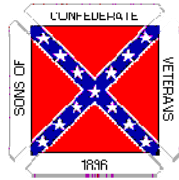
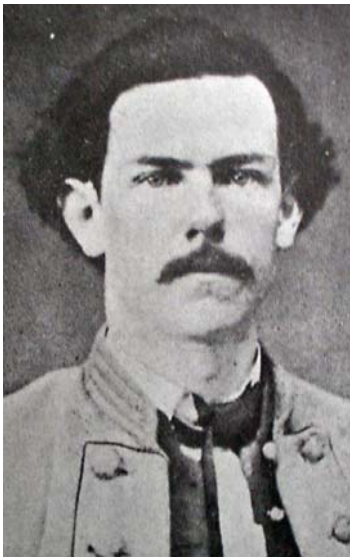
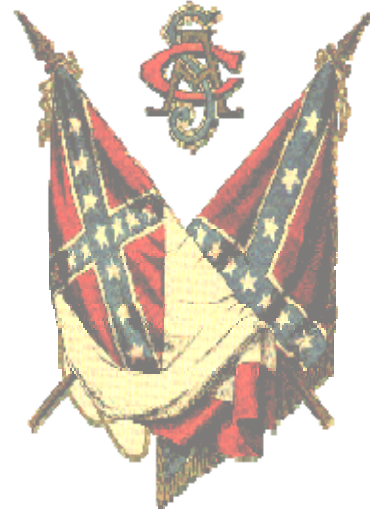




NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



**THE
SILVER
GRAY**



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Georgia Mechanized Cavalry quarterly meeting.

Raphael Semmes on the cause of the War

Submitted by James King
Commander SCV Camp 141
Albany, Georgia

The following conversation between English ship Captain Hillyar and Capt. Raphael Semmes-Confederate Ship CSS Alabama occurred during the war on August 5th, 1861. It is a summary from a well-educated Southerner who is stating his reasons for fighting.

Captain Hillyar expressed surprised at Captain Semme's contention that the people of the South were "defending ourselves against robbers with knives at our throats", and asked for further clarification as to how this was so, the exchange below occurred. I especially was impressed with Semmes' assessment of Yankee motives – the creation of "Empire"!

Semmes: "Simply that the machinery of the Federal Government, under which we have lived, and which was designed for the common benefit, has been made the means of despoiling the South, to enrich the North", and I explained to him the workings of the iniquitous tariffs, under the operation of which the South had, in effect, been reduced to a dependent colonial condition, almost as abject as that of the Roman provinces, under their proconsuls; the only difference being, that smooth-faced hypocrisy had been added to robbery, inasmuch as we had been plundered under the forms of law"

Captain Hillyar: "All this is new to me", replied the captain. "I thought that your war had arisen out of the slavery question".

Semmes: "That is the common mistake of foreigners. The enemy has taken pains to impress foreign nations with this false view of the case. With the exception of a few honest zealots, the canting hypocritical Yankee cares as little for our slaves as he does for our draught animals. The war which he has been making upon slavery for the last 40 years is only an interlude, or by-play, to help on the main action of the drama, which is Empire; and it is a curious coincidence that it was commenced about the time the North began to rob the South by means of its tariffs. When a burglar designs to enter a dwelling for the purpose of robbery, he provides himself with the necessary implements. The slavery question was one of the implements employed to help on the robbery of the South. It strengthened the Northern party, and enabled them to get their tariffs through Congress; and when at length, the South, driven to the wall, turned, as even the crushed worm will turn, it was cunningly perceived by the Northern men that 'No slavery' would be a popular war-cry, and hence, they used it.

It is true that we are defending our slave property, but we are defending it no more than any other species of our property - it is all endangered, under a general system of robbery. We are in fact, fighting for independence.

Proposed Officers for 2007

State of Dade Camp 707

At the January meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707 officers will be elected for the coming year.

At the November meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707 a nominating committee consisting of Jerald D. Morrison, Freddie Parris, Johnny Ray Sparks, Larry Wheeler and Raymond Evans was formed to nominate officer for the following year. The committee offers the follow slate of officers:

Office	Name
Commander	Jerald D. Morrison
1 st Lieutenant Commander	Patrick Parris
2 nd Lieutenant Commander	Dennis Forster
Adjutant	Larry Wheeler – acting for Lewis Leach
Treasurer	Larry Wheeler
Judge Advocate	Freddie Parris
Aide-de-Camp	Will Thomas
Provost Marshall	Robert Allen Daniels
Quartermaster Sergeant	Larry Wheeler – acting for Lewis Leach
Quartermaster Corporal	Jonathan K. Morton
Surgeon	Jerald D. Morrison
Chaplain	James D. Fletcher
Assistant Chaplain	Martin Scott – acting for Lewis Leach
Color Sergeant	Mark A. Steele
1 st Color Guard	Charles Michael Conner
2 nd Color Guard	Ted A. Howell
Sergeant at Arms	Fred Hicks
Editor	E. Raymond Evans
Historian	Jonathan K. Morton
Bugler	Patrick Parris
Orderly	James E. Land
Greeter	Ronald J. Watts

Any member who wishes to submit another name for consideration should contact the committee, or nominations will be accepted from the floor at the next meeting.



MECHANIZED CAVALRY REPORT



Wishing all of you the best for the coming new year. Last year was a very good year for Mechanized Cavalry in Georgia. This coming year is going to be even better. I challenge each of you to be a personal part of this activity.

The December quarterly meeting of Georgia Mechanized Cavalry was a huge success. The minutes of the meeting are provided by Chief of Staff Bob Blankenship.

MINUTES

Quarterly meeting held December 3rd at the Hiram Parks Bell Camp meeting hall in Cumming, Georgia.

1. The meeting was called to order by Captain Johnny Sparks.
2. Captain Sparks announced that the membership in the state of Georgia is now divided into three troops. Troop 1 is west of I-75 and north of I-20. It is commanded by Freddie Parris Jr. Troop 2 is east of I-75 and north of I-20. It is commanded by Wedge Morrison. Troop 3 is south of I-20. Taz Cook is commander.
3. We discussed the requirements for membership in the organization. We agreed that a member must be in good standing with the local Georgia SCV camp. Headquarters camp membership is allowable. Camp membership standing can be checked on the internet at SCV org/services or by calling Tom Brown, Adjutant of the Georgia Division, SCV. We also discussed starting a camp just for Mechanized Cavalry. Major Pinson has info on this and will discuss it more fully at the next meeting.
4. Captain Sparks brought up attendance by officers. It was decided that they must attend at least two meetings per year to retain rank. Voted on and passed.
5. Wedge Morrison proposed that we complete rosters of members as soon as possible. Work is under way.
6. We discussed opening a bank account. Major Pinson told us that one already existed. He will get the paperwork and add another name to the checking account. The account has only a small amount of money in it.
7. Captain Sparks suggested that Troop Commanders and other officers including Captain be elected every two years. Voted on and passed.
8. Captain Sparks suggested that our business meetings be open only to SCV members. Non-business meetings may allow guests. Voted on and passed.

9. We discussed having a state ride at least once a year.
10. We discussed recruitment. Freddie Parris will make a brochure and share it with each of us.
11. Captain Sparks announced his staff members. They are as follows

Sergeant Major	Boomer Lockhart
Adjutant	Will Thomas
Chaplain	Chuck Shields
Aide de Camp	Raymond Evans
Chief of Staff	Bob Blankenship
12. We discussed the new members kit (patches, roster and other info). Where is this mailed? The last new member kit was sent to the recruiting member whose name was on the application. We decided that the kit should be mailed to the captain or troop commander. We will contact Colonel Hamby's office on this.
13. We discussed the Confederate Heritage Trail Ride. This will be from Trenton to Savannah. We will discuss this further at later meetings.
14. We discussed quarterly meetings and where they will be held. We decided that Sunday was the only acceptable day. We will vary the Sunday.
15. We discussed the Robert E. Lee 200th birthday celebration at the Georgia Capital. It will be held at 3:00 P.M. on January 19, 2007. All members are urged to attend.
16. We passed the hat and collected \$101.00. It was given to Captain Sparks.
17. We decided that the next meeting will be held at noon Sunday, March 11th at the Villa Rica camp meeting house.
18. Captain Sparks adjourned the meeting at 2:00 P.M.

Members in attendance at the quarterly meeting held December 3rd, 2006.

Captain Johnny Sparks	Boomer Lockhart	Major Jessie Pinson
Larry LeVerne	Douglas Morrison	Eddie Land
Freddie Parris, Jr.	Charles Shields	Freddie Parris III
Raymond Evans	Larry Wheeler	Dave Wilson
Will Thomas	Daryll Samples	Taz Cook
Jackie Blankenship	Bob Blankenship	

Captain Johnny Sparks,
 Georgia Company B, 3rd Battalion
 MECHANIZED CAVALRY
 (423) 605-2231, or (706) 375-2302



Some Thoughts on Lincoln

By James King

Lincoln used war to destroy the U.S. Constitution in order to establish a powerful central government. Lincoln illegally suspended the writ of habeas corpus; launched a military invasion without consent of Congress; blockaded Southern ports without declaring war; imprisoned without warrant or trial some 38,000 Northern citizens who opposed his policies; arrested dozens of newspaper editors and owners and, in some cases, had federal soldiers destroy their printing presses; censored all telegraph communication; nationalized the railroads; created three new states (Kansas, Nevada, and West Virginia) without the formal consent of the citizens of those states, an act that Lincoln's own attorney general thought was unconstitutional; ordered Federal troops to interfere with Northern elections; deported a member of Congress from Ohio after he criticized Lincoln's unconstitutional behavior; confiscated private property; confiscated firearms in violation of the Second Amendment; and eviscerated the Ninth and Tenth Amendments.

A New Orleans man was executed for merely taking down a U.S. flag; ministers were imprisoned for failing to say a prayer for Abraham Lincoln, and Fort Lafayette in New York harbor became known as "The American Bastille" since it held so many thousands of Northern political prisoners.

When the New York City Journal of Commerce published a list of over 100 Northern newspapers that opposed the Lincoln administration, Lincoln ordered the Postmaster General to deny those papers mail delivery, which is how nearly all newspapers were delivered at the time. A few of the papers resumed publication only after promising not to criticize the Lincoln administration. However many northern newspapers were burned and their owners imprisoned.

Lincoln ignored rulings hand-delivered to him by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Roger Taney ordering Lincoln to respect and faithfully execute the laws of the United States. Taney – and virtually all legal scholars at the time – was of the opinion that only Congress could constitutionally suspend habeas corpus, and had his opinion hand delivered to Lincoln by courier. Lincoln ignored it and never even bothered to challenge it in court.

Lincoln urged his generals to conduct total war against the Southern civilian population. Again, this is not even controversial. As pro-Lincoln historian Steven Oates wrote in the December 1995 issue of Civil War Times, Lincoln fully endorsed Sheridan's burning of the Shenandoah Valley, Sherman's brutal March to the Sea through Georgia, and the destructive raid through Alabama. Lincoln's war strategy was called the "Anaconda Plan" because it sought to strangle the Southern economy by blockading the ports and controlling the inland waterways, such as the Mississippi River. It was, in other words, focused on destroying the civilian economy.



The Chaplain's Corner

To those whom much is given, much is expected, and so it is with America. As we start this new year our challenges are great, and no single individual, no matter how wise, can chart the course for our nation. Whether it be helping the victims of the hurricanes Katrina and Rita this past year, or our continued struggle in Iraq to help free the people there. But we the people – Under God and respectful of his commandments – can join together to protect and preserve our nation, and in doing so, give protection to freedom loving people around the world.

If you sat down and began counting your blessings, how long would it take? A very long time. Your blessings

include life, freedom family, friends, talents, and possessions for starters, but your greatest blessing – a gift that is yours for the asking – is God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Today, give thanks for your blessings and show thanks by using them and sharing them.

Numbers 6:24-25 *"The Lord bless thee and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee."*

Prayer List: Our thoughts and prayers continue to go to our compatriot, Lewis Leach, who was in a motorcycle accident while on his way to the Georgia Monument at the Chickamauga Battlefield on Confederate Memorial day. He still continues in his great fight for recovery at the Health Center at Standifer Place and Erlanger Hospital. Also Wedge Morrison's granddaughter, Rachel Phillips, has a very serious illness. Ronnie Watts requests prayer for his Dad who has some health problems. Lets continue to remember these in our prayers

May God bless,
James Fletcher, Chaplain,
SCV camp #707 Ph. 256-657-5998
E-mail jdfletcher@farmerstel.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 16: Camp Meeting: The January 2007 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 16, 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.
- January 20: Lee-Jackson Dinner: On Saturday, January 20, 2007, the State of Dade Camp 707 will join other north west Georgia for the annual Lee Jackson Dinner at 7:00 P.M. at Lee and Gordons Mills in Chickamauga Georgia. If you plan to attend please see Larry Wheeler at the camp meeting.
- February 2-4 Dalton Civil War Show. Camp 707 will have a booth at the annual Dalton Civil War Show at the Dalton trade center the first weekend in February.



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

