



**Official Newsletter of the BG Micah Jenkins
SCV Camp 1569**

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Honoring the Gray

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Commander's Comments

I hope this letter finds everyone in good spirits and good health.

Next month on March 26-27, 2010 the S. C. Division State Convention will be held in Florence. We will discuss this at the meeting March 9th. Let me know if you plan to attend. I have all the details for this meeting. I don't have the program in my computer to post and email the brochure I have.

Our Color Sergeant Ray Baker's mother has had stomach cancer surgery. Let's all keep her and Ray in our prayers.

Hope to see all of you and visitors March 9th.

A good book to read: Black Flag by Thomas Goodrich

Commander, Jim Floyd

William E. Lockridge Principal Research Manager Selma Research Project

Bill Lockridge is a researcher and writer who has studied the role of the Selma, Alabama military complex during the War of Northern Aggression full time since 2004. Initially this work was undertaken for casual and recreational purposes but over time it has evolved into a full time research effort intended to result in publication of a book.

In the process of his research, Lockridge has become one of the key resources to the historical community for ready information on many of the events & activities that happened there during the war. In particular, he has become one of the most knowledgeable resources on the story behind the manufacturing of the famous Confederate Brooke guns that were hailed as the best in the world at the time.

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Camp Meeting Tuesday, March 9th 2010

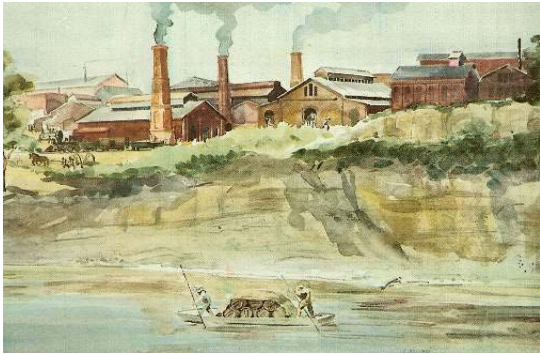
Regularly scheduled meeting at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant @ 7:00 PM.

Come early join the fellowship and eat.

The guest speaker for February will be William E. Lockridge of Mint Hill, NC.

His topic will be Selma Ordnance & Naval Factory.

Selma Ordnance and Naval Foundry



The Selma Ordnance and Naval Foundry, also known as the Selma Naval Foundry and Ironworks and the Selma Arsenal. Selma Naval Foundry and Gun Works, was a leading manufacturing center for the South during the Civil War. The facility, located on the Alabama River in Dallas County, produced finished war materials for the Confederate armed forces from pig-iron ingots from the state's blast furnaces. At its peak around 1863-64, this manufacturing center employed as many as 10,000 workers in approximately 100 buildings and was second only to the Tredegar Ironworks in Richmond, Virginia, in the production of war materials.

In 1861, Colin J. McRae, a former Mississippi legislator, secured a contract with the Confederate government to cast cannon and erected a foundry at Selma. McRae's foundry joined a large number of private enterprises that were producing items such as shovels, uniforms, swords, and buttons. Selma's manufacturing center received another major addition in 1862, when Gen. Josiah Gorgas, chief of the Confederate Bureau of Ordnance, moved the former Federal Arsenal located at Mt. Vernon near Mobile to Selma. This relocation was necessitated by the fall of New Orleans and the increasing vulnerability of Alabama's coast to Union naval forces. McRae sold the foundry to the government for \$450,000 when he left for Europe in 1863 to serve as a Confederate purchasing agent. The government then appointed Commander Catesby ap Roger Jones to supervise the production of cannon for coastal defense and naval bombardment. Under Jones, the Selma foundry became the only site within the Lower South capable of manufacturing the Brooke rifle for the Confederate Navy as well as other large-caliber artillery. The most common pieces pro-

duced at Selma were the 6.4-inch Brooke, which was just over 11 feet and weighed more than 10,000 pounds, and the 7-inch, 12-plus foot piece, weighing as much as 15,000 pounds. Selma is also believed to have cast 11 of the 11-inch Brooke smoothbore guns that weighed in excess of 20,000 pounds, but completed and shipped only eight. (Some of these pieces still exist and grace cemeteries, schoolyards, and museums, including one at the National Civil War Museum in Port Columbus, Georgia, which is fired periodically.)

The equipment at Selma included gun lathes and molds situated in a gun foundry, along with machine shops, a puddling furnace, and blacksmith shops. The facility cast its first cannon, a 7-inch Brooke rifle, in July 1863. Generally, a large gun such as a Brooke took six to seven weeks to complete from initial casting, through the cooling process, and then lathing the bore and cutting the barrel grooves to exact dimensions for accommodating the shot or shell. A lathe that is said to have been recovered from Selma sits on the campus of Auburn University next to Samford Hall. Some sources state that the last Brooke was cast in December 1864, although others place the date at March 21, 1865, just before Selma's fall. In all, more than 70 Brooke guns were manufactured at Selma, most of which were shipped to Mobile; others were mounted on naval vessels or employed in coastal defenses.

Centrally located in the Confederacy hundreds of miles from enemy lines, Selma was the logical choice for a major manufacturing center, which was needed to compliment the output of the Tredegar Ironworks in Richmond. Its location on the Alabama River provided access to Mobile Bay, and it was connected by rail to Alabama's rich iron and coal fields. The Shelby Iron Works, located near Columbiana in Shelby County and founded by Horace Ware in the late 1840s, was one of the major suppliers of iron to Selma's manufacturing complex. Other significant suppliers included the Brierfield Furnace in Bibb County, Tannehill Ironworks in Jefferson County, and the Little Cahaba Iron Works (also known as "Brighthope") in Bibb County, founded by William Phineas Browne in 1848.

By 1864, the government-owned facilities in Selma's vast ordnance complex included the naval foundry, shipyard, army arsenal, and gunpowder works. The complex covered 50 acres

Selma Ordnance and Naval Foundry

along present-day Water Avenue, which runs roughly parallel to the Alabama River, about six blocks from the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Some 10,000 workers were employed in all of the various components of the complex at its peak around 1864, with 3,000 workers in the foundry and another 3,000 workers in the arsenal. A few of these workers were German craftsmen, but most were women, children, and slaves who were hired out by local landowners. Many mechanics employed in the city prior to the war were either conscripted or had volunteered for service, hampering Selma's productivity during the conflict. This workforce turned out almost every item needed by the Confederate soldiers in the field, from horseshoe nails to gun carriages, and produced approximately half of the Confederacy's cannon and two-thirds of its ammunition during the last two years of the war. The facility was further impeded throughout its existence by inadequate supplies of iron.

The facility's shipyard contributed to the South's war effort by building the ironclads CSS Tennessee, CSS Huntsville, and CSS Tuscaloosa and partially outfitting the CSS Nashville. The CSS Tennessee, a 1,273-ton ironclad ram, was the most important of the four, performing with merit, albeit in a losing cause, in the Battle of Mobile Bay. As a testament to the quality of iron plating produced by Selma's naval shipyard, the Tennessee withstood heavy bombardment at close range with no major damage.

The success of the Selma Ordnance and Naval Foundry made it an important target for the Union Army. But because of Selma's location deep within the Confederacy, it was not attacked until the spring of 1865, when Gen. James H. Wilson led a cavalry raid into central Alabama to dismantle the state's military production sites. Before advancing on Selma, Wilson's forces burned the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and destroyed a number of Alabama's iron-producing facilities, including those at Oxmoor, Irondale, and Tannehill in Jefferson County and Brighthope and Brierfield in Bibb County.

Finally, on April 2, 1865, Wilson's troops captured the city of Selma and completely destroyed all of the city's manufacturing facilities and equipment, including the arsenal, the ordnance center, the gunpowder works, the nitre works, and 11 ironworks and foundries. In the arsenal alone, 15 siege guns, 10 heavy carriages, 10 field pieces, 10 caissons, 63,000 rounds of artillery ammunition, three million feet of lumber, and 10,000 bushels of coal were destroyed.

Just one week after the destruction of Selma, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, and the war was effectively over. Selma's manufacturing center had contributed greatly to the South's ability to continue fighting during the last two years of the war. But its destruction insured that arms and ammunition could not be supplied to any guerilla forces that might be encouraged to keep on fighting.

William E. Lockridge (cont)

Lockridge is a frequent speaker on topics that relate to Selma, her wartime activities and some of the people who played important roles in the service of the Glorious Cause. He has been published in a number of magazine and newspaper articles, and has appeared on television to present some of his work on Selma. His presentations touch on the naval affairs at Hampton Roads in 1862, the battle of Mobile Bay in 1864, Brooke gun specifics, the battle of Selma in 1865, and manufacturing, transportation, logistics & shipbuilding in Selma throughout the war. He has a digital image library of well over 7,000 Selma-related relics.

He is a graduate of A. G. Parrish High School in Selma, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University, and is a graduate of the US Army Aviator School at Fort Rucker, AL. Bill served as a combat helicopter pilot in Viet Nam and is an honorably discharged veteran. He worked as an offshore helicopter pilot, flight instructor, Alabama National Guard pilot, airport manager, consultant, project manager and regional property manager for a large wireless communications corporation.

His work and travels have carried him to 4 continents and many countries over the past 60 years, and to us here in Sparks today/tonight.

Nathan Bedford Forrest (July 13, 1821 – October 29, 1877)

Nathan Bedford Forrest was a lieutenant general in the Confederate Army during the American Civil War. He is remembered both as a self-educated, innovative cavalry leader during the war and as a leading insurgent in the postwar years. A cavalry and military commander in the war, Forrest is one of the war's most unusual figures. Less educated than many of his fellow officers, Forrest had amassed a fortune prior to the war as a planter, real estate investor, and slave trader. He was one of the few officers in either army to enlist as a private and be promoted to general officer and division commander by the end of the war. Although Forrest lacked formal military education, he had a gift for strategy and tactics. He created and established new doctrines for mobile forces, earning the nickname The Wizard of the Saddle. He was accused of war crimes at the Battle of Fort Pillow for allowing forces under his command to conduct a massacre of black Union Army prisoners. In their postwar writings, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and General Robert E. Lee both expressed their belief that the Confederate high command had failed to fully use Forrest's talents.

Nathan Bedford Forrest was born to a poor family in Chapel Hill, Tennessee. He was the first of blacksmith William Forrest's twelve children with wife Miriam Beck. After his father's death, Forrest became head of the family at age 17. Forrest became a businessman, a planter who owned several cotton plantations in the Tennessee Delta, and a slave owner. He was also a slave trader, with a business based on Adams Street in Memphis. In 1858 Forrest, a Democrat, was elected as a Memphis city alderman. Forrest supported his mother and put his younger brothers through college. By the time the American Civil War started in 1861, he was a millionaire and one of the richest men in the South. Forrest had amassed a personal net worth of more than \$1.5 million.

After war broke out, Forrest returned to Tennessee and enlisted as a private in the Confederate States Army. On July 14, 1861, he joined Captain J. S. White's Company "E", Tennessee Mounted Rifles. Forrest was trained at Fort Wright. His superior officers and the state Governor Isham G. Harris were surprised that someone of Forrest's wealth and prominence had enlisted as a soldier, especially since major planters were exempted from service. They commissioned him as a colonel and authorized him to recruit and train a battalion of Confeder-

ate Mounted Rangers. In October 1861 he was given command of a regiment, "Forrest's Tennessee Cavalry Battalion". Though Forrest had no prior formal military training or experience, he had exhibited leadership qualities and soon exhibited a gift for successful tactics.

At six-foot, two-inches tall and 210 pounds, Forrest was physically imposing and intimidating, especially compared to the average height of men at the time. He used his skills as a hard rider and fierce swordsman to great effect. (He was known to sharpen both the top and bottom edges of his heavy saber.) Historians have evaluated contemporary records to conclude that Forrest may have killed more than thirty-three enemy soldiers with saber, pistol and shotgun. Forrest's command included his Escort Company (his "Special Forces"), for which he selected the best soldiers available. This unit, which varied in size from 40-90 men, was the elite of the cavalry. Eight of these soldiers were enslaved black men held by Forrest before the war.

Forrest distinguished himself first at the Battle of Fort Donelson in February 1862. His cavalry captured a Union artillery battery and then he broke out of a Union Army siege headed by Major General Ulysses S. Grant. Forrest rallied nearly 4,000 troops and led them across the river. A few days after Fort Donelson, with the fall of Nashville imminent, he took command of the city. Local industries had several millions of dollars worth of heavy ordnance machinery, and arranged for transport of the machinery and several important government officials to safe locations.

A month later, Forrest was back in action at the Battle of Shiloh (April 6 to April 7, 1862). He commanded a Confederate rear guard after the

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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*

Nathan Bedford Forrest

Union victory. In the battle of Fallen Timbers, he drove through the Union skirmish line. Not realizing that the rest of his men had halted their charge when reaching the full Union brigade, Forrest charged the brigade single-handedly, and soon found himself surrounded. He emptied his Colt Army revolvers into the swirling mass of Union soldiers and pulled out his saber, hacking and slashing. A Union infantryman fired a musket ball into Forrest's spine with a point-blank musket shot, nearly knocking him out of the saddle. Placing a Union infantryman behind him on the saddle as a shield, Forrest broke out and galloped back to his incredulous troopers. A surgeon removed the musket ball a week later, without anesthesia, which was unavailable. Likely Forrest would have been given a generous dose of alcohol to muffle the pain of the surgery.

By early summer, Forrest commanded a new brigade of "green" cavalry regiments. In July, he led them into Middle Tennessee under orders to launch a cavalry raid. On July 13, 1862, he led them into the First Battle of Murfreesboro, which Forrest is said to have won.

Promoted in July 1862 to brigadier general, Forrest was given command of a Confederate cavalry brigade. In December 1862, Forrest's veteran troopers were reassigned by Bragg to another officer, against his protest. Forrest had to recruit a new brigade, composed of about 2,000 inexperienced recruits, most of whom lacked weapons. Again, Bragg ordered a raid, this one into west Tennessee to disrupt the communications of the Union forces under Grant, threatening the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Forrest protested that to send such untrained men behind enemy lines was suicidal, but Bragg insisted, and Forrest obeyed his orders. On the ensuing raid, he showed his brilliance, leading thousands of Union soldiers in west Tennessee on a "wild goose chase" to try to locate his fast-moving forces. Never stayed in one place long enough to be attacked, Forrest led his troops in raids as far north as the banks of the Ohio River in southwest Kentucky. He returned to his base in Mississippi with more men than he had started with. By then all were fully armed with captured Union weapons. As a result, Union general Ulysses S. Grant was forced to revise and delay the strategy of his Vicksburg Campaign. "He [Forrest] was the only Confederate cavalryman of whom Grant stood in much dread," a friend of Grant's was quoted as saying.

Forrest continued to lead his men in small-scale operations until April 1863. The Confederate army dispatched him into the backcountry of northern Alabama and west Georgia to defend against an attack of 3,000 Union cavalymen commanded by Col. Abel Streight. Streight had orders to cut the Confederate railroad south of Chattanooga, Tennessee, to cut off Bragg's supply line and force him to retreat into Georgia. Forrest chased Streight's men for 16 days, harassing them all the way. Streight's goal changed to escape the pursuit. On May 3, Forrest caught up with Streight's unit east of Cedar Bluff, Alabama. Forrest had fewer men than the Union side, but he repeatedly paraded some of them around a hilltop to appear a larger force, and convinced Streight to surrender his 1,500 exhausted troops.

Forrest served with the main army at the Battle of Chickamauga (September 18 to September 20, 1863). He pursued the retreating Union army and took hundreds of prisoners. Like several others under Bragg's command, he urged an immediate follow-up attack to recapture Chattanooga, which had fallen a few weeks before. Bragg failed to do so, upon which Forrest was quoted as saying, "What does he fight battles for?" After Forrest made death threats against Bragg during a confrontation, Bragg reassigned him to an independent command in Mississippi. On December 4, 1863, Forrest was promoted to the rank of major general.

On April 12, 1864, Forrest led his forces in the attack and capture of Fort Pillow on the Mississippi River in Henning, Tennessee. Many black Union troops were killed in the battle. A controversy arose about whether Forrest conducted or condoned a massacre of the black troops who had surrendered there. Forrest's men insisted that the Federals, although fleeing, kept their weapons and frequently turned to shoot, forcing the Confederates to keep firing in self defense. Confederates said the Union flag was still flying over the fort, which indicated that the force had not formally surrendered. A contemporary newspaper account from Jackson, Tennessee, stated that "General Forrest begged them to surrender," but "not the first sign of surrender was ever given."

Forrest's greatest victory came on June 10, 1864, when his 3,500-man force clashed with 8,500 men commanded by Union Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis at the Battle of Brice's Crossroads. Here, his mobility of force and superior

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tactics led to victory. In all, the maneuver cost Forrest 96 men killed and 396 wounded. The day was worse for Union troops, which suffered 223 killed, 394 wounded and 1,623 men missing. The losses were a deep blow to the black regiment under Sturgis's command. In the hasty retreat, they stripped off commemorative badges that read "Remember Fort Pillow", to avoid goading the Confederate force pursuing them.

One month later, Forrest's first major tactical defeat came at the Battle of Tupelo in 1864. Concerned about Union supply lines, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman sent a force under the command of Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Smith to deal with Forrest. The Union forces drove Forrest from the field, but his forces were not wholly destroyed. He continued to oppose Union efforts in the West for the remainder of the war.

Forrest led other raids that summer and fall, including a famous one into Union-held downtown Memphis in August 1864 (the Second Battle of Memphis), and another on a Union supply depot at Johnsonville, Tennessee, on October 3, 1864, causing millions of dollars in damage. In December, he fought alongside the Confederate Army of Tennessee in the disastrous Franklin-Nashville Campaign. He argued bitterly with his superior officer, demanding permission from General John Bell Hood, the newest (and last) commander of the Army of Tennessee, to cross the river during the Second Battle of Franklin and cut off Union Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield's army's escape route. He made the attempt but was defeated. After his bloody defeat at Franklin, Hood continued to Nashville, while Forrest led an independent raid against the Murfreesboro garrison. Forrest engaged Union forces near Murfreesboro on December 5, 1864, and was soundly defeated at what would be known as the Third Battle of Murfreesboro. After Hood's Army of Tennessee was all but destroyed at the Battle of Nashville, Forrest distinguished himself by commanding the Confederate rear-guard in a series of actions that allowed what was left of the army to escape. For this, he earned promotion to the rank of lieutenant general.

In 1865, Forrest attempted, without success, to defend the state of Alabama against Wilson's Raid. His opponent, Brig. Gen. James H. Wilson, defeated Forrest in battle. When he received news of Lee's surrender, Forrest also chose to surrender.

In the four years of the war, Forrest reputedly had a total of 30 horses shot out from under

him. He was said to have personally killed 31 people. "I was a horse ahead at the end," he said.

Forrest is often erroneously quoted as saying his strategy was to "git thar fustest with the mostest," but this quote first appeared in print in a New York Times story in 1917, written to provide colorful comments in reaction to European interest in Civil War generals. Bruce Catton writes: "Do not, under any circumstances whatever, quote Forrest as saying 'fustest' and 'mostest'. He did not say it that way, and nobody who knows anything about him imagines that he did."

Forrest became well-known for his early use of "maneuver" tactics as applied to a mobile horse cavalry deployment. He sought to constantly harass the enemy in fast-moving raids, and to disrupt supply trains and enemy communications by destroying railroad track and cutting telegraph lines, as he wheeled around the Union Army's flank. His success in doing so is reported to have driven Ulysses S. Grant to fits of anger.

After the war, Forrest settled in Memphis, Tennessee, building a house on a bank of the Mississippi River. With slavery abolished, the former slave trader suffered a major financial setback. He later found employment at the Selma-based Marion & Memphis Railroad and eventually became the company president. He was not as successful in railroad promoting as in war, and under his direction the company went bankrupt.

Nearly ruined as the result of the failure of the Marion & Memphis Railroad in the early 1870s, Forrest spent his final days running a prison work farm on President's Island in the Mississippi River. There were financial failures across the country in the Panic of 1873. Forrest's health was in steady decline. He and his wife lived in a log cabin they had salvaged from his plantation.

Early on, Forrest became a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Historian and Forrest biographer Brian Steel Wills writes, "While there is no doubt that Forrest joined the Klan, there is some question as to whether he actually was the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan." The KKK was formed by Democrats in Pulaski, Tennessee in 1866 and soon expanded throughout the state and beyond. Forrest became involved sometime in late 1866 or early 1867.

Forrest's personal sentiments on the issue of race, however, were quite different from that of

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the Klan. Forrest was invited and gave a speech to organization of black Southerners called the "Jubilee of Pole-Bearers" in 1875. In this speech, Forrest espoused a radically progressive (for the time) agenda of equality and harmony between black and white Americans. At this, his last public appearance, he made what the New York Times described as a "friendly speech" in which he called for reconciliation between the races and called for the admission of blacks into the professional classes from which they had heretofore been excluded.

Forrest died in Memphis in October 1877, reportedly from acute complications of diabetes. He was buried at Elmwood Cemetery. In 1904 his remains were disinterred and moved to Forrest Park, a Memphis city park named in his honor.

Many memorials were erected to Forrest in Tennessee. Obelisks in his memory were placed at his birthplace in Chapel Hill and at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park near Camden. A statue of General Forrest was erected in Memphis's Nathan Bedford Forrest Park. A bust

sculpted by Jane Baxendale is on display at the state capitol building in Nashville. The World War II Army base Camp Forrest in Tullahoma, Tennessee was named after him.

A massive but strange statue of Forrest on horseback stands south of Nashville. Here his face takes on a comical growl, and his over sized silver body sits atop an undersized bronze mount. Both detractors and admirers of Forrest dislike this rendering intensely; it is reported that in 2002 someone shot at it. Tennessee has dedicated 32 historical markers linked to Nathan Bedford Forrest. Finally, the Tennessee legislature established July 13 as "Nathan Bedford Forrest Day." High schools are named for Forrest in Chapel Hill, Tennessee, and Jacksonville, Florida. Forrest City, Arkansas, was named in his honor.

In the PBS documentary The Civil War by Ken Burns, historian Shelby Foote states that the Civil War produced two authentic geniuses: Abraham Lincoln and Nathan Bedford Forrest.



Prayer Closet

- Continue to pray for our those effected by the economy; especially those unemployed.
- Our Color Sergeant Ray Baker's mother has had stomach cancer surgery. Let's all keep her and Ray in our prayers.
- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. The SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Continue to pray for renewed faith and fellowship during the year.
- Pray for our service men and women and for their families.

Do you have an article for Honoring the Gray?

If so, please send to Jerry Brown at 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.

Member Handbook

The camp handbook is currently being updated. It will be available to download from the Micah Jenkins website when complete. If you need to update your personal information please let 1st Lt. Commander Brad Blackmon know.

Brad can be reached at home (803) 325-2472, cellphone(704) 806-8420, or by email at brblackmon@comporium.net.



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Nathan Bedford Forrest (July 13, 1821 – October 29, 1877)