

---

NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



**THE  
SILVER  
GRAY**



---

Vol. 12

September 2007

No. 9

---



Beauvoir –last home of President Jefferson Davis.

## **Beauvoir House – Two Years After Hurricane Katrina**

As you all know, Beauvoir House and the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library suffered heavy damage from Hurricane Katrina. These two structures can and will be restored given time and funding. Stabilization of the house and presidential library are ongoing and architectural plans and specifications for their restoration have been completed by Larry Albert and Associates. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Lathan and Company of Mobile, Alabama, gave the lowest and best bid for restoration in the amount of \$ 4.1 million dollars for Beauvoir House, including alternate additives. A pre-construction meeting was held on March 14, 2007 and Lathan and Company was given notice to proceed. The contract is for twelve months construction time with a completion date of March 13, 2008. According to Rick Forte, Sr., Chairman of the Combined Boards of Beauvoir and Interim Director, currently, Lathan Construction has completed:

1. the concrete footings for the brick piers and replaced all 28 tiers. The tiers are 9' tall and 1 foot thick reinforced with steel rods in the center of the tiers
2. restoration of the brick wall in front of Beauvoir has begun
3. Support beams made from timber that is over 134 years old, 10 out of 25 completed
4. 12 of the 36 windows are completed
5. Framing on the front and back porches is starting it will take 6 weeks to complete
6. Restoration of the door on the front and back of the house is complete
7. Plaster work is being done, Craftsmen from Europe are doing this work and it is estimated it will take 11 weeks to complete the work
8. The roof will take 3 months to complete

The goal is to restore the house back to the 1878-1889 period when President Davis lived at Beauvoir. Federal dollars will only pay for 2.5 million of the 4.1 million dollars cost to repair Beauvoir House. Beauvoir must come up with over 1.6 million dollars from other sources so please consider donating to Beauvoir to help restore Jefferson Davis' home and all donations are tax deductible. Once work is completed on the house, Phase two will begin which is the rebuilding of the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library. The estimated time on this is to start taking bids in August/September 2007 and complete work by September 2009. The Bricks for Beauvoir Campaign is really paying off with almost 350 bricks sold so far and an estimated \$19,000 raised. This money will go toward the enhancement around the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier which is part of the historic area around the house that will be beautified once the house is completed. This is one small way that members of our organization can help Beauvoir and memorialize their ancestors around the Tomb. The enhancement will consist of thirteen columns, in a crescent, will represent the 13 States of the Confederacy and will fly the flag of each respective State. The UDC archway that was on the front part of the Beauvoir property was dismantled by the storm will be moved to the Tomb enhancement area and will be the gateway to this area in which a mirrored floating fountain greets visitors after walking past the archway.

Keep in mind, at the National Convention, a resolution was passed proclaiming 2008 as the year of Jefferson Davis, in honor of his 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday. On June 3, 2008, Beauvoir, the last home of President Jefferson Davis, will reopen to the General Public. You do not want to miss this special occasion so make plans to attend.

If anyone is interested in giving a donation to Beauvoir, please make checks out to Beauvoir, and in the "For" section of your check state "General Fund". Mail checks to: Beauvoir Operations/Recovery 2244 Beach Blvd. Biloxi, MS 39531

# ANNUAL DUES

Dues payable August 1 of each year and are delinquent November 1 of each year.

Anyone who joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans before August 1 (by the new rules passed at the 2005 convention) are owed dues as of August the first.

I will be sending in DUES the last week of October

## DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS

Sons of Confederate Veterans	\$20.00 per year
Georgia Division Sons of Confederate Veterans	\$12.00 per year
State of Dade Camp #707	\$ 5.00 per year
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37.00 per year</b>

If dues are sent to me after 1 November 2006 the Sons of Confederate Veterans will add a \$5.00 re-instatement fee for a total of \$42.00.

You may pay me at the meeting or mail your DUES to:

Larry D. Wheeler (Adjutant)  
639 Canyon Park Dr.  
Trenton, Georgia 30752-2640

Thank you for being a Son of the South. The South needs the support of all of her Sons. Please continue your membership and support THE CAUSE.

Thank you for your kind assistance in this matter.

Yours in Service to the South,

Larry W. Wheeler, Adjutant

# Harry Macarthy: The Bob Hope of the Confederacy

*He could make tired soldiers laugh, and his "Bonnie Blue Flag" churned southern audiences into a frenzy. That was why Harry Macarthy was loved from one end of the confederacy to the other.*

By E. Lawrence Abel

Harry Macarthy stood at center stage in the New Orleans Academy of Music one day in September 1861, singing to a packed house. His song was one few people had ever heard, but the audience of Confederate soldiers--men from Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas, passing through the city on their way to the Virginia front--took to it immediately. They stood and cheered as Macarthy sang.

The consummate performer, Macarthy was not just singing; he was also playing a role, the part of a Confederate volunteer heading off to war. He was dressed in a full Confederate army uniform just like the men in the crowd. His wife, Lottie Estelle, played the sweetheart he was leaving behind. As Macarthy sang, Lottie dashed onto the stage waving a blue silk flag with a single white star on it, a popular symbol of Southern independence. When Lottie reached her husband, she threw her arms around his neck. It was a scene the young soldiers in the audience remembered vividly, and they could barely restrain themselves as Macarthy took "The Bonnie Blue Flag" into its chorus:

**Hurrah! Hurrah! For Southern rights, hurrah!  
Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.**

With every "hurrah," the soldiers jumped up to cheer. The gathering was on the verge of mayhem, so Macarthy, experienced stage performer that he was, waited until the crowd settled down before he launched into the second verse.

Still, the more he sang, the more the audience howled. One soldier in the crowd, a member of Terry's Texas Rangers, was so worked up that he remained on his feet, cheering in oblivion after everyone else had sat down. His blind enthusiasm attracted the attention of a policeman patrolling the hall. The officer approached, tapped him on the shoulder, and told him to sit down. But the young man was too wound up. He responded with a blow that sent the officer tumbling.

In an instant, all was bedlam. Police tried to subdue the troublemaker, but the Rangers were not about to let one of their own be hauled off to a New Orleans jail. More police streamed into the hall to help, but to no avail. Chaos reigned until someone was struck with the good sense to summon Colonel Frank Terry and Mayor John T. Monroe. Both men rushed to the scene and called off their men. Order was restored, and Terry led his rowdy Rangers back to the relative quiet of camp.

Within 24 hours of the near riot, "The Bonnie Blue Flag" had spread throughout the Confederate army. Talk of Macarthy spread, too. Not only had he given the memorable performance of the song in New Orleans; he himself had also written the stirring lyric, setting them to the tune of an old Irish folk song called "The Irish Jaunting Car." Macarthy was a hit, and for the rest of the war, he would do his best to keep his song and himself popular, taking his show on the road all over the South and providing diversion for thousands of civilians and soldiers. He lifted the morale of war-weary Southerners much as comedian Bob Hope would do for Americans during World War II. Like Hope in his days of entertaining GIs overseas, Macarthy was the most popular performer in his country, the Confederate States of America.

Actually, the South was not Macarthy's native land. He was an Englishman of Scotch-Irish descent and was 16 years old by the time he came to America in 1849. He launched his entertainment career shortly after arriving, starting out in 1850 playing bit parts in Philadelphia, and then joining an acting troupe in New Orleans in 1855.

He was a talented actor with the good looks and charisma typical of a popular performer. One of the few existing descriptions of him says he was "a small, handsome man, and brimful of the humor and the pathos and impulsive generosity of the Celtic race." The only known pictures of him are those that grace the covers of a concert program and two pieces of sheet music. All were published at the height of his career and show him clean-shaven with thick black hair covering his ears. He had a straight nose and thin lips.

Macarthy made a breakthrough in his prewar career in 1859, when he began touring Arkansas with what he called "personation concerts." These shows featured Macarthy imitating people with various dialects. On September 8, 1860, an article in the Arkansas Gazette lauded the performer as one of the most versatile and accomplished actors of the day. "His dialect, acting and delineation of characters are true to the life," the article stated, explaining that he "embraced a range and variety which we have never seen equaled by one man. As a ballad singer he is among the best we ever listened to, and in presenting Yankee, Irish, English, Dutch, French, and Negro characters, he reminds one so much of the genuine article that it is difficult to realise the fact that he is only acting." Macarthy was so overwhelmed by his reception in Arkansas that he began calling himself the Arkansas Comedian.

From Arkansas, Macarthy traveled to Mississippi and found still more inspiration waiting for him. He was in Jackson in January 1861, during the state's secession convention, when the delegates voted to break from the Union. There, he saw a delegate's wife parading around with a blue flag and was inspired to write the tune that would make him famous.

**(Continued in next months issue.)**



## Chaplain's Corner

James Fletcher, Chaplain,

SCV camp #707

Ph. 256-657-5998

E-mail:

[jdfletcher@stateofdade.com](mailto:jdfletcher@stateofdade.com)

Temptation is one of the words which has fallen into bad use in this modern age of permissive behavior, Too often the old fashioned word "temptation" is confused with a new opportunity to learn about the degraded side of life. A fresh temptation always comes on to consider "temptation" an old fashioned , rigid word. A part of overcoming temptation today involves acknowledging and rejecting such temptations which must be endured in gaining spiritual growth.

Father, we do not mean to do right just to receive a reward, but we are grateful for the blessings inherent in righteousness.

*James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptations.*

**Prayer List:** Lewis leach is still involved in his great fight for recovery after having a motorcycle accident. Wedge Morrison's granddaughter, Rachel, has a very serious illness. Ronnie Watts says there has been much improvement in his Dad's health. Let us remember all these in our thoughts and prayers.

**Congratulations:** Compatriot Fred Hicks and his wife, Sara, are the proud parents of a baby boy. Forest Lee Hicks was born August 28th and weighed 7.7 Lbs. Sara and the baby are in good health. We send congratulations to you from Camp #707 and love the name you picked for him.

## Confederate Generals Born in September

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee - 22 Sept. 1833 - Charleston, S.C.  
Lt. General Joseph Wheeler - 10 Sept. 1836 - Augusta, Ga.  
Adm. Raphael Semmes - 27 Sept. 1809 -  
Maj. General William Wirt Allen - 11 Sept. 1835 - New York City, N.Y.  
Maj. General Howell Cobb - 17 Sept. 1815 - Jefferson Co., Ga.  
Maj. General George Washington Custus Lee - 16 Sept. 1832 - Fortress Monroe, Va.  
Maj. General Sterling Price - 20 Sept. 1809 - Prince Edward Co., Va.  
Maj. General Martin Luther Smith - 9 Sept. 1819 - Danby, N.Y.  
Maj. General William "Extra Billy" Smith - 6 Sept. 1796 - King George Co., Va.  
Maj. General Carter Littlepage Stevenson - 21 Sept. 1817 - Fredericksburg, Va.  
Maj. General Earl Van Dorn - 17 Sept. 1820 - Port Gibson, Miss.  
Brig. General Seth Maxwell Barton - 8 Sept. 1829 - Fredericksburg, Va.  
Brig. General Francis Stebbins Bartow - 6 Sept. 1816 - Savannah, Ga.  
Brig. General Tyree Harris Bell - 5 Sept. 1815 - Covington, Ky.  
Brig. General Albert Gallatin Blanchard - 10 Sept. 1810 - Charlestown, Mass.  
Brig. General James Connor - 1 Sept. 1829 - Charleston, S.C.  
Brig. General Randall Lee Gibson - 10 Sept. 1832 - Woodford Co., Ky.  
Brig. General States Right Gist - 3 Sept. 1831 - Union, S.C.  
Brig. General John Gregg - 28 Sept. 1828 - Lawrence Co., Ala.  
Brig. General David Bullick Harris - 28 Sept. 1814 - Louisa, Va.  
Brig. General Joseph Lewis Hogg - 13 Sept. 1806 - Morgan Co., Ga.  
Brig. General Eppa Hunton - 22 Sept. 1822 - Fauquier Co., Va.  
Brig. General Bradley Taylor Johnson - 29 Sept. 1829 - Frederick, Md.  
Brig. General Thomas Jordan - 30 Sept. 1819 - Luray, Va.  
Brig. General William Gaston Lewis - 3 Sept. 1835 - Rocky Mount, N.C.  
Brig. General St. John Richardson Liddell - 6 Sept. 1815 - Woodville, Miss.  
Brig. General Armistead Lindsay Long - 3 Sept. 1825 - Campbell, Va.  
Brig. General John McCausland - 13 Sept. 1836 - St. Louis, Missouri  
Brig. General William McRae - 9 Sept. 1834 - Wilmington, N.C.  
Brig. General Patrick Theodore Moore - 22 Sept. 1821 - Galway, Ireland  
Brig. General Lucius Bellinger Northrop - 8 Sept. 1811 - Charleston, S.C.  
Brig. General Edward Asbury O'Neal - 20 Sept. 1818 - Madison Co., Ala.  
Brig. General Lawrence Sullivan Ross - 27 Sept. 1838 - Bentonsport, Iowa  
Brig. General Marcellus Augustus Stovall - 18 Sept. 1818 - Sparta, Ga.  
Brig. General James Camp Tappan - 9 Sept. 1825 - Franklin, Tenn.  
Brig. General Henry Constantine Wayne - 18 Sept. 1815 - Savannah, Ga.  
Brig. General Williams Carter Wickham - 21 Sept. 1820 - Richmond, Va.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 3: Mule Day: On Labor Day Monday, September 3, 2007 the annual Mule day will be celebrated at Ider, Alabama. Call Jim Fletcher for additional information.
- September 7-9 Battle re-enactment: The annual re-enactment of the Battle of Tunnel Hill will be held on September 7-9, 2007. Call 657-5000 for additional information.
- September 15: War Between the States Day on the grounds of the Gordon Lee House at Chickamauga Georgia.
- September 18: Camp Meeting: The September 2007 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 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.



**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**

