



# *The Hancock Rebel*



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THE SHIELDSBORO RIFLES CAMP #2263 NEWSLETTER

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## *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.*

*Given at New Orleans, LA in a speech on April 25, 1906 to the SCV National Convention by Lt. Gen. Stephen D Lee.*

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## *From the Commander's Desk*

*By: Camp Commander Don Green*

*It has been a wonderful four months watching this Camp grow from a group of interested people who met at the Library in Kiln, MS on May 26, 2015 to this day here in August. Over that time period, we have had three Camp meetings, elected officers, continued to recruit, completed the Charter Application, had it signed, were approved for Charter with 17 members on July 27, 2015, have added 3 more members for a total of 20 members, started a*

*Camp Scrap Book, Sponsored the Rotten Bayou Cemetery and voted in Associate Members. Our Camp number is #2263 and we make up the 11<sup>th</sup> Camp in the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade here in the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Thanks to all who have helped us so far in the formation of the Shieldsboro Rifles SCV Camp #2263. It is an honor to serve as this Camp's first Commander. Feel free to contact me if you need anything.*



**The first meeting held to form the Shieldsboro Rifles Camp at the Kiln Library on May 26, 2015.**



**The officers were elected and are shown above in the photo with the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Banner at the first meeting.**



**The second meeting to form the Shieldsboro Rifles Camp at the Diamondhead Library held on June 30, 2015.**



**The third meeting to form the Shieldsboro Rifles Camp at the Diamondhead Library held on July 28, 2015.**



**Camp Commander Don Green met with Division Commander Louis Foley to sign the Application.**



**The Camp Charter is shown above and will be Presented to the Camp & signed at Beauvoir.**

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## Upcoming Events

**August 21 – 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Meeting; Dixie Community Center; 7pm. Potluck Dinner.**

**August 25 – Camp #2263 Meeting; Kiln Library; 6pm.**

**August 29 – Fort Mims Reenactment; Stockton, AL. War of 1812 Massacre.**

**September 19 – Miss Div Executive Council Meeting; Pearl, MS.; 10am.**

**October 10 – Mississippi Monument Dedication at Shiloh NMP.**

**October 16 – Camp Charter Ceremony; Beauvoir Room at Beauvoir; 7pm.**

**Oct 16-18 – 29<sup>th</sup> Fall Muster Reenactment; Beauvoir; All Weekend.**

**November 20-22 – Camp Moore Reenactment Camp Moore Site; Tangipahoa, LA.**

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## Rotten Bayou Cemetery Update

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Dorthy Necaize has put in many hours at Rotten Bayou Cemetery. He has located the resting places of many Confederates in the historic cemetery and has also applied for the headstones of those which need them. Headstones for one Confederate & one War of 1812 Veteran have been**

**successfully shipped for the cemetery. The first one of these is the War of 1812 Veteran Basile Ladner, of the 18<sup>th</sup> Miss Militia. The second headstone was for Elijah B Spence of Hall's Co. Miss Inf. This stone is soon to be set & both headstones will be dedicated in the coming fall. The Gainesville Vols made a \$110 donation.**



**Dorthy & Associate Member Breezy Bice pose with Basile Ladner Headstone.**



**Elijah B Spence Headstone ready To be set.**



**Gainesville Vols donate \$110 to Camp #2263 for two headstones to be placed in Rotten Bayou Cemetery.**

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## **Cedar Rest Cemetery Update**

***Fellow Compatriots,***

***Since yesterday I have been working on this situation. We were alerted about this grave marker in Cedar Rest Cemetery belonging to that of 1st Lt. James H. Asbury Sylvester. Steve Thoms works for the City of Bay St. Louis and is a supporter of our cause. He found this grave marker lying on the ground, covered with vines and growth. The officers of Shieldsboro Rifles were made aware as was Jim Huffman of Gainesville Volunteers. Jim started the research and found a good deal of information on this gentleman.***

***This morning I went out and surveyed what needs to be done. From what I gather, just upon a quick inspection is that Sylvester and his wife Emily are located in the same grave. Most probably he is buried beneath her which is a very common practice in city cemeteries along the Coast. In fact there are several members of the Sylvester Family buried in this plot. It is in my opinion that once his wife died his headstone was placed on the ground and a new, much smaller headstone was placed with both their names on it and the family never went back to reinstall or re-erect the VA headstone. After looking at the situation there is more than enough room to properly reinstall Lt. Sylvester's marker.***

***I contacted the Historical Society in regards to who we need to contact as in a cemetery committee and, Eddie was very helpful. Below is his response:***

***Dorty,***

***What I have been told about Cedar Rest Cemetery is that the plots are called "homestead plots." What this means is that through the years, families who wished to be buried there would "stake their claim" to a particular site (s). Once all of the plots were taken (as they are now), no one new can be buried there unless he's buried atop someone else. In essence, there is no cemetery committee as there are for other cemeteries throughout the county. Our listing of the graves, which is available on our website, is probably the best one, however incomplete, there is.***

***To answer your question, to the best of my knowledge the families of people who are buried there or their descendants are responsible for the upkeep of individual graves. Of course, in some instances there are no descendants, which may be the case with the Mr. Sylvester. Further, the city does try to keep the grass cut, etc., and may have some "say so" about what non-family members can do to repair/restore the headstones, so you might want to check with City Hall first. In any event I don't see a problem with the Sons of Confederate Veterans taking on the restoration of such Civil War markers to honor these veterans. Personally, I think it is an honorable thing to do.***

***We have a list of service graves that are in Cedar Rest; however, it seems to be incomplete because it does not have Mr. Sylvester listed as a veteran. I don't know why. Possibly his headstone did not reflect his service when the cemetery survey was done. I have attached a copy of the Civil War veterans we have listed for the cemetery.***

**Eddie**

***I contacted the Mayor's office and was told the city keeps the books on the cemetery since they own it and maintain it and the mayor was very receptive to the idea of restoring and preserving this marker and any other marker in the cemetery as long as it is kept "historically" accurate. They only require a "letter of intent" and he assured me he would sign off on it and any other restoration and preservation project in the future.***

***With that being said I think we should go ahead and get a letter typed and delivered to City Hall so that we can get this marker back on its feet and give this man back his honor rather than leaving it on the ground.***

**Thoughts???????**

**Dorty**



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## **Media Pages**

***We have a Camp website up and running for recruiting purposes and to pass on information to others on the World Wide Web. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Brad Johnson was instrumental in constructing this site & serves as its webmaster for the Camp. It can be found at: [www.shieldsborrifles.org](http://www.shieldsborrifles.org). Other pertinent sites can be found below:***

**Camp Website: [www.shieldsbororofles.org](http://www.shieldsbororofles.org)**

**Brigade Website: [www.dgreen1865.wix.com/5th-brig-ms-div-scv](http://www.dgreen1865.wix.com/5th-brig-ms-div-scv)**

**Division Website: [www.mississippiscv.org](http://www.mississippiscv.org)**

**Beauvoir Website: [www.visitbeauvoir.org](http://www.visitbeauvoir.org)**

**National Website: [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)**

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## ***History of the Shieldsboro Rifles***

***This SCV Camp takes its name from Co. F, The Shieldsboro Rifles of the 3rd Mississippi Infantry. Formed on August 1, 1861 at Shieldsboro, MS. under the command of Captain Deason (Later Col. Deason), the Regiment served as Coastal Defense for Mississippi until its capture on April 3, 1862. The 3rd Mississippi Infantry Regiment was reformed in May 1862 at Camp Moore in Tangipahoa, LA. It was sent to defend Vicksburg and fought at Champion Hill on May 16, 1863. The regiment served around Jackson, MS. until it was sent to Georgia in the Spring of 1864. It saw action at Resaca, New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, and Peachtree Creek. It fought in the defense of Atlanta & served in the trenches until September 1864. In October 1864, the Regiment was sent back into Alabama participating in the Decatur Skirmish, seeing action in Tennessee at Spring Hill and heavy fighting at Franklin on November 30. In February 1865, they were sent to Kinston & Bentonville in North Carolina. As the tide turned against the South in April, the Regiment surrendered on April 26, 1865 at Durham Station, NC.***



***Flag of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mississippi Infantry Regiment***

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## Chunky River Train Wreck

*The Chunky River Train Wreck of 1863 happened during the War Between the States near the town of Chunky, Mississippi on the Chunky River. On February 19, 1863 the train left the Meridian, MS. depot at 3:00am to transport Confederate soldiers and some civilians to the Battle of Vicksburg. Severe flooding at the time caused debris to build up against the bridge. The weight of the debris caused the bridge to shift, leaving it six inches out of alignment. Attempts to warn the train failed, and the bridge collapsed as the train crossed.*

*When the train hit the tracks, the locomotive was totally submerged with the attached wooden boxcars following behind and being demolished. The cargo debris of barrels, boxes, and supplies could be found floating in the winter cold stream. Over forty out of nearly one-hundred passengers were killed because of the high speed impact but others drowned after being trapped under the wreckage.*

*After the disastrous train wreck Choctaw Confederate Indians, who were organized days earlier, led rescue and recovery efforts. Spann describes the horrific scene, "the engineer was under military orders, and his long train of cars was filled with Confederate soldiers, who, like the engineer, were animated with but one impulse-to Vicksburg! to victory or death! Onward rushed the engineer. All passed over except the hindmost car. The bridge had swerved out of plumb, and into the raging waters with nearly one hundred soldiers the rear car was precipitated. "Help!" was the cry, but there was no help."*

*Boggan writes of the rescue, "help came quicker than expected. The First Battalion of Choctaw Indians, under the command of Major S. G. Spann, was based at a Confederate military training camp near the crash scene. Led by Jack Amos (a.k.a. Eahntonteube) and Elder Williams, the Indians rushed to the scene, stripped, and plunged into the flooded creek. Many of the passengers were rescued due to their heroic acts."*

*When daylight came the bodies, cargo, and \$80,000.00 were recovered from the stream. Many of the bodies were interred along the railroad right-of-way. The investigation discovered that a winter flood caused a debris build-up which shifted the bridge trestle. (Courtesy of Wikipedia)*



