

CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



Confederate Gazette

Is a monthly publication of the

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SCV Meets for 107th Reunion

NATIONAL REUNION HELD IN MEMPHIS

The SCV's 107th annual reunion was held at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis Tennessee beginning July 31st and ending August 3rd. Over 1,200 delegates were registered for the event. The delegates elected a new Commander-in-Chief, Ron Wilson from Easley, South Carolina, in a run off election against Troy Massey of Arkansas.

At the event, Denne Sweeney of Ferris, immediate Past Texas Division Commander, was elected to the position of Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief. Commander Sweeney ran unopposed. John C. Perry of Salado, past Texas Divi-



SCV's new Commander-in-Chief, Ron Wilson from South Carolina

sion Commander, was elected Commander of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi. Commander Perry defeated Chuck Rand, Louisiana Division Commander by a vote of 234 to 142.

The Second Texas Frontier Camp #1904 won the George R. Tabor award for the most distinguished Camp in the SCV at the reunion. This is the national equivalent of our Division Outstanding Camp award. Commander Thomas Harrison accepted the award on behalf of his camp. This marked two years in a row that a Texas Division Camp has won the

(Continued on page 6)

Camp Member Elected ATM Commander

Texans Win Big At Reunion

Texans fared quite well at the SCV's National Reunion held last month in Memphis, Tennessee. Denne Sweeney, immediate past Texas Division Commander, was elected Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief. Sweeney ran unopposed.

Camp Member John

mander of the Army of the Trans Mississippi (ATM). Commander Perry defeated Louisiana Division Commander Chuck Rand by nearly a two to one margin.

Perry said, "I am humbled and honored to serve as the ATM Commander, I will strive to continue to see the ATM grow and

prosper."

A fellow Central Texas Brigade Camp won the George R. Tabor Award as the outstanding camp in the SCV. Camp Commander Thomas Harrison accepted the award at the Reunion Ball.

Camp members Jerry Nelson and John Perry

(Continued on page 6)



CONFEDERATE PROFILE

MATTHEW MAURY

By Alta Eidson

Monument Avenue in Richmond contains grand statues of Confederate heroes, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson, J.E.B. Stuart and Matthew Maury. Most know the first four, but only serious students of history know the last one.

Matthew Fontaine-Maury was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia to Richard and Diana Minor Maury on Jan. 14, 1806, on property bought by his father from Light-horse Harry Lee, father of Robert E. Lee. Matthew was the 7th of 9 children. When he was 5 years old, his family moved to Tennessee because Richard could not make a living from the farm in Spotsylvania County.

After his older brother died on a U.S. Navy ship, Matthew, behind his father's back, was appointed midshipman and joined the Navy in 1825 at the age of 19. Maury kept a journal and observed an incident of cannibalism, perpetrated by seamen in a stranded ship, which had been disabled by whales. This incident was later fictionalized and immortalized by Herman Melville in his book *Moby Dick*.

On one voyage that Maury conceived the idea of his celebrated wind and currents charts. Before his ship left, he had searched

in vain for reliable information about wind and currents to be encountered and the best path for his vessel to follow. Little was published about the subject. He decided to remedy the situation.

Maury returned to the

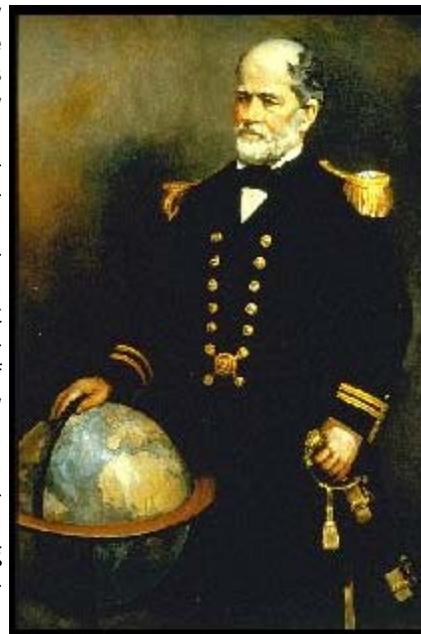
ments at Washington, D.C. In an efficiency move in 1855 the Navy "retired" Maury. With much public outcry Maury was reinstated in 1858 along with back pay. Maury's stay was short lived. On April 20, 1861, he resigned his commission in the U. S. Navy and went to Richmond where he was immediately appointed to a council to advise with Governor Letcher as to the best and quickest way of arming and protecting the state.

Hardly had Maury arrived in Richmond in April 1861, that he began to think of torpedoes to defend the exposed rivers and harbors of VA and the South. Penetrated as the Confederacy was by innumerable navigable waters and without vessels to defend them Maury urged that the most effective way to keep off the enemy was to mine the channel ways and blow him up by electricity when he attempted the passage. There was much prejudice against or lack of appreciation of this undeveloped system of warfare by many of the Confederate authorities, who considered it ineffectual and unlawful warfare, but Maury continued to experiment and demonstrate its effectiveness anyway.

In the early summer of 1861, the Secretary of the Navy and the chairman of the naval committee of Congress and others were

(Continued on page 3)

Matthew
Fontaine
Maury,
"The Pathfinder of
the Seas"



Matthew Fontaine Maury

U.S. in 1834. He went to Fredericksburg, Va. and got married. He and Ann subsequently had three sons and five daughters. Not long after his marriage, he went to Philadelphia to make arrangements for the publication of his work on navigation. His published work later became a textbook used by the U. S. Navy.

By 1842 he was recognized as an authority on charting the seas and was placed in charge of the Depot of Charts and Instru-

Matthew Fontaine Maury

(Continued from page 2)

invited to witness an explosion in the James River. The demonstration was successful. The officials on the wharf applauded and were convinced, and shortly after, a naval bureau of coast, harbor, and river defenses of the South was created with Maury placed at its head and given abundant funds with which to work. In this post, he assisted in fitting out CSS Virginia from the ruins of the USS Merrimac.

In a month or two, he had mined the channel of the James River opposite to Chaffin's Bluff with fixed torpedoes to be exploded on contact, having then no insulating wire with which to explode with electricity. That summer and fall, several attempts were made with floating torpedoes against the federal squadron at Fortress Monroe, one of which Maury personally directed in July 1861. They all missed. Later these torpedoes were found by the enemy and carried off as relics. In spring of 1862, he was able to get some insulating wire, which had been left behind by the enemy and picked up by the Confederates, and mine the James River with electrical mines, which destroyed every federal vessel that attempted to pass them. This kept their powerful fleet at bay during the entire war, and allowed other Southern harbors to be similarly protected. Torpedoes were also successfully employed in the actual destruction or injury of federal ships. In fact, the U.S. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Wells reported to Congress in 1865 that the navy had

lost more vessels from Confederate torpedoes than from all other causes combined.

Throughout the war, Maury held the rank of commander in the Confederate States Navy. By the fall of 1862, the importance of his work and its capability was so appreciated that it was deemed he should go to England so he could have the opportunity to use the workshops and labs there and facilities for experiment and construction. Here he remained, pursuing his researches and constantly reporting his progress to the Navy Department at home for the instruction of the torpedo workers.

On May 2, 1865, Maury and his son sailed from England under orders from the Secretary of the Navy. He had sent out quantities of torpedo material in advance. When he got to St. Thomas, he learned of the total collapse of the Confederacy and of the assassination of Lincoln.

Maury went to Mexico instead in June 1865 to offer his services to Maximilian, and Maury was appointed director of the Imperial Observatory. Maximilian later appointed Maury Imperial Commissioner for Colonization. Maury attempted to form a colony of VA in Mexico and advocated that Virginians immigrate there. In March 1866, he went to England to visit his family, who by then were in England.

While in England, he was requested by the Emperor Napoleon III of France to explain its merits. He did so. Subsequently, he instructed and imparted his knowledge of torpedoes and their use to

the governments of France, England, Russia, Holland, and Germany, all of who adopted his plan.

In 1868 Maury learned that he could come home because of the enactment of a general amnesty. In 1868, shortly after learning that he could come home, Maury was offered and accepted a professorship of meteorology at the VA Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. He spent the last 4 years of his life in making a meteorological survey of VA for the purpose of improving VA's agriculture because agriculture was her greatest resource. He again took up lecturing, which he had begun before the war, to advocate a weather bureau.

On Oct. 15, 1870, Maury was a pallbearer at Robert E. Lee's funeral, representing VMI. The last thing he prepared for the press in May 1871 was, "A Vindication of Virginia and the South." He went on his last lecture tour in the fall of 1872. In Oct. 1872, he became ill and returned home to die. He died of stomach gout or of an ulcerated stomach Feb. 1, 1873.

Camp Schedule

September 10th: Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M., King's Daughters Hospital, Temple, Texas. Speaker Joe Walker, Topic: "Battle of Picken's Mill, Grand-bury's Brigade, Prelude to The Battle of Atlanta"

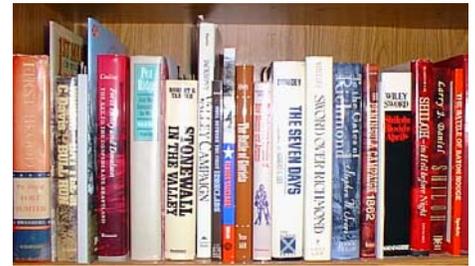
September 28th: Highway Clean-up Day.

October 11th: Ogletree Gap Living History Days, Copperas Cove. Renactment: 10/12-10/13

Next Camp Meeting
September 10th
7:00 PM
Speaker:
Joe Walker
of Waco

“THE BOOK BIN”

GODS AND GENERALS



Editor's Note: This month's column varies from normal as we look at the upcoming movie "Gods and Generals," based on the best selling book of the same name by Jeff Shaara.

Initial reviews are very positive for the prequel to "Gettysburg"

Coming soon to a theatre near you, is "Gods and Generals," the movie! "Gods and Generals" is the prequel to *The Killer Angels*, the novel upon which the film "Gettysburg" was based. "Gods and Generals" is now scheduled to open in showcase engagements at the end of December and nation-wide in late January 2003.

"Gods and Generals" covers the Virginia theater of the Civil War from its opening clashes through the death of Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall"

Jackson in the 1863 battle of Chancellorsville, with Oscar-winner Robert Duvall starring as Robert E. Lee

Written by Jeff Shaara son of Michael Shaara, author of *The Killer Angels*, "Gods and Generals" is now a major motion picture written and directed by Ron Maxwell. The movie is based on Shaara's book of the same name.

The movie filming has been completed and it is in the editing stage. The current version has been shown to selected people. Initial comments are very positive. James I. Robertson, Stonewall Jackson's biographer, viewed the latest three hour and forty-

five minute version of "Gods and Generals" at a private screening in New York. His comment was, "The greatest Civil War movie I have ever seen, and I have seen them all."

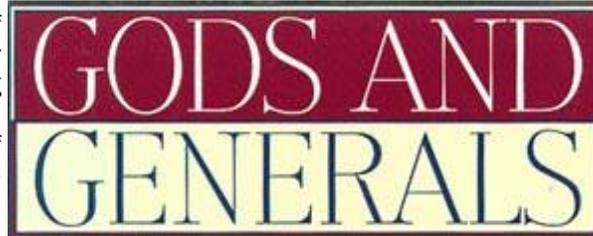
Several SCV members have seen the movie and have very positive comments. One SCV member said, "finally a true movie version of the War Between the States." He reported that the movie even

song for "Gods and Generals" is described as "a haunting, moving ballad, reminiscent of his earliest works with the added insights of a lifetime."

After hearing the song, performed by Dylan and his band, for the first time, Maxwell reported, "In this song Dylan has in a sense returned to his roots as a folk-country balladeer - the same roots that nourished the mountain men of western Virginia, the home of Thomas Jonathan Jackson, and countless others who fought for both the Blue and the Gray. It isn't easy for a single song to evoke the

feelings of an entire war. But Bob Dylan's new song, written expressly for our film, achieves this elusive goal. It is at once specific to our characters and story and universal in its statement on the tragedy of war and the poignancy of the lives swept up in it. The poetry of the lyrics, the driving rhythms, the melodic line - it's classic Dylan."

The song, entitled, "Cross the Green Mountain," and running approximately seven minutes, will be featured over the closing credits of the film and be available on the soundtrack album to be released this Christmas on Sony records.

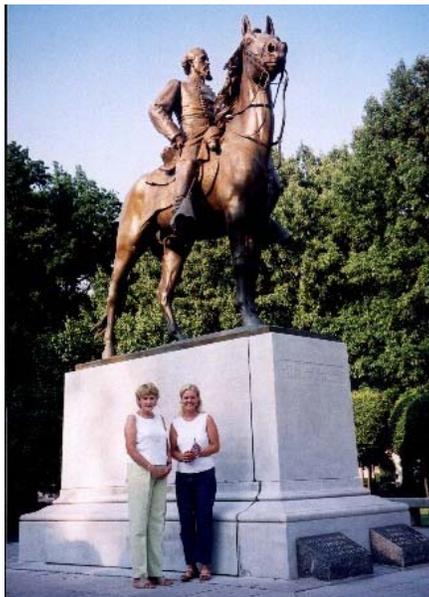


shows African-American Confederate troops.

The movie was produced by Ted Turner Pictures and filmed in and around Sharpsburg, Maryland, the site of the Antietam Battlefield, and on actual historic locations in Virginia and West Virginia. Many of the actors from the movie *Gettysburg* have reprised their roles in the new film, which also features the new characters Stonewall Jackson, Mary Anna Morrison Jackson, Myra Hancock, and Fanny Chamberlain.

The original end title song was written and performed by Bob Dylan, and was just recorded in Los Angeles. Bob Dylan's new

2002 SCV Reunion



Reunion Photos: Left: Betty Nelson at Forrest Monument in Memphis; Above: Denne Sweeney, elected Lt. Col.; Below: Bedford Forrest rides into the opening ceremonies at the Peabody Hotel.



Camp Goes To Battle! (Free Meal Included)

By Steve Wooley

On Saturday September 28th, at 2 PM we are going into BATTLE! We are going to fight the liter bugs on our stretch of highway. Earlier this year the Camp voted to adopt a stretch of highway to help promote the Camp. We are looking to create a positive image in this day of political correctness.

Our designated highway is the Taylor's Valley road between Temple-Belton. From the Leon River east 2 miles to just about 31st street in Tem-

ple. This equates to four miles of road to clean (counting both sides).

We will meet in the McDonald's parking lot in Belton at 2 PM. For those of you who have not had a chance to see our signs on the roadway you need to check it out. They read "Sons of Confederate Veterans, Major Robert M. White Camp # 1250." We are obligated to clean up the roadside four times a year. We are in our second quarter.

After the roadside cleanup the Camp is going
(Continued on page 6)

Confederate Gazette Quiz Questions

By George Ballentine

Answers are listed below

Category: **Johnny Reb**

1 - Robert Garnett became the first Southern officer to be:

- a - killed in action
- b - promoted to general
- c - taken prisoner
- d - charged with desertion

2 - After turning down Lincoln's offer for the job of paymaster, organized and led the 1st Kentucky Cavalry for the South.

- a - Jeb Stuart
- b - James A. Walker
- c - Ben Helm
- d - Richard Delafield

3 - Rebel recipient of a field promotion from captain to general, the only one in the war.

- a - Thomas Ellery
- b - Charles Greeley
- c - Cyrus Loomis
- d - Victor Girardey

4 - New Orleans cannoners who distinguished themselves for the South and later in the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II:

- a - Washington Artillery
- b - Jackson Gunners
- c - Bayou Battery
- d - Delta Heavy Artillery

5 - Monthly pay for a Confederate brigadier general.

- a - \$275
- b - \$301
- c - \$365
- d - \$412

Answers: 1 = a; 2 = c; 3 = d; 4 = a; 5 = b

107th Annual SCV Reunion Held In Memphis

SCV's 107th Reunion

(Continued from page 1)
award.

Outgoing Commander-in-Chief Ed Deason, of Oklahoma, reported that the SCV was strong. The organization has over 31,000 members with an expected addition of another 1,000 members whose dues are in the works. The membership comes from 784 camps, with 141 new camps formed last year. The organization approved a \$1.1 million dollar budget for year 2002-2003. Deason announced that a SCV member from Washington, D.C. that recently passed away had left his estate, valued at \$540,000, to the SCV. The SCV's General Executive Council has voted to use the dollars as an endowment fund, called the Mallory Fund, named for the benefactor. The earning from the fund projected to be about \$30,000 per year will be used to fund heritage defense battles.

Commander-in-Chief Wilson was forced to win his election in a runoff as none of the initial four candidates had a majority of votes on the first ballot.

In addition to Wilson and Massey, Frank Powell from North Carolina and Dr. Pat Hardy from Missouri were also in the Commander-in-Chief run. In the runoff Wilson defeated Massey by a vote of 843 to 796.

Wilson ran on a platform that included three major issues, 1. Membership Retention and Recruitment, 2. Heritage Defense, and 3. Educational Outreach. Under Membership Retention and Recruitment Wilson proposed the SCV hire a full time recruitment representative. Under Heritage Defense Wilson called for the combining of the Heritage Defense, Public Affairs, and Public Relations committees into one single committee. Wilson also wants a media-training program and a Division Commanders Summit to be held at Elm Springs. To accomplish educational outreach Wilson proposes a specific SCV program. The goal would be to present our true history to schools, churches, civic clubs, etc. As part of that effort Wilson plans on conducting SCV Youth Camps for young people 12 to 20.

All the amendments either failed or were withdrawn at the reunion. One set of amendments relating to lowering

the entrance age was forced to go to a paper ballot. The proposal would have removed the age 12 requirement for membership in the SCV, although the right to vote on SCV issues would not be until age 12. A voice was too close to call.

Attending the Reunion on behalf of the Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 were Jerry Nelson and John Perry.

Camp Goes To "Battle"

(Continued from page 5)

to furnish hamburgers and hot dogs for all of those who participate (along with all the fixings!). We are going to meet in the Confederate Park in Belton after the cleanup for grub and fellowship. We need all of the volunteers we can muster. Bring plenty of water. Come and support your Camp! Hope to see you there.

Texans Win Big

(Continued from page 1)

were each honored by the presentation of the Meritorious Service Medals by Commander-in-Chief Ed Deason.



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**Next Meeting:
September 10th
King's Daughters
Hospital
7:00 PM**