



NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



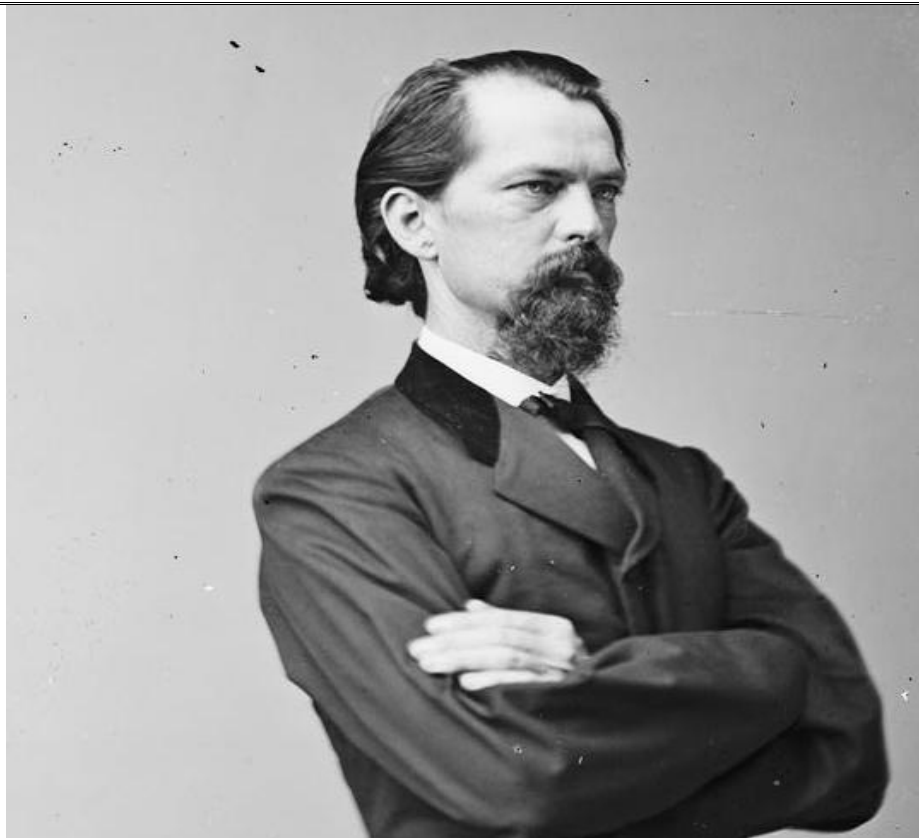
**THE
SILVER
GRAY**



Vol. 13

February 2008

No. 2



General John B. Gordon, born February 6, 1832.

January Camp Meeting

Officers for 2008 State of Dade Camp 707

The January meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707 was held on January 15, 2008. Out of a total membership of 48 there were 26 members in attendance. As a part of the general business meeting an election of officers for the year 2008 was held. The following slate of officers were elected by a unanimous decision on the part of the members in attendance

Office	Name
Commander	Jerald D. Morrison
Lieutenant Commander	Brian Croft
Adjutant	Larry Wheeler
Treasurer	Larry Wheeler
Judge Advocate	Freddie Parris
Aide-de-Camp	Robert Allen Daniels
Provost Marshall/ Sgt. At Arms	Fred Hicks
Quartermaster Sergeant	Scott Niles
Quartermaster Corporal	Brandon Croft
Chaplain	James D. Fletcher
Assistant Chaplain	Phillip Croft
Recruiting Sergeant	Johnny Sparks
Color Sergeant	Mark A. Steele
Color Corporal	Mike Holland
Editor	Raymond Evans
Historian	Raymond Evans
Webmaster	Dennis Forster
Bugler	Anthony Burns
Orderly	Ronald J. Watts
Executive Committee:	Jerald D. Morrison Brian Croft Freddie Parris Johnny Sparks Raymond Evans Larry Wheeler



Happy Birthday, General Gordon

John Brown Gordon was born in Upson County, Georgia on February 6, 1832 to Zachariah and Malinda Cox Gordon. John was the fourth of twelve children. At the time of his birth his father was a prominent minister and plantation owner. Around 1840, Zachariah moved his family to Walker County near Lafayette, where John attended the Chattooga Academy, now known as John B. Gordon Hall. Although John was an outstanding student at the University of Georgia, John left before graduating and shortly thereafter moved to Atlanta, where he studied law and passed the bar. Because his law practice did not prosper, he became a journalist in Milledgeville, and then came to Dade County, where he and his father formed the Castle Rock Coal Company.

When war broke out in 1861, Gordon was living in Jackson County, Alabama, working in Georgia, and picking up his mail in Tennessee. He raised a company that was turned down by both Tennessee and Georgia before being accepted into the 6th Alabama Infantry. The regiment went to the Army of Northern Virginia, where they served throughout the war. Gordon became a general through merit and served throughout the war with distinction. Although he was never promoted to lieutenant general, when the War ended Gordon had both the responsibilities and authority of a corps commander and was principal confidant.

Before and during the War he had been urged to run for public office, but had not done so. After the War he was persuaded to do so. In his first race in 1868, in which he opposed Republican Rufus B. Bullock for the governorship of Georgia, he lost. In 1872, the Georgia General Assembly, which then selected the State's U.S. Senators, elected him to represent Georgia in Washington. Shortly after arriving in Washington, he became the first Confederate to preside over the U.S. Senate. In the Senate, he concentrated on economic issues and fostering national reconciliation. He was hailed by the New York Times as "the ablest man from the South in either House of Congress."

Mistakes made by the Memphis branch of the insurance company whose Atlanta branch Gordon headed caused the company to go bankrupt. Gordon's financial status remained precarious for the rest of life and gave substance to claims that he exchanged political favors for money. In 1886, Gordon won the Democratic nomination for governor with 322 votes out of 332. He ran unopposed in the general election, and served for two terms in the Georgia State House. While in office, in partnership with his sons, he continued to invest in a variety of businesses, and when the United Confederate Veterans was organized in 1889, he was made the group's president.

In 1896, he declared he was retiring from politics, after serving with distinction in the U. S. Senate. During the last decade of his life, Gordon remained extremely active in his efforts to vindicate the South and at the same time to establish a new spirit of nationalism by embarking on a career as a lecturer. Three months before his death in 1904, he published a book, *Reminiscences of the Civil War*, which went through several printings in its first year.

An Early Battle Re-Enactment at Chickamauga Park.

[From the *Chattanooga Times* stated on September 11, 1898, page 5]



Re-enactment of the Battle of Snodgrass Hill at Chickamauga in 1898.

NOTE: During the Spanish American War, the Chickamauga Chattanooga National Military Park became a military base called Camp Thomas. On September 10, 1898, the Second Kentucky Infantry Regiment performed a re-enactment of the battle at Snodgrass Hill. Among the members of the public who watched the battle were several men, veterans from both armies, who had been present for the real battle thirty-five years earlier. The newspaper account states:

“The sham battle by the 2nd Kentucky yesterday morning was one of the prettiest and one of the most interesting sights that has ever been witnessed at Chickamauga Park. The battle was for the purpose of representing the famous fight that occurred on Snodgrass Hill in 1863, and a number of persons who were in that engagement and who witnessed the sham battle yesterday say it was a most correct representation. Cos. I, M, K, D, and G represented the federal forces and occupied a position on the crest of Snodgrass Hill. The boys were dressed in blue and were stationed on the exact point occupied by the federals.

“The attacking force, representing the Confederates, consisting of Cos. H, L, E, C, F, and B, and occupied the position of the Confederates. These boys were dressed in kaki trousers to distinguish them from the federals. The Confederates came out of the woods at the foot of the hill and went into position in sight of the enemy. The federal line was already formed, and it was only a short time until the Confederates were arranged in battle formation. The federals opened the engagement by firing two volleys. At this, the Confederates advanced a short distance and returned the fire. The firing then became general, the federals firing in volleys and the Confederates replying with two or three volleys and then firing at will. This firing was kept up for several minutes until the air was dense with smoke and it was impossible to see the combatants. During the firing, the Confederates had advanced some distance, and when the smoke cleared away, the federals found them much nearer. At this they were ordered to lie on the ground, and in

this position began another heavy fire. The Confederates opened up a terrific fire at the same time and then began the repetition of the famous charge up the hill. Issuing from the dense smoke and mingled with the din and roar of the fight, could be heard the rebel yell as the Confederates wildly charged the Union line.

“A large number of spectators witnessed the fight, and as the charge was made they were seized with the excitement and ran nearer the soldiers to see the result. The volleys and rapid firing of the guns made a terrific din and could be heard for miles. The battle was a great success, and the Kentuckians were complimented on the excellent manner in which they executed the maneuvers. Maj. Helburn was in command of the federal forces, and Maj. Owens was in command of the Confederates.”



Snodgrass Hill in 1898.

Macon Iron Works at Trenton

During the war, the Macon Iron Works were built near the Trenton spring. The company was chartered in Macon, Georgia in 1862. "Mr. J. Cowles and his associates, of Macon," James A. Nisbet wrote on October 3, 1862, "have secured a large iron estate, and propose organizing a company to do work on a large scale for the Confederate government, under a liberal contract. Messers. Cowles, Elam, Alaxander, Asa Thompson and A. M. Lockett, who are interested in this last purchase, are known to the people of Georgia as a whole team in the way of enterprise and capital combined."

This facility was in the final stages of construction when the Federal Army of the Cumberland occupied Dade County in September 1863. The presence of slag on the site is evidence that at least some iron had already been made there. On September 4, 1863, General George Thomas reported: "Negley's division still in camp at Brown's Spring. He reports having sent forward a reconaissance of two regiments to scour the country toward Chattanooga, and secure some captured stores near Macon Iron-works."

The Saturday, September 5th diary entry by Private Bliss Morse, 105th Ohio Infantry Regiment, states: "We marched five miles to Trenton, Geo. And camped near a foundry which is being built." In a letter to his mother, he added: "We laid there [Squirrel Town Spring] until m. [noon] of the 5th when marched to this place [Trenton]. A RR [railroad] runs through to Chattanooga. Our camp is on a rebel farm. The owner was a quartermaster for them and he had stores of salt, flour, pork, pepper, and whiskey. There is a new furnace here which the owners left as we came up. They hid their horses in the woods and the boys found them."

When General William T. Sherman brought his Army of the Tennessee to relieve the siege of Chattanooga in November 1863, he sent his brother in law, General Hugh Ewing, with a division, to invade Dade County as a distraction. General Ewing carried out his instructions well and on November 20, 1863 reported to Sherman from Trenton, saying: "I am destroying the iron-works, and hope by morning to see them all fall to lawless ruin." The same day, Ewing ordered Captain Cassell, Division Engineer, to begin the work of destroying the iron works: "You will proceed at once to destroy the machinery and stacks of all iron-works in Lookout Valley, using fire, or powder. Make the work thorough; also destroy all tanneries and machinery of mills attached to the iron-works."

He issued similar instructions to General Course who was camped near the Empire Iron Works south of Trenton. In his final report on his action in Dade County, Ewing stated: "While in the valley we destroyed the iron-works, breaking to pieces the engines and machinery and leveling the stacks to the ground." In spite of this claim, the destruction was much less than complete and remains of both furnaces are still present.

General Sherman never knew that his men were lax in carrying out their orders. A good portion of the stack at the site is still there today.



Chaplain's Corner

When the little boy asked his grandfather what was being planted in the garden, the wise grandfather answered that the seed knew exactly what it would become when the sun and the rain and time had a chance to help it grow. The little boy was happy to learn that a carrot is always a carrot, and rose is always a rose. So it is that righteousness comes from righteous action, and there is no deviation in the garden of life.

God, for the fellowship of those along the way who are trying to live in righteousness, accept our thanks this day.

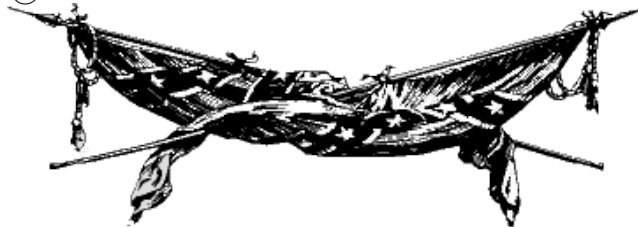
1 John 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

Prayer List: Lewis Leach continues in his great fight for recovery after his motorcycle accident. Let us continue to have him in our thoughts and prayers.

May God Bless,

James Fletcher, Chaplain
SCV Camp #707
Ph. 256-657-5998

Email jdfletcher@stateofdade.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 2-3 Camp 707 will have a booth at the annual Dalton Civil War Show at the Dalton trade center the first weekend in February.
- February 19: Camp Meeting: The February 2008 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 19, 2007 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.
- March 13-16: St Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah. The Parade will be on Saturday the 15th. Plan now to attend. Five rooms reserved Downtown. Call Freddie @ 657-5000 for additional information.
- March 28-30: Battle of Bridgeport Reenactment. Additional material will be given in the next newsletter.



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

