



**Official Newsletter of the BG Micah Jenkins  
SCV Camp 1569**  
Volume IX Number VIII August 2010



## *Honoring the Gray*

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### **Commander's Comments**

We missed a lot of our members at our last meeting that have been away on vacation. We had a good meeting with the gentlemen that collect artifacts with their metal detectors. They had a very interesting collection on display. A lot of these artifacts were found in South Carolina.

I pray that all are well and in good health. Now that summer is here and the temperature is high I hope everyone will be careful when they have to spend a lot of time outside.

Please include Laddie Parrish's mother and Chris Sims to your prayer list. Laddie said his mother is doing much better now. And Chris will have surgery August 17.

Let's continue to pray for our men and women in the military and their families. Pray for our country, congressman, senators and president that in their heart they will try to do the best for our country. And also pray for our local government leaders.

Hope to see everyone on August 10. Let's share our thoughts about history.

*Jim Floyd*  
Commander

### **Why the Struggle? For What Are We Contending?**

From the Charleston Mercury, Saturday, April 20, 1861

For more than thirty years the people of South Carolina have been contending against the consolidation of the Government of the United States. Created a Confederation of Republics whose central power, authority, and jurisdiction, were carefully limited by the compact of the Constitution, and made conformable to, and within its proper limits, co-ordinate with the original and reserved powers, authority and jurisdiction of the several States which it was composed, the United States Government has steadily usurped powers not granted—progressively trenched upon States Rights. Not a bald, irresponsible, unchecked, vulgar democracy of mere numbers, was organized by the instrument of the Federation between the States; but a well adjusted, duplicate system harmonious and complimentary—the central common Government performing its allotted functions within its prescribed sphere, and each State Government performing all other functions of Government not

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*Honoring the Gray*  
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### **Camp Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 2010**

Regularly scheduled meeting at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant @ 7:00 PM.

Come early join the fellowship and eat.

As of the printing of *Honoring the Gray*, there is not a guest speaker lined up for August.

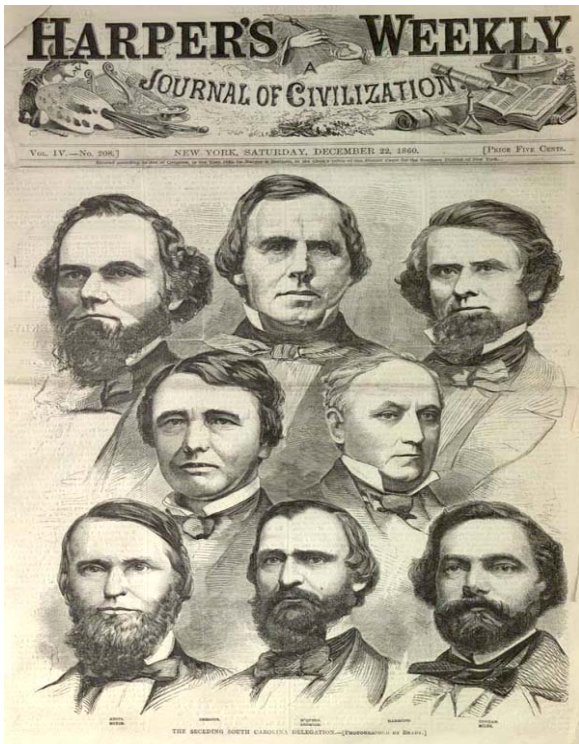
**Why the Struggle? For What Are We Contending?**  
From the Charleston Mercury, Saturday, April 20, 1861

expressly yielded to the other. If that Government became practically omnipotent, it was clear that it must be a most fearful despotism—a despotism of one section of the Union over the other—a despotism of Manufacturing over Agricultural States—of Free States over Slaveholding States.

Earnestly and faithfully have our public men at Washington contended against this fatal consummation. It was not for free trade only in 1833—it was not against antislavery fanaticism only in 1852, it is not now against our preclusion from our Territories or the vulgar crew who fill the high places at Washington, that we have set up for ourselves a separate destiny. These are all effects of one great cause—the consolidation of the Federal Government. As facts, we have been obliged to meet them—but the facts themselves were comparatively insignificant. They were like the ship money which Hampton refused to pay—like the three pence a pound on tea, which our fathers resisted. They proved to us that we were the slaves of a consolidated despotism—that self government, and the security which self government alone can impart—and liberty, and the priceless self-esteem and proud repose, which liberty can only inspire—were no longer our inheritance or possession. It was in vain that South Carolina endeavored to prove that this despotism existed. We had the forms of a free representative government. There

was a party in the Northern States professing those principles of limitation and restriction, which might yet be restored to ascendancy in the government, and make it again a free government. There was a deep reverence and attachment to the Union, which blinded the understanding of some of the brightest intelligences of the South. These all conspired to carry the South on in the chains of a sectional despotism, which looked, in its final consummation, to nothing short of our absolute subjugation and ruin. South Carolina, by her secession, forced the test of the nature of the government under which we lived. It has proved itself. As one scale of hypocrisy after another fell off of its poisonous surface, it stood forth a pure, fierce monster of despotism. The National Intelligencer, of Washington, for forty years the central organ of Consolidation, identifies its policy with the New York Tribune. BLAIR, the mouth-piece of JACKSON Democracy in 1833, and JOHNSON, of Tennessee, its modern prototype, and DOUGLAS and BUCHANAN, now join with LINCOLN and CHASE and SEWARD in the grand effort to establish, by the sword, what has long existed as a policy—the despotism of a consolidated government under the Constitution of the United States.

The matter is now plain. State after State in the South sees the deadly development, and are moving to take their part in the grand effort to redeem their liberties. It is not a contest for righteous taxation. It is not a contest for the security of slave property. It is a contest for freedom and free government, in which everything dear to man is involved. Shall we submit to the sectional and remorseless despotism of a majority of the Northern States, with no restraints on their lawless will, no checks on their omnivorous rapacity? That is the question. Every man, every boy in the South answers NO! And they will fight the foul usurpers and tyrants, if they dare the issue of war, as long as the streams run and the sun shines on our vallies.



**Micah Jenkins Website**

**The Micah Jenkins website is back up and running.**

**The NEW web address is:**  
**[bgmicahjenkins.org](http://bgmicahjenkins.org)**

## **Leonidas Polk** **April 10, 1806 – June 14, 1864**

Leonidas Polk was a Confederate general in the War Between the States who was once a planter in Maury County, Tennessee, and a second cousin of President James K. Polk. He also served as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and was for that reason known as The Fighting Bishop.

Polk was one of the more controversial political generals of the war, elevated to a high military position with no prior combat experience because of his friendship with Confederate President Jefferson Davis. He fought as a corps commander in many of the major battles of the Western Theater, but is remembered more for his bitter disagreements with his immediate superior, Gen. Braxton Bragg of the Army of Tennessee, than for his successes in combat. He was killed in action in 1864 during the Atlanta Campaign.

Polk was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, to Sarah (Hawkins) Polk and Colonel William Polk, a Revolutionary War veteran and prosperous planter. Capitalizing on his position as chief surveyor of the central district of Tennessee, William was able to acquire about 100,000 acres of land. Polk attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill briefly before entering the United States Military Academy at West Point. During his senior year, he joined the Episcopal Church, baptized in the Academy Chapel by Chaplain Charles P. McIlvaine, who later became the Episcopal Bishop of Ohio. Polk had an impressive academic record, excelling in rhetoric and moral philosophy. He graduated eighth of 38 cadets on July 1, 1827, and was appointed a brevet second lieutenant in the artillery.

Polk resigned his commission on December 1, 1827, so that he could enter the Virginia Theological Seminary. He became an assistant to Bishop Richard Channing Moore at Monumental Church in Richmond, Virginia. Moore ordained Polk as a deacon in April 1830 and a priest the following year. On May 6, 1830, Polk married Frances Ann Deveraux, daughter of John and Frances Pollock Devereaux; her mother was the granddaughter of Puritan theologian Jonathan Edwards. The Polks had eight children.

Polk moved his family to the vast Polk "Rattle and Snap" tract in Maury County, Tennessee, and constructed a massive Greek Revival home he called "Ashwood Hall". Polk was the largest slaveholder in Maury County, Tennessee, in 1840, with 111 slaves. By 1850, census records state that Polk owned 215 slaves, but other estimates are as high as 400. With his four brothers in Maury County, he built a family chapel, St. John's Church, at Ashwood. He also served as priest of St. Peter's Church in Columbia, Tennessee. He was appointed Missionary Bishop of the Southwest in September 1838 and was elected Bishop of Louisiana in October 1841.

Bishop Polk was the leading founder of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, which he envisioned as a national university for the South and a New World equivalent to Oxford and Cambridge, both in England. In his August 1856 letter to Bishop Elliott, he expounded on the secessionist motives for his university. Polk laid and consecrated the cornerstone for the first building on October 9, 1860. Polk's foundational legacy at Sewanee is remembered always through his portrait *Sword Over the Gown*, painted by Eliphalet F. Andrews in 1900. After the original was vandalized in 1998, a copy by Connie Erickson was unveiled on June 1, 2003.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Polk pulled the Louisiana Convention out of the Episcopal Church of the United States. Although he hoped that secession would result in a peaceful separation of the North and South and suggested that he was reluctant to take up arms personally, he did not hesitate to write to his friend and former classmate at West Point, Jefferson Davis, offering his services in the Confederate States Army. Polk was commissioned a major general on June 25, 1861, and ordered to command Department No. 2 (roughly, the area between the Mississippi River and the Tennessee River). He committed one of the great blunders of the Civil War by dispatching troops to occupy Columbus, Kentucky, in September 1861; the critical border state of Kentucky had declared its neutrality between the Union and the Confederacy, but Polk's action was instrumental in prompting the Kentucky legislature to request Federal aid to resist his advance, ending the state's brief attempt at neutrality and effectively ceding it to Union control for the remainder of the war.

Polk's command saw its first combat on November 7, 1861, in the minor, inconclusive Battle of Belmont between Polk's subordinate, Brig. Gen. Gideon J. Pillow and Union Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Although not present on the battlefield himself, Polk was wounded nearby on November 11 when the largest cannon in his army, nicknamed "Lady Polk" in honor of his wife, exploded during demonstration firing. The explosion stunned Polk and blew his clothes off, requiring a convalescence of several weeks. During this period Polk argued about strategy with his subordinate, Pillow, and his superior, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, commander of Confederate forces in the Western Theater. Resentful that his former West Point roommate was giving him orders, he submitted a letter of resignation to President Davis on November 6, but Davis rejected the request. Besides being a basically incompetent general, Polk had the added fault of hating to take orders.

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## Leonidas Polk (continued)

In April 1862, Polk commanded the First Corps of Albert Sidney Johnston's Army of Mississippi at the Battle of Shiloh and continued in that role for much of the rest of the year under Gen. Braxton Bragg, who replaced Johnston, killed on the first day at Shiloh. At various times his command was considered a corps and at other times the "Right Wing" of the army. In the fall, during the invasion of Kentucky by Bragg and Maj. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, Polk was in temporary command of the Army of Mississippi while Bragg visited Frankfort to preside over the inauguration of a Confederate governor for the state. Polk disregarded an order from Bragg to attack the flank of the pursuing Union Army near Frankfort.

Bragg thoroughly despised ... the genial but pompous and often incompetent Bishop Polk. Bragg considered Polk "an old woman, utterly worthless", especially at disciplining men. Unfortunately for Bragg and for the Confederacy as a whole, Polk remained a great favorite of Jefferson Davis despite carefully couched hints from Bragg, which protected the irritatingly self-righteous Polk from the increasingly sycophantic Bragg and made his appointment to wing command a political necessity.

At the Battle of Perryville, Polk's right wing constituted the main attacking force against Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio, but Polk was reluctant to attack the small portion of Buell's army that faced him until Bragg arrived at the battlefield. One of the enduring legends of the Civil War is that Polk witnessed his subordinate, Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham, advancing his division. Cheatham allegedly shouted, "Give 'em hell, boys!" and Polk, retaining the sensibility of his role as an Episcopal bishop, seconded the cheer: "Give it to 'em boys; give 'em what General Cheatham says!"

After Perryville, Polk began a year-long campaign to get Bragg relieved of command, hoping to use his close relationship with President Davis to accomplish his goal. Despite the failure of his Kentucky campaign, Bragg was retained in command, but this did nothing to reduce the enmity between Polk and Bragg. Polk was promoted to lieutenant general on October 11, 1862, with date of rank of October 10. He became the second most senior Confederate of that rank during the war, behind James Longstreet. In November, the Army of Mississippi was renamed the Army of Tennessee and Polk commanded its First Corps until September 1863.

Polk fought under Bragg at the Battle of Stones River in late 1862 and once again Bragg's subordinates politicked to remove their army commander after an unsuccessful battle (the battle was tactically inconclusive, but Bragg was unable to stop the advance of the Union Army of the Cumberland under Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans and Bragg withdrew

his army to Tullahoma, Tennessee). Bragg was also unsuccessful in resisting Rosecrans's advance in the Tullahoma Campaign, which began to threaten the important city of Chattanooga. In the face of Rosecrans's expert maneuvering of his army, Polk counseled Bragg to retreat rather than stand and fight in their Tullahoma fortifications.

Rosecrans eventually maneuvered Bragg out of Chattanooga and the Army of Tennessee withdrew into the mountains of northwestern Georgia with the Army of the Cumberland in hot pursuit. Bragg planned to attack and destroy at least one of Rosecrans's corps, advancing separately over mountainous roads. He was infuriated when Polk's division under Maj. Gen. Thomas C. Hindman failed to attack an isolated Union corps at Davis's Cross Roads as ordered on September 11. Two days later, Polk disregarded orders from Bragg to attack another isolated corps, the second failed opportunity. At the Battle of Chickamauga, Polk was given command of the Right Wing and the responsibility for initiating the attack on the second day of battle (September 19). He failed to inform his subordinates of the plan and his wing was late in attacking, allowing the Union defenders time to complete their field fortifications. Bragg wrote after the war that if it were not for the loss of these hours, "our independence might have been won."

Chickamauga was a great tactical victory for Bragg, but instead of pursuing and destroying the Union Army as it retreated, he laid siege to it in Chattanooga, concentrating his effort against the enemies inside his army instead of his enemies from the North. He demanded an explanation from Polk on the bishop's failure to attack in time on September 20 and Polk placed the blame entirely on one of his subordinates, Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill. Bragg wrote to President Davis, "Gen'l Polk by education and habit is unfit for executing the plans of others. He will convince himself his own are better and follow them without reflecting on the consequences." Bragg relieved Polk of his command and ordered him to Atlanta to await further orders. Although Polk protested the "arbitrary and unlawful order" to the Secretary of War and demanded a court of inquiry, he was not restored to his position and Davis once again retained Bragg in army command, despite the protestations of a number of his subordinate generals.

President Davis transferred his friend Polk to command the Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana (December 23, 1863 – January 28, 1864) and then the Department of Alabama and East Mississippi (January 28 – May 4, 1864), giving him effective command of the state of Mississippi following the departure of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston to replace Bragg in command of the Army of Tennessee.

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## Leonidas Polk (continued)

Polk unsuccessfully attempted to oppose Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's raid against Meridian, Mississippi, in February 1864. In May, he was ordered to take his forces and join with Johnston in resisting Sherman's advance in the Atlanta Campaign. He assumed command of the Third Corps of the Army of Tennessee (which was nicknamed the "Army of Mississippi") on May 4.

Polk brought more than 20,000 men with him to Georgia. Because of his elevated rank, he became the army's second in command under Johnston. Johnston progressively withdrew his army from strong defensive positions whenever his flanks were threatened by Sherman's advance.

The army had suffered a severe loss. It was not that Polk had been a spectacular corps officer. His deficiencies as a commander and his personal traits of stubbornness and childishness had played no small role in several of the army's disasters in earlier times. The loss was one of morale and experience. Polk was the army's most beloved general, a representative of that intangible identification of the army with Tennessee.

On June 14, 1864, Polk was scouting enemy positions near Marietta, Georgia, with his staff when he was killed in action by a Federal 3-inch Hotchkiss shell at Pine Mountain. The artillery fire was initiated when Sherman spotted a cluster of Confederate officers — Polk, Hardee, Johnston, and their staffs— in an exposed area. He pointed them out to Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard, commander of the IV Corps, and ordered him to fire on them. The 5th Indiana Battery, commanded by Capt. Peter Simonson, obeyed the order within minutes. The first round came close and a second even closer, causing the men to disperse. The third shell struck Polk's left arm, went through the chest, and exited hitting his right arm then exploded against a tree; it nearly cut Polk in two.

"My pen and ability is inadequate to the task of doing his memory justice. Every private soldier loved him. Second to Stonewall Jackson, his loss was the greatest the South ever sustained. When I saw him there dead, I felt that I had lost a friend whom I had ever loved and respected, and that the South had lost one of her best and greatest Generals."

*-Private Sam Watkins, Co. Aytch*

Although his record as a field commander was poor, Polk was immensely popular with his troops, and his death was deeply mourned in the Army of Tennessee. Polk's funeral service was one of the most elaborate during the war, presided over by his friend, Bishop Stephen Elliott of Georgia. He was buried at Saint Paul's Church in Augusta, Georgia, and in 1945, his remains and those of his wife were reinterred at Christ Church Cathedral in New

Orleans. His grave can be found in the front floor sanctuary, to the right of the pulpit.

Polk's nephew, Lucius E. Polk, was also a Confederate general. His son, William Mecklenburg Polk, was a physician and a Confederate captain.

Fort Polk in Louisiana is named in Bishop Polk's memory.



### Prayer Closet

- Continue to pray for our those effected by the economy; especially those unemployed.
- Please add the following members of the Palmetto Battalion to your prayers: Leo Lozano, Curtis Sauls (Moose), Leland Summers, Wayne Dukes & Steve Wilson. Each has been an accident or has a serious illness.
- Please add Chris Sims, he will have surgery on August 17th for his rotor cup.
- Lets all keep in prayer Bob Jackson, he has a broken leg. Also, Jack Morton's wife Connie, she has a broken arm.
- Our Commander, Jim Floyd is almost recovered from the surgery on his shoulder. Let's keep Jim in our prayers for a quick recovery.
- Please add Laddie's mother (Clara Parrish) on your prayer list.
- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. The SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Pray for our service men and women and for their families.

## **Confederate Flags are American Flags Symbols of American Heritage, Culture and Sovereignty**

Confederate Flags are honorable and legitimate symbols of our American History. We recognize that to some people Flags of the South represent nothing more than icons of hatred. To those individuals we extend a friendly hand of sympathy and understanding. Their ignorance is not so much a reflection upon themselves as an indictment of those institutions entrusted with the serious task of education, higher education and news dissemination.

Many historic symbols have been misused by various groups. Whether the Federal Flag, the Christian Cross or the Saint Andrews Cross of Dixie, the symbol is not at fault. These symbols have a deeper meaning that transcend their use by ignorant folk. Understand that the Flags of the Confederacy were legitimate banners of a Nation and people that struggled to preserve individual liberty, the sanctity of law, and the sovereignty of States as intended by our founders in 1776 and guaranteed by our original Constitution in 1787 and Bill of Rights in 1789. Consider the following:

- The original Constitutions of New York, Rhode Island and Virginia provided for secession as those States would not join the union without that express provision.
- Prior to 1840 there were many movements in New England to secede. Never was their right to do so denied them.
- Prior to 1860 the Law Text used at West Point taught secession as legal.
- A "Civil War" is one in which two or more armed groups seek control of their single government. Congressional Record of March 2, 1928 reports Senate Joint Resolution No. 41, wherein Congress recognized the title, "War Between the States", "whereas the 1861 - 1865 war was waged between two organized governments whose official titles were the United States of America and the Confederate States of America."

### **Do you have an article for Honoring the Gray?**

If so, please send to Jerry Brown at [jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com) or call Jerry at 803-327-2834. Articles may be funny or serious as long as it reflects the ideals and purpose of the SCV. Please limit the size of articles for mailing purposes.

- The Congress of the United States on May 23, 1958 conferred the same status as United States Veterans upon Confederate Veterans in Public Law 85-425. Thus, when local governments, parade organizers, cemetery officials, or distraught citizens forbid Confederate Flags, they disrespect American History, the U.S. Congress, Public Law 85-425, and Article 1 of the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution.

The Declaration of Independence, the action of the Second Continental Congress, July 4, 1776 states: " ... to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is The Right of the People to alter or abolish it." Therefore the last American Army to fight in defense of our Declaration and Constitution was the Army of the Confederate States of America.

Our history has been distorted, our symbols have been maligned. It does not have to be so. Study to defend your American History and display your Southern Flag respectfully. To learn more visit the Bookroom at Crossroads Country Store in the Shenandoah Heritage Market, Harrisonburg, Va. (540) 433-2084.



## War Between the States Battle Names

So many battlefields of the Civil War bear double names. The troops of the North came mainly from cities, towns, and villages, and were, therefore, impressed by some natural object near the scene of the conflict and named the battle from it. The soldiers from the South were chiefly from the country and were, therefore, impressed by some artificial object near the field of action. In one section the naming has been after the handiwork of God; in the other section it has been after the handiwork of man. Thus, the first passage of arms is called the battle of Bull Run at the North, the name of a little stream. At the South it takes the name of Manassas, from a railroad station. The second battle on the same ground is called the Second Bull Run by the North, and the Second Manassas by the South.

Stone's defeat is the battle of Ball's Bluff with the Federals, and the battle of Leesburg with the Confederates. The battle called by General Grant, Pittsburg Landing, a natural object, was named Shiloh, after a church, by his antagonist. Rosecrans called his first great fight with Bragg, the battle of Stone River, while Bragg named it after Murfreesboro, a village. So McClellan's battle of the Chickahominy, a little river, was with Lee the battle of Cold Harbor, a tavern. The Federals speak of the battle of Pea Ridge, of the Ozark range of mountains, and the Confederates call it after Elk Horn, a country inn. The Union soldiers called the bloody battle three days after South Mountain from the little stream, Antietam, and the Southern troops named it after the village of Sharpsburg.

| <b>Date of Battle</b>       | <b>Confederate</b> | <b>Federal</b>      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| July 21, 1861               | First Manassas     | Bull Run            |
| Aug. 10, 1861               | Oak Hills          | Wilson's Creek      |
| Oct. 21, 1861               | Leesburg           | Ball's Bluff        |
| Jan. 19, 1862               | Mill Springs       | Logan's Cross Roads |
| Mar. 7-8, 1862              | Elkhorn Tavern     | Pea Ridge           |
| Apr. 6-7, 1862              | Shiloh             | Pittsburg Landing   |
| June 27, 1862               | Gaines's Mill      | Chickahominy        |
| Aug. 29-30, 1862            | Second Manassas    | Second Bull Run     |
| Sept. 1, 1862               | Ox Hill            | Chantilly           |
| Sept. 14, 1862              | Boonsboro          | South Mountain      |
| Sept. 17, 1862              | Sharpsburg         | Antietam            |
| Oct. 8, 1862                | Perryville         | Chaplin Hills       |
| Dec. 31, 1862 - Jan 2, 1863 | Murfreesboro       | Stones River        |
| Apr. 8, 1864                | Mansfield          | Sabine Cross Roads  |
| Sept. 19, 1864              | Winchester         | Opequon Creek       |

Source: Excerpt from an article written by General D.H. Hill, that appeared in "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War."



### SCV Annual Dues

If you have not sent in your dues, please do so as soon as you can. The annual dues need to be in by September 1st. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Sims at 803-981-7560.

If you would like to receive ***Honoring the Gray*** each month by email, please send me your email address at [jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkinsscvc@yahoo.com).

Any member deciding to receive the newsletter by email only and removed from the mailing list can at any time change their request and again receive the newsletter by mail just by notifying me.

*Yours in the Cause,  
Jerry Brown, editor, Honoring the Gray*



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**Leonidas Polk (April 10, 1806 – June 14, 1864)**