

IN THE TRENCHES

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

November 2016 Issue

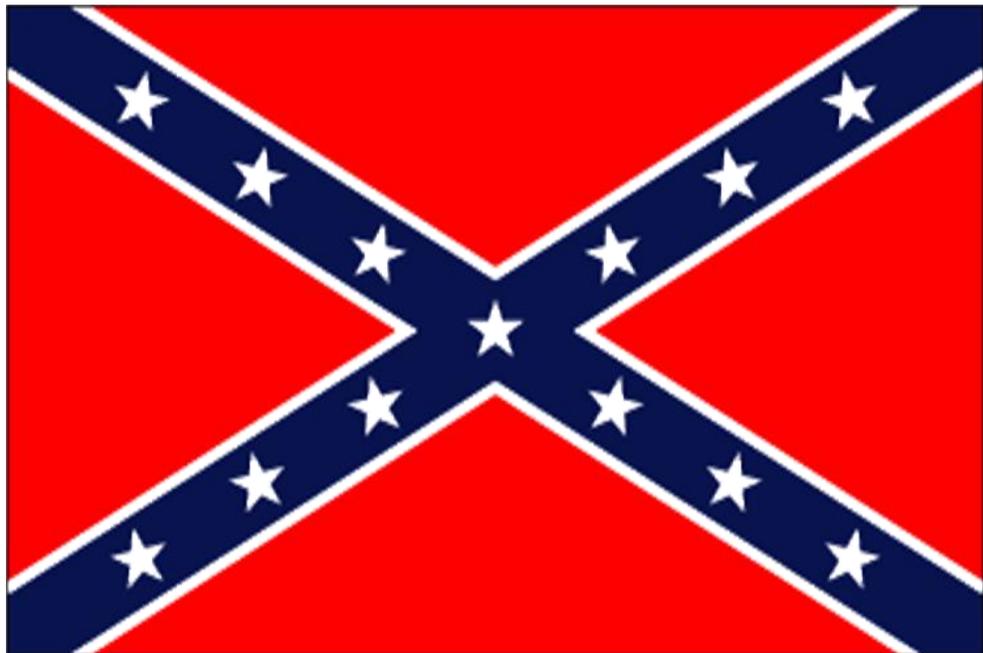
Edward Campbell

Commander

Eddy Cresap

Editor

Let the Band
Play
Dixie



Commander's Column

Dear Compatriots,

It is already almost November. This year has really flown. As you all are aware our next meeting will fall on November 1, exactly one week before the Presidential election. I urge all of you to get out and vote for the candidates of your choice. This is an extremely important election that could affect our country for years to come. Please exercise your right to vote and be informed on the issues. The SCV does not endorse candidates but we all have our rights and beliefs as individual citizens. The speaker at our next meeting will be Brandon Beck, a Prominent Historian and Professor at the East Ms. Community College branch in Mayhew. He lives in my home town of Columbus and is a great speaker. He has written a new book on Nathan Bedford Forrest and will be bringing copies to sell. Please come to the November 1 meeting and bring a friend.

We had a great victory this week in Memphis concerning the statue and gravesite of General Forrest. This is the site of our next National Convention, which makes this victory even more sweet for us. Our enemies will not give up, we still have battles to fight in New Orleans, Louisville, Kentucky and other places, including our never ending battle here over the flag. I feel that we have recently had a victory here also because of news reports and an article in the "Clarion Ledger" which reported on the defeat of the other side in their petition to change the flag. We may not have gotten the number of signatures needed, but these reports from news outlets will help our cause. I want to thank everyone who worked hard on gathering petitions for our flag. It is good to know that so many people out there are feeling the way that they do. A special thanks to Bryan Skipworth for all of his hard work on collecting the petitions and taking them to the respective court houses for certification. Thanks Bryan, we couldn't have done it without you. Please always be aware of any heritage violations anywhere in the country that we need to be aware of. Also, please keep Mrs. Mary Collins Landin, UDC President in Vicksburg in your prayers as she is recovering from back surgery. I look forward to seeing all of you on November 1 and feel free to bring a friend.

Upcoming meetings

Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm. We meet at 216 Miller Street in the Disabled American Veterans building. Our website contains direction to the meeting location. Visitors are always welcome. Bring a visitor to our next meeting. Thanks to Commander Edward for providing great programs.

Below are the list of upcoming meetings and speakers. Commander Edward Campbell is looking for members to volunteer to present a program next year

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic</i>
November 1	Brandon Beck	Nathan Bedford Forrest
December 6	None	Annual Christmas Bash
January 3, 2017		
February 7	Rickey Pittman	

October Meeting



Our October meeting was opened with a prayer, pledges and salutes. After the opening, we elected our 2017 Officers. Joel Bailey presented a program on his ancestor, John Whitfield Bailey Company. A 36th MS Infantry CSA. Henry Melshimer was presented his membership certification, you should contact Henry and congratulate him. John Kleiman returned to visit us after summering in Massachusetts . Chad Counce visited and is interested in membership, if you know Chad encourage him to return. Our friends from the Forest camp visited us to sell T shirts The meeting was closed with Dixie and a prayer.

Emancipation Proclamation

LONDON SPECTATOR ON THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

"The Union government liberates the enemy's slaves as it would the enemy's cattle, simply to weaken them in the conflict. The principle is not that a human being cannot justly own another, but that he cannot own him unless he is loyal to the United States."

Veteran's Day

November 11 is a day to remember those who have served our country. These veterans have sacrificed to keep our country free. In joining the service, they swore a solemn oath to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Thanks for your service, I believe Confederate patriots begat today's patriots. If I have missed a veteran please let me know.

Below is a list of John C Pemberton Camp who have served:

Veterans in camp at present

- Joel T. Bailey, GMG3 USN 1964-1968
- Larry Holman, Lt. USAF
- Eddy Cresap, EM1(SS) 1971 - 1979
- Joe Lovizo, USN
- Thomas Collins, Colonel USAF
- Brain Dabney USAF
- Randal Martar
- Charles (rusty) Brasfield, Commander USN
- Henry Melshimer

Veterans who have passed away as members

- Hank Hannisee USAF
- Joe Gerachc USN WWII
- Joe Wedgewoth Sr
- James Calvin (Charles) Davis MSG US Army Korea
- Major Robert Anderson US Army
- Reverend Joe Strahan

Members not current who are veterans

- Tony Keene
- Charlie Bass
- Jim Beard
- David Weeks

What Did They Say

" I trust and have confidence in our people to believe, that if the unprincipled North shall persist in her policy of subjugating the South, that we, who are able to resist them, will continue to do so, until we grown old and worn out in service, and that then , our sons will take the arms from our hands, and spend their lives, if necessary, in battling for liberty and independence"
Lt. Col James B. Griffin, Hampton's Legion

What Is History

Voltaire said, "History is the lie commonly agreed upon."

In regard to the history of the War to Prevent Southern Independence, the history is an agreed upon (Fairy tale) lie written by the victors with no agreement from the losing side of the conflict. This Fairy Tale was written by the victors to ensure the victors were seen as saints with pure motives and heroic actions. This "agreed upon lie" was written to ensure the losers of the war were seen as a people consumed by impure motives with their leaders made to look like the devil himself.

The losers version of the conflict is banished to obscurity, to be kept alive by those who suffered in the cause and their descendants.

With this in mind, we, Sons of these brave men, must ensure that the true history of our brave ancestors lives on in the collective memory of the descendants of these brave men. At some point in time, historians will understand and teach the true history of the conflict and its causes. Till then it is up to us to keep the truth alive.

From the movie Brave Heart we see:

In the night scene after Malcolm Wallace's (William's father) funeral, we see the silhouette of a man playing bag pipes. Argyle (William's uncle) tells William that they are outlawed tunes played on outlawed pipes.

Will we forced "to the mountains" to maintain our heritage?_

Lee Jackson 2017

With Fall approaching, we are laying plans for our annual Lee Jackson Banquet held in January. As with last year, we plan on having the banquet at Goldies Trail BBQ on January 14th 2017. Commander Campbell has announced that prominent southern author Ron Kennedy will be our speaker.

Confederate Memorial Month Service

The John C. Pemberton Camp has been asked by the Mississippi Division and we have accepted the offer to host the 2017 Mississippi Division Confederate Month Memorial Service. The service will be held on Saturday April 23 2017 at Soldiers Rest. The service will also be for the newly installed Coopers Well dead.

2017 Camp Officer Election

At our October meeting a slate of proposed officers was presented by the nominating committee. The floor was opened for nomination after which the following list of men were elected. The new slate of officers will be sworn in and take their positions at our January meeting

Commander	Edward Campbell
First Lt Commander	Bryan Skipworth
Second Lt Commander	Jeff Cartwright
Adjutant	Larry Holman

Positions appointed by the commander :

Chief of Staff :	Eddy Cresap
Newsletter editor	Eddy Cresap
Camp Historian	Sam Price and Larry Holman
Camp Surgeon	Doctor McMillin
Assistant Adjutant	Syd Johnson
Chief of Communications	Syd Johnson
Camp Poet	Joel Bailey
Chaplin	Bryan Dabney
Administrator of Web Page	Bill Fryer
Ambassador to Delta State	Thomas Dabney

Serving on the Executive Council as Past Camp Commanders are Wayne McMaster, Sam Price, and Eddy Cresap

2017 Plans For Our Camp

If you have something in your mind you would like the camp to do in 2017, please email me (charlescresap33@att.net) and I will pass it on to Commander Edward.

Fall Flea Market

Members of our camp gathered at the Vicksburg Fall Flea Market on a beautiful October morning. They gathered signatures for initiative 58 and met many people who are with us in our cause. We hope to gain some members from those we met. Commander Campbell's observation is "We are winning in the court of public opinion".

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, Please forward the article to me (charlescresap33@att.net) and I will place it in the next newsletter.

Honor Your Ancestor

I challenge every one to prepare a short presentation about your Confederate ancestor to present at a camp meeting. If your presentation is about 5 minutes, we will have a spot on the agenda every month for a short presentation. Contact Eddy to be placed on the agenda. If your presentation is longer, contact Edward to make your presentation as one of our camp programs. Also if you have a picture of your ancestor, bring a copy to put on our Wall of Honor. Commander Campbell has added a picture of one of his ancestors our to our Wall of honor.

Southern Gentleman's Brown Bag Lunch Club

Like minded individuals gather every third Tuesday 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. There is no protocol, agenda, or speaker just good fellowship. This next event will be on Nov 15th at high 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 are welcome. SCV memberships is not required. This is one of the high points of my month.

Victory in Memphis

The haters of Confederate heritage have been trying to move the statue of General Nathan Bedford Forrest in Memphis Tennessee. This movement would be in violation of the Tennessee Heritage Preservation Act of 2015. To complete the move, the haters requested a wavier from this act. This waver was denied providing a victory for Confederate heritage. Even in victory we can not relax because the haters never quit, they will return over and over.

Why We Exist

They left their homes and families to defend their love ones from a brutal foreign invader. They survived 4 years of a horrible war, suffering not only from the battles with the foreign invader but also the lack of resources to support them. Not only did they suffer from the horrors of war but also the stories of the treatment of their families by the invading horde. They stood by their obligation to the end. They returned home from this horrible experience to find their homes destroyed and their families starving. These brave men survived 10 years of being denied their civil rights during the bayonet rule that some call "reconstruction". These Confederate Veterans survived this all to raise their families and rebuild their south land. We are here today with their strength of character passed on to us due to their sacrifices. It is our duty to ensure their true history is passed on. This is not some modern attempt to rewrite history but is a sacred obligation given to us by these brave men who knew the truth..

Poet' s Corner (Thanks Joel)



MEMORIALS of STONE

**Eddy Cresap
Joel T. Bailey**

**Across the great Southland
Are many memorials of stone
For the confederate soldiers
Who fought and died unknown**

**They make not a sound
Their names known only to God
They have left the battlefield
To lay under this hallowed sod**

**Who will remember their fame
These great warriors of old
Their names are lost to history
But their stories should be told**

**Some want to destroy their stones
They hate all that was good
Their memory should be respected
And their story be understood**

Chaplain's Corner Thanks Bryan

For the Brethren

In II Samuel 1:17-27, we find 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 we also were told that from the beginning of his reign until his death, Saul was as stiffnecked as the people he oversaw. His final act of disobedience came the night before he went into battle against the Philistines at Mount Gilboa. While Saul was indeed a mighty man in battle, none of his martial qualities would give him victory over his enemies when the God of heaven and earth had decreed otherwise. So why did the very God who had Samuel anoint Saul as king abandon him at Mount Gilboa? If you examine I Samuel 28, you will find the answer. Saul had gone to the witch— sorceress— at Endor to obtain information about the battle which was only hours away. He asked the witch 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 ways. The prophet Isaiah was given of the Holy Ghost to document the reasons for God's coming judgment 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 gain without any regard for how they acquired it. God then commanded the prophet Isaiah saying, 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 (3:1). God was going to take away those items most needed for sustenance of the body. Not only that, he would take from them those soldiers and leaders who supplied protection and good counsel, and in their place he would give them the immature and the naive (3:2-4). He further said that there shall be injustice and oppression amongst the people (Isaiah 3:5-6). Matthew Henry said of this passage that, "God would allow an evil spirit among [the people]... [and these] 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." 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). They likely saw that the government was not working and that the society was looking for a scapegoat. As Matthew Henry once observed, "The government shall go a-begging... 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 provoking the Almighty, and in so doing God gave them and their people into the hands of their enemies. That ought to be of great concern to us as God has not changed his mind about sin, and will mete out his judgment against all who profane his name and keep not his commandments. If he punished Israel for their faults and failings, will he not deal harshly with us? The United States from its inception has been blessed of God in so many ways. It is safe to say

that the men who established our country recognized the Godhead as the author of all liberty. While many of our founding fathers were not orthodox Christians, they nevertheless 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, more particularly in the ways of commerce, industry, and personal freedom, we ought to kneel in thanksgiving for all that he has done on our behalf. In times past, our good and gracious God has preserved our land through trial and tribulation. 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 the lusts of the world, the flesh and the devil. And so it should not be surprising that those biblically-based moral values which were once the hallmark of our country have been dissipated by wickedness of every sort. There is also a ripple effect with regard to wickedness. It is like throwing a stone in a pond of still water and watching the ripples move out from the point of contact with the water. For every evil plan or scheme there are primary, secondary, as well as tertiary victims to consider. It is not difficult to identify those who are the primary victims—those directly affected by some maleficent plan—but few are cognizant of the others. God is treated to the cries of all who have been wronged, or abused in this life. What we should understand is that evil and wickedness affect the whole of society, not just the person or persons to which it was initially directed. There is a story from the days of World War II in Germany about a 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 to which they were a party. 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. Of all people, we should be mindful of our liberties and exercise whatever rights we have left to counter the appearance of evil in our churches and in our society before such a condition of helplessness can fully manifest itself as it did in

Nazi Germany. Unfortunately, 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 is truthful the answers to those questions will not be what most Americans will want to hear. We are on the cusp of some major changes in our world, and none 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. 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. And 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 wings knowing that all is in thy hands; for this we beg in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Cooper's Well Stones come to Vicksburg May 28th



The Pemberton Camp has coordinated with others in the third brigade to set 47 stones in one of the lots we control in Cedar Hill. Thanks to Trent Lewis for being the sparkplug for this effort, Wayne McMaster for being the camp's point man in setting up this effort and Bryan Skipworth for repairing the broken stones and placing many stones in the ground. These men died at Mississippi Springs and were buried at Cooper's well. The Coopers Well location is not available for Confederate stone placement so these stones have laid on the ground for 15 years waiting for a home. On May 28th the stones were delivered to Cedar Hill. There was a 3d brigade work day on July 16 resulting in all stones being installed. A memorial service is planned in conjunction with our annual April Memorial Service There are three more stones to be delivered and set. Thanks to all who were a part of this effort.

Ole Miss Plaque

Ole Miss has installed a context plaque at the Confederate monument on campus. The Mississippi Division Sons of Confederate Veterans has revived a lawsuit against the University of Mississippi asking for a court order to remove the informational plaque placed near the Confederate monument. The complaint also ask for name of Confederate Drive to be reinstated. The monument needs no context as it's meaning is etched in stone.

Dues, The South Needs All Its Sons

Our annual dues are due on 1 Aug and late on 1 Nov. You should have gotten a notification of dues 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.mississippiscv.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.

Confederate General Confederate Birthdays in November

Lt General Jubal Early 3 November 1816

Lt General Ambrose Powell (A. P.) Hill 9 November 1825

Lt General Theophilus Hunter Holmes 13 November 1804

Lieutenant General A. P. Hill



Ambrose Powell Hill was born on November 9, 1825 in Culpepper Virginia. He attended West Point and graduated with the class of 1847. He served in the Mexican war (but saw no action) and the Seminole war. He married the sister of John Hunt Morgan who was his best man at the wedding. When the Southern states were leaving the union, he resigned his commission to offer his services to the Confederate cause where he commanded a Virginia regiment. His regiment was at Manassas but was not engaged. In February 1862, he was promoted to Brigadier General and given command of a brigade. He fought with his brigade in the Peninsular campaign of 1862 and was promoted to Major General and given command of a division in Longstreet's Corp that became known "The Light Division". Hill and Longstreet had a disagreement based on fighting in the Seven day battle. Based on this disagreement Hill was arrested and he challenged Longstreet to a duel. To defuse the situation, Lee decided to send Hill and his division to Jackson's corp. In Jackson's corp. he and his division were engaged at the second battle of Manassas, Sharpsburg, and Fredericksburg. He and Jackson were continually feuding but the feud did not impact their relationship during battles. At Chancellorsville after Jackson was wounded, Hill took command of the second corps until he was wounded and the command was passed to J.E. B. Stuart.. Robert E Lee's recommendation to President Davis for Corp command was "Next to these two officers, [Longstreet and Jackson] I consider General A.P. Hill the best commander with me. He fights his troops well and takes good care of them." In May 1863, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and given command of the third Corp which he led at Gettysburg. During the siege of Petersburg, Hill said he did not want to live to see the collapse of the Confederacy. Seven days before the surrender at Appomattox Hill died from a gun shot as he was riding to the Petersburg lines. In his memory, Fort A. P.. Hill in Virginia proudly carries his name.

March in Monroe for Mardi Gras

Want to help the Sons of Confederate Veterans reach close to 100,000 or more people? Make plans now to participate in the Monroe Louisiana Mardi Gras Parade - February 18, 2017 -- 6:00pm. I know this is around eight months away but start making plans now. We need to have the largest showing of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in the parade that has ever been seen. Mark your calendars!

John C. Pemberton Camp Website

Go to <http://scv-camp-1354.com/> to view our website. Thanks to our Webmaster Bill Fryer. Bill has 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 You will also find about three years of archived newsletters

John C. Pemberton on Facebook

Thanks to Sid Johnson, Larry Holman and Jeff Cartwright, the John C. Pemberton camp has a facebook page. It looks real good, thanks guys. Now we have to continue to this social media page to our advantage in educating the uninformed on the true history of our cause. Ask your friends to checkout our page

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. Ask me about cups. You get the SCV specialty tags at the court house, just ask.

Avengers of Fort Pillow

This letter was received by the Memphis Daily Appeal, June 23, 1864, following the victory at Brice's Crossroads. We hear much about Fort Pillow, but nothing about this event. This newspaper article describes the atrocities committed on innocent Southern citizens, women and children by the Federal troops under Yankee General Sturgis heading down to Mississippi from Memphis, in revenge for Fort Pillow. (Just a lost footnote lost to written history, General Forrest was ask by the local citizens of West Tennessee to take care of the rapist and thieves at Fort Pillow. This request by local citizens led Forrest to the battle at Fort Pillow)

The Yankees and negroes supposed Forrest (was) in Middle Tennessee, and came forth simply to slaughter the helpless, to plunder and desolate the country...Before the battle, fugitives from the counties through which Sturgis and his troops were advancing, came into our camp detailing incidents which made men shudder who are accustomed to scenes of violence and bloodshed. I cannot recite the stories of these poor frightened people. Robbery, rape, and the assassination of men and women, were the least of crimes committed while the "Avengers of Fort Pillow" over ran and desolated the country.

Rude unlettered men, who had fought at Shiloh, and in many subsequent battles, wept like children when they heard of the enormities to which their mothers, sisters and wives had been subjected by the Negro mercenaries of Sturgis. The mildest, most peaceable of our soldiers became madmen when they heard how the person of their kinswomen were violated. The Negroes were regardless of the age, condition, sex or entreaties of the victims. In one instance, the grandmother, daughter and grand-daughter, were each, in the same room, held by the drunken brutes and subjected to outrages, by the bare recital of which humanity is appalled.

A young wife, enceinte, taken to a negro encampment and tied to stakes driven in the ground, was made to minister to the hell-born passion of a dozen fiends. Death, in mercy, came to her relief. A little boy, who sought to defend his mother, was brutally bayoneted. When their savage lusts were gratified, the victims here and there were burned in their dwellings. Insanity, in some instances, came to the relief of suffering such as never before were inflicted upon human creatures by remorseless fiends in human shape. Terror, and the agony of hopeless shame, and famine, and fire and blood, and the assassination of the helpless and unoffending, marked the progress of the "Avengers of Fort Pillow." It is not strange that negro prisoner were

“lost”. The whites who led them on and incited them to these damnable deeds deserve a more terrible punishment...

You have heard that our soldiers buried negroes alive at Fort Pillow. This is true. At the first fire, after Forrest men scaled the walls, many of the negroes threw down their arms and fell as if they were dead. They persisted in the pretense and could only be restored at the point of the bayonet. To resuscitate some of them, more terrified than the rest, they were rolled into the trenches made as receptacles for the fallen. Vitality was not restored till breathing was obstructed, and then the resurrection began. On these facts is based the pretext for the crimes committed by Sturgis, Grierson and their followers. You must remember, too, that in the extremity of their terror, or for other reasons, the Yankees and negroes in Fort Pillow neglected to haul down their flag. In truth, relying upon their gunboats, the officers expected to annihilate our forces after we had entered the fortifications. They did not intend to surrender.

A terrible retribution, in any event, has befallen the ignorant deluded Africans. Furnish with arms, besotted by whiskey, misled by lies, maddened by hopes which they can never realize, they have committed crimes which makes the blood run cold, and must shock the moral sentiment of the age. The world will hardly know which to condemn most, the falsehood of the report of the committee of Federal Congressmen which investigate the “Fort Pillow Massacre,” or the conduct of the savage brutes employed to avenge it. If all that is alleged in the congressional report be true, there would be found no justification for the unheard enormities practiced upon helpless women, more helpless old age, and hopeless poverty, by the mob of murderers and lawless miscreants who followed Sturgis from Memphis...

Beauvoir

Remember, We, The Mississippi Division, own Beauvoir. We should visit and support this beautiful spot. This is the last home of the only President of the Confederate States of America.

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.

2017 Mississippi Division Reunion

This is an election year for Mississippi Division officers. The reunion will be in Oxford Mississippi. The Annual Division Convention shall commence at 12 noon on the Friday following the 3rd of June (Jefferson Davis' birthday) unless otherwise ordered by the Division Convention or the Executive Council. This would put the 2017 meeting on the 9th of June in 2017.

2017 Mississippi Reunion Officer Announcements

Commander of the Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans,

- Marc S. Allen

2d Lt Commander

- Greg Stewart

3rd Brigade Commander

- Trent Lewis

Beauvoir Board of Directors

- Greg Stewart
- Mike Wooten

Upcoming Mississippi Division Reunion Locations

2017 The University Greys camp 1803 and Calhoun Avengers Oxford, Ms

2018 Private Samuel A. Hughey camp 1452 Southaven, Ms

2019 The Rankin Rough and Ready's camp Brandon, Ms

A Challenge

As you may know, the SCV is moving forward rapidly with the new Confederate Museum at our Headquarters at Elm Springs. With about \$500,000 in our account, we are going to need to raise over \$2.5M to turn this dream into reality. The 47th Regiment NC Troops Camp 166 in Wake Forest, North Carolina has issued a challenge to each of our camps to raise and donate at least \$1,000 for the Confederate Museum. As I believe that competition is normally healthy, I would like to accept this challenge for our Confederation and I will have a prize for the camp which donates the greatest amount of money for the building of our museum. What that prize is will be a secret, but I can assure you it will be worthy of the momentous sacrifice to achieve it. The start date of the competition is 15 August 2016 and the date we close this competition will be 31 December 2017 so each camp has a little less than 17 months to collect and donate their monies for this significant camp prize. You do not have to make just one donation – we will keep track of each donation for each camp, no matter how small or large. As a reminder, any person or camp who donates \$1,000 or more will be included on a plaque at the new museum. As much as I look forward to this competition, let us work together in a true spirit of brotherhood as the ultimate prize is our museum. I ask that each camp try to match this challenge and, if possible, exceed it so that we may pay off the debt which we are surely going to have to incur to make this a reality. Our museum is so essential to our long term mission for providing THE educational venue for teaching our ancestors' story properly and with truth. Let us build this museum together for our posterity!

Deo Vindice,

Thos. V. Strain Jr.

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Upcoming National Conventions

2017 Memphis Tennessee July 20-22 2017

2018 Franklin Tennessee

2019 Mobile Alabama

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.