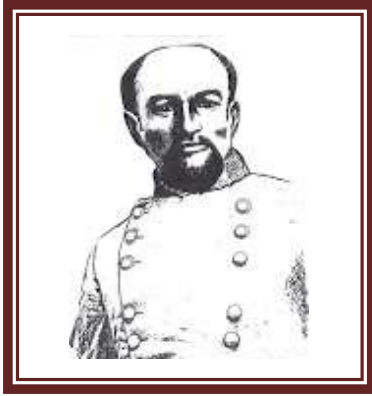


CALCASIEU GREYS

Volume 40, Issue 9, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lake Charles, Louisiana September 2021



Captain James W. Bryan

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021, at Hollier's Cajun Kitchen, 1709 Ruth St., Sulphur, La. We will have a program and plenty of good Confederate fellowship and food.

CONFEDERATE HERITAGE NEWS

Both The South's Defenders War Memorial Monument in Lake Charles and the General Mouton Monument in Lafayette are still down as of this writing.

There have been no updates yet on when The South Defender's will be repaired and restored by the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, or when or where the United Daughters of the Confederacy will move the General Mouton Monument which was removed by the city.

Calcasieu Greys will keep a close eye on any updates and will immediately relay the information to camp members via email.

VA SUPREME COURT OKAYS MOVING LEE

RICHMOND, Va. – The Virginia Supreme Court ruled Sept. 2, 2021 that the iconic National Register of Historic Places General Robert E. Lee Monument on Monument Avenue can be take be down by the neo-Marxist Virginia state government.

The iconoclast Virginia government is reportedly making plans to remove the honorable war memorial. Some of the radicals reportedly want the bronze statue chopped up.



SCV NEWS

Mike Jones, editor/historian

One of the important events in the history of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will take place this month, the reinternment of the mortal remains of General and Mrs. Nathan Bedford Forrest on Saturday, September 18, at Elm Springs—Headquarters of the SCV—at Columbia, Tennessee.

A solemn and dignified ceremony is planned for the event and the passes have already been issued and registration is closed. If you don't already have one, it is too late. Hopefully the event will be filmed and will be made available to members. Due to the ongoing cultural genocide aimed at all things Confederate, they had to have tight security which is understandable. But the event will be a fitting one for a Confederate general.

The equestrian statue of General Forrest which previously graced Memphis, Tenn., will be erected at the Elm Springs site as soon as possible. This has been an expensive undertaking for the SCV, and everyone needs to chip in what they can afford.

I was recently reading General Richard Taylor's memoir about his meeting with Forrest in September 1864, and I'd like to share with you some of his comments on Forrest the man. This was just after Taylor had arrived in Meridian, Miss. to take command of the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana. Taylor wrote: "An hour later a train from the north, bringing Forrest in advance of his troops, reached Meridian, and was stopped; and the General, whom I had never seen, came to report. He was a tall, stalwart man, with grayish hair, mild continence, and slow and homely speech. In few words he was informed that I considered Mobile safe for the present, and that all our energies must be directed to the relief of Hood's army, then west of Atlanta. The only way to accomplish this was to worry Sherman's communications north of the Tennessee river, and he must move his cavalry in that

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2)

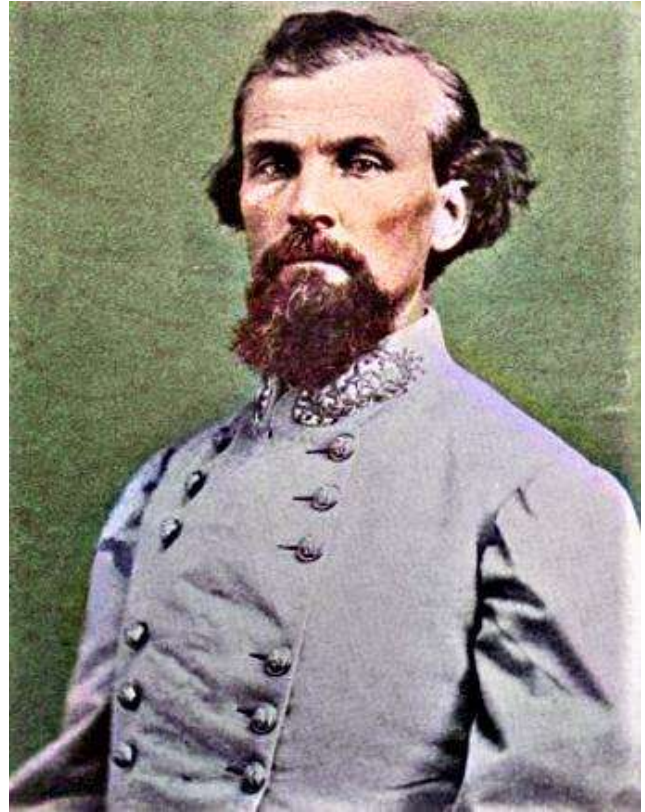
direction at the earliest moment.

To my surprise, Forrest suggested many difficulties and asked numerous questions: how he was to get over the Tennessee; how he was to be supplied; what should be his line of retreat in certain contingencies; what he was to do with prisoners if any were taken, etc. I began to think he had no stomach for the work; but at last, having isolated the chances of success from causes of failure with the care of a chemist experimenting in his laboratory, he rose and asked for Fleming, the superintendent of the railway, who was on the train by the way he had come. Fleming appeared—a little man on crutches (he had recently broken his leg), but with the energy of a giant—and at once stated what he could do in the way of moving supplies on his line, which had been repaired up to the Tennessee boundary. Forrest's whole manner now changed. In a dozen sharp sentences, he told his wants, said he would leave a staff officer to bring up his supplies, asked for an engine to take him back north twenty miles to meet his troops, informed me he would march with the dawn, and hoped to give an account of himself in Tennessee.

Moving with great rapidity, he crossed the Tennessee river, captured stockades with their garrisons, burned bridges, destroyed railways, reached the Cumberland River below Nashville, drove away gunboats, captured and destroyed several transports with immense stores, and spread alarm over a wide region. The enemy concentrated on him from all directions, but he eluded or defeated their several columns, recrossed the Tennessee, and brought off fifteen hundred prisoners and much spoil. Like Clive, Nature made him a great soldier; and he was without the former's advantages. Limited as was Clive's education, he was a Porson of erudition compared with Forrest, who read with difficulty.

In his last weeks of the war, he was much with me, and told me the story of his life. His father, a poor trader in negroes and mules, he died when he was fifteen years of age, leaving a widow and several younger children dependent on him for support. To add to his burden, a posthumous infant was born some weeks after his father's death. Continuing the paternal occupation in a small way, he continued to maintain the family and give some education to the younger children. His character for truth, honesty, and energy was recognized and he gradually achieved independence and aided his brethren to start in life. Such was his short story up to the war."

I my column in next month, I'll conclude General Taylor's fascinating comments on Forrest's qualities as a soldier and the false accusations made against Forrest by his enemys. — the Editor.



Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest

127th Annual Reunion Sons of Confederate Veterans July 19 to 23, 2022

Gentlemen,

The Kennesaw Battlefield Camp #700 and Gen. William J. Hardee Camp #1397 of the Georgia Division are honored to host the 127th Sons of Confederate Veterans Annual Reunion through July 19 – 23, 2022.

This will be one of the most exciting Annual Reunions in our lifetime. The theme of the 127th Reunion is "The Atlanta Campaign". The Reunion will be held in Cartersville, Ga. in the center of the 1864 Atlanta Campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta. We will be providing three days of some of the most prestigious and intact battlefield tours starting from Chickamauga to Cheatham Hill at Kennesaw Mountain. The 4th day will be the climax with a personalized tour of the 1886 Cyclorama at the Atlanta History Center. These tours will be given by professional tour guides who are renown historians and experts in the troop movements of the Atlanta Campaign.

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

(Continued from Page 2, Col. 2)

Starting on Tuesday July 19, there will be three nights of gourmet dinners and presentations by these historians on the Atlanta Campaign focusing on the next day's battlefield tour. Wednesday's night dinner will be held at the new Savoy Antique Automobile Museum and Thursday's night dinner at the Booth Western Cowboy & WBTS Museum where admission to the museums and private tours are included in the dinner packages. Go to www.2022reunion.gascv.org and register online for the reunion, tours and dinners and pay with your credit card. You can also download a registration form from the 2022 Reunion Webpage and mail it in directly.

The Website has detailed information on the tours, dinners, meals and provides a schedule of events for the 2022 Annual Reunion. A reservation link for the host hotel and nearby overflow hotels are provided on the webpage.

If you have any questions please contact Tim Pilgrim at timfpilgrim@yahoo.com.

Slanderous Anti-South Legislation in U.S. House of Representatives

The official title is: H.R.4994 - No Federal Funding for Confederate Symbols Act 117th Congress (2021-2022). On August 10, 2021, New York Rep. Espaillat, Adriano with 35 cosponsors introduced H.R. 4994. They justify the proposed prohibition on the use of Federal funds for any Confederate symbol because:

The Congress finds the following:

- (1) *The Confederate battle flag is one of the most controversial symbols from U.S. history, signifying a representation of racism, slavery, and the oppression of African Americans.*
- (2) *The Confederate flag and the erection of Confederate monuments were used as symbols to resist efforts to dismantle Jim Crow segregation and have become pillars of Ku Klux Klan rallies.*
- (3) *There are at least 1,503 symbols of the Confederacy in public spaces, including 109 public schools named after prominent Confederates, many with large African American student populations.*
- (4) *There are more than 700 Confederate monuments and statues on public property throughout the country, the vast majority in the South. These include 96 monuments in Virginia, 90 in Georgia, and 90 in North Carolina.*

Every SCV member should contact his U.S. Representative asking them to vote against H.R. 4994 because of its hateful and slanderous misrepresentation of Southerners past and present. The Bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment; the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials; the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit; the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management; and the Subcommittee on Aviation. At this time (Aug. 21, 2021) no further action has been taken by the House.

If your congressman is on one of the subcommittees listed—it is especially important that you contact him and voice your opposition to the bill. Even if your congressman is not on one of these subcommittees—contact them and voice your opposition to the bill.

Stress that this bill will have a detrimental impact on Southern “Civil War” tourism.

James Ronald Kennedy
Mandeville, Louisiana
August 21, 2021

[Information obtained
at <https://www.congress.gov/>]

BATTLE OF SABINE PASS

On September 8, 1863, one of the greatest victories of the Confederacy was won on the Louisiana-Texas border—the Battle of Sabine Pass. In the battle, the Union was planning to invade Texas through Sabine Pass with an initial invasion force of 5,000 troops, four gunboats and 18 troop transports. The expedition was led by Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin for the Army, and Lt. Frederick Crocker for the Navy. Sabine Pass was defended by 1st Lt. Richard W. Dowling and his 47-man, Irish Texan, contingent of Company F (Jefferson Davis Guards) of the 1st Texas Heavy Artillery in Fort Griffin, an earthen structure. Dowling had four 32-pounders and two 24-pounders at his disposal to defend against the attack.

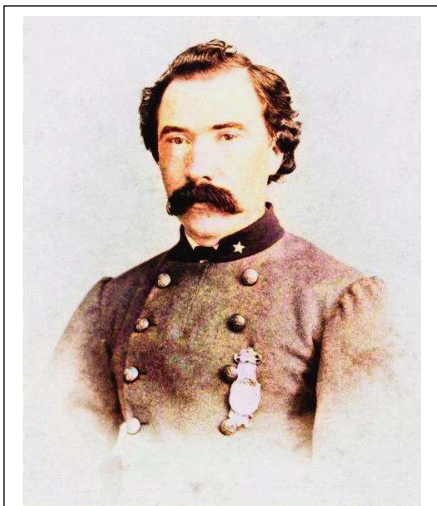
The battle opened at 6:30 o'clock in the morning of September 8, 1863, when the gunboat *U.S.S. Clifton* entered the pass to bombard the fort and reconnoiter the Confederate position. After an hour of shelling, the *Clifton* withdrew. At 3:40 o'clock that afternoon, the assault began. The pass was divided up the middle by a long oyster reef

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 2)

which divided it into the Louisiana channel on the east and the Texas channel on the west. The *Clifton* entered the Texas channel while U.S.S. *Sachem* and U.S.S. *Arizona* steamed up the Louisiana channel. The U.S.S. *Granite City* was to escort the transports up the Texas channel to protect the transports off-loading the Union troops. The gunboats entered the pass and opened fire on the fort. The Irish Texans had placed range markers in the pass during practice and were ready to zero in on the invading ships. Confederate gunners opened fire when the enemy ships reached the 1,200-yard range marker. After a few rounds, the steam drum of the *Sachem* exploded, scalding many men to death, and disabling the ship. The *Arizona* ran aground. The *Clifton* charged up the Texas channel, but the Irish Texan artillerymen blasted its tiller rope, causing it to run aground and also exploded its steam drum. The *Arizona* had to be pulled off the Louisiana shore, and the *Granite City* retreated, and no troops were landed. The fleet soon turned around and headed back to New Orleans.

Texas was saved from invasion, and Houston and Beaumont were saved from the fate of other southern cities, like Atlanta and Vicksburg. The battle lasted only about 45 minutes but 56 U.S. sailors and soldiers were killed, about 350 captured, along with the gunboats *Clifton* and *Sachem*. Dowling and his men suffered no casualties at all. The Davis Guards received the thanks of their country. Maj. Gen. John B. Magruder, Confederate commander of Texas, honored the men with a special badge and the Davis Guards were presented special medals from the citizens of Houston, the only such medal for valor issued to Confederate soldiers during the war. The Confederate Congress and President Jefferson Davis honored the Davis Guards with a special proclamation. Dowling said the fort fired 137 shells during the short battle.



Maj. Richard W. "Dick" Dowling

SKIRMISH AT SABINE PASS LIGHTHOUSE

By Mike Jones

In the bloody confrontation April 18, 1863, four Union sailors were killed outright, another received a mortal wound, two others received non-fatal wounds and six were captured. One Confederate was killed. The stage was set for the showdown by Commander Abner Read of the U.S.S. Navy blockading gunboat "New London." Read was planning to launch a surprise attack on a Confederate fort under construction on the Texas side of the pass. He also wanted to capture two enemy gunboats, "Uncle Ben" and "Josiah Bell" which were anchored there. The Union naval commander sent daily scouting parties by whale boat to the lighthouse to contact a Union spy who was using the 80-foot-tall lighthouse as an observation platform. The spy, whose identity never was revealed, had been keeping track of the progress of construction on the Confederate fort.

The commander of Confederate forces in the area was Lt. Col. William H. Griffin of the 21st Texas Infantry Battalion. Griffin was a West Point graduate and an aggressive and experienced military officer. He first discovered that his activities were being spied upon on April 10, 1863, when Captain Charles Fowler, commander of the Confederate gunboats, and three other men disappeared while scouting Lighthouse Bayou. They had been taken by surprise by a Union patrol.

The Confederates then started noticing light reflections coming from the supposedly abandoned lighthouse. Then on 17 April, they spotted a Union whaleboat rowing inland. The next morning, Griffin dispatched a detachment under Captain Samuel Evans across the pass to the Louisiana side. Upon arriving, the gray clad soldiers deployed underneath the lighthouse keeper's residence and waited for their chance to attack. According to the usual routine established by the Union blockader, two whaleboats, one from "New London" and the other from "Cayuga," also a blockading gunboat, were soon seen rowing to shore.

Commander Read and Captain D.A. McDermott of the "Cayuga" were leading the patrol. Three unsuspecting Federal bluejackets approached the lighthouse, and the hidden Confederates demanded their surrender. These three were taken captive but the rest of the landing party began a fighting retreat to their boats. The Confederates opened fire. Four of the sailors were killed by the musketry. A fifth, McDermott, was mortally wounded and captured. Commander Read was among the wounded. He lost an eye during the fusillade but escaped capture. One of the boats escaped, but the Confederates took the other, along with six prisoners. Read and two others made their way back to the "New London," but the plan to capture the pass was abandoned. The only Confederate death was Lt. E.T. Wright, who was killed instantly during the skirmish.

[Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

[Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

