

# Grey Matter

Newsletter of The Rankin Greys

SCV Camp 2278

October 2017

Volume 1 Issue 6



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by Commander Billy Bryant

Compatriots,

We have a lot of events coming up between our October meeting and the November meeting.

We have Fall Muster next weekend at the cost. If you have never been to Fall Muster you are missing out. Between the dunking booth and security/parking we will have plenty of oportunities for you to come out and help.

We have the headstone deadication for Bruce Warren from the East Mississippi

Greys and Our own Bobby Joe Denton on October 28<sup>th</sup> as well as bike night.

The weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of Novemeber we will have our Initiative 62 recuriting booth and the 1G annual meeting.

These are great opprituinities to bring people so we can recuite them into our organization.

Live the Charge,

Billy Bryant  
Commander

THE CHARGE

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# Adjutant's Report

by Camp Adjutant Chris Bryant

## Adjutant's Report

Dues are done! Any members still lagging on their dues will now have to pay late fees plus standard yearly dues. For those of you in this category, your subscription to The Confederate Veteran will soon stop. Please get with me if you are one of the few left that didn't get your dues in. For the rest, membership cards will be prepared soon, and I will get them out as soon as possible.

We are still raising money for the needy children in our area. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant Commander, Phillip Griffin, and his wife Kelly went shopping for some children in their school. Also some of the funds we raised went to a local needy family whose house burned down. Some of our camp members also donated clothing and other goods to assist them in their time of need.

Initiative 62 is getting off the ground and petition forms should be available very soon. Please keep a check on the Division Facebook page and [www.mississippiscv.org/62](http://www.mississippiscv.org/62) for current information.

Keep up with your recruiting efforts and your tireless support of your respective communities, and as per usual, I am available anytime you need me or have any questions.

Your humble servant,

Chris Bryant

Adjutant, Rankin Greys Camp 2278

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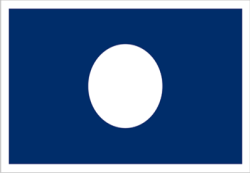
601-383-4958



*This publication is dedicated to the  
honor and the memory of the brave  
men of*

*Company I 6<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry*

*Lest We Forget.*



# Forefathers in Grey



Bushrod Rust Johnson was born on a small family farm to Quaker parents in Belmont County, OH on October 7, 1817. At the age of 17, Johnson was teaching in Barnesville, Ohio. However, teaching was a poorly paid profession. Johnson had no desire to be a farmer like his father or a doctor like his brother. Despite his pacifist upbringing, Johnson began trying to get an appointment to the United State Military Academy at West Point. Johnson received his appointment in 1836 at the age of 18. While at West Point, Johnson was an indifferent student Johnson would graduate 23<sup>rd</sup> of 42 in 1840. In that graduating class was his fellow Ohioan, William T. Sherman. Upon graduation, he was commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> United States Infantry.

In 1845, Johnson traveled to Texas as part of Brig. Gen. Zachary Taylor's Army of Occupation. In the ensuing war with Mexico, Johnson saw action at the Battles of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and Monterrey, where the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry was conspicuous in the savage street fighting. In March 1847, Johnson took part in General Winfield Scott's famous amphibious landing at Vera Cruz. After the fall of Vera Cruz, Johnson contracted yellow fever and almost died.

After serving in the Seminole War in Florida and the Mexican-American War, he was forced to resign in 1847 for conspiring to sell government goods for personal gain. Afterwards, he worked as a professor of philosophy and chemistry at the Western Military Institute in Georgetown, Kentucky. By 1850 he was the school superintendent. Two years later he married Mary Hatch. In 1854, their son Charley was born. Charley was sickly and disabled. In 1855 the Western Military Institute was relocated to Tennessee and became affiliated with the University of Nashville. There he would be a professor of Engineering at the University of Nashville. After moving South, Johnson was active in his local militias rising to the rank of colonel and is said to have helped his uncle working with the underground railroad. In 1858, His wife Mary died of cancer, leaving Johnson a widower and the sole caretaker of their disabled son. The school shut down for good in the spring of 1861, soon after the firing at Fort Sumter ushered in the Civil War. In May, Johnson was commissioned a major in the state's provisional army. Prior to assuming his post, he took Charley to stay with relatives in Indiana. In the not unlikely event of his own death, Johnson sought to ensure his son's future by purchasing land in Illinois and Kansas and deeding the property to Charley. Throughout the course of the war, Charley was encouraged by his Hoosier relatives to believe that his father was fighting to preserve the Union.

He was promoted to Brigadier General on January 24, 1862, and given command of Fort Donelson. He was only in command a short time before Brigadier-General Pillow arrived and assumed command. The fort was surrendered to Grant on February 16 of the same year. Johnson able to walk through the Federal lines and escaped capture two days later.

Johnson was in command of a brigade of the Army of Mississippi at the Battle of Shiloh and on the second day was placed in command of a division, but was severely wounded. After recovery from his wounds, he commanded his brigade at the battle of Perryville. At the battle of Perryville Johnson's brigade led the assault on the Federal center. Johnson had five horses shot from under him. He continued to lead the brigade in the Second Battle of Murfreesboro and the Tullahoma campaign.

In 1863, Johnson commanded his brigade at Chickamauga. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, his men took part in the bloody but indecisive fighting. The next morning his brigade was in the forefront of the Confederate advance. The Federals were adjusting what they thought was a gap in their lines. In the confusion, the Federals actually created a gap in their lines. While they were trying to figure out what was going on and realigning their already in place troops, Johnson's men poured through the gap and shattered the entire Federal right flank.

He was promoted to Major General on May 21, 1864, and moved to the Army of Northern Virginia where he served at the Battle of Crater during the Siege of Petersburg. One of his Brigades was on top of the mine that caused the Crater. Despite part of the brigade being blown sky high, they captured three stands of colors and took 130 prisoners. Johnson lead his men in the counterattack at the Battle of White Oak Rd where they drove back two union divisions but were halted and driven back themselves by Federal reinforcements. Two of his brigades were detached to General Pickett's command at the Battle of Five Forks where they were largely destroyed. His division was broken at the Battle of Saylor's Creek on April 6, 1865. He managed to escape capture once again and was paroled at Appomattox.

After returning to Nashville, he entered the real estate business but failed. He returned to teaching to support himself and Charlie who came to live with him. He was a professor and co-chancellor at the University of Nashville. The other chancellor was Confederate General Kirby Smith. After the school closed he retired in 1875 to a farm in Brighton, Illinois. One of his few friends in Illinois was Col. Jonathan Miles who served on the Union right at Chickamauga. Johnson planned on moving to California but he died on September 12, 1880, at age 62. He was laid to rest in the cemetery of Mils Station Methodist Church, unmourned and unattended by any former Confederates. It was left for the Union veteran Miles to pay for a headstone and monument. On the monument was inscribed the verse: "A valiant leader, true-hearted and sincere/ An honored soldier, who held his honor dear/ A cultured scholar with a mind both broad and deep/ An honest man, the noblest work of God." He was reinterred in 1975 to Old City Cemetery, Nashville, Tennessee, to be next to the grave of his wife, Mary.

## Confederate Headstone Dedication

There will be a headstone dedication for Silas Warren on October 28 at Antioch- Steele Cemetery at 10am. Cemetery is located on Hwy 21 about 10 miles north of Forest. The Cemetery is located behind Antioch Primitive Baptist Church. Meal will be served in the Church's dining area immediately following the Cemetery program. This will be hosted by Hosted by the East Mississippi Greys #1666. Silas Warren is the ancestor of Commander Bruce Warren and Compatriot Bobby Joe Denton.



### Upcoming Events

October:

Rankin Greys Camp 2278 Meeting- 14<sup>th</sup>

Fall Muster- 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> , 22<sup>nd</sup>

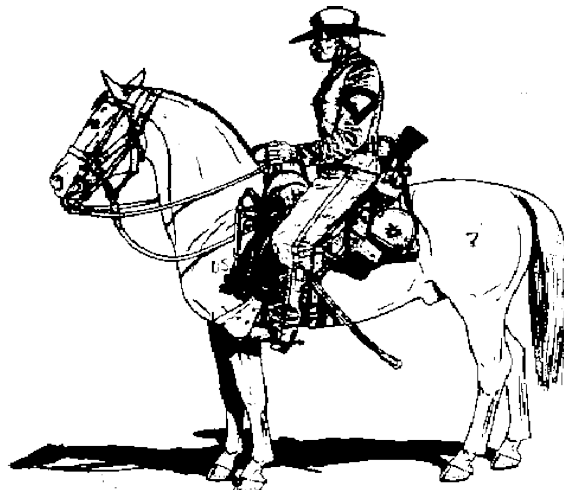
Headstone Dedication for Silas Warren- 28<sup>th</sup>

November:

Rankin Greys Camp 2278 Meeting-11<sup>th</sup>

December:

Rankin Greys Camp 2278 2nd Annual Christmas in Dixie-9<sup>th</sup>

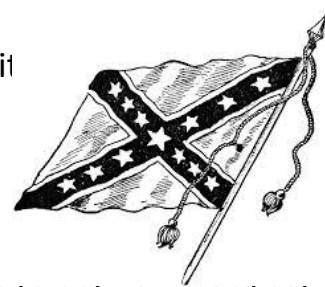


## AGENDA

- Opening prayer
- Pledges and Salutes
- Reading of the Charge
- Welcome
- Introduction of guests
- **Speaker: Dr. Tom Payne**

### Old/Unfinished Business

- New member certificates (Eckford)
- Dunking booth during Fall Muster (Oct 20-22)
- Mech Cav Raffle Tickets
- New SCV motorcycle tags should be available, if not now, definitely
- Mega Flag Update
- Beauvoir news
- **Shiloh Cemetery updates**
- **Jamie Knight Memorial Membership need to schedule date**
- Kroger Rewards – need to go to FB page and follow instructions to get your card setup
- Kathy for any OCR news



### New Business

- EC Meeting Update
- Waiting on new Mech Cav patches
- October events
  - Patch-Ins: TBD Bobby Shows, Jeff Ainsworth, Robert Pursley, Ben Edwards (Philadelphia)
  - Fall Muster – 20<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup> (Camp running dunking booth, MC running parking)
  - Bike Night – 28<sup>th</sup>, Little Willie's BBQ in Pearl at 06:00PM (recurring monthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at same location/time)
  - Krusin' for Kaiden – 29<sup>th</sup> at Trustmark Park / Miller's Grill
  - 1G State Meeting – Nov 4<sup>th</sup> at Louisville
- Open discussion

### Closing Reminders

- If your mailing address has changed since becoming a member, please notify the adjutant so that it can be changed with the Division and with National
- Website stats: 196 unique visitors, 308 page views
- Requests for speakers, suggestions to Owen McDowell
- See Camp Quarter Master Phillip Griffin for Shirts (\$20) and Hats (\$15)
- See Chris for applications
- Closing prayer

## MINUTES

09/09/2017 (location Los Cazadores, 2855 Hwy 49 S. Florence, MS 39073)

7:05 pm start

Prayer – Michael Boteler

Pledges – Ian McKay

Billy - Welcome guests (Al Arnold, MS Div Commander Jeff Barnes, John Evans, AOT Commander Larry McCluney & wife, and CIC Tom Strain and wife)

Billy:

- Vote on new member Robert Richardson, Conor made motion, Owen second, motion carried)
- New associate member certificate to Mike Merrit
- Fall muster Oct 20-22, camp is having dunking booth
- Mech Cav Raffle tickets sold should be handed off to Chris, Billy has blanks
- Patch ins coming up for new MC members
- 9/16 EC meeting at WMB
- New motorcycle tag for SCV presented
- Governor's ride 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Flagging at USM 24<sup>th</sup>
- Bike night 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm at Little Willie's in Pearl
- Disaster relief for Hurricane Harvey (\$250 collected)
- Clothing drive for kids (\$410 collected on hat passing) Owen recommended everyone bring canned goods to next meeting for needy families
- Dues are Due extended to 9/30

Tom Strain – Confederate Veterans magazine being mailed in wrappers now to help insure delivery and save the SCV money on lost issues

Al Arnold (1930-2005) – Presentation on book "Robert E. Lee's Orderly" and new book coming out soon

Tom Strain (2005-2025) – Current state of affairs regarding monuments

Owen – presented new Mech Cav patch being made

Kathy Vanek – Ride raised \$750 for Wounded Warriors

Closing Prayer – Michael Boteler

Meeting ended – 8:38 pm



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Compatriots,

I hope that you have enjoyed this issue of *Grey Matter*. If you have suggestion for an article, or would like to write one please let me know. Next month's issue will have several interesting articles that I am sure you will enjoy.

Forward the Colors,

George Conor Bond  
Editor  
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