



Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham Camp # 72



THE CHEATHAM NEWS

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

SEPTEMBER 2013

Larry Williams, Cmdr

tennesseans2@blomand.net

(h) (931)924-3000

(m)(931)224-3226

Mike Anderson, Adjutant

87 Tanglewood Dr.

Manchester, TN 37355

manchesterrebel@charter.net

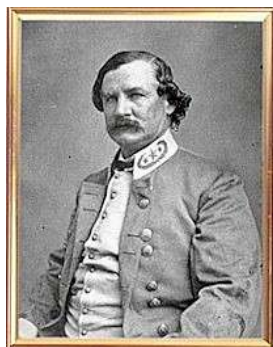
(931)728-9492

Dates to Remember:

- Sep 16, 1864 - Hampton's cavalry captures 300 Federals and 2,400 head of cattle at Coggins' Point, VA.
- Sep 19, 1861 - Felix Zollicoffer easily takes Barboursville, KY.
- Sep 24, 1864 - Forrest captures Athens, GA.
- Sep 27, 1864 - Butler organizes the 1st Regt., Louisiana Native Guards (Chasseurs Afrique). This was the first Negro unit in the Union Army.

September 24, 2013 - 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 *The Raiding Winter* by Dr. Michael R. Bradley. His new book deals with Dec 1862, when Van Dorn, Forrest, and Morgan were all on raids at the same time. Dr. Bradley taught American History at Motlow State Community College for 36 years. He has written several books on the War Between the States. His book on the Tullahoma Campaign filled a void in the history of the War and was acclaimed by many WBTS buffs.

September 27-28, 2013 - Civil War Tour - Where The River Campaigns Began - Cairo, IL to Columbus-Belmont, KY. Sites we will visit on the tour include: Cairo, IL. - Fort Defiance site; Fort Defiance park (confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers); Mound City, IL. - site where three of the City Class ironclads were built (*USS Cincinnati*, *USS Mound City*, *USS Cairo*); location of the massive naval base and naval hospital; Mound City National Cemetery; Wickliffe, KY - This town did not exist during the Civil War but was where the Federals rebuilt Fort Jefferson; Columbus, KY - site of the Columbus-Belmont State Park. The Battle of Belmont was fought across the river. The tour will be \$30 per person. Payments can be sent to Greg Biggs, 2600 W. Henderson Way, Clarksville, TN 37042. Please be sure to include all contact information, including phone numbers. For questions please contact Greg Biggs at (931)217-4265 or Biggs@charter.net



Benjamin F. Cheatham
Major General, CSA

Born Oct. 20, 1820

Died Sept. 4, 1886

Commander's Comments...

To All,

Fond greetings to y'all and may my brief "Commander's Comments" arrive finding you healthy, happy and in fine spirits.

Well the summer of 2013 is coming to a close, and for this ole Soldier residing on Monteagle Mountain, I am most happy to see it go. Personally, I enjoy the cooler days which fall will bring to our mountain.

September will find many of our Sons of Confederate Veterans members in various locations which are continuing the celebration, of the Sesquicentennial of "The War."

Many of y'all have, in all probability, marked your calendars and are planning to attend one of these events; or at least I hope that you will. For those of you that are

(cont. on p. 2)

**Be sure to attend the
Camp 72 meeting at
7:00 P.M. on
September 24th at
the Oak Restaurant
in Manchester.**



THE CHEATHAM NEWS

September 2013

p. 2



ARTICLES

(cont. from p. 1)

not planning to venture too far from our beautiful area, please remember the annual "Polly Crockett Festival" in Cowan, Tennessee on Friday, 20 September to Sunday, 22 September 2013. I know that Compatriot G. W. Hill of the Shelbyville SCV Camp will be there on Saturday, 21 September with his outstanding and extensive military uniform collection. He will have over 100 military displays in the old Monterey Station building.

For those of you that were unable to attend Camp #72's August monthly meeting, you sure missed a good one. We met at the Gondola restaurant in Tullahoma for our supper meal, and then we ventured over to the Mitchell Museum to have a private showing of the State's "Calvary in Middle Tennessee Traveling Display". It was a great night, altogether; and made possible by past SCV TN DIV Commander Michael R. Bradley (THANK YOU!).

Our Camp #72 Program Officer, Brent Lokey (USAF/Ret.) has arranged for Dr. Bradley, to speak at this month's meeting, which in itself will make for an excellent Camp meeting. I certainly would not advise y'all to run red lights to get there, however; I do hope that you will be present. Why not plan to have your spouse accompany you to the meeting, or perhaps bring a friend whose interest may be tweaked, so as to become a member of Camp #72?

"We must recruit TODAY, so we will exist TOMORROW; as a viable and strong organization!"

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

With great respect, I remain

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

CIVIL WAR ODDITIES

By Jay Schroeder

The Bermuda Confederate Museum, located in St. George's Bermuda, is the only known foreign museum to pay tribute to the Confederate States of America.

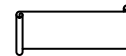
Over a century ago, during the American Civil War, the port of St. George's, one-time capital of the island, made an essential contribution to the economy of the Confederacy. Clipper ships arriving from England would transfer their vital cargoes of manufactured goods and munitions to waiting blockade-running ships in exchange for their cargoes of Southern cotton. These swift blockade runners could easily outdistance the Union warships attempting to bottle up Southern ports. St. George's merchants and seamen reaped enormous profits from these perilous trips.

The Confederacy maintained a headquarters on the island and it is in this building that the museum is presently housed.

Its most unusual exhibit is a mahogany, fourposter bed that belonged to Confederate Major Norman Walker and his wife. Mrs.

Walker, a loyal daughter of the South, had only one wish: to see her child born under the flag of the Confederacy.

She got her wish, although her child was registered as having been born in Bermuda. In 1862 she gave birth to a son, and no one can doubt that he was born under the Confederate flag. On the very top of this fourposter bed can be seen the tattered remnants of such flag, called the Stars and Bars.



When one looks at the odds against the South at the outbreak of the Civil War, it seems incredible that the conflict lasted for four years.

On the eve of the war, the South, aside from having no army or navy and lacking a strong unified central government, was faced with an opponent that had a manpower advantage of almost four to one. The population of the Northern states was approximately 22 million people, while the Southern states had only 9 million, one-third of which were slaves.

The North had 110,000 manufacturing plants, while the South had only 18,000. The North produced 97% of all the firearms in America and it manufactured 96% of the nation's railroad equipment. The country's financial resources, private and governmental, were all in the North.

Source: Levitt, Stan, *The Crackerbarrel Papers*, pp. 61, 55-56.



THE CHEATHAM NEWS

September 2013

p. 3



ARTICLES

PURSUIT

By Jay Schroeder

As a change of pace, I thought I might offer you a more theoretical article, rather than a description of a specific event from the American Civil War. The better we understand the principles which limit decision-making in battle, the more competent we will be in evaluating those decisions in specific engagements.

In much of my Civil War reading, battles seem to consist of a first day of hard fighting, usually beginning too late in the day to allow a conclusive outcome, followed by a restless night of attempting to revise plans and tweak troop placement.

By morning, one commanding general or the other likely has decided to withdraw from the battle area, usually due to heavy casualties or depleted supplies. In those cases where a second day of fighting takes place, the second night becomes the time when a decision has to be made. One commander or the other decides to depart the battle area.

Whether you care to describe this movement as a retrograde, withdrawal or retreat, the decision of one leader forces the other to decide whether or not to pursue.

Any retreating general has to look in at least two directions. He must constantly look behind him to reassess the character of the pursuit. Pursuit can be conducted along a spectrum of types.

A loose pursuit employs a small but highly mobile force, whose only objective is to keep the retreating army aware they are being pursued, and provides constant intelligence to the pursuing commander of the character of the retreat. The pursuing commander needs to know where the retreat is going, how fast it is moving, and the state of morale of the retreating troops. Indicators of morale can be the amount of arms and equipment found abandoned along the line of retreat, the numbers of stragglers found sitting alongside the road, just waiting to be taken prisoner, etc. Prisoners can be interrogated to provide more detailed information of the state of affairs within the retreating regiments. This type of pursuit entails little risk to the pursuers, but inflicts little damage to the pursued.

On the other end of the spectrum, an aggressive pursuit has the objective of causing significant damage to the retreating forces. It is characterized by the commitment of enhanced combat power, likely provided by fresh infantry, as well as mobility. Perhaps it uses horse artillery to inflict damage deep into the retreating column. It attempts to take advantage of the inherent difficulty of a fighting retreat. This type of pursuit holds a bit more risk to the pursuers, in that the level of fighting is raised, and more casualties can be anticipated. Ambush is always a possibility. History is replete with examples of pursuing forces suffering great

damage from ambushes. Such ambushes were used by the Vikings, the Zulus, the Apaches and Americans during our first revolution.

The retreating general also must be looking ahead. He must assess the terrain to see if there is a strong point, a suitable defensive position where he might make a stand. Looking ahead, in this context, also entails watching the flanks for potential threats. The wise general uses his available cavalry to accomplish this mission.

The Civil War history enthusiast who really wants to understand why some things happened and others didn't, can better prepare himself by doing some reading from some sources not drawn from that conflict.

Many of the leaders who fought our Civil War were well educated men. Some had studied in Europe, as well as America, and were influenced by certain thinkers.

For example, Jefferson Davis was a student of the Swiss strategist Henri Jomini, who was an interpreter of the thinking of Napoleon Bonaparte. Davis believed that a good offense was the best defense. Lee was an audacious general. Their thinking was sufficiently similar to foster a hand-in-glove approach to planning.

I hope this article has been thought-provoking and helpful.

Sources: Schroeder, *Seven Days Before Richmond*, 179, 265.



THE CHEATHAM NEWS

September 2013

p. 4



A LOOK AHEAD

DATE	TIME	EVENT
22 OCT 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. The program will be "The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of General Hood" by Brent Lokey. Hood's post-war notes and papers were found recently and one of his descendants has set out to vindicate him. Brent served in the Air Force for 25 years and was an adjunct faculty member at Motlow State Community College for 11 years.
26 NOV 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.
24 DEC 13		No meetings in December!

Starnes Brigade SCV Camp meeting dates & places

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

"A man cannot have too much red wine, too many books, or too much ammunition."

- - Rudyard Kipling