



The Hancock Rebel



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.

From the Commander's Desk

By: Camp Commander Don Green

Hello everyone,

We are one month from our Camp Chartering Ceremony to be held at Beauvoir. We are presently at 20 members and are looking to add more by the time we actually sign the charter. My hat is off to all Camp & Associate Members who have played a part in the formation of the Shieldsboro Rifles Camp #2263. We are still under a Politically Correct attack on our Confederate Heritage which has spilled over into Hancock County. Thanks to 1st Lt. Brad Johnson, Sheriff Adam made sure the state flag was flying in front of the courthouse in Bay St. Louis.

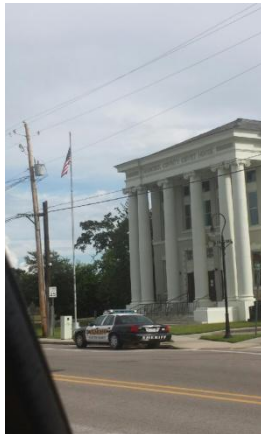
Personnel from the City of Bay St. Louis were not willing to help in this matter. We prevailed concerning this matter and thanks again to Brad. We have two places we are to meet at over the next two months. This month, we will be meeting at the American Legion in Bay St. Louis on Tuesday September 29, 2015 at 6pm. Camp Adjutant Beau Ladner will present on the telegraph. In October, we have the option of meeting at Lakeshore Baptist Church and Author Grady Howell is set to speak on the 3rd Miss. Infantry. We can decide on a regular meeting locale.



The fourth meeting was held at the Kiln Library On Aug. 25, 2015. Rev. Binion presented on Pres. Jefferson Davis & it was a pleasure to have him.



Commander Green represented the 5th Brigade at the EC Meeting in Jackson held on Sept. 19, 2015. A good productive meeting was held.



The flag was not flying at the courthouse on Sept. 9, 2015. Calls, emails, & posts were made to city personnel concerning the flag absence.



The flag was restored back to the flag pole in front of the courthouse on September 17, 2015. Thanks to Sheriff Ricky Adam for his duty here.

Upcoming Events

***September 29 – Monthly Camp Meeting;
American Legion, Bay St. Louis, MS.***

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

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

***October 16-18 – 29th Fall Muster Reenactment;
All Weekend at Beauvoir in Biloxi, MS.***

***October 27 – Monthly Camp Meeting;
Lakeshore Baptist Church, Bay St. Louis, MS.***

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

Rotten Bayou Cemetery Update

2nd Lt. Commander Dorthy Necaize and Compatriot J. P. Stelly installed Elijah Burnham Spence's VA headstone on Sunday September 20, 2015 at Rotten Bayou Cemetery. After 135 years, this Confederate Soldier finally has a headstone fitting for his service

to his homeland. Thanks go to Dorthy & J. P. as they continue to make a difference at Rotten Bayou Cemetery. The Shieldsboro Rifles are honored to continue to help as needed at this most historic cemetery located in Hancock County.



Cedar Rest Cemetery Update

2nd Lt. Commander Dorthy Necaize & Compatriot J. P. Stelly also reset a headstone at Cedar Rest Cemetery in Bay St. Louis for 1st Lt. James H. A. Sylvester on Sunday September 20, 2015. This headstone was lying flat on the ground when it was brought to the Camp's attention by our friend Mr.

Steve Thoms. Dorthy received written permission Mayor Les Fillingame to reset the headstone and the Camp would like to thank the Mayor for this particular support towards this ever-important project.



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. 1st Lt. Brad Johnson was instrumental in constructing this site & serves as its webmaster for the Camp. It can be found at: www.shieldsborrifles.org. Other pertinent sites can be found below:

Camp Website: www.shieldsborrifles.org

Brigade Website: www.dgreen1865.wix.com/5th-brig-ms-div-scv

Division Website: www.mississippiscv.org

Beauvoir Website: www.visitbeauvoir.org

National Website: www.scv.org

The History of Beauvoir

Beauvoir was the last home of Jefferson Davis and it was the site of his retirement. The house was built by James Brown, a wealthy plantation owner from Madison County, Mississippi. The house was started in late 1848 and was completed in 1852. The house was built as a summer home for his wife and his (eventually 13) children. It was then called Orange Grove, due to the Satsuma Oranges being grown on the property. Mr. Brown died in 1866 and his widow continued to own the property until 1873 when she was forced to sell the property at public auction to pay and satisfy the taxes due on her husband's estate. Frank Johnson, a land speculator purchased the house for taxes and then sold the house and property three months later.

Sarah Dorsey was the next owner of the property and when she first looked out over the Mississippi Sound from the front porch of the house, she said "Oh my, what a beautiful view - that's what I am going to call this property: Beauvoir!" (Which is French for beautiful view or beautiful to look at). From that point on - the property was known as Beauvoir. In 1877, Jefferson Davis was looking for a quiet retreat to write his books and papers. While inspecting property on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, he paid a courtesy call on Mrs. Dorsey (a family friend). He told her of his plans to try to find a place to write his books and papers. She encouraged him to stay at Beauvoir in one of the two pavilions in front of Beauvoir House to write his books. He agreed to do so only if he paid \$50.00 a month for room and board. After two years, he fell in love with the property and he wanted to buy it. She in turn wanted to sell it to him, so they agreed upon a selling price of \$5,500.00 dollars to be paid in three payments. He made the first payment and six months later, Mrs. Dorsey died. At that time he found out he was her sole heir and he eventually inherited the house along with other property.

Jefferson Davis died in 1889. His daughter, Winnie, then inherited the property and when she died in 1898, Varina, Jefferson Davis' widow inherited the property. Mrs. Davis sold the property to the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans with two stipulations. The first was that the property be used for a Confederate Veterans Home for the veterans and or their widows at no charge to them and that was done from 1903 until 1957 when the last three widows were transferred to a private nursing home in Greenwood, Mississippi, when it was no longer practical to keep them at the site. The second stipulation for the sale of the property was that it be used as a memorial to Jefferson Davis and the Confederate Soldier; and that has been done from 1903 until the present time. Beauvoir has suffered damages from several Hurricanes including Hurricane Camille in 1969. But nothing compared to the destruction it incurred on August 29, 2005 when Hurricane Katrina destroyed all buildings on the property. The site has rebuilt back to a gorgeous example of what it used to be and has added a lot to the property. It is owned and operated by the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The Annual Fall Muster will be held the third weekend in October and looks to be a very momentous weekend as it builds towards the thirtieth anniversary for the event in 2016.



2005



2014

The History of Jefferson College

Historic Jefferson College is the site of the first institution of higher learning chartered in the Mississippi Territory. It features a museum and several original buildings, including the East Wing (circa 1819), President's House (circa 1835), and West Wing (circa 1839). Incorporated by an act of the first General Assembly of the Mississippi Territory in 1802, the college was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson, president of the United States and president of the American Philosophical Society. Territorial governor William C. C. Claiborne served as president of the college's first Board of Trustees.

After years of initial financial difficulties, Jefferson College opened its doors on January 7, 1811, as a preparatory school, with 15 students. Funds from Congress, the Legislature, and private citizens led the way to new prosperity, and by 1817 Jefferson College had become a full-fledged college; 10-year-old Jefferson Davis attended in 1818. By 1819 a new building, the East Wing, designed by prominent Natchez architect Levi Weeks, was complete. In 1830 the college purchased the Methodist church building that had housed the 1817 Mississippi statehood convention, renovated it in 1832, and in 1839 completed construction of a new West Wing.

As the most impressive educational institution of the Natchez region, Jefferson College quickly became a center of the intellectual community. William Dunbar, the territory's most active man of science, was a member of the first board; later board members included Benjamin Wailes and John Wesley Monette. Several associations dedicated to learning met in the college rooms; around 1837, the Jefferson College and Washington Lyceum was formed, the first such group allied with Jefferson College. Standing committees were organized on belles-lettres and mental science, moral philosophy and theology, constitutional law and political economy, natural history, mathematics and physical science, antiquities and history, and anatomy and physiology. The Lyceum published an important literary journal and also undertook investigations of local Indian mounds.

The outbreak of the War Between the States forced the closing of Jefferson College in 1863. It reopened in 1866, again as a preparatory school. From that time until 1964, when its doors closed forever, Jefferson College remained a preparatory school. By the beginning of the 20th century, the school had become known as Jefferson Military College.

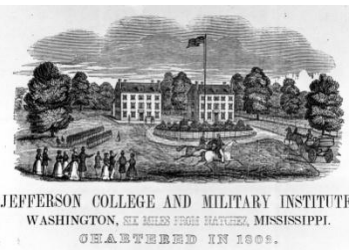
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Historic Jefferson College was restored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in phases completed in 1977 and 1984. The restoration was funded in part by the Friends of Jefferson College, a non-profit corporation. Popular annual events include the Copper Magnolia Festival each fall, War Between the States re-enactments, vintage baseball games, and the Children's Victorian Christmas. The T.J. Foster Memorial Nature Trail is named after the first director of the site. The trail features a longer loop about one mile in length through fairly rigorous terrain, and a shorter, less taxing quarter-mile loop. More than 65 species of native and non-native vegetation are identified on the trails by small metal placards. The 20 large, new signs will highlight the animals, insects, plants, and other features found along the nature trail.

The Jefferson Military College Foundation is a private, non-profit organization composed of former students, faculty, and friends of the school. Founded in 1980 as the "Jefferson Military College Alumni Association," the organization has expanded to welcome family members and friends of students and faculty, and anyone interested in the preservation of Historic Jefferson College. The Foundation is active in assisting the Mississippi Department of Archives and History with the preservation of Historic Jefferson College. In the 1990s, the organization played a vital role in the state's acquisition of

property near the school, safeguarding the historic site's tranquil setting. Currently, the Foundation is raising funds through its Memorial Brick Walk Project to assist with the renovation of a 1915 dormitory building for use as a museum about the school's 20th century history. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the school. Annual dues are \$50.00. In addition to helping support the Foundation's work, members receive a quarterly newsletter with stories by former students and faculty, updates on Foundation projects, reunion plans, and news about programs and events at Historic Jefferson College.

The Foundation recently completed the first section of a Memorial Brick Walk honoring almost 200 people who have been associated with the school in some way. As new bricks are purchased, additional sections of the walk will be completed. Inscribed bricks are \$50.00 each. Anyone interested in joining the Foundation or purchasing Memorial Bricks can contact Historic Jefferson College for information and order forms: Email: hjc@mdah.state.ms.us; Phone: 601-442-2901; Postal address: Historic Jefferson College, P.O. Box 700, Washington, Mississippi 39190

Portrayed as West Point Academy in the North and the South television series, Historic Jefferson College has been a popular film location – for Horse Soldiers, Mistress of Paradise, and two versions of Huckleberry Finn. (Courtesy of <http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/visit/historic-jefferson-college/>)



The History of Camp Moore

Camp Moore was the largest Confederate training camp in Louisiana and the only one in the United States still open to the public. Opened in May 1861 as a site to organize, train and disperse soldiers from Louisiana to all points of the Confederacy, it saw as many as 35,000 men cross this ground and then on to places such as Shiloh, Sharpsburg, Manassas, Malvern Hill, Franklin, Atlanta, Mobile, Chattanooga, Cedar Creek, Chantilly, Fredericksburg, Spottsylvania, Murfreesboro, Mansfield, Williamsburg, Gettysburg, Port Republic and Petersburg, to name a few. These sons of Louisiana fought in most every major and many minor battles for four long years in the South's bid to attain independence.

On April 8th, 1861 Governor Thomas Overton Moore of Louisiana made the initial call for 3000 troops to join the Confederacy. Southern forces attacked Ft. Sumter in Charleston, SC harbor on April 12th, 1861. President Lincoln made an immediate call for 75,000 Northern volunteers to crush the rebellion. President Jefferson Davis made another call for another 5,000 sons of Louisiana. Men all over Louisiana began to rush to form companies of men to join the army. This was usually done by a local

civic leader or previous officer in the local militia having bar-b-ques, meetings and socials to have the opportunity to stir the patriotic fervor of the local men. Advertisements would be taken out in local papers and flyers distributed. As the companies formed in a local area, they were generally sent off with new uniforms and national flags by the ladies and citizens of the area. The local companies would elect their own officers and petition the State of Louisiana to offer its services. They would then be ordered to New Orleans to receive accoutrements and weapons seized at the Baton Rouge Arsenal in January.

These first companies to form were sent to New Orleans at the site of the Metairie Race Course (present-day Metairie Cemetery) to train and organize. This camp was named Camp Walker. However, this site was a poor choice. There was no drinking water supply close by. The land was low and unhealthy. Yellow fever epidemics plagued the area at times of the year. Too many visitors from New Orleans visited the camp, making order and discipline difficult to maintain. By May, 1861, Brigadier General Elisha Tracy, the commander of Camp Walker, issued orders to Lt. Col. Henry Forno and Capt. James Wingfield, land owners in upper St. Helena Parish, to go into the piney woods of St. Helena and find a new campsite. On May 12th, 1861, orders were issued for all troops presently at Camp Walker to begin moving to the new camp at Tangipahoa Station in St. Helena Parish. The site chosen was situated on the New Orleans, Jackson, & Great Northern Railroad, thus allowing easy access from New Orleans and points north. The land was high ground and bounded on two sides by water, to the south by Beaver Creek and to the east by the Tangipahoa River.

The men arrived and immediately began clearing a parade ground on which to do the elements of company and battalion drill. Campsites were set up according to the military rules of the day on the southern end of the camp. The new campsite was named Camp Moore, in honor of Louisiana governor, Thomas Overton Moore. General Tracy presided over the camp. Rules had just been established by Governor Moore in a Special Order stating how the companies were to be formed. There was to be a minimum of 64 privates, 8 non-commissioned officers and 3 officers. Companies that could not meet this minimum standard were disbanded and sent home. A large two-story commissary house and quartermaster store was erected on the western edge of the camp near the railroad. Just south of the commissary house, sutlers, merchants peddling their wares to the soldiers, began setting up shops along the sloped banks of Beaver creek. Among these sutlers were a couple of shanty restaurants, a photographer's salon and several "booths of stores and refreshments". Somewhere along this same line was a guard house, for those guilty of various infractions. In an ironic premonition of things to come, the first man to die at Camp Moore would die in an accident three days after the camp was opened. Private Bill Douglas of the soon-to-be famed Tiger Rifles of Major Robert Wheat's command, was killed while doing guard duty at the railroad. An accident occurred while he was on the tracks and a train carrying cannon from Osyka, MS passed through camp.

Life for the volunteers at Camp Moore was anything but glamorous. The day started before dawn and the drill to make soldiers out of farmers and merchants was conducted until the early afternoon. A battalion parade was held each day so that the commander could see the progress of the men. Drill was only part of the reason for being there. The various companies also had to organize into ten companies which comprised a regiment. This was an unusual process as the various company commanders would politic to be put with other companies they considered themselves compatible with. When enough companies could get together, they would hold elections to elect a Colonel, Lt. Colonel and Major from the men. The regiment was then assigned the next number in line (the Fourth Regiment being the first to leave Camp Moore). The entire regiment was then sworn into service of

the Confederate States of America and then usually shipped out within a few days. Meanwhile, other companies were organizing, new companies arriving and the process repeated.

At times, the space of the camp was overloaded and a new section in the upper part of the camp was coined "Camp Tracy". It was located just east and southeast of the cemetery. The soldiers formed "messes" of 4-6 men to cook their rations. Many of the tents took on signs, signs of youthful exuberance and confidence. Some of these were labeled "Innocence Hall", "Our Woodland Home", the "Lion's Den", "Happy Retreat" and "Blood and Thunder". While many men complained in letters of the rowdiness of some men, the mundane chores such as cooking for themselves and washing their own clothes, most letters expressed a contentment with the conditions. The loudest complaint was over a lack of proper rations, which seems to have occurred from time to time.

Between the middle of May, 1861 and the end of August, 1861, eight full regiments had been mustered into service and left Camp Moore, around 8,000 men. Most of these regiments were sent to Virginia. They would be the last as the war was soon to come to Louisiana.

Companies continued to stream into Camp Moore in the fall of 1861. It was during this time that one of two serious epidemics hit the camp. Measles outbreaks hit while the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th regiments were being formed. Measles was particular hard on the companies formed from the rural parishes. Many of these men had never been exposed to the disease as children and deathly consequences resulted. Even the various complications were deadly and men died by the scores. There was no treatment, only but to make the patient comfortable and await recovery or death. These regiments soon left Camp Moore but the camp was hit again in the spring of 1862 and another deadly epidemic took scores of lives. By April, 1862, the Conscript Act had been instituted and those men coming to Camp Moore now, for the most part, were drafted or had accepted a bounty to enlist and had avoided being drafted. In late April, activity picked up at Camp Moore, though the new company numbers were waning. The Federal fleet under David Farragut passed the forts below New Orleans and the next day anchored at New Orleans, demanding the surrender of the city. Gen. Mansfield Lovell, commander of all army forces in New Orleans, had no artillery to challenge the ships. He had a meager force of several thousand militia. He saw the absurdity of challenging the Federal fleet and ordered all military personnel and stores to be sent to Camp Moore. Thousands of pounds of stores of every kind were brought to the camp. It is not known how long most of this material or even the men stayed there. Baton Rouge fell to the same Federal fleet in the second week of May, 1862.

Most of the organized regiments and battalions leaving Camp Moore in May, 1862 were sent to the Vicksburg area. By July, 1862, an organized effort was being formulated to oust the Federal forces in Baton Rouge. Gen. John C. Breckinridge arrived at Camp Moore on July 28th, 1862 with a mixed force of Alabamians, Tennesseans, Mississippians, Kentuckians, Louisianans and Arkansans. They stayed only two days before starting the long, hot march to Baton Rouge on July 30th. On the early morning of August 5th, 1862, the Confederates enjoyed an early tactical surprise and overwhelmed the Federal troops in Baton Rouge, but unsupported by expected naval help from the ironclad, CSS Arkansas, they were forced to abandon their gains due to Federal gunboats shelling them in the river. Breckinridge soon retreated to the Port Hudson area and began construction of fortifications there. This would be the last major organized effort to leave Camp Moore. The rest of 1862 saw the camp under the direction of Gen. Felix Dumonteil. Gen. Tracy died at an unknown place and time in 1862. Gen. Dumonteil spent much of his time rounding up deserters and conscripts, placing them into organized units.

Much of the activity around Camp Moore in late 1862 and early 1863 dealt with the movement of troops in and out of Mississippi and the movement of troops into Port Hudson on the Mississippi River. The Federals attempted movements from New Orleans to the area of Camp Moore but were continually stopped short of Camp Moore. There was only weak movement from the Baton Rouge area. Port Hudson and Vicksburg both fell to Federal forces in July, 1863, thus freeing up large numbers of Federal troops in the area. However, by this time, Camp Moore was typically only manned by a few conscripts and was a stopover for various Confederate cavalry commands moving through the area. It was not until the fall of 1864 that forces would move effectively against Camp Moore. On the evening of October 5th, 1864, about 1,000 troops from five different cavalry regiments and under the command of Col. John Fonda left Baton Rouge and moved out the Greenwell Springs Road. They passed Greenwell Springs, Williams Bridge near present day Grangeville and then on to Osyka, MS on the morning of the 7th. That evening a force of about 100 troopers entered Camp Moore and scattered the 50 odd conscripts located there. They then proceeded to destroy a vast quantity of stores including large quantities of gray cloth, a tannery, and 2,000 sides of leather and scattered about 200 cattle. They also captured the garrison flag and sent it North.

The very next month, in the pre-dawn hours of November 30th, 1864, a large Federal force of 5,000 cavalrymen entered Camp Moore and spent the remainder of the day burning all buildings and looting the village of Tangipahoa. When they left toward the east, Camp Moore ceased to exist. The war was over for Camp Moore.

In time, nature reclaimed Camp Moore and for the next 30+ years, trees and briars grew where the men had drilled, camped and eaten their meals. The cemetery with its possible 800 graves became overgrown and forgotten. The people of the South would spend years trying to recover from the destitution caused by losing the war and the days of harsh Reconstruction that followed. Beginning in 1888, efforts by former veterans began, as appeals were made to the State of Louisiana for a sum of money to renovate and reclaim the cemetery at Camp Moore. By August, 1891, a new Confederate Veterans Camp was established at Camp Moore, being comprised of many local veterans that had passed through Camp Moore on the way to war. The first commander was Lt. Colonel Obadiah P. Amacker of Wingfield's 3rd Louisiana Cavalry and a native of the area. Things really began to happen by then. Locals began to become active and eventually, by 1901, the 2 acres comprising the cemetery was donated by a lumber company to a local group.

Ladies groups in the form of the local United Daughters of the Confederacy took the charge. Finally, in 1902, money was allocated from the State of Louisiana to preserve the cemetery. By now, only one wooden headboard still existed, it being made of heart of pine. It marked the grave of 15 year-young Joe G. Harris of Bossier Parish. Joe was the provider for his family of at least one sister, his parents having died earlier. He came to Camp Moore with the Vance Guards (Co. A, 19th La. Inf.), caught measles and died in the fall of 1861. The wooden board disappeared over the years and even his gravesite is now unknown. Between 1903 and 1905, a fence was constructed around the cemetery. It was dedicated on June 3rd, 1905. The monument was then added and dedicated on October 24th, 1907. Over the next 50 years, a Board of Commissioners oversaw the upkeep of the cemetery. It was not until about 1960 that efforts were begun, mainly by ladies with the United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter #562 at Camp Moore, to acquire additional land and build a museum at Camp Moore. Finally, in 1961, the Louisiana Legislature appropriated money for a museum and Governor Jimmie Davis signed the legislation. The new museum building was dedicated on May 30th, 1965. Miss Norma Lambert became the first curator and Mrs. Irene Morris succeeded her. In 1972, the operation of Camp Moore was placed under the Office of Historical and Cultural Preservation. Camp Moore

flourished during the Centennial years and in the 1970's, steadily building the collection of artifacts. In 1986, under pressure from Gov. Edwin Edwards due to budget shortfalls, Camp Moore was closed to the public along with many other historic sites in the State.

This would not be the end of Camp Moore, however. Interested individuals, along with the Camp Moore Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Camp Moore Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy organized the Camp Moore Historical Association and petitioned the State of Louisiana to allow them to reopen Camp Moore to the public. This was approved in 1992 with a 97 year lease to the Camp Moore Historical Association. Over those years, and on to the present, Camp Moore is operated by an all volunteer staff of interested individuals whose sole interest is to see the TRUE story of Camp Moore preserved for generations to come. Visit where their epic journey in time began, Camp Moore. How to Get Here: We are located 75 miles north of New Orleans or 25 miles north of Hammond, LA. Take I-55 from Hammond north for 25 miles, Take exit 57 and follow the signs for 1.5 miles to Camp Moore. We are actually located 3/4 mile north of the position shown on MapQuest on Hwy. 51. (Courtesy of <http://www.campmoorela.com/index.html>)

