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NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST

South's Most Dashing Cavalry Leader and Grand Wizard of the Invisible Empire

The following biographical sketch of Gen. Forrest is taken from "The Ku Klux Klan, or Invisible Empire," a little book giving the history of the mystic organization that southern men formed to defend their homes during the time of "The Great Misapprehension," as reconstruction days can most fittingly be called. The book was written by Mrs. S. E. F. Rose, the well known southern authoress, and has the endorsement of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, The copy which the Star has seen was presented to Mr. W. W. Harriss of Ocala, commander of the Florida Division, by Mr. Nathan Bedford Forrest, son of the great general and adjutant of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, who last week was the guest of Mr. Harriss and family:

General Nathan Bedford Forest

A brief biography of this great general will not be amiss in this book. for his record in the service of the Confederacy, as well as during the period of reconstruction, shows that he was not only great in war, but great

It should be borne in mind, by the readers of this book, especially by our young people, that General Forrest, the intrepid confederate cavalry leader, called "The Wizard of the Saddle," was also the leader of the Ku Klux Klan, with the title, "Grand Wizard of the Invisible Empire." as the Klan was also called.

his noble principles and sacred honor pledged to protect the South, puts at naught forever any false statements as to the purposes of the Klan, and challenges and stigma 'or misrepresentations as to the character of its members, for they were in the main Confederate soldiers, and Forrest was its great leader, and under his leadership and with the loyalty of the members, the mission of the Ku Klux Klan, or Invisible Empire, was successfully accomplished.

Nathan Bedford Forrest was born in Bedford county, Tennessee, July 13, 1821. His father moved to Marshall county, Mississippi, in 1834. General Forrest died in Memphis, Tennessee, October 29, 1877.

At the outbreak of the war between the states, he entered the confederate service, and rose step by step from the position of a private in the ranks, to that of lieutenant-general.

He entered June 14, 1861, as a private in White's Mounted Rifles, and obtained authority to raise a regiment of cavalry, the equipment for which he purchased at his private expense at Louisville, Ky.

He was placed in command of the Confederate cavalry at Fort Donelson, February, 1862, and distinguished himself in this conflict. When surrender was decided upon, not being willing to agree to the terms dictated by the Federals he led his men out through the enemy's lines.

He took an active part in the battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862; was there wounded, but refused to leave the field until the safety of the army was assured. He was promoted brigadergeneral July 21, 1862. During the movement in Kentucky, he hung upon the flank of Buell's command, protected Bragg's retreat, and while the army was in winter quarters, covered damage continually to the enemy.

In 1863 he entered Tennessee, and with less than one thousand men captured McMinnville, and surprised the garrison of two thousand at Murfreesboro, capturing all the survivors of

General Streight, in his cavalry raid America ever produced. to Rome, Ga., was pursued by General Forrest, whose demand for surrender was so imperative, that Gen. Streight turned over his entire command, which was so much larger than that of General Forrest, he had to press into service many of the citizens to help form an adequate guard.

At the battle of Chicamauga, September 19-20, 1863, General Forrest also rendered distinguished service, but became so dissatisfied at the incompleteness of the Confederate victory, he tendered his resignation. However this was not accepted, and further promotion was given him, and he was made major-general, placed in command of all cavalry in North Mississippi and West Tennessee, and made the guardian of the granary of the Confederacy.

With a small force he entered West Tennessee, and recruited several thousand hardy volunteers, and with some veteran troops he formed that invincible body, known as "Forrest's Cavalry."

In 1864, he utterly routed General Smith with seven thousand men, and General Sherman in cooperation, at

Okolona and Prairie Mound. Forrest then rode through Tennes-

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His high standing as a Confederate see to the Ohio river, capturing Fort officer, his devotion to his country, Pillow, Union City, and other posts and their garrisons. On June 8, 1864, Forrest encountered General Sturgis at Brice's Cross Roads, and won a signal victory. Sturgis suffering one of the most humiliating defeats of the war, losing all his trains and a third of his men. General Smith renewed the fight, and was again defeated after a desperate battle at Harrisburg, near Tupelo, on July 14, 1864.

His great victory at Tishomingo Creek, like all his victories, was won against great odds, showing his determination, personal courage and force of character, making him one of the most remarkable men in the Confederate service and the most remark- preme officer, the South was redeemable cavalry leader of the Confeder- ed from destruction. acy. After his defeat at Harrisburg, General A. J. Smith, with reinforced erected to his memory, but his greatments, advanced from Memphis, but monument is erected in the hearts was compelled to retreat by the in- of the people of the Southland, whom eral Forrest played havoc with Fed- fully. eral transportation and garrisons in All honor to to General Nathan Bed-Tennessee, and at Johnsonville captur- ford Forrest, leader of the Confed- The Best Interior Finishing ed and destroyed six million dollars erate cavalry, and of the Ku Klux worth of the enemy's supplies, and al- Klan. so a gun boat fleet.

wrote this, "That was a 'feat of arms,' the Confederate Military History, which I must confess, excited my ad- Vol. I. miration." On another occasion, Sherman complimented Forrest. When he was making his raid through Georgia, Forrest following him closely and giving him so much trouble in the rear, it has been stated, that Gen- here you will find them at \$1.50 to \$5. eral Sherman telegraphed to the war The supply is limited and when they department at Washington "To keep are gone there will be no more until that devil Forrest off my heels, if it after the holidays. J. C. Smith, the takes ten thousand men to do it." Jeweler.

After the fall of Atlanta, he joined General Hood at Florence, Alabama, and fought at the bloody battle of Franklin and at Nashville. As commander of the rear guard of

the Federal front at Nashville, doing the retreating Confederate army, Forrest showed those heroic qualities, which caused him to be likened to the "About a year ago I was troubled wonderful Marshal Ney, who cover-ed the retreat of the great Napoleon ache that lasted for two or three from Moscow. European authorities have pronounced Forrest the magnificent cavalry officer

> He was promoted lieutenant-general February 1865, and given the duty to guard the frontier from Decatur, Alabama to the Mississippi.

He made his last fight at Selma, Alabama, and there on May 9th surrendered his command. It has been stated that he was under fire 179 times during the four years of war, and he stated, "That his provost marshal's book would show that he had taken 31,000 prisoners."

Some writer said, "Forrest was not taught at West Point, but he gave lessons to West Point." This expression of General Forrest

has become famous, "War means killing, and the way to kill is to get there first with the most men." Senator Daniel said of him, "What genius was in that wonderful man.

the keys of the piano."

arms, The War Between the States. nounced, for during the dark days of reconstruction, a period more terrible even than the war itself, with the Ku

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THE PARTY OF THE P

Many great monuments have been trepid Forrest. Then for awhile Gen- he loved so well and served so faith-

Note:-The facts for the above bi-The Federal General Sherman ographical sketch were obtained from

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