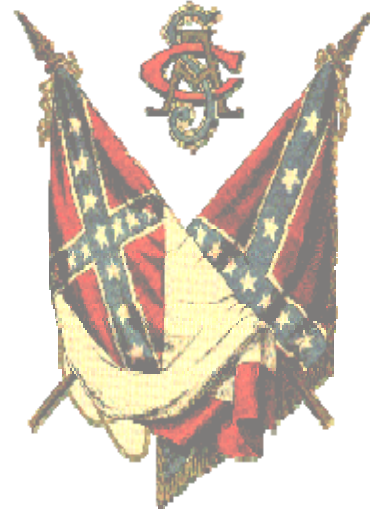

NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



**THE
SILVER
GRAY**



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State of Dade Camp 707 celebrating Confederate Memorial Day 2006 in Trenton.

Confederate Heritage Month in Dade County

April is the month when the Confederate States of America began and ended the four year conflict of the American Civil War. Confederate Memorial Day, on April 26, is a timer when Georgians honor the more than 90,000 brave men and women who served the Confederate States of America. In keeping with this time honored tradition, Governor Sunny Perdue has issued the following proclamation: “I, Sunny Perdue, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2006 as **CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH** in Georgia and encourage our citizens to learn about Georgia’s heritage and history.”

County Executive Ben Brandon issued a similar proclamation proclaiming April as Confederate Heritage Month in Dade County. Mayor Anthony Emanuel also issued a proclaimed April Confederate Heritage month in the City of Trenton. The local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the State of Dade Camp No. 707, provided a number of things in keeping with the charge by our governor to learn more about Georgia’s heritage and history.



County Executive Ben Brandon issuing Confederate Heritage Month Proclamation.



Mayor Emanuel issuing Confederate Heritage Month Proclamation for Trenton.

During the first week of April, we flew the First National Confederate Flag, known as “The Stars and Bars” on our flag pole at the Confederate Monument in Dade County’s Veterans Park. During the second week, we flew the Second National Confederate Flag, known as “The Stainless Banner.” During the third week, we flew, the Third National Confederate Flag, known as “The Flag of No Surrender.” During the final week of April we flew the Confederate Battle Flag, known as “The Southern Cross.” Each week the local paper covered the changing of the flag and did an article describing the flag used during that week..

Copies of Calvin Johnson’s excellent “Confederate Minutes” were provided to every school in Dade County. This material was also made available to local radio and television, and the information was put to good use throughout the month of April.

On Thursday, April 27, 2006, at 10:00 A.M., we conducted a memorial service at the Confederate Monument in Dade County’s Veterans Park. On Sunday, April 30, 2006, at 2:00 P.M., we joined with members of the Private John Ingram Camp 1977, the John B. Gordon Camp 8599, and the Colonel Joseph McConnell Camp 1859 to conduct the seventh Confederate Memorial observation at the Georgia Monument in Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Ben Brandon was the feature speaker. Senator Jeff Mullis, Representative Martin Scott, and Representative Jay Neal were also featured.

Captain Henry Wirz, Confederate Hero and Martyr

Calvin E. Johnson, Jr.

Captain Henry Wirz was born, Hartman Heinrich Wirz in November 1823, in Zurich, Switzerland where his father, Abraham Wirz was highly respected. At the outbreak of the War Between the States Wirz enlisted in the Fourth Louisiana infantry on June 16, 1861. He was promoted to sergeant a year later and was wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines. He never recovered from the injury to his left wrist and it caused him great pain for the rest of his life.

Wirz was promoted to Captain on June 12, 1862 and was first detailed to General John Winder where he was given command of a Confederate military prison in Richmond, Virginia. After serving a year as special emissary to President Jefferson Davis in Paris and Berlin, on March 27, 1864, he was installed as commandant Andersonville Prison at Fort Sumter in Georgia. Wirz did the best he was able to do with many Union prisoners and the little food and medicine. It is written that the guards got the same food and medicine as the prisoners.

The Confederacy sent a distress message to Union President Abraham Lincoln and Union General Ulysses S. Grant. The South pleaded for an exchange of Confederate and Union prisoners. Lincoln and Grant, however, refused believing the Union prisoners might go home but the Confederate prisoners might go back to fight.



Captain Wirz on the gallows.

Captain Henry Wirz was unfairly charged of war crimes and it is written that no witnesses for the defense were allowed to testify. Among those who would have is that of a Union soldier who was a prisoner at the prison.



The execution of Captain Henry Wirz.

For over 30 years there have been efforts to exonerate the good name of Captain Henry Wirz. There is an annual memorial service to Wirz on the Sunday near his birthday each year in Andersonville, Georgia



Notice: You can now access the State of Dade Camp 707 Newsletter at the camp's web page at www.stateofdade.com.

Mechanized Cavalry Report:



As most of you already know on April 30 Lewis Leach was involved in a bad accident on Missionary Ridge and is in critical condition in Erlanger Hospital. As of May 3, his condition is improving. If anyone can pull out of this, Lewis can. As most of you know he has a tough stubborn streak. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers, and if possible visit. He and his family need your support at this time and welcome it.

Fred Stafford is coming home next week from convalescing since before Christmas. Way to go Fred! Hurrah!

I would like to thank all who called, came by, or sent letters while I was convalescing from my April Fool's Day crash. Special thanks to Chuck Shields for keeping my yard work done each week. Thanks Chuck.

State of Dade Mechanized Cavalry has had three bad motorcycle accidents and two minor incidents in the past year. The only way to never have an accident is to keep your bike parked. State of Dade – **“WE RIDE!”** We need to strive to ride safer and wiser. I know some members still wear novelty helmets – but please get a DOT approved helmet. For helmet information contact Larry Wheeler. Thank you, Larry, for getting me to change to a DOT helmet.

I would like to thank all Mechanized and State of Dade members for attending the memorial at the Georgia Monument. Lewis once said that State of Dade and Mechanized was a part of his family now. Let's all work and play together as brothers should.

May 20 is a National Mechanized Cavalry meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. Several members intend to attend. Call me for more information. I know this is Resacca weekend, but the advantage of having a large group is that we can do both.

Summer is here and its time to hit the road, with heads up, eyes open, and wheels down!

Mechanized Cavalry
Sgt. Johnny Sparks





The Chaplain's Corner

WELCOME HOME!!!

Welcome home to Patrick Parris after successfully spending a year in Iraq in the service to your country. A lot of prayers were answered by your safe return. It was good to see the turnout from our camp on Confederate Memorial day on April 26th at the Trenton veteran's park and on Sunday April 30th at the Chickamauga Battlefield. Last month I told you about the origins of Confederate Memorial Day and it's beginning in Georgia on April 26th, 1866. Honoring those who had

fallen on both sides began to take hold and on May 5th, 1868, Memorial Day was officially proclaimed by Gen. John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No.11 and was first observed on May 30th, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all the Northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their died on separate days set aside in their states since 1866, until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the War Between the States, to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war. It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May, though several Southern state still honor the Confederate war died on separate days. January 19th in Texas, April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. May 10th in South Carolina, and June 3rd Jefferson Davis birthday in Louisiana and Tennessee).

Isiah 40:1 Comfort ye comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Prayers: It is my sad duty to inform you that Lewis Leach had a serious motorcycle accident on April 30th. He is at the ICU unit at Erlanger hospital. He will probably need blood donations.(check with the camp.) Wedge Morrison's granddaughter, Rachel Phillips, has a very serious illness. Johnny Sparks continues to improve from his motorcycle accident. Fred Stafford also continues to improve from his motorcycle accident. Ronnie Watts requests prayer for his dad who has some health problems.

Let us remember all of these in our thoughts and prayers. I believe that prayer is an answer for many of the hardships we as mortals face.

James Fletcher, Chaplain,
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 16, 2006 : Camp Meeting: The March 2006 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 in back of the Easy Rental Store on Highway 11 at the south end of Trenton. We will meet to eat at 6:00 P.M. – there will be no retreat! Call 657-5000 for directions.
- May 19-21, 2006: Battle Re-enactment: The annual re-enactment of the Battle of Resaca will be held on the weekend of May 19-21, 2006 at Resacca. This is always an outstanding event. This year will be the first year that we have had our camp sales booth at the event. All who can are urged to help.
- May 27, 2006: Parade. The annual 1890's Parade and celebration will be held on Saturday May 27, 2006 at Ringgold, Georgia. We will lead the parade and have the camp sales booth. We hope you all will be able to attend this important event. Call 657-5000 for additional information.
- June 17-18, 2006: Georgia Division Convention: The annual Georgia Division Convention will be held on June 17-18, 2006 at Gainesville, Georgia. There will be additional information at the camp meeting.



STATE OF DADE CAMP No. 707
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Lewis Samuel Leach, Adjutant
116 Ridge Road
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37411

HONORING OUR CONFEDERATE HERITAGE

