



**Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham Camp # 72**



# THE CHEATHAM NEWS

<http://tennessee-scv.org/camp72>

## OCTOBER 2012

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**October 19 - 20, 2012. Parker's Crossroads - 2012 Forrest Seminar.** Speakers will include Dr. Michael Bradley and David Fraley. See Calendar of Events page on TN Div website for flyer and registration form.

**October 23, 2012, 6:00 P.M.** Dinner and meeting at Oak Restaurant, Manchester. Dinner at 6:00 P.M., business meeting and program at 7:00 P.M. The program will be Jimmy Cook of the Sumner Cunningham camp, speaking on "Andersonville."

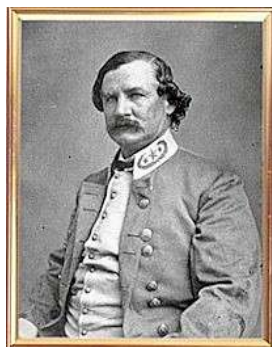
**November 3, 2012, 8:00 A.M.** SCV National Leadership Workshop. 2900 Grove Ave., Richmond, VA 23255.

### Dates to Remember:

- Oct. 23, 1863 - Polk relieved of corps command by Jeff Davis.
- Oct. 30, 1861 - Jeff Davis upset that Gen. Beauregard leaked report on battle of 1st Manassas to the press.
- Nov. 4, 1863 - Bragg detaches Longstreet's corps to retake Knoxville.
- First general national election in the CSA held. Davis reelected.

Please e-mail your suggestions for this newsletter to [jayschroeder@msn.com](mailto:jayschroeder@msn.com)  
Be sure to visit our website at [tennessee-scv.org/camp72/](http://tennessee-scv.org/camp72/).

**Be sure to attend the next Camp 72 meeting at 7:00 P.M. on October 23rd at the Oak.**



Benjamin F. Cheatham  
Major General, CSA

Born Oct. 20, 1820

Died Sept. 4, 1886

### Commander's Comments...

To All,

As with each monthly Camp #72 Newsletter, I remain in great hopes that you, along with your entire family; remain healthy, happy and in excellent spirits!

At our September 2012 Camp #72 monthly meeting, I mentioned the annual Polly Crockett Festival in Cowan, Tennessee which took place 21 - 23 September 2012. For those who were not in attendance the evening of our Camp meeting, I would like to once again recognize those who gave of their time, to participate in this wonderful opportunity for "our" organization to be seen by all.

I will begin with our Chiefs of Smoke, Mr. Charles Callaway & Mr. Johnny Westerfield, along with their superb cannon crews, who always get the festival attendees' attention.

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## ARTICLES

(cont. from p. 1)

Our noted book authors this year were Camp #72's very own, Lt. Col. Jay Schroeder & Capt. Brent Lokey; who I sincerely hope sold a ton of books. Also providing participation was Camp #72 Lt. Cdr. Miller Fulks with his excellent display. New to the festival this year was Civil War Surgeon, Doctor Kirby Crabtree, who somehow managed to have his picture taken with ole Honest Abe.

Of course, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Kirby Smith Chapter #327 (Sewanee) was there in force doing all of the things that they do so wonderfully.

There were a number of attendees who stated that the cannon firing, along with all of the wonderful displays, are quickly becoming the main focus of the entire festival.

So to all of those who so unselfishly gave of their time, I salute you and offer a sincere, and heartfelt thank you!

As many of y'all know, Life Member P. Glenn King's beautiful wife Betty passed away this past week. She, even until the near end, continued to make as many Camp #72 monthly meetings as possible. Please remember Glenn when you say your nightly prayers, and to please remember fellow Camp #72 member Mr. Wayne Ison who is currently in the Veterans Hospital Facility in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Lastly, I am looking over at my calendar and note that our December Camp meeting falls on Tuesday, 25 December 2012. With that in mind, we will vote on conducting a December Camp

meeting at our October 2012 meeting.

I look forward to seeing all y'all at the Oak Restaurant on Tuesday evening, 23 October 2012.

May all of God's blessings be with you and yours, always!

With great respect, I remain;

Sgt. Maj. Larry E. Williams  
US Army/Retired  
Commander

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### CIVIL WAR ODDITIES by Jay Schroeder

The indomitable spirit of the South in carrying on the war in the face of acute home-front shortages is evidenced by its ingenuity in producing substitutes for basic household commodities.

"Confederate coffee" was made from dried sweet potatoes and burnt peanuts.

Salt was obtained from filtering the dirt of smokehouses.

Plants supplied much of the dye used to color homespun cloth. "Confederate gray" was obtained from myrtle bushes, and the well-known butternut brown color used in the dyeing of the uniforms was obtained from the hulls of walnuts.

Shoes were soled with wood in place of leather.

The drapes that hung majestically from the windows of plantation homes soon became the material for elegant dresses.

The undecorated sides of wallpaper were used to print the news when the paper shortage became acute.

China and glass were replaced by articles made from clay, and gourds served as ladles.

soap was made from lye and waste grease.

Pulverized charcoal powdered on homemade hog-bristle toothbrushes served as toothpaste.



General Stonewall Jackson was one of the South's most successful generals, and one of its most religious. His deep piety bordered on fanaticism.

On the eve of battle, he would gather his aides together to join him in solemn prayer. He was known to fall to his knees during a battle to ask God's help. His strict devotion was evidenced by his insistence that the Sabbath be kept by his men and aides. He refused even to mail a letter on Sunday. In his military reports he used the word God countless times, and even went so far as to request the Confederate government to cease all mail deliveries on the Sabbath.

One of his officers had summed up all the general's piety when he commented, "I do not know whether Jackson is a Christian or not, but this I do know, if he decides to go to heaven, all hell won't be able to stop him."



James Butler Hickok served as a captain of Federal scouts and was also a Federal spy for the Western Department of Operations during the Civil War.

As a gunfighter of the Old West, he is remembered by his nickname, "Wild Bill Hickok"

Source: Levitt, Stan, *The Crackerbarrel Papers*, pp. 56-57, 59-60, 75.



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## A LOOK AHEAD

DATE	TIME	EVENT
27 NOV 12	6:00 P.M.	Dinner and meeting at Oak Restaurant, Manchester. Dinner at 6:00 P.M., business meeting and program at 7:00 P.M. Program will be <b>John Poparad speaking on "the Confederate Navy."</b>
22 JAN 13	6:00 P.M.	Dinner and meeting at Oak Restaurant, Manchester. Dinner at 6:00 P.M., business meeting and program at 7:00 P.M. Program to be determined.
16 MAR 13		Heritage Rally 2013. Biloxi, MS - Beauvoir. Dedication of the Jefferson Davis Library. Comfort Inn Conference Centre Midtown Clarion Hotel Richmond Central 3200 West Broad Street 3207 N. Boulevard Richmond, Va 23230 Richmond, Va 23230 (804) 359-4061 (804) 359-9441 You may mail a reservation with a check or call 1 (800) 380-1896 ext 209 (Cindy) or email <a href="mailto:accounting@scv.org">accounting@scv.org</a> with credit card information (MC, VISA or AMEX).
26-27 APR 13		Tennessee Division Reunion 2013. Chattanooga, TN. Colonnade Catoosa County Civic Center in North Georgia (just south of Chattanooga). Nearest accommodations are at Hampton Inn, 6875 Battlefield Pkwy., Ringgold, GA. Contact Annie Purdin ( <a href="mailto:annie.purdin@hilton.com">annie.purdin@hilton.com</a> ) to get the special \$89 Colonnade rate. The motel website is <a href="http://www.ringgolftoglethorpe.hamptoninn.com">www.ringgolftoglethorpe.hamptoninn.com</a> . Preliminary inquiries, event suggestions or questions can be directed to Bob Epperson, Event Chairman, at <a href="mailto:bob@bobeperson.com">bob@bobeperson.com</a> . Please visit our website at <a href="http://www.scv-nbforrest3.com">www.scv-nbforrest3.com</a> .

### Starnes Brigade SCV Camp meeting dates & places

- #72 – Cheatham Camp 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at Oak Restaurant, Manchester at 7:00 p.m. (6:00 p.m. dinner).
- #152 – John Massey Camp 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at Fayetteville Municipal Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
- #155 – J.B. Cowan 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at Harton House, So. Jackson Tullahoma at 7:00 p.m.
- #297 – Marshall Rangers 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at Marshall County Museum at 2:00 P.M.
- #386 – Cumberland Mountain Rifles 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, Old County Building in Tracy City at 6:30 p.m.
- #1411 – A.P. Stewart 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Western Sirloin in Decherd at 6:00 p.m.
- #1615 – McMinnville 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, Magness Memorial Library at 7:00 p.m.
- #1620 – S.A. Cunningham 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, Farm Bureau in Shelbyville at 6:00 p.m.
- #2094 – Capt Abner S. Boone 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Old House Hqtrs Hwy 231 N. Fayetteville in Belleville at 1:00 p.m.

When you can, please visit your brothers' camp meetings. They will be glad to see you.



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## ARTICLES

### **THE GHOST RIDER AT WHITE HALL By Jill K. Garrett**

Sometimes late at night when the air is still the sound of a horse galloping along the Duplex Road in Spring Hill shatters the quietness. The hoof beats can be heard slowing up at the gate of White Hall; and in a few minutes there is silence just as if the rider had reached his destination and had hitched his horse.

As no one rides a horse at night in these times and the ghostly rider has never been seen, some say it is Dr. Aaron White, builder of White Hall, who is returning from a late visit to a seriously ill patient. Other speculate that it could be a Confederate courier coming to report to his commanding officer about the Yankees in Thompson Station area.

I don't believe either story; however, both could be true as White Hall now the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Morton, Sr., is one of the historic homes still standing in Maury County.

Dr. White, who practiced medicine in the Spring Hill area for many years, began construction on is large, square pillared home in 1844 and the house was completed the following year. White was remembered as a very dedicated physician; he would literally move into a home whenever he had a patient who was critically ill and needed his care over a period of days.

During the Civil War, he treated wounded soldiers, many of whom were housed here. In later years one of his children recalled being disturbed and frightened by the

moans of the soldiers stretched out in the hall after the Battle of Franklin.

White was the attending physician to General Richard S. Ewell during his last illness in 1872. The doctor died in 1874 at the age of fifty-two and is buried in the Spring Hill Cemetery.

In Feb. 1863, General Earl Van Dorn and his Confederate cavalry troops rode into Maury County; and from the moment of his arrival, the dashing general was the focus of flattering attention. Although some doubted his military prowess, reports glowed of "his handsomeness, his chivalry, and his courage." He completely charmed the ladies of Columbia, and an ungallant soldier wrote home that the headmaster and pupils at Columbia girls school fawned on the general.

During this time there were periodic raids and skirmishes, and Van Dorn kept his headquarters in Columbia until March 14 when a Union sympathizer set fire to a stable on South Main Street and burned his staff's horses to death. He then moved to Spring Hill and established his headquarters in the home of Dr. White. Here he, his staff, and orderlies took over the entire house, leaving only the dining room, kitchen, and one bedroom for Dr. White, his wife Margaret, and several small children.

Again in Spring Hill, Van Dorn and his officers were lionized and the entertainments were as splendid as possible in the war torn village. He held several military reviews which he attended resplendent in his tailored uniform. These reviews were festive

occasions and all the women were invited. A trooper grumbled that the cavalry wasted its time in reviews and dress parades "for a few lonesome and garish young ladies.

Band concerts were given by army bands. Spring Hill families entertained the soldiers and "the mansions were lighted until midnight."

There were some aspects about Van Dorn's social life which his hostess, Mrs. White, did not care for, and she informed her husband to get the general out of her house. Now one did not order a major general out of one's home and while Dr. White was pondering the best and most tactful way to get the general to leave, Van Dorn sent for him. He told White that he was moving his headquarters to the Martin Cheairs house (now Ferguson Hall of the Tennessee Orphans Home), much to the doctor's relief.

Van Dorn had been in his new headquarters less than a week when he was killed by Dr. George B. Peters; and White Hall only narrowly missed being the scene of the county's most famous murder, a major sensation of the day and the matter for hot dispute ever since.

Is it possible that the midnight rider is in reality General Van Dorn returning to White Hall?

Submitted by: Brent Lokey