

# 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 2019**



## **R E LEE CAMP CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**December 9, 2019**

**7:00 p.m.**

**at the at the home of**

**Melody & Arthur Oliver, 8863 Calkins Hill  
Cove, Germantown, TN 38139 (SW corner of  
Calkins at Winding Way)**

The main course, Germantown Commissary BBQ and ham, will be provided. Therefore, we are asking the camp members to sign up for sides, desserts, etc.

Please e-mail Gary Douglas at [gbdouglas@comcast.net](mailto:gbdouglas@comcast.net) or Arthur Oliver at [Oliver\\_A@bellsouth.net](mailto:Oliver_A@bellsouth.net) to let them know if you will be attending and what dish you will be bringing.

## **‘The Arkansas is Coming!’ A Story of Unmatched Bravery**

Gordon Cotton



A waterfront mural in downtown Vicksburg shows the Union ship Essex, left, attacking the Confederate ironclad Arkansas in 1862. The mural was sponsored by the

Vicksburg and Warren County Historical Society and is in memory of Blanche Smith Terry, historian and assistant director of the Old Court House Museum.

It was a strange sight, one not witnessed before or since, and three Confederate generals had the best view of it in the city. They were Earl Van Dorn, John C. Breckinridge, and Steven Dill Lee, and they were in the cupola atop the Warren County Court House. The date was July 15, 1862.

The occasion was the anxiously anticipated arrival of the ironclad CSS Arkansas. It steamed out of the Yazoo River at dawn, taking on the Union fleet that was moored just north of Vicksburg.

It was a strange looking craft, riding low in the water and belching fire and smoke. Rumors that such a boat was under construction struck terror into the enemy.

Construction started in the fall of 1861 in Memphis, but when it became evident that the city would be captured, it was towed down the Mississippi and up the Yazoo, first to Greenwood and then to the Confederate Naval Yard at Yazoo City.

In May 1861, Isaac Newton Brown, who had left the United States Navy to cast his lot with the Confederate States, was put in charge of the vessel.

Within five weeks, she was a formidable warship, but her construction was almost unbelievable: Local planters furnished laborers and sent blacksmith forges, and from a collection of scrap metal, used engines and rusted railroad irons, they created a boat. They had used the railroad irons for plating on the sides, and they blended with the reddish soil along the riverbanks—perfect camouflage. She was manned by volunteers from both the Navy and Infantry.

On July 12, the lines were cast off, the engines started turning, and the Arkansas was on her way. It was hard to believe that four weeks before she began heading downriver, the CSS Arkansas had been what Brown described as “a mere hull, without armor; the engines were apart; guns without carriages were lying about the deck...”

Contact was first made with the enemy at 6 a.m. on July 14 when three Union vessels were steaming up the Yazoo on what might be called a scouting expedition. Two turned and fled, although shells they fired did bounce off the Arkansas' sides. She ran the third ship aground.

The clumsy vessel headed on toward the mouth of the Yazoo River, arriving just as one of the fleeing boats warned the Union fleet that "The Arkansas is coming!"

Thirty-three Union vessels—including sloops of war, ironclads, wooden rams, gunboats, transports, mortar boats and tugs, which looked to Brown like "a forest of masts and smokestacks"—were lined up along the river. Taking the fleet by surprise (construction of the ironclad had been dismissed by Union officials as just a rumor), Brown ran the boat as close to the enemy vessels as possible to make every shot count, and also to keep any vessel from getting up enough steam to get into the channel.

Though it inflicted considerable damage, and the Union suffered over 100 casualties, the Arkansas terrified the enemy as much or more than it hurt them. Most of all, while humiliating the Yankees, the vessel gave the Confederacy a terrific boost in morale.

The Arkansas had been damaged, and her smokestack was riddled. She tied up at the Vicksburg waterfront for repairs and was an easy target.

One day, the Union ram Essex headed for her "like a mad bull," but Lt. Brown turned her so that the Essex would strike her sharp bow. The Essex veered to miss and plowed into the riverbank. Then the Queen of the West tried her luck against the Arkansas, but the results were no better. Even while disabled and moored, the Arkansas had won again.

The water level began to fall, and the Union fleet retreated downriver, but the Essex would have another chance.

The Arkansas was ordered downriver to assist Gen. Breckenridge's assault on Baton Rouge despite her crippled condition. The two boats met just north of Baton Rouge on Aug. 6, 1862. The Arkansas developed mechanical trouble, and her engines lasted just long enough to take her about 300 yards when one of them abruptly quit. She steered toward the bank so her crew

could escape, and then her commander set her on fire.

Through the smoke and flames, the Confederate flag was still waving, and the Arkansas, swirling around and around, headed toward the Essex. As she drew near, her old adversary, her loaded guns began booming as the casement became an inferno. Then, with a sudden explosion, the Arkansas sank.

Even unmanned and in her final moments, the Arkansas had struck terror into the hearts of the enemy. Though her fighting career lasted only 21 days, her accomplishments will always be remembered.

She went down with flag flying. No enemy ever set foot aboard the CSS Arkansas.

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## Confederates Were Not Traitors

By Philip Leigh

Confederate statue critics increasingly argue that the monuments should be torn down because they honor traitors. Among such advocates is Christy Coleman, CEO of the Richmond's American Civil War Museum. While the most common response to her interpretation is to argue that secession was possibly legal, but a more compelling point is that President Andrew Johnson pardoned the soldiers no later than 1868. Moreover, four years later President Ulysses Grant signed a bill that conferred amnesty pertinent to 14th Amendment restrictions on all but about five hundred ex-Confederates thereby enabling them to be elected to Congress and other offices. Given the reconciling attitude of early post-war Northerners, the intolerance of today's statue enemies seems deliberately invidious.

On Christmas 1868 President Andrew Johnson granted all former Confederates a "full pardon and amnesty for the offense of treason against the United States" after having granted the pardon to most of them at various times between May 1865 and Christmas 1868. Significantly, the Supreme Court's 1866 Ex-Parte Garland ruling concluded that a "full" pardon granted a legal status of innocence to the offender.

Arkansas attorney Augustus Garland brought the case to restore his right to practice law, which he had lost under a 1865 federal law because he was previously a member of the Confederate Congress. He argued that his pardon forbade a continuation of the punishment. In explaining



Photo by Joe Burns

the majority opinion in favor of Garland, Justice Stephen Field went even further: "When the pardon is full, it releases punishment and blots out the existence of guilt, so that in the eye of the law the offender is as innocent as if he had never committed the offense."

As regards the secondary argument that Southern secession may have been legal, even some of the historians most hostile to Confederate heritage admit the possibility. Allen Guelzo, for example, recently conceded in his analysis of a hypothetical treason case against Robert E. Lee that the constitutional question of whether a citizen's primary relationship was to his state, or the Union of states, was unclear:

Nowhere in the Constitution, as it was written in 1787, is the concept of citizenship actually defined. In the five places where the Constitution refers to citizenship, it speaks of citizens of the states, and citizens of the United States. But the Constitution made no effort to sort out the relationship between the two, leaving the strange sense that Americans possessed a kind of dual citizenship, in their native State . . . and in the Union.



Photo by Joe Burns

Until the Civil War settled matters, there was a plausible vagueness in the Constitution about the loyalty owed by citizens of states and the Union, and so long as it could be argued that Lee was simply functioning within the latitude of that vagueness by following his Virginia citizenship, it would be extraordinarily difficult to persuade a civilian jury that he had knowingly committed treason.

In 1860 few Southern farmers ever travelled outside their states. Most seldom went beyond the borders of their own county. It was with family and neighbors, not causes, that the Southerner was chiefly linked. He went to war because his homeland was invaded. In 1892 Knoxville was one of the first towns to erect a Confederate statue, only twenty-seven years after the war had ended. Thus, a dedication speaker was acquainted with many veterans when he said, "the Southern soldier believed his allegiance was due, first to his state and then to the general government. . . So when his state called for his

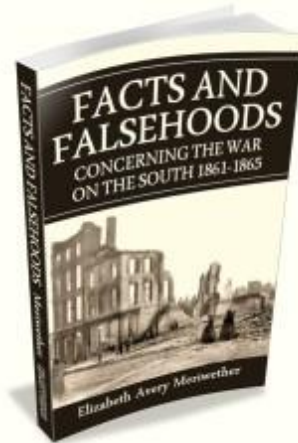
service, he responded believing it to be his duty."

Even in the postbellum era when the region was economically exploited much like Ireland was by Great Britain, Southerners generally responded to calls-of-duty. Presently, for example, the South accounts for 44% of America's military as compared to only 36% of her population.

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### This Month's Book Recommendation:

### FACTS AND FALSEHOODS CONCERNING THE WAR ON THE SOUTH 1861-1865



### Why It is Recommended:

Referring to this book, its author, Mrs. Meriwether writes, "*It is a collection of facts under one cover, which I trust will prove of use to the future historians of the South. Perhaps the fittest title to this work would be 'A Protest Against Injustice' - the injustice of misrepresentation - of false charges - of lies.*"

This exceptional book, using primarily Northern sources, turns the tables and uses these sources in defense of the Southern cause.

The first third of the book is devoted to Abraham Lincoln. Mrs. Meriwether devotes several chapters to a character study of Lincoln, drawing from the testimonies and biographies of his own friends and associates. In the process, she confronts many of the myths surrounding the sixteenth President that still persist to this day.

Mrs. Meriwether then proceeds to give an overview of the history of the political struggle between North and South — a struggle that originated with those whom she refers to as "Monarchists" who wished to establish on American soil a strong, centralized system of government patterned after that of Old England.

The first calls for secession and the formation of a New England confederacy were heard in Massachusetts as early as 1796, again in 1803, and again during the War of 1812. It was insisted that the country was "too big for

Union, too sordid for patriotism, too Democratic for liberty." Mrs. Meriwether writes:

*"...New England hated Democrats, hated the South, hated the Union, was eager to leave it, and fiercely wanted to war on the Southern people.... The reader must never lose sight of the fact that Federal and Republican hatred sprung from hatred of Democracy. The Union was hated because the majority of men in the Union elected too many Democratic Presidents. These Presidents, Washington, Jefferson, Monroe and Madison, were hated and called the "Virginia dynasty."...*

Subsequent chapters deal with subjects such as the falsehood that the North fought the war in order to bring an end to the institution of slavery, the attempts made by the Northern authorities to instigate a slave uprising throughout the South, the alleged maltreatment of Northern prisoners of war at Andersonville prison, the barbarous war against civilians perpetuated by General William T. Sherman's troops as they burned their way through Georgia and the two Carolinas, the horrors endured by Southerners during the reconstruction period, and much more. Mrs. Meriwether cautions that "despotism is a noxious plant, which hates the light and flourishes only in dark places." Indeed, a people who are kept in ignorance of their past will offer no serious resistance to tyranny in the present and future.

*\*Don't be confused by the author's name in the Free Google Book version. Mrs. Meriwether used George Edmonds as her nom de plume.*

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## In Memoriam Henry Clark Doan



Henry Clark Doan, 90, of Memphis, TN died on November 21, 2019. The son of the late Henry Cannon and Mary Catherine Rauch Doan, his childhood was spent singing and dancing. He served as Drum Major for the Memphis Park Commission Band in 1935. Quite the daredevil, he was photographed doing a perfect handstand on the cliff on top of Petit Jean Mountain. His singing and tap dancing earned him a few paid vaudeville

gigs, but his other musical joys were church choirs, barbershop quartets, guitars and banjos. His children and grandchildren grew up sitting at his feet as he sang and performed.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University, Clark joined his father in the car business, the Buick dealership in Okmulgee, OK. Thus, he began a successful career with Buick Motor Division, retiring as the Zone Manager in Memphis. He was masterful with his interpersonal skills, and once he shook a hand and learned a name, it was not forgotten.

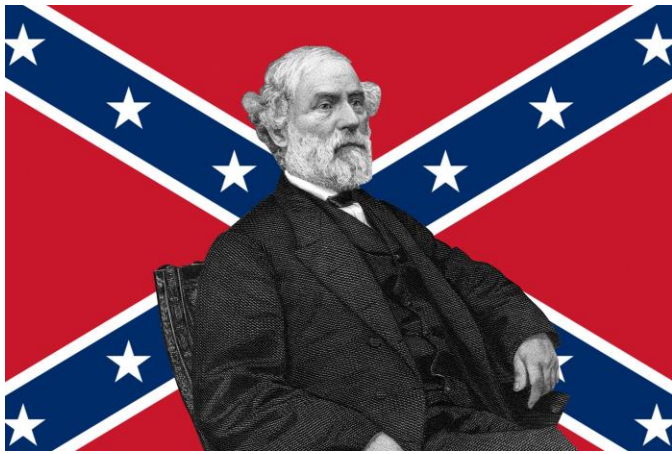
A US Army veteran, Clark served in the Korean War and earned the Bronze Star and United Nations Service Medal among other honors. After returning from Korea, he met and wed Janice Fiewig of Flint, MI. They recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary and were affectionately known as "The Lovebirds."

Clark was a lifetime member of the Anglican church, where he held many offices and taught Sunday School and Bible studies. He was also an avid genealogist who joined and held office in several historic societies including Sons of the American Revolution and Sons of Confederate Veterans. Clark was a Charter Member of the Lee Camp, served as the camp chaplain for many years, was the camp's most prolific recruiter, and represented the finest example of a Southern gentleman and friend. He will be deeply missed.

The family requests that memorials be made to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 106 Walnut Street, Collierville, TN 38017; Be Free Revolution (The William Jeffrey Bland Scholarship), 783 Meadow Ridge, Collierville, TN 38017; or the charity of the donor's choice.



Photo by Joe Burns



**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:

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

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

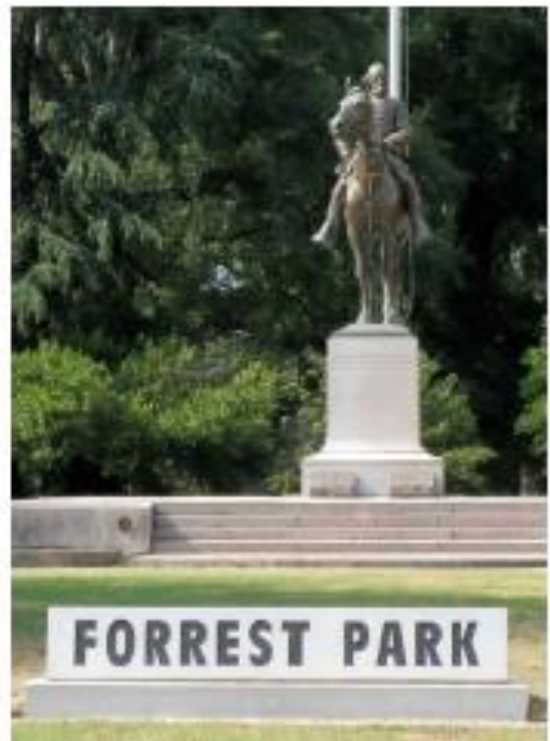
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SCV-Memphis-Brigade-Color-Guard/268457703293353>

**SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER**

T. Tarry Beasley II	T. Tarry Beasley III
T Tarry Beasley IV	Winston Blackley
Eugene Callaway	W. Kent Daniel Jr.
James Anthony Davis	Hubert Dellinger Jr.,
MD H. Clark Doan	Gary Douglas
Robert Freeman	Eugene Forrester
Donald Harrison	Frederick Harrison
Frank Holeman	M. Gary Hood
William P Hunter, Jr.	Bobby Lessel
Jerry C. Lunsford	C. Bruce Lynch
Frank M. McCroskey	James Lee McDowell
Michael Christopher McDowel	
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	

**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**

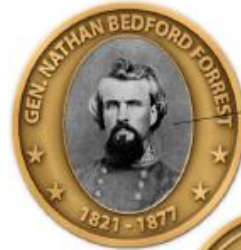
Contact: Harry Adams, Forrest Camp 215

[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

**R E LEE CAMP CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at the at the home of Melody & Arthur Oliver 8863 Calkins Hill Cove, Germantown, TN 38139 (SW corner of Calkins at Winding Way)**