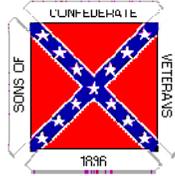
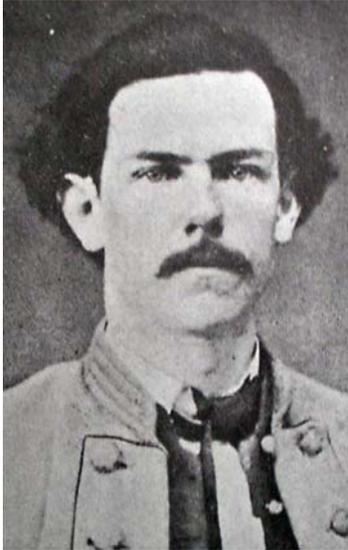
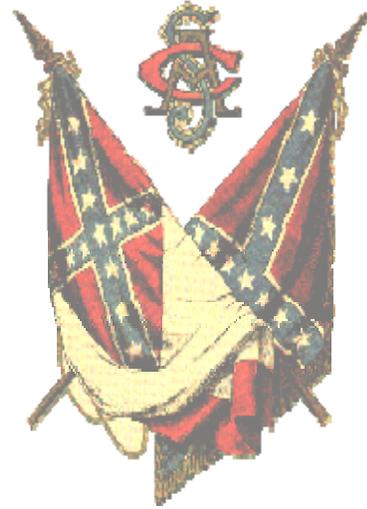


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NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



# THE SILVER GRAY



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Georgia Mechanized Cavalry.

## PHANTOM PAIN

The Raleigh (NC) News & Observer publishes an excerpt from the book "Phantom Pain: North Carolina's Artificial-Limbs Program for Confederate Veterans" by Ansley Herring Wegner. Wegner writes that "North Carolina quickly became a leader among Southern states in providing artificial limbs" for its Confederate veterans, "a noble effort by North Carolina's government to assist the maimed survivors of the 'lost cause' to once again become productive members of their communities." THE MISSING LIMBS

Doctors had neither the experience nor technology to adequately repair the shattered limbs and mangled bodies that were more quickly amassed by the larger armies and more potent weaponry. Moreover, because Civil War surgeons had to care for so many wounded, they often did not have the time to perform tedious re-constructive operations. Thus, amputations and re-sectioning of joints – that is, the removal of bone – became standard practice. While amputations had been performed for centuries, sterilization and post-surgical infections were still not yet understood. Despite the imprecise procedures and frenzied, unsanitary conditions, the survival rate for amputees was surprisingly high. This left large numbers of maimed veterans who were trying to make their way in the economically devastated post-bellum South.

Confederate amputees obviously found their lives irrevocably altered. The hero's welcome faded as Southerners memorialized their dead and contended with the war's emotional and economic consequences. Phantom pain, the ghostly sensation of pain from a missing limb, vexed the maimed soldiers as the ghosts of the dead haunted the South. Perhaps to capitalize on Southern loyalties and sympathies, Confederate amputees initially made no effort to hide their wounds. They pinned up their shirt-sleeves and pants legs proudly and were heard to make statements such as 'at least I lived' or 'it was a small price to pay for the cause.'

North Carolina quickly became a leader among Southern states in providing artificial limbs or, for those who could not use prostheses, monetary commutations to its maimed Confederate veterans. The policies for the program, the first of its kind among the former Confederate states, changed and grew with the public's support. But despite postwar economic hardships, North Carolina unwaveringly provided assistance. The result constituted a noble effort by North Carolina's government to assist the maimed survivors of the 'lost cause' to once again become productive members of their communities. In reality, however, providing limbs and commutations proved to be more of a psychological than economic benefit to the veterans. Even in that regard, the state's largesse could not erase the bitterness some veterans felt over the price that they had already paid for that piece of cork or willow sculpted into the shape of their missing appendage.

(From "Phantom Pain: North Carolina's Artificial-Limbs Program for Confederate Veterans" by Ansley Herring Wegner. For more information visit Researcher Brooke Cain. She can be reached at (919) 829-4579 or [bcain@newsobserver.com](mailto:bcain@newsobserver.com))

# HANGER LIMBS

Russ Ottens, Camp 693, Sylvester, Georgia

On this same subject, I'm posting an article I wrote for my Camp's newsletter 8 years ago. Here in my hometown of Tifton, we have a "Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics, Inc." and each time I drive by, I always think of the Confederate soldier for whom the business is named as well as the thousands of other soldiers who lost limbs defending the Confederacy.

James Edward Hanger was born in 1843 near Churchville, Virginia. While a student at Washington College in Lexington, VA (today known as Washington & Lee University), he left school to join the Churchville Cavalry in which two of his brothers were serving. This was a company formed by Captain Franklin Sterrett as part of the 14th Virginia Cavalry Regiment.

On June 3, 1861, James was wounded by the first shell fired by Federal artillery at the Battle of Philippi, also known as "The Philippi Races." This part of Virginia was later to become a part of West Virginia. In 1914 Hanger wrote of his wounding: "The first two shots were canisters and were directed at the Cavalry tents; the third shot was a six-pound solid shot aimed at the stable in which the Churchville Cavalry Company had slept. This shot struck the ground, ricocheted, entered the stable and struck me."



THE CONFEDERATE BEFORE THE YANKEE ARTILLERY

He was captured and had to have his leg amputated, the first amputation performed by a Union surgeon. Some consider Hanger to be the war's first amputee.

While he was recuperating near Philippi, Hanger designed and built, mainly from barrel staves, an artificial leg. After two months as a prisoner of war, he was exchanged at Norfolk, Va. Following his exchange, he continued making artificial limbs for other Confederate amputees.

They became known as "Hanger Limbs." Eventually, he was commissioned by the Virginia state government to manufacture even more. Later, he patented his prosthetic devices and started a firm known as the J.E. Hanger Company, headquartered in Richmond. By the time of Hanger's death in 1919, his company had branches in Atlanta, London, Paris, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis.

Today known as the Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc., it is the nation's oldest and largest orthotic and prosthetic management company.

# **The Death of Robert E. Lee**

By: Calvin E. Johnson, Jr.  
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Phone: 770 428 0978

Americans love to hear a story of our nation's past. Please share this story with your family, I dedicate to our American Servicemen and women defending this nation. Lee served in the United States Army for nearly 32 years.

Robert E. Lee, who died on October 12, 1870, is honored throughout this great nation. The world famous carving to Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee is just a short drive from Atlanta, Georgia at Stone Mountain Park. A statue also stands tall, of Lee and "War Horse" Traveller, at Monument Ave., in Richmond, Virginia.

Do your children know who Robert E. Lee was?

A yearly tribute to Lee is held at Statutory Hall, site of the Old Congressional Building, in Washington, D.C. There are also events planned in Virginia, Georgia and other states in commemoration of the 200th birthday of Robert E. Lee on January 19, 2007.

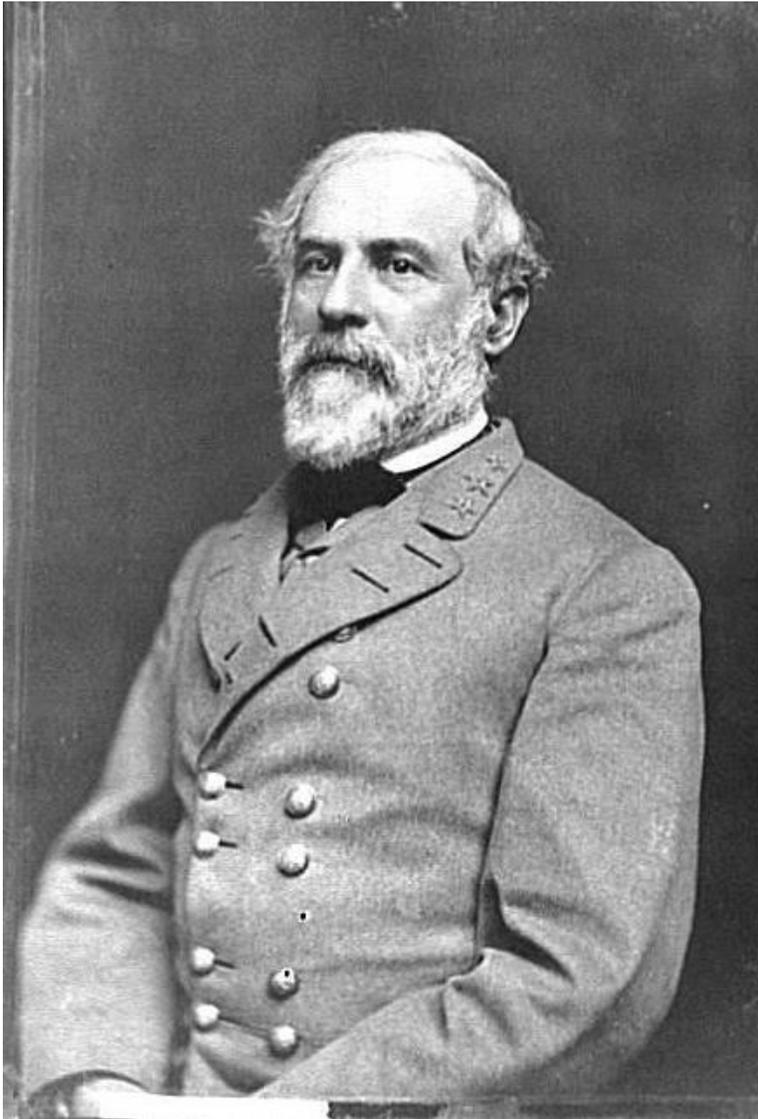
President Eisenhower knew and appreciated the proud history of our nation. While serving as U.S. President, Dwight Eisenhower was criticized for displaying a portrait of Robert E. Lee in his office. The president's response to this gentleman was kind but honest and here is a part of what he said; "General Robert E. Lee was, in my estimation, one of the supremely gifted men produced by this nation."

Lee also believed in the education of the young folks. He helped save a financially troubled "Washington College" in Lexington, Virginia. Returning home from a church meeting, Robert E. Lee sat at the supper table and was about to say grace. The general could not say a word and slumped down in his chair. It was believed that he had a stroke. It has been written that Lee's grief for the Southern people, some of whom were made poor from the War Between the States, may have contributed to his failing health.

His condition seemed hopeless when a doctor told him, "General, you must make haste and get well – Traveller – has been standing too long in his stable and needs exercise." Lee could only shake his head as he knew he would never again ride his beloved horse. It is written that Robert E. Lee stayed in the same condition, until Wednesday; October 12, 1870, when, at nine-thirty in the morning, in the presence of his family, the general quietly passed away.

The church bells rang as the sad news passed through Washington College, Virginia Military Institute and the town of Lexington. School Cadet's carried the remains

of the old soldier to Washington Chapel where he lay in state. Most buildings were covered in black for mourning.



Memorial meetings were also held throughout the South and as far North as New York. At Washington College in Lexington, eulogies were delivered by: Rev. Pemberton, Rev. W.S. White – Stonewall Jackson's Pastor – and Rev. J. William Jones. Jefferson Davis brought the eulogy in Richmond.

When all settled down, Mrs. Robert E. Lee said, "If he had succeeded in gaining by the sword all the South expected and hoped for, he could not have been more honored and lamented." A funeral procession for Lee marched through the town of Lexington and an artillery salute was fired as his hearse was driven to the school's chapel.

After Lee's death Washington College became known as Washington and Lee College. The Trustees of the school also tendered Mrs. Lee a deed to the president's house and an annuity of \$3,000.00 but she declined both.

The coming year, 2007, is being called "The Year of Lee" as Lee's 200th birthday will be remembered on January 19, 2007. What is your state, city, county or civic organization planning to commemorate this great American's birthday? This was an American who deserves to be remembered.

Robert E. Lee's last words were "Strike the Tent."

Lest We Forget!

## MECHANIZED CAVALRY REPORT



Colonel Ruben Hamby recently promoted Jesse Pinson to the rank of Major, leaving a vacancy for the position of Captain in Georgia. Since there was no other candidates, I was appointed to the rank.

I'm very happy with Commander Charlie Lott being the newly elected commander of the Georgia Division. Charlie is a class act. He's dedicated to the Sons of Confederate and a proven hard worker. We look forward to working closely with Commander Lott to defend Georgia's Confederate Heritage.

The next quarterly meeting of Georgia Mechanized Cavalry will be held on December 3, 2006 in Cumming, Georgia at the local SCV camp headquarters. All members are urged to attend. I have several proposals to put forth for a vote at this meeting.

I am laying out a plan for growth that will be beneficial for Georgia Mechanized Cavalry. All officers and non-commissioned officers will be put on probation for a one year period. Active participation will be required to retain the active rank. Inactive members will be retired with brevet rank.

I have also divided Georgia into three troops, with the First Troop being in northwest Georgia, the Second Troop being in northeast Georgia, and the Third Troop being in south Georgia. As Troop Commanders, I have appointed Sergeant Freddie Parris, 1<sup>st</sup> Troop; Sergeant Doug Morrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Troop, and First Lieutenant Steve Cook, 3<sup>rd</sup> Troop.

I'm currently working on a Headquarters Staff, with the following:

Chief of Staff	Bob Blankenship
Adjutant	Will Thomas
Sergeant Major	William "Boomer" Lockhart
Chaplain	Chuck Shields
Aid de Camp	Raymond Evans

For any questions or comments, please contact me at (423) 605-2231, or (706) 375-2302.

Johnny R. Sparks  
Georgia Company B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion  
MECHANIZED CAVALRY



## The Chaplain's Corner

As we celebrate "Veteran's Day" which will be on November 11, we need to remember our fellow veterans and thank them personally for what they have done. Whether it was serving in World War II, North Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Granada, the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan or any of the un-named conflicts in the world. We don't have many World War I veterans to thank today, but that war was involved in us having "Veteran's Day". It was originally called "Armistice Day", because an armistice, or suspension of hostilities, was signed by the opponents on November 11, 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 veteran's 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 high in what you have done. May our own personal sacrifices be worthy of those who sacrificed so much to insure that the American Dream will never die. And may God Bless America forever.

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

**Prayer list:** Lewis Leach (as of this writing) is at Erlanger hospital in the intermediate care area. Lewis continues to improve to therapy, but he still needs our visits to talk to him to help bring him out of this condition. Wedge Morrison's granddaughter, Rachel, has a very serious illness. Ronnie Watts requests prayer for his Dad who has 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.

May God bless,  
James Fletcher, Chaplain,  
SCV camp #707 Ph. 256-657-5998  
E-mail [jdfletcher@farmerstel.com](mailto:jdfletcher@farmerstel.com)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 3-5: Battle Re-enactment: A re-enactment of the Battle of Missionary Ridge will be held at Sequoia Caverns in Valley Head, Alabama on November 3-5. The camp 707 sales booth will also be set up. Please join us. Call 657-5000 for additional information or directions
- November 11: Veteran's Day Parade: The annual Trenton Veteran's Day Parade will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2006 at Trenton, and as usual, the State of Dade Camp 707 will participate. For additional information call Sergeant Major Boomer Lockhart at 593-1572.
- November 21: Camp Meeting: The November 2006 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 21, 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.
- December 3: Mechanized Cavalry Meeting: The next quarterly meeting of Georgia Mechanized Cavalry will be held on December 3, 2006 in Cumming, Georgia at the local SCV camp headquarters. Call Captain Johnny Sparks at (423) 605-2231, or (706) 375-2302 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**

