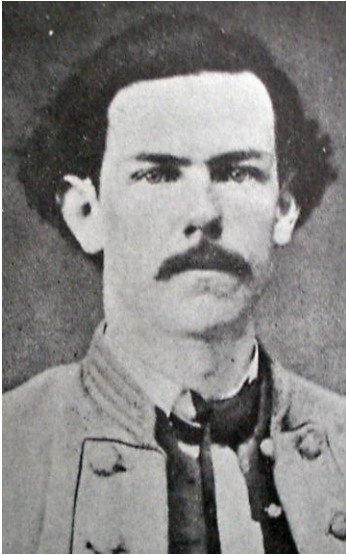

NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



**THE
SILVER
GRAY**



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2012 Tennessee Confederate Memorial Day was Celebrated at the Chattanooga Confederate Cemetery.

Tennessee Confederate Memorial Day

In Tennessee Confederate Memorial Day is celebrated in early June to commemorate the birthday of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. This year the observation was held at the Confederate Cemetery on June 2, 2012. Several notable Confederate veterans from Dade County are buried in this Cemetery. Best Known is Colonel James C. Nisbet, the senior officer from Dade County. Several member of the State of Dade Camp 707 took part in the ceremony.

Confederate Battle Flags were placed on the grave of each veteran. David Scott, Commander of the Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp at Chattanooga was the feature speaker. The topic was the Lookout Battery, also known as Barry's Battery that was the only artillery unit composed of men form the local area, including several from Dade County.



On April 9, acting on instructions from Confederate Secretary of War Judah P. Benjamin, Richard L. Watkins organized a light artillery battery that was called The Lookout Battery and by election the men composing the company chose officers. These were Robert L. Barry, captain; Richard L. Watkins, first lieutenant; James Lauderdale, junior first lieutenant; John A. Armstrong, senior second lieutenant; and John Springfield, junior second lieutenant; A. N. Moon, orderly sergeant. A redoubt was constructed near the home of Lieutenant Watkins on Cameron Hill. The battery fought the first battle in the defense of Chattanooga that will be described on the next page. They kept an excellent combat record throughout the war and fought in the last big battle in the Defense of The Spanish Fort at Mobile Bay in Alabama.

After the war, Richard L. Watkins became an active member of the United Confederate Veterans. Even before that organization was formed, he was the key person in the creation of the Confederate Cemetery that we have at Chattanooga today.

First Battle at Chattanooga

In June, 1862, Federal General James Negley defeated a Confederate force in Sweeden Cove on Battle Creek in Marion County, Tennessee. The Confederates escaped to Chattanooga and General Negley went up the Sequatchee Valley from Jasper, arresting men of military age, and stealing horses, cattle, and chickens. At Dunlap they crossed Walden's Ridge to Stringers Ridge overlooking the Tennessee River at Chattanooga. They were on the northwest side of the river opposite Cameron Hill. Negley's artillery began shelling Chattanooga, and the Lookout Battery on Cameron Hill returned the fire.

The *Georgia Weekly Telegraph*, June 13, 1862, page 2, published the following account: "Chattanooga, June 5—The enemy resumed the shelling of the town at ten o'clock today, and continued until noon, without any casualties on our side. Two buildings were slightly damaged. Our batteries did not respond. The accounts that have come in from across the river report that the enemy have left for another position below. They are expected to attempt to cross the river at Brown's Ferry, three miles below the city and opposite Lookout Mountain, or at another point some four miles above the city. They have a small steam ferry boat, which they have fitted up as a gun boat. Our troops are in excellent spirits and confident of holding Chattanooga. The enemy force consists of the whole of Mitchell's command from Nashville and Huntsville, and are supposed to number 8,000. Sharp work is expected to-morrow.

"Chattanooga, June 7, 8 P. M. — The bombardment has ceased. It continued brisk until eight o'clock. The enemy had three batteries in position on a high ridge. — They were replied to by a battery of two six pounders under the command of Lieutenant Armstrong, situated on the bank of the river, and Captain Barry's battery of four guns, situated on the heights overlooking the ferry. Spirited firing between the sharpshooters was kept up on both sides of the river. Barry's Battery lost one killed and one wounded. Captain Haines, of the Forty Third Georgia Regiment and Private Stublitt from Colonel Morgan's command, were badly wounded. A number of the enemy are known to be killed. Our force engaged was not over five hundred, while that of the enemy was from fifteen hundred to two thousand. Two of their guns were silenced. The enemy are reported at the mouth of Battle Creek below Shell Mound, twenty-two miles below Chattanooga, 8,000 strong. They are building flats and preparing to cross the river. Several of the latter have been destroyed by our shells. The above account is reliable.

"Chattanooga, June 9, noon — The enemy's forces in the Sequatchie Valley, are reported to be 10,000 strong. It is supposed they are preparing to cross at Shell Mound. Scouts report seventy cavalry as having passed up yesterday to capture our steamer Point of Rocks [Paint Rock], which was sent above. Mitchell is said to be with his forces opposite Shell Mound. A number of contraband wagons, coming from McMinnville to Chattanooga, and several discharged Confederates were captured by the enemy on Friday Last. It is supposed that the demonstration on Chattanooga may be a feint to cover some other movement. All is quiet. Several spies have been captured."

Proposed Amendment to National SCV Constitution

The following is a letter from former Commander Charlie Lott:

Sir:

Per our conversation this afternoon, please find attached the proposed amendments to be voted on at the Int'l reunion in July.

These are to be found on page 71 of the latest Confederate Veteran. When adopted, a Camp will be permitted to secede from the GA Division WITHOUT surrendering their charter, and be able to operate without the expense and interference from the GA Division.

This should be the first step to forming a separate Division.

All should know that it ONLY takes one registered Compatriot to vote all of a Camp's delegates. So one Compatriot from each Camp is all that is necessary for that Camp's votes to count.

Since it requires a 2/3rds majority to adopt, it is very important that all Camps be counted.

Your Servant

Charlie Lott, Former Commander Georgia Division SCV

At the last meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707 the above proposed amendment and message from former Commander Lott was discussed.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that Camp Member Raymond Evans will attend the Convention as voting delegate for the camp. The motion also stated that the camp will pay registration fees for this service.

The votes of the camp will be in favor of passing the Proposed Amendment.

The votes of the camp will also be cast to re-elect as Lieutenant Commander Kelly Barrows of the Georgia Division.

Chaplain's Corner



When June 6th comes around again, we need to remember what happened on this day in 1944. This was to become known as "The Longest Day" and it's 24 hours would save the World as we know it today. There were men in all branches of our military service that were involved in this as well as British, Canadians, French and all of the Allied Forces. This invasion of Nazi Europe was known as Operation Overlord. Men took heroic actions in Normandy that literally saved the day. Some never got the chance to do what was expected of them, being killed in the landings on the beaches or losing their lives in the battles in the immediate countryside. Never the less, their names are etched in stone above their earthly remains to provide evidence of

their contributions. There are some who simply disappeared, their bodies and souls having vanished in the haze and hell of the battle on June 6th and they must be credited in absentia.

They are all responsible for the success for the success of Operation Overlord. Their efforts and sacrifices are why the world as we know it today exists. Let us remember to thank the veterans who may still be alive for the sacrifices they went through to save us.

1 Chronicles 28:20 *"Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God--my God-- will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."*

Prayer List: Mike Dodd of the Lafayette Camp has had a major operation. Let's all remember him in our prayers as he recovers.

May God Bless,

James Fletcher, 1st Brig. and Camp #707 Chaplain
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 19 Camp Meeting: The June 2012 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at Randy's Restaurant in Trenton. We will meet to eat at 6:00 P.M. – there will be no retreat!
- June 23: Book Signing at Chattanooga Hamilton Public Library on Saturday June 23 at 10:00 A. M. Raymond Evans will speak on Clark Lee, a remarkable man who went from being an enslaved African on the Gordon Plantation in Chickamauga, Georgia to being a Confederate soldier who served in Second Company D of the First Confederate Infantry Regiment and later working as a skilled iron worker in a demanding industrial environment at Chattanooga. He is buried in the Forest Hills Cemetery.
- Aug. 4: Raymond Evans will speak at Wally's Restaurant in East ridge near the 75 on Saturday August 4, 2012 at 11:30 A. M. about Stringer's Ridge and Hill City in what is now North Chattanooga. Here, Colonel John T. Wilder placed his artillery in 1863 and shelled the city of Chattanooga. Seven years later, he was mayor of Chattanooga and dominated the local area throughout his life and long beyond. He, also, is buried in the Forest Hills Cemetery.



STATE OF DADE CAMP No. 707
Sons of Confederate Veterans
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HONORING OUR CONFEDERATE HERITAGE

