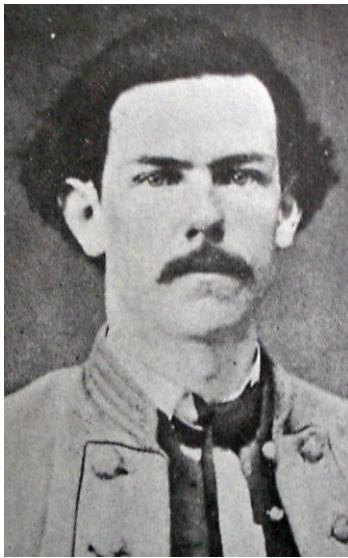
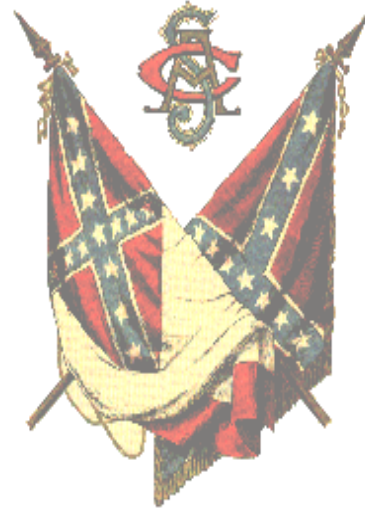

NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



THE SILVER GRAY



Vol. 16

November 2011

No. 11



Camp Chaplain Jim Fletcher receiving an award from 1st Brigade Commander Charles Bramlett at the State of Dade booth at the New Salem Festival.



Remembering Les (Bird) Smith.



Les (Bird) Smith Memorial Graveside Service.

SLAVERY TRUTHS

AS PRESENTED in Jordan and Walsh's White Cargo:

From: johough@swbell.net

"To be the chattel of another, to be required by law to give absolute obedience in everything and to be subject to whippings, brandings and chaining for any show of defiance, to be these things, as were many whites, was to be enslaved. Daniel Defoe, writing in the early 1700s, described indentured servants as 'more properly called slaves'" Don Jordan and Michael Walsh. *White Cargo: The Forgotten History of Britain's White Slaves in America*. New York University Press, NY. p. 15).

English and Americans dressed up white slavery with the terms such as "indentured" and "bondsmen," but those words, for the most part, were lies! "English colonies on the mainland had begun edging in different ways towards racial slavery and at a different pace, with the men in power quite possibly having little idea of where they were heading. Massachusetts, for instance goes down in history as the first colony to legalise slavery - but no race was targeted when it did so" (Ibid. p. 172).

They were whites, they were: "victims of the empire. They were all supposed to gain their freedom eventually. . . In early decades, half of them died in bondage. . . . tens of thousands of whites were held as chattels, marketed like cattle, punished brutally and in some cases literally worked to death (Ibid. p. 12).

"Lifetime black slaves were becoming the norm and all the colonies had passed laws either recognising slavery in principle or specifically legalising it. Massachusetts led the way in 1641, followed by Connecticut in 1650, Virginia in 1661, Maryland in 1663, and New York and New Jersey in 1664. Others followed later." (ibid. p. 175).

"Among the first to be sent [to America] were children. . . . In 1618, the authorities in London began to sweep up hundreds of troublesome urchins from the slums and, ignoring protests from the children and their families, shipped them to Virginia. . . they were sold to planters to work in the fields and half of them were dead within a year. shipments of children continued from England and then from Ireland for decades. Many of these migrants were little more than toddlers" (Ibid. pp. 12-13).

In 1278, "when two Anglo-Normans were brought into court and charged with raping one Margaret O'Rourke. They were found not guilty because 'the said Margaret is an Irishwoman'. "...from the twelfth until the sixteenth century, Ireland was a laboratory in which social ideas and legal conventions would be forged and which found their echo in the labour systems of the American colonies." [WHAT WAS DONE TO BLACK SLAVES WAS FIRST DONE TO THE IRISH.] (ibid. p. 140).

White slaves were "used" in America long before black ones were brought here. When blacks were finally brought in, "some whites were treated with less humanity than the blacks working alongside them" (ibid. p. 12).

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CAPTAIN HENRY WIRZ

Captain Henry Wirz, commandant of the Andersonville Prisoner of War Camp in Georgia was one of two Confederate officers who was formally executed at the end of the American Civil War. Today, the evidence clearly shows that Captain Wirz was not a war criminal, but simply a Confederate soldier who did his duty to the best of his ability under very trying circumstances. This being the case, the Sons of Confederate Veterans have, for a number of years, conducted an annual memorial service to honor the memory of this distinguished Confederate Veteran.

The memorial service for this year will be held in the town of Andersonville on November 6th at 3 PM in the town of Andersonville, Georgia. The guest speaker for the event will be Dr. Richard Rhone from Tuscaloosa, Alabama who is the Lieutenant Commander General of the Military Order of Stars and Bars. John Carroll will lead those assembled in the singing of "Dixie" and Andersonville Mayor Marvin Buagh will bring welcome.

This will be a great event for anyone who can attend. It would also make a great ride for Mechanized Cavalry.



The military execution of Captain Wirz.

The United Confederate Veterans

Cunningham, Sergeant-Major, CSA,
Editor and Founder of "*The Confederate*"

The organization known as the United Confederate Veterans was formed in New Orleans, June 10, 1889. The inception of the idea for a large and united association is credited to Colonel J. F. Shipp, a gallant Confederate, commander of N. B. Forrest Camp, of Chattanooga, Tennessee – the third organized – who was in successful business for years with a Union veteran. Colonel Shipp had gone to New Orleans in the interest of the Chattanooga and Chickamauga Military Park, and there proposed a general organization of Confederates on the order of the Grand Army of the Republic, his idea being to bring into a general association the State organizations, one of which in Virginia, and another in Tennessee, had already been organized.

Following these suggestions, a circular was sent out from New Orleans in regard to the proposed organization, and the first meeting was held in that city on June 10, 1889, the organization being perfected under the name of United Confederate Veterans, with F. S. Washington, of New Orleans, as president, and J. A. Chalaron, secretary. A constitution was adopted, and Lieutenant-General John B. Gordon, of Georgia, was elected general and commander-in-chief. At this meeting there were representatives from the different Confederate organizations already in existence in the States of Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee...

While the organization was perfected in New Orleans, the first reunion of United Confederate Veterans was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, July 3 to 5, 1890. To this reunion invitations were extended "to veterans of both armies and to citizens of the Republic," and the dates purposely included Independence Day.

The first comment both in the North and South was, "Why keep up the strife or the memory of it?" but it was realized that such utterances were from those who did not comprehend the scope of the organization of United Confederate Veterans, which, from the very outset, was clear in the minds of its founders. It was created on high lines, and its first commander was the gallant soldier, General John B. Gordon, at the time governor of Georgia, and later was United States senator. General Gordon was continued as commander-in-chief until his death. The nature and object of the organization cannot be explained better than by quoting from its constitution.

The first article declares: "The object and purpose of this organization will be strictly social, literary, historical, and benevolent. It will endeavor to unite in a general federation all associations of the Confederate veterans, soldiers and sailors, now in existence or hereafter to be formed; to gather authentic data for an impartial history of the War between the States; to preserve the relics or memories of the same; to cherish the ties of friendship that exist among the men who have shared common dangers, common suffering and privations ; to care for the disabled and extend a helping hand to the needy; to protect the widow and orphan, and to make and preserve the record of the services of

every member and, as far as possible, of those of our comrades who have preceded us in eternity.”

Likewise, **the last article provides that neither discussion of political, or religious subjects, nor any political action, shall be permitted in the organization,** and that any association violating that provision shall forfeit its membership. The notes thus struck in the constitution of the United Confederate Veterans were reechoed in the opening speech of the first commander-in-chief. General Gordon, addressing the Veterans and the public, said:

“Comrades, no argument is needed to secure for those objects your enthusiastic endorsement. They have burdened your thoughts for many years. You have cherished them in sorrow, poverty, and humiliation. In the face of misconstruction, you have held them in your hearts with the strength of religious convictions. No misjudgments can defeat your peaceful purposes for the future. Your aspirations have been lifted by the mere force and urgency of surrounding conditions to a plane far above the paltry consideration of partisan triumphs. The honor of the American Government, the just powers of the Federal Government, the equal rights of States, the integrity of the Constitutional Union, the sanctions of law, and the enforcement of order have no class of defenders more true and devoted than the ex-soldiers of the South and their worthy descendants. But you realize the great truth that a people without the memories of heroic suffering or sacrifice are a people without a history.

“To cherish such memories and recall such a past, whether crowned with success or consecrated in defeat, is to idealize principle and strengthen character, intensify love of country, and convert defeat and disaster into pillars of support for future manhood and noble womanhood. Whether the Southern people, under their changed conditions, may ever hope to witness another civilization which shall equal that which began with their Washington and ended with their Lee, it is certainly true that devotion to their glorious past is not only the surest guarantee of future progress and the holiest bond of unity, but is also the strongest claim they can present to the confidence and respect of the other sections of the Union.”

Referring to the new organization, General Gordon said: “It is political in no sense, except so far as the word 'political' is a synonym of the word 'patriotic.' It is a brotherhood over which the genius of philanthropy and patriotism, of truth and justice will preside; of philanthropy, because it will succor the disabled, help the needy, strengthen the weak, and cheer the disconsolate; of patriotism, because it will cherish the past glories of the dead Confederacy and transmute them into living inspirations for future service to the living Republic; of truth, because it will seek to gather and preserve, as witnesses for history, the unimpeachable facts which shall doom falsehood to die that truth may live; of justice, because it will cultivate national as well as Southern fraternity, and will condemn narrow-mindedness and prejudice and passion, and cultivate that broader and higher and nobler sentiment which would write on the grave of every soldier who fell on our side, ' Here lies an American hero, a martyr to the right as his conscience conceived it.'”



The Chaplain's Corner

As we celebrate and observe "Veteran's Day" which will be on November 11th, we need to remember our fellow veterans and thank them personally for what they have done. Whether it was servin in World War II, Korea, Veitnam, Panama, Granada, the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afganistan or any of the unnamed conflicts in the world. We don't have many World War 1 veterans to thank today, but that war was involved in us having "Veteran Day". It was originally called "Armistis Day," or suspension of hostilities, was signed by the opponents on November 11th, 1918. The hostilities stopped at 11:00 AM that morning. I know many of the older generation will remember it first being "Armistice Day". It was changed in 1954 to "Veteran's Day" to honor all the

veterans who have served.

Remember that the "Sons of Confederate Veterans" is the oldest veterans group in the U.S. , it being pre-dated by the "United Confederate Veterans which started even earlier. When we celebrate this day by being in a parade or assisting in any way, hold your heads in what you have done. May our own personal sacrifices be worthy of those who sacrificed so much – that the American dream will never die. And may God Bless America forever.

II Samual 22:4 *"I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so I will be saved from my enemies."*

Prayer List : In our prayers, we need to keep our service people in our thoughts and prayers, especially those that are still in harms way.

May God Bless,

James Fletcher
1st Brigade Chaplain
Ph. 256-657-5998
Email chaplain@scv.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 5: The 35th annual Captain Henry Wirz Memorial Service will take place on Sunday afternoon, November 7th at 3 PM in the town of Andersonville, Georgia. For more information about the event contact James Gaston by email at: gaston7460@bellsouth.net
- November 15: Camp Meeting: The November 2011 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 15, 2010 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.
- December 3: Christmas Parade: The annual Christmas Parade in Dade County will be held on December 3, 2011. More information will be given at the November meeting.



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

