



The June Newsletter

**The Meeting will be Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 3:00 pm
in the Meeting Room of the McMillan Museum
on the Brewton College Campus.**



**The Lyceum One of
Original Buildings at
Ole Miss.
Built 1846-1848.**

The Program: Guest Speaker Robert Amacker Will Present a Program on Ole Miss and the Civil War.

*Internet research produced the following synopsis on the
subject of Ole Miss and the Civil War:*

The University of Mississippi, Ole Miss, played a significant role in the Civil War, both in terms of student participation and the impact of the conflict on the campus itself. Many students enlisted in Confederate units, most notably the "University Greys", and the university temporarily closed due

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Upcoming Programs

**July 22: Speaker– Society Member Alex Luttrell
Topic–"Growing Up in Brewton"**

**August: No Meeting–Because of the state elections on
August 26, the meeting room in the Museum will be
used for voting.**

**Consider Donating to the Purchase of a Digitizing Machine
For the Alabama Room and the Museum.**

The Society and Museum are in the process of raising the money to pay for such a machine.

The primary benefits of such equipment are enhanced access to and preservation of materials as well as increased operational efficiency. Enhanced access encourages research and education, promoting lifetime learning. Enhanced preservation means less handling of original material, the saving of decaying material, long term, safe and better storage as well as better space management.

The initial cost is significant but the long-term benefits of enhanced access and preservation as well as time and cost benefits outweigh the initial cost. Also, the Museum plans to promote the idea of other local organizations digitizing their records through the Museum's machine, fees charged of course.

Refreshments

Plan on again bringing your favorite finger foods for the June Meeting. The Society will provide drinks.



**The Lyceum
Today**

**Volume 52
No. 6 June
2025**

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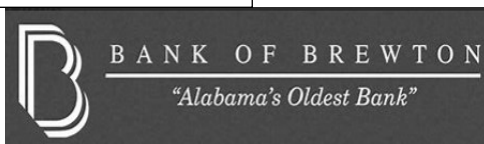
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The Program

(Continued from page 1)

to the mass enlistment. While the city of Oxford experienced destruction, the university largely survived due to the intervention of Union generals who had connections to faculty members.

Student Involvement:

Mass Enlistment:

At the start of the war, a large number of students left the university to join the Confederate cause.

"University Greys":

This company, composed mainly of students, was part of the 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment.

Temporary Closure:

So few students remained that the university closed its doors in the fall of 1861 and did not reopen until 1865.

Impact on the University:

Campus Occupied:

The university's buildings were occupied at various times by both Confederate and Union forces.

Preservation Efforts:

Despite the destruction in Oxford, the university was largely spared due to the influence of Union

generals like Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman, who had connections to Ole Miss faculty members.

Commemoration:

The university has acknowledged its Civil War history through various means, including on buildings, signs recognizing slave labor in construction, and the placement of a Confederate statue in the Grove.

Symbols and Controversy:

The university's history is reflected in its traditions, including the nickname "Rebels" and the former mascot "Colonel Reb," which have been the subject of debate and efforts to re-frame or contextualize their meaning.

Modern Context:

Center for Civil War Research:

The University of Mississippi houses the Center for Civil War Research, which promotes a deeper understanding of the war and its legacy.

Ongoing Dialogue:

The university continues to grapple with its Civil War past through academic research, public discussions, and efforts to contextualize its historical symbols and Monuments.

<<https://www.google.com/search?q=University+of+Mississippi+and+the+Civil+War>>.

Intervention of Union General Ulysses S. Grant

Ole Miss, the University of Mississippi, was not burned during the Civil War due to the intervention of Union General Ulysses S. Grant and other factors. Grant, influenced by personal connections with university officials like Dr. Barnard (Professor and then President), chose to spare the campus from destruction after it was briefly used as a hospital for Confederate and Union wounded.

Early Use as a Hospital:

Shortly after the Civil War began, the university campus was converted into a hospital for Confederate soldiers.

Grant's Approach and Intervention:

When Union forces, led by General Grant, approached Oxford, the campus was evacuated. A lone professor, leveraging his

connection with the North and specifically with Grant, persuaded Grant not to burn the university.

Grant's Personal Influence:

Grant's friendship with former Ole Miss professor Dr. Barnard played a significant role in his decision to spare the university, according to the student newspaper, The Daily Mississippian.

Destruction of Medical Equipment:

While the campus was spared from being burned, Kansas troops did destroy much of the medical equipment.

Return to Confederate Use:

After Grant's forces left, the university returned to being a Confederate hospital, and over 700 wounded soldiers died and were buried on campus.

<<https://www.google.com/search?q=University+of+Mississippi+and+the+Civil+War>>.

Ole Miss Class of 1861

The photographs on this site are from a book created for the 1861 graduating class. The book highlights the buildings, faculty, and senior class at the University of Mississippi just prior to the start of the Civil War.

Students at the university during this period were subject to extreme regimentation. A typical day began at sunrise and continued until the 9pm curfew. Faculty checked students' rooms at least once a day, and the university prohibited the sale of liquor within five miles of campus. Under such strict regulations, students often found themselves suspended.

Frederick Augustus Porter (F.A.P.) Barnard, President and Chancellor of the university during these students' tenure, attempted to reorganize the university and its methods of operation to create a more demanding academic institution. Although he was unable to enact all his plans, Barnard created separate



Class of 1861

departments for physics, chemistry and mathematics.

During the spring of 1861, political events interrupted campus activities, and many students withdrew before the end of the school term to enlist in the Confederate Army. Most joined a company called the "University Greys" led by William B. Lowry, a nineteen year old student.

Others joined the Lamar Rifles (another Lafayette County unit) or returned

home to enlist in local units.

With only four students registered for fall classes, the university closed, and would not resume classes until 1865. Many of the 1861 graduates lost their lives fighting for the Confederacy. In 1866 the University of Mississippi awarded the class of 1861 diplomas; only Captain Francis A. Pope attended the ceremony. From <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/exhibit/university-collections/1861-senior-class-book/students-1861/>.

The Buildings



Bernard Observatory



The Chapel



The Lyceum Building



Steward's Hall



Bernard Observatory Today.

Frederick Augustus Porter (F.A.P.) Barnard, President and Chancellor of the University of Mississippi (also later President of Columbia) during the tenure of the students of the class of 1861, attempted to reorganize the university and its methods of operation to create a more demanding academic institution. Although he was unable to enact all his plans, Barnard created separate departments for physics, chemistry and mathematics.

The older of UM's two observatories, one of the few remaining antebellum buildings on campus, is now the Bernard Observatory.



Frederick Barnard.

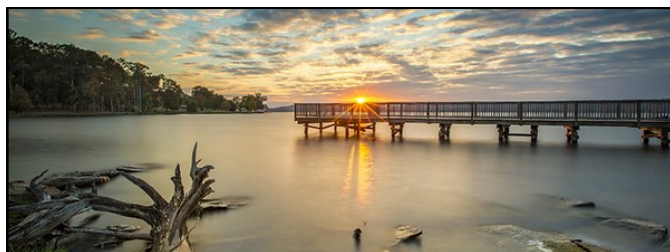
News and Announcements



Former ECHS President Dwight Milligan Passed Away in May.

Dwight was ECHS President from 1996-1997. He was admired for his ability to play several musical instruments. He loved music and story telling.

Alabama Historical Association Fall Pilgrimage October 24-25, 2025 Guntersville, Alabama



Lake Guntersville

Alabama Historical Association 78th Annual Meeting April 9-11, 2026 Fairhope, Alabama



**Dedication of
Public School,
Fairhope, AL,
1900 01909**

The ECHS *Journal* Section

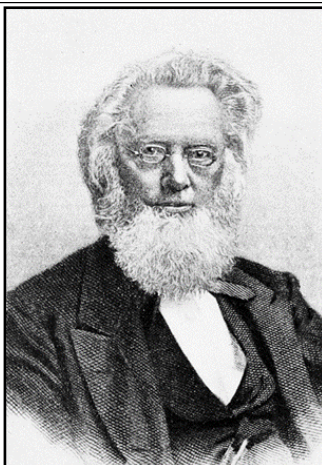
How Ole Miss Survived a Fiery Death During the Civil War

By Adam Brown

[a<https://thedmonline.com/how-ole-miss-survived-a-fiery-death-during-the-civil-war/>.](https://thedmonline.com/how-ole-miss-survived-a-fiery-death-during-the-civil-war/)

Frederick Augustus Porter Barnard, third headmaster of the University of Mississippi but the first one to be titled chancellor, helped the university survive one of the South's most devastating attacks: Gen. William Sherman's March to the Sea during the Civil War.

While teaching at a Louisiana Seminary, Barnard made a friend whose name may sound familiar – William Tecumseh Sherman – who would later become a general in the Union Army known for burning his way across the South.



**University of
Mississippi
Chancellor Frederick
Augustus Porter
Barnard.**

Junior history major Samantha Case, an ambassador for the UM Department of History, is familiar with the story of collaboration between Sherman and Barnard.

"I think the friendship they formed there (in seminary) did help the university. Just because both universities are in the South," Case said. "I also think that when Sherman walked through the university, he saw Barnard Observatory and connected it to his old friend."

The Ole Miss Experience, a book edited by Natasha Jeter that is frequently used as an educational tool in freshman and transfer experience classes, quotes Sherman while troops

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How Ole Miss Survived a Fiery Death During the Civil War

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under his command were making their way through the South and stopped at the university.

“When I rode through the grounds of the college, I thought of you (Barnard) ... and ... thought I saw traces of your life, of which I remember you spoke,” Sherman said.

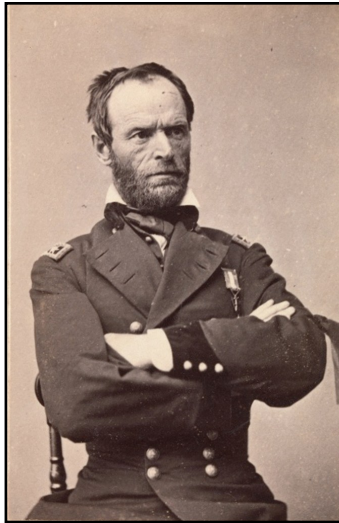
Following this reflection, Sherman gave an order to the Union soldiers led by Gen. A.J. “Whiskey” Smith to spare the university’s campus because of his friendship with Barnard.

One of the buildings that was spared was the new observatory, which was to house, at the time, the world’s largest telescope. Today it is Barnard Observatory.

According to the book Historical Catalogue of the University of Mississippi 1849-1909, which was compiled by UM, the university would also be saved by the soldiers occupying it.

During the Civil War, the buildings of the university were occupied sometimes by Confederate and sometimes by federal soldiery.

The catalog describes how federal soldiers in par-



William Tecumseh Sherman

ticular spared the university. The text reveals that Gen. Sherman was not the only leader for the Union vying for the university’s safety. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant also formed a friendship with Barnard, and that relationship, too, helped secure the university’s safety.

“When the university’s buildings were occupied by federal soldiery the personal influence of the late Professors Barnard, Boynton and others who were in the North secured the interest of Gen. Grant in the protection of the apparatus and buildings belonging to the institution,”

Having the two most powerful men from the North taking an interest in the well being of UM and helping to preserve the campus is the largest reason

the campus was spared from destruction. Gen. Sherman’s goal during his march was to obliterate the South’s way to support itself by burning all of the fields and buildings.

The Ole Miss Experience book corroborates what Case said. While most of the city of Oxford was burned, much of the university was spared.

University Greys

From Wikipedia at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_Greys>.

The University Greys (or Grays) were Company A of the 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment in the Confederate Army during the American Civil War. Part of the Army of Northern Virginia, the Greys served in many of the most famous and bloody battles of the war.

Formation

At the beginning of the American Civil War, most of the student body of the University of Mississippi rallied to the Confederate cause.^[1] Some 55 of the students joined the “University Greys” and 17 enlisted with the “Lamar Rifles,” a Lafayette County militia, while others joined with various other state regiments. Overall, nearly the entire student body (135

men, with the final total men ever enlisted numbering 150) enlisted; only four students reported for classes in fall 1861, so few that the university closed temporarily.

The Greys rifle company joined the 11th Infantry at its inception on May 4, 1861, after Mississippi seceded from the Union. Their name “University Greys” derived from the gray color of the men’s uniforms and from the fact that almost all of the Greys were students at the university.

Engagements

The Greys fought at the First Battle of Manassas in the brigade of Brigadier General Barnard Elliott Bee, a unit of the Army of the Shenandoah (Confederate) Army under the command of then-Brigadier General Joseph E. Johnston. They also fought at

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

University Greys

(Continued from page 5)

the Battle of Gaines's Mill, the Battle of Malvern Hill, the Second Battle of Manassas, the Battle of South Mountain and the Battle of Antietam.

As a unit of the division under the command of Brigadier General J. Johnston Pettigrew in Pickett's Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg, when the Confederates made a desperate frontal assault on the Union entrenchments atop Cemetery Ridge on July 3, 1863, the Greys penetrated further into the Union position than any other unit, but at a terrible cost: every soldier in the company who started the assault was either killed, wounded or captured.

After Gettysburg, the depleted Greys were merged with Company G (the "Lamar Rifles"). The unit continued to fight until the last days of the war.



Stained glass window in Ventress Hall dedicated to the University Grays.



Corporal L. Purnell of Co. I, 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment, the Greys.

Oxford's Olden Days: The Civil War Hospital, War Purposes for University

By Adam Brown

<https://www.hottytoddy.com/2015/04/21/oxfords-olden-days-the-civil-war-hospital-war-purposes-for-university/>.

Three different times during the Civil War the University of Mississippi campus buildings were used as a hospital for sick and injured soldiers. The first time was by Confederate soldiers after the Battle of Shiloh, then by General Grant's Federal troops during his occupation of Oxford, and lastly by General Forrest's troops when Federal troops retreated to Memphis after Van Dorn's raid on Holly Springs.

At the beginning of the Civil War eighty percent of the University students joined various Confederate units to fight in the war. The Governor of Mississippi, John J. Pettus, and the Board of Trustees appointed two professors, Dr. Eugene W. Hilgard and Dr. A. J. Quinche, along with Burton Harrison, a student, to care for the University buildings while the campus was closed. They set up a residence, with their families, in the building now known as the Barnard Observatory.

Dr. Eugene W. Hilgard was also the geologist of the State of Mississippi from 1857 to 1873. He had been hired as a professor at the University after graduation from Heidelberg University in Germany at age twenty where he had earned a summa cum laude Ph.D.

Dr. A. J. Quinche was a professor of Latin and Romance languages and a native of Minnesota. He had come to the University from Illinois when he had been a friend of General Grant's family.

Mr. Burton Harrison was from Aberdeen and he had promised his mother that he would not join the other students in service to the South until after the winter. He would later become the personal secretary to President Jefferson Davis with the assistance of L. Q. C. Lamar.

The use of the University of Mississippi campus buildings as a Confederate hospital was first purposed by T. W. Caskey, a Presbyterian minister. He had been appointed by Governor Pettus to find a suitable

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Oxford's Olden Days: The Civil War Hospital, War Purposes for University

(Continued from page 6)

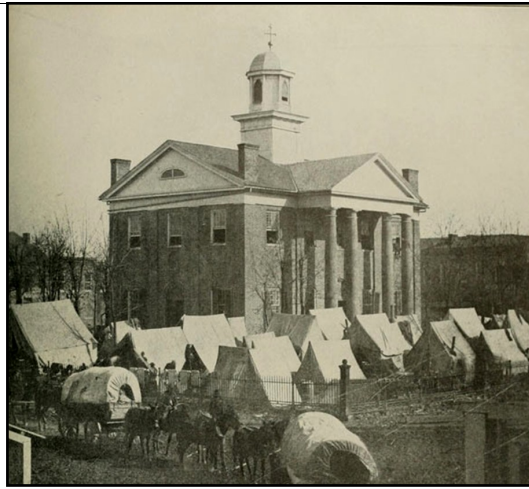
place for a hospital after the fall of Fort Donelson in February of 1862. Since another battle was emanate with Federal troops advancing on Mississippi, a place in northern Mississippi was needed.

Immediately after the battle of Shiloh, on April 6 and 7 of 1862, word was brought to Oxford and the University that there would be sent by railroad a great number of sick and wounded soldiers. When this news reached Oxford excitement ran high in the town. The people of Oxford gathered mattresses, beds, cots, bedding, and everything that could be spared to comfort the soldiers.

On the campus several buildings were prepared for the wounded and sick. The chapel, Lyceum, three dormitories, and other residence buildings formally used by professors were readied for use. The building known as the magnetic observatory was to later be used as the morgue. This building would later be called the "Dead House".

During this time the post surgeon was Dr. T. D. Isom of Oxford. Dr. Gillespie of Grenada and other doctors from Oxford assisted him. For nurses they depended on the ladies of Oxford. One convalescent soldier and a slave for each nurse assisted the ladies. Many convalescent soldiers were taken to homes of Oxford residents. They were assigned by twos to families wishing to take them in. Mrs. M. C. Neilson had the only sewing machine in Oxford and it was used from dawn to dusk making garments for the soldiers. Even the young girls and little children were allowed to help in making bandages and scraping lint to be used in the dressing of wounds.

In early December, 1862, General Grant made his entrance into Oxford. The wounded soldiers were moved to the south to Grenada and other field hospitals that had been established. Due to Dr. Quinche's friendship with the Grant family and Dr. Hilgard's



**General Grant's Forces
Encamped at
Oxford, Mississippi.**

suggestion to General A. J. Smith that the University could be used for the same purpose that the Confederates had used the University buildings, the buildings were spared the torch because they had been used for "war purposes."

Grant's army remained in Oxford for three weeks and left the town and University on Christmas Day, 1862. Grant had learned how to supply his troops from the land around him. When they left Oxford the weather was intensely cold, mud, sleet and rain everywhere, and the country literally devastated for ten miles in all direc-

tions of Oxford. General Van Dorn had raided Holly Springs and General Forrest had cut off Grant's line of communication from Memphis.

After the Federal retreat from Oxford, General Forrest would use the buildings on campus from time to time for his soldiers. This would be to use of the University buildings until the burning of Oxford in August, 1864. After that time the buildings were no longer needed. The battles were going on elsewhere and the University of Mississippi had served its "war purpose" for both the North and the South.

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$26.00
Escambia Historical Society Cookbook	\$10.00	\$15.00
Wildflowers of The Conecuh/Escambia River Basin CD	\$10.00	\$15.00
History of Brewton and E. Brewton (SC)	\$40.00	\$46.00
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ECHOES, The newsletter for the Escambia County Historical Society, a 501 (c) (3) corporation, is published monthly except November. Comments are welcome. You may email the Society at escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com or call 251-809-1528.

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