

## **IN THE TRENCHES**

A NEWS LETTER OF THE  
LT GENERAL JOHN C. PEMBERTON CAMP 1354  
VICKSBURG MISSISSIPPI  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

April 2015 Issue

Edward Campbell

Commander

Eddy Cresap

Editor

### **Commanders Column**

I look forward to seeing you all at the April 7 Meeting. I am particularly excited about our Speaker, Mr. Thomas Watts. Mr. Watts is currently serving as Chairman of the Natchez Trace Parkway Association. A former Educator and avid Historian, he will be presenting an excellent program on the Hinds Family for whom Hinds County is named. This goes back to the War of 1812 but has a definite Confederate connection. I highly urge all of you to come and bring a friend, you will not be disappointed. Also please help to build up our Confederate Memorial Day Observance on April 26 as we finalize plans at the next meeting. Thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers as my wife Robin and I get back to normal after the loss of her father on March 2. See you all on April 7 and I pray that you all have a very blessed Easter season and please remember the " Reason for the Season".

God Bless,

Edward Campbell Commander.

---

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, April is the month in which the Confederate States began and ended a four-year struggle; and

**WHEREAS**, on Confederate Memorial Day, we recognize those who served in the Confederacy; and

**WHEREAS**, April 27, 2015, is set aside as Confederate Memorial Day to honor those who served in the Confederacy; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for all Americans to reflect upon our nation's past, to gain insight from our mistakes and successes, and to come to a full understanding that the lessons learned yesterday and today will carry us through tomorrow if we carefully and earnestly strive to understand and appreciate our heritage and our opportunities which lie before us:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim the month of April 2015 as

***CONFEDERATE HERITAGE MONTH***

in the State of Mississippi.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the eighteenth day of February in the year of our Lord, two thousand and fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-ninth.



PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR

## **Upcoming meetings**

Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm. Our meeting location is 216 Miller Street in the Disabled American Veterans building. Our website contains direction to the meeting location. Visitors are always welcome. If you would like to present a program, please contact Commander Edward Campbell at ewccrystalsprings@yahoo.com. Bring a visitor to our next meeting.

Below are the list of upcoming meetings and speakers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic</i>
April 7	Thomas Watts	The Hinds Family
May 5	Dr Beck	TBD
June 2	Birthday Party	Jefferson Davis Birthday and business meeting preceding state convention
July 7	Eddy Cresap	Rape of Maryland

## **Prayers**

Continue to keep Edward Campbell and his family in your prayers. His father in law died this month. Also keep Terry Brantly in your prayers. We hope to see her smiling face at our camp meetings soon.

## **March Meeting**

The meeting was opened with prayer, pledges, salutes, and the charge. Eddy Cresap presented an ancestor story. Wayne did "This week in history". The 1861 events centered around the suspension of habeas corpus by Abraham Lincoln. Eddy Cresap also led the group in a discussion on the Free State of Jones. Mrs. Harris has contacted the camp for assistance in cleaning two cemeteries in the North County, Austin Grant and Flowers Hill. Josh Edwards is a member of the Warren County Historical society and will see if they would do the clean up, A report will be made in April, I have a special place in my heart for Confederate Veterans buried in "abandoned" grave yards. My Great Grandfather Cresap is buried in an old abandoned cemetery in Gibson County Tennessee. The meeting was closed with a prayer.

## **Heritage Month in Vicksburg**

The John C. Pemberton Confederate Heritage Month Memorial Service is on Sunday April 26 at Soldiers Rest and will start at 2:00. We will firm up details at our April meeting. The plan suggested by Larry Holman and approved by the membership is to make a short presentation about a man from each state represented in Soldiers rest. Thanks to Joel Baily, Josh Edwards, Sam Price, Edward Campbell, Wayne McMaster, Brain Dabney. Thomas Dabney, Doctor McMillin, and Eddy Cresap. The UDC will also be involved in the program.

## **Southern Gentleman's Brown Bag Lunch Club**

Like minded individuals gather every third Tue of the month for a Brown bag lunch and pleasant conversation. You pick what is in your brown bag for lunch and what you want to talk about. No protocol, agenda, or speaker just good fellowship. This next event will be on April 21 at 1200 noon at 216 Miller Street in the Disabled Veterans Building. The John C. Pemberton Sons of Confederate veterans will be the host for the luncheon. Ladies would also be welcome. SCV membership is not required. The first meeting in March was well attended by those of us who are retired. The fellowship and conversation was well worth the time. Larry and Wayne worked on our overhead lights.

## **Who Was Henry (Thanks to Sam Price)**

I am a Descendant of the Broome family in Utica, Hinds County, Mississippi. Mathew Broome brought his family to the area in about 1832. My Uncle Cyrus Broom was a member of the of the Local Militia Company before the Civil War. Mississippi Seceded in 1861 and became the "Republic of Mississippi." The "Republic" did not last very long (60 - Something Days,) At this time, the Militia became the "Crystal Springs Southern Rights," Soon the Confederacy was formed and the "Southern Rights" became a part of the 16th Mississippi Volunteer Infantry and was sent to Virginia. Before it was over, there were Four Broome Brothers in the 16th. We were researching for a Family History Book. We were fairly sure that we had all the Bothers accounted for. All of a sudden a man named "Henry Broome" showed. Who was "Henry." We finally found it; Henry Broome was the Black Man Grand Pa Broome had sent to Virginia with Uncle Cyrus. "Henry's" job was to bring Cyrus (Or his Brothers) Home, either alive or dead when the thing was over, Unfortunately, "Henry" was the only one who did not make it home. Perhaps he was Killed at Fort Gregg, do not know.

## Poet' s Corner (Thanks Joel)



### **Sons of Confederate Veterans**



### **Heritage of Honor**

### **We Are The Sons**

by: Joel T. Bailey

**We are the sons  
The keepers of history  
Honoring their name  
Is now our destiny**

**Preserving the shrines  
To the battles they fought  
Assuring their sacrifices  
Was not for naught**

**Upholding their honor  
With Southern pride  
Keeping the values  
For which they died**

**The blood of these patriots  
Through our veins now runs  
Be proud of our heritage  
For we are the sons**

## **Chaplains Corner (Thanks Bryan)**

For the Brethren:

The modern historian Charles Adams in his work *When in the course of Human Events* (p. 221) observed that, “War is sometimes called the final arbiter of disputes among nations, even though it creates uncivilized chaos and butchery unrestrained by law. No one has ever suggested that applying the principles of military might— slaughter and devastation— actually means that justice has prevailed. What does prevail is the better army or navy, justice often by the bully. Lawful ideals and principles quickly fade from view as armies take to the field and clash. At that point the combatants start to manufacture reasons for the conflict. And when no good reason can be found, a bad one will do. Facts become distorted, history perverted, and the main reasons for almost all wars— territory, resources, and power— are usually masked over with some sort of moral or social objective.”

In Mississippi, April is the month in which we honor our forebears who served in the Confederate Army. As the church year has Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, the Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity, we have but one season the whole year long and it begins afresh with Confederate Memorial Day. The Bible commands us to love our parents and by extension, our forefathers and mothers. As the children of Israel were to be mindful at Passover of the suffering of their ancestors in ancient Egypt, so too ought we to reflect on the suffering and sacrifice which our ancestors experienced during the War to prevent Southern Independence.

Think on the charge we read at every SCV meeting. It was given to us by General Stephen D. Lee who reminded his listeners then— and us as well— that they were supposed to tell the truth about what they fought for. As noted in Charles Adams’ quote, “Facts become distorted, history perverted, and the main reasons for almost all wars— territory, resources, and power— are usually masked over with some sort of moral or social objective.” The Bible commands us to bear not a false witness. What good are lies and distortions to our cause? Do they prop us up? Are we leaning on deception? If we are, we will fall. President Davis once said, “Truth may be crushed to the earth but crushed or not, truth is still truth.” He no doubt suffered greatly for the principle of secession. The failure of our armies was not proof that the cause for which they fought was in error. Military failure came because the South did not have the resources to continue. When one studies history, one will come across accounts of evil triumphing over good. A good example from Scripture would be that of Job. Here is a story of a man who was considered righteous in his generation. He was blessed of God and yet he was ruined by Satan. Even Job wondered at his predicament. Both his wife and his friends

challenged his integrity. In the end, it was God who rebuked Job's misguided detractors and restored to Job seven-fold more than what he had lost. The defense and demise of the Byzantines at Constantinople in 1453 is also a good example for us. Here was a Christian empire that had been reduced to a mere fragment of its former glory. Here was a people doing all they could to resist becoming servants of the Sultan Mehmet II, and still went down in defeat against the sultan's mighty host. Does their failure invalidate Christianity? The Boers of South Africa fought the British takeover of that region for nearly four years before being overpowered by their adversary. The courage and bravery which they exhibited in their cause was astonishing given what they were up against. Nevertheless, they fought for home and hearth, just as our ancestors did in a losing effort. Does their loss render their cause unjust? The 300 Spartans stood in the pass of Thermopylae knowing that it was only a matter of time before the Persian army would overrun their position. They stood so that others would have a chance to build an army suitable to the task of defeating the great Persian host of Xerxes. The inscription on their monument reads, "Go tell the Spartans, passerby, that here obedient to their laws we lie." Did their failure to the Persians invalidate Greek independence?

Our Confederate ancestors fought, and in many instances died, defending their homeland much as the Byzantines, the Spartans and the Boers had done. Our Lord said, Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (St. John 15:13). Truly, our forebears sacrificed much—and in some cases, everything—in their efforts to give us the gift of liberty as a free and separate people. It is not a sacrifice we ought to ignore or consider of no consequence. Consider the words of the philosopher Nicolas Davila who said, "Truth is in history, but history is not the truth." As our Lord reminded his listeners to watch out for the false teachers and false prophets who came as wolves in sheep's clothing, so too ought we to watch out for those who would tell us to furl our flags and forget the deeds of our Confederate ancestors. And so as we enter the month of April, let us honor the memory of our forebears and reflect on the cause for which they fought. Let us not forget or regard as unimportant their sacrifice even in a losing effort because the principles of liberty and limited, self-government still matters. Therefore keep their torch lit and the flag of the Confederacy ever flying.

Let us pray,

Father, as we reflect on those things for which our Confederate ancestors fought to preserve from the legacy of our Revolutionary forebears, let us also bow our heads in gratitude for their sacrifice; and let us also live as

citizens of this republic who, being mindful of the good that we still possess, will seek to preserve the memory of our ancestors' struggle as a reminder that true liberty and freedom is not free but has a cost; and these things we ask in the name of him who came to set us free from sin and death, even thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **John C. Pemberton Camp Website New Addition**

Send a copy of your Confederate ancestor's picture to add to the "Wall of Honor" on our web site

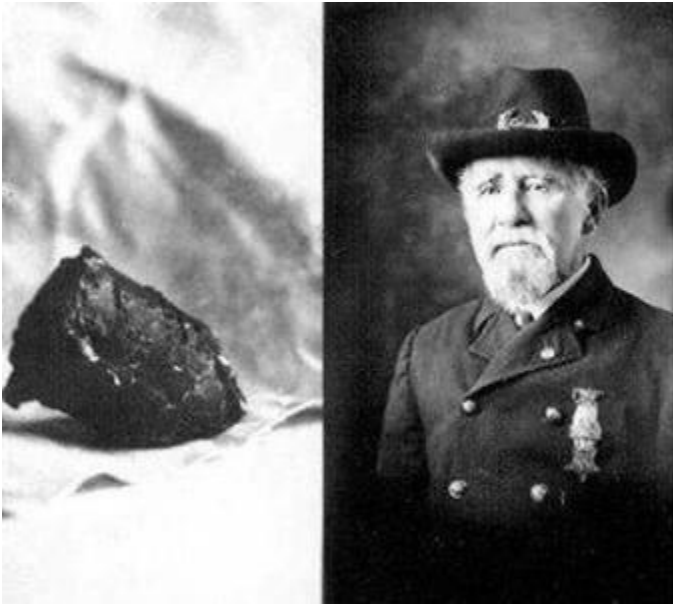
Go to <http://scv-camp-1354.com/> to view our website. Thanks to our Webmaster Bill Fryer. Bill is creating a "Wall of Honor" for our ancestors. Check it out on the web site and add your ancestor. Also find directions to our meeting location

### **Newsletter**

If anyone has read a good book, visited an interesting place, would like to post a bio of their Confederate ancestor, or just has a thought they would like to share with the membership, forward the article to me ([charlescresap33@att.net](mailto:charlescresap33@att.net)) and I will place it in the next newsletter. Also if you have any ideas for making the newsletter better serve you, please let me know



## Believe it or Not?



W. V. Meadows of West Point, Georgia, was shot in the eye at the battle of Vicksburg on July 1, 1863 during the American Civil War. He survived and fifty-eight years later, he unexpectedly coughed the bullet out of his mouth (as shown) on July 21, 1932.

Private Willis V Meadows, Co G, 37th Alabama Infantry was a sharpshooter in the trenches of Vicksburg, He'd somehow cobbled together something of a shield made of pig-iron. It had a hole in it through which he fired his weapon with relative security. Then, one day, the sharpshooter was shot in the eye through his very own "peephole" yet survived.

In the 26 March 1921 New Holland Clarion, of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania:

W. V. Meadows, [78] years of age veteran of the civil war, and shot in the eye at the battle of Vicksburg, July 1, 1863, coughed out the bullet and is in his usual good health, despite the fact that he had carried the slug weighing approximately one ounce in his head for fifty-eight years.

### **Till The Last Shot's Fired by Trace Atkins**

You hear the last verse many times a day in the wounded warrior commercial. How about Trace's first verse

I was there in the winter of '64

When we camped in the ice at Nashville's doors

Three hundred miles our trail had lead

We barely had time to bury our dead

When the Yankees charged and the colors fell

Overton hill was a living hell

When we called retreat it was almost dark

I died with a grapeshot in my heart

## **Free State of Jones**

A movie based on the free state of Jones will be shot and released soon. It is sure that the movie will not paint Mississippi in a positive light. The information below is based on information in the Jasper County Resin Heels web site

The people who settled Jones County never became wealthy people. When they arrived in the county, these settlers found a land heavily forested with virgin pines. Any forester can attest that pine trees prefer to grow in sandy, acidic soil. Any farmer can also attest that large-scale agriculture does not do well this type of soil. So, the early settlers of Jones County were never able to create large plantations as they had in other regions of Mississippi. They relied instead on small family plots to grow enough vegetables for their own use to supplement the game that they hunted in the forest. In addition, their cattle were allowed to free-range, meaning that herds of swine and cows were branded by individual herders and then allowed to roam freely in the forest to forage for food. No enclosed pastureland, barns, or herd-feedings were required by free-ranging.

Most Jones County citizens, therefore, required no labor from slaves. They were able to work their small farms by themselves and they required no help in herding their cattle. Slaves did exist in Jones County in Antebellum times, but most of these were owned by a few individuals who used them as house servants or hired them out to larger land-holders north of the county where the land would sustain such business. In all, there were just over 100 slaves that lived in the entire county in 1860.

The debate over the role of slavery in the economy of the county, therefore, meant very little to the ordinary citizen of Jones County. It mattered very little, one way or the other, if slavery prospered or died. Some of them even viewed slavery as an institution designed to benefit only a few wealthy men at the expense of every one else. They believed that a man who relied on the labor of others was a man who was living beyond his own means, a shameful situation that they believed was paramount to sin.

The idea of forcing human beings to work against their will was not the sin here. The sin was that men attempted to live and prosper by means greater than his own labor could provide. So, as the national debate over slavery became increasingly violent and talk of secession threatened to divide the nation, most of the ordinary citizens of Jones County had little sympathy for the idea. When the time came for Mississippi to decide whether or not it would stay in the Union or secede, the Jones County delegate to the Secession Convention in Jackson, J.D. Powell, was instructed to vote against secession. Once in Jackson, however, Powell found an atmosphere of

excitement and patriotic fervor in favor of leaving the Union. In this atmosphere, Powell succumbed to the secessionist fervor and voted in favor. When the anti-secessionists of Jones County heard this, Powell was burned in effigy in Ellisville. When war erupted, however, most of the men of Jones County prepared to defend their homes and their land.

Jones County is called The Free State of Jones because of the myth of a renegade resident of the county during the War of Northern Aggression. His name was Newt Knight. Newt Knight came from the rugged woodsmen stock that originally inhabited the dense pine forest of the county and neighboring Jasper and Smith Counties. Knight, contrary to popular opinion, was not conscripted into the army of the Confederacy. He volunteered, not once but twice. He first signed up with the 8th Mississippi at Paulding (in Jasper County) on 29 July 1861. He was assigned the rank of private and furloughed with orders to rendezvous with his company in Enterprise on September 18th. In the meantime, however, his house in Jasper County burned down and he probably moved back to Jones County. As a result, he missed his rendezvous with his company and was listed as AWOL. He re-enlisted on 15 May 1862 with the 7th Battalion Mississippi Volunteers, as a private in Company F. He was present and saw battle in Corinth, and following the battle was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Usually, such promotions were given as rewards for valor on the battlefield, so we can assume that Knight was a fairly good soldier. At this point in time, Knight's military career was progressing much like that of other volunteers.

Knight's falling out with the Confederate army occurred following the passage and implementation of the "Twenty Negro Law". This law made it possible for men who owned twenty slaves or more to escape army service, presumably so that they could tend to their slaves and supervise their work back home. Knight viewed this law as very unfair to poor soldiers and arrived at the conclusion, as did many of his comrades-in-arms, that this war was "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight." He did not appreciate being made to feel as if they were pawns in a game, to be thrown away by the wealthy men running the war. So, during the retreat to Abbeville following the Battle of Corinth, he deserted and was listed as "lost" on 29 November 1862. He was soon captured, however, and was court-martialed. His rank was reduced to private and he was mustered back into duty in February 1863. Sometime before his unit arrived for duty in Vicksburg he was missing again. Thus, Newt Knight exchanged his career as a soldier for that of a renegade and would-be state maker. He headed back for home where he knew he could hide out in the swamps from the

men that surely would be sent after him and other deserters. Here is where the myth of the Free State of Jones parts ways with reality. The myth states that once entrenched in the swamps of Jones County, Knight organized a band of fellow deserters and rallied the anti-Confederate sentiments of the people of the county to issue a formal secession from the State of Mississippi and thus from the Confederacy. Some sort of government was organized, it is said, with Knight as the president. Armed forces were raised, including a navy - though the county is at least 90 miles from the sea and has only one river that is not navigable by any vessel larger than a shallow raft. Once this was accomplished, the government of the Free State of Jones waged war against the Confederacy. Some versions of the myth state that Knight's army also waged war against any Union forces that may have come within the vicinity of the county. Once the Confederacy was vanquished by the Federal army and was returned to the Union, the Free State of Jones also ceased to exist. It must be pointed out here that though Knight's rebellion will be forever associated with Jones County, Knight was not a resident of the county until after the war began. He was a resident of Jasper County to the north. He had also lived for a time in Smith County. After the war began, he moved to Jones County, as previously stated, after his house burned. It is true that after his desertion he hid out in Jones County on the banks of the Leaf River at what was known as "Devil's Den." Secondly, though Knight's rebellion gave rise to the myth of the Free State of Jones and the notion that Jones County was completely disloyal to both Mississippi and the Confederacy, the great majority of the men of the county served the Confederacy honorably, whether by volunteer service or by conscription. They may have mumbled under their breaths about the elitist nature of the war and questioned its relevance in their own lives, but they served their country regardless and they served it well. That being said, the events described in the myth of the Free State of Jones do not support the record of the real events. Newt Knight's association with the notion of the Free State of Jones began on the evening of October 5, 1863. The Confederate Army had initiated a general amnesty for all deserters and draft-dodgers by order of Gen. Braxton Bragg. In order to implement the amnesty, trusted officers were sent to areas that were known to be hotbeds for deserters. There, these agents were to offer the amnesty to any deserter who would accept it. The amnesty would become effective 20 days from the decree's first reading in any given state. The person entrusted to carry out the amnesty in Jones County was a native

son by the name of Major Amos McLemore. Once in Jones County, Maj. McLemore set up headquarters in the home of Amos Deason, a loyal Confederate citizen of Ellisville. McLemore set up collection stations throughout the county to which his men could report for duty and fugitive hunters could deposit the deserters that they captured for repatriation. The repatriated men collected in Jones County included those who took advantage of the amnesty as well as those who did not go voluntarily. In all, McLemore was successful in rounding up 119 men.

McLemore's success in repatriating deserters may have been the reason for Knight's decision to do away with him. Knight had gathered around him quite a few deserters. He kept fairly decent records about them, indicating some sort of organization. He considered these men his army, his own personal support, and McLemore threatened that support. Though they may have thought of themselves as an army, the only thing for which Knight and his men fought was the freedom to escape bounty hunters and remain outside of the command of the Confederate army. Therefore, it was decided that McLemore had to be eliminated from the county. This meant that he had to be killed. On the evening of October 5, therefore, Knight and a few of his men went to Ellisville and surrounded the Deason House. At a specified point in the evening, Knight burst into the living room and found the Major standing by the fireplace. Knight shot McLemore at point-blank range through the heart before escaping into the woods and swamps surrounding the small town.

Throughout the winter and following spring, a small contingency of the Jasper Rifles was sent to hunt Knight down, but they were unsuccessful. The fact that he was being hunted may have led Knight to offer the services of his men to a small unit of the United States Infantry located in Jones County at a place called Sall's Battery. No proof, however, exists that they were ever incorporated into the Union Army. Surely, however, the Federals encouraged them to continue their molestation of the Confederate Army and sent them out to do so with Lincoln's blessings, perhaps with the misguided impression that they were now Federal agents. Finally, the war required that the Confederates end their pursuit for Knight. The Confederacy was desperately short of men for the battlefield and could not afford to have any performing non-military duties, including fugitive hunting.

Word of the Federal encouragement for Knight eventually arrived, through many parties, into the hands of Gen. W.T. Sherman. As is the case when information is passed down from one party to the next, the facts surrounding McLemore's assassination, as well as the facts surrounding the

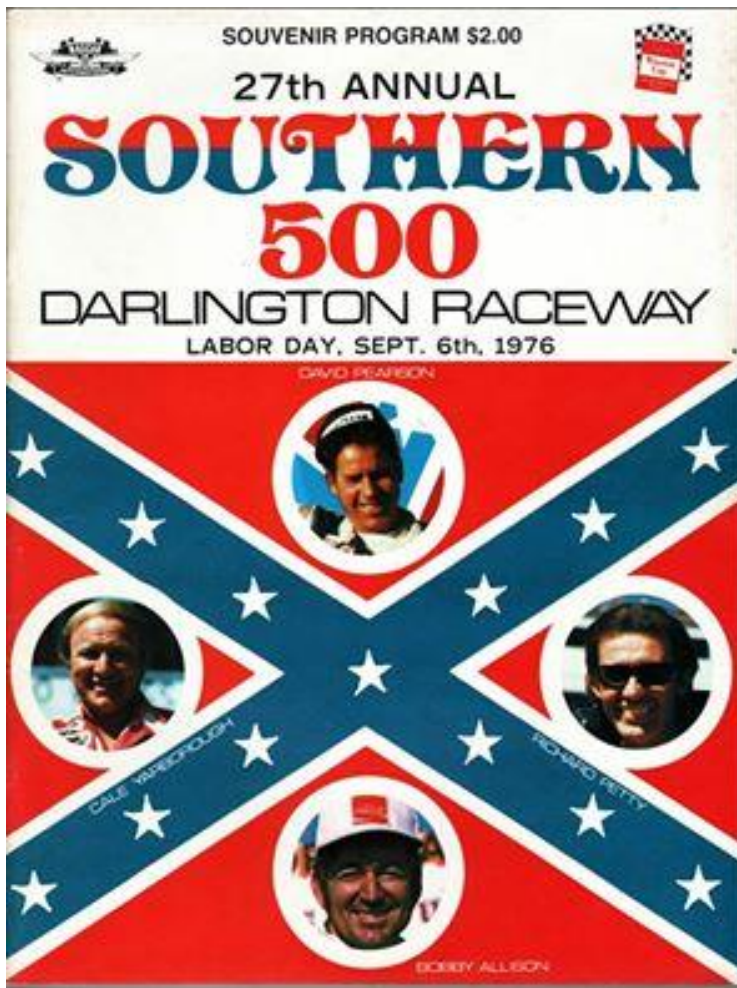
level of organization of the Knight Company and the level of the organization of a supposed government initiated to rebel against the Rebellion were all exaggerated as they passed from one ear to the next. From Sherman and his agents, the story was given to pro-Union journalists in Natchez who seized upon the whole plot as propaganda. Having previously heard of the term "The Free State of Jones," these Natchez journalists succeeded in pulling all of the various plots and threads together to create a single piece of fiction. Thus, the myth of the Free State of Jones as a creation of Newt Knight - deserter, renegade, and assassin - was born.

The fact of the matter is that Jones County had a reputation for lawlessness and laissez-faire government long before Newt Knight became disillusioned with the elite nature of the Confederate cause. As discussed in the previous chapter of this work, from its inception, the people of Jones County resisted organized government of any sort and certainly resented a government imposed upon them by foreign authorities (foreign, in this case, being any authority centered outside of a 20 mile radius from Ellisville). When Jones County was created in 1826 from parts of neighboring Covington and Wayne Counties, very few people lived there. John F. H. Claiborne, recognized as the father of Mississippi history, described the county, following a trip through the Piney Woods, as a backwoods where lawlessness prevailed and anarchy ruled. Perhaps Jones County was created too early, before there was a large enough population in the area to warrant an organized local government. More than likely, the people simply found themselves to be in no need of a government at all. When so many of them left the county for more enticing land in the Chickasaw Cession, the original officers of the county quit their services because of a lack of pay and for many years the county had no legal government whatsoever. This situation continued until 1846 when the state legislature took action to reorganize the county's government. It was during this lawless era that Jones County gained the reputation of preferring anarchy to organized rule, and it was during this period that the term "Free State of Jones" was first applied to the county.

The myth associated with the Free State of Jones arising out of Knight's actions was an embellished afterthought to be used for political propaganda. The Pro-Union journalists of Natchez wished to portray Newt Knight and his band of outlaws as the comical representative of all that can go wrong when laissez-faire, decentralized government is allowed to go amuck. The Northern propagandists in Natchez and New Orleans used the news of his lawlessness - and the county's reputation for the preference for anarchy - as

a tool of mockery against all that the Confederacy represented. Knight served as an illustration of what happens when decentralized government goes too far. The comedy that the propagandists made of his story was not lost on their Northern and Pro-Union readers. It was, however, lost on the common man of the South. For them, Knight became a hero figure, much like Robin Hood and his Merry Men. In their minds, if Knight was someone for the Yankees to mock, then he must be good. In spite of the anti-Confederate attitudes of these men, the common people of Mississippi, especially of Jones County, embraced the spirit of Knight as representative of their own sense of independence. It is not at all different in the way some Southerners today still embrace that which they perceive to have been the spirit for which the Confederacy fought: chivalry, honor, independence, and rebellion against tyranny imposed by less reasonable people. This spirit, personified in the myth of the Free State of Jones, still exists today and is even celebrated in quasi-legal terms. The slogan "The Free State of Jones" is often seen embossed on official stationery of the county government. It is seen on the cruisers of the Jones County Sheriff's Department and is incorporated on the uniform sleeve patches worn by the sheriff's deputies. The irony of the myth is that many people of Jones County still extol the values that led Knight to rebel against the Confederacy while at the same time extolling the virtues of the Confederacy itself. It is ironic because Knight rejected those values and became an outlaw. Perhaps the Natchez propagandists had it right when they mocked the situation in Jones County with their tales of secession and rebellion against the Rebellion. Yet, it is very easy for people who are removed by time and circumstances to misunderstand the reasons behind the deeds of people who lived before them. Americans, particularly Southerners, have a habit of glorifying their past in ways that are not exactly historically accurate. The Myth of the Free State of Jones is but a local example of this error. Regardless of the truth, the tale of Newt Knight and the Free State of Jones does make an entertaining story.

## Gone with the Wind



### Flag Restoration

In many cases the old veteran's battle flags are our last physical link to their valor. Many of their flags are in possession of the State of Mississippi Archives and History. There they are rotting away to dust. It is up to us as decedents of these brave men to preserve their battle flags for our descendants to see. There are three funding activities. Direct donations, SCV car tags, and sale of coffee cups. Our camp has a supply of coffee cups.



## **Changing the Name Against the Law**

Our case against the University of Mississippi is still in the discovery stage. The Division Judge Advocate hopes to have a court date in 6 months or so.

## **SUPREME COURT CONFEDERATE FLAG CASE OFFENDS ME!**

by R. Michael Givens Commander in Chief Emeritus,  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

I'M OFFENDED! in 2011, unelected Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Board members succumb to mob pressure and shoot down a Confederate Battle flag specialty plate for my compatriots in Texas and now 3 years later this denial is before the highest court in the land.

I'm offended because on Monday lawyers for the State of Texas will argue to the Supreme Court that Americans deserve less liberty, less freedom of speech. They will argue that the average Texan is not smart enough to tell the difference on a license plate between the private speech of the car owner and government-sponsored speech. Does anyone really think the State of Texas endorses the Texas A&M football team when it issues a Texas Aggie specialty plate to a TAMU alumn?

I'm offended that "offensiveness" can be used by a state agency to deprive a whole class of people their first amendment rights.

I'm offended that besides Texas, 12 other states have filed briefs asking the High Court to ban the Confederate Flag from specialty plate programs as "offensive!" I'm offended that 3 of those states, North Carolina, Arkansas & Missouri all now offer SCV Confederate flag plates.

I'm offended that the State of Texas is willing to endorse and sign off on the myriad inaccuracies and defamation thrown at the iconic Confederate Battle flag proudly displayed by the 30,000+ members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, a recognized charitable veterans organization dedicated to upholding the Confederate soldier's good name.

But most of all, I'm offended that if the Supreme Court bans the Confederate Battle flag and overturns the settled law of 4 United States Circuit Courts of Appeal, a valuable slice of liberty dies, whether you love or hate the Confederate Battle flag, a little liberty will be lost to us ALL.

Pray for fairness, pray for justice.

## **Cotter's perspective**

### **My license plates, my free speech: Another view**

As long as Texas is in the business of specialty plates, it is also in the business of state-supported 'bumper stickers.'

A case before the Supreme Court has again brought the issue of the Confederate battle flag onto the public radar screen. At issue is whether a state-issued specialty license plate is an expression by the state government or by the individual who purchases it, and therefore protected by the First Amendment.

Many legal experts believe the court will uphold the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in favor of the Texas Sons of Confederate Veterans to allow a specialty license plate that honors the heritage of those tens of millions of Americans whose ancestors fought for the Southern cause 150 years ago. As long as the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles is in the business of specialty license plates for non-profit organizations, it is also in the business of state-supported "bumper stickers." Discriminating against an honored heritage group such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans is an obvious infringement on the right of free speech, the most basic of the guarantees that anchor our great Bill of Rights.

Human slavery existed in America from 1619 until 1776 under the British flag. It existed from 1776 until 1865 under the American flag. The highest good that came from America's Civil War was that slavery was abolished forever.

Recent scholarship such as *Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery*, by writers from the Hartford Courant, document how slavery was a national sin, not a Southern sin.

American history is filled with complexities, canards, myths and ironies. Our national capital is named after one of the biggest slave owners in Virginia. Our Declaration of Independence was written by another. And the man behind our Bill of Rights also bought and sold human beings. Yet they are revered in our nation.

It is long past time to stop these divisive attacks on Confederate heritage and to "sit down together at the table of brotherhood." That was Dr. Martin Luther King's dream, and it is my dream also.

Ben Jones is a former two-term Democratic congressman from Georgia. He is perhaps best known for his portrayal of Cooter on *The Dukes of Hazzard*. He serves as the volunteer national spokesman for The Sons of Confederate Veterans.

## **My Review of Field of Lost Shoes**

I watched this movie streamed over Netflix

This is a movie about the cadets of VMI being called into action at New Market. Late in the war, the Yankees were coming into the Shenandoah Valley. General Breckinridge did not have enough troops to defend the valley and called on the cadets to assist.

This movie showed southern men were fighting to defend their homes and families. It also showed the way southern men treated the negroes. Two examples were while marching to the battle there was a black lady trapped under a wagon and the cadets broke ranks to free her from under the wagon. When the black cook at VMI was to be hung, the white cadets went to the authorities and said they had done the deed and the black cook should be released. The scenes with Grant showed him as a ruthless butcher making war on civilians. He was shown saying "The next time we go to the valley we will take torches." Above all it showed the courage shown by the southern soldier in defending their families and homes. The makers of the movie could not help themselves as they opened with a slave market sale.

## **Mississippi Division Memorial service**

The Division Memorial Service will be held in Oxford, Mississippi at the Confederate Cemetery on the Ole Miss campus on April 25th. at 2:00 PM. Sons of Confederate Veterans Past Commander-in-Chief Chuck McMichael will be our guest speaker at the Division Memorial Service. Come on out and hear Chuck. His talks are always good and very motivational.

## **120th Mississippi Division Convention**

2015 Division will be in Columbus Ms hosted by the General William Barksdale Camp 1220 on June 5 - 7, 2015.

## **Memorial service in Clinton**

The Mississippi College Rifles Camp of Clinton are holding their Confederate Memorial Service April 4, 2015 starting at 10:00 at the Clinton Cemetery

## **Greenville Memorial Service**

The B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp # 1625 will be holding its annual Confederate Memorial Service at the Greenville Cemetery on South Main Street, Greenville, MS Sunday, April 19, 2015 starting at 3:00 pm. Re-enactors and Ladies in mourning are more than welcome. If you wish to take part in the Honor Guard, please be at the cemetery by 2:30. Refreshments will be provided afterwards by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, Order of Confederate Rose.

## **Confederate Memorial Services in Meridian**

**April 12 - Sunday - 2pm** The Confederate Memorial service will be held at Marion Confederate States Cemetery at Marion, MS on Confederate Drive off hwy 45 north of Meridian. The event is Sponsored by Gen Nathan Bedford Forrest 1649, SCV and Robert E Lee 2561, UDC

**April 26 - Sunday - 3pm** Confederate Memorial service at Lauderdale Springs Confederate States Cemetery at Lauderdale, MS . Sponsored by W. D. Cameron Camp 1221 , SCV and Winnie Davis Chapter 24, UDC!

**April 27 -- Monday - 12 Noon** A memorial service will be held at the Lauderdale County Courthouse, sponsored by Gen Nathan Bedford Forrest 1649 & W D Cameron 1221, SCV & Robert E Lee 2561 and Winnie Davis 24, UDC.

## **Wirt Adam's Raid Marker**

On behalf of the Maj. Gen. William T. Martin Camp 590 in Natchez, MS I would like to inform everyone of the Brig. Gen. Wirt Adams' Raid Historical Marker dedication service. The service will be held on Saturday, April 4th, 2015 at 12:30 PM. The marker is located on Hwy. 61 South at the intersection of Hutchins Landing Road about 10 miles south of Natchez. The Wirt Adams Cavalry reenactment group will be in attendance as we dedicate this marker. Contact [scvcamp590@yahoo.com](mailto:scvcamp590@yahoo.com) for more information.\_

## **Proposed Bylaws Changes Mississippi Division**

Please review the following bylaw changes. We need to send our delegation with the camps wishes. There will be a discussion and vote at our June meeting

Add a new subsection G to Article 26 Beauvoir Board of Directors and Trustees

Proposed amendment – Add a new Section to the Article 26 titled: G. Election of the Beauvoir Board of Directors to read as follows:

A member to the Beauvoir Board of Directors shall be elected from each Division Brigade. The members of each Brigade will elect the director from their respective Brigade and report to the Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans when in Convention assembled the results of the election. The director will be allowed to be reelected for one successive term. Those members elected will adhere to the Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Bylaws and the Beauvoir Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The filling of a vacancy during the year between conventions will adhere to Section 7 of the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Mississippi Division of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans.

**Rationale:** To begin an effort to have every Division Brigade represented on the Beauvoir Board of Directors while adhering to the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Mississippi Division of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans. The method of election will follow current rotational sequence. The current board position up for election will from the 4th Brigade, since they are not currently represented on the Board. 4th Brigade Commander Marc Allen was appointed by the Executive Council to fill a vacant position until the 2015 Annual Meeting in June. This sequence will continue with each subsequent Board of Director election until all Brigades have an elected representative on the Board.

Submitted by Jerry N. Stuart  
Commander, 7th Mississippi Infantry Battalion Camp #1490  
Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans

### **Proposed Changes to Article 26 of the Division Bylaws**

"Article 26, Section A. These two Boards may, by agreement, function as a Combined Board."

Proposed amendment is to delete current Section A and replace with:

"A. The Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors shall meet separately at a place and time to be determined by the respective Boards. The Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors may, from time to time, convene a joint

meeting, with the prior approval of a majority of each board, to discuss specific business item(s) only."

Rationale: the Articles of Incorporation state that each Board has a specific role. The Board of Directors is charged with the overall governing of Beauvoir in its' entirety. The Board of Trustees is charged with the management of the day to day operation of Beauvoir. It is inconsistent with these duties as outlined in the Articles of Confederation for each board to customarily meet in a combined session to discuss its' own business.

**Article 26, add new Section G.**

"Any member in good standing of the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans may be nominated for election to the Board of Directors or Board of Trustees for Beauvoir. The nomination must be made in writing by two members of the nominee's home camp. The nominee will provide a resume with the nomination to the Division Adjutant at least 60 days before the annual Division Reunion. The Division Adjutant will verify the membership status of the nominee. After verifying the membership status, the Adjutant will send the nomination and resume to the editor of the Division newsletter, who will publish it so that the members of the Division may be made aware of the nomination. Only one member from each camp may be nominated for election at an annual Reunion."

Rationale: By doing this, the members of the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will have more input about who is nominated and elected to the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of Beauvoir.

**Article 26, add new Section H.**

"The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Beauvoir shall not serve consecutive terms. A new Chairman must be selected at the end of each Chairman's term. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Beauvoir shall not serve consecutive terms. A new Chairman must be selected at the end of each Chairman's term."

Rationale: The duties and responsibilities of the Chairman of each Board should be shared among the members of each Boards.

## **Friends of Beauvoir**

Beauvoir the Home of Jefferson Davis is Owned and Operated by the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Here is an Invitation to give the Past a Future!

Go to [http://www.beauvoir.org/Support\\_Beauvoir/index.html](http://www.beauvoir.org/Support_Beauvoir/index.html) for details

## **Bricks for Beauvoir**

The plans are for a brick plaza around the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Each brick would cost \$50.00 and would have the name of a Confederate ancestor of members of the SCV who give to the effort. "The Bricks for Beauvoir" Project is spearheaded by Larry McCluney, Past Commander of the Mississippi Division. Thirteen columns, in a crescent, will represent the 13 States of the Confederacy and will fly the flag of each respective State.

## **Confederate Memorial Service at Beauvoir**

Beauvoir's Annual Confederate Memorial Day will be held Saturday April 25, 2015 on the historic property of beautiful Beauvoir: The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library. There will be a potluck lunch on the grounds around noon. The program will begin at 2pm with a speaker to be named at a later date. We will have more work completed on the Bricks for Beauvoir Project to view. Anyone who would like to come dressed out in Confederate Uniform would be welcome to be a part of the Honor Guard. SCV & UDC Camps who wish to lay a wreath are welcome to do so. Anyone who would like to participate & take part can get with Beauvoir personnel & staff to make plans & accommodations. We have a hotel partner, Regency Hotel, in the Promenade that can give you a good deal on a very nice affordable hotel room.

## **A Big Win and Celebration, Selma and Forrest**

We Won! We have the deed to Confederate Memorial Circle!

It's time to Celebrate, Commemorate & Re-Dedicate! The Friends of Forrest and Selma Chapter 53, UDC Cordially Invite You to Attend & Share The Celebration of our Historical & Monumental Victory!!! This ceremony will unveil the REPLACEMENT bronze bust of Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest The event is on Saturday, May 23, 2015 at 1:00 PM. The location is Confederate Memorial Circle, Historic Live Oak Cemetery Selma, Alabama The event begins with A Guided Tour of Live Oak Cemetery at 9:30am. A Reception will follow the program at the Smitherman Building Museum 109 Union Street. For information contact Pat Godwin at 334-875-1690; 334-419-4566 (cell) or e-mail: [oldsouthrebel@zebra.net](mailto:oldsouthrebel@zebra.net)

## **Upcoming National Conventions**

2015 – Richmond Virginia July 15 - 19 2015

<http://www.jebstuartcamp.org/jebstuartcamp.org/2015reunion/> for details

2016 – Dallas/Ft. Worth Texas

2017 – Memphis Tennessee

## **Division Newsletter**

At our Division Convention in June, a motion was made and passed to go electronic with the Jeff Davis Legion Newsletter. If you have not received your Jeff Davis Legion (Division Newsletter) for the fall 2014 issue please contact me.

## **SCV TV**

Go to <https://vimeo.com/120903649> to watch the first installment. A review of the recruitment and retention meeting held at Elm Springs.

## **Disclaimer**

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not the opinions of the Sons of Confederate Veterans at any level, but are the views of the author of the material