



# Rebelle



**Sons of Confederate Veterans**  
Jefferson Davis Camp No. 635

\* Volume XXXIX \* War Memorial Building, Jackson, MS 39201 \* December 2010 \* Number 12\*



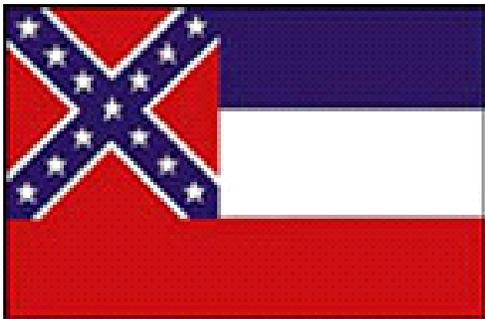
## **December Meeting Christmas Food, Fellowship and Music**

The December meeting will be held **earlier than usual** and will be our traditional informal get-together with food, fellowship and whatever music our musically-inclined members are willing to provide. If you have a good party dish you'd like to contribute to the "feast", please bring it.

Everyone come and bring guests, especially new recruits!

**When:** December 14, 2010. 5:00 pm.  
**Where:** Municipal Art Gallery, State St., Jackson.

*See you there!*



*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.*

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

*Luke 2:8-14*

*(KJV)*

## *November Meeting Report*

### **Historic Building Restoration**

The October program was presented by Robert Parke Adams, a local architect who spoke on the restoration of the Coker House on Champion Hill Battlefield as well as the Art Gallery house we meet in. There were many questions back and forth. He brought a piece of the Coker house with him to show everyone.

Robert Murphree reported that Mr. James West Thompson's grave marker has been completed and is awaiting him to pick it up to erect in the Winona Cemetery, which he plans to do soon. The camp paid for the maker out of our cemetery fund. (\$535).

Peter gave an update on the broken "Confederate Burial Ground" Historical Marker in Greenwood Cemetery. The MDAH has written the manufacturer to see if it will replace the marker as it appears to be a manufacturing defect. No word yet.

Past Commander Bert Green was home for the holidays and told of his visit to Elmira Prison Site in New York.

## Rebel Ramblings

by Robert Murphree

The Confederate stronghold at Port Hudson, Louisiana was the last bastion the Confederacy had on the Mississippi River. We are all familiar with how it was besieged at the same time that Vicksburg was under assault, and how Port Hudson held out enduring the longest siege on American soil in our military history.

The Confederates began construction of earthworks for batteries in early April, 1862. Subsequently the works were completed, armed and manned later in the summer of that year.

When Port Hudson finally surrendered, after Vicksburg, on July 9, 1863 it had been an epic struggle. The Confederates had inflicted over 5,000 casualties on the Yankees, suffering only 500 in return. For a dividend, our balmy climate helped put another 4,000 Yanks in the hospital. Over 40,000 Yanks were held at bay for two months, troops that could have been used to good advantage in other places.

Prior to resigning themselves to a siege, the Yankees, on May 27, had tried to carry Port Hudson by assault. The results were terrific casualties, inflicted by a vastly inferior force, and complete failure. Siege was the only option, and when we surrendered barely 3,000 Confederates could stand in line.

Alas, however, our victory on May 27 may have had a dark lining. For the Federal commander at Port Hudson was Nathaniel Banks, not the sharpest knife in the military drawer, if you will. After disposing of Port Hudson, Banks was to take his troops to join Grant at Vicksburg. Not only would Banks have arrived as the conquering hero, but as the senior officer Banks would have taken command of the combined armies. When Vicksburg -- a doomed city -- fell, the credit would have gone to Banks, NOT Grant.

The possibilities are endless. Lincoln quite often let politics dictate command decisions. Indeed, politics had sustained Banks already through a series of disasters, and given a bit of success the sky was the limit. You see, Banks shared Lincoln's views on a number of political issues, particularly on slavery, and was a favorite with the moderate faction of the Republican party. In addition, Banks was the pet of Secretary of State Seward, a power in the Lincoln government. Banks the victor at Vicksburg would have gone far, perhaps at Grant's expense, and this would have been a real plus for our side.

Merry Christmas fellows and let me say the bunch of patriots that form the Jefferson Davis Camp are as good a group of men to be around as I have ever met.

Send address corrections to:  
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**Jefferson Davis Camp #635, SCV**  
**1737 Bridgers Drive**  
**Raymond, MS 39154**

Visit the camp web site at: <http://www.scvcamp635.org>



## Calendar

### December 14, 2010

Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

### January 25, 2011

Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

### February 22, 2011

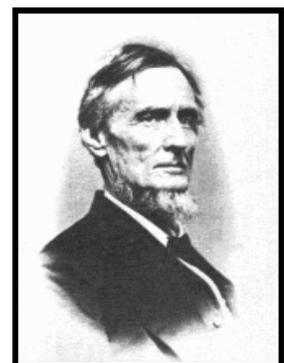
Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

### March 22, 2011

Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery

### April 26, 2011

Regular meeting of Camp 635 at the Municipal Art Gallery



## Chaplain's Dispatch

Dear Friends and Compatriots:

Christians around the world will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, this month. For many others Christmas has no religious meaning. It is simply another secular holiday.

The following essay by Dr. James Allen Francis entitled "One Solitary Life" gives meaning to the life of the One whose birth we celebrate.

"A child is born in an obscure village. He is brought up in another obscure village. He works in a carpenter shop until he is thirty, and then for three brief years is an itinerant preacher, proclaiming a message and living a life. He never writes a book. He never holds an office. He never raises an army. He never has a family of his own. He never owns a home. He never goes to college. He never travels two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He gathers a little group of friends about him and teaches them the way of life. While still a young man, the tide of popular feeling turns against him. One denies him; another betrays him. He is then turned over to his enemies. He goes through the mockery of a trial; he is nailed to a cross between two thieves, and when dead is laid in a borrowed grave by the kindness of a friend.

Those are facts of his human life. He rises from the dead. Today we look back across nineteen hundred years and ask, 'What kind of trail has he left across the centuries?' When we try to sum up his influence, all the armies that ever marched, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned are absolutely picayune in their influence on mankind compared with that of this one solitary life..."

*(Continued from page 4)*

On many and many a plain for us,  
They bleed, we weep,  
We live, they sleep.  
All lost, the only refrain for us.  
But their memories e'er shall remain for us,  
And their names, bright names, without stain for us;  
Shall forever live over again for us."

Never Forget Them.

May we always remember them for their sacrifices for Dixie.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

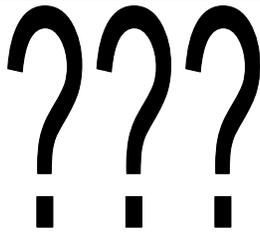
Hoping to see you at the Christmas Party.

Deo Vindice  
Randy Rogers,  
Camp Commander

**Merry  
Christmas**

May his virgin birth, his life, his crucifixion, and his resurrection from the grave give meaning to your life as you celebrate this Christmas.

Sincerely,  
Hubert W. Miazza  
Chaplain



**Trivia Question:**

This month's question asks:

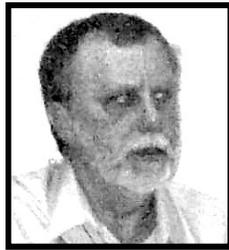
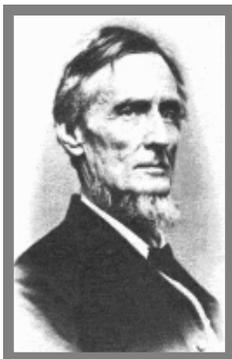
What nickname was given to Confederate bills of small denominations?

November's question asked:

By what affectionate nickname did Nathan Bedford Forrest, CSA, refer to his cavalry units?

The answer:

"Critter" companies



# Commander's Column

TO MY FELLOW COMPATRIOTS:

It is with much pleasure I sit down to write a note for this Christmas, December issue, of the Reveille. Thanks to all of you that made last month's meeting a well received success. All reports indicate it was one of our best meetings and much thanks to all in attendance. It was also good to have our visitor, Mr. Freeman, in attendance, and we welcome him to our Camp meetings always.

Thanks to Past Commander, Bert Green, for his report from yankeeland.

Our next meeting will be the gathering for our annual Christmas Party, and I trust it will be a success just as the past years. This is always a good time together as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Not only is this a tradition in our beloved Dixie, it is special to all participants, visiting and spending time with friends and family making new memories and hopefully sharing stories about our brave ancestors that represented Dixie in the War of Northern Aggression.

Also of significance in the coming year, is the 150 anniversary of Dixie taking a stand for Her independence. I do hope we commemorate this coming year with enthusiasm and an energy that would make our forefathers proud. For the season at hand, I take excerpts from a poem penned by A. J. Ryan, as follows:

“Do we weep for the Heroes who died for us,  
With the Blood they shed in a tide for us?  
Ah! Fearless on many a day for us,  
Who fell while wearing the gray for us.  
How many a glorious name for us,  
And a wrong to them, and shame for us.  
They were brave for us,  
Who sleep in so many a grave for us.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Jefferson Davis Camp #635  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
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