



# TRAVELLER

Award Winning Publication of the General Robert E. Lee  
Camp, #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, TN

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

DEO VINDICE!

**December, 2015**



**CAMP MEETING**  
**December 14, 2014**



**CAMP CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

**7:00 p.m. at the home of Arthur Oliver**  
**8863 Calkins Hill Cove**  
**Germantown, TN**

**Don't miss the party!**



## **A CONFEDERATE SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS LETTER HOME**

From: Tally Simpson, Camp near Fredricksburg  
To: Anna Simpson  
Camp near Fred'burg  
Dec 25th, 1862

My dear Sister

This is Christmas Day. The sun shines feebly through a thin cloud, the air is mild and pleasant, [and] a gentle breeze is making music through the leaves of the lofty pines that stand near our bivouac. All is quiet and still, and that very stillness recalls some sad and painful thoughts.

This day, one year ago, how many thousand families, gay and joyous, celebrating Merry Christmas, drinking health to absent members of their family, and sending upon the wings of love and affection long, deep, and sincere wishes for their safe return to the loving ones at home, but today are clad in the deepest mourning in memory to some lost and loved member of their circle. If all the dead (those killed since the war began) could be heaped in one pile and all the wounded be gathered together in one group, the pale faces of the dead and the groans of the wounded would send such a thrill of horror through the hearts of the originators of this war that their very souls would rack with such pain that they would prefer being dead and in torment than to stand before God with such terrible crimes blackening their characters. Add to this the cries and wailings of the mourners - mothers and fathers weeping for their sons, sisters for their brothers, wives for their husbands, and daughters for their fathers - [and] how deep would be the convictions of their consciences.

Yet they do not seem to think of the affliction and distress they are scattering broadcast over the land. When will this war end? Will another Christmas roll around and find us all wintering in camp? Oh! That peace may soon be restored to our young but dearly beloved country and that we may all meet again in happiness.

But enough of these sad thoughts. We went on picket in town a few days ago. The pickets of both armies occupy the same positions now as they did before the battle. Our regt was quartered in the market place while the others occupied stores and private houses. I have often read of sacked and pillaged towns in ancient history, but never, till I saw Fredricksburg, did I fully realize what one was. The houses, especially those on the river, are riddled with shell and ball. The stores have been broken open and deprived of every thing that was worth a shilling. Account books and notes and letters and papers both private and public were taken from their proper

places and scattered over the streets and trampled under feet. Private property was ruined. Their soldiers would sleep in the mansions of the wealthy and use the articles and food in the house at their pleasure. Several houses were destroyed by fire. Such a wreck and ruin I never wish to see again.

Yet notwithstanding all this, the few citizens who are now in town seem to be cheerful and perfectly resigned. Such true patriots are seldom found. This will ever be a noted place in history.

While we were there, Brig Genl Patrick, U.S.A., with several of his aides-de-camp, came over under flag of truce. Papers were exchanged, and several of our men bought pipes, gloves, &c from the privates who rowed the boat across. They had plenty of liquor and laughed, drank, and conversed with our men as if they had been friends from boyhood.

There is nothing new going on. I am almost dead to hear from home. I have received no letters in nearly three weeks, and you can imagine how anxious I am. The mails are very irregular. I hope to get a letter soon. Dunlap Griffin is dead, died in Richmond of wounds received in the last battle. Capt Hance is doing very well. Frank Fleming is in bad condition. (He has been elected lieutenant since he left.)

Write to me quick right off. I wish to hear from you badly. Remember me to my friends and relatives, especially the Pickens and Lignons. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Your bud

Tally

Pres Hix cam for the remains of Nap his brother and Johnnie Garlington yesterday and will take them to Richmond today. They will be carried on home immediately. Tell Aunt Caroline Jim is getting on finely. Howdy to all the negros. I have received the bundle of clothes sent to Columbia. The bundle contained one shirt, one scarf, and two pairs of socks. At least I suppose it is the one you sent to Col[umbia] to be sent to Barnwell at Richmond. I am a thousand times obliged. When is Harry coming? Oh! that peace may soon be restored to our young but dearly beloved country and that we may all meet again in happiness.

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### **REMINDER – CAMP CHRISTMAS PARTY**

It's that time again, and this year's Camp Christmas Party is right around the corner.

The Camp will provide meats. We will ask the members attending to bring side items and desserts.

This year's party will be at the home of Arthur Oliver, 8863 Calkins Hill Cv in Germantown on our regularly scheduled meeting night which is Monday Dec. 14, 7:00 PM. Please be sure to get this on your calendars and plan to attend. We will minimize the program and presentation to make this a time of fellowship, hand out some awards, and to recognize our new members whether we have certificates or not. So everybody please plan to attend. This is a potluck event so if everybody can bring a side dish or dessert that would be great. Let's break it out alphabetically, seems that works best:

A - G - Fruit or vegetable side dish or salad

H - Q - Pasta, potatoes, stuffing, other starches

R - Z - Desserts

Please be sure to RSVP so we know how much meat and other we need to provide. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

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### **LEE-JACKSON-CHALMERS BANQUET**

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, Jan. 23. This year's Lee-Jackson-Chalmers Banquet will be that evening, 6:00 PM at a new location.

Hillwood Hall, Davies Manor Plantation  
3570 Davieshire Dr.  
Bartlett, TN

Our featured speaker this year will be Al Arnold, whose 3G Grandfather was one of Gen. Lee's orderlies, specifically took care of Traveller. He has written a book about this so his family understands their history, and will be speaking to us at the meeting and will have copies of his book for sale so be sure to bring extra cash. This promises to be very interesting reading. More on Al Arnold is available at [www.orderlyforlee.com](http://www.orderlyforlee.com).

Tickets are \$30 each, and they will be available for purchase at each of our next two meetings. Location is decided, menus are not at this time but we should have that worked out soon. Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible so we can turn in a good head count for food and table settings. It does appear that we will be experiencing a moderate cost increase, so we need as close a count as possible. Therefore, ticket sales will end after our January meeting. Our goal is to sell out at 150 in attendance.

Also, this would probably be a very appropriate time to be thinking about items for our silent auction. They don't have to be anything necessarily relating to Confederate History, but also try to remember that this is not a flea market. Please consider donating

items of value, that you would buy at such an event. Do NOT clean out your garage and bring everything you don't want, save that for Goodwill or something. However, if you see something or have something, such as an uncommon book, old bottle of Scotch, flag that flew in a place of historical significance, that sort of thing, we would look for that, so please donate what you can. Because of the new location and catering situation, it does look like our cost to put the event on is increasing, so every dollar counts.

Hope to see you all there!!

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### **THIS MONTH IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY**



Dec. 6 – Gen. John S. Mosby born, 1833

Dec. 6 – President Jefferson Davis dead, 1889

Dec. 13 – Battle of Fredericksburg, 1862

Dec. 13 – Ft. McAllister surrenders, 1864

Dec. 15-16 – Battle of Nashville

Dec. 20 – South Carolina secedes, 1860

Dec. 31- Jan. 2 – Second Battle of Murfreesboro (Stones River), 1863

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Beecher Smith

**CONFEDERATE GEN. EARL VAN DORN:  
THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY**  
(continued from last month's Traveller)



In studying the life of Earl Van Dorn (September 17, 1820 - May 7, 1863), one must conclude that he was nothing if not colorful.

Unfortunately, like so many other great men, he was deeply

flawed. Today we might say that if we could buy him for what he was worth, then sell him for what he thought he was worth, all our financial problems would be over for the rest of our lives. Part II of his story begins here, continued from last month's article.

After Van Dorn's defeat at Pea Ridge, he was transferred to the Army of Mississippi. As he left the state, adding insult to injury, he took the vast majority of troops with him, effectively stripping Arkansas of valuable military resources. This left his replacement, Major General Thomas C. Hindman, with the tremendous task of rebuilding Arkansas defenses with no firm foundation.

Van Dorn led the attack on the important rail center of Corinth, Mississippi, attempting to retake the city on October 3-4, 1862. Defended by Union general William S. Rosecrans, Van Dorn produced a successful first day of combat. However, exhaustion and a lack of water prevented his men from cracking the Union position on the second day. Due to his poor performance at Corinth, Van Dorn was court-martialed for neglect of duty, but he was not found guilty. After his costly defeats at Pea Ridge and Corinth, Van Dorn's embittered troops gave him a nickname: "Damn Born."

When Confederate general John C. Pemberton arrived in Mississippi, he was promoted over Van Dorn. No longer the senior commander, Van Dorn was placed in command of cavalry in the Army of Mississippi. Using his past experiences with rapid attacks, Van Dorn won a stunning victory at Holly Springs, Mississippi, in December 1862, capturing 1,500 soldiers and destroying at least \$1,500,000 worth of supplies. Despite this achievement, Van Dorn would never be trusted with an army command again. He was demoted to command the Army of Tennessee's cavalry, at which he proved to be much more capable, seriously disrupting Ulysses S. Grant's campaign against Vicksburg all through the winter of 1862-63. He would hold this position until his death--which came under unusual circumstances for a general. Van Dorn won an additional victory in March 1863 when his forces decimated a Federal brigade at Thompson's Station, Tennessee.

In addition to his military prowess (which was a mixed bag), Van Dorn was renowned for a number of other talents, including horsemanship, poetry, painting, and especially womanizing. His reputation for the latter was particularly infamous, and ultimately proved fatal. He carried on an affair with Jessie McKissack Peters, of Maury County,

Tennessee, the young and attractive wife of Dr James Bodie Peters. On May 7, 1863, the cuckolded Dr Peters gained access to Van Dorn's headquarters at Spring Hill, Tennessee, and shot Van Dorn to death, claiming that the general had "violated the sanctity of his home," meaning that Peters believed Van Dorn had had an affair with his wife. While rumors had circulated that Van Dorn had engaged in such activities in the past, his friends denied the claims.

The details of the killing are shrouded in mystery. Some versions have Van Dorn writing a pass for Dr. Peters when he was shot. Other versions suggest there had been no illicit affair, and Peters was simply a Federal sympathizer acting for political reasons or profit. In any case, the shot was instantly fatal, depriving the Confederacy of a decent cavalry officer, Mrs. Van Dorn of her husband, Jessie Peters of a lover and the general himself of the opportunity to redeem his reputation in the field.

Peters was arrested but escaped prosecution, claiming, as stated earlier, that Van Dorn had "violated the sanctity of his home." This was an offense the South could not forgive, and the Southern press was brutal in its condemnation. "It is a happy riddance," the Atlanta Confederacy trumpeted. "He was unfit to live." And according to the Montgomery Weekly Advertiser, "The impression around Spring Hill is that Van Dorn was rightly killed." The Advertiser goes on to say that Mrs. Peters—on hearing of Van Dorn's death—exclaimed that "she was a widow indeed, as her husband had fled, and her sweetheart was dead." The couple did, in fact, divorce, but later reconciled.

Earl Van Dorn was buried at Port Gibson, Mississippi.

In an age of flamboyance and gallantry, one author compares Van Dorn with several of his peers on both sides of the conflict and that seems the best note on which to end this article:

"The Civil War was fought in an age when flair counted for nearly as much in society as character—and a number of generals outdid themselves. The North had Custer. With his starred sailor's blouse, silk cravat and broad-brimmed hat, the "boy general" cut an unmistakable figure. But for sheer flamboyance, no one outdid the soldiers of the romantic South. Many, including J.E.B. Stuart, John Hunt Morgan and the diminutive "Gray Ghost" John Singleton Mosby, affected the appearance of the beau sabreur. George Pickett's curly locks were so heavily perfumed that the scent was said to precede him into a room. But the pantheon of cavalier dandies would

not be complete without General Earl Van Dorn. What he lacked in height—he stood only 5 feet 5 inches tall—he more than compensated for in overweening self-satisfaction. A fine horseman and self-styled poet and painter, Van Dorn cultivated his appearance to reflect his talents. A photograph of Van Dorn shows a reasonably handsome man with styled pomaded hair, a flowing mustache and collar, and velvet cape and waistcoat. The portrait suggests Lord Byron rather than a professional soldier—an image cultivated to further his other main interest: Married though he was, Van Dorn loved the ladies, and apparently it didn't matter whether they were already spoken for. One Vicksburg reporter branded him "the terror of ugly husbands and serious papas." Ultimately, the womanizing proved the general's undoing."

Ron Soodalter, <http://www.historynet.com/murder-in-the-civil-war.htm>  
7/07/2010.

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### **HERITAGE ATTACK OF THE MONTH**



Ron White has famously said, "You can't fix stupid."

Newspaper writer who can only post on a blog Gerald Ensley said

"Stupidity exists when facts and knowledge are readily available that would correct your willful ignorance of them and you purposely ignore that information." Probably closer to accuracy at least for our purposes here, was our own Gen. Robert E. Lee, who said "A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday does not know where it is today."

This month, we are treated to Nachitoches, LA banning their SCV Camps from participation in their Christmas parade. Roanoke, VA is considering similar action. We have Middle Tennessee State wanting to rename Forrest Hall, and Vanderbilt is trying again to find a way to rename Confederate Hall. In New Orleans, they want to remove Gen. Lee's statue and others. No, not even close. This month, we have college students at the University of Missouri getting counseling because they were exposed to a Battle Flag. Really? Counseling? These people are unbelievable, and guess what? They are the people who will be in corporate management,

who will be politicians and government leaders – at least the ones who have some leadership skills. The rest, well .... They will be unemployed because their aforementioned peers will drive their companies and their governments straight down the tube. And since the \$15 per hour crowd will have McDonalds staffed by robots and Ipads, well... Mom and Dad, get ready.

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## **HERITAGE COUNTERATTACK OF THE MONTH**



It's very encouraging to see the people standing up against these continual attacks on our heritage. All across the country, and in particular all across the South, people are standing up and saying "NO" to those who would dare to take our heritage and erase our history. We have South Carolina State Representative Chris Corley sending out a Christmas Card to his colleagues with a photo of the Battle Flag flying proudly and defiantly in front of the Statehouse with a message that says "May your Christmas be filled with memories of a happier time when South Carolina's leaders possessed morals, convictions and the principles to stand for what is right. May you have a blessed Christmas, and may you take this joyous time as an opportunity to ask for forgiveness of all your sins such as betrayal." Corley (this guy should run for Governor) then filed a bill in the House that would put the Battle Flag back in front of the State House by a vote of the people! God bless him.

I could say that while all of the above is going on in other places, in particular banning of the flag from parades, that the 51<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Infantry, led by Lee Millar, marched in the number 14 position in the Collierville Christmas parade and enthralled the crowd along Byhalia Road with its military bearing and musket fire, all while the brand new color bearer of the 154<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry, Tyler Corbin led the march carrying the Battle Flag of the 51<sup>st</sup>. Cheers from the crowd, not one negative comment was heard, and the 51<sup>st</sup> was awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy.

No, sadly this month's attacks have been overshadowed by horrific acts of terrorism in France and in California and on a lesser scale in other places. However, there were some good things that still made

news and while they were not necessarily attacks on Southern Heritage, they are still counterattacks to this whiny, entitlement minded minority of students in our university system. The best one is from a teacher at UNC Wilmington, and I've posted it below. This is an excerpt from this teacher's first lecture on the first day of classes and here's what he had to say, and there are several points that we can use when encountering similar people and situations:

Welcome back to class, students! I am Mike Adams your criminology professor here at UNC-Wilmington. Before we get started with the course I need to address an issue that is causing problems here at UNCW and in higher education all across the country. I am talking about the growing minority of students who believe they have a right to be free from being offended. If we don't reverse this dangerous trend in our society there will soon be a majority of young people who will need to walk around in plastic bubble suits to protect them in the event that they come into contact with a dissenting viewpoint. That mentality is unworthy of an American. It's hardly worthy of a Frenchman.

Let's get something straight right now. You have no right to be unoffended. You have a right to be offended with regularity. It is the price you pay for living in a free society. If you don't understand that you are confused and dangerously so. In part, I blame your high school teachers for failing to teach you basic civics before you got your diploma. Most of you went to the public high schools, which are a disaster. Don't tell me that offended you. I went to a public high school.

Of course, your high school might not be the problem. It is entirely possible that the main reason why so many of you are confused about free speech is that piece of paper hanging on the wall right over there. Please turn your attention to that ridiculous document that is framed and hanging by the door. In fact, take a few minutes to read it before you leave class today. It is our campus speech code. It specifically says that there is a requirement that everyone must only engage in discourse that is "respectful." That assertion is as ludicrous as it is illegal. I plan to have that thing ripped down from every classroom on campus before I retire.

One of my grandfathers served in World War I. My step-grandfather served in World War II. My sixth great grandfather enlisted in the American Revolution when he was only thirteen. These great men did not fight so we could simply relinquish our rights to the enemy within our borders. That enemy is the

Marxists who run our public universities. If you are a Marxist and I just offended you, well, that's tough. I guess they don't make communists like they used to.

Of course, this ban on "disrespectful" speech is really only illusory. The university that created these speech restrictions then turns around and sponsors plays like *The Vagina Monologues*, which is loaded with profanity including the c-word – the most offensive and disrespectful word a person could ever possibly apply to a woman. It is pure, unadulterated hypocrisy.

So, the university position can be roughly summarized as follows: Public university administrators have a First Amendment right to use disrespectful profanity but public university students do not. This turns the First Amendment on its head. The university has its free speech analysis completely backwards. And that's why they need to be sued.

Before we go, let us take a few minutes to look at the last page of your syllabus where I explain the importance of coming to class on time, turning off your cell phone, and refraining from talking during lectures. In that section, I explain that each of you has God-given talents and that your Creator endowed you with a purpose in life that is thwarted when you develop these bad habits.

Unbelievably, a student once complained to the Department chairwoman that my mention of God and a Creator was a violation of Separation of Church and State. Let me be as clear as I possibly can: If any of you actually think that my decision to paraphrase the Declaration of Independence in the course syllabus is unconstitutional then you suffer from severe intellectual hernia.

Indeed, it takes hard work to become stupid enough to think the Declaration of Independence is unconstitutional. If you agree with the student who made that complaint then you are probably just an anti-religious zealot. Therefore, I am going to ask you to do exactly three things and do them in the exact order that I specify.

First, get out of my class. You can fill out the drop slip over at James Hall. Just tell them you don't believe in true diversity and you want to be surrounded by people who agree with your twisted interpretation of the Constitution simply because they are the kind of people who will protect you from having your beliefs challenged or your feelings hurt.

Second, withdraw from the university. If you find that you are actually relieved because you will no longer be in a class where your beliefs might be challenged then you aren't ready for college. Go get a

job building houses so you can work with some illegal aliens who will help you gain a better appreciation of what this country has to offer.

Finally, if this doesn't work then I would simply ask you to get the hell out of the country. The ever-growing thinned-skinned minority you have joined is simply ruining life in this once-great nation. Please move to some place like Cuba where you can enjoy the company of communists and get excellent health care. Just hop on a leaky boat and start paddling your way towards utopia. You will not be missed. Thank you for your time. I'll see most of you when classes resume on Monday.

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### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Funny you should ask! There are a number of departments within our Camp that could use some additional help. If you have a talent in the areas below, the appropriate Department head would love to hear from you.

Signal Corps (Communication) – Mike Daugherty (temporary). This includes Advertising/Marketing, Public Relations, Spokesman, Internal/External Communications, Newsletter, Digital Media, similar needs as may develop. I have some volunteers, I could use more.

Genealogy – Joe Burns. Please see Joe if you have an interest in this area. He will train you and give you access to the systems needed in order to confirm lineage of new members and track down other genealogy requests from Camp members and others.

Programs/Education – Brad Waters. Help to develop a speaker bureau, plan special Camp events, schedule speakers. Set up Educational programs for Digital Media productions, school days, other programs as may be developed.

Membership – Mark Buchanan. Maintain roster accuracy, all aspects of new member processing, welcome packages, call committee, attendance, recruiting, coordinate with chaplain/adjutant regarding member adds/removals/family events.

Headstones/Markers – Ken Chrestman. Assist members with getting new headstones, Southern Cross, other markers. Cemetery cleanup and setup for memorials, other duties as may be needed.

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Gentlemen –

Merry Christmas! If you are offended by that, don't bother telling me. It has been a great year for the Lee Camp. We'll go into specific details of that at our meeting in January, but suffice it to say that with the horrible attacks on our heritage, history, and existence, we have grown stronger, fought back harder and have had wins in places where nobody thought there would be wins.

As we go into this holiday season, I want to thank you all for your willingness to fight back. To say NO to those who would hold us at bay while they move statues and monuments to our heroes, attempt to rewrite or discredit their stories, overturn laws, and promote their own messages and agendas of hate. I want to thank you for every letter, email and phone call that you've made to a politician, paper, and TV station or network, for speaking out at government meetings when our heritage was threatened, for being the historically knowledgeable gentlemen that you are and for acting accordingly. Each of you has done your part and stood up in one way or another, and I hope and pray that you will continue to do that in the coming year.

We stand a very good chance of winning our case over the parks from 2013, and that will have a direct bearing on the current issue that has temporarily quieted itself. Our column in the Germantown News is getting good reviews. People are waking up to the cause and who the SCV is. It shows in our growth this year. It shows in your dedication to the cause and your concern for our heritage.

Our Facebook page this month exceeded 6,000 followers. These are not just SCV members, and some are the enemy, but that's a good thing. They may learn something. We are getting comments now like "this is a Camp for all Camps to model themselves after" and "thank you for posting this, I've never seen this before" among others. So we are shining the light of truth to the masses and the masses are getting it. We also have haters who are coming on and trying to discredit us, but there is also an entire community that is following us that has and will come to our defense, not that we need it. Our educational content is beyond compare from what I've seen, and simply posting a quote that is applicable to something that has happened recently or 150 years ago has brought a huge response. I would also be remiss if I didn't mention a couple of videos that were produced by our own Jeremy Elkins which are responsible for reaches in excess of 150,000, which is unheard of.

I look forward to kicking off a new year at our first regular meeting of the new year in January, and look forward to working with each of you to make the Robert E. Lee Camp of Germantown, Tennessee the best Camp in the Tennessee Division, if not the SCV. God bless you all, if you are traveling, travel safe, and I am looking forward to



seeing you all back at our next regular meeting in January. In the meantime, I wish the best for each of you and your families this holiday season.

Merry Christmas, and God Bless the South!

Mike Daugherty,  
Commander  
Deo Vindice!!!

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<http://www.tennessee-scv.org/camp1640/>

Or visit our Facebook pages at:

<http://www.facebook.com/RELeeCamp1640>

<https://www.facebook.com/BluffCityGraysMemphis>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SCV-Memphis-Brigade-Color-Guard/268457703293353>

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### **SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER**

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Winston Blackley	Eugene Callaway
John Cole	W. Kent Daniel Jr.
James Anthony Davis	Hubert Dellinger Jr., MD
H. Clark Doan	Eugene Forrester
Robert Freeman	Donald Harrison
Frederick Harrison	Frank Holeman
M. Gary Hood	William P Hunter, Jr.
Bobby Lessel	Jerry C. Lunsford
Frank M. McCroskey	Steve McIntyre
Arthur Oliver	Charles Wendell Park
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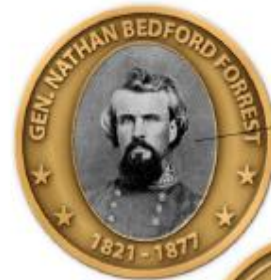
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**Traveller** is the monthly newsletter of:

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Sons of Confederate Veterans

and

The Mary Custis Lee Chapter,

Order of the Confederate Rose

P.O. Box 171251

Memphis, Tennessee 38187

Steve M. McIntyre, Editor

**Next Camp Meeting \*\* December 14, 2015  
Christmas Party at 8863 Calkins Hill Cove, Germantown, TN**