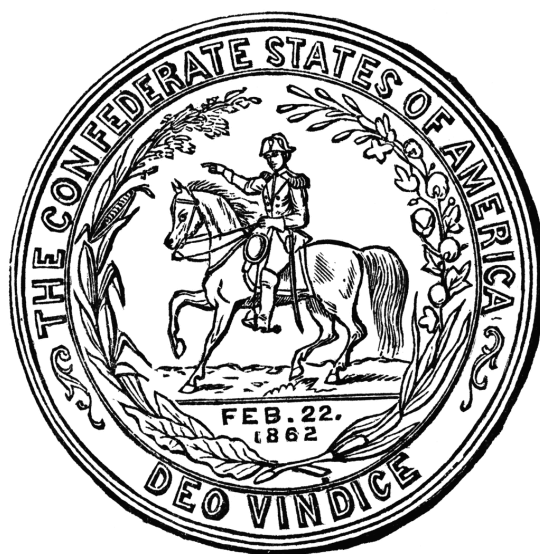
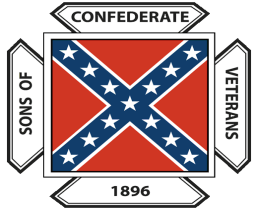


Grey Matter

Newsletter of The Rankin Greys
SCV Camp 2278

August 2021
Volume 2 Issue 5





Commander's Report

by Commander Billy Bryant



The month of August was extremely busy for the Rankin Greys. We lost a dear friend and SVC Icon, Carl Ford. I had made a promise to Carl and Nancy Ford that they would receive an escort by the Mechanized Cavalry. 18 motorcycles escorted Compatriot Ford from Laurel to Taylorsville to rest beside his wife Nancy. He will be missed and remembered by us all.

Our OCR ladies, The Grey Roses, hosted a car, bike and Jeep show, to raise money for The Wounded Warriors of Mississippi. We cannot thank the ladies enough for the hard work that went into our 1st. Annual Cruzin for the Warriors. The event was a huge success, and we were able to present Mrs. Cheryl Bruce a check for \$4022.00.

The SCVMC1G Central Squad is hosting the 2nd Annual Magnolia Run on Aug. 28th with the Grey Roses serving lunch and a fish fry Saturday night at Daryll and Carol Shute's home.

Our August speaker was former Ms. Division Commander Jeff Barnes. He will tell us about his Fathers service and his fight to take Iwo Jima. I want to thank all that attended and put so much effort in these events.

Billy Bryant
Commander Camp 2278.
The Rankin Greys.

Meeting Minutes – July 2021

by Camp Adjutant Chris Bryant

07/17/2021 (location Los Cazadores, 2855 Hwy 49 S. Florence, MS 39073)

Meeting Start – 19:00

Prayer – Marty McAlilly

Billy Bryant - Welcome to guests

Cheryl Bruce of the Wounded Warriors of Mississippi (1900-1920)

Billy Bryant - Beauvoir BOD Elections update; Bruce, Owen, Rock spoke

Owen McDowell - updated about Richie Jones Memorial Ride on 9/18

Ian Powell – DEC meeting on 8/21

Billy Bryant:

- Michael Pitts & Johnny Stewart SCV Certificates
- Shute boys cadet certificates
- Putt/Griffin Officer promotions
- Next month's speaker – Jeff Barnes on Iwo Jima
- SCVMC Annual in Townsend, TN update
- Dues are due
- Conor is delegate at National Reunion
- 1G Annual TBD
- BJD RAD Ride Thursday July 22nd (Thursday)
- Cruzin' for the Warriors Aug 7
- Chuck Bond Run for Roses @ Beauvoir Sept 4
- Forest Reinternment – tickets online, get your rooms soon, Sept 18
- Gator Run in Tickfaw, LA Oct 1-3
- Magnolia Ride Aug 28
- Requests for speakers to Billy or Chris
- Contact info changes to adjutant
- Check our page at MeWe
- Website stats 72 unique visitors, 148 page views
- Quartermaster for shirts, etc.

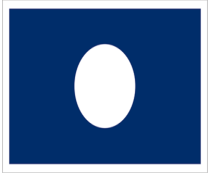
Bruce Warren:

- Thank the camp for support for 4th Brigade Commander
- Everyone needs to attend DEC meetings
- Some BOD meetings will be at the War Memorial Building

Owen McDowell – 3 vacancies on BOT, send resumes to BOD

Closing Prayer – Marty McAlilly

Meeting Adjourn – 20:05



Forefathers in Grey



Growing up, my father would tell me stories about my Confederate Ancestors. The story that always stuck in my mind was one of my 5th great grandfather, Captain Nathan W. Slay. The information dad had for years was only what he could get off the almost illegible microfilm rolls housed in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. However, over the past few years I have begun doing heavy research on Nathan and have learned a considerable amount about him.

Nathan was born on January 31, 1830, in Copiah County, MS. He was the second oldest of 13 children. Of those 13, 8 were boys and they all served in the Confederate Army. The Slay family immigrated from England to Queen Anne's County Maryland before 1735. His great grandfather Thomas Slay Sr. served in the American Revolution. Nathan was named for his paternal grandfather who is buried in Wayne County, MS. Nathan Slay I was a prominent member of his community and in the 1820s was selected to take part of a committee to find a new school master. Nathan's father, Alexander, is assumed to be well read. In fact, most of his sons' names came from classical antiquity. Nathan's mother was described as "...a faithful and devoted Christian. A woman of the most unfeigned kindness toward all; many now remember of her that never was an unkind word toward any person heard to escape her lips."

Nathan married Mary Ann Slay on February 12, 1851, and they were blessed with their first Child Luther Monroe a year later and eventually the couple would have 8 children. In southern antebellum society can be roughly broken into 4 separate parts. At the top were the planters, next the yeomen farmers/ professional class, poor whites and free people of color, and finally slaves. Nathan and his family were a part of that yeomen/professional class.

At one time, when a difference was had between the sections of the country, a compromise could be struck, and the "American Experiment" would continue. However, at some point, the compromises stopped. Over the next decade, decades of rifts between the North and the South began to grow larger. Finally, the equilibrium of power that held the north and south in check was overturned in the election of 1860. Already feeling overtaxed and abused, Mississippi felt that it was necessary to dissolve the political band which had connected them with the federal government. On January 9, 1861, a convention representing the people of Mississippi voted to reassume the powers and authorities they had voluntarily delegated to the national government and declared her independence from the United States. Within a month Mississippi and her sister southern states, each State acting in its sovereign and independent character, would create a new nation. A patriotic fever swept through the south and many felt like LQC Lamar who said, "Thank God, we have a country at last: to live for, to pray for, and if need be, to die for." On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces opened fire on Ft. Sumter in South Carolina. As a result, the US President called for 75,000 volunteers to join an army to crush the south and a blockade of all southern ports. According to the US Supreme Court, Lincoln's actions were the start of the War Between the States.

Nathan's name appears on a list of Crystal Springs Southern Rights Rifles dated August 21, 1861; Enlisted in the Confederate State Army as a private in Company F, Sixth Mississippi Infantry. The Sixth was mustered into the Confederate States' service for twelve months in Grenada, MS on August 24, 1861. While in Grenada Nathan was elected sergeant of his company. In September, the Sixth was ordered to Tennessee and in October to Kentucky where they would spend the winter. In Kentucky, the regiment suffered from typhoid fever and measles so that only 150 men were fit for duty, some of the companies being reduced to 10 or 25 men. Some died in hospital at Nashville and elsewhere and many officers were compelled to resign on account of sickness. So severe was this affliction that nearly all the company officers joined in a "round robin" asking that the regiment be sent to some fixed station to recruit.

After the fall of Fort Donelson, the Confederate forces were concentrated at Corinth under Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, whence they moved early in April 1862, to attack Grant's army at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. The Sixth Regiment went into the battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, with Cleburne's Brigade of Hardee's Corps.

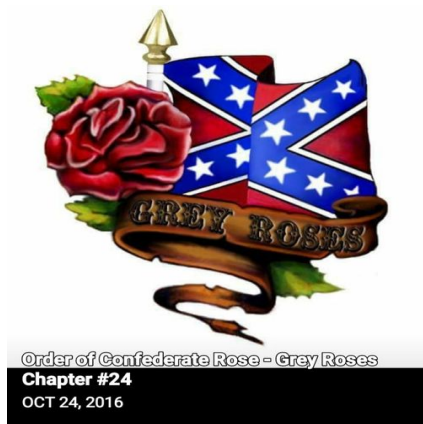
The first attack, on the morning of the 6th, was by Federal skirmishers upon Hardcastle's Battalion, pickets of Hardee's Corps, after which Hardee ordered an advance. Cleburne's Brigade rushed forward toward the Federal camps, in a place where they were outflanked and embarrassed by a morass in their front that broke the line. "They came under a very destructive fire, and though the Sixth Mississippi charged through the encampments they suffered," Cleburne said, "a quick and bloody repulse." But "again and again, unaided, the Sixth Mississippi charged the enemy's line, and it was only when the regiment had lost 300 officers and men killed and wounded, out of an aggregate of 425, that it yielded and retreated. One of those wounded was Nathan W. Slay.

Nathan he was able to make it back or was recovered by his regiment and was shipped south to recover from his wounds. Luckily for Nathan, he made it back to Crystal Springs. In July however he was discharged from Confederate Service. The following was written by the regimental surgeon:

I certify that I have carefully examined Nathan W. Slay, of Captain T.F. Lindsay's (Co.F) 6th Regiment, Miss C.S. Vols. and find him in incapable of performing his duties of a soldier in consequence of a gunshot wound received at the battle of Shiloh; the ball having entered near the Ala of the nose, and passed out through the junction of the molar and superior maxilla bones, breaking the hard palate - at the present time, there is an opening through the hard palate into the mouth, and one at the point of exit - He is unable to masticate, and exercise produces pain, swelling and inflammation of the side of the face & eye - As he will not probably be fit for duty for a long time, his discharge from the service is recommended -
J. Chandler M.D. Assistant Surgeon –

After a severe wound like that and being discharged that his part in the war would be over. This however was not the case. In 1864 Nathan rejoined the Confederate cause and commissioned as a Lt. in Company A, Power's Mississippi and Louisiana Cavalry. While apart of Power's Cavalry, they fought under Joe Wheeler and then Nathan Bedford Forrest in the Meridian Campaign, the Atlanta Campaign, the Franklin/ Nashville Campaign, the Selma Campaign and surrendered in Gainesville, Alabama.

Nathan took General Forrest's advice "You have been good soldiers; you can be good citizens" and became the best citizen he could be. In 1866, he was listed on the annual returns of Shady Grove Lodge No. 43. In the 1870s he was treasurer of the Copiah County Co-op where they netted \$2,000. Sadly, Nathan's his wife Mary Ann passed away in 1873. Nathan would remarry Ella Young the following year and the couple would have 4 children by the time of Nathan's death in 1899.



Grey Roses OCR Camp 24

We can't thank our Grey Roses enough for all their hard work and time put into the car show. We raised a total of \$4,022.00 for our Wounded Warriors of Mississippi. Fantastic job ladies!! -Billy

Grey Roses want to thank our Rankin Greys for everything you guys did for/with us at the car show today. It was a huge success, but it wouldn't have been without y'all. We are blessed to have all the support you guys give us!!!!!! -Brenda







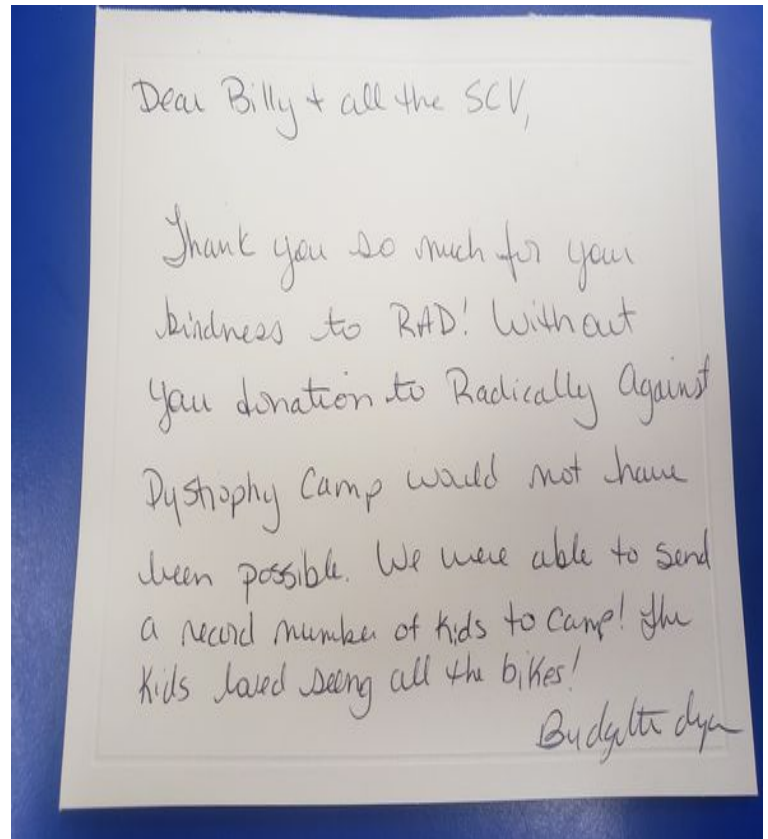
Looks like Camp RAD has wrapped up its 2021 camp. They had 34 campers this year and I am proud to say our camp paid the way for 18 of them. There are a ton of pictures and in every single one all you see is smiles and these special kids having a great time. This is something our camp will continue to support. Thanks to all of YOU that donated, your money was well spent.



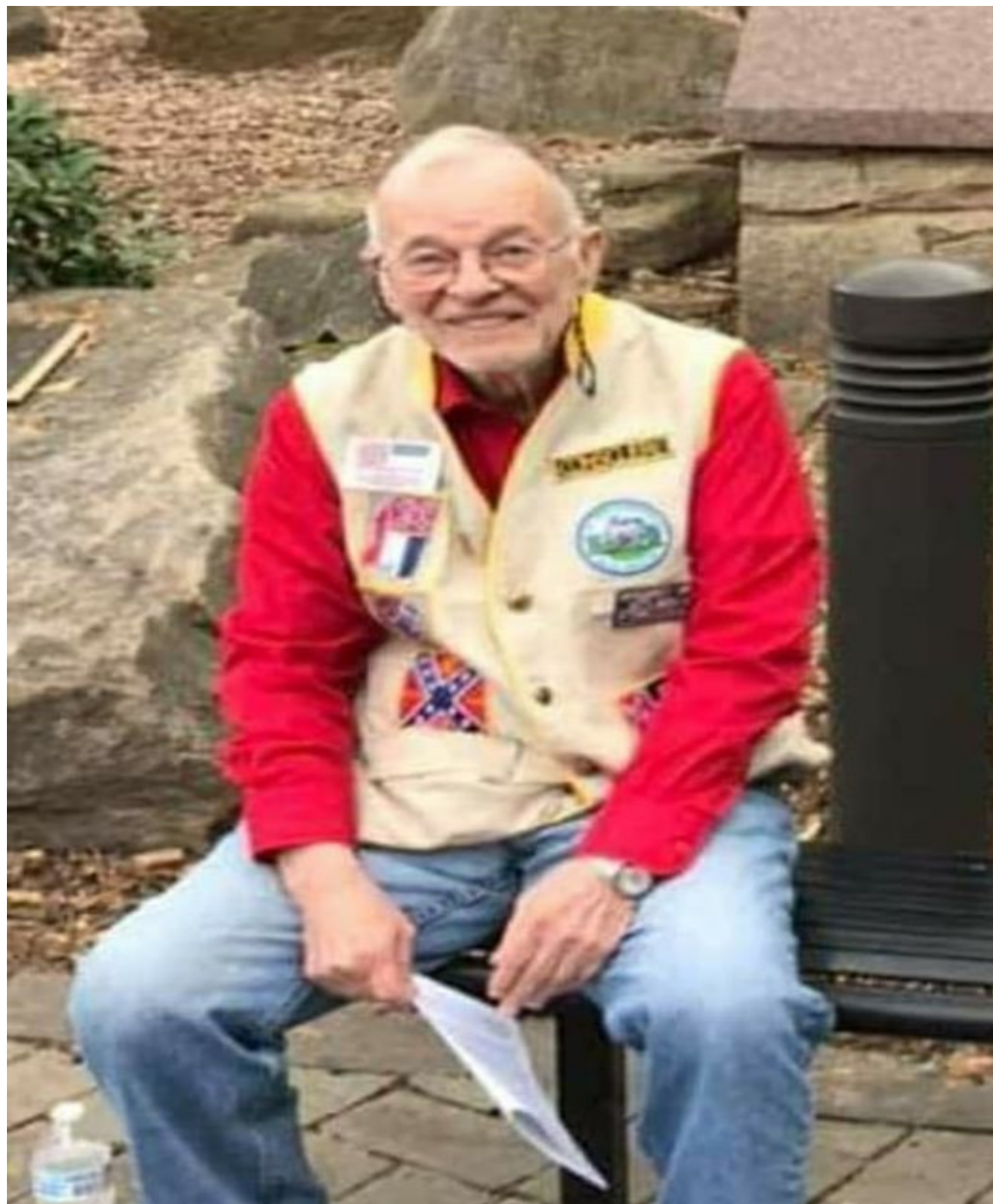




THIS is why our camp does the things we do. Had a surprise visit from Bridgette from camp **RAD** this morning. She brought me something the kids made for us to show their appreciation for being able to attend the camp we helped fund this year. My heart is full and eyes leaking a little. Thank you all and God bless you. – Billy Bryant



We lost another great friend last night. Carl Ford SCVMC1G #2496 crossed over the river to rest under the shade of the trees. This man was SCV Royalty and very dear to me. He and Nancy Ford along with Chuck Bond were driving forces behind starting our camp. Carl was a lifetime associate member of the Rankin Greys. He now is back in the arms of the love of his life. R.I.P. Brother you will be missed. Thank you for being my friend and mentor. – Billy Bryant



This is how you send off a friend and Brother the Mechanized Cavalry way. R.I.P. Carl Ford.





The Monument Committee of the Mississippi Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Presents

A Monument and Headstone Cleaning Workshop for C.E.R.T. Certification

Join us at beautiful Confederate Memorial Building in historic Greenwood, Mississippi, to receive certification in the “No Harm” cleaning method used by C.E.R.T., the official Confederate Emergency Response Team.

Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021

Time: 9:00 am until

**Place: Confederate Memorial Building
(215 Henderson St., Greenwood, MS)**

Come out and be a part of cleaning and restoring this Southern treasure while gaining valuable knowledge in the proper and safe way to clean monuments and headstones, as well as learning what methods not to use. Many well-meaning people are actually hurting our beloved Confederate monuments and headstones by using improper methods to clean them. Come learn the right way and get certified to teach others. Lunch will be provided.

If you are interested in attending this workshop, please register by emailing Monument Chairman Forrest S. Daws at forrestsdaws@gmail.com



“Never do a wrong thing to make a friend or to keep one.”
Robert E Lee

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
HippySCV@gmail.com
