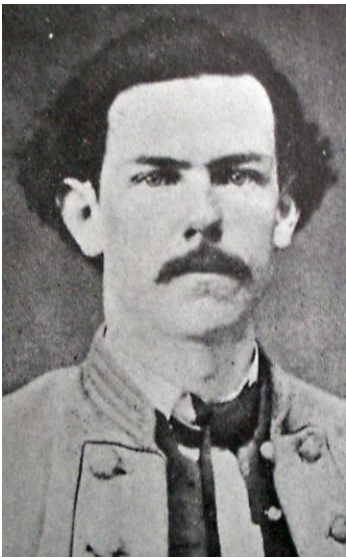


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**NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707**



**THE  
SILVER  
GRAY**



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Regional Ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy Re-dedicate the Confederate monument at Cleveland.

# Re-Dedication of Cleveland Confederate Monument



The Jefferson Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was organized on April, 15 1905. They raised \$5, 000 to erect a monument to Confederate soldiers, and on June 3, 1911 the monument was unveiled. Inscribed on the monument is a motto of Jefferson Davis, it reads; "Man is not born to himself alone but to his Country." Another side reads "To our known and unknown Confederate dead; 1861--1865, " and "Erected by The Jefferson Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1910."

More than 70 spectators gathered recently to observe the 100th anniversary and rededication of Cleveland's Confederate Memorial Monument. The ceremony was directed by the ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. SVC support was provided from N.B. Forrest Camp No. 3, John C. Vaughn Camp No. 2089, Cherokee Guard Camp, and State of Dade Camp, 707. Raymond Evans represented our camp.

The monument was dedicated "not in malice or anger, but in loving gratitude," said Robin Ramsey, president of the local chapter of the Daughters, quoting a speech given by Cleveland Mayor Charles S. Mayfield during the original dedication.





Musicians for Grave Stone Dedication.

## HONORS CEREMONY FOR JOHN A. KINSER

Several SCV Camps joined to dedicate a grave stone for a Georgia Confederate who is buried in a Bradley County Cemetery. State of Dade 707 was represented by Raymond Evans



## General Nathan Bedford Forrest

This month we should remember General Nathan Bedford Forrest on his birthday. He was born in Bedford County, Tennessee on July 13, 1821, the son of a poor blacksmith. When he was sixteen years old he had to assume financial responsibility for his entire family. By the time the war started he was one of the richest men in the south as the result of a highly successful slave dealership. It is important to remember that Forrest was a slave dealer not a "slave trader." Slave traders had a very low social status in anti bellum society, whereas dealers were highly respected.



Nathan Bedford Forrest entered the Confederate Army a private and left a Lieutenant General of the Cavalry. Although he never had formal military education, he is considered by many to be the greatest general of the War, on either side. His tactics are still studied to this day.

And he struck fear into the hearts of his enemies. With good reason, too; he was a powerful and - violent - man, and when he committed to battle, he fought with a tenacity and ferocity that inspired his troops. Over the course of the four-year conflict, he had 29 horses shot out from under him and personally killed 30 Federal soldiers. After it was over, he claimed to have finished the war "one horse ahead."

He fought hard throughout the war and always gave it his all. At the end, however, he was ready to return to the old flag. The following is what he told his men in his farewell address:

"Comrades," General Forrest said, "through the years of bloodshed and many marches you were tried and true soldiers. So through years of peace you have been good citizens, and now that we are again united under the old flag, I love it as I did in the days of my youth, and I feel sure that you love it also. Yes, I love and honor that old flag as much as do those who followed it on the other side; and I am sure that I but express your feelings when I say that should occasion offer and our country demand our services, you would as eagerly follow my lead to battle under that proud banner as ever you follow me in our late great war..."

Today, it is popular with many to defame General Forrest as Klan monster and a bitter racist. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Klan that Forrest was affiliated with was a defensive measure during military occupation. When the Federal Army left, and the Confederate veterans had their voting rights restored, Forrest disbanded the Klan. This group had nothing to do with the Klan's of the 1920's and

'60's. In fact, after the war, General Forrest did more for Negro civil rights than Jessie Jackson and Al Sharpton ever thought about.

General Nathan Bedford Forrest spoke to an African-Southern American Political and Social Group, the Jubilee of Pole Bearers on July 4, 1875 and his wonderful speech was carried in the *Avalanche* newspaper of Memphis, Tennessee of July 6, 1875. This reflects the greatness of man that modern revisionists do not want you to know. The article states that the daughter of one of the Black men how had organized the event, Miss Lou Lewis, was introduced to General Forrest and then presented him with a bouquet of flowers and said, "Mr. Forrest, allow me to present you with this bouquet as a token of reconciliation, an offering of peace and good will."

General Forrest received the flowers with a bow and replied, "Miss Lewis, Ladies and Gentlemen, I accept these flowers as a token of reconciliation between the White and Colored races in the South. I accept these more particularly, since they came from a colored lady, for if there is any one on God's green earth who loves the ladies, it is myself.

This is a proud day for me. Having occupied the position I have for thirteen years and being misunderstood by the Colored race, I take this occasion to say that I am your friend. I am here representative of the Southern People — one that has been more maligned than any other. I assure you that every man who was in the Confederate Army is your friend. We were born on the same soil, breathe the same air, live in the same land, and why should we not be brothers and sisters. When the war broke out, I believed it was my duty to fight for my country, and I did so.

"I came here with the sneers and jeers of a few of the White people, who did not think it right. I think it right, and I will do all I can to bring harmony, peace and unity. I want to elevate every man, and see that you take your places in your shops, stores and offices. I don't propose to say anything about politics — but I want you to do as I do — go to the polls and select the best man to vote for. I feel that you are free men, I am a free man, and we can do as we please. I come here as a friend and whenever I can serve any of you, I will do so.

"We have one Union, one flag and one country, therefore let us stand together. Although we differ in color, we should not differ in sentiment. Many things have been said in regard to myself, and many reports circulated, which perhaps may be believed by some of you, but there are many around that contradict them. I have many times been in the heat of battle, oftener, perhaps, than any within the sound of my voice. Men have come to me and ask for a quarter, both Black and White, and I have shielded them. Do your duty as citizens, and if you are oppressed, I will be your friend. I thank you for the flowers, and ensure you that I am with you in heart and hand."

As he had always done during the war, Forrest lived up to his words and throughout the years he assisted many Blacks to become successful in business and professions. He died on October 29, 1877, in Memphis, Tennessee.

# CIVIL WAR EVENT AT EAST RIDGE



Mark Steele, Jim Fletcher and Raymond Evans, State of Dade Camp 707.



Mayor Brent Lambert.

The City of East Ridge held its first commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War last month. Mayor Brent Lambert has stated that the city council has been very supportive of all the Civil War-related initiatives and he is fully aware of the economic potential in terms of tourism. The area has several points of direct interest. In 1862 this was the route of the Federals who stole the train in the so-called great locomotive chase. In 1863 it had an important role in the Battles of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge and in 1864 it was a significant staging area for General W. T. Sherman's Georgia Campaign that proved to be the major action of the war. Mark Steele, Jim Fletcher and Raymond Evans represented the State of Dade Camp 707.



## 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 fellowship. 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 3 years 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:** Sonny Ballew is still recovering from his operation a little over a month ago. Let us continue to remember him in our thoughts and prayers.

May God Bless,

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 19                      Camp Meeting: The July 2011 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 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 21-24:                 Annual Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The annual reunion of the SCV will be held July 12-16, 2011 at the Conference Center of Montgomery, Alabama. 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**

