Jefferson Davis Memorial Trail

ORGANIZED AND SPONSORED BY
TROOP 212 AND THE BILOXI DISTRICT
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

This project includes a twenty mile hike planned to emphasize historical features centered around the City of Biloxi, Mississippi, especially the life of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy.

This program was conceived to encourage additional historical interest in our American tradition which at the same time offers the Scout the opportunity of earning a trail medal as pictured on the cover. Completing the Jefferson Davis Trail qualifies the hiker for the Number Two requirement of the hiking merit badge.

The Jefferson Davis Memorial Trail costs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fee</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pictorial Booklet</td>
<td>$0.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medal</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
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(Plus Beauvoir entrance fee to be paid at Shrine 30c)

A very fine piece of art work in the form of a pictorial map of the trail route is included in the above. The art work was done by Dale Nichols and donated to the trail by C. C. Hamill, a coast resident, scout worker, and publisher of “DOWN SOUTH” Magazine.

This booklet includes a working or hiking map so you may preserve the pictorial one for framing—it is worth it.

THE TRAIL MEDAL

A cheaper one could have been provided, but in this bronze die struck, reproduction of the portrait of Jefferson Davis upon the flag of the Confederacy, plus the title bar pin, connected by ribbon, we feel only the best has been provided and that the result is worth the cost. A medal any Scout, who has earned it, should wear with pride.

TRAIL HISTORY

As this revised, second printing of the Jefferson Davis Memorial Trail booklet goes to press, it is interesting and gratifying to note that the one thousandth Scout has just finished walking this 21 miles of historical interest.

These Scouts have come from many states and represent many troops.

Several girl scouts and one den mother have also made the trail. One youngster, a polio victim did so on crutches, and another with full braces.

At this time we think it fitting to list the names of those who on December 15th, 1957, pioneered the Jefferson Davis Memorial Trail. Many of these are devoted scout workers and some have walked the trail two and three times with other groups.

Paul Galle
Thomas Laing
Henry Dick
Keith Galle
Joseph Davis
A. J. Stanovich
J. P. Scarborough
Ray Bass

Douglas Ruffin
Louis Rosetti
John Treuting
X. Maumus
E. B. Noble
John Hilton
Alfred Hilton

CAMP WILKES

FIRST CHECK POINT ON THE TRAIL

Camp Wilkes consists of an 80 acre tract on the Back Bay of Biloxi, 8½ miles from the center of Biloxi. The camp was named for Eugene Wilkes, publisher of the Gulfport-Biloxi Daily Herald, for his untiring work in making the present camp one of the finest of its kind in the South. Camp Wilkes, Incorporated, is a non-profit organization composed of Boy and Girl Scout Leaders of the Biloxi and Ocean Springs District. The camp is operated by completely volunteer services of the leaders for the use and enjoyment of youth groups under adult guidance. Ownership of the land, buildings and improvement is in the name of all registered scout leaders of the district.

Camp Wilkes originated at a site now occupied by Keesler Air Force Base and was moved to the present site in 1942. All brick or concrete buildings and the swimming pool have been added since. Camp Wilkes participates in the United Fund and its main support financially comes from voluntary gifts of individuals, Civic Clubs, Fraternal and Veterans Organizations.

Most of the maintenance and repair work is done by local scouts and leaders.

The camp with year round caretaker in charge, includes sleeping, cooking, toilet and shower facilities. Recreational facilities at the camp includes, swimming pool, open playground area, horseshoe pits. The camp is regularly inspected by the county health department.
CAMP WILKES RULES

LEADER OF GROUP MUST CHECK IN WITH CARETAKER ON ARRIVAL AND CHECK OUT ON DEPARTURE.

ALL groups must be accompanied by ADULT leaders. Camp Wilkes does not accommodate children under 12 years of age.

LIFEGUARD must be on duty at swimming pool while it is being used by anyone. Fee for swimming pool is 25c per day.

Canteen will be operated by caretaker on request of leader of group.

DO NOT bring guns, dogs, or pets, or fireworks to Camp Wilkes.

NO COOKING FIRE OR PICNICING IS PERMITTED IN COUNCIL RING.

Camp Wilkes does not furnish sheets, blankets, towels, or any personal equipment. Camp Wilkes does not furnish food or cooks.

HOW TO GET TO CAMP WILKES

Above map shows location of Camp Wilkes in relation to Biloxi, Beauvoir, Highway 90, etc. (Beauvoir to Camp Wilkes 5 miles.)

Upon arrival call one of the following:

ID 2-8080 — A. J. Stanovich
ID 2-7878 — Mrs. Grace Stanovich
ID 6-6040 — E. B. Noble

ID 6-4831 — Kline Coquet
ID 2-5361 — Kline Coquet
ID 2-5021 — Lee Chinn (Camp Wilkes)
Jefferson Davis Shrine
Midway between Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi
On United States Highway 90
Which has been Dedicated The Jefferson Davis Highway

OPEN DAILY TO GUESTS

BEAUVOIR

The second check point on the trail is the historical last home of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy. It was here that he wrote "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government." Now a Southern shrine open to visitors, it is the most priceless building in Biloxi.

The last home of Jefferson Davis of the Southern Confederacy, on Biloxi's West Beach Boulevard, faces the beautiful Gulf Coast of the State of Mississippi, and is called "Beauvoir".

THIS UNUSUAL OLD SOUTHERN HOME with a palm tree protruding through the steps was occupied by Father Abram Ryan, Poet-Priest of the Southern Confederacy. It is located on West Beach Boulevard at Biloxi, Mississippi and overlooks the Gulf of Mexico. Here, Father Ryan wrote some of his best works. This is one of the many historical points of interest of the scenic Biloxi area.
IN THIS OLD FRENCH CEMETERY at Biloxi, Mississippi, overlooking the Gulf, is the tomb of Jean Cueva, who became a hero when he refused to show the British the inland waterways route to New Orleans during the War of 1812. Cueva was captured and held prisoner by the British when their fleet anchored off Biloxi in December, 1814, prior to the Battle of New Orleans. The cemetery has many burial places of historic interest, including the massive tomb and grave of James Parks Caldwell, a founder of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Biloxi on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi has been under eight flags. Founded by the French in 1699. The flags are from left to right: French, English, West Florida Republic, Mississippi Magnolia State, United States of America, Confederate States, Mississippi State, and Spanish.
Lighthouse

Built in 1848. It is said at the beginning of the War between the States, and when Ship Island was taken, a Biloxi citizen climbed the sixty-five foot tower, removed the lens and buried it. Later the lens were returned to the tower. It was painted black at the time of Lincoln's assassination. For 62 years this lighthouse was tended by mother and daughter, Marie and Miranda Younghans. Now electrically and automatically operated, this Lighthouse is presently in charge of the U. S. Coast Guard.

Biloxi

Biloxi, located on the Gulf of Mexico, was settled in 1699 by Pierre leMoyne d'Iberville for King Louis XIV, under the Fleur-de-Lis Flag of France. Biloxi was once the capital of all the Louisiana Purchase Territory. There are many historical points of interest here in the oldest French city in the United States. Biloxi is also noted for its sunshine, flowers, gardens, old homes, fishing, shrimp and oyster industry, and government installations.

The southeast side of the City of Biloxi peninsula showing the new four-lane highway (US No. 90). Part of the new Harrison County sand beach is shown at the right along the Gulf of Mexico, while the Bay of Biloxi appears at the top. A section of the Biloxi shrimp and oyster fisheries are shown where the sand beach comes to an end. Both the new four-lane highway and sand beach are some twenty-six miles in length, running from the Bay of Biloxi to the Bay of St. Louis. The historic Biloxi lighthouse is in the center of the neutral ground on the right. In the immediate foreground is the area upon which was located (1718-22) Fort Louis, when Biloxi was for the third time the capital of the vast French Province of Louisiana. In addition to being the shrimp capital of the United States, Biloxi is also a year-round resort and convention center.

A SECTOR of the central part of the Biloxi peninsula on the Mississippi Gulf Coast showing the Biloxi Port Commission Inner Harbor, the USO building and the Biloxi Yacht Club on the Gulf of Mexico. In the distance at top right may be seen the Back Bay of Biloxi into which flow several rivers and bayous. Deep sea charter boats operate out of the Inner Harbor. Fishing and boating is to be had in all of these waters and tributaries. There are 26 miles of sand beaches. Keesler Air Force Base is at the top, left.
A SCENE showing a section of Ship Island on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi some 12 miles south of Biloxi. Fort Massachusetts is at the left and the Ship Island lighthouse is at the right. The French fleet anchored here in 1699 before coming ashore to establish Biloxi as the first Capitol of the French Province of Louisiana. In the War of 1812 the British expedition, on their way to capture New Orleans, anchored in the lee of the island. The Union Army and Navy made its Gulf headquarters here during the Civil War.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

THIRD CHECK POINT

This is another check point on the Trail. The Jefferson Davis family pew is located in the new church which was built in 1892; it is marked with name plate and draped with the Confederate flag. There are 58 memorials within this edifice, whose beautiful stained glass windows, altar and other memorials contribute to the significance it holds as the Church where Jefferson Davis worshipped and served as a vestryman. The nearby chapel, which is the old original church, was built prior to the Civil War and is now the Parish House.

RING IN THE OAK

Directly in front of the Rectory of the Church of the Redeemer stands a huge live oak tree in which there is a ring formed by its lower branches. A phenomenon of nature, tradition is that a coastal storm thus twisted its branches, thereby wrestling the reluctant consent of a Biloxi Indian Chief to the marriage of his daughter to a warrior of a rival tribe of Natchez Indians.
Leaving dining hall at Camp Wilkes go north one mile thru gate to main road (at mail boxes) turn left at Scout sign, going west, swinging south one and one half miles over bridge to Pass Road. Turn left one block then right going south to Beach and Beauvoir, the second check point. Continue east along sea wall past Lighthouse to Church of the Redeemer, the third check point. Leaving the Church, continue east on Highway 90 to Myrtle Street, turn north to Howard Ave., and Rosetti's Cafe, the fourth check point. Leaving Rosetti's, go west on Howard Ave., to Oak Street, turning north on Oak to Back Bay, go west on Bay View Ave. to Haven's Delicatessen, the fifth check point. Continue west on Bay View to Forrest Ave., turning south two blocks to Keesler Field Gate No. 1, go thru gate to hanger row, pass base flag pole, returning east to Keesler gate No. 2, the last check point.
THERE ARE MANY BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS of Southern Colonial style architecture at historic Biloxi, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, among which is the Community House in the Central Beach Park, which faces the Gulf of Mexico. This building is the scene of Biloxi’s Mardi Gras balls, Boy Scout Courts of Honor and many civic activities. Just to the rear of the large buildings are two buildings which serve as meeting places for four Scout Troops and other district activities. A World War II monument and public pier is just to the south across Highway 90. Read bronze plate on cannon base for cannon history.

A SCENE, THE ANNUAL BILOXI SHRIMP FESTIVAL which features a shrimp buffet of fifteen different shrimp dishes and the Blessing of the Fishing Fleet. The later event included a marine pageant of some 400 shrimp trawlers. Trophies and cash prizes go to the captains of the three best decorated vessels. The affair centered around the fleet blessing, an old-world custom, is staged at Biloxi, Mississippi, on the Gulf of Mexico where some thousands of people are employed in the shrimp and other fisheries. Biloxi, which was founded in 1699 is the largest individual shrimp port in the world.
COZY "SHOO-FLY" TREE PLATFORM—The above photo, made just east of the Church of the Redeemer is one of a few of the surviving picturesque tree platforms commonly called "Shoo-Fly". It seems the term "Shoo-Fly" was very common in the old days when the Coast was pestered with the deer fly. People sort of muttered the expression automatically when they swatted at one, and anything which moved that might discourage the approach and attack of the ubiquitous pest was often referred to as a "Shoo-Fly". Such as the ceiling fans that were operated by a cord pulled by a little colored boy. Even a child's rocker could be so called. So, when they built these tree platforms about 9 feet above ground because the mosquitoes and deer flies did not seem to bother too much that high, it was perfectly logical for them to refer to their practically pest proof sanctuaries as "Shoo-Flys". (Information courtesy of Mr. Ray M. Thompson, writer of "KNOW YOUR COAST").

THE EXTREME EASTERN END of the Biloxi peninsula on the Mississippi Gulf Coast showing several of the shrimp and oyster canneries and packing plants. The Gulf of Mexico is at the bottom. At the top appears the Bay of Biloxi. The two bridges at the right are the Louisville & Nashville Railroad and the U. S. Highway No. 90 bridges.

SHRIMP BOATS TAKING PLACES in procession to pass point of Blessing and Judges stand in Shrimp Festival Pageant.
POINT CADET  
FOURTH CHECK POINT ROSETTI'S CAFE

Biloxi is a peninsula city, with a natural layout for maritime development. The seafood industries are carried on along the Point Cadet shores.

Here more than 900 boats and 5,000 people are employed in the picturesque shrimp and oyster industries at Biloxi.

Along the trail following the shore of Back Bay of Biloxi, you will see evidence of the fishing industry and boat building that has made Biloxi famous. Biloxi-made luggers and yachts are known throughout the country.

HAVEN'S STORE, CORNER FAYARD & BAYVIEW  
FIFTH CHECK POINT

BOAT BUILDING is an important part of the picturesque and interesting seafood industry at Biloxi, Mississippi, on the Gulf of Mexico. Along the shores of the historic Biloxi peninsula, boat repairs and construction goes on every week of the year. These vessels are used in the Biloxi shrimp and oyster industry and also for other parts of the Gulf States. Many of the boat builders are descendants of the French colonizers, who first constructed boats here as far back as 1699. Pleasure craft are constructed in addition to "work" boats.

A FISHERMAN OF DALMATIAN ANCESTORY, knits a shrimp trawl net in one of the netting plants on the Gulf of Mexico at Biloxi, Mississippi.
KEESLER A. F. B.

Keesler Air Force Base occupies about one-third of Biloxi's geographical area on the western side. It is just a few hundred feet from Highway 90, the Old Spanish Trail which runs along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The Base was activated in the summer of 1941 and is named for Lieutenant Samuel R. Keesler, Jr., a native of Greenwood, Mississippi who lost his life while serving as an aerial observer in World War I.

Keesler is now known as the "Electronics Training Center of the Air Force" and it is one of the largest bases within the Technical Training Air Force. Through its specialized training departments, excellent facilities and equipment, it provides both fundamental and advanced training in radar, radio, communications, control tower operations and radio-logical defense.

Hailed as "The Electronics Training Center of the Air Force," Keesler, within the City limits of Biloxi, is the world's foremost radar training school. More than 1,000 buildings comprise Keesler, one of America's most beautiful military installations.

YOUR SIXTH AND FINAL CHECK POINT
Jefferson Davis, President
THE CONFEDERATE STATE OF AMERICA
1861-1865

The leader of the lost cause—Jefferson Davis—the President of the eleven Southern States that seceded from the Union to form the Confederate State of America—is still one of the most misunderstood men in American history.

Few Americans today—and that includes both the descendants of the Northerners who almost a century ago bitterly opposed him and the Southerners who appointed him their leader—know that Jefferson Davis brilliantly and honorably wore the uniform of an officer of the U. S. Army for 12 years of his early life.

... that he was an outstanding hero of the War with Mexico...
... that for over a decade he was one of the most respected and revered men in the Halls of Congress.
... that he was one of the most able Secretaries of War this nation ever had.
... that he was put up for nomination as President of the United States in the Democratic Convention of 1860.
... that after the South was defeated, the United States Government accused him of treason and instigation of the assassination of Lincoln and offered $100,000 in gold for his capture.
... that he was caught and imprisoned but never brought to trial and finally released on $100,000 bail eagerly put up by his former enemies.

We will recount briefly these dramatic phases of his life in the following Chronological Data.

June 3, 1808—Born in Fairview, Kentucky. Moved to Woodville, Mississippi when a small child. Educated at Jefferson College near Natchez, Mississippi, and at Transylvania College, Lexington, Kentucky.

1824—Appointed to West Point Military Academy.
1828—Graduated from West Point at the age of twenty.

June 17, 1835—Married Sarah Knox Taylor, daughter of General Zachary Taylor; but she died three months later.

February 26, 1845—Married Varina Howell of Natchez, Mississippi.

1845—Elected to Congress.

July 21, 1846—Colonel Davis joined the First Mississippi Regiment just as it was leaving to participate in the Mexican War.

1847—Returned to the United States and was appointed to the United States Senate.

1853-57—Secretary of War under President Pierce.

1857—Returned again to the United States Senate.

January 21, 1861—Resigned from the Senate after Mississippi seceded from the Union.

January 25, 1861—Commissioned Major-General of the Forces of Mississippi by Governor J. J. Pettus.

February 8, 1861—Elected President of the Confederate States by the convention delegates.

February 18, 1861—Inaugurated President of the Confederate States of America at Montgomery, Alabama, the first Confederate Capitol.

May 10, 1865—Captured at Irwinville, Georgia, by the Fourth Michigan Cavalry and a Wisconsin unit. This brought about the end of his term as President of the Confederacy.

May 22, 1865—Imprisoned at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

May 13, 1867—Released from Fort Monroe, Virginia, on a bail bond signed by Cornelius Vanderbilt, Horace Greeley, Augustus Schell, and others. Each posted $5,000 on the $100,000 bond.


1877—Retired to BEAUVOIR.

December 6, 1889—Died in New Orleans, Louisiana.
DOWN TO THE SEA IN FISHING BOATS! A picturesque year-round scene at Biloxi, Mississippi, on the Gulf of Mexico, showing shrimp trawlers. Moss-draped evergreen oaks, magnolias and other trees grow to the water’s edge along the Biloxi peninsula. Into these waters, famous for shrimp and oysters and other seafood catches, sailed the French under Pierre LeMoyne d'Iberville in 1699, to establish the first capital of the vast Louisiana Province.

CHECK POINTS

Camp Wilkes ________________________

Beauvoir ________________________

Church of Redeemer ________________________

Rosetti's Cafe ________________________

Haven's Store ________________________

Keesler A. F. B. Gate No. 2 ________________________