

Letter from Henry Clay Sharkey:  
Glen Allen, Miss.  
Sept.17, 1925

Dear Mrs. Gillespie

Your letter received. While you were off on the hunt of health on the salubrious clime of Tenn. I visited Raymond and saw the mayor of your city and he and Miss Mary Ratliff and I placed the marker in the negro cemetery near the road in the N-side in plain view of the road. I saw your son and he said you were not at home. I am now satisfied that it will stand as long as I live – and no one after me will know the service Old Jerry was to the Confederacy – or his master. I read in the Veteran of you duties with the UDCs. I do not expect to be at the fair, nor will I be at Meridian – unless I am needed to further a matter I have at heart and every Mississippian should feel to honor the name of **Charlie Read** – who shed honor on our State as he did on the weak Confederate Navy – with the Alabama, our most gallant vessel. His widow, now an old feeble woman, might wish to come to Beauvoir, the last home of Jefferson Davis, and to the State of Miss. to die – among the people who knew her and her gallant husband in the days of her youth. I sent the letter to Mrs. Kimbrough the Chairwoman of the Directors of Beauvoir and asked that she be admitted to the Home and to have the UCVs UDCs & Sons of Vets to endorse the action of the Board at the reunion at Meridian. She will no doubt do this – but I have not yet heard from her. **Charlie Read** lived and died a Miss. and while the rule is not to admit anyone to the Home but citizens of Miss. – **His widow for her health and the health of her daughter now are domiciled in Calif. Charlie was older than I – both raised near Brownsville – and his younger brother and I were schoolmates. Poor Joe. Lost his leg at the battle of Spring Hill, Tenn. – 1864 and was raised in Hinds Co. Capt. P\_ \_ Shearer and Andy Vaughn were members of that Company. No better soldier entered the Confederate Army – and no greater Naval Officer than **Charlie Reed** (Read) and **Joe Read** would add luster to the heroism of the Confederate soldier of Mss. and of Hinds County – I am both a UCV & UDC and have neglected my duties to the Reads of Queens Hill neighborhood.**

Regards to friends.

Your Friend, Clay Sharkey.

P.S. I went to see Bill Montgomery while in Hinds and I fear he cannot recover – he and I are near the same age, only 11 days difference – Bill was a true boy. A true man, and if he has an enemy, God pity the man who harbors malice against the most generous, kind and hospital man I ever knew – Such men cannot well be spared, as examples are better than precepts for our children.

While Bill and I so often differed in politics – never for one moment did our friendship ever waver – So if friendship cannot be broken by politics it will last forever – Tell Miss Mary Ratliff that Mrs. Reed referred to the Ratliff family in her letter to me.

Clay Sharkey