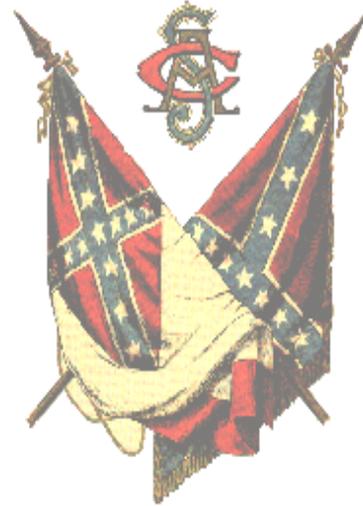
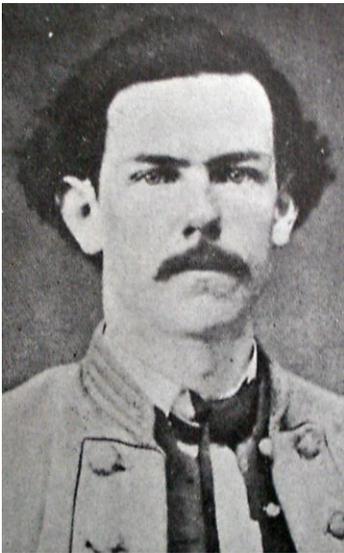


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**NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707**



**THE  
SILVER  
GRAY**

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Vol. 17

August 2012

No. 8

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The Cole Plantation in Sligo Valley, Dade County, Georgia.

Captain Ron Colson #1050SCV-MC, Company D, 3rd  
Battalion [www.FLSCVMC.org](http://www.FLSCVMC.org) [www.facebook.com/3rdBnCoDScvMechCav](https://www.facebook.com/3rdBnCoDScvMechCav)

While varying descriptions of the situation were floating around, the reality turned out to be a couple of disgruntled ex-police department officers calling on the NAACP & SCLC to come in with lies and baseless accusations to remove a respected and effective police chief. In an effort to garner media attention and public support (from any who might have their head in the sand), they accused the chief of having met with & had her photo taken with a group of clansmen, at a KKK community event. You men would recognize it as the photo she had taken with SCV Mechanized Cavalry members while they waited to participate in the 2012 Olustee Re-enactment parade, in Lake City. Having learned of the hearing, while participating in the 117th SCV Reunion, I made plans to attend in support of the Chief and, in doing so, let Lake City and the world know who these men really were. (The Chief was someone I knew personally, as she had retired from the Tallahassee Police Department three or four years ago and taken this job.) On Monday afternoon I drove over to Lake City, arriving early enough to meet up with any attending members, reread my presentation, and make contact with others I'd learned of who would be also supporting the Chief. My first contact was with HK Edgerton. HK had traveled down, from South Carolina. I first encountered HK outside of the Police Department, where I had hoped to see the Chief. He explained that she was in a meeting with the City Manager & Mayor and that there was little chance of seeing her before the meeting. Once outside the city hall, we talked for a time and noticed Ruppert's Bakery & Café, across the street. All were quick to make us feel welcomed. HK ordered a sweet tea and piece of cake and I had a diet coke & oatmeal cookie. We continued to have a pleasant conversation, speaking of the subject at hand, Confederate things in general, and of Confederate ancestors of one of the local folks. **We** walked back to the park and continued our visit. Shortly after arriving back in the park, a reporter approached us. Seeing the Mechanized Cavalry logo on my shirt and the flags on HK's baseball cap, I suppose the reporter's keen senses told him we were there concerning the same matter he was. He asked if he could interview us (on camera) and we consented. For whatever reason, I agreed to go first. The reporter was Chris Gilmore and his camera indicated he was from Channel 20, WCJB. Though Chris seemed extremely friendly and unbiased, I've learned to ignore that as a disarming tactic. I felt more comfortable with his interview than any I can remember. HK was next, and being the seasoned interviewee he is, his interview lasted awhile. During HK's interview, another gentleman of color approached and asked if I was "Ron". I responded that I was "a Ron". It turns out that this gentleman was Dr. Lorenzo Dixon. I had spoken with him on Sunday and was, therefore, aware of his plans to attend in support of not only the Chief, but of us as well. It seems that he's had considerable contact with our folks for several years and stated that we've never been anything but polite and respectful to him. After speaking with Dr. Dixon for a time, we were approached by a reporter from Channel 6, here in Tallahassee. **Knowing** that he was supportive of us (and seemingly not unsupportive of our cause) I encouraged him to accept **an interview**, and he did. During his interview, I noticed a plain-clothed officer depart city hall and approach a nearby vehicle. I called out to him and he responded. Walking over to meet with him, I introduced myself and solicited his opinion of the Chief. Acknowledging that he does not agree with everything she does, but pointing out that he doesn't agree with anyone on every issue, he explained that she was doing a great job and that he was glad she was there. He went on to explain the situation of the dismissed officers and identified one of them whom I had personal knowledge of. The City meeting, concerning utilities, had not concluded when we arrived upstairs, but the area was filling up in preparation for the "main event". In time, the utilities meeting ended and we began to file into the chambers. Inside the chambers, I sought out the person with request-to-speak forms and got mine completed & returned as quickly as possible. The time dragged by and the room filled to capacity and overflowed two rooms out before the meeting was called to order. (I found it quite unusual to recite the pledge of allegiance without following it up with Dixie.) After an opening prayer, the meeting began. For whatever reason, all of those seeking the resignation or firing of the Chief were called upon to speak first. Some did so with eloquence, and some did so without. What I later was able to confirm was that all of them spoke without the truth. (That's a fact, not an opinion.) Ironically, when all had spoken in favor of her demise, they simply left. Later, it became apparent why! Next, a citizen arose to speak in support of the Chief. It was apparent that she was a regular to the meeting and she expressed her amazement at the large crowd in attendance. I was next! While giving my name and address, as required, I also passed out copies of my presentation to all of the council members, the Mayor, and the City Manager. Up to that point, all but one of the cameras were a little to the right of where the speakers, including me, were speaking from. Quite obviously due to the Mechanized Cavalry logo on the left side of my chest, it seemed quite hilarious as they all scurried over to better film my shirt. Sticking to my script, until it was completed, I spoke with pride & sincerity to the council. Upon finishing my material, I added that, in doing as she had on the day of the parade, the Chief had not endorsed our cause or philosophy. She had done as any good ambassador would have, in that, she welcomed guests to their city. I declared that I hoped she was actually representing their values & character when she did so. As I departed the podium, and later as I re-entered the room, I was thanked by black and white citizens (alike) for coming over and saying what I did. After it was all over, police officers and more citizens thanked me for participating. While so many spoke in her favor, it was clear that my appearance was important & beneficial. I don't know whether it was, in any way, pivotal. But, as Chief Gilmore asked in her presentation (and emphasized in her PowerPoint), "did anyone ask these men who or what they were?" I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to answer that question for the council, for the citizens, and for the media. I truly believe that we have even more allies in Lake City than we had before. These folks already knew the value of attracting visitors to the area for the Olustee Reenactment & festivities. They now know more about the Sons of Confederate Veterans in general, and the Mechanized Cavalry specifically. They already knew the character of their police chief and now they know that we participated in helping to keep her. At the close of the meeting, a councilman was apparently compelled to offer up a motion to express their support for the Chief. It passed unanimously!! On a side note, there was a speaker there (on her behalf) who was, a few years back, standing before them in an effort to have the Confederate Battle Flag removed from the city seal

# Honoring Confederate Veterans

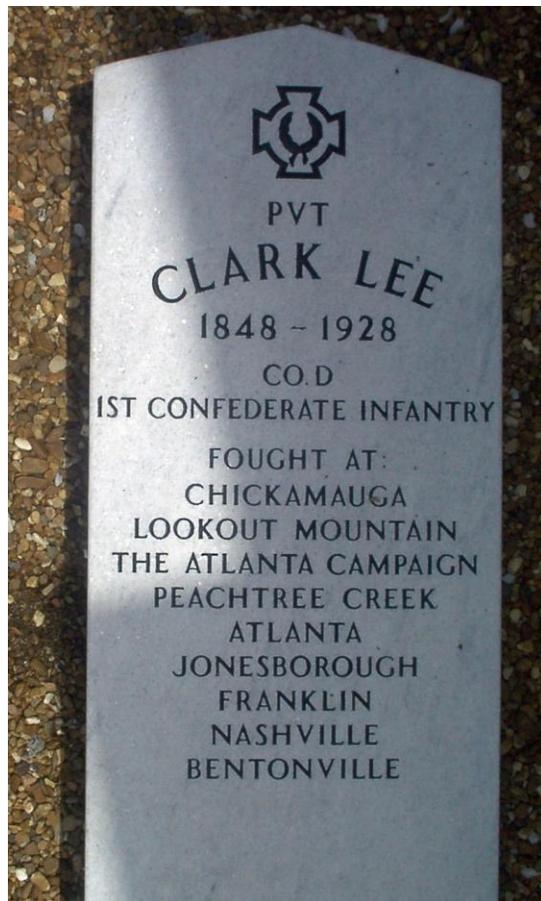
In recent months there has been a revitalized effort to remove all references to Confederate veterans throughout the South. In a recent protest against the flying of a Confederate flag in front of the Caddo Parish Courthouse in Louisiana an opponent of the flag stated: "When this flag flies, there is no justice. There is no equality."

The group says it's hard to enforce equal justice with a Confederate flag outside the courthouse. "This is where justice is made available to everybody. Yet we see in the 21st century, in the year 2011 there are still reminders of a vicious, ugly, degrading, racist, and incomprehensible past," says Professor Charles Ogletree.

He's the director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School. "That's not equal protection. That is offensive, derogatory, and demeaning to a whole generation of people," he says.

The American Civil Liberties Union shares this view. It filed a supporting brief with the Louisiana Supreme Court in Baton Rouge Monday. "We will be arguing, along with Mr. Dorsey's attorneys on May 9 in the Louisiana Supreme Court that the flag presents an intolerable risk that African Americans may be intimidated to serve on juries, may be excluded from juries like Mr. Staples for having strong feelings about the flag," says ACLU Staff Attorney Anna Arceneaux.

The U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) is making it increasingly hard to obtain head stones for Confederate veterans. About six months ago, we were refused by the VA in both Georgia and Tennessee to provide a stone for a Black Confederate Veteran. As of last March they announced that no one except a direct descendant of the veteran in question could even apply for a stone. We got around the problem by getting a stone from Sky Line monument in Alabama. They told me they would be happy to provide stones for any other veterans who need them. As you can see, this stone is superior to the old VA stones in that it also lists all the battles in which the veteran fought.



# Southern Unionist Questions

## *After John Brown's Crimes*

Bernhard Thuersam, Director  
Cape Fear Historical Institute

The following editorial from December 1859 asks “What Shall the South Do” after it was confronted with an attack by fanatic John Brown, armed and financed by Northern abolitionists with more money than good sense. The open warfare between North and South had moved eastward, and Americans in the South were asking why they should remain in a fraternal union under some “higher law theory” instead of the United States Constitution.

“The chief actor in the affair at Harper's Ferry has expiated his crime upon the gallows. Old Brown has been hanged. What will be the result of this enforcement of the law? Will the effect be salutary upon the minds of the Northern people? Have we any reason to suppose that it will cause them, for one moment only, to pause and reflect upon the course they have persistently followed towards the South and her institutions?”

“It is useless to disguise the fact, that the entire North and Northwest are hopelessly abolitionized. We want no better evidence than that presented to us by their course in this Harper's affair. With the exception of a few papers (among them we are proud to notice that sterling Whig journal, the New York Express,) that have had the manliness to denounce the act as it deserved, the great majority have either sympathized with the offenders, or maintained an ominous silence.



John Brown in 1854.

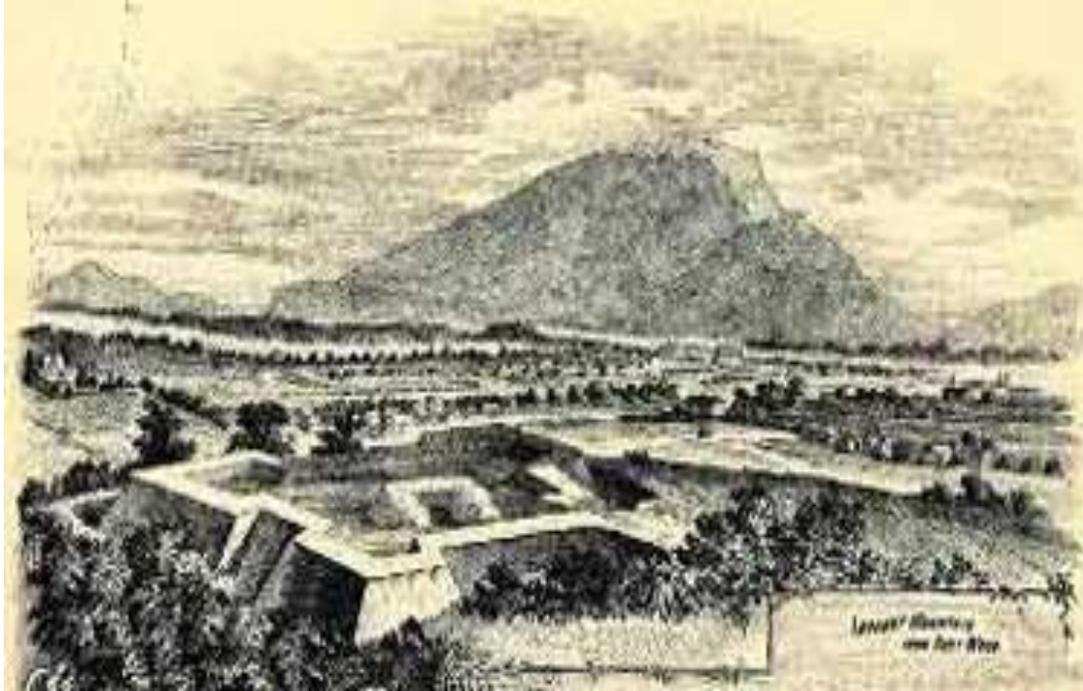
“Let us look calmly at the case: A sovereign State, in the peaceful enjoyment of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, has been invaded by an armed force, not foreign mercenaries, but citizens of the same Confederacy, and her people shot down in the public highways. The question is a natural one -- Why is this thing done? Why is murder and rapine committed? -- And who are the perpetrators? -- The answer is found in the fact, that the State whose territory has thus been invaded, is a Southern State in which the institution of slavery exists according to the law and the gospel; and the actors in the terrible drama were but carrying out the precepts and teachings of our Northern brethren.

“The "irrepressible conflict" between the North and the South then, has already commenced; to this complexion it must come at last. It is useless to talk of the conservatism of the North. Where has there been any evidence of it? Meetings upon meetings have been held for the purpose of expressing sympathy for murderers and traitors; but none, no, not one solitary expression of horror, or disapprobation even, for the crime committed, have we yet seen from any State North of Mason & Dixon's line.

“And yet they claim to be our brethren, speak the same language, worship the same God. We yield to none in our veneration for the Union, but it is not the Union, now, as our Fathers bequeathed it to us. -- Then, the pulse that throbbed upon the snow-capped mountains of New Hampshire, vibrated along the Gulf and the marshes of the Mississippi; then, there was unison of feeling, brotherly kindness and affection, and the North and the South, in friendly rivalry, strove together how they could best promote the general welfare.

“Now, all is changed. Do you ask why? Watch the proceedings of Congress, read the publications that are scattered by the North broadcast over the country, listen to the sentiments expressed at nearly all their public gatherings. The stereotyped cry, that these things are the work of fanatics only, will no longer answer; but if it be so, then fanaticism rules the entire North; for what has been the result of the elections held during the past summer? Ask Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, -- ask Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, and even the great State of New York; -- all, all, have given in their adhesion to the "higher law" principle, and the mandate for "irrepressible conflict." Do these things indicate affection, brotherly kindness, Union? There can be no union without affection, -- there can be no Union unless this aggressive policy of the North is stopped.

“We confess that we look forward with gloomy apprehension towards the future. If Congress fails to apply the remedy, then it behooves the South to act together as one man -- ship our produce direct to Europe, -- import our own goods, -- let the hum of the spinning-wheel be heard in our homes, as in the days of the Revolution, -- manufacture our own articles of necessity or luxury, and be dependent upon the North for -- nothing. If such a course does not produce a different state of affairs, then set us down as no prophet, -- if such a course does not cause the Conservatives of the North to give some tangible evidence of their existence, then we must of necessity conclude, that that principle has no lodgment in their midst.”



## DUES

August 1, 2012 marks the beginning for the fiscal year for the Sons of Confederate Veterans. You can pay your dues for the coming year at this time. While we know that it is very important to recruit new members for the camp we must never lose sight of the fact that it is just as important to retain all of our current members.

We should all make every effort now to see to it that our camp has 100% membership retention for the coming year. Now is also the time to consider life membership.

We have a number of issues to face during the coming year, and we will need all the members we can get. The Georgia Division has some major problems that need correcting and we will need every vote we can get at the next annual meeting.

The August Camp meeting will be an excellent time for you to pay your dues for the coming year. Then, with that responsibility out of the way, you can concentrate on recruiting at least one new member during the next three months.

# Chaplain's Corner



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

In this famous passage of a song by David, there is the universal hope of hearts to be saved from enemies and to give thanks to God for victory. Sometimes this praise must be given through tears, as families recall the great and terrible sacrifices of their service related fathers, sons, daughters, sisters and brothers. This loss is compounded when victory seems to be taken for

granted by those who have not made sacrifices. Calling upon God for comfort and peace remains the way to personal victory over sorrow and suffering. God, accept our deep gratitude for those who loved us with their very lives, and make us worthy of you. God, accept our deep gratitude for those who loved us with their very lives, and make us worthy of you.

**Prayer List:** Larry Wheeler continues to improve after his back surgery. Let us remember him in our thoughts and prayers for a full recovery.

Please remember me in you thoughts and prayers. I went for my yearly physical and was told by my doctor that my heart murmur had gotten worse. So I had some heart tests made and as a result got renal failure from these tests. I will have to have open heart surgery after I recover fully. The tentative date for the surgery is 8/14/12.

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

August 21: Camp Meeting: The August 2012 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 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.

September 7-9 Battle re-enactment: The annual re-enactment of the Battle of Tunnel Hill will be held on September 7-9, 2012. Call 298-4544 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**

