

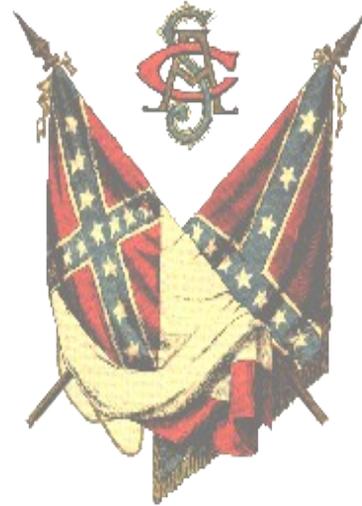


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**NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707**



**THE  
SILVER  
GRAY**



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Vol. 19

February 2014

No. 2

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Part of the Resaca Battlefield.

# Officers for 2012

## State of Dade Camp 707

The following slate of officers is presented for vote by the members at the February 2012 meeting of the Camp. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Office	Name
Commander	Robert Alan Daniels
Lt. Commander	Denny Forster
Adjutant	Freddy Parris
Treasurer	Philip A. Croft
Judge Advocate	Freddy Parris
Sgt at Arms/Provost Marshall	William C. Jeffcoats
Editor	Raymond Evans
Webmaster	Denny Forster
Quartermaster Sergeant	Greg Robinson
Chaplain	Jim Fletcher
Assistant Chaplin	Phillip A. Croft
Color Sergeant	Mark Steel
Historian	Raymond Evans
Bugler	Tony Burns
Orderly	Ronald J. Watts

### Executive Committee

Robert Alan Daniels  
Freddie Parris  
Philip Croft  
Raymond Evans  
Jim Fletcher  
Denny Forster

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## Confederate Winter Quarters at Dalton, Georgia

In the winter of 1863-64 the Confederate Army re-formed at Dalton, Georgia and established winter quarters camps in that area after the Chickamauga-Chattanooga action. General Braxton Bragg was removed from command and later replaced by General Joseph E. Johnston who did much to restore the lost morale and efficiency. He replaced their lost or frayed equipment and got them ready for resuming the war. The men rested and amused themselves in various ways. On occasion there was a big, division level, snowball fight.

The men also performed mock battles as a form of training for the men. These events were very similar to modern battle re-enactments. Visitors, mostly women, came up from Atlanta to watch these events and also take part in dances that were held in the evening. Every effort was made to make the sham battles realistic.

On one occasion, General Patrick Cleburne's division portrayed the Federals. They were completely outfitted with captured Federal uniforms, flags, and equipment. A small Federal scouting party was watching from the woods. They thought Cleburne's men were a real Federal attack and rushed down to join their supposed friends. They were unpleasantly surprised when they were made prisoners.

"April the first," Dr. William J. Worsham, the historian of the 19<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry Regiment wrote, "Gen. Johnson fought two sham battles below Dalton. He had one or two divisions on each side, and in which the artillery played a conspicuous part. When the first battle came off our division knew nothing about it, and just such another hustling of our men to get ready to move to the front, you never saw. The men were lounging around, some asleep when the cannon opened. Every man had his accoutrements on in twenty minutes ready for marching. The sound of battle coming from the direction of the front, we were sure the enemy had made an attack. A few days later Cheatham's, Cleburne's and Bate's divisions with their respective artillery fought their battle. Citizens from Atlanta, Dalton and other points were present to witness the battle."

There was also a strong religious feeling in the camps. "After all this was over," Dr. Worsham continued, "the Chaplains of each regiment and brigade, began a progressive movement in their work. A revival spirit took hold of the men as well as the ministers, and each brigade had its "Brush arbor." Each afternoon and night, meetings were held under each arbor, when inspection and drill were not in order. As the brigade arbors were near each other, every night could be heard singing and shouting from four brigade arbors at the same time.

"Our Chaplain, Rev. R. W. Norton and Rev. Brother McCutcheon, Chaplain of the 24th Tennessee regiment, conducted the meetings in our brigade. Father McCutcheon was a Cumberland minister, blessed old man; he is in heaven to day, for he was an old

man then. Maney's brigade was about half a mile from ours. In clearing off the ground for their arbor, they had left standing close by the arbor a tall hickory tree with scarcely a limb on it, and to all appearances perfectly sound. They had swept some trash up against this tree and partly burned it, no one thinking the tree had burned, not even scorched. The meeting had been going on for some time and much interest was manifested.

“On the night of April the 29th there were hundreds under the arbor, and about forty penitents. At one bench there were eight penitents and two others, who were Christians, talking to them, all were kneeling, when, with no more warning than a sharp crack or snap of the tree, it came crashing through the arbor and fell along side of this bench, killing ten at once.

“This came like an explosion in the deep world of thought, and the soldiers whose hearts of adamant had not been moved for years, began to show signs of unrest, and began to look forward beyond the sunset of this life and to think of the life over there. The next day they were buried. It was a sad scene, as the long column of soldiers moved in solemn procession headed by the band playing the funeral march, closely followed by ten ambulances, each bearing its dead, to where ten open graves were waiting their reception.

“These same men, who had just buried their ten comrades, had in days gone by, buried upon the battlefield hundreds of their comrades, piling them in ditches one upon another with, seemingly, indifference. But here their stout hearts were bowed in deep sorrow, as they laid away their comrades beneath the cold sands of the grave. The next day the Old Nineteenth, buried one of Company G, who died with congestive chills, Others died while we were here at Dalton, viz:

Jackson, Lee	Co.	D
Wright, Calvin	Co.	D
Rush, William	"	"
Roller, William	"	G
Rose, C. F	"	"
Wood, Talbert	"	"
Sampson, S. S	"	"
Hord, J. J	"	K
Tally, C. F.,	Co.	K. (3)

General Joseph E. Johnston gave the following account of the time in winter quarters at Dalton: “On December 31 the effective total of the infantry and artillery of the army, including two brigades belonging to the Department of Mississippi, was 36,826. The effective total of the cavalry, including Roddey's command at Tuscumbia, was 5,613. The Federal force in our front, exclusive of cavalry, and the Ninth and Twenty-third Corps at Knoxville, was estimated at 80,000. The winter was mainly employed in improving the discipline and equipment of the army and bringing back absentees to the ranks. At the end of April more than 5,000 had rejoined their regiments.



## Chaplain's Corner

As the time comes to celebrate the birthday of George Washington, the first president of our nation, it is good to remember that the founding fathers hoped that each individual would contribute his best talents to the common good of all.

This ideal is in line with the wonderful Bible assurance that to be good and to do good is the one sure way to have peace of heart followed by glory and honor. This high motive can sustain and bless us today in all things that we do.

Father, we thank thee for the rule that working for good is the way to true honor, glory and peace.

**Romans 2:10** *But glory, honor and peace to every man that worketh good.*

**Prayer List:** No prayer requests were received, but remember your wives or sweethearts with a Valentine.

May God Bless,

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E-mail [jdfletcher@stateofdade.com](mailto:jdfletcher@stateofdade.com)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 18:            Camp Meeting: The February 2014 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at Randy's Restaurant in Trenton. We will meet to eat at 6:00 P.M. – there will be no retreat!



**STATE OF DADE CAMP No. 707**  
**Sons of Confederate Veterans**  
**Larry D. Wheeler**  
**639 Canyon Park Dr.**  
**Trenton, Georgia 30752-2640**

**HONORING OUR CONFEDERATE HERITAGE**



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