

CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



Confederate Gazette

*Is a monthly publication
of the*

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Veterans
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College Station To Host

DIVISION REUNION SET FOR JUNE 7TH

The Sul Ross Camp #1457 of Bryan will host the 106th Texas Division Convention-Reunion on June 6th and 7th. The events will take place at the College Station Hilton and Conference Center, located in College Station.

Registration will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 6th and will continue until 6:00 p.m. that evening. A reception and social will follow in the Oakwood Room where a full chicken and beef fajitas buffet with cash bar

will be available. The buffet will be open from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. only. Mr. Joe Walker will be on hand with his banjo sharing some period music and laughter.

Registration will open Saturday morning, June 7th at 7:00 a.m. Convention Opening Ceremonies will be preceded by a Memorial service beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the main hall of the Conference Center. The Division's first business session will follow promptly at 9:00 until

11:30 a.m. The ladies of the OCR will hold their business session at the same time. This year's luncheon speaker will be Army of the Trans-Mississippi Commander and former Texas Division Commander, John C. Perry.

The second business session will begin at 2:00 p.m. and Brigade meetings will immediately follow the conclusion of the Division session. The OCR will also hold their second business session during this time.

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Fund Raiser in Killeen

Camp Holds Garage Sale

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 held a garage sale on Saturday morning, May 17th in Killeen. At the event the camp sold a total of \$213.15. Less the cost of the Killeen City permit and the newspaper ad, the camp netted over \$200

Jerry and Betty Nelson hosted the event at their home. Those that volunteered their services included, Herb and Diane Cowan, Brandon and Christy Gibson, Wayne Wil-

son, and the Nelsons.

A number of camp members contributed items for the sale, including Janet Wilson, Ralph and Janet Spence, and George Ballentine.

A number of people helped prior to the sale, including those that collected items and delivered them to the Nelsons. Also on Friday night a number of people assisted with getting things ready for the sale. Ralph and Janet Spence did several hours

work on Thursday, picking up garage sale items and taking them to the Nelsons.

The garage sale lasted from about 8:00 AM to around 1:30 PM. The unsold items were hauled to Goodwill by Jerry Nelson, Wayne Wilson, and Brandon Gibson.

The Nelson's not only were kind enough to allow the camp to use their home, they also provided garage sale workers with refreshments and lunch.



CONFEDERATE PROFILE



QUITE A NUMBER



Editor's Note: We deviate this month from our normal Confederate Profile to present a special article on the First Battle of Murfreesboro, by Camp Member Wayne Wilson.

By Wayne Wilson

Forrest
vs.
Parkhurst
in
Tennessee

In June 1862, the Confederacy was reeling in Eastern Tennessee. General P. G. T. Beauregard had abandoned Corinth, Mississippi and the Yankee General Ormsey Mitchell had occupied Huntsville, Alabama and now controlled over 100 miles of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. BG James Scott Negley had a small division at Fayetteville, Tennessee and Mitchell ordered him to advance on Chattanooga. By 7 June 1862, Negley had two artillery batteries on Stringer's Ridge and opened fire on Chattanooga, the Confederate positions along the riverbanks and on Cameron Hill. Confederate response was disjointed but Negley withdrew on the tenth. On that same day, the Federal Army of the Ohio under MG Don Carlos Buell began a slow advance toward Chattanooga. Clearly something had to be done if the Confederacy wanted to save any part of Tennessee.

One response was to order Brigadier General Nathan B. Forrest to Chattanooga to take command of and reorganize a Confederate cavalry brigade that had been ineffective in opposing Negley's advance. On 9 July 1862, Forrest left Chattanooga

with two regiments of the brigade, the "Texan Rangers" under Colonel Wharton and the Second Georgia Cavalry under Colonel Lawton. He headed toward Murfreesboro, which lies about 30 miles South and a little East of Nashville. Murfreesboro is the County Seat of Rutherford County and a major cross roads. In the summer of

about 1400. He fed and rested both horses and men at McMinnville where a few volunteers joined him before he left for Murfreesboro, still fifty miles away, at 1:00 PM on 12 July 1862.

Approaching Murfreesboro between 4:00 and 4:30 the next morning, Forrest surprised and captured the Federal pickets without firing a shot. It was then that he learned the Federal troop deployment.

The Federal force consisted of two infantry regiments, the Ninth Michigan under Colonel William Duffield and the Third Minnesota under Colonel Henry C. Lester, a 200-man detachment of the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry and the four-gun First Kentucky Artillery under Captain Hewett. The Federal's were spread over three camps, separated by at least 1 ½ miles, ostensibly because of "the scarcity of water" but probably because of jealousy among the officers. The Third Minnesota and the artillery were encamped about a mile and a half north of the town on the Nashville Pike, while five companies of the Ninth Michigan and the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry were in a camp inside the town. Company B of the Ninth Michigan formed the provost guard for Murfreesboro and was stationed in the courthouse



Nathan Bedford Forrest

1862, the town was the Federal Supply Center on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad.

After a forced march of about 50 miles, Forrest reached Altamont, Tennessee on the night of 10 July. The next day he continued to McMinnville where he was joined by elements of the First Georgia Cavalry under Colonel Morrison, two Tennessee companies under Major Smith and two Kentucky companies under Captains Taylor and Waltham. These additions raised Forrest's strength to

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Division Reunion In College Station

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The MOS&B will conduct their business session from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The Division's Award Banquet will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Ballroom. Scheduled to speak will be Texas Land Commissioner Mr. Jerry Patterson. At the dinner a number of special awards will be presented and the new Division officers for 2003-04 will be installed.

Following the dinner the annual Confederate Ball will be held. The band *Cross Ties* is currently scheduled to appear featuring period music for our entertainment from 9:30 p. m. to midnight. Period, formal or cocktail attire is requested, and a cash bar

will be available.

Only 100 rooms have been blocked out for SCV members, so make your registrations as soon as possible. The cost for the room is \$83 with a king size bed or two doubles and parking is free. To reserve a room, please call 1-800-HILTONS and notify hotel reservations that you are with Sons of Confederate Veterans or you may contact the hotel directly at (979) 693-7500.

For additional information contact the Convention Chairman, John P. Blair, 3509 Midwest Drive, Bryan, Texas 77802, or call him at 979-260-6911 or e-mail him at blair83@earthlink.net.

Quite A Number

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and in several private houses around the public square. Four other companies of the Ninth Michigan were on detached duty at Tullahoma, Tennessee about 100 miles to the South.

Forrest decided to attack immediately to overwhelm the force in town while containing the one to the north. While he may never have heard the term, Forrest essentially organized his command into what the U. S. Army later termed "Task Forces". He sent Colonel Lawton with the First Georgia, the Tennesseans and Kentuckians against Lester and Colonel Wharton with two "Texan Ranger" companies to attack Duffield. The

other "Texan Ranger" companies were to attack that part of the provost guard that was quartered in the private buildings. Forrest told Colonel Morrison with elements of the Second Georgia Cavalry to attack the Federal's in the Court House while Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Hood with the rest of the Second Georgia secured the jail to free what were regarded as "political prisoners".

Very early in the attack, Colonel Duffield was twice wounded so command fell on Lieutenant Colonel J. G. Parkhurst. Parkhurst later said that "the sentinel at his tent" awakened him because "the enemy was advancing." but before he could form a line of battle, he was attacked by 1200 of the enemy who were

Camp Schedule

June 4th: Camp Executive Council Meeting, 6:00 P.M., Jody's Restaurant, Temple, TX

June 6-7th: Texas Division Convention, College Station Hilton Hotel, College Station, Texas

June 10th: Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Doctor's Conference Room, Scott & White Hospital, Temple, TX

July 2nd: Camp Executive Council Meeting, 6:00 P.M., Jody's Restaurant, Temple, TX

July 4th: 4th of July Parade—Belton.

July 12th: Camp's Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 7:00 P.M., TBA

"mounted and strong" and firing "double-barreled shotguns and Navy Colt's revolvers. Interestingly, especially in this age of "political correctness" Parkhurst noted that there were "quite a number of Negroes" in the attackers. The Negroes, he said, were "armed and equipped" and attached to the Texas and Georgia troops and fought his troops "throughout the day."

The Texans, both mounted and afoot, pressed their attack, overran the hospital and drove to the center of the camp. Colonel Wharton was severely wounded and Colonel Walker took command and after about twenty minutes "of nearly hand-to-hand" fighting, the superior Federal numerical strength

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Next Camp
Meeting:
June 10th
7:00 P.M. at
Scott & White
Temple
Doctor's
Conference Room

Forrest Demands Unconditional Surrender

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asserted itself, forcing the Confederates back. Parkhurst established a defensive position and sent a courier to Lester informing him of the situation and asking for help. Hearing nothing in reply, Parkhurst sent at least one other courier to Lester but still received no response. Parkhurst later claimed that Lester arrested his couriers as "spies." About 11:30 AM, Forrest sent Parkhurst a note, demanding "unconditional surrender" or Parkhurst would see "every man put to the sword", and reminding the hapless Federal's of his "overpowering force". Almost as a footnote, Forrest said that his demand was "made to prevent the effusion of blood".

Parkhurst referred the note to the wounded Duffield who just as promptly tossed it back. Believing himself surrounded and with only 134 men, including a few of the Pennsylvania Cavalry, to oppose "over 1,800" Confederates, Parkhurst had an officers' call to consider Forrest's demand. The officers voted unanimously to surrender and surrender Parkhurst did.

In the fighting at the courthouse and private houses around the public square it is unclear whether First Lieutenant L. J. Wright or Captain Oliver O. Rounds commanded the Federal troops. What is clear is that the Federal troops were from Company B of the Ninth Michigan Infantry and that they fought for about two-and-a-half to three hours. The Federal's surrendered only after the Confederates

captured the bottom floor of the courthouse and set it afire. Preferring confinement to roasting, the Federal's promptly gave up. Not only did LTC Arthur Hood capture the jail, he also bagged the jailer.

With the courthouse burning and Parkhurst pleading for help, Colonel Lester of the Third Minnesota Infantry felt that his hands were full. He said that he formed his regiment and headed for town "for the purpose of effecting a junction with the other troops", but he didn't get far before running into Confederates on his front and left. He formed a line of battle on the crest of a hill and began to shell the woods where he suspected the Confederates were forming for a charge. He watched a "small force of Southerners" cross a cornfield on his left to attack his camp. Lester lamely watched this force kill or capture the camp guards and burn his tents. Forrest later said that "after fighting them for two or three hours (he) took immediate command of this force" and charged the rear of the enemy into their camps and burned their camps and stores, demoralizing their force and weakening their strength. A bizarre note was added to this fight when a train from Nashville stopped opposite and about 100 yards from Lester's position. He claimed that the Confederates tried to tear up the track between the train and Nashville but that his artillery fire drove them away. He claimed that he repelled a Confederate attack on his left and that a scout reported a strong Confederate force between himself and the

Ninth Michigan but said nothing about receiving any couriers from Parkhurst. Claiming to be too weak "to push through," Lester fell back to a farmhouse and prepared a sort of "last-stand" position.

Lester went into town under a flag of truce and conferred with the wounded Duffield and concluded that he was confronted with "overwhelming force." Returning to the farmhouse and after conferring with his officers, he decided to surrender his 450 soldiers.

Perhaps the best description of this battle is the one forwarded by Colonel John T. Miller of the 29th Indiana Infantry Regiment to MG Don Carlos Buell on 19 July 1862. Miller said that the Ninth Michigan and the cavalry were completely surprised about 4:00 AM, 13 July when the Confederates attacked both the Michigan camp and the provost guard in town. He said that Forrest approached from two directions between the roads, thus avoiding the Federal pickets which were "only in roads". He said that the Michigan troops were confused with men being killed in their tents as they attempted to form for battle; Colonel Duffield was wounded, failed to form and surrendered. He said that the provost guard in town did most of the fighting and killed ten Confederates before surrendering. He said, also, that part of the cavalry did attempt to join the Ninth Michigan, but did little fighting and surrendered.

Miller's comments on the Third Minnesota were scathing. About 1 ½ miles in the rear, the regiment

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Quite A Number

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with Hewett's artillery, "left their camp and reserve ammunition", marched a short distance, halted, took a position and awaited attack. Some Confederates appeared in front and on the flanks and about 7:00 AM "burned camp, charged on battery; were repulsed with slight loss; made several weak attempts to charge." The Union infantry hovered about in the woods, but did "little firing." The Confederates demanded that Lester surrender with the "men anxious to continue fight; Colonel and six captains anxious to surrender." The infantry had plenty of ammunition, while the battery was short "but had 64 rounds." "Colonel Lester," Miller said, "(was) reported as having been stupid with fear, and some complain, cowardly." Miller placed the Confederate strength at about 1800 and said that Lester surrendered about 3:00 PM. He said that the Federal loss, excluding captured was 16 KIA and 73 WIA but did not estimate Confederate loss. Miller bluntly said that the defeat at Murfreesboro was a "disaster" and laid the blame squarely on the officers. There was "bad picketing, lack of skill, vigilance, and personal courage on the part of the officers" and identified jealousy among the officers as the reason for the separation of the Federal force into three camps beyond supporting distance of each other.

After the fight, Forrest sent Major Smith and his Tennesseans to burn a

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Ground Broken For New UDC Museum

Ground was broken last month in White Settlement for a major new War Between the States museum. When completed the new museum will house the largest collection of Texas artifacts from the War Between the States. The 16,000 square foot building will sit on 2 acres of land near Fort Worth.

The museum is being built through a partnership between the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) and a wealthy Fort Worth oilman, Ray Richey. Richey is a longtime collector of War Between the States artifacts. Richey's personal collection is valued at around \$3 million. Richey is also providing the land for the museum. The museum should open by the fall of 2004.

The museum will also contain the Texas UDC's extensive collection of artifacts and Confederate flags. Some of these artifacts were at one time displayed at a museum on the state capitol grounds in Austin.

One highlight of the collection is one of the original nine copies of "General Order No. 9," issued by Robert E. Lee at Appomattox. The new museum will also house the 37 Texas regimental and brigade flags owned by the UDC. The flags include the

Terry's Texas Ranger flag and John Bell Hood's 4th Texas Flag.

Richey's collection includes the uniform coats of Confederate Brigadier General Joe Shelby and Major General Benjamin "Beast" Butler, the Union's hated military governor of New Orleans.

The new museum also will house a collection of Civil War-era dresses that were collected by Richey's wife.

According to tradition three Confederate veterans donated the granite used to build the Texas Capitol in exchange for a promise from the state to provide space for a Confederate museum. What is now the UDC's collection was kept in the Capitol until 1917, when it was moved to the nearby Texas Land Office. Two governors, Miriam Ferguson and John Connally, signed agreements that the collection would stay there "into perpetuity." However in 1988, the UDC was asked to either give the collection to the state or leave the capitol grounds. The collection has been in several different locations since then.

The new museum's collection could be the largest collection of War Between the States artifacts west of the Mississippi River.

New Museum To
Open in 2004
Near Fort Worth

Quite A Number

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bridge south of Murfreesboro; he cut the telegraph wire and tore up a large portion of the railroad track and burned four rail cars and the "depot house" all of which were "full of stores". He captured four pieces of artillery, three brass cannons and a Parrott gun which he kept and over fifty large "road wagons" with their mules and tack and burned what he could not use or forward to MG E. Kirby Smith, at Knoxville, Tennessee. In addition, he captured a "large number of cavalry horses, saddles, small arms and ammunition" which he either used or forwarded to Kirby Smith. Because of the large number of prisoners to be guarded, Forrest retreated to McMinnville.

The actual participants in the battle, particularly on the Federal side, consistently overestimated the strength of the opposing side as well as the loss that they inflicted. Parkhurst said that 1,200 Confederates attacked him while poor panicking Lester claimed that 3,000 Confederates attacked him. In a similar fashion,

commanders on both sides claimed to have inflicted substantially more loss than they received. Duffield, who admitted losses of 13 killed and 78 wounded, claimed to have buried "more than double" the number of Confederates than Federal's and that Confederate wounded "are found in almost every house." Parkhurst said that he lost 11 killed, 89 wounded and 37 missing. He, too, claimed that Confederate loss was "much greater" than his own and that a large portion of Confederate officers "were killed or wounded." (Parkhurst also said that Forrest "instantly appropriated" his horse.) Lester does not enumerate his loss but it seems to have been about 2 killed and 5 - 7 wounded. Forrest said that he lost 25 killed and 40-60 wounded but cautioned that this figure was preliminary. This figure was later revised downward, with a reported loss of 16 - 18 killed and "25 or 30 wounded." Not even Forrest was immune from overestimating enemy loss, claiming to have killed 75 Federal's and wounded 125. More recent investigation has not clarified the matter of losses. The Preservation Trust Fund said that Federal loss was 1,200, or

basically the number of Federal's captured. Confederate loss was estimated at 150, which is about twice the number reported. In a war that ultimately involved millions, brigade sized engagement may seem small but the results of the First Battle of Murfreesboro were significant. The Federal's lost two infantry regiments, a cavalry squadron and an artillery battery; they lost substantial quantities of supplies and a supply base and their lines of communication through Murfreesboro were destroyed. More importantly, Buell's attention was diverted from Chattanooga, enabling Braxton Bragg to mass his forces for an offensive into Kentucky in September 1862.

Camp Receives Committee's Recommendation

The Texas Division's Time & Place Committee has unanimously accepted Camp #1250's bid to host the 2005 Texas Division Convention.

The committee will recommend that the Division Convention award the 2005 convention to Camp #1250 at the 2003 convention in College Station in June.



Confederate Gazette

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Next Meeting:
June 10th
Scott & White Hospital
Temple, TX
7:00 PM