

THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

MARIE BANKHEAD OWEN, Editor

EMMETT KILPATRICK, Co-Editor



Published by the
STATE DEPARTMENT
OF
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Vol. 9

No. 3

FALL ISSUE

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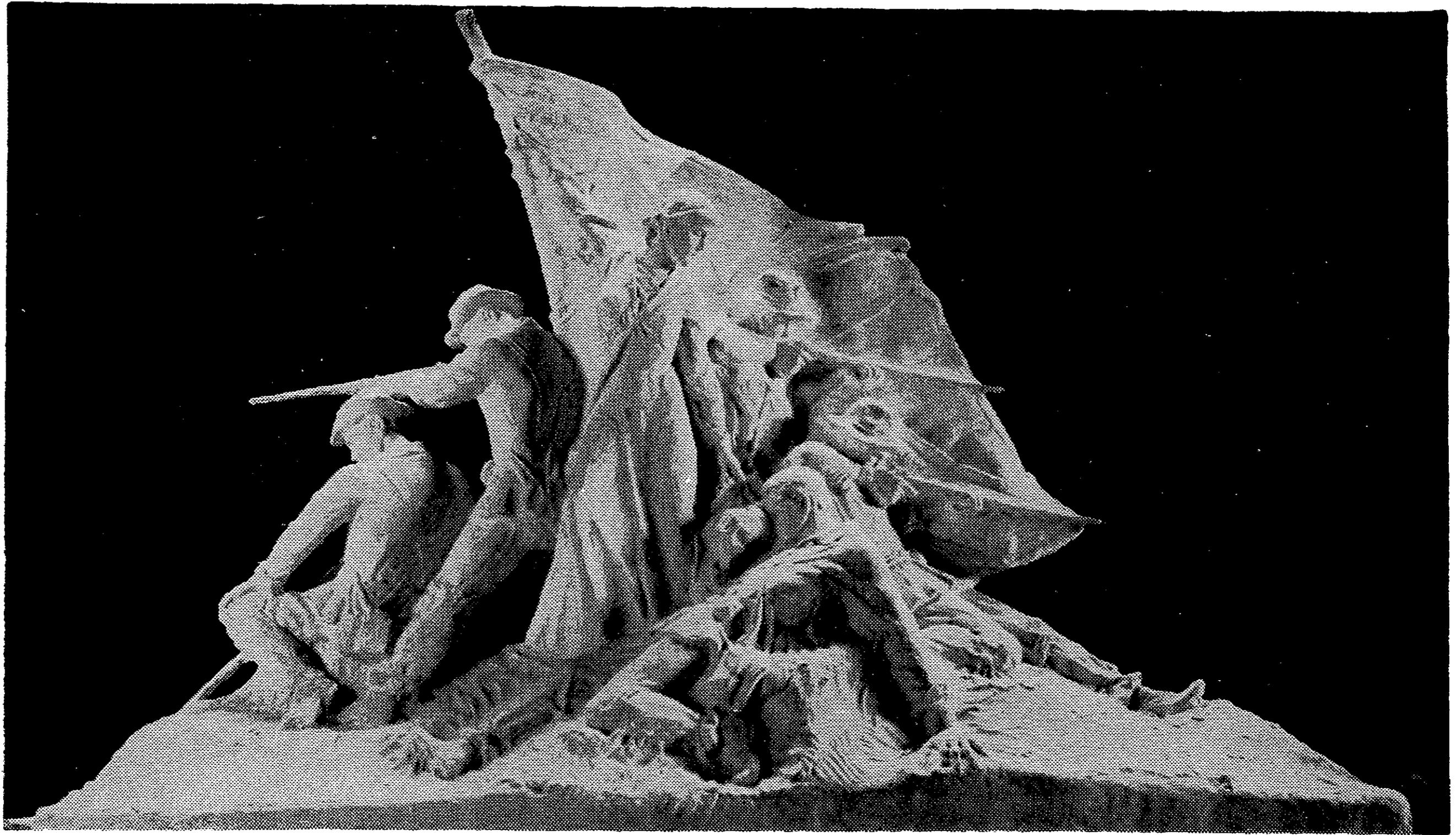
EDITORIAL

This issue of the *Alabama Historical Quarterly* carries a number of very valuable articles relating to the Vicksburg Monument for which the Alabama Legislature provided the necessary appropriation. The Alabama Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy initiated this movement some years ago but feeling that an adequate monument would cost more than that organization could raise, the Legislature was asked to make the necessary appropriation. In addition to the group monument commemorating Alabamians in the siege of Vicksburg, there will also be a statue of General John Forney, in another part of the Vicksburg National Military Park, placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy on the line where the Alabamians fought. A sketch of general John Forney, in command of the Alabama troops, is highly appropriate to be published in connection with other articles in the magazine. Mr. Wallace Malone's article on the seige of Vicksburg, gives one a definite idea as to the merit of memorializing the part Alabamian's took in the seige there.

Acknowledgment is made to Mrs. Halsa Alison Kyser, of Minter, Alabama, for the privilege of using her father's diary in this issue and for furnishing biographical data prefacing the diary.

Some of the additional articles noted in the table of contents relate to other Confederate personalities and subjects. The only article having no relation to the other subject is a history of Commercial Horticulture in Alabama for the forty years following 1900 has an economic, rather than a military interest.

The Editor



Bronze monument placed in Vicksburg National Military Park by the Alabama Legislature as a memorial to Alabama Confederate soldiers who fought at the siege of Vicksburg, Miss., in 1863. The movement for this monument was initiated by the Alabama Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

STEFFEN WOLFGANG GEORGE THOMAS

The sculptor of the impressive bronze monument the State of Alabama is having made for the Vicksburg Park in Mississippi, is Mr. Steffen W. G. Thomas, who has his studio and resides at Stone Mountain, Ga. He was born at Feurth, Germany, son of Johan and Elizabeth (Hofling) Thomas of that place. He received his public school education in his native town and was prepared in the applied arts at Nurnberg and in Munich, Germany. He entered the United States in 1928 and became an American citizen in 1933, having practiced sculpture at Palm Beach, Fla., Atlanta and Stone Mountain, Ga.

Mr. Thomas was art supervisor for National Youth Administration, 1939-43, and President of Stone Mountain Board of Education, 1945. He is a Lutheran and a Mason. He is the author of a number of poems.

His work as a sculptor includes groups as well as individual figures and busts both in bronze and marble. He was selected by the joint committee of the Alabama Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and certain State officials to make the Alabama group monument at Vicksburg, which is now completed and will be unveiled during the Spring or Summer of 1951. The Legislature of Alabama appropriated \$150,000 for the monument which commemorates the services of Alabama troops and troops from other Confederate States under the leadership of Alabama commanders, including Gen. John H. Forney. A separate statue of General Forney, also the work of Mr. Thomas, will be placed in another section of the park.

WALLACE DAVIS MALONE

WALLACE DAVIS MALONE, of Dothan, President of the First National Bank, of Dothan, and a manufacturer of fertilizer. He was a member of the Alabama Legislature, 1947-1951, a Baptist, a Mason and a member of the Newcomen Society. Mr. Malone was born in Dothan, January 28, 1896, the son of George Holcomb and Florence Robert (Davis) Malone, and grandson of George Y. and Tabitha Eleanor (Wallace) Malone, of Pike County, and of Captain John T. and Clarkie (Wilson) Davis, of Columbia. Both grandparents served in the War Between the States.

Representative Malone was educated at the Dothan City schools, at Sewanee Military Academy, the University of Alabama, and at Harvard, graduating at the latter institution in the school of business administration. He was a member of the Dothan City Council, in 1923-24; was a Trustee of Judson College; member of the Board of Trustees of the Atlanta and St. Andrew's Bay Railroad; Executive Committee, Alabama State Chamber of Commerce and past President of Alabama Bankers Association. He served in World War I, and was discharged as a First Lieutenant, Field Artillery. He was married February 22, 1933, to Alice Mae, daughter of Charles H. and Alice (Bush) Dee. They are the parents of two children: Roberta Louise and Wallace Davis.

“VICKSBURG”

An address by Wallace D. Malone before the State Convention of the United Daughters of Confederacy, Dothan, Alabama, October 13, 1948.

Optimism filled Southern hearts when the dogwoods began to bloom in 1863. All eyes were confidently on General Lee, brilliantly victorious in Virginia. The Federals were still mourning their disaster of the previous December, calling it “The horror of Fredericksburg.” That unmatched pair of strategists, Lee and Jackson—clad in their moral and mental armor and backed by the bravest of the brave, seemed now invincible. “Marse Robert” was on the move—heading North! The peace party of the North was voluble—“Let them go! Stop the war. Let them go in peace!” The crafty—if kindly—Lincoln seemed to have lost his cunning and was fearfully subordinating aggressive strategy to his almost insane desire to protect Washington. He was changing generals almost every month. Lee noting this, planned accordingly. At Chancellorsville, the first week in May, the outnumbered Gray—largely through Jackson’s slashing flank attack, had disastrously defeated the Blue. Almost a rout! On the sea, Raphael Semmes and his “Alabama” were on the loose—sinking or capturing a Yankee merchantman almost every day—but not without warning. The British Government was cooperative. Their intervention on the Southern side seemed possible, for cotton was now scarce at the Lancastershire mills, and there was severe *unemployment* in the Islands. Her commerce was Britain’s life blood. More than once had she fought to keep it. There would be *diplomatic recognition*, at least!

In the West, two rather unknown Brigadier Generals, one rumored to be an alcoholic, had both dismally failed in advances towards Vicksburg from their Memphis base. One was named Ulysses S. Grant, the other W. T. Sherman. The former had, the year before, been abruptly relieved of his command, with rumored disgrace. Mr. Lincoln, his sponsor, had him reinstated.

General Joseph E. Johnston, hero of Bull Run, now largely recovered from his severe wounds at Fair Oaks, Virginia, the previous May, had just been given over-all command of the Confederate armies in the West, including the Vicksburg Garrison. “Old Joe” would show these two upstarts—Grant and Sherman—a thing or two!

Yes, the Stars and Bars were flying high that Spring.

Lee's advance was knocking some sense, about the South, into the Yankees' heads. They had even relieved that scoundrel, Butler, from his command of the Federal troops at New Orleans, which city had been captured by Farragut in May, '62. The North itself was nauseated by his brutality (though Lincoln was later to honor him again)—nauseated by his order to the people of that city, which I quote, "If any New Orleans woman should insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States she shall be held liable to be treated as a woman of the town, plying her avocation." This was too much, even for the Yankees.

On the economic front, the blockade of Southern ports had been rather ineffective. For instance, at Charleston one Rhett Butler, with his *associates*, had run that blockade freely during the winter of '62. Cotton was getting through. Munitions were coming back overseas—some came around through Mexico by Vicksburg's railroad to the West. Confederate money was near par. Very little of the deep South had been invaded or had even seen Yankee troops. Life went on—with not too many inconveniences. In most sections food was adequate, the weather had been good in '62. The very young and the very old, together with the slaves on the larger plantations, were making a crop. Louisiana and Texas were big sources of supply for Lee's armies in the East, largely as to cattle and grain. It went by rail and ferry through Vicksburg on to Georgia and Virginia. Up North the factories had not yet been long enough converted to war uses to be able to abundantly arm the Union. There, the cost of hiring substitutes for army service was skyrocketing. In Atlanta, Scarlett O'Hara, recently widowed, was flirting with Rhett Butler but thinking of Ashley Wilkes, in the Virginia Army.

Protected almost on three sides, *West, South and North*, by a double bend of the Mississippi and by Black Creek, Vicksburg was considered impregnable. It could only be approached from the East. There was dancing there and at Natchez; and singing on the levee.

This was the situation, as the average Southerner saw it, on May 9, 1863.

The very next day a cloud passed over the face of the Southern sun. Stonewall Jackson, having been accidentally wounded by his own men the night after Chancellorsville, died on May 10th. Was it an omen? Well, we still had that "peerless one"—Robert E. Lee, who, having thereby lost his military right arm, immediately reorganized his army. He formed three corps, putting each under the command of one of his best Lieutenants—Longstreet, Ewell and A. P. Hill! The march to the North was continued. Crossing Maryland a short distance West of Washington, Lee drove on into Pennsylvania. 'Carrying the war to the Yankees'—but he sternly forbade his soldiers to loot, pillage, or molest, upon pain of instant court martial. What a contrast with the callous Sherman, in Georgia the next year! A full hundred miles his army marched—towards Pennsylvania's capitol. He now approached Gettysburg more than seventy miles due North of Washington, outflanking both the capitol and Baltimore. Mr. Lincoln and the other politicians were frantic—demanding that the Northern generals keep their forces close to Washington regardless of sound strategy.

So, Jackson's death was taken in stride. Though he would be sorely missed a few weeks later.

The determined Grant was still stalking Vicksburg, hanging around its possible approaches—hatching a brilliant gamble to take it. President Davis, Lee, and the entire High Command at Richmond realized what Vicksburg meant. A prime reason for Lee's bold invasion of the North was to divert troops and supplies from Grant on the Mississippi.

Let us pause here and take a look at the larger strategy. At the outset of the war the Union high command adopted three main objectives: The capture of Richmond; control of the Mississippi; and the blockade of Southern parts: none of which had been accomplished by the early spring of '63. Control of the Mississippi would divide the South, shut off all aid from the West, including the supplies imported through Mexico. It would open up the Middlewest to foreign commerce through New Orleans. Rivers were much more important then than now. Vicksburg was also astride the only Southern railway to the West. While it is true that the Union now had control of the Big River down to a short distance below Memphis in the North

and to a point one hundred miles above New Orleans in the South, the Vicksburg bridgehead controlled a two hundred mile gap in the Federal line.

In late '62 the untimely death of Albert Sidney Johnston at the vicious Battle of Shiloh and the failure of his immediate successor, General Bragg, to take advantage that night of Grant's confusion, had permitted Grant's army to escape with his army and turning a Southern victory into a stalemate. The South could not afford stalemates. Time was not on *our* side during that war. This was the same army which Grant was now using against Vicksburg. His bases were Memphis and Corinth. By November, '62, Grant had 45,000 men with him. In that month he began an overland march down the railroad toward Granada and Vicksburg. Confederate General Van Dorn's cavalry destroyed Grant's supply base at Holly Springs, forcing him back to Memphis. Not discouraged, Grant now with 60,000 men, placed one-half of them under Sherman and sent them directly down the river escorted by Federal gunboats. With the other one-half he again marched down into Mississippi. And once more, Van Dorn cut his supply line. Back to Memphis he went! In the meantime, Sherman—not knowing Grant had retreated, had landed his troops at Chickasaw Bayou a few miles North of Vicksburg. He was severely repulsed, with a loss of 2,000 men, and forced to retreat up river. A double failure.

But the tenacious Grant conceived a new plan. Had it failed, as it should have done, he would have been retired in disgrace. Upon what a fine edge does the balance of the scales sometimes turn—between failure and success!

By February Grant had most of his army on board Union Transports and steamed down the Mississippi, joining Sherman at a point 20 miles Northwest of Vicksburg.

From here Grant made several ineffectual attempts on the city. He tried to cut a canal through the peninsula West of Vicksburg, to by-pass that city entirely. He tried to get to the East bank, North of the city, through some bayous from the river. All these and two other projects were costly failures, consuming nearly two months.

Now he tried his last plan—more dangerous than the others. He marched his Army on the West side of the River through the swamps to a point 30 miles down river on the Louisiana side. Forty thousand men with their guns and supplies! What a terrible trip through the mud and water and insects of early summer! The Union fleet with other troops and more substantial supplies floated down the river to meet him—getting past the batteries on the bluff at night—strange to say, with few casualties. Sherman was left up river, making a feigned attack as a diversion. Assisted by gunboats, Grant crossed the river near Grand Gulf and captured Fort Gibson, which was lightly held. The Confederates at Vicksburg evidently were confused by Sherman at the North, or else they didn't know that Grant had his main army with him. Otherwise how easily could he have been attacked as he was crossing that wide stream.

And *now* Grant completed what is one of the most daring maneuvers in military history. Brilliant only because it succeeded. Loading in wagons, only five days' supply of food and munitions, he cut aloose from his supply base on the river and marched out, on his own, into a strange and hostile country. This was early May and he had 43,000 men with him. He headed towards Jackson, the capitol, thirty miles east of Vicksburg. From that direction lay the only feasible approach to his goal.

Now, let us look at the other side of the picture. The troops at Vicksburg were under the personal command of Lt. General J. C. Pemberton. Pemberton was a Northerner, born in Philadelphia. He was a regular army officer and he had served in the Mexican War, where he knew Grant and Jefferson Davis. He had married a Virginia girl and had a family. When the Civil War broke Captain Pemberton was stationed in Minnesota with troops. He was immediately ordered to Washington. Upon reaching there he resigned his commission although General of the United States Armies, Winfield Scott, himself, attempted to dissuade him and offering a colonelcy in the Union Army. Pemberton declined. He went to Richmond, where he was made a Major in the Army of Virginia; a few days later going into the Confederate Army as a Lt. Colonel. He was a friend of President Davis and was rapidly promoted. After having built some forts near Charleston which later held out longer than any Southern strongpoints, he was transferred to Mississippi in 1862

as a Lt. General. President Davis had told him to hold Vicksburg at all costs. Pemberton had never commanded any troops in action. Davis was severely criticized by some for his attachment to Pemberton—largely on account of Pemberton's Northern background. Yet, there does not seem to be the slightest doubt that the General was truly loyal to the South.

Let us visualize the situation as of the second week in May. General Johnston in the East as we have seen had just been named to the Supreme Command of all Confederate forces in the West, including Mississippi. He is hurrying, still somewhat weak from his wounds, almost alone—to Jackson, to personally take command of the reinforcements for Vicksburg. At Jackson he finds only a meager force, less than 15,000 men. He wires Pemberton to come out and attack Grant in his rear as Grant marches towards Jackson. But Pemberton has a message from President Davis to hold Vicksburg. He construes it literally. He does nothing. Johnston's orders are not obeyed. Grant meets Johnston's small contingent at Raymond, just a few miles West of Jackson—overwhelms and pushes him back into the city. The next day Grant captures Jackson and burns it. Johnston retreats to the North. Grant then turns around and heads straight for Vicksburg. Johnston, who has now regrouped his men, sees the necessity to consolidate forces and to attack Grant. He wires Pemberton as follows: "Instead of losing both place and troops, we must, if possible, save the troops. If not too late, evacuate Vicksburg and its dependencies and march to the *Northeast*." Pemberton does nothing for a few days and then, on May 12th, he marches out—but the *Southeast*. He hopes to cut Grant's supply line, but Alas! he finds that Grant has no supply line to cut. He is living off the country! On May 16th Grant attacks Pemberton successfully at Champion Hill and the next day at Black Creek. On May 18th Pemberton retreats to the defenses he has prepared at Vicksburg. The siege begins. Grant holds Johnston off with a part of his army and invests the city on a sixteen mile arc, touching the Mississippi both above and below the city. He can now get supplies down the Mississippi from Memphis at a landing on the Yazoo, a tributary.

But Grant and his soldiers don't want a long siege, so they attack the center of the defensive line. They are savagely repulsed, with a loss of 3,199 men. Three days later they renew

the attack, and are again hurled back! A telegram comes from Secretary of War Seddon to Johnston: "The eyes and hopes of the whole Confederacy are upon you, with full confidence that you will act, and with the sentiment that it was better to fail, nobly daring, than through prudence, even, to be inactive." By this time Johnston has accumulated 24,000 men and some cavalry, yet, for some reason, he does not attack, doubtless waiting for Pemberton to move. The eyes of the entire nation, yes, of the world, are turned to Vicksburg! Grant now has 80,000 men with abundant munitions and supplies. He has free access to the river to North and to South.

His attacks having failed, Grant decides upon a straight-out siege and starvation of the defenders. By June 15 Pemberton can put only 18,000 able-bodied effective troops in his lines around the city. Day after day and night after night shells fall into the streets. Now comes hunger, sickness, and continuous duty in the trenches, in the burning sun and drenching rain, in the damp fogs and heavy dews, without sleep and almost without hope. By the last of June the effective Confederate combat troops are down to 8,000. The rest are either dead or too weak to fight. The Union forces now have grown to 100,000, superbly armed—yet they dare not attack! Hunger and horror walk the streets with the citizens. The finest homes are turned into hospitals. Constantly the cannons roar. For days and nights those in the trenches have no relief except to snatch a little sleep, where they are. Pemberton still holds out! On the river bank is a high bluff facing West. The hungry and terrified people dig hundreds of caves in this bluff. When a bombardment begins they "scurry like rats" to their holes. There is now practically no food nor medicine, the Federals preventing any traffic across the river. All chickens and other domestic animals having been eaten, including some horses—Mule meat is the only thing left. Now is sensed the ancient fear for women, at the sack of a city.

To your imagination I leave the horrors experienced by the civilians—men, women and children—from whom no complaint was ever recorded.

The entire Confederacy now knows what Vicksburg means. Surely relief will come! Where is Johnston? All eyes are strained to the East. Bragg has an army! But Bragg has his hands full North of Chattanooga. No relief appears. Grant

is further reinforced. He attacks again but is again viciously repulsed.

By June 28th all hope has vanished. A petition from some of his men is presented to General Pemberton, and I quote: "Our rations have been cut to one biscuit and a small piece of bacon per day, not enough to keep soul and body together, much less to continue the physical hardships. If you can't feed us you had better surrender us, horrible as the idea is." By the first of July Pemberton knows he cannot repel another assault with his emaciated troops. He discusses with his staff whether to surrender or endeavor to cut his way out. His division commanders are unanimous. So, on the 47th day of the seige white flags are raised and he sends the following message to Grant: "I have the honor to propose an armistice to arrange terms of capitulation. I make this proposition to save the further effusion of blood, though I feel myself fully able to maintain my position for an indefinite period." Grant replies by demanding unconditional surrender—no armistice necessary—as there are no terms. But he adds, "Men who have shown so much endurance and courage as those now in Vicksburg will always challenge the respect of an adversary." After a parley, however, Grant, always generous in victory, recedes from his "unconditional" stand and agrees to let the defeated garrison be paroled on their honor, laying down their arms. (Can you imagine anything like that in modern war?) The men, except the higher officers, to take the oath not to fight again. There is bitterness through tears. On that fatal July 4, 1863,—the next day after Gettysburg—30,200 soldiers, 180 pieces of artillery, and 30,000 rifles are surrendered,—many Alabamians among them. In and around Vicksburg 10,000 Confederates have died. There are 5,600 in hospitals now. The Union has lost almost exactly the same number. The Southern soldiers start walking down the lonesome road.

Should Johnston have attacked, even though hopeless? It is not for us to say. Who knows, unless one had been there in person. Though brave, he was a man of caution. The next year, North of Atlanta, his cautious policy, according to Margaret Mitchell, was wearing Sherman down, until "Old Joe" was replaced by Hood—called a "fighter"—who immediately lost Atlanta. Who knows? Now, as to Pemberton! Should he have attacked Grant, while he was crossing the river at Grand Gulf?

When Grant first started to Jackson, his rear exposed, was he not extremely vulnerable to a force almost his own size based on Vicksburg? Later, should Pemberton have obeyed Johnston instead of Jefferson Davis? Should Davis, at Richmond, have interfered? At the last why did he turn South instead of meeting Johnston in the Northeast, as ordered? Why was there only about 40 days' food supply in the city? Who knows? And what does it matter *now*? They were every one heroes who risked and often gave their all for the cause! What does count is the unmatched bravery and courage of the South and its troops. Outstanding above all differences of opinion of the Confederate leadership are two facts: (1) Never was General Lee's ability nor character questioned. (2) Never was the courage of the common Southern soldier impeached. Fighting for slavery? No! Not one in five—yes, not even one in ten, owned slaves or expected to do so. These men were fighting for their freedom. States' Rights was the only way they know to protect it.

General Johnston now retires towards Chattanooga. He is to fight Sherman all the way to Atlanta next year. Pemberton resigns his Lt. Generalship and is given a minor position in the Ordnance Department, CSA. Grant is now the hero of the Union. Lincoln's confidence seems justified. William Tecumseh Sherman, surveying the destruction in the city, found some ideas for Georgia next year. "War is Hell." "Live off the country." "What you can't use, destroy." "War is Hell." "Depopulate Atlanta." "Loot Savannah." "Burn Columbia." "War is Hell." "Let terror be a weapon." "War is Hell." "War is Hell."

From that day until 1946, July 4th was never celebrated in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

On July 3rd Pickett had made his gallant, but futile, charge at Gettysburg, entirely unsupported. Someone—not Lee—had blundered. Oh, had Stonewall Jackson been at Gettysburg on that fatal day. Lee wiped his tired brow, and now begins his masterful retreat to his beloved Virginia, without one word of recrimination for those generals whose tardy negligence had doubtless caused him to lose that battle. Not a young man when the war started, he is now nearly 60. He has aged in those three years.

By the South, two mortal blows have been received. That at Vicksburg is to the heart, though that strong heart—sustained almost solely by the spirit, will continue to beat, with occasional rallies—each one weaker—for two more terrible years, while the body is dying.

Back of brave smiles, a gnawing doubt persists in the minds of the well-informed. Can we fight the whole world? Imported hired mercenaries, mostly Irish, are pouring into New York. Perhaps some, with a gift of prophecy, now see the years of reconstruction and frustration which are to be the lot of the Cotton States. Perhaps some foresee the South in an economic vise, remaining oppressed, for 50 years—a longer period of time than any conquered peoples in modern history. No Marshall Recovery Plan here! Exactly the reverse. Frustrated, and with its modern scalawags, often working at cross purposes. Through sentiment, tied hand and foot to the name of one party, therefore, to be ignored by both parties. So to remain even after that one party shall have deserted its principles to bid for the votes of minority groups hostile to Southern concepts and ideals. So to cling until the shame of Philadelphia—1948—brought a rude awakening.

And worst of all, though highly respected—to be generally misunderstood. To be misunderstood, though furnishing national leaders of character and brains in all fields of endeavor, out of all proportion to its size and population. Misunderstood in spite of Henry Grady, of Thomas Dixon, Claude Bowers, and others. Yes, later in spite of Thurmond of South Carolina and Fielding Wright of Mississippi, both going courageously to probable defeat in order to present the South's cause to this nation and to the world—supported bravely by Alabama's own J. T. Graves and Frank Dixon. Misunderstood, yes, but fully understanding! Understanding the necessity for keeping its Caucasian blood pure—and able, for instance to more fully understand and appreciate the overtones of Winston Churchill's spirit more than any other part of the nation. Understanding that its sons and daughters must preserve its ideals—as you women here are doing; handing them down to future generations—glorifying the spirit; knowing man cannot live by bread alone!

Vicksburg's reverberations are felt far and near. In Washington, Mr. Lincoln—to be later cannonized—calculates the effect

of these victories upon the 1864 Presidential campaign. The Confederate agents in Canada avoid mention of Vicksburg. The unemployed cotton mill workers in England take hope. A certain coolness is apparent toward Southern representatives in London. In Egypt the price of cotton tumbles. The Australian wool growers wonder if they should continue to increase their flocks. The Confederate dollar takes a nose dive. Reverberations! The bottom falls out of the cattle market in San Antonio. In Mexico the French begin to doubt the wisdom of their violation of the Monroe Doctrine. Up North, greedy eyes look towards the carpetbags in the clothes closet. The abolitionists, hunched over their Boston tea cups, increase their fanatical mouthings. The Yankee soldiers see and covet the jewelry and the imported furniture in the Delta mansions. Only the faithful slaves remain unchanged, as they continue their devotion to their masters' families. (There was no single recorded case of violence towards any white woman by the negroes in the South during that whole four years.) Not until the carpetbaggers came, and their modern successors. The most provident, at home, think of a place to hide their silver and of some convenient swamp to send their livestock. At night all gather closer around the hearthstone. The family Bible is often open. Up in Virginia the footsore Captain of Company F, 15th Alabama Infantry, from Pike County comes upon one of his men—a native of Brundidge, sitting under a tree crying. There is an open box in his hands. In that box are seven sweet potatoes. "This is from home, Cap'n. They sent me some 'taters. That's all they had to send." Yes, a blow has been struck to the heart. The South is now itself a Vicksburg, invested on all sides. A creeping paralysis with fever sets in. A fever that will burn away what was in some respects the finest civilization the world had known up to that time—perhaps since. Vicksburg has fallen. The Confederacy is cut in two. It is the beginning of the end.

Is it? No! a thousand times, No! Only the material part is gone. The bright spirit still lives! So here's to you—Daughters of the Confederacy—here's to you—who are preserving its traditions, nourishing its principles—preserving and nourishing—because they are old?—No—Oh—No! 'Tis because they are RIGHT.

The Sons of the South salute you!

ALABAMA MEMORIALS AT VICKSBURG

BY KATHLEEN DAUGETTE CARSON

Chairman Special Committee

Since its organization in Montgomery, Alabama, April 18, 1897, the Alabama Division United Daughters of the Confederacy has established countless memorials to the heroes who gave their fortunes, homes, and lives in defense of their beloved Southland. Perhaps the largest undertaking thus far, and one most desired by the people of Alabama, will soon be as a cherished dream come true. Significant and fine pieces of bronze statuary in the Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi, will be a reminder to the world of Alabama's gratitude and undying love for her sons who participated in the tragic Siege of Vicksburg.

The following excerpt is from an article which appeared in the May, 1946 *U. D. C. Magazine*, written by James R. McConaghie, Superintendent of the Vicksburg National Military Park:

"Since ancient times men have memorialized the climactic moments of history by enshrining their physical setting. This custom is deeply intertwined with the folklore of the human race. Preservation of the places associated with great personalities and great events not only creates reverence for the past, but inspires succeeding generations with patriotism and spiritual union. The United States of America, though a comparatively young nation, has an inspiring array of historic shrines, places where its people suffered and sacrificed to build an enduring nation. One of the most poignant and memorable of these is Vicksburg, Mississippi.

"On February 21, 1899 President McKinley signed a Bill which authorized the establishment of Vicksburg National Military Park, the site of the decisive battle of the western campaign during the War Between the States. Its tragic significance is aptly expressed in an inscription on one of its commemorative structures: 'Here brothers fought for their principles. Here heroes died for their country. And a united people will forever cherish the legacy of their manhood.'

“Strategically located on high bluffs that command a great bend of the Mississippi river, Vicksburg, early in 1863, became the storm center of the western campaign. The epic struggle for the possession of the city has become a classic problem of military strategy. . . . Conquest of the Mississippi by the Union armies would provide the North with a much needed outlet to the sea; the Confederacy would be effectively divided, and the primary source of food and supplies to the Confederacy would be cut off. Should this objective be accomplished, a mortal blow would be dealt the South.”

Comments in the daily newspaper, *The Vicksburg Citizen*, tell of the desperate circumstances to which the people of the city and its defenders were reduced before surrender came on July 4, 1863. In one column of this paper, dated July 2, 1863, is the following: “We are indebted to Major Gillespie for a steak of Confederate beef, alias meat. We have tried it, and can assure our friends that if it is rendered necessary, they need have no scruples at eating the meat. It is sweet, savory and tender, and so long as we have a mule left, we are satisfied our soldiers will be content to subsist on it.” In the right hand column of the same newspaper is an article on Vicksburg and General Ulysses S. Grant, probably written by J. M. Swords, proprietor, is one of derision for General Grant. It says: “The great Ulysses . . . has expressed his intentions of dining in Vicksburg on Sunday next and celebrating the Fourth of July by a grand dinner, and so forth. . . . Ulysses must get into the city before he dines in it. The way to cook a rabbit is first to catch the rabbit, etc.” At the bottom of the same column is another story, dated July 4, 1863, which continues: “Two days bring about great changes. The banner of the Union floats over Vicksburg. General Grant has caught the rabbit, he has dined in Vicksburg, and he did bring his dinner with him. . . . The daily newspaper, *The Citizen*, lives to see it. For the last time it appears on wallpaper. . . . This is the last wallpaper *Citizen*, and is, excepting this note, from the types as we Yankee printers found them. Copies will be available in years to come as a curiosity.”

The Vicksburg National Military Park comprises 1323 acres possessing rare historic and scenic interest. There are 1598 memorials, monuments and markers in the park, and the trenches, fortification and earthworks are still clearly discern-

ible. The most important center of the defense line was manned by Alabama troops, under the commands of Major General John H. Forney and Major General C. L. Stevenson. Imposing memorials to their troops who fought against the Alabamians have been erected by the States of Iowa, Indiana and Minnesota.

Through the sponsorship of the Alabama Division U. D. C. the State of Alabama appropriated \$150,000.00 to establish a fitting memorial to her sons. The appropriation was obtained from the surplus in the Confederate Pension Fund, which fund was provided by a one mill ad valorem tax, passed by the Legislature of 1899, for the specific purpose of paying pensions, and caring for Confederate soldiers, sailors, and their wives. During the administration of Governor Bibb Graves a part of the surplus of this Confederate earmarked fund was made available for Public Welfare. In a letter to the Chairman of the Vicksburg Committee, dated August 5, 1949, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Wm. M. Beck, says: "I am sure you would like to know the House, today, restored a sufficient amount of money to the Department of Public Welfare to take care of the money which was appropriated to the Vicksburg Monument."

On May 3, 1949, when the Legislature convened, House Bill No. 1 was introduced in the House by Representatives G. M. Taylor, Prattville, John H. Pinson, Geiger, and John W. Inzer, Jr., Gadsden, as sponsors. On June 21, Mr. Pinson made a memorable address on the floor of the House of Representatives in support of the bill. Sponsors of the bill in the upper chamber were Senators Albert Boutwell, Birmingham, George P. Quarles, Selma, and Silas D. Cater, Montgomery. Senator Preston C. Clayton offered an amendment to the original bill, which had by that time become designated by its opponents as The Tombstone Bill. Members of the U. D. C. effectively steered and followed it through various committees and channels until it reached the office of Governor James E. Folsom on July 19, 1949, and he signed into law, Legislative Act No. 253.

In the Vicksburg National Park the State Memorial will be placed on the designated Alabama Circle on South Confederate Avenue. Extensive landscaping and beautification of the spot has been in progress for months, while the magnificent group of bronze statuary is being completed in New York City. We are

indebted to the sculptor, Mr. Steffen Thomas, for his interpretation of the memorial as follows:

“This flag is the spirit of Alabama which never fell, being upheld and defended by men and women alike. The woman represents the womanhood of Alabama who stood ever ready to give comfort spiritually as well as physically—who maintained the homes, and with her courage supported the courage of her men, and with her inspiration kept forever high the spirit of Alabama against all odds—who even long after the war staunchly nurtured the flame that was the beautiful life and ideal of the South—and through the endurance of physical hardships and the cloudiness of long years has not let it die even to this day—this woman is Alabama herself.

“These men are the heroes who, with the last vestige of physical strength and moral courage, took a death stand in defense of their Southern ideals, their homes, the womanhood, and the spirit of Alabama.”

In addition to the memorial provided by State funds, the Alabama Division U. D. C. is, after many years of work, going to realize an appropriate memorial to Major General John H. Forney, one of the greatest heroes of the Vicksburg Campaign. He commanded the Second District of Vicksburg before and during the Siege. A number of private contributions have now assured the completion of the memorial, a beautiful heroic bronze statue on a granite base. It is being finished in New York by Steffen Thomas as sculptor. Members of the Alabama Division have been contributing to a fund for a memorial to General Forney since 1936.

Soon after the establishment of the Park, Captain Wm. T. Rigby, Chairman of the Vicksburg National Park Commission, informed Miss Mary Forney that the United States Government proposed to honor General Forney by reserving space in the park for his statue. His letter reads in part: “No General of the two armies, Union and Confederate, that contended on this battlefield, is more deserving of a statue than your father. . . . Your distinguished father, Major General John H. Forney, commanded the Division of the Confederate army under Lieut. General John C. Pemberton, that can fairly be said to have borne

the brunt of the assaults and the siege operations of the Union Army. The park work will be sadly incomplete and unfinished until his statue has been placed therein, at the commanding site just in rear of the center of the line of his Division, that has been reserved for it.

"In this connection, I desire to call attention to the fact that of the total casualties (3172), in the five commands of General Pemberton's Army engaged in the defense, (four Divisions and Waul's Texas Legion), more than one-third, (1120), were in Forney's Division. His personal gallantry, and the good conduct of his Division, during the defense of Vicksburg in the trying days of 1863, made the selection of General Forney as one of the heroes to be distinctively honored in this National Military Park, and now appeal convincingly to every lover of his whole country for recognition and perpetual remembrance. A fine statue of the General in this National Military Park is the best possible recognition of the valor of the men, and the ability of the Commander of the Division, that can be made."

Individual memorials to Alabamians in the Vicksburg Park are as follows: A bust of Brig. General E. D. Tracy, which was erected March 11, 1913 at a cost of \$555.00 for the bust, and \$181.67 for the pedestal. The sculptor was Solon H. Borglum, and the cost was paid from the park appropriation; a relief portrait of Major Samuel H. Lockett, erected March 1, 1910 at a cost of \$400.00. The sculptor was T. A. R. Kitson, and the cost was paid from the park appropriation; a bust of Col. (Gen.) Isham W. Garrott, which was erected in 1909 by his sons. William Couper was the sculptor; one thousand dollars which had been set aside from the park appropriation for the Forney memorial was returned to the U. S. Treasury in 1921. The regulation which provided the fund required this to be done in the event it was not used in a reasonable length of time.

Mrs. Lewis Sewall, of Mobile, served the Alabama Division U. D. C. as Chairman of the Vicksburg Committee from 1934 to 1942. To her is due full credit for having raised the funds which were used to defray necessary expenses of the Committee in acquainting the State Legislature with the undertaking in 1948-49. Mrs. Jesse Roberts of Montgomery became Chairman of the Committee in 1942. She was successful in having approved as a PWA project an heroic statue of Major General

John H. Forney. Because of a shortage of vital materials during World War II the statue was never completed. The appointment of the present Committee was made in 1947 by Mrs. John Privett of Birmingham, President of the Alabama Division U. D. C.

The Special Vicksburg Committee, in conjunction with a Committee of the State Legislature, is making elaborate plans for the dedication at a date to be announced later. It will probably be early summer before the work is complete. The Special Committee was appointed for the purpose of working with the State Building Commission. All details connected with the execution of the State Memorial have to be approved by this Committee. The Executive Board of the Alabama Division U. D. C. approved on October 25, 1950, the plans, specifications, and sketch model of the General John H. Forney statute. Members of the Special Vicksburg Committee are Mrs. Bibb Graves, Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, Mrs. Pickett C. Smith, Honorable John Pinson, Mrs. Joe E. Cooper, Mrs. Eugene Thames, Mrs. John B. Privett, Co-Chairman, and Mrs. W. C. Carson, Chairman.

The entire Committee is listed below. It was through cooperation and work of this Committee that the Vicksburg undertaking will eventually come to a successful conclusion.