



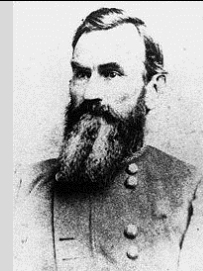
Joe Nokes, Commander

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

# The Delta General

September, 2014 Volume 17, Issue 9

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



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Camp Meeting – Thursday September 4, 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola, MS
- August 9, Beauvoir Board Meeting at Beauvoir, 10:00 AM
- Heritage Rally in Franklin, TN – September 13
- Sept 27, Caledonia Rifles Day in Caledonia, MS
- October 17-19 – Fall Muster at Beauvoir in Biloxi, MS

## Camp News:

### Commander's Message – Joe Nokes

My friends and fellow compatriots,

Our August "camp meeting" took place at Grand Gulf State Park. This was a part of a pilgrimage to Port Gibson to the grave of our camp namesake, General Humphreys. This event took place Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>. I would like to spend a bit of time relating to you the events of this special trip.



### The Grave of General Benjamin G. Humphreys

As for General Humphreys, I would like for you to indulge me for a bit here. Last year, I went to the 150<sup>th</sup> reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg. I went a day early and did some sightseeing as it was my first time to that area. I stood and looked at the Peach Orchard where our camp namesake was appointed to take command of General Barksdale's Brigade (due to Barksdale's mortal wounding). I could only imagine (and probably not very well) just what those brave men went through that day. Of the Confederate units engaged, these men were reportedly the only unit to cross Plum Run, the farthest incursion on that part of the battlefield.

Let me fast forward to a couple of weeks ago as I perusing Facebook. A friend posted the question to

name the "Top Five Hardest Hitting Brigades" during the War. There were a good number of comments, and I naturally had to read them all. Barksdale's Brigade

Between 20 and 25 camp members, OCR members, family, and friends arrived at Grand Gulf State Park around 11 am. Our lunch was potluck with grilled burgers and hot dogs as the "main dish". (Many thanks go to Missy and Sandra Stillman for their help with lunch.) Everyone had a good time eating and fellowshiping. Many in attendance toured the museum just down the hill from the pavilion. A highlight of the event was the unveiling of the new Camp Recruiting Banner. Photos are included in this edition. (Or better yet, come to future camp meetings and events and see it in person.)

After lunch, we adjourned to Wintergreen Cemetery in Port Gibson to visit the grave of General Humphreys. Let me just say, Wintergreen is an absolutely beautiful old cemetery complete with ancient cedars and oaks hanging with Spanish moss. We then visited the grave of General Earl Van Dorn who is also interred in Wintergreen. Last, we paid respects to the many men who gave their lives during the battle of Port Gibson and who are forever resting in that place. We especially noted 4 men (obviously related) from a Louisiana artillery battery with the last name Bouttetorte buried in a row. It was very humbling to again realize the enormous sacrifices made by our ancestors during the War.



Camp's new banner thanks to Richard Dillon and Larry McCluney



appeared on over half of the comments and lists. Now was General Huphreys responsible for all of the honors of this brigade? Of course not. But was he an integral part of it? Of course. Our camp namesake was an honored and honorable man. We should always be proud to honor our camp namesake. Many thanks and praises to Brigadier General Benjamin Grubb Humphreys.

I will see you at our next camp meeting. Respectfully,  
Joe Nokes

At Right: Camp members at the grave of  
General Humphreys.



### **Ella Palmer, OCR Report: Sandra Stillman, President**

First, I want to remind everyone of our up and coming Chapter meeting. We will have Pizza on Thursday September 4 as our fellowship meal. We are asking everyone that will be attending to meet at the Wal-Mart in Vicksburg at 10:30 AM Saturday morning so we can determine how many are attending. We are asking everyone to bring the other side items to go with the meal. We will be renewing our drawings and the Capture the Yankee which is way up over \$200.00. We have some new and interesting items for the drawings as well which helps in paying for the meals. Thank you everyone in advance that participates.

### **Lt. Commander's Report – Richard Dillon**

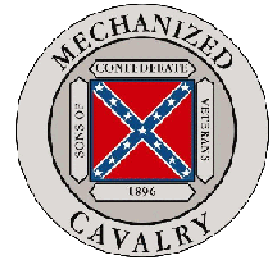
Speaker for September is Diane Bonert, aka, The Medicine Lady. We never know what Diane will talk about, but we do know her talks are always interesting and full of little known facts.

October's speaker will be Ron Kelley. Ron is from Helena, Arkansas and will give us insight on the Confederate Generals buried in Helena.

In November Dr. Larry Mangus, from Corinth, will be bringing some of his items from "around the house" that he has collected. At this point nobody knows -- not even Larry -- what he will bring. The last time he visited he brought items worth tens of thousands of dollars. The speakers for next three months are all unique and are not to be missed

### **Mechanized Cavalry Report: Richard Dillon, Cpl**

Our Semi-annual Statewide meeting will be held on September 13th at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville, Miss. This is a very important meeting since nominations for our new Captain will be made. Captain Bert asked that we respond individually if we are planning to attend, so he will know how much food to prepare. He needs your response by September 1st.



### **No Adjutant's Report for September, 2014 – Dan McCaskill**

#### **Remembering Our Confederate Veterans**

As a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans there are many ways we can honor and remember our Confederate Ancestors. We fly the Flag, teach others the truths about the Cause for which they fought, put on living histories depicting the way they lived during the War and participating in re-enactments, fighting as they fought. Another way we remember our Veterans is by locating their final resting place, recording it, taking pictures of the headstones for our posterity. Sometimes we locate a Veteran in a cemetery that has an unmarked grave. In years past, anyone having knowledge of the Veteran could apply to and obtain a Confederate Headstone from the Veterans Administration at no cost because the VA would mark the grave site of any U. S. Veteran which includes Confederate Veterans whose grave site was unmarked anywhere in the world. Everything changed with the election of Obama. Under his administration, the VA changed its rules to where only the next of kin or designated representatives of the next of kin could request a VA headstone at no cost. This rule applies to any Veteran who died prior to World War I. Because of this rule change, it makes it almost impossible to obtain a VA marker for a Confederate Veteran.

Our Camp has adopted one solution to this problem, raise the money ourselves to purchase a Confederate Marker from a monument company, in our case it would be the Columbus Monument Works in Columbus, MS who do VA markers. The cost of one upright white marble headstone will be \$ 475. The Camp has committed \$ 150 toward the stone and will be soliciting the additional \$ 325 from our members. To date we have received \$ 157 from our members but still need \$ 168 to reach our goal. I want to thank all of those who have donated thus far. I want to give members who have not been able to come to Camp Meetings a chance to donate to the cause by considering to send a donation to Camp Adjutant Dan McCaskill at 205 Cypress Street; Leland, MS 38756. We need to reach our goal by years end in order to place the headstone by the next Confederate Memorial Service in April, 2015. This stone will be the first of four to go in the Greenville Cemetery. If we, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, do not mark our Veterans grave sites, then who will?

If anyone has any questions, please call or contact me by the following: 662-822-1096 (cell phone) or email: [danmccas@tecinfo.com](mailto:danmccas@tecinfo.com).

Your Servant,  
Dan A. McCaskill





*120th Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
and the 21st Mississippi Society, Order of Confederate Rose Reunions*



June 05-07, 2015 in Columbus, Mississippi  
[www.genbarksdale.org](http://www.genbarksdale.org)

**2015 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**

SCV MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CAMP: \_\_\_\_\_

OCR MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OCR CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST'S NAME FOR BADGE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCV EARLY REGISTRATION (PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2014)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

SCV REGULAR REGISTRATION (JAN. 1ST, 2015 TO MAY 22ND 2015)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

SCV LATE REGISTRATION (POST-MARKED ON OR AFTER MAY 23RD 2015)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$45.00 \_\_\_\_\_

OCR REGISTRATION ON OR BEFORE MAY 22ND, 2015, \$10.00 EACH. AFTER MAY 23RD, 2015 \$15.00\*\*\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

ADULT SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$30.00 PER ADULT \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S PLATE (12 AND UNDER) SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$15.00 PER CHILD \_\_\_\_\_

ANCESTOR MEMORIAL (COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$10.00 EACH ANCESTOR \_\_\_\_\_

VENDOR TABLE (AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE, COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ (X'S) \$20.00 EACH TABLE \_\_\_\_\_

REUNION PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT (SEE BELOW RATES / COMPLETE ATTACHED FORM)\*\*\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

STARKVILLE CIVIL WAR ARSENAL MUSEUM SATURDAY AFTERNOON TOUR  
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT LOCATION)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ **FREE TO REUNION ATTENDEES!**

STEPHEN D. LEE HOME AND MUSEUM AFTERNOON TOUR  
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT LOCATION)\*\*\*\*\*QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ **FREE TO REUNION ATTENDEES!**

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

All Registered SCV / OCR members will receive a Name Badge, Reunion Medal, Reunion Program, and a "Reunion goodie bag".

Late Door Registration will receive the same only as long as supplies last.

OCR Registrants will have a Ladies Tea in lieu of a Reunion Medal.

All registrations submitted for the amounts specified above must be post-marked appropriately within the specified time-frame.

No refunds to be distributed for cancellations on or after June 01, 2015.

\*\*\*For your convenience, ALL events except for the optional tours, will be held on-site at the host hotel\*\*\*

**Barksdale's  
Headquarters Hotel:**  
Recommend rooms be  
reserved ASAP as it is  
summer and they will  
become booked.  
ASK for the SCV Rate.

**Courtyard Marriott**  
1995 6th Street North  
Columbus,  
Mississippi, 39701  
662-245-1540

**Reunion Contact Information:**

**Host Camp Commander:**

Jim Strickland, Jr.  
[jmsj@cableone.net](mailto:jmsj@cableone.net)  
Phone: 662-570-1581

**Host Camp Adjutant:**

Shawn Kyzer  
[camp1220adjutant@yahoo.com](mailto:camp1220adjutant@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 662-722-1738

**Make Checks Payable to:**

SCV Camp 1220

**Mail Registration Form  
and Payment To:**

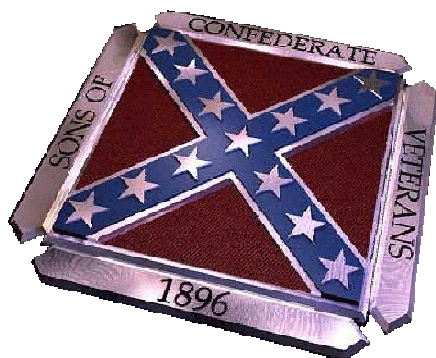
2015 MS Division Reunion  
P.O. Box 404  
Aberdeen, MS 39730

**Reunion Program  
Advertisements:**

\$100.00 for Full Page  
\$50.00 for Half Page  
\$25.00 for Quarter Page

Please submit  
advertisement information  
and order form prior to  
May 1st 2015.

## Mississippi Division News



## SCV National News: Heritage Rally 2014

This year our Sesquicentennial Event/Heritage Rally will be held September 13th, 2104 in Franklin, TN. This site was chosen in recognition of the Battle Franklin and other area battles in the fall of 1864. Compatriots in that area are working very hard to put together an excellent event with many extra activities the membership will enjoy. It is to be held at the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park in Franklin. This is adjacent to MacGavock Cemetery and Carnton Plantation. Visit the website for more details.

## \$6,500 Needed to Restore Confederate Flag

A historic, and controversial, battle flag is getting a lot of attention. It was used by the South during the Civil War and now it's starting to fall apart. Historians say despite the negative history surrounding the Confederacy it's important to preserve this part of the Battle of Franklin. The flag was originally used by Confederate Brigadier General John Adams in 1864. To help prevent the flag from further distress, historians moved it from the Tennessee State Museum to a specialized conservator in West Virginia. It will cost about \$6,500 to properly preserve. The Tennessee State Museum displays both Union and Confederate artifacts. They are seeking donations to cover this flags conservation through [www.saveourflags.org](http://www.saveourflags.org).

Read More at: <http://www.fox17.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/6500-needed-restore-confederate-flag-kai-beech-22484.shtml>

## The Confederate Museum and Founder's Society

The truth about the South's struggle to form a new nation is under attack as never before. The National Battlefield Parks have been taken over by the "it's all about slavery" provocateurs. Museums have changed their collections and interpretations to present what they call the cultural history of the War for Southern Independence. In reality this new perspective is nothing more than South bashing. The forces of political correctness have gone into high gear. They attempt to ban any and all things Confederate through their ideological fascism. Even what was once a highly respected museum now claims proudly they are not a museum for the Confederacy, merely about it.

There needs to be at least one place where the people of the South and others can go to learn an accurate account of why so many struggled so long in their attempt to reassert government by the consent of the governed in America!

The General Executive Council of the Sons of Confederate Veterans made the commitment in October of 2008 to start the process to erect a new building that will have two purposes. One of the uses of this new building will be 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. At the SCV Reunion in July of 2009 the GEC set up a building fund for this purpose. One of the goals is to provide an accurate portrayal of the common Confederate soldier, something that is currently absent in most museums and in the media.

You are invited to make your stand for the future by contributing to this fund.

Send checks to:

Sons of Confederate Veterans  
c/o TCM Building Fund  
P.O. Box 59  
Columbia, TN 38402

Or you can call 1-800-MY-DIXIE to pay by credit card. Future generations will thank you for your efforts in erecting The Confederate Museum.

The time has come for us to step up our efforts toward the building of our Confederate Museum and new office building. At the GEC meeting on July 21, 2010 the GEC approved a new initiative to raise funds. There are three levels of donations/contributions. Each contributor will receive a pin designating them as a Founder of the Confederate Museum. Also in the Museum will be a list of names of all Founders. This can be a plaque on the wall or even names inscribed in brick depending on the construction design. Anyone can take part in this, they do not have to be an SCV member. Camps, Divisions, UDC chapters etc. can also take part.

Continued on page 5 . . .

## SCV Camp 868 Tippah Tigers

**Host the fourth annual 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Picnic and Southern Heritage Rally Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Activities begin at 12:00 PM Tippah Lake**

**Catfish and Chicken Plates 10 dollars Children 5**

**Paul Adams and the Good Time Grass**

**Civil War Relics Exhibit**

**Living History Exhibits**

**Tri State Relic Hunters Youth Hunt**

**(Detectors provided – authentic relics/tokens)**

**Youth Activities**

**Dunk a Carpetbagger**

**Mr. Bobby McCommon and his Christ Mill**



Confederate Museum founder continued from page 4 . . .

Also donations can be made by multiple payments over a period of time. A form is being developed for Founders to list how they want their name listed. Those taking part will receive the form when it is finished. It will also then be available on the museum web site.

- **Stonewall Jackson Level** - Contributors make a donation of at least \$1,000. If they are already a member of the Sesquicentennial Society, that contribution will be taken into account and the minimum contribution for them would be \$850. For some one who is not already a member they can get both for \$1050 with the \$50 dollars going to the Bicentennial Fund.
- **Robert E Lee Level** - Contribution of at least \$5,000. If not already a member of the Sesquicentennial Society it will be included as benefit of this level
- **Confederate Cabinet Level** - Contribution of at least \$10,000. If not already a member of the Sesquicentennial Society it will be included as benefit of this level
- **Additional-** GHQ has acquired 20 special gavels. These gavels are made from wood taken from the damn at Fredricksburg during the War. The are inscribed with the Sesquicentennial logo as well as the notation of the woods origin and comes with a statement of authenticity. The first 20 Camps or Division that contribute at the Stonewall Jackson level will receive one of these unique and valuable gavels.

This program got of to a resounding start. Several members have already become Stonewall Jackson level Founders. One Compatriot has even become a member of the Confederate Cabinet level Founders. Imagine that during the Bicentennial of the War for Southern Independence that your descendants can go to a museum where they can learn the truth about the Confederacy. Imagine also that they can look up on the wall of that museum and see your name and know that you did this for them.

### Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence Articles:

## New York town that seceded & supported the Confederacy - June 15, 2011

By [Michael Cushman](#)

Here is an [interesting bit of history that surely few people know about](#):

Anyone who has dabbled in history knows of the draft riots in New York City and that the potential of the city seceding from the Union, not to join the South but rather to become neutral leaving it able to deal and trade with both warring sides. This was not the case for all of New York.

The town in question is sometimes known as "Two Rod" – The real name is Town-line, NY. It is located on the boundary line between Lancaster & Alden of which the name came from.

Primarily it was a German community and rested on the northern edge of Lancaster which was a strong Democratic area, lodged between a strong Republican areas.

In 1861, many of the Southern States, left the Union and joined the Confederate States of America, including Town-line. The town's folk voted in the early summer of 1861 to leave the Union, and by a wide margin, (84 to 40) seceded from the Union. It was rumored that many of the men in town had left to join the Confederacy (documents show 12 out of 100 males of enlisting age, who did serve). There were only 100 souls over the age of 21.

The reasons are unclear but an article in the [Buffalo, New York](#) Newspaper from 1945 cite discontent with President [Lincoln's](#) treatment of Confederate soldiers at a POW camp in Elmira, the interest of self-rule or perhaps an incident by some runaway slaves at a local [underground railroad](#) stop. It was also reported that Town Line sent five men through the Union lines to fight for the Confederate States under General Robert E. Lee. Other reasons stated were that they were unhappy with being forced to comply with President Lincoln's request for 75,000 men and refused to comply. Being that most of their German community had recent left the OLD country, because of strife, and being a farming community, they were troubled. There were a number of men who did join the Union army (about a dozen, documented).

By 1864, most of the residents who seceded in town were being badly harassed (terrorized as it was described), and packed up the plantation and their homes, and moved to a settlement in St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada.

When the WBTS ended, things went somewhat back to normal, just a few returned families that lived in the area.

It wasn't until it was brought up about the 1920s (from the town advisor in Alden) that Town-line was not paying taxes, and was still technically "out of the Union," but nothing was done about it.

It came up again in the 1930s and again in 1945. The town had formed a special committee to do something about it, and this special committee chairman even wrote President Truman about their problem. The President gave them some advice: (paraphrase) "Why don't you run down the fattest calf in Erie County, barbecue it and serve it with fixins, and sort out your problems."

They voted in December 1945 and they vote failed again, but in January 26, 1946, the persons living in Town-Line, NY officially re-joined the Union... this made Town-line, NY the last stronghold of the Confederacy. The town made national news, and held a party to celebrate their rejoining and had several Hollywood stars came out (Cesar Ramaro "the joker" among others).

Today, the residents can still find reminiscence of secession around. The large fire hall, on Broadway Road (Rt 20) has a unique patch that they wear on their arm, that reads: "Last of the Rebels 1861-1946, Town Line, NY – Fire Dept" and their fire equipment has a saying over there department logo that states "Rebel Rescue". and on their shoulder patch.

The desk where the signing of secession and rejoining still exists at the Alden, NY Historical Society. They may have not left the Union for the same reasons as the other Southern States (that being states' rights), but they did believe in town rights – and held out longer than any other state or former Confederate community.





## Guerrilla Warfare in Civil War Missouri, Volume IV, September 1864 - June 1865

by [Bruce Nichols](#)

This book is a thorough study of all known guerrilla operations in Civil War Missouri between September 1864 and June 1865. It explores different tactics each side attempted to gain advantage over each other, with regional differences as influenced by the personalities of local commanders. The author utilizes both well-known and obscure sources (including military and government records, private accounts, county and other local histories, period and later newspapers, and secondary sources published after the war) to identify which Southern partisan leaders and groups operated in which areas of Missouri, and how their kinds of warfare evolved. This work presents the actions of Southern guerrilla forces and Confederate behind-Union-lines recruiters chronologically by region so that readers may see the relationship of seemingly isolated events to other events. The book also studies the counteractions of an array of different types of Union troops fighting guerrillas in Missouri to show how differences in training, leadership and experience affected actions in the field.

### Atlanta Falls September 2, 1864

The Battle of Atlanta was a battle of the [Atlanta Campaign](#) fought during the [American Civil War](#) on July 22, 1864, just southeast of [Atlanta, Georgia](#). Continuing their summer campaign to seize the important rail and supply center of Atlanta, [Union](#) forces commanded by [William T. Sherman](#) overwhelmed and defeated [Confederate](#) forces defending the city under [John B. Hood](#). Union [Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson](#) was killed during the battle. Despite the implication of finality in its name, the battle occurred midway through the campaign, and the city did not fall until September 2, 1864, after a Union siege and various attempts to seize railroads and supply lines leading to Atlanta. After taking the city, Sherman's troops headed south-southeastward toward [Milledgeville](#), the state capital, and on to [Savannah](#) with the [March to the Sea](#).

The fall of Atlanta was especially noteworthy for its political ramifications. In the [1864 election](#), former Union general [George B. McClellan](#), a [Democrat](#), ran against [President Lincoln](#), on a peace platform calling for a truce with the Confederacy. The capture of Atlanta and Hood's burning of military facilities as he evacuated, were extensively covered by Northern newspapers, significantly boosting Northern morale, and Lincoln was reelected by a large margin.

In the Atlanta Campaign, Maj. Gen. [William Tecumseh Sherman](#) commanded the Union forces of the [Western Theater](#). The main Union force in this battle was the [Army of the Tennessee](#), under Maj. Gen. [James B. McPherson](#). He was one of Sherman's and [Grant's](#) favorite commanders, as he was very quick and aggressive. Within Sherman's army, the [XV Corps](#) was commanded by Maj. Gen. [John A. Logan](#),<sup>[5]</sup> the [XVI Corps](#) was commanded by Maj. Gen. [Grenville M. Dodge](#), and Maj. Gen. [Frank P. Blair Jr.](#) commanded the [XVII Corps](#).<sup>[6]</sup>

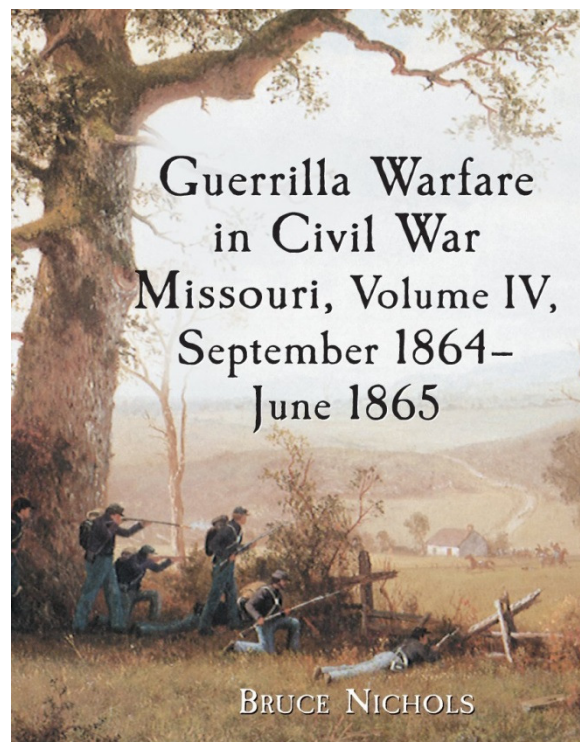
During the months leading up to the battle, Confederate [Gen. Joseph E. Johnston](#) had repeatedly retreated from Sherman's superior force. All along the [railroad](#) line, from [Chattanooga, Tennessee](#), to [Marietta, Georgia](#), a pattern was played and replayed: Johnston took up a defensive position, Sherman marched to outflank the Confederate defenses, and Johnston retreated again. After Johnston's withdrawal following the [Battle of Resaca](#), the two armies clashed again at the [Battle of Kennesaw Mountain](#), but the Confederate senior leadership in [Richmond](#) was unhappy with Johnston's perceived reluctance to fight the Union army, even though he had little chance of winning. Thus, on July 17, 1864, as he was preparing for the [Battle of Peachtree Creek](#), Johnston was relieved of his command and replaced by [Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood](#).<sup>[7]</sup> The dismissal and replacement of Johnston was one of the most controversial decisions of the civil war.<sup>[8]</sup> Hood, who was fond of taking risks,<sup>[9]</sup> lashed out at Sherman's army at Peachtree Creek, but the attack failed with more than two thousand five hundred Confederate casualties.<sup>[9]</sup>

Hood needed to defend the city of Atlanta, which was an important rail hub and industrial center for the Confederacy, but his army was small in comparison to the armies that Sherman commanded. He decided to withdraw, enticing the Union troops to come forward. McPherson's army closed in from [Decatur, Georgia](#), to the east side of Atlanta.

Meanwhile, Hood ordered Lt. Gen. [William J. Hardee's](#) corps on a march around the Union left flank, had Maj. Gen. [Joseph Wheeler's](#) cavalry march near Sherman's supply line, and had Maj. Gen. [Benjamin Cheatham's](#) corps attack the Union front. However, it took longer than expected for Hardee to get his men into position, and, during that time, McPherson had correctly deduced a possible threat to his left flank, and sent XVI Corps, his reserve, to help strengthen it.<sup>[11]</sup> Hardee's men met this other force, and the battle began. Although the initial Confederate attack was repulsed, the Union left flank began to retreat. About this time,



Continued on page 7 . . .



Atlanta continued from page 6 . . .

McPherson, who had ridden to the front to observe the battle, was shot and killed by Confederate infantry.<sup>[11]</sup>

Near Decatur, [Brig. Gen. John W. Sprague](#), in command of the 2nd Brigade, 4th Division of the XVI Corps,<sup>[12]</sup> was attacked by Wheeler's cavalry. Wheeler had taken the Fayetteville Road, while Hardee's column took the Flat Shoals Road toward McPherson's position. The Federals fled the town in a stampede, but managed to save the ordnance and supply trains of the XV, XVI, XVII, and XX corps. With the failure of Hardee's assault, Wheeler was in no position to hold Decatur, and fell back to Atlanta that night.<sup>[13]</sup> Sprague was later awarded the [Medal of Honor](#) for his actions.<sup>[14]</sup>

The main lines of battle now formed an "L" shape, with Hardee's attack forming the lower part of the "L", and Cheatham's attack on the Union front as the vertical member of the "L". Hood intended to attack the Union troops from both east and west. The fighting centered around a hill east of the city known as Bald Hill. The Federals had arrived two days earlier, and began to shell the city proper, killing several civilians.<sup>[15]</sup> A savage struggle, sometimes hand-to-hand, developed around the hill, lasting until just after dark. The Federals held the hill while the Confederates retired to a point just south of there. Meanwhile, two miles to the north, Cheatham's troops had broken through the Union lines at the Georgia railroad. In response, twenty artillery pieces were positioned near Sherman's headquarters at [Copen Hill](#), and shelled the Confederates, while Logan's XV Corps regrouped and repulsed the Southern troops.

The Union had suffered 3,641 casualties, including Maj. Gen. McPherson,<sup>[5]</sup> to the Confederate's 5,500.<sup>[4]</sup> This was a devastating loss for the already reduced Confederate army, but they still held the city. One notable establishment destroyed by Union soldiers was the Potter (or Ponder) House, built in 1857, and owned by Ephraim G. Ponder, a holder of 65 slaves before the war. In the battle, it was used by Confederate sharpshooters until Union artillery inflicted heavy damage. It was never rebuilt. One of Ponder's slaves, Festus Flipper, was the father of [Henry Ossian Flipper](#), who later became the first African American [cadet](#) to graduate from the [United States Military Academy](#) at [West Point](#).<sup>[15]</sup>

## The Battle of Third Winchester - September 19, 1864

After Kershaw's division left Winchester to rejoin Lee's army at Petersburg, Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early renewed his raids on the B&O Railroad at Martinsburg, badly dispersing his four remaining infantry divisions. On September 19, Sheridan advanced toward Winchester along the Berryville Pike with the VI and XIX Corps, crossing Opequon Creek. The Union advance was delayed long enough for Early to concentrate his forces to meet the main assault, which continued for several hours. Casualties were very heavy. The Confederate line was gradually driven back toward the town. Mid-afternoon, Crook's (VIII) Corps and the cavalry turned the Confederate left flank. Early ordered a general retreat. Confederate generals Rodes and Goodwin were killed, Fitzhugh Lee, Terry, Johnson, and Wharton wounded. Union general Russell was killed, McIntosh, Upton, and Chapman wounded. Because of its size, intensity, and result, many historians consider this the most important conflict of the Shenandoah Valley.

## September 1864 - Undercover Yankees in South Alabama

One of the most bizarre episodes of the Civil War in Alabama took place in September of 1864 when a party of men wearing Confederate uniforms rode into the South Alabama town of Geneva. Led by a man who identified himself as Lieutenant Clark, they said they were members of the 15th Confederate Cavalry.

The people of Geneva had heard that a major Union raid was underway just across the state line in Walton County, Florida, so they were thrilled to see these men and welcomed them with open arms. Things, however, were not what they seemed.

On September 23rd a force of 700 mounted Federals led by Brigadier General Asboth had stormed into the Florida village of Eucheeanna (near present-day DeFuniak Springs). The attack came during the early phases of Asboth's 1864 West Florida Raid and the small Confederate force camped at Eucheeanna was quickly overrun. Nine of the Southern soldiers were captured, but the others managed to escape, fleeing on horseback up the road that led north to Geneva, Alabama (about 35 miles away). The escape of the Confederate cavalrymen concerned Asboth, who feared they might spread the alarm across the eastern Panhandle and alert the military post at Marianna, Florida, that he was coming. He decided on a novel plan to try to round them up:

...It being feared that they would arouse the country and trouble our progress, Lieut.-Col. Spurling, accompanied by Lieutenant Jones of Company D, Sergt. Butler, Company B, Second Maine Cavalry, and ten men, all disguised in rebel uniforms, left the main body, for the purpose of securing them. - Letter dated Barrancas, Florida, October 8, 1864.

Moving behind enemy lines in the uniform of your enemy is a dangerous proposition and the men of Spurling's detachment knew that if captured they would be treated as spies and executed. According to one participant: "Each man was equipped with two Remington six-shooters and a Spencer repeating carbine carrying eight cartridges, seven in the magazine and one in the chamber, and it was distinctly understood that in case of discovery there was to be no surrender."

The detachment headed north up the Geneva road, following the prints left by the Confederate horses. They crossed the state line and reached Geneva on September 24th:

...The citizens of Geneva welcomed the colonel with open arms and furnished him and his men with everything needful to their comfort, including arms and ammunition. He announced himself as Lieut. Clark, Fifteenth Confederate Cavalry regiment, and stated that he had been stationed at Milton, Fla., but was ordered to scout from that point by the way of Eufesana (sic.) to Geneva, to ascertain the movements and intentions of the Yankees. - Letter dated Barrancas, Florida, October 8, 1864.

While it might seem surprising that a group of men from Maine could show up in South Alabama and convince the locals that they were Confederate soldiers, the ruse worked. Spurling made "friends" in the town and even agreed to return and do some hunting when he finished with his "more congenial pleasure of hunting the Yankees." He was also a hit with the women of Geneva:

...The ladies of Geneva were much pleased with Lieut. Clark (i.e. Spurling); his welfare and success were prime objects of solicitude with them, the evidently took kindly to him, and he was solicited by one of these fair beings to bring her some trophy off a dead Yank, which he promised to do on his return. - Letter dated Barrancas, Florida, October 8, 1864.

The men of the detachment took up positions in the town, waiting for either the missing Confederates or the main body of Asboth's column to come up. They seem not to have known that the general planned to cross the Choctawhatchee River in Holmes County, Florida, to begin his final advance on Marianna.

When neither arrived, they left Geneva - still in disguise - on September 25th and headed back south into Florida. For the next several days they trailed behind the main Union column, unable to catch up, and did not rejoin Asboth until after the Battle of Marianna. So far as is known, no one in Geneva ever figured out the identity of their visiting "undercover Yankees."

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Undercover Yankees continued from page 7 . . .

To learn more about the events of Asboth's raid, including what one of Spurling's men described as his "jaunt through rebeldom," please consider my book: *The Battle of Marianna, Florida*. It can be ordered by following the ad at left and is also available as an instant download for your Amazon Kindle reading device or Amazon's free Kindle software for your computer or smartphone by clicking [here](http://www.battleofmarianna.com): *The Battle of Marianna, Florida*. The book is also available at iBooks.

You can also read more about the raid at [www.battleofmarianna.com](http://www.battleofmarianna.com).