



# Newsletter of *Capt. W. H. McCauley* Camp 260 • Dickson County Tennessee



Vol. 3 No. 3

Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 260

July 2006

## Camp 260 Officers

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## LAST OF COUNTY'S CIVIL WAR VETERANS IS DEAD

Benjamin Franklin Brown, last surviving Confederate veteran of Dickson County, died Sunday, March 21, at his home four miles south of Burns.

"Uncle Ben", as he was familiarly known to his hosts of acquaintances, was born December 8, 1841, being 95 years three months and thirteen days of age. He was born on the same place where he died and had lived at the same place his entire lifetime. His grandfathers, both on his father's and mother's side, were among the pioneer families who settled in Dickson County.

The deceased married Miss Louisiana Garton on September 22, 1861, and a short time afterward enlisted in Baxter's Tennessee Artillery Battery, serving throughout the Civil War. When he returned home in 1865, his first son had been born and was a good sized boy, whom he then saw for the first time. His first wife died on December 7, 1884, and he afterward married Miss Susan D. Campbell. From these two unions there were born the following children: Miles Brown, Liberty Brown, Asa Brown, Sydney Brown, Dalton Brown, Mrs. C.V. Vandiver, Mrs. Clay Dozier, Mrs. W. B. Totty, Mrs. Hattie Dennison, Mrs. Charles Underhill and Mrs. R. D. Stinson. He also has living twenty-eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

So far as is known, "Uncle Ben" was not only the last surviving Confederate soldier of Dickson County, but also the last surviving member of Baxter's Tennessee Artillery Battery. His principle business was dealing in livestock, and in this capacity he came in to contact with practically all of the people of not only Dickson County but throughout Middle Tennessee and was extensively known over a large part of this section. By his passing there is removed one of the last landmarks connecting this generation with the antebellum days.

Funeral service was held Monday afternoon, conducted by Elder J. A. Pope and interment followed in the family graveyard in the Turnbull section.

Friday, March 26, 1937

Thanks to Cmdr. Dennis J. Lampley of Baxter's Battery Camp 2034 in Fairview for finding this & sharing.



**Pvt. Benjamin F. Brown**

Last surviving member of Baxter's Co. & last surviving confederate soldier in Dickson Co.

# Flag's 'Old Glory' nickname was spawned by Nashvillian

By GEORGE ZEPP

I heard someone in Nashville named the flag "Old Glory." Is that true? — Bill Compton, Nashville.

One of Nashville's most colorful characters of years past had to be Capt. William Driver, who went to sea at about age 13, retired as a captain at 34, and spent the rest of his life in this landlocked city until his 1886 death just short of his 83rd birthday.

His treasured flag, named by him "Old Glory," had flown on his ship voyages as far as the South Pacific. After his arrival here in 1837 he proudly displayed it on special occasions — July Fourth, election days, his own St. Patrick's Day birthday and others — in front of his Nashville home from a rope stretched between his attic and a tree across the street.

When Driver turned age 21 and was licensed to sail his own ship, his 1824 birthday gift from his mother and some of the young women of his native Salem, Mass., was the huge American flag they had made for him to fly at sea.

"This flag has ever since been my staunch companion and protector," he wrote his Nashville sons as an old man in 1876. "Savages and heathen, lowly and oppressed hailed and welcomed it at the far ends of the world. Then, why should it not be called Old Glory?"

The name soon became a byword for the Stars and Stripes.

During the early part of the Civil War, Driver sensed that his high-profile flag might be at risk from anti-Union sentiment. For safekeeping, he had it sewn inside a quilt.

When Nashville came under federal control in 1862, Driver immediately removed it from hiding. An escort of U.S. troops accompanied him as he unfurled it from the state Capitol building, where he spent the night to safeguard it.

The next morning, fearing bad weather might damage it, Driver returned the old flag to his sea chest made of camphor wood.

A Massachusetts native and staunch Unionist, Driver was deeply saddened when three of his own sons fought for the Confederacy. One of them died during wartime.

He was a strong opponent of slavery, even though his own brother was a slaveholder. Driver was disappointed after the war when former slaveholders' lands weren't taken from them and divided among their former slaves.

"Secessionists have succeeded in placing known Bitter Rebels in every place of trust in this Country without one exception," he once wrote.

Defeated Confederate veterans were held in esteem even as he and other Union supporters were treated as "outcasts," he observed.

Driver served as a city council member in Nashville from 1862 to '64 and again in 1865, but was defeated in his bid for mayor.

His later years, particularly after the death of his second wife in 1878, were spent in reflection and letter-writing to his children and distant friends.

He probably considered his 1831 voyage from Salem, Mass., to the South Pacific his most important one. Not only did he avoid disaster during a treacherous winter gale at its start, but by the end he had helped rescue a group of people displaced by drought.

They were Polynesian wives and offspring of the famous *HMS Bounty* mutineers, whose story is well known from the "*Mutiny on the Bounty*" book and films. The group had fled to Tahiti about six months earlier but was now anxious to return home to Pitcairn Island where they had been established for 42 years.

Driver risked his ship's capacity and his reputation to carry out the mission that took him 1,400 miles off course with the cargo of "65 helpless creatures — mostly women and children."

He later named one of his own children in Nashville Thomas Pitcairn Driver in honor of that "greatest adventure of my life." He also directed that his tombstone, which he designed himself, mention the special voyage.

Driver's own "Old Glory" flag is on a special exhibit now through Nov. 26 at the Tennessee State Museum, a rare chance for Nashvillians to see it here "for the first time in 130 years," according to museum literature.

The rescue of the flag is another Nashville story, told at length over the years by Tennessean feature writer Louise Davis. Davis, who died in 1995, wrote extensively in newspaper articles about Driver after researching his life and writings.

Driver willed "Old Glory" to a daughter on his death. By that time, new stars had been added to bring the total to 34. An anchor was also placed near them, by Driver himself, according to family lore.

The daughter first took it with her to Nevada, then presented it in 1922 to President Harding, who turned it over to the Smithsonian Institution.

No money could be found to restore the fragile artifact, let alone display it, until Davis called attention

to the situation in a 1980 Tennessean article. Two Middle Tennessee posts of the American Legion and the state's members of the Daughters of the American Revolution raised nearly \$11,000 to fund its careful restoration.

The 10- by 17-foot flag went on display at the Smithsonian in Washington in 1982, 60 years after its donation. •

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060705/COLUMNIST0102/607050387/1093/NEWS01>

#### OTHER WILLIAM DRIVER TIDBITS

- Driver became a junior warden in Nashville's Christ Church, Episcopal, where he had married his 15-year-old second wife soon after he arrived in Nashville in 1837. He was 34 at the time and left with three small children after his first wife died in their native Salem, Mass. The Nashville marriage produced nine more children.

- Some residents of the Fiji Islands claim descent from Driver and his unofficial union with an island chieftain's daughter during Driver's seafaring years of shipping cargo in the South Pacific. One of them, Rodney Acraman, brought the story to Nashville on a visit here in 1968.

- Driver helped another man remove coins and minerals belonging to the Tennessee Historical Society from display in the state Capitol library for safekeeping after the Union Army arrived in the city during the Civil War. The artifacts were entrusted to the widow of President James K. Polk, who kept them at her house nearby until after the war.

- Driver's 1831 ship's log in his own handwriting is preserved at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. It details his Jan. 13 departure from Massachusetts, close calls with wintry gales and his later rescue from Tahiti of the Pitcairn islanders.

- A mantel said to have come from Driver's house, once located at 511 Fifth Ave. S. near the present Nashville Rescue Mission, is now in an early 20th-century home at 3610 Caldwell Court. Someone, possibly even Driver himself, wrote in pencil a phrase from the national anthem on its poplar front – something discovered beneath paint by the home's owners in 1976.

## Slaughter Pen Deal Set To Close

Civil War Preservation Trust is buying the 205-acre Pierson farm, a key part of the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg.

By RUSTY DENNEN

06/09/2006 Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star (VA)  
<http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2006/062006/06092006/197807>

In one of the more fast-track battlefield preservation efforts, the Civil War Preservation Trust next week will acquire a key part of the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg.

The \$12 million deal on the 205-acre Pierson farm in Spotsylvania County is set to close on Tuesday.

A news conference and celebration for invited supporters and dignitaries will be scheduled later in the month, Jim Campi, spokesman for the trust, said yesterday.

The Washington-based trust announced in March that it would launch a national fundraising campaign to buy the land, which during the war earned the name Slaughter Pen. The farm on Tidewater Trail east of Shannon Airport is adjacent to part of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

The deal is the largest by far by the Civil War Preservation Trust. And if it comes off as expected, the deal will have been accomplished in record time. Tricord Cos., a local home builder that has been involved in the preservation of other battlefield land, found out in December that the farm was for sale, and contacted preservationists.

In February, Tricord signed a contract, agreeing to sell it to CWPT at cost, and the clock began running for the preservation group to come up with the \$12 million.

To put the deal in perspective, CWPT spent about \$13 million last year for its entire land-acquisition program nationwide.

Helping in the effort is the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, a local preservation group, which has pledged \$1 million. The Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table board has agreed to chip in \$3,000.

Over the past few weeks, Slaughter Pen has been featured in preservation magazines and newsletters, and CWPT and other groups have been taking potential donors on tours of the site.

CWPT intends to combine donations from its 75,000 members and other preservation groups, with state and federal grants and bank financing to cover the cost.

The property has been at the top of the property wish-list of preservationists for years.

CWPT President Jim Lighthizer has described Slaughter Pen this way: "Hands down, this is the single

most important piece of ground" connected with the battle. "If you don't have this, you don't have the Battle of Fredericksburg."

Though the National Park Service has more than 8,300 acres of historically significant land from the four major battles fought in the area, important sites are still outside the park and are at risk of being developed.

A key part of the 1862 conflict took place on land south of Fredericksburg where Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's 2nd Corps fought Union Gen. William Franklin's Left Grand Division.

Of the 9,000 men killed or wounded on the battle's southern end, some 5,000 met their fate on the farm. Five Union soldiers earned the Medal of Honor on its undulating fields.

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## What retirement home provided ex-Confederates a rocking chair, medical care and George Dickel?

By GEORGE ZEPP / Tennessean.com

Civil War veterans — in Nashville's case, Confederate veterans — were once as rare and revered as World War II vets have now become.

The state gave those ex-Confederates who needed care in their latter years an honored spot on the grounds of the Hermitage, President Andrew Jackson's former plantation.

In fact, the first notion among state officials was to make the vacant Hermitage mansion itself into a Confederate veterans' retirement home. Opposition to that proposal helped give rise to the Ladies' Hermitage Association and make the Hermitage into a presidential historic site treasured to this day.

The state in 1891 built the Tennessee Confederate Soldiers' Home on land near where the gate to the Hermitage is now. In 1901, the large brick building was housing 126 disabled veterans of the War Between the States. Verandas stretched along two levels, giving the residents space for rocking and recollection.

Vets got medical care as needed in a hospital wing and a daily dose of George Dickel whiskey at state expense.

In 1935, the state legislature deeded the site to the Ladies' Hermitage Association. The main entrance to the home and its largest wing were demolished in 1935-36 as a depression-era Works Progress Administration federal project.

The veterans had been moved by the state in 1933 into living quarters at the Tennessee Industrial School, from which remaining ones were moved again in 1937 into private homes. One such home, on Glencliff Avenue near Antioch Pike in south Nashville, was still functioning in 1940. Another on Nolensville Road reportedly closed after the last local veteran died in 1941.

The last section of the 1891 home was demolished in 1953, after serving for a while as an apartment residence for Hermitage employees, including "farm hands." Its bricks became part of the Hermitage gift shop, built in 1954 and now part of the education building.

Many of the home's veterans were buried in a cemetery on the Hermitage grounds at the former Presbyterian Church there, built in 1824 on land donated for a church by Jackson himself. This Confederate cemetery has about 500 graves. Among them is that of W.W. Smith, who died Nov. 28, 1934, at age 86.

Even more interesting in some ways than the veterans home was the way those war survivors were held in public esteem. The state paid veterans \$50 monthly, their widows \$25 and their "body servants" — blacks who had served them during the war — \$9.50.

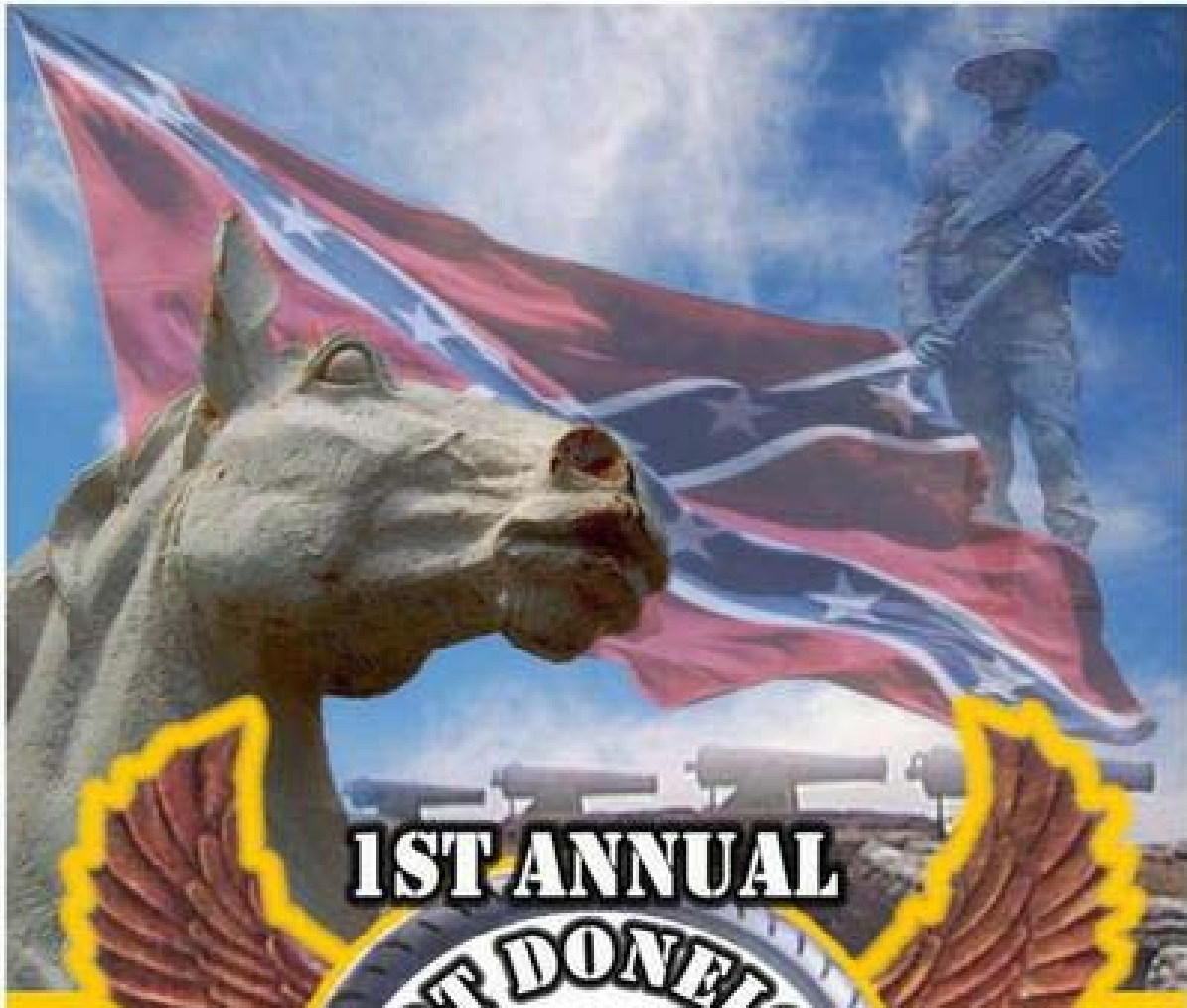
As veterans aged, newspaper accounts chronicled their dwindling numbers and the longevity of the last few. A sampling of Nashville headlines: "Gray Veterans' Ranks Thinned to 31 in State" (July 11, 1941), "Veteran 96 Today" (Aug. 4, 1941), "Only Seven Confederate Vets Left in State" (Oct. 27, 1943), "Three Confederate Vets Die During Month" (Oct. 28, 1943). The survivors' organization, United Confederate Veterans, held its 52nd and apparently final reunion — "due to thinning ranks" — in October 1947 in Chattanooga. A 96-year-old from Oklahoma was elected commander in chief for the group.

Only four members, ranging in age from 96 to 102, were able to attend the convention. All had been wartime privates, but a news report said they were in later years "raised to the rank of general, by courtesy." It was estimated that year that 79 veterans remained alive from all the former Confederate states, while 84 Union army men were still getting pensions nationally.

The state's Confederate veterans' home, on the grounds of Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, functioned from 1891 to 1933. The last remaining section was demolished in 1953. Many of the veterans who had lived there are buried in a nearby cemetery.

### Tennessee Confederate Soldiers' Home Applications

NAME	COUNTY	UNIT	YEAR APPLIED
Averit	Paul M.	Dickson 11 TN Inf.	1907
Shelton	John	Dickson 11 TN	1893
Wimberley	G.W.	Dickson 23 TN Inf.	1915



**1ST ANNUAL**

**FORT DONELSON  
2006**



**POKER BUN**

**IRON HORSE RIDE**

**\$20  
PER  
BIKE**

**\$5  
XTRA  
RIDER**

**DOOR  
PRIZE  
DRAWINGS  
50/50**



**CHARLOTTE  
CLARKSVILLE  
DOVER  
ERIN**

**SAT. AUG. 26TH @ 9 AM**

**CHARLOTTE, TN / DICKSON CO.**

**BEGINS & ENDS: 1400 ST. PAUL RD.**

**LAST BIKE OUT: 10 AM / IN : 3 PM**

**BENEFITS: ST. PAUL CHURCH FUND**

**INFO: SCVCAMP260.ORG**

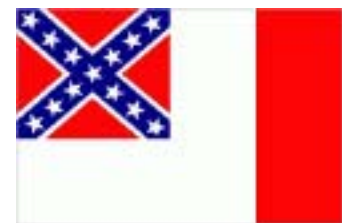




***Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans:***

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit 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 he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

- Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906



***Salute to the Confederate Flag***

***"I Salute the Confederate Flag with Affection, Reverence, and Undying Devotion to the Cause for which it Stands"***

First Annual Dickson County  
**Blue and Gray**  
Civil War Costume Ball

September 23, 2006

Place: Old Spencer Mill

399 Old Spencer Mill Road Burns, Tennessee

Social starts at 6 pm • Grand March at 6:30 pm

Music provided by **“The Old South”**



*Dance Lessons Given before Dance at 5:30 (almost as fun as the Ball!)*

*Refreshment provided*

Short & Entertaining Speeches given by Local Historians

Best Costume Awards • Door Prizes

What do we wear to the Ball?

19th Century period dressy attire is encouraged.

**BUT EVERYONE WELCOME, COSTUMED OR NOT!**

Gentlemen are encouraged to dress in the uniforms of either side.

Victorian etiquette states that white gloves should be worn for evening,  
hoop skirts for the ladies.

Rent or Buy your Uniforms and Ball Gowns at  
Old Spencer Mill -- Blockade Runner, Wartrace, TN  
West End Consignment, Dickson -- EBay, etc.

Buy your Tickets (\$50 per couple) Now from a Rotarian or Compatriot

For More Information Call Dale Qualls @ 615 446-8939

email: dalesquickprint@bellsouth.net or

Bryan Sharp @ 931 380-1844 x201 email: membership@scv.org



Sponsored by the Dickson Rotary Club and Capt. W.H. McCauley Camp 260

Proceeds to St. Paul Church Restoration Fund and the Dickson Rotary Club Projects.

Subject to Change without Notice



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## Welcome New Member

Don Betty

joining under ancestor

Pvt. James M. Betty, Co. C, 8th Tennessee Cavalry (Baxter Smith's)

Welcome back

Blake Chadwick and Kyle Garton

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