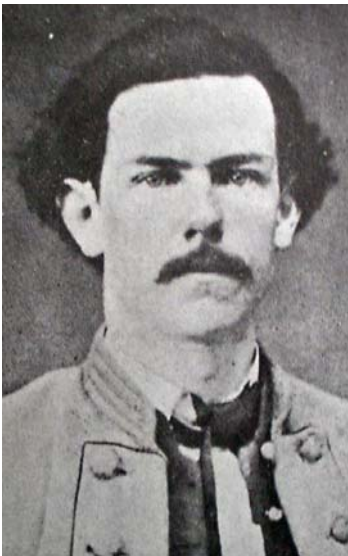
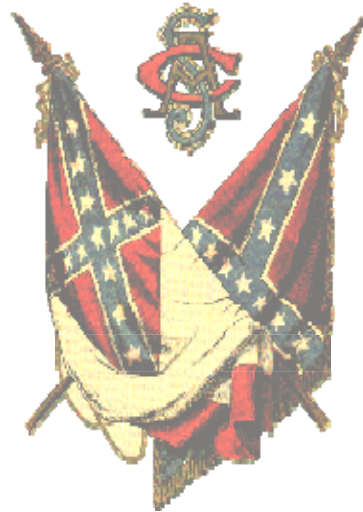

NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



THE SILVER GRAY



Vol. 12

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No. 4



Georgia Mechanized Cavalry Quarterly meeting.



MECHANIZED CAVALRY REPORT

Sons of Confederate Veterans-Mechanized Cavalry, 3rd Battalion, Georgia Division

The quarterly meeting was held at Wick's Tavern, 212 West Wilson Street, Villa Rica, GA. There were 22 members present plus Charlie Lott, our guest and host.

1. The meeting was called to order by Capt. Johnny Ray Sparks at noon.
2. A prayer was offered by Chuck Shields, Chaplain.
3. Pledges were said.
4. Capt. Sparks swore in a new member, Tom Harris of Ringgold, GA.
5. Capt. Sparks presented Charlie Lott with two SCV-MC tee shirts and a print of the Ringgold Depot for his support and hospitality towards the Mech Cav.
6. Capt. Sparks announced that the prints were for sale by the Ringgold SCV Camp.
7. Bob Blankenship read the minutes of the last meeting and told the members of our application being rejected by the "Bricks for Beauvoir" Memorial Fund. They would not accept bricks with inscriptions of organizations, only ancestors or units. This was discussed and it was decided to submit another application using the name "Fightin' Joe Wheeler". Bob will do this.
8. Wedge Morrison discussed the negative vibes of some SCV members toward the Mech Cav. Charlie Lott assured us that he had heard nothing negative at the executive level.
9. Freddie Parris discussed members who are delinquent in their SCV dues. Letters will be sent to them soon. He also discussed the Trenton Veterans Day parade. Local SCV-MC. SCV Camps, soldiers and veterans participated.
10. Freddie informed us of the Confederate Memorial Day celebration. It will be held at the Georgia monument on the Chickamauga Battle Field Park the last Sunday in April at 2 pm. It is the only Confederate celebration in the country to be held on federal ground. All are invited.
11. Capt. Sparks gave the financial report. We currently have \$460.00 in the account. These deposits have come from new member fees and the sale of patches. We owe \$400.00 for the balance of the tee shirt order. Members voted to pay it in full. We have 8 patches left. We owe Bob Blankenship \$135.00 for mailings. (stamps, paper, ink and envelopes)
12. Capt. Sparks announced that the "Telegraph" will be reinstated. Those with e-mail addresses will be invited to be put on the list. Strict rules will have to be observed when using it.
13. Capt. Sparks reported on the recent National Officers meeting. He said that it was primarily the states officers reporting on their activity. A rule change was announced. All new applications are to go to state captains for processing prior to forwarding to Col

Stone to be put on the national roster. Also, we should use the chain of command since Col. Stone has been getting too many calls for him to handle personally.

14. At the officer's meeting, the following announcements were made:

Chuck Shields was appointed National Chaplain

Luke Stetson was appointed Major responsible for 3rd Battalion

A certificate of appreciation was awarded to Jessie Pinson

15. We have the opportunity to have our patch logo put into a computer embroidery program for \$49.00. With this program we can have the logo embroidered on any number of items ie. shirts, jackets, caps etc. Rock at Road Rash Magazine has the equipment to do this. Members voted to have this done. Capt. Sparks will handle.

16. We discussed putting another ad in the Georgia Confederate. We also will put the minutes of the meeting and a group picture in the publication. This was voted on and passed.

17. We discussed the upcoming national Annual Ride. It will be from May 28th through June 1st in New Braunfels, Texas. Frank Deitz has done a lot of work to insure that it will be a memorable event. He has planned rides to the Alamo in San Antonio and to Laredo as well as several local rides. There will be camping in Canyon Lake Park. Everyone should make an effort to attend. You'll be glad you did.

18. Color Sgt. Jackie Blankenship has asked for a furlough for the next six months since his new job will preclude him attending any weekend events. Capt. Sparks asked for a volunteer for the post but got no offers.

19. Wedge reported on the condition of Lewis Leach. He is still unresponsive after almost two years in the hospital. On the last visit he did open both eyes and raised a thumb in answer to a question.

20. Capt Sparks gave updated rosters to the troop commanders. They can distribute them as they see fit.

21. Bud Cranford has agreed to host the next meeting in Macon. It will be held on May 18th at noon. Details later. We need to help him recruit in the Macon area.

22. Ronnie Mangrum will host a party in Columbia, TN to celebrate Mule Days in Tennessee. It will be on the weekend of April 5th. All are invited.

23. Capt. Sparks announced that Georgia has had 18 new recruits since Col Hamby stepped down as commander. Recruiting is good!

24.. Bob Blankenship will write letters to members who are delinquent on their SCV dues.

25. Jon Exum will help Capt. Sparks put our financial data on a computer balance sheet.

26. Charlie Lott announced Jefferson Davis '200th birthday celebration. It will be held on April 12th at Stone Mountain Park in front of the monument. It starts at 10 am. He encouraged us to ride to the event.

27. Charlie also announced a workday/visit to historic Oakland cemetery in Atlanta. There will be several SCV members making an effort to remove a stump next to our monument. You won't be asked to help with the stump, but Charlie would like to see as many bikes as possible there. The date is March 22. Time is 10 am til?

The meeting was adjourned by Capt. Sparks at 1: 20 pm.

Bob Blankenship, Aide-de-Camp

OAKLAND CEMETERY

By Greg Bluestein



Tornado damage at the Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta.

The March 14 tornado that swept through Atlanta blazed a path right through the cemetery, uprooting towering trees, smashing gravestones and toppling monuments. And more than a week after the storm touched down on hallowed ground, its path is still easy to trace. Workers have removed some of the 86 trees – crape myrtles, magnolias and, yes, oaks – that were shattered by the storm. But much of the debris remains. Groundskeepers must wait for a federal evaluation – a requisite for getting federal help – before they start their work on any but the most essential repairs. The destruction begins with two fallen angels near the cemetery's western edge. The sculptures once perched on a memorial for Joseph E. Brown, Georgia's Civil War governor. A tall statue of a woman – perhaps Brown's wife – crashed to the ground, shattering into four pieces and tearing a foot-deep gash into the soil. From there the twister overturned obelisks and monuments that date back to 1850 and tore apart trees that were even older. Winds brought debris from across the city; a metal railing from a train station still blocks one path. Supporters worry that Oakland could be forgotten in the aftermath of the storm, which damaged other Atlanta landmarks and is believed to have killed one person as it cut a six-mile path through the city... Cleanup could cost millions. For one thing, there's no telling how difficult it will be to remove trees with roots entangled in caskets.



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS: April is the month in which the Confederate States of America began and ended a four-year conflict in the Civil War. Confederate Memorial Day on April 26 is a time when Georgians honor the more than 90,000 brave men and women who served the Confederate States of America; and

WHEREAS: Georgia joined the Confederacy in January 1861 when a convention ratified the ordinance of secession, and Georgia has long cherished her Confederate history and the great leaders who made sacrifices on her behalf; and

WHEREAS: One of the many Confederate soldiers who made a significant contribution to the state was Captain John Derst, a German immigrant who lent his services as a soldier and as a baker. After the war, he formed the Derst Baking Company, which remained a family-run business for over a dozen decades of operation. Through their business practices and good works, Derst and his family have contributed significantly to the economic and cultural development of the City of Savannah as well as the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS: It is important that Georgians reflect upon our State's past and honor and respect the devotion of her Confederate leaders, soldiers and citizens; and

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2007 as CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH in Georgia and encourage our citizens to learn about Georgia's heritage and history.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 26th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand seven.



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Ed F. Halcomb
CHIEF OF STAFF

Confederate Chaplin Honored in 1983

By: Calvin E. Johnson, Jr.
Chairman, Confederate History and Heritage Month
Georgia Division Sons of Confederate Veterans

Father Emmeran Bliemel, OS.B. the first American Chaplain to die on the battlefield was killed during the Battle of Jonesboro, Georgia, on August 31, 1864. This battle would end the Battle of Atlanta.

As Chaplain of the 10th Tennessee Regiment he courageously and unselfishly ministered to the spiritual needs of his Confederate comrades, both under fire and behind the lines. He died while giving the Last Rites to his Commanding Officer, Colonel William Grace. He also ministered to the men of the 4th Kentucky Regiment (the Orphan Brigade) CSA.

A member of the order of Saint Benedict, at Saint Vincent's Archabbey Latrobe, Pennsylvania, he died a hero's death while doing the work of his Lord and Master.

A medal of honor was awarded from the historic National Organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to the Patrick R. Cleburne Camp 1361, in his behalf on March 12, 1983. It was first displayed in the City Hall of Jonesboro, Georgia.



Roz Bowie – A Black Woman pays tribute to unknown Confederate soldier.

Calvin E. Johnson, Jr.

Take me home to the place where I was born, on a early frosty morn, Sweet Dixie, Take me home. These words are from a LP recording by Mrs. Roz Bowie, an African American women, who made a recording called, "Take Me Home (The Ballad of the Unkown Confederate soldier)." This song is included on Mrs. Bowie's album called "Dixie." Mrs. Bowie is said to have been inspired to do the "Dixie" album by the spirit of events that took place at the Battle of Ox Hill, Virginia, on September 1, 1862, where a Confederate soldier was killed in the battle during a blinding rainstorm. 124 years later the remains were unearthed during a construction project near the present city of Chantilly, Virginia. His remains were taken home and a memorial service was held in Columbia, South Carolina, on November 22, 1986. Mrs. Bowie, a Southern lady, wanted to be a part of this event. Because of the momentous and solemn occasion that thousands came to pay their respects as they reburied this soldier, Roz Bowie sung the song "Take Me Home" as well as Dixie and Bonnie Blue Flag.



The Chaplain's Corner

Many of the SCV camps will be observing Confederate history month as well as Confederate Memorial Day this month. I have done some research to see how the first Georgia Confederate Memorial Day started and this is what I found.

In 1874, the Georgia General Assembly approved legislation adding a new public holiday. The 26th day of April – commonly known as Confederate Memorial Day. April 26th marks the anniversary of the end of "The War Between the States" in Georgia, for it was on this day in 1865 that Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston's surrender to General William Sherman in North Carolina became official. Johnston had been in charge of Georgia's defense, so this day marked the end of the War for Georgia.

Exactly when Georgians began commemorating April 26th as Memorial Day is unclear, but the language of the 1874 act recognizes that April 26th was already being celebrated as an unofficial holiday. The day of observance may be traced to the women of Columbus, Georgia who on April 23rd, 1866 organized a memorial association and began a campaign to have a special day for "Paying honor to those who died defending the life, honor and happiness of the Southern women." Three days later, the Atlanta Ladies Memorial Association was organized and on April 26th, 1866, the association held a Confederate Memorial observance at Oakland Cemetery.

Matthew 11:28-30 *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and My burden is light.*

Prayer List: Our thoughts and prayers continue to go to our compatriot, Lewis Leach, who had left his home on Missionary Ridge two years ago to go to the Confederate Day observance at the Georgia monument at the Chickamauga Battlefield. While on his way there, he was involved in a motorcycle accident with another vehicle. He still continues in his great fight for recovery. Also remember Wedge Morrison's granddaughter, Rachel Phillips, who has a very serious illness. Mark Steele has a back injury and is taking medication for it. He was well enough to make it to the Bridgeport Re-enactment to help his artillery a little. Let's continue to remember these in our prayers

May God bless,

James Fletcher, Chaplain,

SCV camp #707 Ph. 256-657-5998

Email jdfletcher@stateofdade.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 12: Confederate Memorial: A Confederate Memorial Ceremony will be held at Stone Mountain Georgia on Saturday, April 12, 2008. Mechanized Cavalry members plan to ride down on Friday and spend the night in the area. Call 657-500 for additional information.
- April 15: Camp Meeting: The April 2008 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at Randy's Restaurant in Trenton. We will meet to eat at 6:00 P.M. – there will be no retreat! Call 657-5000 for directions.
- April 23: Confederate Memorial: The State of Dade Camp 707 will conduct the annual Confederate Memorial at the Confederate Monument in Trenton on Wednesday. Additional information at April meeting.
- April 27: Confederate Memorial: The Annual Confederate Memorial will be held at the Georgia Monument at Chickamauga-Chattanooga Military Park on Sunday, April 27, 2008 at 2:00 P.M.



STATE OF DADE CAMP No. 707
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Larry D. Wheeler (Adjutant)
639 Canyon Park Dr.
Trenton, Georgia 30752-2640

HONORING OUR CONFEDERATE HERITAGE

