



# TRAVELLER

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

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, TN

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

DEO VINDICE!

January, 2017



## CAMP MEETING

January 9, 2017

**Speakers: Dr. Brandon H. Beck**

**Topic: "She Rode With Forrest. Emma Sansom, Forrest, and the Streight Raid, 1863"**

**7:00 p.m. at the at the Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center**

**Don't miss our next meeting!**

### **THE R.E. LEE CAMP WELCOMES DR. BRANDON H. BECK AS SPEAKER FOR OUR FIRST MEETING IN 2017**

Dr. Brandon H. Beck is Lt. Commander of the SCV Camp in Caledonia Mississippi and founder and Director Emeritus of the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah U. in Winchester, Va.

He has written 11 books on the War. Most recent are:

Winchester's Battles: A History and Guided Tour of Virginia's Most War Torn Town

Defending the Mississippi Prairie: Genl. Forrest and the Battle of Okolona

Holly Springs: Earl Van Dorn, the CSS Arkansas and the Raid That Saved Vicksburg

Foiling Streight's Raid on the Western and Atlantic Railroad: Emma Sansom's Courage and Forrest's Pursuit

The last three- Okolona, Holly Springs, and Streight's Raid, make up a trilogy of Confederate Cavalry in the Deep South. In all three, Cavalry leaders Earl Van Dorn and Nathan Bedford Forrest were the only defense for Vicksburg, the Mississippi Prairie, and the most important railroad in the Confederacy, the Western and Atlantic. To save the railroad Forrest needed the help of a 15 year old girl, Miss Emma Sansom. Her great great grandson opened the family archive to our speaker, to tell a story that could not have been made up.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

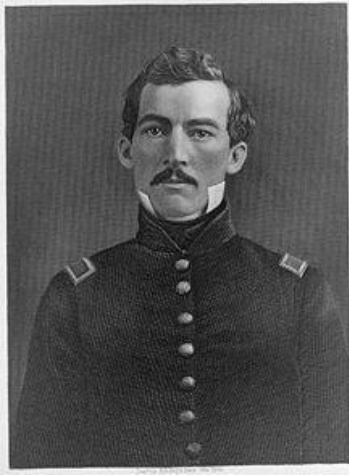
by Beecher Smith

### **UNION GENERAL "LITTLE PHIL" SHERIDAN**

Philip Henry Sheridan (1831 - 88) was perhaps the most aggressive Union General during the War Between the States (1861 – 65). He demonstrated an excellent capacity for command on the U. S. frontier, but also for cruelty to innocent civilians during assignments in the War Between the States. When General Ulysses S. Grant assumed command of all Union armies in early 1864, he chose Sheridan as his new cavalry commander. Sheridan's "successful" Shenandoah Valley campaign in 1864 crushed Confederate Gen. Jubal Early's cavalry while destroying much of the South's food supply. Sheridan was instrumental in Robert E. Lee's withdrawal from Petersburg, Virginia, after which Lee would soon surrender to Grant in April 1865 and effectively end the war.

### **EARLY LIFE**

The third of six children by John and Mary Meenagh Sheridan, who had immigrated to America from Ireland, Philip was born in Albany, [New York](#) on March 6, 1831. Later, his family moved to Ohio. As a boy he worked in a general store and, in 1848, obtained an appointment to the United States Military Academy from one of his customers. "Little Phil," as he was called due to his short stature did not do well at West Point, failing in mathematics, described as having a "poor attitude," and once, suspended for fighting. Sheridan was always small of stature, reaching maturity at only 5'4", the same height as Napoleon Bonaparte. His two nicknames were: "Fighting Phil" (which he loved) and "Little Phil" (which he hated). Medical evidence from his post-mortem autopsy confirms that one of Sheridan's testicles never fully descended, so all the time he spent on the saddle was sheer agony. In addition to that, his head was quite oddly shaped, almost square, and would not fit conventional, mass manufactured hats. So he had to have all his hats custom made. However, he graduated in 1853 and was commissioned as a brevet second lieutenant, assigned to the 1st U.S. Infantry at [Fort Duncan, Texas](#).



**Sheridan as Brevet Second Lieutenant**

Over the next several years he worked at a number of posts in the West before being promoted to a first lieutenant in March, 1861, just before the [Civil War](#). He was promoted again to Captain in May, just after the war began.

### **SERVICE DURING THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES**



**Maj. Gen. Phil Sheridan (Library of Congress)**

Philip Henry Sheridan was once described by Abraham Lincoln as “A brown, chunky little chap, with a long body, short legs, not enough neck to hang him, and such long arms that if his ankles itch he can scratch them without stooping.”

He is most famous for his destruction of the Shenandoah Valley in 1864, called “The Burning” by its residents. He was also the subject of an extremely popular poem entitled [“Sheridan’s Ride”](#), in which he (and his famous horse, Rienzi) save the day by arriving just in time for the Battle of Cedar Creek.



Like Patrick Cleburne, Sheridan rose very quickly in rank. In the fall of 1861, Sheridan was a staff officer for Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck. He later became quartermaster general in the Army of Southwest Missouri. With the help of influential friends he was appointed Colonel of the 2nd Michigan Cavalry in May, 1862. His first battle, Booneville, MS, impressed Brig. Gen. William S. Rosecrans so much that he himself was promoted to Brigadier General. After Stones River he was promoted to Major General.

Sheridan’s men were part of the forces which captured Missionary Ridge (near Chattanooga) in 1863. When Ulysses S. Grant was promoted to General-in-Chief of the Union armies, he made Sheridan the commander of the Army of the Potomac’s Cavalry Corps. This moved him from the Western Theater to the Eastern Theater of operations. At first, Sheridan’s Corps was used for reconnaissance. His men were sent on a strategic raiding mission toward Richmond in May 1864. Then he fought with mixed success in Grant’s 1864 Overland Campaign.

During the Civil War, Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley was a vital resource to the Confederacy. Not only did it serve as the Confederate “breadbasket”, it was an important transportation route. The region had witnessed two large-scale campaigns already when Gen. Ulysses S. Grant decided to visit the Valley once again in 1864. He sent Philip Sheridan on a mission to make the Shenandoah Valley a “barren waste”.

In September, Sheridan defeated Jubal Early’s smaller force at Third Winchester, and again at Fisher’s Hill. Then he began “The Burning” – destroying barns, mills, railroads, factories – destroying resources for which the Confederacy had a dire need. He made over 400 square miles of the Valley uninhabitable. “The Burning” foreshadowed William Tecumseh Sherman’s “March to the Sea”: another campaign to deny resources to the Confederacy as well as bring the war home to its civilians. Had that happened today, Sheridan would probably be tried as a war criminal. He bragged at the end of his campaign that he had left the Shenandoah Valley so desolate that, “A crow would have to pack a sandwich before it could fly across it.”

In October, however, Jubal Early caught Sheridan off guard. Early launched a surprise attack at Cedar Creek on the 19th. Sheridan, however, was ten miles away in Winchester, Virginia. Upon hearing the sound of artillery fire, Sheridan raced to rejoin his forces. He arrived just in time to rally his troops. Early's men, however, were suffering from hunger and began to loot the abandoned Union camps. The actions of Sheridan (and Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright) stopped the Union retreat and dealt a severe blow to Early's army.

For his actions at Cedar Creek, Sheridan was promoted to Major General in the regular army. He also received a letter of gratitude from President Abraham Lincoln. The general took great pleasure in Thomas Buchanan Read's poem, "Sheridan's Ride" – so much so that he renamed his horse "Winchester". The Union victories in the Shenandoah Valley came just in time for Abraham Lincoln and helped the Republicans defeat Democratic candidate George B. McClellan in the election of 1864.

During the spring of 1865, Sheridan pursued Lee's army with dogged determination. He trapped Early's army in March. In April, Gen. Lee was forced to evacuate Petersburg when Sheridan cut off his lines of support at Five Forks. And, at Saylor's Creek, he captured almost one quarter of Lee's army. Finally at Appomattox, Lee was forced to surrender the Army of Northern Virginia when Sheridan's forces blocked Lee's escape route.

At war's end, Phil Sheridan was a hero to many Northerners. Gen. Grant held him in the highest esteem. Still, Sheridan was not without his faults. He had pushed Grant's orders to the limit. He also removed Gettysburg hero Gouverneur Warren from command. It was later ruled that Warren's removal was unwarranted and unjustified.

## RECONSTRUCTION

During Reconstruction, Sheridan was appointed to be the military governor of Texas and Louisiana (the Fifth Military District). Because of the severity of his administration there, President Andrew Johnson declared that Sheridan was a tyrant and had him removed. Sheridan had been feuding with President [Andrew Johnson](#) for months over interpretations of the Military Reconstruction Acts and voting rights issues, and within a month of the second firing, the president removed Sheridan, stating to an outraged Gen. Grant that, "His rule has, in fact, been one of absolute tyranny, without references to the principles of our government or the nature of our free institutions."

If Sheridan was unpopular in Texas, neither did he have much appreciation for the Lone Star State. In 1866 his

quip was widely reported: "If I owned Texas and Hell, I would rent Texas and live in Hell."

## THE INDIAN WARS

In 1867, Ulysses S. Grant charged Sheridan with pacifying the Great Plains, where warfare with Native Americans was wreaking havoc. In an effort to force the Plains people onto reservations, Sheridan used the same tactics he used in the Shenandoah Valley: he attacked several tribes in their winter quarters, and he promoted the widespread slaughter of American bison, their primary source of food.

He soon launched an unexpected winter campaign, which resulted in temporary peace with the [Comanche](#), [Cheyenne](#), and [Kiowa](#). In 1869 he was given command of the Division of Missouri, which included the entire Plains region. He directed large-scale campaigns against the Southern Plains tribes and the [Sioux](#).

Following the tactics he had employed during the [Civil War](#), Sheridan sought to strike directly at the material basis of the Plains [Indian](#) nations. He believed -- correctly, as it turned out -- that attacking the [Indians](#) in their encampments during the winter would give him the element of surprise and take advantage of the scarce forage available for [Indian](#) mounts. He was unconcerned about the likelihood of high casualties among non-combatants, once remarking that "If a village is attacked and women and children killed, the responsibility is not with the soldiers; but, with the people whose crimes necessitated the attack." It was due to his action in the Indian Wars of the west, that In 1883, he was made commander-in-chief of the army. Like [General William Sherman](#), he believed that military control of the reservations was essential, and that [Indians](#) should be punished for misdeeds. He is remembered for saying, "The only good [Indian](#) is a dead [Indian](#)."



In 1871, Sheridan was present in [Chicago](#) during the [Great Chicago Fire](#) and coordinated military relief efforts. The mayor, [Roswell B. Mason](#), to calm the panic, placed the city under [martial law](#), and issued a proclamation putting Sheridan in charge. As there were no widespread disturbances, martial law was lifted within a few days.

Although Sheridan's personal residence was spared, all of his professional and personal papers were destroyed.<sup>[51]</sup> When Chicago's [Washington Park Race Track](#) organized the [American Derby](#) in 1883 he served as its first president.

### Personal life

On June 3, 1875, Sheridan married Irene Rucker, a daughter of Army Quartermaster General [Daniel H. Rucker](#). She was 22, and he was 44. They had four children: Mary, born in 1876; twin daughters, Irene and Louise, in 1877; and Philip, Jr., in 1880. After the wedding, Sheridan and his wife moved to Washington, D.C. They lived in a house given to them by Chicago citizens in appreciation for Sheridan's protection of the city after the Great Chicago Fire in 1871.<sup>[57]</sup>

Sheridan served as the ninth president of the [National Rifle Association](#).

### Death and burial

In 1888 Sheridan suffered a series of massive heart attacks two months after sending his memoirs to the publisher. At 57 years of age, thin in his youth, he had reached over 200 pounds. After his first heart attack, the U.S. Congress quickly passed legislation to promote him to general on June 1, 1888 and he received the news from a congressional delegation with joy, despite his pain.

His family moved him from the heat of Washington to his summer cottage in the Nonquitt section of [Dartmouth, Massachusetts](#), where he died of heart failure on August 5, 1888.

Though revered by the North as a hero and patriot, Sheridan will probably always be considered by the descendants of Confederate veterans and Southern sympathizers as a tyrant, oppressor, and war criminal.

END

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## Groundbreaking Ceremony for Elmira Prison Camp in Elmira, New York

By Tom Fagart



**Old Water Building at Elmira**

On July 9, 2016, Friends of Elmira Civil War Prison Camp in Elmira, New York, held a groundbreaking ceremony on the parcel of land they now own which was part of the infamous Elmira Prison Camp, aka “Hellmira,” in Elmira, New York.

This groundbreaking was held 152 years to the day that the infamous prison camp opened. This ceremony was attended by approximately fifty people. This event was also covered by TWC and WENY-TV News along with the local newspaper the *Star Gazette*.

The purpose of this groundbreaking was to kick off the restoration and reconstruction of the only remaining original prison camp building. It is known this building was used as either a warehouse for supplies or it was the “dead house” where Confederate soldiers who had died were taken prior to being buried in the now named Woodlawn National Cemetery. There were 12,121 Confederate soldiers held in Elmira Prison and 2,970 died (24.5 per cent death rate) of which 1,228 deaths were those from North Carolina.

This building which had been disassembled has been used as a warehouse for a number of years. The original materials which are now on hand will be used in the restoration whenever possible and when they cannot be used, they will be replaced by duplicated original dimensional framing, siding, windows, and even nails. Finding a planer mill, millwork, and machining company was a lengthy and difficult task. Thanks to those companies, these materials will be provided to Friends of Elmira Civil War Prison Camp at manufacturers’ cost.

When completed, this restored building will become a memorial to those who served and died in the prison camp and it will also be used as a history and learning center.

The next phase of this memorial will be the new construction of a prison camp barracks to original dimensions and design.

Two photos are shown. The first is an artist rendering of what the building looked like and the second is a photo showing part of the land and property now owned by Friends of Elmira Civil War Prison Camp. The brick building in the background is the old water pumping station for the City of Elmira. Water was pumped from the adjacent *Chemung* River. Future plans for Friends of Elmira Civil War Prison Camp are to possibly use this brick building as a museum and prison camp visitor’s center.

The date of July 9, 2016, which is also the 152nd Anniversary of the opening of the Elmira Prison Camp, is also the 152nd Anniversary when Pvt. Andrew J. “AJ” Madra, Co. F, “The Spartan Band,” 30th North Carolina Infantry Regiment walked through the prison gate. He was the first Confederate prisoner to enter “Hellmira.” Pvt. Madra is from Tarboro, Edgecombe County, North Carolina. Pvt. William A. Kesler, Co. K, 8th NC from Salisbury, Rowan County was the last man to leave the Elmira Prison. Pvt. Kesler died in Rowan County on June 5, 1868. He is buried in the Union Lutheran Church Cemetery in Rowan County.

*Tom Fagart of Concord, NC, is a member of the Capt. Jonas Cook Camp 888, Mt. Pleasant, and a Board Member of the Friends of Elmira Civil War Prison Camp, Elmira, NY.*

### **SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER**

T. Tarry Beasley II	T. Tarry Beasley III
Winston Blackley	T. Tarry Beasley IV
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
Frederick Harrison	Frank Holeman
M. Gary Hood	William P Hunter, Jr.
Bobby Lessel	Jerry C. Lunsford
Frank M. McCroskey	C. Michael McDowell
James Lee McDowell	Steve McIntyre
Arthur Oliver	Charles Wendell Park
Steve Reason	Larry J. Spiller, Jr.
Larry J. Spiller, Sr.	Osborn Turner, IV
Charles L Vernon	William C. Wilson

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Humble New Year's resolutions.

1. Honor our faith
2. Honor our family

We can honor our faith by following the guidance provided to us by the Holy Bible. We can be active in our faith by attending services and welcoming others into the fold. We can be better role models of our faith. We can spend more time in prayer and reading of the scriptures. We can serve our faith by service to others. We realize that we are not isolated individuals but part of a long lineage of faith. The standards were set two thousand years ago and remain our challenge to meet them.

We can honor our family by spending more time with them. We can turn off the television and other electronic distractions and converse with those we love. We can listen and share. We can remember those of our family who have gone before us. We can keep their memory in our hearts and share these memories with the next generations. We can visit our family members' graves and maintain their grave sites. We can honor them. We can remember that we are not individuals but part of a long lineage of ancestors. Much of our life can be devoted to striving to meet the high standards set by those family members who have gone before us.

Happy 2017!

Bradford Waters  
Commander. RE Lee Camp



### **OLD TIMES THERE WERE NOT FORGOTTEN**

**New Year's Eve Confederate Ball, held at Reynolda House, Winston-Salem North Carolina, 1961. The portrait hanging from the railing is of North Carolina native Maria Beale Fletcher, Miss America.**

Go to our website:

<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>



65<sup>th</sup> annual

# LEE-JACKSON-CHALMERS BANQUET



The Sons of Confederate Veterans

**Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Catered Dinner  
**Hillwood Hall, Davies Plantation**  
3570 Davieshire Dr, Memphis, TN 38133-0901

Guest Speaker:

**Maj. Gen. (ret) Harold A. Cross**

Catered Banquet Dinner, Awards Ceremony, Silent Auction,  
Ancestor Candlelight Tribute, And Music by the 52<sup>nd</sup> Regimental String Band

**Tickets are \$30.00 per person**

Tickets may be purchased from Cdr Alan Doyle (901) 454-7139, Cdr John Leake (901) 921-1637,  
Cdr Sam Escue (901)359-4801, Adj Arthur Oliver (901) 754-7369

Make checks payable to Lee-Jackson-Chalmers Banquet, P.O. Box 11141, Memphis, TN 38111  
Deadline for ticket purchase and reservation is Saturday, January 14

\*\*\* Please bring your donations for the silent auction \*\*\*

All members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Friends, Family and  
Reenactors are encouraged to attend. Dress is Coat and Tie

# GET A TAG ...



# ... SAVE A FLAG



18th Tennessee Infantry Regiment



14th Tennessee Infantry

The Tennessee Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans generously donates a portion of the tag sales to the Tennessee State Museum to be solely used for the museum's flag conservation program. If you do not have a SCV tag, you need to get one to help preserve your history.



This plate is available to any Tennessee resident who is registering a private passenger motor vehicle.





*Join the*

# **Military Order of the Stars and Bars**

A society of male descendants of the  
military and governmental leadership of the  
Confederate States of America.

**Lt. Dabney M. Scales Chapter No. 141  
Military Order of the Stars and Bars  
Memphis, Tennessee**

For more information on the MOSB  
and the Memphis Chapter, contact:

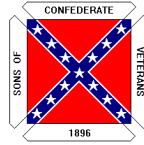
**T. Tarry Beasley II**

Tarry@BeasleyLawFirm.org

(901) 682-8000



# SCVMemphis2017



Sons of Confederate Veterans

## 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reunion

Lee Millar  
Chairman

Alan Doyle  
Commander

Alan Doyle  
Communications

[www.SCVMemphis2017.org](http://www.SCVMemphis2017.org)  
email: [scvmem2017@yahoo.com](mailto:scvmem2017@yahoo.com)

May 12, 2017

### Committees

1. Registration \_\_\_\_\_
2. Communications \_\_\_\_\_
3. Website / Facebook \_\_\_\_\_
4. Hospitality Room \_\_\_\_\_
5. Program & Ancestor Program \_\_\_\_\_
6. Advertisements \_\_\_\_\_ everyone \_\_\_\_\_
7. Souvenir Badge (medal) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Liquor project \_\_\_\_\_
9. Debutantes \_\_\_\_\_
10. Vendors, SCV Stores & Displays \_\_\_\_\_
11. Color Guard & reenactors \_\_\_\_\_
12. Scrapbooks display & competition \_\_\_\_\_
13. Newsletter display & competition \_\_\_\_\_
14. Silent Auction \_\_\_\_\_
15. Opening Ceremony & Music \_\_\_\_\_
16. Sergeant at Arms & Security \_\_\_\_\_
17. SCV IHQ coord \_\_\_\_\_
18. Publicity \_\_\_\_\_
19. Hotel \_\_\_\_\_
20. Legal Dept/ Contracts \_\_\_\_\_
21. Luncheons \_\_\_\_\_
22. Concession Stands \_\_\_\_\_
23. Hall/Table decorations \_\_\_\_\_
24. Flags (& giant CS flag) \_\_\_\_\_
25. Memorial Srvc (Friday) \_\_\_\_\_
26. Guest Speakers \_\_\_\_\_
27. Tours \_\_\_\_\_
28. Transportation \_\_\_\_\_
29. Other \_\_\_\_\_

[www.SCVMemphis2017.org](http://www.SCVMemphis2017.org)  
N. B. Forrest Camp 215, P.O. Box 11141, Memphis, TN. 38111  
[www.nbForrestCamp215.org](http://www.nbForrestCamp215.org)

CITIZENS TO SAVE OUR PARKS

AND THE

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

# Help Save Our Parks



## Fight City Hall ?

## We ARE !!!

The Forrest Camp 215 and the CTSOP have filed suit against the Memphis City Council for their illegal attempt to change the names of our three Confederate parks. We have been joined by all area camps & many UDC members.

These parks, Forrest Park, Confederate Park, and Jefferson Davis Park, are our history, our Confederate heritage, and a lasting tribute to our Confederate ancestors. They must not be destroyed or taken away by mis-guided politicians.

**Help us to save our historic parks: Forrest Park, Confederate Park, and Jefferson Davis Park.**

**Can you, or your group donate \$100, \$500 or \$1000 to the defense ?**

I wish to join CTSOP.      Please sign me up as a member.      No membership fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribute through PayPal at : [www.citizenstosaveourparks.org](http://www.citizenstosaveourparks.org)

Please donate to our cause:      Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_      check number \_\_\_\_\_

**Parks Defense Fund**

PO Box 241875,      Memphis, TN      38124

**SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS**

# Help Save General Forrest



The Memphis City Council has passed a resolution to remove the Forrest Equestrian Statue from Forrest Park and to dig up the graves of General Forrest and his wife MaryAnn from beneath the statue.

The SCV and the Forrest family descendants must raise money to fight the city in this second attack on General Forrest. We need your help.

**Help us to save the graves and monument of General Forrest**

Can you, or your camp or Division donate \$100, \$500 or \$1000 to the defense ?

Please sign me up as a supporter.      No membership fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribute through PayPal at our ally at : [www.citizenstosaveourparks.org](http://www.citizenstosaveourparks.org)

Please donate to our cause:      Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_      check number \_\_\_\_\_

**Forrest Park Defense Fund**

PO Box 241875,      Memphis, TN      38124

COLLECTOR'S

# FORREST COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Solid bronze

**\$ 10 each — All proceeds go to  
Parks Defense Fund**

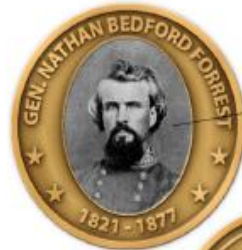
Contact: Harry Adams, Forrest Camp 215

[harryadamscsa@gmail.com](mailto:harryadamscsa@gmail.com)

\$10 each, plus \$1 each for shipping. Send your check to

Save the Parks

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124



**Traveller** is the monthly newsletter of:

The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640  
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 \*\* January 9, 2017**  
Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN