



# TRAVELLER



The official publication of the General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, Tennessee

*Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry*

*Deo Vindici*

**August 2011**

## CAMP MEETING

**Monday August 8, 2011**

**Speaker: Larry Tolbert**

**Topic: Stonewall Jackson's Last Words**

**7:00 p.m. at the Pickering Center**

### **The Parallel Lives of Generals P.G.T. Beauregard, C.S.A. and Benjamin F. Butler, U.S.A.**

By Beecher Smith

They were born in the same year (1818) and died in the same year (1893). Both had political aspirations and became military leaders who experienced triumphs and disappointments. Both had significant contacts with the city of New Orleans. Both men have earned an enduring place in American history.

Benjamin Franklin Butler was born in Deerfield, New Hampshire, but as a child moved with his family to Lowell, Massachusetts. He grew up to enter the practice of law, both in Lowell and in Boston. As a Democrat and Unionist, he was elected to Massachusetts legislature in 1852 and 1858. He ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1859 and again in 1860.

Upon the outbreak of the war in April of 1861, Butler raised a contingent of Massachusetts militia and as their brigadier general of volunteers marched with them to Washington, D.C. When secessionist riots erupted in Baltimore,

Maryland, in May, Butler's militia restored order there. He was rewarded with a promotion to major general and assigned to be commander of Fort Monroe, which guarded the entrance to Chesapeake Bay and Hampton roads in southeast Virginia and remained in Union hands throughout the war.

Pierre Gustav Toutant Beauregard was born in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, where he spent his early childhood on his family's sugar plantation before attending schools in New Orleans and later in New York City. He received an appointment to West Point in 1834 and graduated in 1838. He served as an engineer on the staff of General Winfield Scott during the Mexican War and figured prominently in the capture of Mexico City. He remained in the army during the years of peace, doing engineering work in Louisiana. In 1858 he ran unsuccessfully for mayor of New Orleans. For five days in 1861, he was Superintendent of West Point.



In February of 1861, Beauregard resigned from the Army, accepted the appointment as a Confederate brigadier general, and was given command over forces at Charleston South Carolina, where he started the War Between the States by ordering the firing on Fort Sumter on April 12, after its commandant, Major Robert Anderson, refused to surrender. After relentless bombardment the fort fell later that day, with no casualties on either side.

### **General PGT Beauregard, CSA**

In June, General Beauregard assumed command of the Confederate forces in northeast Virginia and served as second-in-command under General Joseph P. Johnston at the first battle of Bull Run, July 6, 1861, whereupon he was promoted to full general (one of only eight the South ever had).

The year 1862 began with both Beauregard and Butler heading to the West. Beauregard served under General Albert Sidney Johnston at the Battle of Shiloh, where he assumed command after Johnston was killed April 6. Although the Southern forces swept the field and drove the Union troops back, reinforcements arrived for Grant, so Beauregard's beleaguered troops were required to retreat to Corinth.

Thereafter, ill health and harsh criticism of Jefferson Davis for not ordering Confederate troops to March on Washington after the First Battle of Bull Run resulted in Beauregard being relieved of his command and replaced by Braxton Bragg. After a rest, Beauregard was reinstated and charged with the defense of the South Carolina and Georgia coast, which was ably held against Union attacks, particularly those against Charleston in 1863.

Meanwhile, Butler, anxious to prove himself a military leader, used his political connections to secure command of the troops that accompanied Admiral David Farragut in the taking of New Orleans. Butler sought and received appointment as military governor of Beauregard's home city in May 1862. Butler's high-handed rule (he had a citizen executed for tearing down the Union flag and confiscated the property of known Confederate sympathizers) and rumors of rampant corruption infuriated the people of New Orleans, who gave him the nickname "Beast" Butler. There were numerous incidents reported of respectable ladies emptying chamber pots from balconies or second story windows onto the heads of hapless Union soldiers passing beneath on the sidewalks. The U.S. Government, severely criticized both at home and abroad for his actions, finally removed him in December 1862.

Like his fellow Massachusetts politician-turned-soldier, Nathaniel P. Banks, when Butler failed as a military leader he would transfer to a staff officer position until his failure was no longer fresh on everyone's mind, then seek another opportunity to prove himself and redeem his tarnished reputation.

In May, 1864, the chance to win military glory again beckoned for both generals. Butler was appointed Commander of the Army of the James. Beauregard

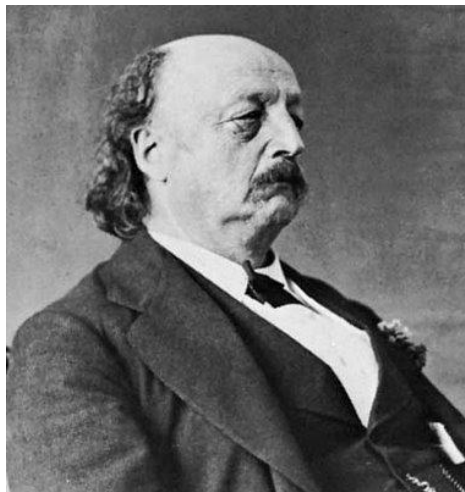
was called to reinforce General Lee in Virginia. With a vastly superior force Butler attacked Beauregard's men at Drewry's Bluff on May 16. Not only did Beauregard repel Butler's troops, he routed them and chased them in full retreat to the village of Bermuda Hundred, where he kept them bottled up, forcing Grant to cross the James River to come to Butler's rescue. Beauregard's forces then valiantly held the Confederate railroad center at Petersburg against Grant until Lee's army could arrive.

In the closing months of the war Beauregard returned to serve under his former commander Joseph P. Johnston, fighting a rear guard action against Sherman's forces. During this time Butler received a final opportunity to win military glory, when he was given command in December 1864, over the land forces to assist Admiral David Porter in the land-sea expedition against Fort Fisher, which guarded the port of Wilmington, North Carolina, a last refuge for Confederate blockade runners. Admiral Porter succeeded with his part, but Butler was repulsed and replaced by General Alfred Terry (who is remembered as Custer's commanding officer in the Little Big Horn Campaign) who captured the fort on January 15, 1865. Butler never again saw military action.

After the war Butler served in congress as a radical Republican, starting in 1867. He was one of the House managers who conducted impeachment proceedings against President Andrew Johnson and ardently advocated his Party's

Reconstruction policy. After Grant's administration Butler became a Greenbacker and the party elected him Governor of Massachusetts in 1862. In 1884 he made a n unsuccessful bid for the Presidency as the candidate of the Anti-Monopoly Party and the Greenback Party. Regarded by most as an unprincipled demagogue of great oratorical ability, Butler aroused intense antagonisms and seemed constantly embroiled in controversy.

Beauregard returned to Louisiana, where he served as a railroad President, Manager of the State Lottery, and as adjutant general of the state. His valor, good looks, personal charm, and superior engineering abilities generally overshadowed his deficiencies as a field commander.



**Benjamin "Beast" Butler**

## Commander's Corner

Salutations to my Fellow Southerners!

We are in the long, hot days of summer here in Dixie. This time of year I am always reminded of the stories of the southern forces fighting before Atlanta, laying a withering fire down upon the Yankee invaders. The barrels got so hot the powder flashed in the barrels of their weapons! Let's get together in the cool of the Pickering Center August 8th, and recall their valiant struggle! Larry Tolbert will be speaking, presenting interesting facts on General Thomas Jackson. It promises to be a riveting presentation.

I also ask you all to remember that yearly dues are up. Please bring your dues (\$60.00) to the next meeting, or get them to Treasurer Arthur Oliver as soon as you can. The Sons of Confederate Veterans appreciates your support!

Deo Vindice!

Commander

Mark Buchanan

---

### Memphis, TN.-Gray Lady of the South

By Commander Mark Buchanan

This morning as I prepared for work, I walked by my garden to check the okra and tomatoes, which are doing nicely thank you. The cotton my granddaughters planted around the flagpole hasn't come up yet, but we're sure it'll come up by and by. But the Confederate Battle flag my youngest son gave me is still flying in the morning breeze. I listened as a dove cooed softly from the trees that separates my yard from the cotton and soybean fields.

I left for work, past my oldest son's home. He flies a Trans-Mississippi Confederate Battle Flag in his yard. (People ask him if there really was a flag like his, so it's always a good conversation piece)

I head to town driving down what is historically known as Jefferson Davis Highway. A marble monument in the square in Millington commemorates the fact. The PC crowd calls it Highway 51, but I know better.

I pull onto the expressway and pass the exits for Jackson Avenue. I can't help but think of Stonewall Jackson's line in the movie "Gods and Generals"; "Well sir, we shall give them the bayonet!" as I pass.

Off the side of the road through the trees I can see Elmwood Cemetery. Only Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA holds more Confederate heroes. Through the magnolias I can just see a glimpse of Confederate Soldier's Rest, where so many young Confederate boys are buried.

Less than a mile west is where the residents of Memphis nailed the Confederate Flag to a greased flagpole in Court

Square to prevent the Yankees from pulling it down. Across from the square was the Yankee's infamous Irving Block Prison where so many Memphians were jailed, some never seeing freedom in this world again.

Further south I take the Bill Morris exit, also known as the Nonconnah Parkway. Nonconnah Creek was an important feature in Belle Edmondson's diaries as she carried contraband medicine, clothing and cloth hidden in her clothing to Confederate soldiers. Yankee checkpoints at a bridge almost sent her to Irving Block Prison. General Nathan B. Forrest crossed this same creek on his famous Memphis Raid. On his way back south he marched several hundred Yankee prisoners across the creek in their nightshirts.

I work not far from where General Chalmers twice attacked the Union encampment in Collierville. He captured Sherman's horse, and narrowly missed capturing Sherman himself!

Just around the corner is the Pickering Center; where monthly I have the privilege of meeting with other like-minded Sons of Confederate Veterans. Some of the members work with me every day. Those who aren't members, bring me articles about, and photos of, southern soldiers. The ground around the center was a Yankee camp during the occupation. The soil still yields bullets, buckles and spurs.

On the way home after work I travel through Raleigh, TN. This is where out riders of General Forrest held the occupying Yankee forces at bay while he brought recruits, arms, supplies and a thousand head of beef cattle back to Mississippi to continue the struggle for southern independence.

Memphis, once the Civil War Capital of Tennessee, literally drips with history. It seeps from the wood at old munitions factories off of Beale that still exist. It echoes down Cotton Row to buildings where Confederate flags and uniforms were sewn, wagons were built, and harnesses fitted. One can stand on the bluff overlooking where a rag tag fleet of southern "Cottonclads" went up against an overwhelming fleet of Yankee gunboats. They had to fight because the dishonor of not fighting was worse than the threat of death!

These places are all around me, everyday. I can only imagine what it must have been like for those who saw it all in person.

Small wonder why the memory of our Confederate Veterans is so real to me. When people ask why I am so interested in the War For Southern Independence, Memphis, Tennessee, The Gray Lady of the South, it's streets, buildings, sites and people are the reasons!





### SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER

T. Tarry Beasley II	T. Tarry Beasley III
Winston Blackley	John Cole
James Anthony Davis	Hubert Dellinger Jr., MD
H. Clark Doan	Eugene Forrester
Robert Freeman	Donald Harrison
Frank Holeman	William P Hunter, Jr
Bobby Lessel	Jerry C. Lunsford
Frank M. McCroskey	Arthur Oliver
Charles Wendell Park	Bill Simmons
Larry J. Spiller, Sr.	Osborn Turner, IV
Charles L Vernon	William C. Wilson

**Hal Rounds, an authority on the Constitutions of both the United States and the Confederate States of America, delivered a most inspiring and informative program at the July 11 Camp meeting comparing both the similarities and differences between the two documents. Mr. Rounds (on right in photo) was congratulated by Commander Mark Buchanan.**

### Traveller - Now Online

Traveller, the R.E Lee Camp 1640 newsletter, has caught up with the 21<sup>st</sup> century and is now available on line. Find it monthly at:

<http://www.tennessee-scv.org/camp1640/>



**Traveller** is the monthly newsletter of:

The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
and

The Mary Custis Lee Chapter,  
Order of the Confederate Rose  
P.O. Box 171251  
Memphis, Tennessee 38187

Steve M. McIntyre, Editor



**Next Camp Meeting \*\* August 8, 2011  
Germantown Pickering Center, 7771 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN**