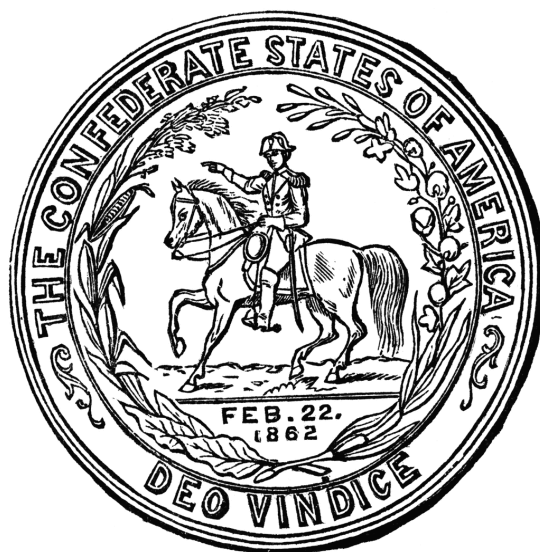
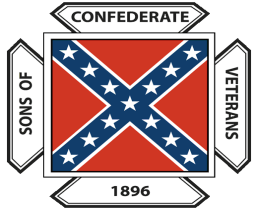


# Grey Matter

Newsletter of The Rankin Greys  
SCV Camp 2278

June 2021  
Volume 2 Issue 3





## COURAGE UNDER FIRE

My brother in-law, Michael Boteler introduced me to the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I owe him a huge debt of gratitude. In Early 2014 I did some light research on the SCV. Everything I saw I liked, everything I read made me more intrigued to discover my ancestors that fought in the WBTS. I happened to catch the name of the Historian in Chief was one I had not heard on years, Chuck Bond. I immediately called the number listed and had a great conversation with Chuck and did a lot of catching up. He had me so fired up about joining I could not wait to be a part of such an honorable organization.

As luck would have it the nearest camp to me at that time was the Brandon Camp, #265 and I had known the Commander, Tim Cupit for years thru work. Commander Cupit runs a well organized camp and does a great job. What I did however find out is camps all have their own identity and their interpretation of "living the charge". While our camp, The Rankin Greys, are a bit "out of the box" we have our own identity and interpretation. One that honors our ancestors and try to engage people and teach them what they probably never heard before. We found out early on the best way to do that is to stay engaged in our community. That not only puts positive light on our organization but also gives us the opportunity to have conversations with folks you would not otherwise meet.

I think our camp is about 75% members of the Mechanized Cavalry. This also has been a huge help on recruiting and retention. It has introduced me to people I now call Brother that are now family. I think that has always stuck in my mind that Chuck told me, there will always be people that will despise you, try to tear you down, shed negativity on anything you do and some will down right hate you without even knowing you. I thought hard about that and truer words have never been spoken. People will trash you for your leadership ability, trash you simply because you ride a motorcycle and trash you because in his words, they ain't you. I have been accused of being a bully to veterans, women, children and even dogs for simply critiquing a candidate's credentials. I thought that came with the territory of running for an office, guess not. I will continue to be the man that I have been. I will hold my shoulders back and my head high and try to do what is right and honorable by ancestors. Maybe you should ask yourself what are YOU doing for yours instead of worrying about what I do for mine. Till then friends and family, God bless you and God bless Dixie

Live the Charge,

Billy Bryant  
Commander

# Meeting Minutes – May 2021

by Camp Adjutant Chris Bryant

## MINUTES

05/08/2021 (location Los Cazadores, 2855 Hwy 49 S. Florence, MS 39073)

Meeting Start – 19:00

Billy Bryant presents member certificate to Braxton Adcox

Prayer – Marty McAlilly

Pledges – John Evans

Billy Bryant:

- Welcome to guests, J. Echols & wife, Chris Hood, Todd Owens, Lynda & Paul Gramling, Forrest & Harrison Daws
- See Phillip for swag, large long sleeve shirts only left. Need to get quote for Short sleeve, color gray.
- Vicksburg Reunion, price has went up \$5, May 27th deadline to sign up for awards banquet
- Patriot ride on 15th, will need to register on site at Utility Trailer Sales, meet for group ride in at Love's @ 0700.
- National SCVMC annual in Townsend, TN Jun 16-20
- John Echols speaker 1910-1925

Billy Bryant:

- Bobby Joe Denton Ride for Camp RAD on 7/18
- Cruzin' for Warriors Car Show on 8/7
- Cake present to John Echols for his 8/15 birthday
- Run for Roses on 9/4
- Fall Muster 10/15-17, OCR will have booth/cooking
- Support Mike Webb and Little Dixie Sutler
- Kroger Rewards and Amazon
- 193 page views on website this month
- Next camp meeting will be at/during reunion in Vicksburg
- Paul Gramling speaker 1935-1940:
- Nat'l reunion in Kenner, LA 7/21-24
- Forrest reinternment, pedestal coming down in Memphis this month, hopefully have his remains by end of month. Date will be planned after that, possibly early fall. Will be a 3 day event. \$33k collected in funds so far, 1/3 or \$100k needed.

- Museum updates

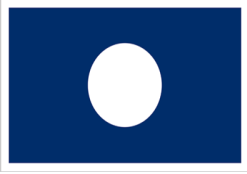
Billy Bryant:

- Magnolia Run shirts – see Bruce
- Bruce Warren: running against Foley for 4th Brigade Commander

Closing Prayer – Marty McAlilly

Meeting Adjourn – 19:46





# Forefathers in Grey



## PRIVATE DANIEL GILL

Let me begin with the basics. Daniel James Gill was my third great-grandfather. He begat Candace Malinda Gill, who begat Mary Viola Walters, who begat John Rankin Ferguson, who begat my mother, Carrie Louise, and here I am.

Daniel was born sometime in 1820 to aging parents Thomas and Nancy Gill. He was born in Mississippi and lived there for the majority of his life. He was married in September of 1845 to Lucinda Neely and they had 7 children. When the war started, Daniel was 41 years old. He joined Company I, King's 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, which was part of the state troops. In September of 1863, records indicate he was discharged from this regiment and reenlisted in the 39<sup>th</sup> MS Infantry as a private in Company B, the Rankin Rebels. He joined them in Enterprise, MS, where they were encamped after their capture at the Siege of Port Hudson. When Sherman was making his run through Meridian in early 1864, they were moved to Mobile, AL. They were attached to the Army of Tennessee, in General Claudius Sears' Brigade, in General Samuel French's Division, and in April were moved to Atlanta. In July of 1864, the 39<sup>th</sup> participated in the Battle of Peachtree Creek as part of the Atlanta campaign against Sherman under the command of General John Bell Hood.

On October 5, 1864, French's Division attempted to take a Union garrison at Allatoona, GA. The attempt was unsuccessful, with 897 losses on the Confederate side, Daniel Gill being captured. He was shipped off to a military prison in Louisville, KY, arriving November 21, 1864. On the 24<sup>th</sup> he was sent to Camp Douglas. Camp Douglas was a cruel and unforgiving prison camp. The temperatures were biting cold, the environment was unclean to put it mildly, and the guards were the face of cruelty. One of their methods of torture was to make men stand in the snow and reach for the ground, standing in such a position 30 minutes up to 4 hours, until their noses were bleeding and they fell over, but to fall over meant yet another beating. Daniel Gill lived in such conditions through December and much of January, succumbing to dysentery on January 20, 1865. He was buried in what was called the Confederate mound. His grave, along with thousands of others, is marked at Oak Lawn Cemetery with a single monument.

Chris Bryant



## Why we do what we do

Shortly after joining the Mechanized Calvary I was in line at a convenience store waiting to pay for my gas. I was proudly wearing my brand new cut with the Stainless Banner on the back, when I was approached by a young man that said "how long have you been a Son of a Confederate Veteran"? I flippantly replied "all my life". He then asked about my top rocker patch, "Sic Semper Tyrannis". I said it's Latin for "Thus always to tyrants", allegedly what Brutus said when he assassinated Julius Caesar and for sure what John Wilkes Booth said when he assassinated Abraham Lincoln. He went on to say "why do y'all care so much about something that happened 150 years ago"? I didn't feel obliged to give him a history lesson in the middle of the store so I just replied "we are a heritage group that honors our ancestors" and left it at that. It did however give me food for thought, why do we care so passionately about our ancestors? The brave Sons of the South that historians have unjustly branded as racists and traitors. In school my favorite subject was history. As will soon be revealed by my writing skills, I was a "C" student at best, that hardly ever opened a book outside of class. None the less I love history and genealogy is a hobby of mine. When I was a young boy I loved to hear the stories my dad would tell me about his grandfather and great uncle that served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Ms. Infantry out of Simpson County (Simpson Fencibles). His grandfather survived the war while his great uncle died in Bowling Green Kentucky, most likely from pneumonia. The story that interested me the most though was told by my grandmother. She told me about her grandfather that fought, as she put it, in "The War of Northern Aggression" and lost his right arm. It wasn't until the invention of the internet that I could actually verify these stories as fact. The man she was referring to was William Henry Prine, coincidentally the ancestor I joined the SCV on. In my searches I uncovered a fairly complete history of his military service. He enlisted into Company "B" 27<sup>th</sup> Ms Infantry (Rosin Heels) on April 10 1861. He served with the 27<sup>th</sup> through 1861 and 1862 up until the battle of Stones River at Murfreesboro Tennessee. On Dec. 31 1862 he was wounded so severely that the Confederate surgeons determined to leave him on the battlefield to be captured and treated by the Union forces. After his capture he was sent to Nashville Tennessee, then on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 1863 to the U.S. hospital in Louisville Kentucky where his right arm was amputated. On Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> 1863 he was sent to the notorious POW Camp Morton. A great article on this hellish place was recently featured in the Confederate Veteran magazine. Our soldiers were held in converted stables in the harshest conditions imaginable, most without winter clothes and even some without shoes. At the hands of their captors they were beaten, starved, and murdered. From there he was sent to City Point Virginia for prisoner exchange on April 12<sup>th</sup> 1863. He was accepted for exchange and sent to the Confederate States hospital in Petersburg, Virginia on May 20<sup>th</sup> 1863 where he was furloughed. In the summer of 1863 he learned that the 27<sup>th</sup> was down in Georgia and reported to his old Company for duty. Upon arrival however he was then sent to Buckner Hospital in Newman Georgia where he was declared "incapable of performing the duties of a soldier due to his injuries". On December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1863 he was discharged from the Confederate Army by General Bragg. You see, William Henry Prine could not give up the fight, ... would not give up the fight. Even with one arm, and having survived Camp Morton, he was ready to rejoin the fight. This man is one of my heroes, although his story is not unique. There are literally thousands of similar stories of the brave men who fought for the Southland. Thousands of our young men fought and died heroically for the cause of Southern Independence. The blood that he spilled in the snow on that New Years Eve in Tennessee now flows through my veins, a fact that I am fiercely proud of. My ancestors were farmers and sharecroppers, what most would call "poor white trash", but when the time came they laid down the plow and picked up the gun, all in defense of their homeland. In my searches I have found no evidence of any of them owning slaves, yet they fought for a cause near and dear to their hearts. It wasn't so plantation owner could keep his slaves, it was to defend their homeland from an invading army that raped, stole, and pillaged at will. It wasn't a fight they asked for but one they were compelled to engage in. So in conclusion, yes I am very passionate about my heritage and these are the reasons I do what I do. Remain unreconstructed and live the charge my brothers. God bless Dixie !!

Glenn Hays (Smooth) RAYWWF

The Rankin Greys MCFFMC

# 125th MS Division Reunion Agenda

## June 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> of 2021

### Vicksburg, MS

**NOTE: Agenda may have changed after printing due to COVID-19 changing guidance.  
Check the VCC screens for meeting rooms.**

#### **Friday, June 11:**

2:00 - 8:00 pm

3:00 - 7:00 pm

6:00 - 8:00 pm

#### **Event**

Vendor Setup and Sales

Reunion SCV/OCR Registration

Commanders Reception and Social

Guest Speaker: Grady Howell, Historian &amp; Author

**“Battle of Port Gibson”**

#### **Location**

VCC Hallway

VCC Lobby + Hallway

Rooms 1-3

#### **Saturday, June 12:**

7:00 am - 3:00 pm

7:00 - 8:30 am

7:30 am

8:00 - 9:00 am

Vendor Sales

Reunion SCV/OCR Registration

MS Division Color Guard Muster

Opening Ceremony/ Registered Members/Guests

Call to Order

Invocation

Presentation of Colors

Welcome Remarks by:

Host Camp

MS Society OCR

MS United Daughters of Confederacy

Greetings from Beauvoir

Captain of 1G Mech Cav.

SCV Commander-in-Chief

Recess and Dismissal of Guests

VCC Hallway

VCC Lobby + Hallway

VCC Lobby + Hallway

Rooms 1-4

Edward Campbell

Chaplain

Color Guard

Edward Campbell

Joy Redwine

Lynda McKinney

Marc Thompson

Kevin Nelms

Larry McCluney, Jr.

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

MS SCV Division Business Meeting &  
Beauvoir Board Meeting

Rooms 1-3

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

MS OCR Business Meeting & Ladies Tea

Room 4

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch on Your Own

Vicksburg Restaurants

2:00 - 3:00 pm

**“The Camel Regiment: A History of the Bloody Forty-Third Mississippi”**  
by W. Scott Bell

Room 4

1:00 - 5:00 pm

Self-Guided Tours of Museums and National Military Park

Vicksburg City

6:00 - 9:00 pm

MS Division Reunion Awards Banquet

Rooms 1-4

Guest Speaker: Dr. Samuel “Sandy” W. Mitcham Jr.

**“The Generals of Vicksburg: The Men Behind the Monuments”**

#### **Sunday, June 13:**

10:00 - 11:30 am

Memorial Service & CSS Arkansas Crew Marker Dedication

Soldiers Rest

Guest Speaker: Dr. Brandon Beck, Author

Vicksburg Cemetery

***Pick up Map to Vicksburg Cemetery at Registration Table.***

***Reunion Adjourned & Called to Reconvene in North MS in 2022***

05/22/2021 – Los Cazadores  
Great meeting tonight, 34 in attendance & patched into the Mechanized Cavalry  
Johnathan Keyes ~ Welcome Brother!

It's good to be able to bring in a new generation to the group!



### "The Charge"

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish." S.D. Lee

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Compatriots,

I hope that you have enjoyed this issue of *Grey Matter*. If anyone would like to submit an article for publication, please do!

Forward the Colors,

Donald Gaines

Editor

[Donaldgaines601@gmail.com](mailto:Donaldgaines601@gmail.com)

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