoir have a history encampment for the visitors. Terry Bailey said just come and help in any way you can. If you are dressed in uniform with a rifle or don't have a rifle, you can still be of help. If you have any kind of display of artifacts (they do not have to be original), then have them there and explain about each of the items. If you wish to set up a tent that is fine, but if you don't have one come and just be a part of the group. There is no particular uniform required. The main thing is to have something for the tourists so they can talk to the participants and learn the facts about the war, reconstruction, the politics that were involved and etc. It's a chance to allow the children to not only look at what the soldiers carried but, to actually hold the items. It's also a great chance to let the children (little and big), to shoot the rifles and muskets. This is a great idea and if you can go down and help for as long as you can. There is no requirement on your time. These events will last until it is time for Fall Muster at Beauvoir. For contact information get in touch with Terry Bailey.

twbailey@live.com

Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey

Alabama Division, SCV

Friends of Fall Muster

Fall Muster

This year the event will be **October 18 - 20**. If anyone can go down to help cut some firewood or take some down their it would be most helpful. As usual this is an important time for the MS SCV to showcase Beauvoir house and the new Jefferson Davis Library & Museum. There will be plenty of vendors with food, t-shirts, flags, car tags, etc. Of course there will be the good ole fashion sutlers with all their goodies. The soldiers will be camped as usual on the backside of the property and the battles will most likely take place beginning about 2 PM. on Saturday and Sunday. It is usually good weather and plenty to see and do. Lets make sure that we tell folks about this by word of mouth, telephone, email or the jazzed up email called Facebook, if you have it.

MOS&B Commander General's Message

The annual Convention was held in Springdale, Arkansas, May 30-June 1. Colorado Society Commander Wayne Snodgrass gave a very succinct summary of the Convention to the Colorado Society membership. I am copying it as a report of the Convention. *The MOS&B 76th Convention was a great (and unusual) meeting in Springdale, Arkansas ...*

The events included:

- 1. Battlefield guided tours: Oak Hills (Wilson's Creek) in MO; Elkhorn Tavern (Pea Ridge) in AR; and Prairie Grove in AR*
- 2. Confederate Cemetery tour in Fayetteville, AR*
- 3. Inspirational Presentations by renowned historians/authors: Mark Lee Beau Cantrell, Mark Christ, Cassey Gray, and Susie Young.*
- 4. Excellent planning and conducting of the fast paced meetings on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.*
- 5. Excellent meals every day with outstanding Receptions, BBQ in the Park, and formal Banquet.*
- 6. Real Tornadoes and mandatory relocation into shelters on Thursday night and Friday night. The unusual part.*
- 7. Over-all, this was a great Convention with very informative overviews of the major battles that occurred between the Union and the Army of Trans-Mississippi.*
- 8. The Colorado Society was repeatedly recognized for becoming a Society and for its participation in the War Between the States.*

- 75th Anniversary Book "Addendum"

Please check for your Confederate in the Ancestors listing in the *75th Anniversary Book*. If he is not listed, please submit his details and documentation of service to:

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars
PO Box 1700
White House, Tennessee 37188-1700

The deadline for these submissions is July 15, 2013. Recently Verified Ancestors: All Ancestors verified since the initial *75th Anniversary Book* will be enumerated in the Addendum. The *75th Anniversary Book* celebrates our Confederate officers and public officials, who were confirmed in their WBTS service by primary records. An *Addendum* was planned from the beginning to provide an opportunity to confirm the service of additional ancestors. Additionally, it is important also to enumerate those that remain unconfirmed. These fall into two groups: "Ineligibles" & "**Not Confirmed.**" Not Confirmed: This group is comprised of 303 ancestors, whose stated service or rank would qualify, but acceptable primary documentation has not been discovered. Any falling within this status will be added to the Order's website listing of eligible Confederates once acceptable primary documentation is provided.

Status of Current Members: The membership of any member of the Order, admitted by virtue of proven relationship to any now listed as "ineligible" or "not confirmed," is not affected. These retain full membership privileges, including the right of Legacy memberships for their near relations. The only restriction is that others may not cite those in these categories for a new membership in the Order.

Online Ancestors: All confirmed eligible Confederates are listed online at the Order's website. Additions to this list are ongoing. These are offered to those interested in joining our Order as approved Confederates for membership in the Order.

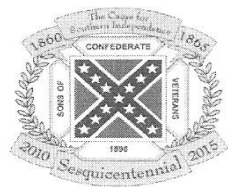
Respectfully,
Toni Turk, Commander General

National SCV News:

National Reunion in Charleston, SC

Editor's Note: If you plan to attend the Reunion in Charleston, SC in 2014, then you need to at least reserve a room at the Embassy Suites as soon as you can. I reserved my room on July 24 and the impression they gave me was they were going quick. But never fear, if you cannot get a room there, or if you want something within your budget, go to <http://www.scv2014.org> and see what they offer. Early registration form for the Reuion is offered on the next page.





**Sons of Confederate Veterans
119th National Reunion
North Charleston, SC
July 16-19, 2014
1864 – H. L. Hunley - 2014**



Individual Member Registration (Basic Registration is required for ALL members attending the reunion)

Early Registration (Thru March 31, 2014) (\$55.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 55 = _____
Late Registration (After March 31, 2014) (\$65.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 65 = _____
Wed, July 16: Harbor Meet & Greet Tour (\$65.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 65 = _____
Thurs, July 17: General Forrest Cavalry Breakfast (\$30.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 30 = _____
Thurs, July 17: C. Irvine Walker Preservation Luncheon (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 35 = _____
Thurs, July 17: General Johnson Hagood Heritage Dinner (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 35 = _____
Thurs, July 17: Ladies Tour (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 35 = _____
Thurs, July 17: Fort & Battlefield Tour (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 35 = _____
Fri, July 18: Gen. Ellison Capers Chaplains Breakfast (\$30.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 30 = _____
Fri, July 18: Lt. Richard Kirkland Awards Luncheon (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 35 = _____
Fri, July 18: H.L. Hunley Tour (\$40.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 40 = _____
Sat, July 19: Mary Boykin Chesnut Debutante Luncheon (\$30.00 Each) (Debutantes Free)	Qty. _____ x 30 = _____
Sat, July 19: Gen. Wade Hampton III Grand Banquet and Debutante Ball: (Single: \$70.00)	Qty. _____ x 70 = _____
(Couple: \$130.00)	Qty. _____ x 130 = _____
Numbered Medal (\$150.00 Each) (Limited to 150 Medals)	Qty. _____ x 150 = _____
Additional Reunion Medals (Non Numbered) (\$35.00 Each)	Qty. _____ x 35 = _____
Ancestor Memorials (Printed in Program) (\$10.00 Each) (Attach Ancestor Memorial Form)	Qty. _____ x 10 = _____

Make Check payable to Low Country SCV and mail to address below

Grand Total _____

Due to the nature of tour booking and catering demands, all tour and meal purchases are considered to be final. No refunds will be issued. The 2014 National SCV Reunion Committee does reserve the right to limit or cancel any tour prior to the reunion due to limited booking of reservations. In the event there is a cancellation of any tour, the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part

Name: _____ SCV Member # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

SCV Division: _____ Real Son: ☐

Camp Name: _____ Camp #: _____

Guest(s) _____

***Contact the Embassy Suites, North Charleston, SC at 1-843-747-1882 for room rates, availability and reservations.
Ask for the 2014 SCV Reunion Rate.***

**Tenth Brigade, South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
David Rentz, 2014 SCV Reunion Chairman,
www.scv2014.org
Mail Checks To: Low Country SCV, P. O. Box 1170, Ladson, SC 29456-1170**

Sesquicentennial Article: Battle of Chickamauga, 19-20 September 1863

The Battle of Chickamauga was a conflict that took place in Georgia during the American Civil War. Federal and Confederate forces engaged over two days on September 19 and 20 in 1863 at Catoosa County and Walker County, Georgia. The battle was the last conflict in the Union army's offensive initiative, named the Chickamauga Campaign, against the rebels in northwestern Georgia and southeastern Tennessee.

On the Federal side, the battle was fought by the Army of the Cumberland, under the command of Major General William Rosecrans, while the Confederate Army of Tennessee was led by General Braxton Bragg.

Background

During the summer of 1863, Rosecrans and his army had waged a successful campaign against the Confederate forces under Braxton in central Tennessee, and the rebel army had retreated to Chattanooga. Rosecrans was instructed by both the President, Abraham Lincoln and the supreme commander, Major General Henry W. Halleck, to carry on the offensive and take Chattanooga, which was an important strategic city, from the Confederates.

For his part, Bragg had persuaded the Confederate leaders to augment his army with troops from other areas with the intention of not just defending Chattanooga, but also to launch a counterattack against the Union army. This move increased his army from 52,000 men to just under 70,000, outnumbering Rosecrans' army by about 10,000 men.

Rosecrans recognized that he would have some difficulties in complying with the President's instruction. An offensive move would mean his forces had to cross the Cumberland Plateau, difficult terrain with poor quality roads. Furthermore, his supply lines would be hindered by the mountains to the rear.

Rosecrans wanted to delay the offensive until all the required supplies were in place, so that he would not have to worry about getting them while on the move. He wanted to delay the move until August 17, but Halleck insisted that he advance without delaying any longer. However, Rosecrans did not begin moving forward until August 16.

The Campaign Plan

Rosecrans' plan was to move forward to the Tennessee River, and then to accumulate more supplies before attempting to ford it. He felt that it would be impossible to cross the river if the opposing army held the other side, so his plan was to create a diversion that would draw Bragg's forces into skirmishes north of Chattanooga and use these as a distraction while his main army forded the river at different locations several miles downstream.

Once across the river, the plan was to attack the city from the west, the south and the southeast. The attack from the southeast would give the Union army control over the railway line that connected Chattanooga with Atlanta. This railway was a vital supply line for the Confederates, and taking it would mean that Bragg's army would either have to retreat from Chattanooga or try to defend the city without having a supply source.

The Campaign

It took the Union army until August 23 to reach the river. Rosecrans began to implement his deception, and sent some of his army to the north of Chattanooga. The deception seems to have worked, and Bragg thought that the crossing would be attempted north of Chattanooga. On August 29, the first Union troops succeeded in crossing the Tennessee River at Caperton's Ferry. The following day, a second and third crossing took place at Shellmound. On August 31, a fourth crossing took place at Battle Creek, and by September 4, all of the Union soldiers who would take part in the attack on Chattanooga had successfully crossed the river.

When Bragg realized that he could not hold the city, he withdrew to Lafayette in Georgia, and the Union army entered Chattanooga on September 9. Because of his plan to attack on several fronts, Rosecrans' forces were widely scattered. Even so, he still thought that Bragg's men were in disarray and initially ordered some of his troops to pursue the retreating Confederates. He later decided against this tactic and opted instead to consolidate his troops.

Bragg was also consolidating his troops and by September 15 had decided that the best option for his army was to launch an offensive to retake Chattanooga. He began to move his troops to Chickamauga Creek.

The Battle of Chickamauga

The battle began on September 19 and took place on several fronts in many different locations. The Union army quickly gained the initiative in the various encounters, and when reinforcements arrived, the Confederates were forced into retreat in several areas. However, as the day progressed, the Confederates did manage to halt the Federal offensive and Bragg felt that his side was in the better position and had inflicted significant damage on the Union forces.

Bragg planned to launch a fresh attack on the Federal soldiers at dawn on September 20, but a breakdown in communications meant that the dawn offensive could not take place. The arrival of reinforcements meant that the Confederates greatly outnumbered the Union troops, and Rosecrans realized that he was not in a position to launch an offensive.

The delay in the Confederate attack allowed the Union army to better prepare for the anticipated action, and Bragg later stated that this delay was the main reason his troops did not inflict a severe defeat on the Union army.

Because the Confederate Army had the advantage, Rosecrans had no choice but to concentrate his defense within Chattanooga, he advised his scattered army to retreat in the face of sustained Confederate attacks. Rosecrans instructed his men to begin a general retreat to Chattanooga, signifying the end of the battle of Chickamauga and a victory for the Confederate.

Results & Aftermath

Casualties on both sides in the battle were high. The Federal army had 1,657 fatal casualties, 9,756 wounded and a further 4,757 missing or taken prisoner. On the Confederate side, there were 2,312 fatalities, 14,674 wounded, and 1,464 missing or taken prisoner. The number of casualties was the second highest in the entire Civil War, exceeded only by casualties at Gettysburg.

Bragg's slowness to attack turned a tactical victory for the South into a strategic defeat, as Federal forces were allowed to escape to Chattanooga. After the Battle of Chickamauga, Bragg laid siege to Chattanooga, but it was strongly fortified and the Federal troops were able to maintain control. Despite not being able to receive supplies, the Union troops managed to hold on in Chattanooga until Major General Ulysses S. Grant arrived with a relieving force that broke Bragg's siege in late November.

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Casualty Figures from Chickamauga

	Union	Confederate
Killed	1656	2389
Wounded	9749	13412
Captured or Missing	4774	2003
Total	16179	17804
Effective Strength	56965	71551
% lost	28%	25%