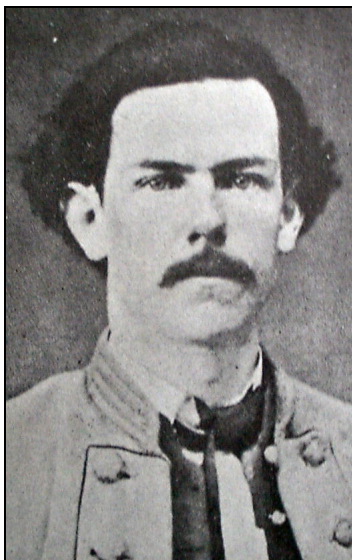
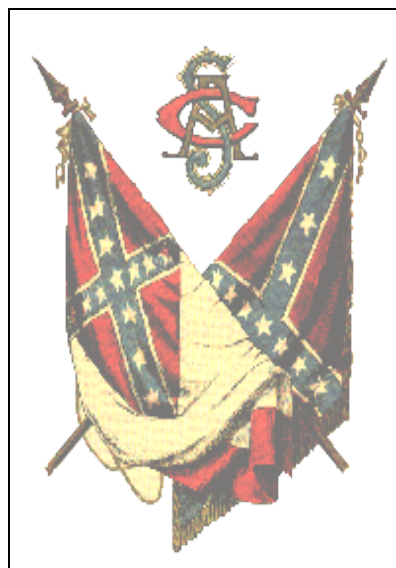


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**NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707**



**THE  
SILVER  
GRAY**



Vol. 14

July 2009

No. 7



Funeral for Past Camp Commander Bernie Bethune.



American Legion Honor Guard for Bernie.



The Jack Daniels Ride

# **Sons of Confederate Veterans**

## **Georgia Division Annual Reunion**

There is little information available about the Annual Reunion of the Georgia Division. Less than 50% of the Camps in Georgia sent representatives to the event. There was no real response to the complaints regarding members not receiving the *Georgia Confederate*. It was said that the March issue is now at the printers.

There were some problems involving the First Brigade, of which the State of Dade Camp 707 is a member. The 1st Brigade, Georgia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, is located in Northwest Georgia and made up of 10 Sons of Confederate Veterans Camps in the counties of Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Floyd, Gordon, Murray, Whitfield and Walker. At last year's reunion Commander David Espy was reelected for a two year term. Commander Espy formally resigned his post as 1st Brigade Commander of the Georgia Division on Monday, June 8, 2009. Espy had served as Brigade Commander for the past three years. Bridwell was personally informed of the resignation by former Commander Espy by e-mail, and received a reply from Bridwell (Georgia Division Commander) acknowledging receipt of the resignation during the week prior to the reunion.

It is clear, therefore, that Commander Espy resigned well before the Reunion, and that he notified Bridwell and received acknowledgement of the same. The members of the First Brigade caucused at the Reunion and elected Freddie Parris to serve out the remainder of Commander Espy's term of office. Bridwell refused to accept this on the grounds that he claimed to have not received the resignation of the current 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Commander. The action by the First Brigade members was public during the meeting and Bridwell's response was also heard by those present.

The Georgia Division By-laws state the following:

Section 4. A vacancy in other elected Division Offices shall be filled by a qualified member of the Georgia Division, and appointed by the Division Commander.

Section 5. Each Officer elected or appointed in accordance with this Article must be ratified at the next Division Convention for the unexpired term of the vacated Office, or new elections held by that Convention, for the unexpired term of the vacated Office.

Section 6. All elected Division Officers shall serve continually until the expiration of their term, resignation, death or removal. A two-third (2/3) vote of all members of the Executive Council is required for removal of any Division Officer from his position.

From the above it would appear that the action by the members of the First Brigade present at the Reunion were proper and in order, and Bridwell's failure to ratify their election of an interim commander was improper.

## Georgia Secession Ordinance

On January 29, 1861 the Georgia Legislature passed an Ordinance of Secession. The actual document is shown from the Georgia Archives on the next page. The text states:

“An Ordinance To dissolve the Union between the State of Georgia and the other States united with her under a compact of Government, entitled the Constitution of the United States of America. We the people of the State of Georgia in Convention assembled do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained that the Ordinance adopted by the people of the State of Georgia in Convention on the Second day of January in the year of our Lord Seventeen Hundred and eighty-eight, Whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was assented to ratify and adopted; and also all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly of this State notifying and adopting amendments of the Said Constitution are hereby repealed, rescinded, and abrogated. We do further declare and ordain that the Union now subsisting between the State of Georgia and the other States under the name of the United States of America is hereby dissolved, and that the State of Georgia is in the full possession and exercise of all those rights of Sovereignty which belong and appertain to an independent State.

Having passed the ordinance, the following statement was released to give the reasons:

The people of Georgia having dissolved their political connection with the Government of the United States of America, present to their confederates and the world the causes which have led to the separation. For the last ten years we have had numerous and serious causes of complaint against our non-slave-holding confederate States with reference to the subject of African slavery... We had acquired a large territory by successful war with Mexico; Congress had to govern it; how, in relation to slavery, was the question then demanding solution. This state of facts gave form and shape to the anti-slavery sentiment throughout the North and the conflict began. Northern anti-slavery men of all parties asserted the right to exclude slavery from the territory by Congressional legislation and demanded the prompt and efficient exercise of this power to that end... We had shed our blood and paid our money for its acquisition; we demanded a division of it on the line of the Missouri restriction or an equal participation in the whole of it. These propositions were refused, the agitation became general, and the public danger was great. The case of the South was impregnable. The price of the acquisition was the blood and treasure of both sections — of all, and, therefore, it belonged to all upon the principles of equity and justice...

The majority of the people of the North demand that we shall receive them as our rulers. The prohibition of slavery in the Territories is the cardinal principle of this organization. Such are the opinions and such are the practices of the Republican party, who have been called by their own votes to administer the Federal Government under the Constitution of the United States. We know their treachery; we know the shallow pretenses under which they daily disregard its plainest obligations... Why? Because by their declared principles and policy they have outlawed \$3,000,000,000 of our property in the common territories of the Union; put it under the ban of the Republic in the States where it exists and out of the protection of Federal law everywhere; because they give sanctuary to thieves and incendiaries who assail it to the whole extent of their power, in spite of their most solemn obligations and covenants; because their avowed purpose is to subvert our Society... To avoid these evils we resume the powers which our fathers delegated to the Government of the United States, and henceforth will seek new safeguards for our liberty, equality, security, and tranquility.



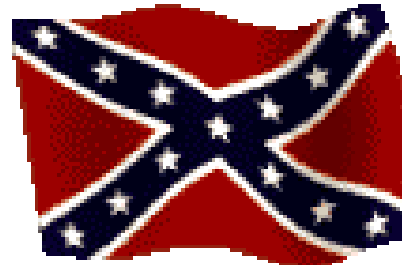
## Colonel Santos Benavides and Mexican Confederates.

Calvin E. Johnson, Jr.

Our school children should know about Santos Benavides who was born on November 1, 1823, in Laredo, Texas. Benavides was an descendant of Tomas Sanchez de la Barrera y Garza , who founded the city of Laredo. Benavides was the highest ranking Mexican-American soldier to serve in the Confederate States of America military. He served as captain of the 33rd Texas Cavalry, which was also known as Benavides' Regiment, before he was promoted to Colonel in 1863.



On May 22, 1861, at the Battle of Carrizo, he engaged Mexican leader Juan Cortina, who had invaded Zapata County, that is usually called the 2nd Battle of Cortina War, and drove him back to Mexico. On March 19, 1864, he defended Laredo against a Union invasion of the First Texas Cavalry, whose commander was Colonel Edmund J. Davis, and defeated the Union forces. It is written that his greatest contribution to the Confederate cause was securing the passage of Confederate cotton to Matamoros in 1863. After the War Between the States he went back to being a merchant and rancher. Santos Benavides died on November 9, 1891.



Colonel Santos Benevides.

Mexican American's contributed greatly to the Confederacy with complete units in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. According the author John O'Donnell-Rosales, the Mexican Confederates fought to maintain their way of life and when the South was invaded to protect their families and homes. Other Confederate units with a large number of Mexican soldiers included Hood's Texas Brigade, the Mississippi Twigg's Rifles, the 9th Mississippi Cavalry Regiment, the Alabama Light Artillery and the 21st Alabama Infantry Regiment. Lest we forget our nation's heroes!!



## Chaplain's Corner

From pioneer days, the birthday of our nation has been a time to think about spiritual strength and to become awake to opportunities for service and fellow ship.

At this anniversary of our nation's birthday, there is great sadness in the hearts of those who have lost loved ones in the many conflicts since the first Independence Day. In these days of crisis, each of us must fight the evils of the spirit even as our gallant fighting men and women pursue our war on terrorism..

**Isaiah 41:13** *For I the Lord will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, fear not; I will help thee.*

**In Remembrance:** It was a year ago that Doug "Wedge" Morrison passed away. We are grateful for the beautiful memories we have of "Wedge" and for the inspiration he was to all of us.

**Prayer List:** Lewis leach is still fighting for recovery after his motorcycle accident. Mark Steele has some improvement in his knee condition. Let's continue to remember these in our thoughts and prayers.

May God Bless,

James Fletcher, Chaplain  
SCV Camp #707  
Ph. 256-657-5998  
Email [jdfletcher@farmerstel.com](mailto:jdfletcher@farmerstel.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 20

Camp Meeting: The July 2009 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 20, 2009 at Randy's Restaurant in Trenton. We will meet to eat at 6:00 P.M. – there will be no retreat! Call 298-4544 for directions.

July 22-25:

Annual Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The annual reunion of the SCV, will be held July 22 -25, 2009 at Hot Springs, Arkansas . Call 298-4544 for additional information.



**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**

