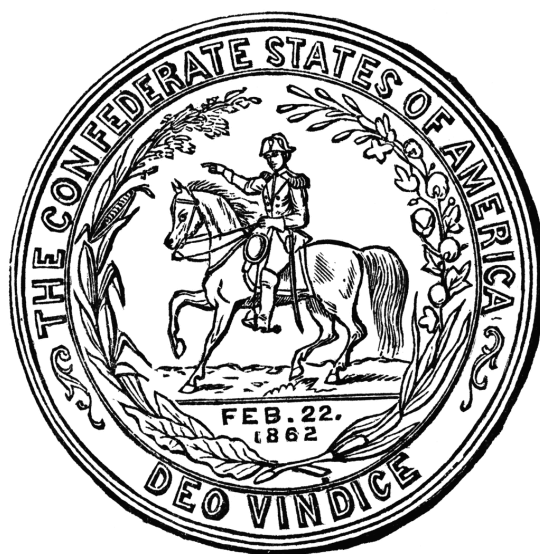


Grey Matter

Newsletter of The Rankin Greys
SCV Camp 2278

November 2021
Volume 2 Issue 7





Commander's Report

by Commander Billy Bryant



We belong to the largest Heritage Preservation organization in the country, yet we seem to be our own worst enemies.

The animosity amongst our members resembles that of a soap opera. When someone does good, we all do good. It has been said that our camp members are biker thugs, biker trash, outcast, bullies and that we mistreat veterans, women, children and even dogs. Let me be crystal clear on this, I challenge any camp, not just in our division but in the entire Confederation to do the things we do not just for our ancestors but for veterans, victims of domestic violence, children with muscular dystrophy, children with pediatric cancer, LEO, first responders, our elderly, and our community. Don't just talk the talk, walk the walk.

Recently a member of the board of directors at Beauvoir sent out an email at 11 p.m. to our Division Commander along with over 80 others, two which are deceased, that our camps leadership is trying to hurt Beauvoir. If you have followed our camp for any amount of time you know this is a bald-faced lie and he is only trying to create more descension. Again, I challenge any camp that has dedicated more of their time, money, and effort with boots on the ground at Beauvoir to step up and prove me wrong.

Our camp continues to grow new members and maintains a 98% retention. We are ALL Sons of Confederate Veterans first and foremost. We have about 80% of our members that belong to the Mechanized Cavalry. It seems the opinion of some that the M.C. are trying to "take over" the Division yet that was never said when foley was division commander and the truly sad part of this is, some of the ones saying it ARE Mec Cav members. I think the membership would be surprised at some of the folks that are in the Cavalry, yet you never see them at any of the functions or see them wearing their Stainless Banner. Hmmm, are you ashamed to wear it and if so, TURN IT IN. The Rankin Greys will continue to live the charge, so lead, follow, or get out of the way. STAY SOUTHERN MY FRIENDS

Thanks,

Billy Bryant
Commander Camp 2278.
The Rankin Greys.

Meeting Minutes – June 2021

by Camp Adjutant Chris Bryant

MINUTES

10/09/2021 (location Los Cazadores, 2855 Hwy 49 S. Florence, MS 39073)

Meeting Start – 18:55

Prayer – Tommy Symon

Pledges – John Evans

The Charge – Chris Bryant

Billy – welcome guests

Terry Van Arthur – Calhoun Avengers seeking money to construct monument, introduced the Guardian program, his camp hosting 2022 division reunion in Columbus, introduced we work better together program.

Brenda Bryant – OCR starting clothing drive for battered women's shelter, Christmas event being set up for VA nursing home on I-220

Billy:

- Shirts are in, see Phillip
- Patch John Stewart into Mechanized Cavalry
- Camp members assisted with electrical work at wounded warrior's home
- Fall Muster Oct 15-17
- 1G Annual is Nov 13, Bruce to deliver squad report
- Mark Harriel and Shelby Harriel will be next month's speakers
- Chris Bryant will be running next month's meeting
- Christmas in Dixie Dec 11 at Los Cazadores
- Camping trip to Askew's Landing Oct 15
- Forrest Reinternment update, Bruce was pallbearer for Mary Ann Forrest
- See Chris for member cards

Cynthia McDowell – thanks for support and attending memorial ride for Richie Jones

Bruce Warren – starting program for at-risk veterans suffering from PTSD

Owen McDowell – follow-up on same

Billy Bryant – welcome new camp member Aaron Brice Weeks

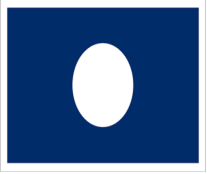
Closing Prayer – Tommy Symon

Meeting Adjourn – 20:05

From our Brother Glenn Hays, could not have been said any better.

We are The Sons Of Confederate Veterans, Mississippi Division, Mechanized Cavalry 1st Battalion, Company "G", Central squad, "The Rankin Greys". A band of brothers that ride in honor of our ancestors that fought, were wounded, and many died in defense of the Southland. Mostly a citizen army of untrained, ill-equipped farmers and shop keepers, fighting a well-trained army with unlimited resources. They fought an invading army that burned our cities, raped our beautiful Southern women, robbed, and pillaged at will. Many Union officers practiced "scorched earth" meaning what they couldn't steal and haul away they burned to the ground. It's time we took back the narrative and made the truth known about these brave men. Most men that have roots in the South have an ancestor that fought under that battle flag. The SCV has many genealogists that will help with your lineage. Every day we are losing monuments, and statues of our heroes to the Godless liberal agenda. Join the SCV and if you ride a motorcycle, The Mechanized Cavalry. Join the fight to keep their memory alive. Be a man among men!!

Glenn Hays (Smooth)



Forefathers in Grey



Private Patrick Joseph McMullan

Private Patrick Joseph McMullan served with Co. "K" 11th Mississippi Calvary. He was the 2nd. Great grandfather of The Rankin Greys' Stacy McMullan. Patrick was born in Elbert County, Georgia in 1820. In 1841 he married Ella Hailey, with this union producing eight sons and one daughter. Patrick, being a farmer, knew his sons would soon be approaching manhood and would want their own farms. Population in Elbert County was rising, and land prices were increasing rapidly. He had heard of cheap land in Mississippi so in 1857 moved the entire family to Mississippi. He bought a thousand acres of land in Newton County, north of Decatur. With the help of his ten slaves and the older boys, they cleared eight hundred acres, leaving two hundred acres wooded with a small creek running through it. He built a fine house and school and named it Mount Vernon. One hundred acres were planted in apple trees and the remaining seven hundred acres planted in cotton. By the spring of 1861 the apple trees were up and growing and the slaves had learned to grow cotton with little supervision. It seemed Mount Vernon and the plantation's future was bright, then tragedy struck. Secession came and the bloody war for Southern Independence. Patrick, along with two of his elder sons, William, fifteen years old, and Thomas, sixteen years old enlisted. Proud young sons of the Confederacy, both to be killed at Stones River in Murfreesboro Tennessee, never again to see their beautiful Mount Vernon home.

Patrick mustered into service on October 6, 1863, in what was known as Perrin's Battalion of Mississippi Calvary, and while he was away at war, Lincoln freed his slaves. The scalawags and carpetbaggers came to the plantation and told the slaves they were free and did not have to work for Mr. McMullan any longer. Although they were free to go, they said they would be there when Mr. Patrick returned. Upon Patrick's return they were there, happy and content, and with the apple trees producing in great abundance, he built a cider mill. He also bought apples from his neighbors, who he had earlier encouraged to plant apple trees, and shipped barrels of cider back to Georgia. He opened a store and soon got permission from the U.S. Postal Service to open a post office in the store. It would be named Mount Vernon Mississippi and one of his sons would become the postmaster. The store was soon thriving and reported to be doing as much business as some of the larger stores in Decatur and Union. Working with neighbors and friends, MT. Zion Congregational Methodist Church was built and dedicated. Patrick soon turned the cider operation over to one of his eldest sons. He was now one of the largest cotton producers in the country, producing and selling several hundred bales every year. Owning and operating a large store, a great cotton plantation and cider mill he had become one of the most prominent figures in the county. He was a very busy man and never retired, engaging in political, civic, and religious activities the rest of his life. Although he never ran for public office, persons seeking election to office never failed to call at Mount Vernon to solicit his vote and advice. With the day-to-day operation of the cider mill and cotton growing being handled, Patrick found he had time on his hands. Being intensely interested in politics he began traveling around the county, always on horseback as he found the buggy too slow. An interesting sidenote to Patrick's ancestry concerns his grandfather, John McMullan. John was of Scottish/Irish descent born in Ireland in 1740 and emigrated from Dublin to Orange County Virginia about 1766. He served in the Revolutionary war and fought on the side of "The Patriots and Colonists". A tailor by trade, he made the first military uniform for George Washington after he was made Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.

Respect is Earned

My Father would have been 84 years old today. He was my best friend. He passed at 54 years old, almost 30 years ago. He taught me that if you want something, earn it. He also taught us to stand up for yourself even if it means standing alone. When you are right, don't back down. He worked in the oilfield all his life and provided a good life for his family. I just hope I am half the man he was. I miss him every day and I still talk to him. Miss you Dad and Happy Birthday!

Billy Bryant
Commander Camp 2278.



ASKEWS LANDING. One of Mississippi's best kept secrets.



On May 16, 1863, moving west following their capture and destruction of Jackson, Mississippi, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's advancing Union corps met Confederates under Maj. Gen. John C. Pemberton in a fierce struggle roughly halfway between Jackson and Vicksburg. Pemberton had posted his divisions on high ground in a 3-mile line covering the roads from the south and east. Unexpectedly, Grant's men moved west along an undefended road and met Pemberton's men at Champion's Hill. Outflanked, Pemberton stretched his line to hold back the Yankees, soon advancing across his front. The Union brigades were nearly swept away by a counterattack led by the division of Brig. Gen. John Bowen. Grant ordered more men toward the hill and Bowen's Confederates were themselves driven off, compelling a general retreat. Confederate Brig. Gen. Lloyd Tilghman was killed while directing a rearguard action that enabled most of the Confederate army to escape towards Vicksburg. The Union victories at Champion Hill and at the BIG BLACK RIVER the next day forced the Confederates into a doomed position inside the fortifications of Vicksburg. The Battle of Champion Hill was the largest of Grant's Vicksburg Campaign.





1st Annual Lynyrd Skynyrd Memorial Ride

Three members of the southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd die in a Mississippi plane crash

In the summer of 1977, members of the rock band Aerosmith inspected an airplane they were considering chartering for their upcoming tour—a Convair 240 operated out of Addison, [Texas](#). Concerns over the flight crew led Aerosmith to look elsewhere—a decision that saved one band but doomed another. The aircraft in question was instead chartered by the band Lynyrd Skynyrd, who were just setting out that autumn on a national tour that promised to be their biggest to date. On October 20, 1977, however, during a flight from Greenville, [South Carolina](#), to Baton Rouge, [Louisiana](#), Lynyrd Skynyrd's tour plane crashed in a heavily wooded area of southwestern [Mississippi](#) during a failed emergency landing attempt, killing band-members Ronnie Van Zant, Steve Gaines and Cassie Gaines as well as the band's assistant road manager and the plane's pilot and co-pilot. Twenty others survived the crash. [History.com](#)







Grey Roses OCR Camp 24

October was a fun filled and relaxing month for the Grey Roses.

The Grey Roses followed our SCV MECANIZED CAVALRY CAMP 2278 to the sight of the Battle of the big black at Askew's Landing in Edwards, Ms. There we camped for the weekend. Some in tents some in RV's.

Our Sister Michelle Mcelhenney enjoyed some fishing and had a great catch. She is a fisherwoman!



Our camp cooks out did themselves again. Jerry Dupre aka "Swamp thang" and Jerry Roden aka "sleepy" outdid themselves again and cooked a Fish Cobeoun, that was out of this world, and the ribs that Vince Windham cooked melted in your mouth.

We also had the pleasure of David George singing and playing for us around the campfire. David has been the front band for many big names. Great guy and an amazing musician.

One thing for sure we ate good, and all had a wonderful time.

We are looking forward to the next camping trip.



In October we also went to the Lynyrd Skynyrd memorial. It's hard to believe that it has been 44 years.



If you have never been, I recommend going. It is a beautiful monument to one of the greatest rock and roll bands ever, and it was a great ride also.

A perfect way to end October.

For the month of November, it's back to business for the Grey Roses ch 24. Lots of things in the making. I speak for all my sisters in saying Deo Vindice!

Brenda Bryant, President

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
