

IN THE TRENCHES

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

July 2014 Issue

Wayne McMaster
Eddy Cresap

Commander
Editor

Commanders Report

Hello Compatriots,

Well another State Convention has come and gone. I understand the Corinth Camp did a very good job, Congratulations to them.

Sorry I missed it but had a conflict, and could not make it.

Thanks to Past Cmdr. Price we have another flag for our camp "Wall of Flags", a Magnolia Flag. I am sure you know the history of the flag, but it was our 1st official state flag, glad to have it, thanks Sam. I believe we now have all the state flags.

We have 3 stones broken in Soldiers rest would like to get repaired, waited until it got hot though. Let me know if you are interested in doing this, need to work early in the morning.

Hope to see you at our next meeting, bring a prospect,

Wayne McMaster

Upcoming meetings

Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month. The meetings start at 7:00 pm. Our meeting location is 216 Miller Street in the Disabled American Veterans building. Our website contains directions to the meeting location. Visitors are always welcome. If you would like to present a program, please contact Commander Wayne McMaster at waynemcmasteris@gmail.com. Below are the list of upcoming meetings and speakers. At our July meeting Edward Campbell and Andrew McCaskill will give us a report of the recent Division Convention.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic</i>
July 1, 2014	Edward Campbell	Division Convention

June Meeting

The meeting was opened with prayer followed by Pledges and salutes
The Jefferson Davis Program by Edward Campbell was well done
The Birthday Party had plenty of food. Thanks to all who brought food.
We voted to fund the Rock Island Prison flag project.
Past Mayor Loviza volunteered to fund the purchase of a magnolia flag for the Camp. We voted to send a donation to Beauvoir in memory of Tim Cupit's brother.

Friends of the Pemberton camp

Our meeting location is probably the best we have had. Those that have not been there need to come and look it over. Our expenses at this time for the meeting location are utilities. The utilities are going to run \$107.50 per month minimal. Our plan is to accept donations to pay these expenses. Thanks to Wayne McMaster, Sam. Price, Charlie Brantley , Joel Bailey , Larry Holman , Eddy Cresap, Sid Ponders, Chris Ponder, Edward Campbell, and Doctor McMillin for committing money for our meeting place. We have enough money committed to pay through Feb 2015. Anyone wanting to commit funds to this account, please contact adjutant Holman at klholman@bellsouth.net or send checks to Larry Holman, 61 Rollingwood Dr, Vicksburg Ms 39183

Summer Job

“Need something to do this summer? How about volunteering to work at Beauvoir. We have positions available in the gift shop and to be tour guides in the Jefferson Davis Home. Check out our website, www.beauvoir.org contact under events.”

Flag Restoration

In many cases the old veterans’ 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. Here they are rotting away to dust. It is up to us as decedents of these brave men to preserve their battle flags for our ancestors to see. There are three funding activities. Direct donations, SCV car tags, and sale of coffee cups.

Mississippi Magnolia flag Thanks to Sam Price

As you know, the Mississippi State Legislature met in January, 1861 and on January 9th, 1861 voted to Secede.

At this time the Confederacy did not exist. Thus on this date, Mississippi became the Republic of Mississippi. The Legislature it appears immediately left town with out Adopting a Flag for the Republic of Mississippi. The Bonnie Blue Flag was adopted and flown, it appears unofficially by the people of Mississippi. It was very popular. On January 26th, 1861, the Mississippi Legislature met in Special Session and adopted the so - called Magnolia Flag as the State flag. The Magnolia Flag had a small section of the Bonnie Blue in the Left Hand Corner, A Magnolia Tree in the Center; and a Bright Red Strip down all four sides. Some how the delivered flag had only a red stripe down the right hand side.

The Magnolia Flag flew from January 26th to March 27th. 1861 as the flag of the Republic of Mississippi. On March 27th, The Republic of Mississippi became a part of the Confederacy and from that time on flew the Confederate Flag. From 1861 till the

adoption of the present flag in 1894 the Magnolia Flag was the flag for the state of Mississippi

Bonnie Blue Flag Thanks to Sam Price

In the spring of 2007, my journeys took me to St. Francisville, in the Florida Parishes, of Louisiana. I went to the West Feliciana Court House to do a little research. The research was futile, which I sort of expected, however, I did find something of interest. The Court House building encompasses the entire block. I was seeking the Record Room, what we in Mississippi would call the Chancery Clerk's office. I found a parking space on the Street at the South East Corner of the Court House Square in down town St Francisville. I noticed a small sign nearby that brought memories and reminded me. The sign stated (paraphrased)"The original Bonnie Blue Flag of the Republic of West Florida had been buried in the center of the Street at this "Intersection."

West Florida was a region on the North Shore of the Gulf of Mexico, which underwent several boundary and sovereignty changes. Parts of the territory was held at various times by France, Spain and Great Britain and the United States, as well as the short lived Republic of West Florida. Eventually, the United States assumed control over the entire region which now forms parts of the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. West Florida was, from 1682 until 1763, divided between the Spanish, who held an outpost at Pensacola as part of their Florida Colony, and the French, who garrisoned Mobile and Biloxi as a part of the French Colony of Louisiana. In the negotiations concluding the Seven Years War (What we call the French and Indian War.) in 1763, Britain received the Spanish Colony of Florida and that portion of the French Colony of Louisiana lying between the Mississippi and Perdido Rivers and North of Lake Ponchatrain. The French transferred the remainder of Louisiana to Spain (This Included the Isle of Orleans, or the City of New Orleans.)

As a result of what we call the French and Indian War, France lost its North American empire. The British acquired Canada and Florida and extended its boundary westward to the Mississippi River, with the exception of the Isle of Orleans or City of New Orleans. The Isle of Orleans went to Spain. So there will be no misunderstanding, The Mississippi River became the boundary between Spain and England with the exception of the City of Orleans, which went to Spain.

The area of what was to become known as British West Florida was opened for settlement and people from all over the English world flocked here. The part of British West Florida that was opened for settlement included; the area Southward from a line from the Mouth of the Yazoo Eastward to the Perdido River. (The North Line of British West Florida is / was located about Ten miles North of and parallel to Interstate 20 as it crosses Mississippi today.) The British owned both sides of the line, however white settlement was forbidden North of the line. This brings on the Indian Wars in Kentucky and Tennessee when men like Daniel Boone settled in the forbidden areas. These early settlements in British West Florida was along and within a short distance of the Gulf of Mexico, North of the Lakes and up the Mississippi River to the Vicksburg area. Also up the Tombigbee River Northward from Mobile. There was plenty of land and few people and thus few problems.

In 1783, as a result of the War of the American Revolution, Great Britain redrew the lines. It extended the line of the New Nation (The United States) westward from the Spine of the Appalachians to the Mississippi River, The Southern line of the new nation was to be the 31st Parallel (The modern day Line between Louisiana and Mississippi East of the Mississippi River in the Woodville, Mississippi, and St. Francisville, Louisiana area.). The British ceded British Florida to Spain. In the confusion, Spain also seized what was known as the Natchez District which included the Vicksburg area. (There was some confusion about where the Northern Line of British West Florida was to be

established, either the 31st Parallel (The modern day Line between Louisiana and Mississippi East of the Mississippi River or the 32*28' (Mouth of the Yazoo River) line.) The United States western boundary was extended westward to the Mississippi River. Regardless and as stated above, Spain seized the Natchez District and the fledgling United States was powerless to prevent it. In 1798, Spain abandoned the Natchez District. In 1800, Spain ceded Louisiana back to France. And in 1803, France sold Louisiana to the United States. However Spain refused to abandon the area between the 31st Parallel and the Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. This includes what we know as the Florida Parishes of Louisiana and the Southern most Counties of Mississippi and Alabama and the Panhandle of Florida. This was a bitter pill to the settlers.

It was thoroughly expected that the area would become, along with Louisiana, a part of the United States. The English Speaking people who had settled the area were very – very unhappy and disappointed.

Also, and remember, there was a lot going on. Rebellion was in the air, Aaron Burr and his group, of which I do not think any of us have figured out what he was about, arrived in the midst and added greatly to this confusion.

Thus in 1804 – The Kemper Brothers, Reuben, Nathan and Sam, raised the Flag of Rebellion over Spanish West Florida, Their headquarters was at Pinckneyville in Wilkinson County, Mississippi. They were unable to accomplish much. The English speaking people of West Florida soon arose in open rebellion. On Saturday, September 11, 1810, a troop of dragoons under the command of Major Isaac Johnson set out for the Provincial Capital at Baton Rouge. At the head of the column rode a color sergeant carrying a Blue Flag with a Single, White Five Pointed Star. This flag had been made a few days before by Mrs. Johnson. These men captured Baton Rouge (the Spanish capital.) without loss to themselves and on September 23rd, 1810, raised their Bonnie Blue Flag over the Fort at Baton Rouge. Three days later, John Rhea, President of the West Florida Convention, signed a Declaration of

Independence, and the Lone Star Flag became the emblem of a new Republic.

The Republic of West Florida was short lived. The United States annexed the new country on December 10th, 1810 and the Republic of West Florida passed into history,

However, the memory of the Flag with the Single Five Pointed Star lived on and the flag became the Flag of the Republic of Texas from 1836 to 1839. And it would rise again as the unofficial flag of the Republic of Mississippi for a few weeks. On January 09th, 1861, the Convention of the People of Mississippi adopted an Ordinance of Secession. With the announcement of the Ordinance, a large Blue Flag bearing a Single White Star was raised over the Capitol Building in Jackson. One of the witnesses was an Irish born actor named Harry MaCarthy. Mr. McCarthy was so inspired by the spectacle that he wrote a song entitled "The Bonnie Blue Flag" which was destined to be the Second most popular patriotic song in the Confederacy.

National Convention

The 2014 SCV annual convention will be held on July 16-19 in North Charleston S.C. See <http://www.scv2014.org/> for details

The special guest to offer our keynote address at this year's event in Charleston will be Ben Jones, a former two-term Congressman from Georgia's 4th District. Mr. Jones might be even better known as "Cooter" from the *Dukes of Hazzard*. Perhaps of greatest interest to us is that Mr. Jones is a Compatriot and has been an asset to the SCV by using his high profile to speak up for the worth of our History and symbols.

Fall Muster

Put Oct 17-19 on your calendar. This is the weekend for Fall Muster

John C. Pemberton Camp Website

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

Fourth of July

A serious dilemma faces Americans who celebrate their Southern Heritage because the same day is the anniversary of happy as well as sad events.

Everyone is familiar with the sad events that occurred on the Fourth of July in 1863. "The High Water Mark of the Confederacy" and "The Beginning of the End" are terms associated with these sad events.

- * General Pemberton surrendered Fortress Vicksburg after a 47-day siege. General Grant starved the residents of Vicksburg into submission and then continued the siege for an extra day so President Lincoln could get a Fourth of July present.
- * General Lee began the retreat of the Army of Northern Virginia back into Virginia after the bloody three days of Gettysburg.
- * General Bragg evacuated Tennessee taking the Army of Tennessee into Northern Ga.

These events are sad indeed, but the events themselves also show the men's dedication to the cause and the personal sacrifice that every member of these armies made. They made this sacrifice as they left their homes, families and farms to drive a foreign, cruel invader from their new country.

On the Fourth of July 1776 our ancestors and the ancestors of those who formed the Southern Confederacy, declared their independence from England when the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. These ancestors in

making this statement of independence dedicated their lives, honor, and their worldly goods to the cause of self-government.

This declaration and the resulting war resulted in the United States gaining its freedom from England and establishing itself as a separate country. After the Constitution was ratified the states of the North began to try to impose their ideas of a strong central government on the states of the South. After years of political attempts to maintain the intent of the original Constitution, the Southern States embarked on a “Second American Revolution” for the same cause of self-government. They saw themselves following the path traveled by their ancestors started by the Fourth of July Declaration of Independence. With this in mind they left the Union to form a new government and prepared to drive Union invaders from their soil.

Considering the above thoughts, I suggest we celebrate the Fourth of July in a particular Southern way.

- * Read and reflect on the Declaration Of Independence. During this reading, we should concentrate on the following:
 - The original meaning of the document
 - The courage that our ancestors showed in declaring their independence from the most powerful country in the world
 - The meaning the document has for Americans today.
- * Reflect on the cause for Southern Independence and it’s tie to the original war for American Independence.
- * Reflect on the suffering that the people of the South endured to try to ensure that the original intent of our American Constitution was guarded.

These thoughts and reflections do not exclude each other. This method of celebration does not preclude “normal” celebration activities that we enjoy. We as Americans should be proud to celebrate the “Birth of Our Country”.

Invitation

The Sons of Confederate Veterans Brandon Camp Rankin Rough and Ready Camp 265 invites everyone to their meeting on the first Saturday of each month at Penn's of Brandon. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM

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) and I will place it in the next newsletter. Thanks to Commander McMaster, Chaplin Bryan Dabney, our Camp Poet and 2d Lt Commander Joel Bailey, our artist in residence Jerry McWilliams and adjutant Larry Holman for their input to the newsletter

Poets Corner

FOR THE LOVE OF DIXIE

by: Joel T. Bailey

*For the love of Dixie they came
To take up arms and fight
They were firm in their belief
That the cause was right*

*For the love of Dixie they left
Their homes and family
To fight the bloodiest conflict
This nation would ever see*

*For the love of Dixie they faced
Cannon and musket fire
Many would die on battlefields
That became a bloody mire*

*For the love of Dixie they stood
Tall and proud in defeat
For even tho they had lost
Their pride knew no retreat*

*For the love of Dixie they'll go
Down in Southern history
As the brave men who fought
For the Confederacy*

Confederate Catechism, Final installment

It is very important to arm ourselves with facts as the generation who lived it understood it.

The following was written by Lyon Gardiner Tyler who *was the son of President John Tyler and First Lady Julia Gardiner Tyler, born in Virginia. He graduated in 1875 at the University of Virginia. From 1888 to 1919, he served as the seventeenth president of the College of William and Mary (W&M), and is widely credited for restoring the college's financial condition following the deterioration which took place in the wake of the American Civil War.*

14. Does any present or future prosperity of the South justify the War of 1861-1865?

No. No present or future prosperity can make a past wrong right, for the end can never justify the means. The war was a colossal crime, and the most astounding case of self stultification on the part of any government recorded in history.

15. Had the South gained its independence, would it have proved a failure?

No. General Grant has said in his Memoirs that it would have established “a real and respected nation.” The states of the South would have been bound together by fear of the great Northern Republic and by a similarity of economic conditions. They would have had laws suited to their own circumstances, and developed accordingly. They would not have lived under Northern laws and had to conform their policy to them, and they have been compelled to do. A low tariff would have attracted the trade of the world to the South, and its cities would have become great and important centers of commerce. A fear of this prosperity induced Lincoln to make war upon the South. The Southern Confederacy, instead of being a failure, would have been a great outstanding figure in the affairs of the world.

16. Were the Southerners “rebels” in seceding from the Union?

The term “rebel” had no application to the Southern people, however much it applied to the American colonists. The latter called themselves “Patriots” not rebels. Both Southerners in 1861

and Americans in 1776 acted under the authority of their state governments. But while the colonies were mere departments of the British Union, the American States were creators of the Federal Union. The Federal government was the agent of the states for the purposes expressed in the Constitution, and it is absurd to say that the principal can rebel against the agent. President Jackson threatened war with South Carolina in 1833, but admitted that in such an event South Carolinians taken prisoners would not be “rebels” but prisoners of war. The Freesoilers in Kansas and John Brown at Harpers Ferry were undoubtedly “rebels” for they acted without any lawful authority whatever in using force against the Federal Government, and Lincoln and the Republican Party, in approving a platform which sympathized with the Freesoilers and bitterly denounced the Federal Government, were rebels and traitors at heart.

17. Did the South, as alleged by Lincoln in his messages and in his Gettysburg address, fight to destroy popular government throughout the world?

No. This charge was absurd. Had the South succeeded, the United States would still have enjoyed all its liberties, and so would Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland and all other peoples. The danger to popular government came from Lincoln himself. In conducting the war, Lincoln talked about “democracy” and “the plain people,” but adopted the rules of despotism and autocracy, and under the fiction of “war powers” virtually abrogated the Constitution, which he had sworn to support.

18. Was Lincoln’s proclamation freeing the slaves worthy of the praise which it has received?

No. His proclamation was a war measure merely. He had no humanitarian purpose in view, and only ten days before its issuance he declared that “the possible consequences of insurrection and massacre in the Southern States” would not deter him from its use, whenever he should deem it necessary for military purposes. (Nicolay and Hay, Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln, II, p.235) In his second inaugural message, while

professing “malice to none and charity to all,” he slandered the South by describing the slave owner as an incarnate demon, who did nothing but lash his slaves, without giving the least requital for their service of 250 years! The Negroes were the most spoiled domestics in the world. The Southerners took the Negro as a barbarian, civilized him, supported him, clothed him, and turned him out a devout Christian. Booker T. Washington admitted that the Negro was the beneficiary rather than the victim of slavery.

19. Would Lincoln have saved the South from the horrors of Reconstruction if he had survived the war?

No. Lincoln had shown no kindness to the South while he lived, and there is no reason to suppose that he would have done so had he survived the war. His war violated every law of humanity, and instead of offering pardon to everyone who would submit, as the British General Howe had done in his amnesty proclamation of November 30, 1776, Lincoln in his amnesty proclamation of December 8, 1863, excepted from the benefits of his proclamation everybody in the South of any leading intelligence. It is absurd to ascribe Andrew Johnson’s policy of Reconstruction to Lincoln, for Lincoln in his proclamation of July 8, 1864, professed that he was not bound up to any fixed plan whatever. The closest companion of Lincoln and the mastermind of this Cabinet was Edwin M. Stanton, who hated the South and all that concerned it. President Johnson, to his credit, drove him from his Cabinet. Lincoln’s reputation for kindness is based upon a number of trivial incidents and on his knack of juggling with words and using rhetoric to cover his absurd and often times outrageous statements by a jingle of sentences. He repeatedly backed down before his cabinet and had little of the backbone of his successor, Andrew Johnson.

20. Is there any truth in the statement that the South seceded from the Union because it saw itself menaced with the loss of the rule which it had enjoyed from the beginning?

None whatever. The Southerners never ruled the Union in any real sense. They controlled the executive department, but this

department was confined to giving directions to the foreign relations and to executing the laws made by congress. And this body, the lawmaking – the real ruler – was managed by the North from the very start. With the aid of a few delinquent Southern votes, the North could always count upon a majority in Congress. The revenue was chiefly levied on the products of the South, and was mainly disbursed in the North. Never once did the South use the machinery of the Federal Government to enrich herself at the expense of the North. The funding of the National debt, the assumption of the State debts, the bounties for shipping, tonnage duties, bounties for the fishermen, the restrictions on foreign trade, the National bank, the tariff, the pensions, land grants, internal improvement, etc., were all in interest of the North. And this one-sided development remains today exactly like it was of old. The South is still “the milk cow of the Union.”

Mechanicsburg with Sam

This month I had the honour to go with Sam Price to give a presentation to the Mechanicsburg camp. The night started with a catfish dinner at Cock of the Walk Cat Fish House at Pocahontas with Jeppe Barbour of the Mechanicsburg camp. From there we went to Mechanicsburg for Sam to speak on the Mechanicsburg Corridor. Sam is a wealth of knowledge and a joy to be around

12th of April a Novel

I am a member of the Joseph L. Hogg Camp 972 in Rusk, Texas and would like to introduce you to my just-published historical novel, *12 April*. See below for a summary of the book which will be a welcome addition to any library. As an unexpected bonus of the book, each Compatriot's wife will also read the book enthusiastically.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Gary C. Cole

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12 April is not just another book about the War Between the States with a seemingly endless recitation of the minute details of the skirmishes and battles with which we all are familiar. The skirmishes and battles are there with reports of their horrendous casualties, but those reports are not written by battlefield commanders fresh from victory or defeat. They are short newspaper articles read by Confederate soldiers in camp and their families at home desperate for news about their soldiers fighting the Yankees on distant battlefields far from home. Such articles, soldiers' letters, and an occasional visit from a soldier who simply walked away from camp or was home on leave were usually the only news available to a war-weary and frightened family at home.

12 April is an extensively-researched (1,594 endnotes) and carefully-crafted 640-page historical novel based on the life of Richard Wesley Cole, a private in the Confederate Army, who rode with General Nathan Bedford Forrest during the war. It weaves the known facts about Richard and his family into the written record of the war and Reconstruction and provides a personalized look at the skirmishes and battles in Mississippi and West Tennessee. It provides a factually-based look at a Mississippi family as it struggles to learn news about the war and the welfare of its soldiers, grieves over its losses, and then attempts to piece its life back together after the war and the twelve dark years of Reconstruction that followed. It is a history of Richard's family, a partial history of the 5th Mississippi Cavalry, the 22nd Mississippi Infantry, and the 30th Mississippi Infantry, and is a history of the war itself seen through the eyes of Richard and his family.

When news reached the village of Black Hawk, Mississippi that Confederate Troops in South Carolina had fired on Fort Sumter, the men and boys of the village were excited about the possibility of war with the North and bragged that if war came, it wouldn't be long before the Yankees were defeated and sent scurrying back home. The men and boys misunderstood what war would be like,

but Richard's wife, Eliza, didn't and her worst fears would be realized as the war decimated her family.

Eight days after the surrender of Fort Sumter, a volunteer state militia company was formed in Black Hawk. Richard's oldest son, a son-in-law, and two future sons-in-law enlisted with the company. Richard's second son ran away from home in February 1862 to join the Confederate Army. Eight months later, Richard left home for the war. He enlisted as a foot soldier with the 3rd Mississippi State Infantry in October 1863 and, less than a year later, became a horseman with George's Regiment, Mississippi Cavalry, which later became the 5th Regiment Mississippi Cavalry in General Nathan Bedford Forrest's Cavalry Department.

All of the issues of the era, including States' Rights, slavery, secession, and the brutality of the war and Reconstruction were experienced by Richard and his family as they lived through the most tumultuous period in our Nation's history. They experienced firsthand the hardships and horrors of a nation at war with itself and it affected them for the rest of their lives.

12 April is currently available at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com and will be available at over 2,500 other online book retailers later this summer.

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 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. AOT Commander, Kelly Barrow, gave a challenge to the Department Commanders to see which Army could raise the most money toward the project. ATM Councilman, Chuck McMichael, offered the following resolution in support of the Monument: "Be it resolved that the Sons of Confederate Veterans does hereby endorse fully, the Monument to the Unknown Soldier and gives its whole-hearted support for the concerted efforts of the Mississippi Division, SCV." The GEC gave unanimous consent and support to the project.

By purchasing an Ancestral Memorial Brick for just \$50.00 each, your money will go to rebuilding a national treasure. Each brick will be laid, memorializing your ancestor, in a plaza around the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier at Beauvoir.

Dues

Our annual dues are due on 1 Aug and late on 1 Nov. You should be getting a notification of dues soon from the Mississippi Division adjutant. It should describe the dues you owe for the upcoming year and an opportunity to donate to Mississippi Division Projects. The check for dues and donations will be sent to the John C. Pemberton Adjutant who will distribute dues and contributions to the proper place. There are three levels of dues. National dues of \$30, State dues of \$10, and camp dues of \$7. All must be paid to remain a member in good standing. Life memberships can be purchased for National and Mississippi Division. Life Membership in the International Organization exempts one from paying annual dues to the International Organization but **does not exempt** that member from paying annual Mississippi Division dues nor annual Camp dues.

Life Membership in the Mississippi Division exempts one from paying annual dues to the Mississippi Division but **does not exempt** that member from paying annual International dues nor

annual Camp dues. For information about division life membership go to <http://www.mississippiascv.org/links.html>. and then go to article 4.C of the bylaws. For National life membership go to SCV.org, services, forms and Documents, life membership application.

Chaplains Corner

For the Brethren:

In the book of II Samuel (1:17-27), we are told of David's lament for King Saul and his son Jonathan. The very last verse is key: How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished (v.27)! The scriptures tell us that Saul was anointed the first king over Israel, and he was as stiffnecked as the people he was given to oversee. His final act of disobedience came the night before he went into battle against the Philistines at Mount Gilboa. The Bible tells us that Saul was indeed a mighty man in battle; but even his courage and valor were insufficient to give him the victory over his enemies when the God of heaven and earth had decreed otherwise. Why did the very God who had Samuel anoint Saul as king abandon him and his army at Mount Gilboa? If you examine I Samuel 28, you will find the answer. Saul had gone to the witch at Endor to obtain information about the battle which was only hours away. He asked the witch— or sorceress— to call up Samuel whom God permitted to return in the spirit and speak to Saul, terrifying the witch and likely everyone present. Samuel listened to Saul's complaint and afterwards proclaimed God's message to him. In simple terms Samuel told Saul that God was against him, and that tomorrow, the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and... thou and thy sons [shall] be with me. . . (vv.15-19).

Throughout the history of Israel, God called on the people to turn from their sinful and disobedient ways. The prophet Isaiah was given of the Holy Ghost to document the reasons for God's coming judgment of the people when he wrote, Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people of the house of Jacob because they be

replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers (2:6). Matthew Henry said of this passage that, “God had set them apart for himself as a peculiar people, dignified above all [others] ; but they were replenished from the east [that is] they naturalized foreigners [and thus] did they profane their crown and covenant.” It was not so much that they brought in the strangers but that they permitted them to alter their religious character through sorcery, occultism and idolatry. Another point of contention between the LORD and the children of Jacob was their quest for ill-gotten gain. Their land is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots (v.7). Gold, silver, horses and chariots speak of great wealth. In the ancient world, to possess a horse—much less a chariot— meant that you a very well-to-do person. From this verse we can see that the economic and social order in Judah was dominated by wealth and a quest for more of it. The point here is not that simply having wealth is bad, but that their focus was continually upon gaining riches without any consideration for how they were obtained. God then had the prophet tell them of his coming judgment in Isaiah 3: For behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water (v.1). God was going to take away those items most needed for sustenance of the body. He would also remove from them those soldiers and leaders who would supply protection and good counsel, and in their place he would give them the immature and the naive (vv.2-4). He further said that there shall be injustice and oppression amongst the people (vv. 5-6). Matthew Henry said of this passage that, “God would allow an evil spirit among [the people]... [and they] shall be oppressed... and their princes, being children, will take no care to restrain the oppressors or relieve the oppressed.” Pastor Dave Guzik noted about these verses that, “... this principle of God’s judgment endures to this day. One way God may bring

judgment on a nation is to curse them with incompetent, ungodly leaders. Often, this is the simplest avenue of judgment: giving people what their wicked hearts desire. This crisis of leadership can happen even in economically prosperous times (Isaiah 2:7 is part of this same prophecy). The terrible effect of this judgment of God, the granting of incompetent and ungodly leaders, may not be immediately seen, but it will be certainly seen, apart from the repentance of a nation and the mercy of God.” The prophet Isaiah was also given to point out that those who, in ordinary times, would be termed “good leaders” will turn away from the people’s request to lead. They will do so as they have seen, as it were, the handwriting upon the wall (Daniel 5:5, 24-28), and will not take upon themselves the blame for the bad actions of those responsible (Isaiah 3:7-8). As Matthew Henry once observed, “...Rulers must be healers, and good rulers will be so; they must study to unite their subjects and not widen the differences that are among them.” He then explained why the good man would not rule. He would not on account of the fact that the wicked had, “... brought their destruction upon their own heads, for their tongue and their doings are against the Lord. They provoked him to his face.” King Saul and those wicked rulers who followed him were notorious for doing just that. And in response, God gave them and their people over to their enemies. That ought to be of great concern to us for God has not changed his mind about sin and will mete out his judgment against all who profane his name and his commandments. This especially applies to any country or people who have been in times past recipients of his blessings, and who had agreed to follow his precepts for life. There is no denying that our country was formed by men who recognized the Godhead as the Creator and author of all liberty. While many of our founding fathers were not orthodox Christians, they nonetheless saw the hand of the divine in the establishment of this country, and they spoke of him in reverence within our country’s birth certificate, the Declaration of Independence. When we look at what God has given to us, we ought to kneel in thanksgiving for all that he has

done on our behalf. But things have changed in the character of both our society and our government as an ever-increasing number of our people have succumbed to evil on so many levels and that does not bode well for our future as a country. There is a story from the days of World War II about a German church that was located near a rail line where the members would hear during their worship services the cries of anguish from those who were on train cars bound for the death camps. It is said that the congregants could not bear to hear their cries so, in response, they would sing as loudly as they could to drown them out. Even though the members of that church were not being persecuted by their wicked government, they nevertheless were affected by the misery it was inflicting on others. They were witnesses of its effects even if it was only in their hearing. They were helpless to do anything else as they may have supported the Nazi regime at its beginning and were shamed by its actions. Often when people feel helpless they simply fold up and comply with the authorities in the face of persecution especially if the authorities have the capacity and inclination to use deadly force. Their time to act against the scourge of Nazism was at its beginning, but this they did not do and the rest is history. But aren't we the fabled "bastion of liberty"? Of all people, we should be mindful of our liberties and exercise whatever rights we have left to counter every appearance of evil in our churches as well as in our country before such a condition of helplessness can fully manifest itself as it did in Nazi Germany. Sadly, human nature being what it is tends to bow before the powers that be. That is the path of least resistance. And what are the consequences for such behavior? If all we can do is turn up the volume in an effort to drown out the sound of wickedness going on around us, then what sort of people are we in God's eyes? If we still have the ability to resist and speak out, then that is what the God of liberty expects; otherwise we will lose our freedoms to the Philistines of our day. Are we headed for our own version of Mount Gilboa? Will people in other lands say of us as David said of Saul: How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons

of war perished? If one truthfully answers those questions the responses would not be what most Americans would want to hear. I fear we are on the cusp of some major changes in our world, and none of them bode well for our liberties. God has been largely removed from our public life, and he has been expelled from the private lives of many— even those who call themselves Christians. It has become painfully apparent that when God leaves, his blessings depart with him. You cannot expect a blessing from God if you are not obedient to his will. It does not matter how many tanks, troops, ships or planes we have in our arsenal. No weapon forged by the craft of man can undo or hinder the will of God. It does not matter how much paper currency the Federal Reserve prints up. God will not lift his hand to protect this country and this people apart from their repentance to him in Christ, and their obedience to his will as found in the Holy Bible. No power which man possesses can force God to do anything. The judgment of God is coming as the tide of wickedness rises. As one pastor put it, “There is an everlasting ‘too late’ when God calls into account the litany of sins perpetrated by the wicked. We should do all we can to not be numbered among them. So, what should we do as believing Christians? I would ask all of you to pray as you have never prayed for the sake of God’s elect in this country and throughout the world. We cannot fix all that is amiss within our society and our government; but we can do those things which God has given us leave to perform. Prayer is a powerful weapon. God wants to hear from us and we must ask in faith believing on him as our provider. So I encourage you to pray. Pray for our country as Abraham did when he asked God to spare the cities of the plain for the sake of but ten righteous souls (Genesis 18:23-33). Pray that God would grant our leaders wisdom to turn away from doing those things that have put this country and this people at variance with him. Pray that he would turn the hearts of the unregenerate masses as Jonah’s preaching did in Nineveh. Pray for his guidance so that in all our actions we will not be ashamed to stand at the

judgment seat of Christ and give an account of our lives in his service. Pray, and again I say: Pray!

Let us pray,

O holy and gracious God, whose word and commandment are dear to us; protect this thy people from the way of the wicked; and grant to us that quiet confidence of thy ministering Spirit, that we being so endowed may pass through this life under the shadow of thy wing knowing that all is in thy hands; for this we beg in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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