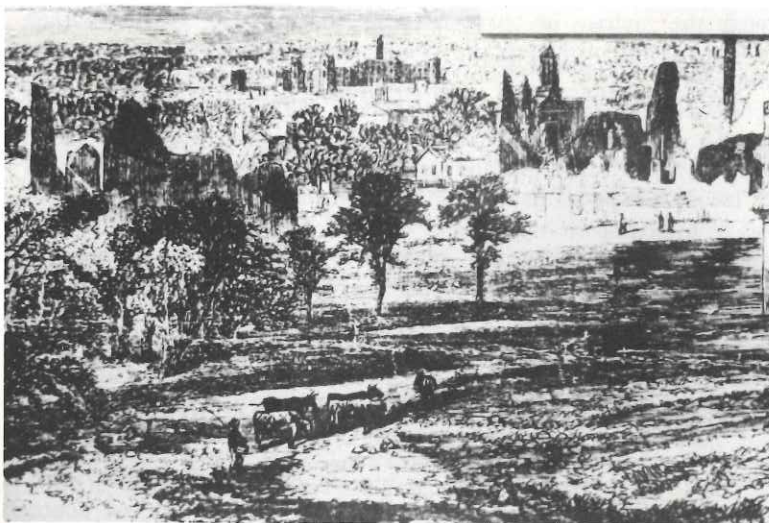


on surrendered, open-
ew Orleans. President
f waters rolls unvexed

A Confederate officer

word of exultation was
On the contrary, every
s filled with provisions,
erner, with the remark,
th."

ign, the most impor-
issippi. But Joseph
ant ordered Sherman
ossible, and Sherman
July 17 and burned
ed it "Chimneyville."
bruary 1864, and de-
not try to occupy it.
transferred to Ten-
us "march through



An interpretation of Jackson, burned.

In June 1864, Forrest defeated a Union force twice the size of his unit at the Battle of Brice's Crossroads in North Mississippi. Following this battle, Sherman wrote, "There will never be peace in Tennessee until Forrest is dead."

"The Very Devil"

Nathan Bedford Forrest was born in Tennessee in 1821, but from age thirteen he lived most of his years in Mississippi. He educated himself and was not very literate. He became a horse trader in Hernando, in North Mississippi. Then he operated a brickyard for a while. But he made his huge fortune—more than \$1,000,000—dealing in cattle, cotton, land, and slaves.

When he was 40 years old he enlisted as a private in the Confederate army, but he ended the war a lieutenant general. Sherman called him "the very devil." When Forrest won the Battle of Brice's Crossroads, he was asked for his secret of victory. He is said to have replied, "Git thar fust with the most men!"

On April 12, 1864, Forrest's men attacked Fort Pillow, a Union outpost on the Mississippi River 40 miles above Memphis. It was defended by 570 federal troops, of whom slightly less than half were black. A black private from Mississippi named Major Williams, who was wounded after the fort surrendered, told a congressional investigation afterwards about what happened: "I heard one of the officers say, 'Kill all the niggers'; another one said, 'No, Forrest says take them and send them to their masters.' Still, they kept on shooting."

After the fort fell, many of its defenders were massacred. According to testimony, some men were held up with their arms outstretched; nails were driven through their palms to the tent frame behind them; they were then

shot through the stomach or burned. There is little evidence that Forrest ordered the massacre, but he was the officer in charge and he took no action against his men.

In his farewell address to his men on May 9, 1865, he called on them to forget past bitterness and accept the outcome of the war. Two years later, while living in North Mississippi, he became Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. By 1869, perhaps because of public criticism of the Klan, he cut his connection with the organization.

He farmed near Memphis until his death in 1877. His life was an incredible combination of hard work, shrewd dealing in not-quite-honorable professions, brilliant tactics, and racism toward black people. These characteristics all combined help explain his success as slave trader, general, and planter.

Scattered Confederate guerrilla raids still took place from time to time. Thousands of Mississippians still fought and died with Johnston and Lee to the east. But in Mississippi, despite Forrest, there was after Vicksburg a kind of peace.

Visit a Battlefield

Seeing a battlefield close up, walking the hills and fields, reading the monuments and markers, give one a feeling of what the war actually meant to the soldiers on both sides. Vicksburg and Shiloh are the most important, but other battlefield sites well worth a visit include Ship Island, Grand Gulf, and Brice's Crossroads. Other monuments or markers indicating Civil War incidents are scattered throughout the state, at Iuka, Greenwood, Yazoo City, Biloxi, Macon, and many other sites. Find out if your area was the scene of any Civil War events.

*Union forces
destroy a
Mississippi
railroad.*

