You are cordially invited to attend the

**Annual Friends of Raymond General Membership Meeting & Covered Dish Dinner**

**Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.**

**At the home of**

Mayor Isla Tullos  
234 Town Square  
Raymond, MS

**Agenda:**
- Election of New Board Members
- Update on Battlefield Plans

**Please bring:**
A covered dish and your vote

Membership renewals can be paid at the meeting, or mailed to:

**Friends of Raymond**  
P. O. Box 1000  
Raymond, MS 39154

**Friends:** donations under $100.00  
**Voting Memberships:** $100.00 and above  
**Generals (Lifetime Membership):** $5,000.00

**Please join us for fun in preservation!**
FOR News Updates

FOR is getting ready for 2014 with new plans and new ways to communicate with members! We are excited about the progress and hope all the members will join us in making progress a reality.

Updated FOR website—Thanks to Jil Wright for getting our website updated and making it possible for Board members to keep it updated. Check out the new website at www.friendsofraymond.org and give us some feedback on what you’d like to see.

New FOR email address—We have a new email address that we will check frequently, so send us your feedback, suggestions, ideas for new projects, questions, and news you want to share. The new email address is friendsofraymond@outlook.com.

New Board members—Every year, three Board members are elected to replace departing members to serve a three-year term. We elect new Board members at the January annual general membership meeting, so please plan to attend, especially if you are a voting member or general.

Battlefield plans—The FOR Board members spent some time this year discussing possibilities for further development of the Raymond Military Park and related sites. As part of the mission of Friends of Raymond, we seek to preserve historical sites in and around Raymond. We decided to develop several parking areas at the significant stops along the battlefield trail. We will discuss plans at the January annual meeting with the members, and you can also stay tuned to the FOR website and newsletter for more details.

Thanks so much to ALL the members of Friends of Raymond and to ALL the folks who have donated funds this year to help us sponsor events like the Spring Pilgrimage, Sesquicentennial events, and Mississippi Pioneer Days. We appreciate you all so much as we work to preserve our little slice of history in Raymond.

Diorama—April 25-26, 2014

Don’t miss seeing the Battle of Raymond and Battle of Champion Hill dioramas at McKenzie Arena on April 25-26, 2014. The dioramas contain hundreds of soldiers, cannon, muskets, horses, and details in miniature that provide a historical depiction of these important battles.

Jack Moss and Jim Drake have spent many hours collecting the figures, creating the landscape, and preparing to set up these giant dioramas for public viewing. Stay tuned to the FOR website for more details.
Mississippi Pioneer Days

Mississippi Pioneer Days was held on October 24-25, 2013, at the Raymond Military Park. The event was sponsored by Friends of Raymond and coordinated by FOR Board member Bill Schmegel. This was an opportunity for schoolchildren in the Raymond and Hinds County area to see demonstrations of life 150 years ago. There were over 1,000 children from public, private, and home schools who spent a day watching Choctaw basket-making, blacksmithing, cannon preparing, and learning about military activities. One of the most popular activities was military drilling where the children learned to listen to their “sergeant” giving orders such as “Forward” and “About Face” as they marched to the beat of a military drum. They also had the opportunity to talk with President Abraham Lincoln and Mrs. Mary Lincoln about life in the White House and being president during the Civil War.

This event would not have happened without the hard work of volunteers and donors who provided funds, goods, and time to make this a memorable history lesson for the area schoolchildren. We really want to thank everyone, including the rangers from the Vicksburg National Military Park, the Mississippi National Guard, the Choctaws, Nissan, Entergy, 1st Commercial Bank, Bancorp South, Merchants and Planters Bank, Kroger, Wal-Mart, Valley Foods, Tractor Supply, Office Depot, and the many volunteers who assisted with serving lunches, cleaning and preparing the battlefield, setting up the stations, and assisting with parking and collecting supplies.
Friends of Raymond:
Mission & Membership

The mission of the Friends of Raymond is to preserve, interpret, manage, and promote significant historic sites in Raymond, Mississippi, and the surrounding area and to receive contributions or grants from any and all sources to be used for one or more of these purposes.

Friends of Raymond was founded in 1998 as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, and all memberships and donations are tax deductible. Membership dues are:

- **FRIEND**
  - Under $100
- **VOTING MEMBER**
  - $100 and above
- **GENERAL**
  - $5,000

Membership dues and donations for 2014 can be mailed to Friends of Raymond at the address above, or can be paid on-line through the FOR web site (www.friendsofraymond.org) using a credit card or PayPal.

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS! We are trying to save postage for the newsletter by emailing it to those FOR members and interested persons for whom we have email addresses. You can help—send us your email address at friends@friendsofraymond.org.