

TRAVELLER

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

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, TN
Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry
DEO VINDICE!

April 2018



CAMP MEETING

April 9, 2018

Speaker: Terry Roland

**Topic: "Political Perspectives of NB
Forrest Statue "**

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

Don't miss our next meeting!

Pivotal States

Robert Taylor

As early as Autumn 1861 it was decided that two States held the keys to winning a war that had just erupted; their strategic importance would determine the way the entire conflict was to be conducted. Both were Slave States, and both were to become fiery and bloody cauldrons of the most brutal conflict, Kentucky and Missouri. The previous story gives an indication of the conflict in Kentucky, but the troubles existed even before secession, what was to follow beggars' description, the outrageous brutality of fellow Americans inflicted upon each other. Kentucky dominated the entire length of Ohio River, if it remained in the Union, Confederates would almost certainly lose the neighboring State of Tennessee. If Kentucky joined the Confederates it would imperil the blast furnaces, iron foundries and various iron rolling

mills of Ohio. The South could also threaten the Great Lakes coal and iron-ore transportation system that was relied on by the North for much of its industry. Missouri, while seemingly a far flung western State, was possibly more important. If it was to go to the Confederacy, Missouri could imperil the Union's major routes west, block off Kansas and flank southern Illinois. Even more importantly, Missouri would dominate a significant stretch of the Mississippi, including the junction with the Ohio River at Cape Cairo situated on the southernmost tip of Illinois. The equation not calculated here is that the South, on secession, had no intentions of invading Northern territory.

In 1861 Missouri Governor Claiborne F. Jackson, rejected President Lincoln's request that Missouri supply enough men for 4 regiments. Governor Jackson replied, "Sir: Your dispatch of the (April) 15th instant, making a call on Missouri for four regiments of men for immediate service, has been received. There can be, I apprehend, no doubt that the men are intended to form a part of the

President's army to make war upon the people of the seceded states.

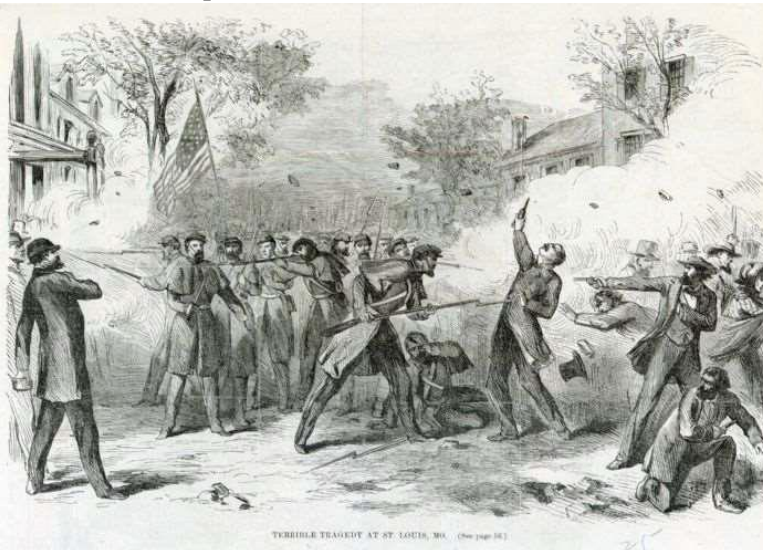
Your requisition, in my judgment, is illegal, unconstitutional, and revolutionary in its objects, inhuman and diabolical, and cannot be complied with. Not a man will the State of Missouri furnish to carry out such an unholy crusade."



While war came early to *Missouri* and *Kansas*, it remained long afterwards and always included unrelenting and unparalleled brutality. According to Historian Bowen Kerrihard in the March 1999 issue of *America's Civil War*, "In these two States more than

anywhere else, it was truly a civil war. The first formal military action in Missouri took place less than a month after the April 1861 Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter, S.C. On May 10th, Federal troops, led by hot-headed Captain Nathaniel Lyon took over at gunpoint the arsenal at Camp Jackson, near St. Louis. Lyon's soldiers brutally fired into a protesting crowd of civilian Southern sympathizers, leaving 20 people dead. It was an ominous beginning to official hostilities." An ominous portent of things to come, another source, *Civil War by Time Life* gives the number of dead as 28. Were they 'Southern sympathizers?' Not necessarily, they were mainly protesting that these foreigners were intruding, indeed invading their State. Not only from a 'foreign' State but a foreign country.

Right: 'Dutch' soldiers fire into a protesting St Louis crowd, one soldier is shown using his bayonet.



To fully appreciate this incident, we need to look at what led to the shootings and who was involved. Governor Claiborne Jackson didn't sit idly by as men worked to bring armed force into his State. On April 20th he quietly had men secure the arsenal at Liberty, Missouri. Then on May 2nd he called a special session of the legislature to arrange protection for his people. He also asked to mobilize and grow militia forces within the state. Next, he instructed the State Guard to meet in camps throughout Missouri, beginning May 3rd for 6 days of training. One of these camps was Camp Jackson in St. Louis. To comply with these wishes a force of 800 men under General Daniel M. Frost dutifully began drilling at Camp Jackson. Incredibly, it's stated that on May 9th, Captain Lyon came into the camp disguised as a woman (obviously quite convincing and without a beard as he came and went undiscovered.) Lyon noted that there were some men with arms and believed, rightly or wrongly, that they were sent by the Confederate Government from an arsenal in Louisiana; General Frost, he believed was a close friend of President Davis. So here we see men, merely obeying the instructions of their Governor, but viewed as Rebels. Incidentally Camp Jackson didn't need to import firearms from the South, they had a plentiful supply. According to Brent Harty's Blog there was a great stash of weapons at the arsenal in St Louis, some 60,000 muskets, 90,000 pounds of powder and 1,500,000 ball cartridges. Lyon managed to move all these precious

munitions to Illinois. This would appear to be the real motive behind Lyon's brutal attack.

According to Brent Harty in his blog site, "It was May 10, 1861 when Captain Lyon came back into Camp Jackson with an overwhelming force of over 7000 men. General Frost had no choice but to surrender, and peacefully did so. But at this point, a crowd had gathered angry at the "Dutch troops" (most of them were of German descent)

and started to taunt them for capturing their men. The Germans called themselves "Die Schwarze Garde." The crowd called them 'The Black Guard' and hurled insults and eventually stones, some reports have it that a few random shots were heard. The undisciplined troops were temporarily leader-

less, Lyon, in the process of dismounting to take command, was kicked unconscious by his nervous horse." The German troops opened fire, and used their bayonets, several youths were killed as well as a mother and the child in her arms. Up until this point the State was undecided but this atrocity, by poorly disciplined soldiers, decided uncertain Missourians on secession. The division created then still exists today amongst citizens and historians. Captain Lyon's unprofessional leadership and rash decisions caused tens of thousands of undecided Missouri men to take up arms and die, often fighting against each other. The destruction of property ran into the millions. Countless families interrupted from their normal routines were forced to flee the state, or somehow try and scratch out a living in a war zone. Captain Lyon can be held utterly responsible for the Camp Jackson Massacre, additional violent repercussions happened in St. Louis over the next two days. Civilians, even those with pro Union loyalties, fearing destruction, left their homes and fled to Illinois.

Returning from a visit to Washington, Brigadier General Harney made an attempt to smooth over the heightened feelings of Missourians by issuing his proclamation and making the "Price-Harney Agreement." This basically said that General Harney would not move troops about the State. Price agreed to keep the order and protect the interests of all.

The slaughter of civilians so horrified Brigadier General

William S. Harney that he issued a proclamation condemning the action, assuring the populace that such things will not be permitted to occur again. He was no doubt more fearful of a mass revolt and worried that he lacked resources to control any large assault from within. General Harney, a Southerner from Nashville earned the reputation of being the first and last wartime commander of the US Army in the West to issue an apologetic proclamation. His action didn't go down well with ardent Unionists in Washington who argued that Harney's efforts to restore calm played into Confederate hands. They persuaded President Lincoln to replace him.

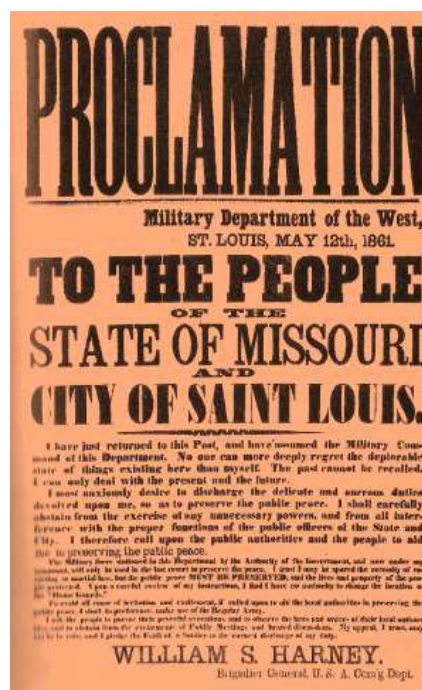
Surprisingly Captain Lyon was made Brigadier General, despite his horrible handling of the situation at Camp Jackson, actions that had turned a neutral State into one divided, that consequently would experience the 3rd most battles in the war. It may be that he was following orders and later rewarded with promotion, but Lyon met the same fate when he was killed in the Battle of Oak Hills/Wilson Creek a few months later. However, with an incompetent Lyon in control, General Price, Governor Jackson and assorted legislators along with a rag tag makings of an army fled northwest following the course of the Missouri River. On the march they were joined by 1,500 horse cavalry under the command of the dashing border-war cavalry hero, Captain Jo Shelby.

Interestingly, when Harney was recalled to Washington to discuss the situation in Missouri he was captured by Confederates in-route and offered a command by Confederate General Robert E Lee. He turned down the offer but because he was a Tennessean, his captors graciously released him allowing Harney to continue on to Washington where he remained, serving in various administrative positions. When it became clear that he would not receive another field command, he retired in 1863 and was breveted to Major General in 1865 in recognition of his long and distinguished career. His hands were not exactly clean as he was accused of whipping a black slave woman to death because she misplaced some keys. Harney was one of only four General officers in the army at the start of the war with Winfield Scott, John Wool and David Twiggs. Due to the lack of any fixed retirement age at the time, all of them were over 60. At 61, Harney was nearly a decade younger than the next youngest (Twiggs) and the only one of the four born in the 19th century and not a veteran of the War of 1812.

By November of 1861, lines were clearly drawn for a far greater battle front between major armies, involving Kentucky and Tennessee as battle grounds of more epic proportions. Much of this conflict was to be fought for Confederate held rail junction towns and forts on the Mississippi, Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. These

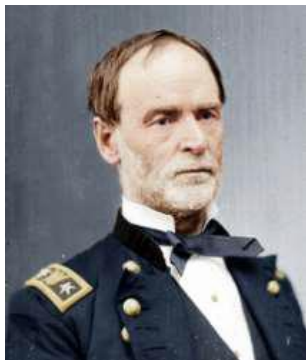
rivers served as major highways for Federal troops and supplies, they invaded with a massive flotilla of gunboats as a spearhead. In the first year of the war, the two armies reached a climax in battle as the Federal army tried to take Corinth, Mississippi. This would bring Ulysses S. Grant to battle at Shiloh on the banks of the Tennessee. Here was a General who could be both bold and reckless but whose determination would help the North win the war.

It would be three years before Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling 'Pap' Price could return to Missouri and lead a last desperate raid across the State. He was forced to bypass St. Louis where the Union had an overwhelming force of arms, then Price struggled past Hermann, Boonville, Glasgow, Lexington and Independence before losing an engagement at Westport, now part of Kansas City, and retiring, exhausted, into Arkansas. Price's raid is seen by military historians as a disaster and Westport was the last major battle west of the Mississippi River, yet it was but one of 1,162 battles and skirmishes fought in Missouri during the conflict. "Usually subordinated to events east of the Mississippi, these and other western battles became slender chapters in the history of the war. But it is in the footnotes, so to speak, that the true character of the war in Missouri and Kansas is revealed. This dark soul is epitomized by two words: 'Bushwhackers' and 'Jayhawkers'" - Bowen Kerrihard.



Early Autumn 1861 the then Brigadier General William Tecumseh Sherman (shown on left) was ordered West. Writing to his brother, Sherman said, "It is a mission that is both diplomatic and military." On his 'mission,' Sherman was to travel widely through Ohio, Indiana and Illinois judging the morale of the population and their

readiness to oppose the Southern Confederacy. Once this was completed he was to help recruit and train...“a force adequate to the end in view.” When Sherman returned from his travels he was both alarmed and exhilarated, shocked by the lack of preparedness he had discovered and by Washington’s apparent indifference to the fate of a region he regarded as vital to the successful conclusion of the war. He was also enthused by the numerous strategic opportunities he became aware of in the vast field of potential military operations between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi. “Whatever nation gets control of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers will control the continent.” - Brigadier W.T. Sherman.



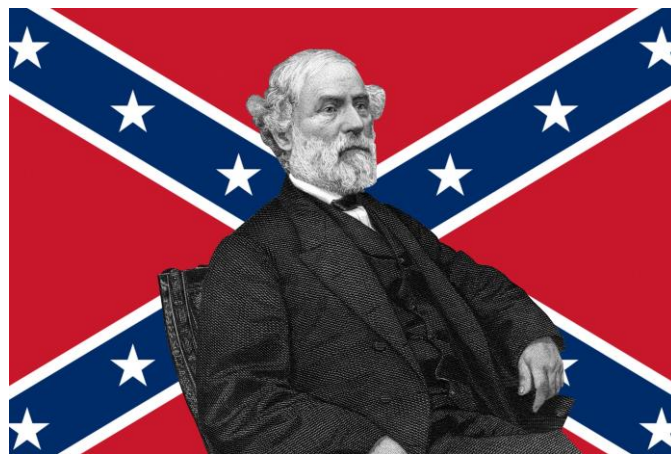
The U.S. Army’s commanding General Winfield Scott was already very aware of this potential and was implementing his grand strategy for using the Mississippi to defeat the Confederacy. He called it “The Anaconda Plan,” federal forces would strike south along the river, splitting the Confederacy in two combined with a coastal blockade; like the giant snake it would strangle the life out of the Confederate States. Of course, that makes it all sound so simple and as we know the war was anything but simple but the concept, in the end, after four bitter years that left the nation destitute, brought the South to its knees.

Sources:

- <http://8thmissouricavalry.blogspot.co.nz/2009/05/camp-jackson-massacre-10-may-1861.html>
- <http://www.historynet.com/americas-civil-war-missouri-and-kansas.htm>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_S._Harney
- Time-Life Books, “The Civil War.” Alexandria, Virginia, by David Nevin “The Road to Shiloh.”

Upcoming Events Calendar

- May 5th. Pleasant Hill Cemetery Memorial Service



**The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640
Sons of Confederate Veterans**

Go to our website:

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

Or visit our Facebook pages at:

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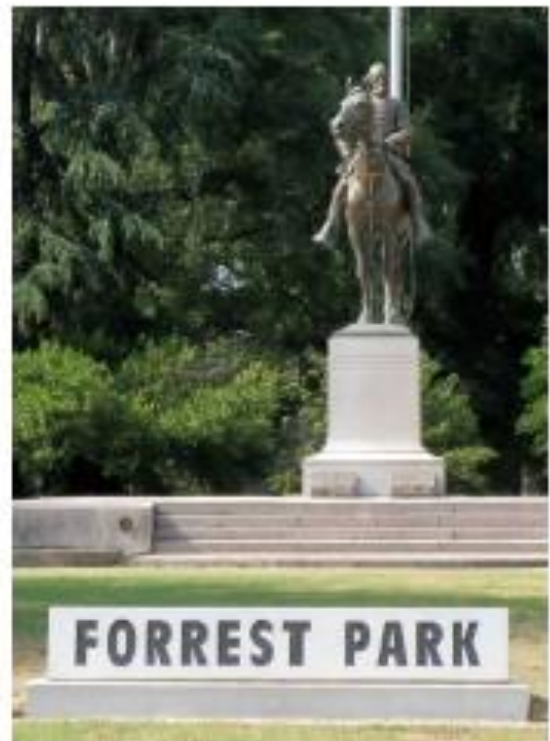
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SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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.

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and

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Steve M. McIntyre, Editor

Next Camp Meeting ** April 9, 2018
Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN