



Oct. _____ 2014

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE

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THE CHARGE GIVEN BY GENERAL STEPHEN D. LEE
 TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier’s good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations

ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!



OCT. CAMP MEETING - 30TH - 7PM

Last meeting of the year at Simply Southern. New officers or current officers will be voted on at this meeting and will be sworn in at the Lee/Jackson Banquet in January.

Note: The voting may be done by secret ballot if the members who are present desires to do so.

Nominees for officers for the coming year:

- Commander - Doug Jefcoat
- 1st Lt. Commander – Ronnie Mitchell
- 2nd Lt. Commander - Irvin Gatlin
- Quartermaster - Billy Langley
- Adjutant - “Cotton” Norris
- Chaplain - Glen Holifield

Hope you enjoy the information about Shiloh in this month’s Dispatch. Next Month: “Protecting Your Southern Heritage” by Dr. Clyde Wilson! Ed.

PRAYER REQUESTS



PLEASE LET GEORGE JAYNES KNOW IF YOU NEED TO PUT SOMEONE ON THE PRAYER LIST.

E-mail: georgejaynes1953@yahoo.com or call 601-649 - 1867 at work or 601-428 -5570 at night at home.

George finally made his own list!. He's feeling well below par and could use all the good thoughts and prayers we can send his way. Hopefully he'll be "*back up and going*" soon!

Prayers for Mrs. Ireta Gatlin wife of Compatriot Irvin Gatlin who's at the Lynwood Senior Care Center on Victory Road in Laurel.

Our prayers go out for long-standing compatriot Ted Lightsey on the passing of his wife Judith "*Judy*" W. Lightsey, Friday, September 12, 2014, at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg. Graveside services were held Monday, September 15, at Sandersville Cemetery. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her son, William Theodore Lightsey, III of Hattiesburg; daughter, Jennifer Ann Schultz and husband, Matthew of Pensacola, Florida; and two grandchildren, Anne Marie Schultz and Katherine Graf Schultz.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

FALL MUSTER - OCT. 18th at BEAUVOIR

Once again for the 28th year the Americans and the yankees will go at each other on Saturday and Sunday on the beautiful grounds of our beloved Beauvoir. A good time will be had by all!

OCT. - DEASON HOME TOUR - SAT. 25th

Hopefully the number of people we had come through the house for the tour will be a repeat of last year. At 500, it was the largest crowd since the re-opening several years ago when there was around 1500 folks. Our re-enactment area is going to be larger, and we've moved the hospital display outside so we can, once again be graphic! (The DAR ladies didn't want us to get blood on their fancy wallpaper!) PVT John "*Fearless Jack*" Musgrove has volunteered to be an injured soldier so that George and Cotton can "*operate*" on him! Also, Bert King will be up with both his mountain howitzer and his meat wagon. It will be a battle; a mano - a mano, between Bert and Coco with their respective cannons, and some great smoked sausage to eat!

NOV. 15th & 16th THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS GAMES

For the first time at Beauvoir! This is going to be a win, win situation for the Celtic games & Beauvoir. It will be a huge event featuring live music, Celtic dance workshop, children's games, parade, Scottish vendors, food, men's & women's amateur Scottish heavy athletics competitions, a medieval village and more! In addition, don't miss the Saturday Night

Ceilidh (pronounced as you know; Kay-lee)!

NOV. - LANDRUM COUNTRY CHRISTMAS - SAT. 29th & SUNDAY AFTERNOON 30th.

This is where we have our history encampment out back of the homestead, with good ol' possum stew being cooked by none other than the world renowned chef, Le CoCo Roberts. Now, just between us and the fence post, it's not really possum, however, it is roadkill! Along with the skirmishes and fine cuisine it is always a good weekend!

SERTOMA OF LAUREL CHRISTMAS PARADE

SAT. DEC. 1st

Although this parade seems to get longer each year it is a great time to fly the colors, shoot some powder and have a good time. We need at least two men with rifles and there needs to be at least two flag bearers. We also need to have someone carrying our banner so everyone knows who we are. Let all along the parade route know that we are the Jones County Rosin Heels - Sons of Confederate Veterans, not just a bunch of guys that get dressed up in *costumes*! If you have a child or grandchildren who are 6 - 7 years of age or older, who can carry a very light weight banner it would greatly help. We also need some lovely ladies marching with the banner carriers. Remember, The larger the contingent, the better it looks.

The parade begins promptly at 10AM. We'll gather in the parking lot of Carl Ford's old office on Rogers Street around 9:00AM.

AFTER PARADE LUNCH - MAULDIN COMMUNITY CENTER

This is where the pay off comes from the parade marching. Good food. Remember, the more the merrier!. In other words, the more there is to eat, that is unless somebody like the Rev. Glen Holifield jumps in front of you. Of course if he does get in front of you there's no way to see the food on the table anyway. Once again, there is no particular agenda unless someone wishes to speak some words of wisdom. 'Course, even if that's the case, ain't nobody gonna be listening anyway. We're gonna be too busy gossipin' and eatin'!

CITY OF PETAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Later the same day as Laurel's parade is Petal's. We form about 4 - 4:15 PM in the parking lot where Hudson's is located, and the parade begins at 5 PM. It's a great deal of fun because the people are within just a few feet when you march by them. It is about the same length as Laurel's, but becomes dark not long after we begin and when we fire, the flames from our rifles are really noticeable. It's a fun parade with great response and a good ending to the day.


BRICKS FOR BEAUVOIR

*This effort has been endorsed by
the General Executive Council
of the Sons of Confederate Veterans*

Example Below

Pvt. James W.

McCluney

6th MS CAV. CO. F

Make Checks in the amount of \$50.00 per brick to

Mississippi Division, SCV

For: Beauvoir Memorial Brick Fund on the memo line

Mail Checks to:

Mississippi Division, SCV

C/O Larry McCluney, MS-Div AOT Councilman

1412 North Park Dr.

Greenwood, MS 38930

Bricks will be placed in a plaza around the tomb of the Unknown
Confederate Soldier at Beauvoir.



This is a copy of a letter from Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., USA [VMI -1906, West Point -1908, Killed in Action on Okinawa, 18 June 1945] , son of the famous Confederate Gen., to Major General Wm. D. Connor, superintendent of West Point - 30 March 1937]

“My Dear General Conner:

Your letter requesting my formula for mixing mint juleps leaves me in the same position in which Captain Barber found himself when asked how he was able to carve the image of an elephant from a block of wood. He said that it was a simple process consisting merely of whittling off the part that didn't look like an elephant!

The preparation of the quintessence of gentlemanly beverages can be described only in like terms. A mint julep is not a product of a formula. It is a ceremony and must be performed by a gentleman possessing a true sense of the artistic; a deep reverence for the ingredients and a proper appreciation of the occasion. It is a rite that must not be entrusted to a novice, a statistician nor a Yankee! It is a heritage of the Old South; an emblem of hospitality and a vehicle in which noble minds can travel together upon the flower-strewn paths of a happy and congenial thought.

So far as the mere mechanics of the operation are concerned, the procedure, stripped of its ceremonial embellishments, can be described as follows:

Go to a spring where cool, crystal-clear water bubbles from

under a bank of dew-washed ferns; in a consecrated vessel, dip up a little water at the source. Follow the stream through its banks of green moss and wild flowers until it broadens and trickles through beds of mint growing in aromatic profusion and waving softly in the summer breeze. Gather the sweetest and tenderest shoots and gently carry them home. Go to the sideboard and select a decanter of Kentucky Bourbon distilled by a master hand, mellowed with age, yet still vigorous and inspiring. An ancestral sugar bowl, a row of silver goblets, some spoons and some ice and you are ready to start.

Into a canvas bag, pound twice as much ice as you think you will need. Make it fine as snow, keep it dry and do not allow it to degenerate into slush.

Into each goblet, put a slightly heaping teaspoonful of granulated sugar, barely cover this with spring water and slightly bruise one mint leaf into this, leaving the spoon in the goblet. Then pour elixir from the decanter until the goblets are about one-fourth full. Fill the goblets with snowy ice, sprinkling in a small amount of sugar as you fill. Wipe the outside of the goblets dry, and embellish copiously with mint.

Then comes the delicate and important operation of frosting. By proper manipulation of the spoons, the ingredients are circulated and blended until nature, wishing to take a further hand and add another of its beautiful phenomena, encrusts the whole in a glistening coat of white frost; thus, harmoniously blended by the deft touches of a skilled hand, you have a beverage eminently appropriate for honourable men and beautiful women.

When all is ready, assemble your guests on the porch or in the garden where the aroma of the juleps will rise heavenward and make the birds sing. Propose a worthy toast, raise the goblets to your lips, bury your nose in the mint, inhale a deep breath of its fragrance and sip the nectar of the gods!

Being overcome with thirst, I can write no further.

Sincerely,

Lt. Gen. S.B. Buckner, Jr.



Possum Sez:

Dis prezident sho must love de po peoples 'cause he done gone and created a whole bunch of 'em!



BATTLE OF SHILOH: SHATTERING MYTHS

From America's Civil War Magazine; Source: [Http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/shiloh/shiloh-history-articles/battle-of-shiloh-shattering.html](http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/shiloh/shiloh-history-articles/battle-of-shiloh-shattering.html)

BY TIMOTHY B. SMITH

The Battle of Shiloh, which took place on April 6-7, 1862, is one of the Civil War's most momentous fights, but perhaps one of the least understood. The standard story of the engagement reads that Union troops were surprised in their camps at dawn on April 6. Defeat seemed certain, but Union Brigadier General Benjamin M. Prentiss saved the day by holding a sunken road some 3 feet deep. Thanks to the tenacious fighting in that area, it came to be known as the "Hornet's Nest."

Prentiss eventually capitulated, leaving Rebel commander General Albert Sidney Johnston in a position to drive on to victory. Johnston, however, was soon mortally wounded and replaced by General P.G.T. Beauregard, which cost the Confederates vital momentum. Then Beauregard made the inept decision to call off the Confederate attacks, and the next day Union counterattacks dealt the Confederate forces a crushing blow.

That standard account of Shiloh, however, is more myth than fact. No less an authority than Ulysses S. Grant, the Union commander at the fight, wrote after the war that: "(Shiloh) has been perhaps less understood, or, to state the case more accurately, more persistently misunderstood, than any other engagement...during the entire rebellion."

Preeminent Shiloh authority and historian David W. Reed, the first superintendent of the battlefield park, who, himself, is guilty of some error in promoting the importance of the Hornet's Nest in later years, wrote in 1912 that occasionally... 'someone thinks that his unaided memory of the events of 50 years ago is superior to the official reports of officers which were made at [the] time of the battle. It seems hard for them to realize that oft-repeated campfire stories, added to and enlarged, become impressed on the memory as real facts.'

Unfortunately, such misunderstandings and oft-repeated campfire stories have over the years become for many the truth about Shiloh, distorting the actual facts and painting an altered picture of the momentous events of those April days.

One has to look no further than the legend of little Johnny Clem, the supposed Drummer Boy of Shiloh, to realize that tall tales surround the battle. Clem, rightly known as the drummer boy of Chickamauga, was in the 22nd Michigan Infantry which was not even organized until after Shiloh took place.

Similarly, the notorious Bloody Pond, today a battlefield landmark, could be myth. There is no contemporary evidence that indicates the pond became bloodstained. In fact, there is no contemporary evidence that there was even a pond on the spot and recent research has failed to prove there was such a pond. The sole account came from a local citizen who years later told of walking a pond that was stained with blood.

The long held belief that Grant arrived at Pittsburg Landing only to be greeted by thousands upon thousands of Union stragglers is also a myth. The frontline divisions of Prentiss and Brig. Gen. William T. Sherman did not break until after 9 a.m.,

the latest time that Grant could have arrived at the landing. It is hard to imagine Prentiss' troops running over two miles in less than 30 seconds, even though, by all accounts, they were pretty scared.

In an effort to correct historical errors and analyze the myths, here is a brief analysis of several myths about the Battle of Shiloh:

MYTH: The opening Confederate attack caught the Union totally by surprise:

The matter of surprise is a major topic of discussion among military historians and enthusiasts. It is one of the modern American Army's nine principles of war that guide military plans, movements and actions. Of course, most military tactics are common sense. When fighting either a bully or an army, who would not want to sneak up on an opponent and get in the first punch?

One of the most famous of all surprises in military history is Pearl Harbor, where Japanese planes attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet based in Hawaii. The attack on December 7, 1941, was indeed a surprise, with bombs dropping out of a clear blue sky. Shiloh is another well-known example of a supposed surprise attack. On the morning of April 6, 1862, the Confederate Army of the Mississippi under Johnston launched an attack on Maj. Gen. Grant's Army of the Tennessee near Pittsburg Landing. One author has even gone so far as to call it the Pearl Harbor of the Civil War. In actuality, Shiloh was not all that much of a surprise.

The assertion of surprise came initially from contemporary newspaper columns that described Union soldiers being bayoneted in their tents as they slept. The most famous account came from Whitelaw Reid, a newspaper correspondent for the *Cincinnati Gazette*. But Reid was nowhere near Shiloh when the Confederates attacked, and he actually penned his nearly 15,000-word opus from miles away.

The idea that Reid perpetuated and that is still commonly believed today is that the Federals had no idea that the enemy was so near. Nothing could be further from the truth.

For days before April 6, minor skirmishing took place. Both sides routinely took prisoners in the days leading up to the battle. The rank and file in the Union army knew Confederates were out there — they just did not know in what strength.

The problem lay with the Federal commanders. Ordered not to bring on an engagement and convinced they would have to march to Corinth, Miss., to fight the bulk of the Confederate army, the Union leadership did not properly utilize the intelligence gained from the common soldiers on the front lines. Grant was not about to go looking for a fight in early April, certainly not before reinforcements arrived from Nashville in the form of the Army of the Ohio, and certainly not without orders from his superior,

Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck.

Thus Grant ordered his front line division commanders Sherman and Prentiss not to spark a fight, and they made sure their soldiers understood that directive. They sent orders reinforcing Grant's concern down the line and refused to act on intelligence coming up through the ranks.

As a result, not wanting to prematurely begin a battle, Federal skirmishers and pickets continually withdrew as the Confederates probed forward. Perhaps Sherman said it best when he noted in his report, "*On Saturday the enemy's cavalry was again very bold, coming well down to our front, yet I did not believe that he designed anything but a strong demonstration.*"

The lower echelon leadership was not all that convinced the fight would take place at Corinth, however. For days, brigade and regimental commanders had witnessed Confederates near their camps. Several patrols even went forward, but no major Confederate units were encountered.

Finally, on the night of April 5, one Union brigade commander took matters into his own hands. Sending out a patrol without authorization, Colonel Everett Peabody located the Confederate army at dawn on April 6. His tiny reconnaissance found the advance skirmishers of the Southern force less than a mile from the Union front. The Confederates promptly attacked, and the Battle of Shiloh began.

Because of Peabody's patrol, the Confederate advance was unmasked earlier than intended and farther out from the Union camps than projected. The resulting delay in the Confederate assault on the Union camps allowed the Army of the Tennessee to mobilize. Because of the warning, every single Union unit on the field met the Confederate assault coming from Corinth south, or in advance of, their camps. Peabody's patrol warned the army and thus prevented total tactical surprise at Shiloh.

MYTH: Benjamin Prentiss was the hero of Shiloh

For decades after the battle, Prentiss was hailed as the Federal officer who took it upon himself to send out a patrol that eventually uncovered the Confederate advance and gave early warning of the attack. Likewise, Prentiss was seen as the commander who, ordered by Grant to hold at all hazards, defended the Sunken Road and Hornet's Nest against numerous Confederate assaults. Prentiss withdrew only after the Confederates brought up 62 pieces of artillery that were organized as Ruggles' Battery. Finding himself surrounded, however, Prentiss surrendered the noble and brave remnants of his division. Before modern scholarship began to look at new sources and examine the facts, Prentiss' reputation grew until it reached icon status.

From: *The Hornet's Nest at Shiloh* (David Duncan): "*Prentiss' after-action report was glowing in terms of his own accomplishments. Historians through the years then accepted that report at face value, one even labeling a photo of Prentiss as the Hero of Shiloh. Shiloh National Military Park's long-running film Shiloh: Portrait of a Battle dramatically paints Prentiss as the chief defender the Union army had on April 6.*

In actuality, Prentiss was not as involved as legend has it. He did not send out the patrol on the morning of April 6. As mentioned earlier, one of his brigade commanders, Colonel Peabody, did so in defiance of Prentiss' orders. Prentiss rode to

Peabody's headquarters when he heard the firing and demanded to know what Peabody had done. When he found out, Prentiss told his subordinate he would hold him personally responsible for bringing on a battle and rode off in a huff.

Likewise, Prentiss was not the key defender of the Hornet's Nest, as the area adjacent to the Sunken Road came to be called. His division began the day with roughly 5,400 men, only to dwindle to 500 by 9:45 that morning. When Prentiss took his position in the Sunken Road, his numbers were nearly doubled by an arriving regiment, the 23rd Missouri. Prentiss had lost almost his entire division, and could not have held his second line without the veteran brigades of Brig. Gen. W.H.L. Wallace's division. It was primarily Wallace's troops who held the Hornet's Nest."

Prentiss was in an advantageous position to become a hero after the battle, however. Although he remained a prisoner for six months, he was able to tell his story. Peabody and Wallace were both dead from wounds received at Shiloh. Thus Prentiss took credit for their actions and became the hero of the fight.

Prentiss never even mentioned Peabody in his report, except to say that he commanded one of his brigades. Likewise, Wallace was not around to set the record straight as to whose troops actually defended the Sunken Road and Hornet's Nest. Prentiss, the only Federal officer who could get his own record out, thus benefitted from public exposure. In the process, he became the hero of Shiloh.

MYTH: Major General Don Carlos Buell's arrival saved Grant from defeat on April 6:

Many historians have argued that Grant's beaten army was saved only by the timely arrival of Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio near sundown on April 6. The common conception is that Grant's men had been driven back to the landing and were about to be defeated when the lead elements of Buell's army arrived, deployed in line and repelled the last Confederate assaults of the day.

The veterans of the various armies vehemently argued their cases after the war. Members of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee maintained that they had the battle under control at nightfall that first day, while their counterparts in the Society of the Army of the Cumberland (the successor to Buell's Army of the Ohio) argued with equal vigor that they had saved the day. Even Grant and Buell entered the fight when they wrote opposing articles for *Century Magazine* in the 1880s.

Grant claimed his army was in a strong position with heavy lines of infantry supporting massed artillery. His effort to trade space for time throughout the day of April 6 had worked; Grant had spent so much time in successive defensive positions that daylight was fading by the time the last Confederate assaults began, and he was convinced that his army

could handle those attacks.

Buell, on the other hand, painted a picture of a dilapidated Army of the Tennessee on the brink of defeat. Only his arrival with fresh columns of Army of the Ohio troops won the day. The lead brigade, commanded by Colonel Jacob Ammen, deployed on the ridge south of the landing and met the Confederate advance. In Buell's mind, Grant's troops could not have held without his army.

In reality, the Confederates probably had little hope of breaking Grant's last line. Situated on a tall ridge overlooking streams known as the Dill and Tilghman branches, Grant's forces, battered though they were, still had enough fight in them to hold their extremely strong position, especially since they had over 50 pieces of artillery in line. Likewise, the troops were massed in compact positions. Good interior lines of defense also helped, and two Federal gunboats fired on the Confederates from the river. Grant poured heavy fire into the Confederates from the front, flank and rear.

The Confederates never actually assaulted the Federal line, further damaging Buell's assertion. Only elements of four disorganized and exhausted Confederate brigades crossed the backwater in the Dill Branch ravine as gunboat shells flew through the air. Only two of those brigades undertook an assault; one without ammunition!

The Confederates topped the rise and faced a withering fire. They were convinced. Orders from Beauregard to withdraw did not have to be repeated.

In fact, only 12 companies of Buell's army crossed in time to deploy and become engaged. Grant had the situation well under control and could have fended off much larger numbers than actually encountered. While Buell's arrival did provide a morale boost and allowed Grant to take the the offensive the next morning. Grant had the battle situation under control by the time Buell arrived.

MYTH: The South would have won had Beauregard not called off the assaults:

For many years after the battle, former Confederates castigated General Beauregard for his actions at Shiloh. Their main complaint was that the army commander, having taken charge of the Confederate forces after Johnston's death, called off the final Confederate assaults on the evening of April 6. Many argued that the Confederates had victory within their grasp and needed only one last effort to destroy Grant's army. Beauregard, however, called off his Southern boys and thus threw away a victory. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth.

The controversy had its beginnings while the war still raged. Corps commanders Maj. Gens. William J. Hardee and Braxton Bragg later pounced on Beauregard for calling off the attacks, even though their immediate post-battle correspondence said nothing derogatory about their commander. After the war ended, Southerners began to argue that being outnumbered and outproduced industrially were reasons for their defeat, and also blamed the battle deaths of leaders like Johnston and Stonewall Jackson. Another key element in their argument, however, was poor leadership on the part of certain generals such as James Longstreet at Gettysburg (of course it did not help that Longstreet turned his back on the solidly Democratic South and went Republican after the war) and Beauregard at Shiloh. The

sum of all those parts became known as the *Lost Cause*.

Hardee, Bragg and thousands of other former Confederates argued after the war that Beauregard threw away the victory. Beauregard does bear some blame, but not for making the wrong decision to end the attacks, he made the right decision but for all the wrong reasons.

The general made his decision far behind his front lines, an area completely awash with stragglers and wounded. No wonder Beauregard argued that his army was so disorganized that he needed to call a halt.

Similarly, Beauregard acted on faulty intelligence. He received word that Buell's reinforcements were not arriving at Pittsburg Landing. One of Buell's divisions was in Alabama, but unfortunately for Beauregard, five were actually en route to Pittsburg Landing. Based on such spotty intelligence, Beauregard thought he could finish Grant the next morning.

In the end, the decision to call a halt was the right thing to do. Taking into account the terrain, Union reinforcements and Confederate tactical ability at the time, the Confederates probably would not have broken Grant's final line of defense, much less destroyed the Union army. The castigated Creole did not throw away a victory, he merely put himself in a position to be blamed for the defeat already transpiring.

MYTH: The South would have won the battle had Johnston lived:

According to legend, Johnston's death caused a lull in the battle on the critical Confederate right, which slowed progress toward Pittsburg Landing. Just as important, Johnston's death placed Beauregard in command, who ultimately called off the attacks. The result of both cause and effect situations led to Confederate defeat.

To drive the point home, the United Daughters of the Confederacy placed an elaborate memorial at Shiloh in 1917, with Johnston as the centerpiece and death symbolically taking the laurel wreath of victory away from the South. Even modern scholars have sometimes taken this line of reasoning. Johnston biographer Charles Roland has argued in two different books that Johnston would have succeeded and won the battle had he lived. Roland claims that just because Beauregard failed did not mean Johnston would have. His superior leadership qualities, Roland concludes, could have allowed Johnston to spur the tired Confederate troops onward to victory.

Such a theory of certain victory fails to take many factors into account:

First, there was no lull in the battle on the Confederate right because Johnston fell. A continuous rate of fire was not sustainable for several reasons, mostly logistics; ordnance departments could not keep thousands of soldiers supplied to fire constantly. Most Civil War battles were stop-and-go actions, with assaults, retreats and counterattacks. Shiloh's wooded

