

First Newsletter:

First With The Most is published by the General Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp 215, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Memphis, Tn. Articles may be reprinted with permission.

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Address Changes :

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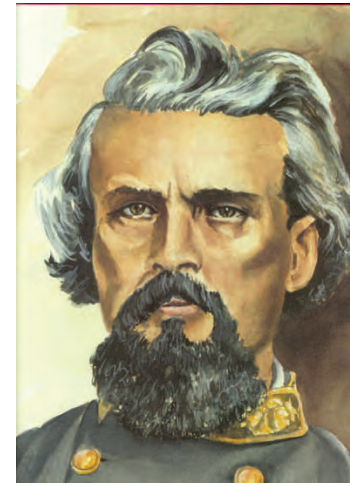
Forrest Camp Honor Roll :

Riley Gunter—still alive and kickin’; Member for **50 yrs.** Joined June 3, 1959. (who is so old that he witnessed the original secession debates)

Ed Williams — 44 years
Reb Jensen — 40 yrs.
Dick Arwood — 40 yrs.
Alan Doyle — 40 yrs.
Henry Posey — 34 yrs.
Lee Millar — 24 yrs.

SCV War Service Medal Recipients :

Harvey Ambrose
Barry Appling Dan Bowden
M. Gibbons
Larry Harris Bill Halliday
Fred Lincoln Mike Maybry
Buddy McCartney Lee Millar
Ralph Phillips John Shelton
Vaughn Short Jerry Sides
Fall Taylor Jerry Thompson
Frank Trafford Gary Webb
Frank Whitney
John T. Wilkinson



First With the Most

N. B. Forrest Camp 215
Formed June 1900, Chartered March 27, 1901
2003, 2008 Camp of the Year
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Editor Lee Millar, P.O. Box 11141, Memphis, Tennessee 38111

www.forrestcamp215.org



Volume 110 Issue 6

June 2009

SCV Life Members: (75)

Philip Alston	Alan Doyle	George Jensen	Lee Millar	Joe Skelley	Inactive:
Barry Appling	Dave Eason	Steven Johnson	Richard Millar	Don Strait	Mike Adair
Keith Appling	John Ellis	Mott Jones	Steve Miller	Jack Smith	David Archie
Stan Armstrong	Austin Fennell	Sydney Kent	Danny Mohundro	Steven Smith	Richard Archie
Joe Bagley	H. P. Ferrell	Chuck Laminack	Glyn R. Moore	William Taylor	Patrick Archie
Bruce Barnes	Malcolm Gibbons	Mark Lawrence	Jesse Noe	Jerry Thompson	James Kaylor
Jim Barnes	Gordon Gold, Jr.	Fred Lincoln	James Poe, Jr.	Greg Todd	Brandon McCartney
Wilson Barton	Tim Goodwin	Richard Liptock	Henry Posey	Preston Todd	Daniel McCartney
Larry Berry	David Halle	Ferrell Marks	Greg Richardson	Frank Trafford	Ben McLean
Jim Brown	Andrew Harris	Knox Martin	J.R. Sandefer	David Williams	Deceased:
Aubrey Carrington, Jr.	Larry Harris	Merrell Maybery	R. D. Sandefer	Tom Williams	Glenn Millar, Jr
Charles Chandler	George Hearn	Buddy McCartney	Richard Shekey	John T. Young	Dick Wolff
John Cothorn	David Hoxie	Alex McCollum	John Shelton		
	Fraser Humphreys	Casey Millar	John Shepherd		

First With The Most

N. B. Forrest Camp 215
Sons of Confederate Veterans
P.O. Box 11141
Memphis, TN 38111
C.S.A.



Postage

Gold Award Winner
Tennessee Division
Best Newsletter 2009
Best Newsletter 2006
Best Newsletter 2005
Best Newsletter 2004
Best Newsletter 2003
Silver Award Winner
Best Newsletter 2002
Best Newsletter 1999
Best Newsletter 1996

First Class Mail
Dated Material

June meeting:

everyone —

“The Annual Secession Debates”

Thursday, June 11, 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Colonial Park Meth. Church

5330 Park Ave.
Park Ave. @ Estate

Our June meeting program will feature our annual Secession Debates to determine whether Tennessee should secede from the Union, and ultimately join the newly-formed Confederate States of America.

Come hear the debates. Various campmembers and others will portray people of the time and argue FOR or AGAINST Secession. You can play a part, if you wish, or join in from the audience. It promises to be an eventful evening. Weapons are to be left at the door, but verbal abuse is strictly encouraged. All may participate.

Come hear Parson Brownlow, Bedford Forrest, Bushrod Johnson, Andrew Johnson, and others.

Please bring a friend, the family, and feel free to invite a recruit!



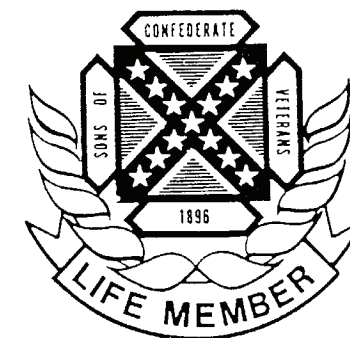
“The Bonnie Blue flag”,

called the Secession Flag.

Does Tennessee secede ?

You decide, June 11.

Become an SCV Life Member:



Please Join Us : annual SCV new member dues for the year are \$65.00. Make check payable to:
N. B. Forrest Camp 215
P.O. Box 11141
Memphis, TN 38111

Dates to Remember :

2009

June
3 Confederate Decoration Day & Pres. Jefferson Davis birthday
7 Elmwood Cemetery, 2pm
Memphis CS Remembrance Day
11 **Camp meeting & Secession Party**
13-14 reenactment, Battle of Brice’s Crossroads, MS
20 Forrest Boyhood Home bbq
Chapel Hill, TN

July
9 **Camp meeting**
11 Forrest Seminar
12 **Forrest Birthday Celebration**
22-25 SCV Nat’l Reunion,
Hot Springs, AR

From the Commander:

The Camp's Annual Tennessee Secession Debate and Party will be this month's meeting. Our characters will be in costume, and many of you will be able to take part from the audience as well. Compatriot **David Eason** is our chairperson and he has again thought of ways to make it different. Come and see what you think. Of course, it is still a party, with desserts to share. Bring your sense of humor with you when you come. After the debate portion of the meeting, we have some important proposals to present to the Camp.

The Camp Endowment Committee met and discussed several proposals to bring before the Camp Members as future projects for the Camp funding. We will do that at this meeting. We will ask you to vote as to whether you want to proceed. That is another important reason to attend our meeting.

We will have a special recognition ceremony for **Riley Gunter**. This meeting will mark Riley's 50-year anniversary as a member of the SCV and the N. B. Forrest Camp. Not many of us make it to that membership milestone, so it truly is cause for celebration.

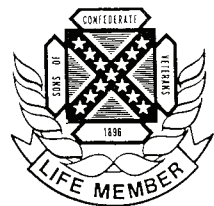
Lt. Commander **Alan Doyle** gave the program at our last month's meeting. It was on the "Memphis Appeal Battery goes to War". If you missed it, you missed an extremely interesting, well-researched and presented program. It was on a topic in which we can relate because it happened in our area of the country, about a newspaper still in existence.

Also at our last meeting, we introduced our newly appointed Camp Chaplain, Compatriot **Mitch Dunn**. He is an ordained Methodist minister who works in the Shelby County Sheriff's Office as Chaplain Coordinator. He also works for Mid-America Baptist Seminary as Associate Pastor. We are pleased that he has taken on the responsibility of Chaplain and we look forward to working with him in our many Camp activities.

Our Forrest Seminar and General Forrest Birthday Celebration plans are going well. At the last meeting, we formed a committee made up of Chairman **Lee Millar, Fred Lincoln, Alan Doyle, Steven Johnson, Knox Martin, Robert Or-rand, and Sam Miller**. Mark these two events into your schedule. They will take place on Saturday July 11 and Sunday July 12. The Forrest Seminar will have several speakers and will take place in the Scottish Rite Auditorium. There is also a bus tour of Forrest's Raid on Memphis sites and a concert by the 52nd. String Band planned. There is a \$45.00 ticket cost for this event. The Forrest Birthday Celebration will be on Sunday at 2pm in the Park at the General's Statue as we have done for many years. There is no cost for that and we will have free watermelon courtesy of the Tennessee Division. Our guest speaker this year will be Bertram Hayes-Davis. These events described in detail are in the enclosed flyers.

Come on in, join us, and bring a friend. I will see you there.

Fred Lincoln, Commander
N. B. Forrest Camp 215, felincoln@earthlink.net



Put the Forrest Camp in your Will.

Camp News —

Welcome new members:

Mitch Dunn
Michael Sheffield

Our Camp continues to grow, thanks to your recruiting. Keep up the good work. Invite one more person to the next meeting.

Patriot Recruiters: members who have recruited at least one new member this year:

Alan Doyle Lee Millar Dave Eason
Knox Martin Sam Moore Greg Todd
Tom Williams, Sr. Mark Castellaw
John Ellis Randy Hendon Perry Short
John Wilkinson Sam Miller

Camp Officers :

Commander Fred Lincoln
h 466-1159

1st Lt Cdr. - Alan Doyle
h 454-7139

2nd Lt. Cdr Steven Johnson
h 217-8038

Adjutant - Knox Martin
h 685-8827

Chaplain Dave Eason
h 372-9310

Color Sgt. Paladen Harris
c 496-1226

Judge Advocate - Jack Smith
h 292-5225

Heritage Chmn Mott Jones
h 363-2031

Archivist Knox Martin
h 685-8827

Genealogist Knox Martin
h 901-685-8827

Public Affairs - Randy Hendon
h 761-3960

Sergeant at Arms Buddy McCartney
h 324-7893

School Programs Chrm Greg Todd
h 685-6678

Newsletter Editor Lee Millar
h 550-5772 o 545-3364

Historian Alan Doyle
h 454-7139; o 454-7139

Surgeon - Dr. Mark Castellaw
h 755-9797

Webmaster—Cheryl Wilkinson CPS
o 380-7041

Notice is doesn't say anything about slavery...

State of Tennessee

Ordinance of Secession

Declaration of independence and ordinance dissolving the federal relations between the State of Tennessee and the United States of America.

First. We the people of the State of Tennessee, waiving any expression of opinion as to the abstract doctrine of secession, but asserting the right, as a free and independent people, to alter, reform, or abolish, our form of Government in such manner as we think proper, do ordain and declare that all the laws and ordinances by which the State of Tennessee became a member of the Federal Union of the United States of America, are hereby abrogated and annulled and that all obligations on our part be withdrawn therefrom; and we do hereby resume all the rights, functions, and powers, which by any of said laws and ordinances were conveyed to the Government of the United States, and absolve ourselves from all the obligations, restraints, and duties incurred thereto; and do hereby henceforth become free, sovereign and independent State.

Second. We furthermore declare and ordain that Article 10, sections 1 and 2 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, which requires members of the General Assembly, and all officers, civil, and military, to take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States be, and the same are hereby abrogated and annulled; and all parts of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, making citizenship of the United States a qualification for office, and recognizing the Constitution of the United States as the supreme law of this State, are in like manner abrogated and annulled.

Third. We furthermore ordain and declare, that all rights acquired and vested under the Constitution of the United States, or under any act of Congress passed in pursuance thereof, or under any laws of this State, and not incompatible with this ordinance, shall remain in force, and have the same effect as if this ordinance had not been passed.
May 6, 1861

From The Files Of Alan Doyle
Camp Historian

Saturday June 8, 1861 was a momentous day in Tennessee history. Locally, headlines in *The Memphis Daily Appeal* newspaper the following day read: "Shelby County Votes Overwhelmingly For Separation From Union And Casting State's Lot With Confederacy." By this time ten other Southern States had already seceded. The Confederate States of America had an elected President and Vice-President, written their own constitution and begun printing their own currency.

In February 1861, Tennessee's electorate had voted against secession and the calling for a sovereignty convention. After the firing on Fort Sumter, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the so-called "rebellion" by the Southern States. U.S. Secretary of War Simon Cameron sent requests to the Governors of all States to answer the call. On April 17, 1861 Tennessee's Governor Isham G. Harris replied stating: "Tennessee will not furnish a single man for the purpose of coercion, but 50,000 if necessary for the defense of our rights and those of our Southern brothers."

In early 1861, state-appointed "Secession Commissioners" traveled throughout the South, carrying a fervent message. Their goal was to persuade the political leadership and the citizenry of the uncommitted Southern States to join the new Confederacy. Their message included constitutional justification for secession. They pointed out the number of political outrages committed by the North in the decades prior to Lincoln's election. They avowed the 1860 election of a Republican President proved the commitment on the North's part to destroy the Southern way of life and it's economy.

Two such "apostles of secession" were Thomas J. Wharton of Mississippi and Leroy P. Walker of Alabama. These two gentlemen were assigned to Tennessee and were sent to convert the unconverted to the secession cause. Governor Harris was already a strong proponent for separation, so the commissioners concentrated their efforts on the State legislature. *The Memphis Daily Appeal* was certainly doing its part for the secession movement. For weeks prior to the special referendum, the *Appeal's* editorials ardently supported the plan for Tennessee to withdraw from the Union, align itself with the Confederate States and "abandon the old flag."

The Tennessee General Assembly met in a Legislative Convention in Nashville on May 6, 1861 and voted to put a Secession referendum before the people. On Saturday June 8th the voters overwhelmingly said "yes" to Secession. The vote was 102,172 for, and 47,238 against. On June 24th the vote was ratified and Governor Harris issued a proclamation declaring, "all connections by the State of Tennessee with the Federal Union dissolved." The actual document was titled: ***Ordinance Of Separation And Representation And Military League With The Confederate States.*** And so it was that Tennessee became a State in the Southern Confederacy.

The Volunteer State provided the following as its contribution to the Confederate war effort: 7 Infantry Battalions, 69 Infantry Regiments, 24 Cavalry Battalions, 37 Cavalry Regiments, 1 Heavy Artillery Battalion, 1 Heavy Artillery Regiment, and 32 Light Artillery Batteries, with an aggregate strength of 186,652 officers and enlisted men.

[Editor's note: Below continues a new feature of our newsletter, compiled by camp Adjutant Knox Martin]

From the Pages of the Confederate Veteran

VOLUME VII, February, 1899

CHARACTERISTIC LETTER FROM A COMRADE.

Few things can give so much genuine pleasure to a veteran as to find an old comrade whom he thought dead. To have fought side by side for a common cause, and to have parted in the melancholy of defeat, then to have met many years later in the quietude of home, is an inexpressible pleasure. This is touchingly illustrated in a letter to Captain George C. Norton of Louisville, Kentucky, from his old Confederate comrade, Mr. Lamar Fontaine, of Mississippi. Captain Norton supposed his friend had long ago answered to the "last roll," and discovered him recently quite by accident. In reply to a letter from Capt. Norton, Mr. Fontaine wrote from Lynn, Miss.:

"Your kind and friendly letter came O.K. As the years creep by my heart grows warmer, and my love stronger, for the dear old boys who wore the gray in the times that tried men's souls in the bloody days when you and I were in our prime; and when I sit in the quiet of my little cabin home, and let my thoughts steal back down memory's vale, and hear old Joe Sweeney's banjo ring, and see J.E.B. Stuart's eye twinkle with a mellow light, I feel gay and happy for a while. Again I follow "Stonewall" from Winchester to Romney on that fearful winter raid. I see him again moving slowly up the valley with Fremont and Shields, and their legions of foreign hirelings growling in his rear; and in the swiftly changing kaleidoscope of thought I live through those fearful struggles of those bloody days. I see the pale forms of my comrades and companions in the gloomy walls of Fort Delaware, and on Morris Island in Charleston harbor, and that fearful ordeal of Fort Pulaski, where we had to live forty-one days on spoiled corn meal and pickles; I can feel the terrible pains that racked my frame and the scurvy and dysentery reduced me to a skeleton; but I try to hide these terrors, that come now at times like hideous nightmares.

"I am now in my seventieth year, and thank my Creator that I am yet able, with a clear, unclouded brain, to pursue my loved profession, and, by dint of hard work, to keep the wolf from my door, and at times to help those who are poorer in worldly gear than I. My wounds at times are painful, but I grow more callous and get more used to them."

Historical Note:

President Jefferson Davis, to the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States of America:

April 29, 1861

The declaration of War made against this Confederacy by Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States, in his proclamation issued on the 15th of the present month, rendered it necessary, in my judgment, that you should convene at the earliest practicable moment to devise the measures necessary for the defense of the country (South).

SCV News:

SCV Membership

The SCV currently has 29,004 members including 45 Real Sons and 3410 Life Members plus an additional 335 cadet members 86 Friends of the SCV. Please vigorously recruit new members and encourage current members to make the commitment to be long term members.

Hot Springs AR Reunion

The 114th SCV annual general reunion/convention will be held from July 22 through 25, 2009 at the Arlington Hotel, 239 Central Ave, Hot Springs AR 71901, (800) 643-1502. The registration fee is only \$70 which includes a name badge, a reunion medal, program and discount tickets to rides and attractions in Hot Springs. Please go to the convention site, <http://scv2009reunion.com/> for more details on the many wonderful opportunities that will be available for your entertainment in this historic resort city. Don't delay your registration.

New SCV Recruiting Awards

The GEC has approved two new recruiting awards effective August 1, 2008. The David O. Dodd Award recognizes members who contribute greatly to the SCV's long term goals by recruiting new members who are age 18 or younger. The cut off date will be applications post-marked as of July 1, 2009 and each subsequent year. An application with more detail may be retrieved at this link: <http://www.scv.org/pdf/dodd.pdf> The General Jo Shelby Award recognizes any member who reinstates at least five dues delinquent former members during the year with the cut off date again being correspondence postmarked NLT July 1, 2009 and each subsequent year. An application with more detail may be obtained at this link: <http://www.scv.org/pdf/shelby.pdf>

2009 NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST SEMINAR & HISTORICAL CONFERENCE

"Forrest — Hero in Controversy"

Sponsored by
Tennessee Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
and the
N. B. Forrest Camp 215, SCV, Memphis

Saturday, July 11, 2009

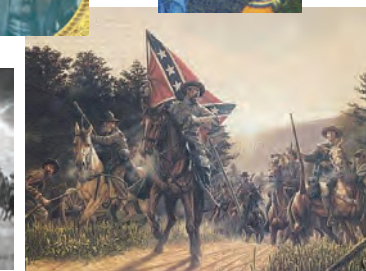
Scottish Rite Auditorium
825 Union Ave, Memphis, TN
Across the street from Forrest Park



Special guest appearance by Hon. Bertram Hayes-Davis,
great grandson of President Jefferson Davis

Schedule / Topics

- 9:00 — Welcome by General N. B. Forrest (Steve McIntyre)
- 9:30 — Forrest's early years; Gunfight at Hernando Square
- 10:15 — Ft. Pillow and northern propaganda
- 11:00 — Black Confederates & Combat with Forrest's Escort
- 11:45 — Lunch
- 1:00 — Brice's Crossroads: "Keep the skeer on 'em"
- 2:00 — Ku Klux society
- 3:00 — Bus Tour: Forrest's Raid on Memphis



*** All of this (seminar, meal, tour) for one fee of \$45.00 ***

Plus: 188th anniversary Forrest Birthday Celebration,
Sunday, July 12, 2:00pm, at Forrest Park

Accommodations: Red Roof Inn, \$59.95, Ask for SCV discount rate
1/4 mi east, 42 S. Camilla, Memphis, 38104, 901-526-1050, (I-240 @ Union Ave/Madison Ave, exit #30)

Mail your \$45 check to: Forrest Seminar 09, PO Box 11141, Memphis, TN 38111
For more info, contact Lee Millar, Lmillar1@yahoo.com, 901-545-3364

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____