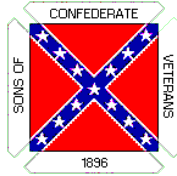

NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



**THE
SILVER
GRAY**



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Members of Cherokee Artillery — Corput's Battery — at State Reunion of Confederate Veterans in Rome, Georgia, September 14-15, 1904.

Mechanized material

More Mechanized Material

The Resaca Massacre

“The massacre at Fort Pillow occurred April 12, 1864,” General William T. Sherman wrote, “and has been the subject of congressional inquiry. No doubt Forrest's men acted like a set of barbarians, shooting down the helpless Negro garrison after the fort was in their possession; but I am told that Forrest personally disclaims any active participation in the assault, and that he stopped the firing as soon as he could.”

The northern newspapers had run highly exaggerated stories about the recent Fort Pillow Massacre that had been read by many of the soldiers at Resaca. John Brobst, a soldier of the 25th Wisconsin Infantry wrote to his girl friend Mary that this was much on the minds of the members of a Minnesota Regiment that had attacked some Confederate rifle pits. “Twenty three of the rebs surrendered but the boys asked them if they remembered Fort Pillow and killed them all.” In the same letter he told Mary: “When there is no officers with us, we take no prisoners. We want revenge and are bound to have it one way or another they must pay for these deeds of cruelty.” The same attitude was held by the Illinois soldiers led by future president Benjamin Harrison. (20)



Private Robert Hale Strong.

The future President Benjamin Harrison was a general in command of a brigade in the battle. One of his regiments, the 105th Illinois Infantry over-ran Confederate Captain Max Van Den Corput's artillery unit that was commonly known as the "Cherokee Battery." Private Robert Hale Strong, Co. B, 105th Illinois Infantry Regiment wrote: “We advanced with no more shooting on our part. The bugle sung out ‘Skirmishers lie down,’ and in the next minute ‘Charge!’ and the rest of the boys went over us with a yell. Most of the skirmishers, I among them, got up and joined the charging column and went up the hill with the rest. We were driven back from the works once, but in a moment we rallied and without waiting for orders—men were dropping all around us, but we had not time to look after them—with a rush and a cheer we drove the rebs from the first line of works into the second line where there cannon were.

“The hill was so steep that the cannon fired over the first line. Then we were reinforced by the 2nd brigade, and we kept on going and drove the rebs from their guns. Our brigade was ordered back, leaving the 2nd brigade to hold what we had gained.

“A great many amusing and pathetic incidents happened during and after our charge, only a few of which I will repeat. Undoubtedly you remember the massacre of the prisoners captured at Fort Pillow, Kentucky [actually Tennessee], by the Rebel Gen.

Nathan Bedford Forrest. Well, when we rushed from the first line that we captured to the second line where the rebel cannon were, we of course captured a good many prisoners. Some of the enemy who refused to run or surrender were killed there. Some crawled under the gun carriages to escape the storm of bullets and bayonets.

“One big red-headed man, a cannoneer, crawled out begging for quarter. He had his shirt off, and on one arm was tattooed ‘Fort Pillow.’ As soon as the boys saw the letters on his arm they yelled, ‘No quarter for you!’ and a dozen bayonets went into him, and a dozen bullets were shot into him. I shall never forget his look of fear.

“When we were ordered back to the rear and left the 2nd brigade to hold the guns that we had captured, the Johnnies had fallen back only as far as another line of works or entrenchments. The cannon were left between the line we captured and the one they still occupied, only a few rods in the rear, and neither they nor our own men could use them.”

That night Lieutenant Colonel Robert Lang Kilpatrick second in command of the 5th Ohio Infantry Regiment, was ordered to retrieve the cannons from the fort. His men dug through the walls of the Confederate fort. He later wrote: “My greatest difficulty was to go along the line and keep everybody awake and on the alert. I was assisted in my duty in the most efficient manner by my friend Major Symmes; either he or I was in touch with Capt. Shirer and his diggers until the road was completed. When completed I ordered Capt. Shirer to send the guns down the hill to Gen. Geary’s headquarters. He said: ‘I will need more men for that purpose.’



Removing the cannons from the redoubt at night.

Not wishing to reduce my fighting force any more, I dispatched Lieut. Koogle (whom I had appointed to act as adjutant) to Col. Cobham and ask him to send me 50 men with arms to assist in hauling out the guns; also to report the completion of the road. In a surprising short time 50 men in command of an officer, all of the 33rd New Jersey Regiment, reported to me. I turned them over to Capt. Shirer, who used them to haul out the other two guns, as two were on their way down the hill by the time the Jerseymen reported.

“It was about this time that Corporal George W. Tyrell of Company H, 5th Ohio handed me the rebel flag he had take from the flag-staff of the redoubt. It was the usual bunting red flag, with the blue St. Andrew’s cross with stars. I handed it in with my official report. Corporal Tyrell afterward received a medal of honor for the capture of the flag.”



Van Den Corput's Cherokee Artillery earthworks at Resaca.

“After very little rest I was again afoot, as I wanted to see Capt. Shirer. I found him near the division headquarters with the four pieces of artillery. He told me that Gen. Geary had ordered him, with a few of his men, to remain in charge of the guns until morning, and until relieved. He afterward reported that, by proper orders, he turned the guns over to Knap’s battery. The guns appeared to be quite new — twelve pounders...



The Chaplain's Corner

The Bible is full of words for praise for heroes, as if to give a blessing to the normal wish of the heart to honor those who serve and have served.

As we go into the month of January, we need to remember two great generals of the Confederacy that were born in this month. Generals Lee and Jackson were men who went through many battles to show their devotion to their country and its citizens.

So as we honor these great generals this month by going to a Lee-Jackson Banquet or some other function, let us also remember the military person that is defending our country now.

1 Samuel 4:9 *"Be strong and quit yourselves like men.....quit yourselves like men and fight."*

Prayer List: Happy New year to all in the SCV.

James Fletcher, Chaplain
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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1-2: Dalton Relic Show: More information in next newsletter.

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. This is an important meeting and all members need to attend. Election of officers for the new year. We will meet to eat at 6:00 P.M. – there will be no retreat! Call (423) 298-4544 for directions.



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HONORING OUR CONFEDERATE HERITAGE

