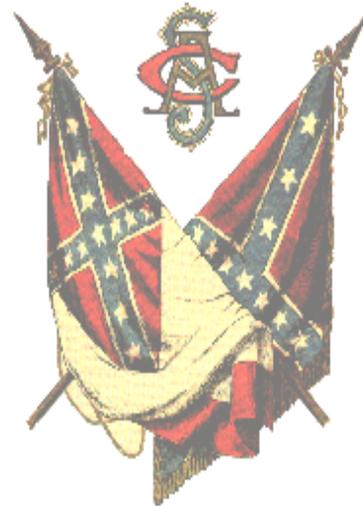
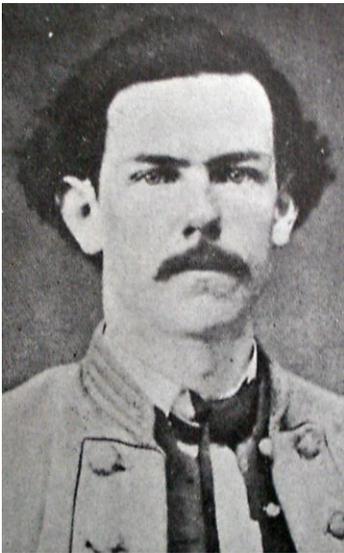

NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



**THE
SILVER
GRAY**

Vol. 17

March 2012

No. 3



Bridgeport Depot was used as a prison and hospital during the war.

The Best Re-Enactment in the State of Alabama!

You are invited to come to Bridgeport for the 18th Anniversary of The Siege at Bridgeport Re-Enactment. Friday March 23rd, Saturday March 24th, and Sunday March 25th!

Thank You,
The Committee of Siege at Bridgeport 2012

Located on one of the original sites in Jackson County, outside of city limits in Bridgeport, Alabama. Off Highway 72, on County Road 255. Directions will be posted.

*All profits to benefit the preservation of local history!

*All Amenities included.

*Saturday Night Evening Ball/Social

*25-lbs. powder for first 6 full scale Cannons!

*15 lbs. powder for first 6 Mountain Howitzers!

Registration:

Thursday, Friday 7:00am to 12:00

Saturday 7:00am to 12:00 noon

\$5.00 Pre-registration! (\$20.00 cap for families with more than 6 re-enactors)

* after March 15th \$10.00

\$50.00 Sutler fee (authentic and modern)

\$75.00 Sutler fee non registered at the gate!

****All Mounted Calvary Re-enactors Free if pre registered!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yankees that don't pre register will have to pay \$10.00 federal script!

Contacts:

Siege at Bridgeport

P.O. Box 280

Bridgeport, AL 35740

Glenn Hill (256) 495-3614 (256) 495-3614

Email : dghmdh1@bellsouth.net

JoJohn McCraw (256) 437-8873 (256) 437-8873



Web Master, until he fires me! ericpreviti@gmail.com

**Officers Elected by State of Dade Camp 707
Georgia Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans**

Feb. 20, 2011

Commander:	Robert Alan Daniels
Lt. Commander	Freddie C. Parris, Jr.
Adjutant	Larry D. Wheeler
Treasurer	Larry D. Wheeler
Judge Advocate	Freddie C. Parris, Jr.
Quartermaster	Dennis M. Forster, Jr.
Sgt. At Arms	Phillip Croft
Chaplain	James D. Fletcher
Assistant Chaplain	Philip Croft
Color Sgt.	Mark A. Steele
Webmaster	Dennis M. Forster, Jr.
Editor	E. Raymond Evans
Historian	E. Raymond Evans

Executive Council

1. Freddie C. Parris, Jr.
2. Robert Alan Daniels
3. E. Raymond Evans
4. James D. Fletcher
5. Larry D. Wheeler

The above elected officers will serve until February, 2013



Federal Hospital at Stringer's Spring Now White Oak Cemetery

This medical support situation was not acceptable to Perin or his physicians. First, housing the wounded among so many hospital buildings also spread thin the remaining surgeons. With 52 medical officers left on the battlefield only 43 were available to provide care in Chattanooga. It was clear that some consolidation of patients would have to occur. Second, Bragg's intentions relative to the Army of the Cumberland and Chattanooga were still unclear. If he decided to attack, and was successful, the medical staff and their patients would have to compete with the front line troops for access to the single pontoon bridge across the Tennessee. Third, access to the rail line from Chattanooga to the field hospital at Stevenson, and then to the general hospitals in the north, was cut by Bragg. The only route of evacuation was to cross the River and move by the north bank to Bridgeport and its railhead. Finally, a siege by Bragg would, as a consequence, reduce the available rations to the Army. The patients in this situation would suffer further, not recover from their wounds as quickly, and be a greater burden to the command. Perin's response to this scenario was threefold. He relocated the hospitals, evacuated as many of the patients as possible, and requested more physicians.

The first step was to relocate the hospitals. By Tuesday, 22 September, a single consolidated tent hospital was established at Stringer's Spring. The spring was two miles north of the town in a 'pleasant little valley with plenty of good spring water.' The hospital was built using all available tents and pavilions, with 'bowers of branches and leaves.' It had capacity for about two thousand of the wounded. This facility received all transportable patients from the hospitals in town. Also brought here were those wounded who fell exhausted on the side of the road while trying to walk to Stevenson.

The Stringer's Spring hospital had an immediate effect on overcrowding in Chattanooga. As evidence, Moses's morning report for 23 September shows only seven hospitals still in operation with a total census of just 886 patients. From this facility the transportable wounded were moved to Bridgeport and its railhead. Evacuation to Bridgeport or Stevenson was primarily in empty supply wagons using backhaul techniques. The route followed was a rough, mountainous road on the north bank of the Tennessee. Since the Confederates had control of the south bank, to cover the road distance of 60 miles the wagons required at least four days. Such a supply train, supplemented with ambulances, started the trip on the morning of 4 October.

Each of the wounded was provided with two crackers which had to last them until corn was made available on 6 October. The train arrived at Stevenson on the 7th. One of the wounded later wrote, of a similar evacuation, that these "were days and nights of the most fearful and causeless suffering, hardship and privation that I ever endured in my life We reached Stevenson . . . at last, starved, wearied, jolted and used up generally still, after a 24 hour train ride, these same patients were well cared for in a Nashville hospital bed."

Meanwhile, the quality of medical care available in Chattanooga, though improved, still suffered from too many patients and too few physicians. As late as 30 September Perin still had as many as 6,100 wounded in hospitals around town. His loss of 52 medical officers had only been partially solved. Two doctors had reported from Nashville, eight were enroute from St. Louis, and four had been paroled by Bragg. At least 30 more were thought to be necessary to adequately fill the ranks of the medical department. And, to further dilute the physician-patient ratio, Bragg had accepted the Union request to parole the wounded.

The question of recovering the wounded left on the battlefield was first raised on Monday, 21 September. Perin sent Rosecrans a request asking that a truce flag be sent with the intent of collecting the Union wounded. ¹⁷ Though Rosecrans was in agreement, he cancelled and did not send his initial message to 'General J. Johnson a commander of Confederate forces at Chickamauga Valley.' The reason is not explained in the Official Records. The message had asked for permission to send the Army's ambulances to gather the wounded as 'our badly wounded will probably be a burden on your hands and we are anxious to provide for their comfort.' The Union's first attempt at collecting the wounded occurred on 26 September with a message from Rosecrans to Bragg. In this request Rosecrans proposed sending ambulances to carry away those wounded that could be moved and provide 'medical supplies as may be necessary for the comfort of those who remain.' Bragg approved the request and the respective Army staffs made arrangements for the movement of the wounded. The procedure for collecting the wounded called for Union ambulances, loaded with doctors and medical supplies, to be brought to a Confederate staff officer at the picket lines. The Confederate staff officer then took charge and, with Confederate drivers replacing the Union ones, moved the ambulances and their cargo to the hospitals. Here the physicians distributed crackers and coffee and examined the wounded with 'all manner of tests to discover how badly we were injured.' "

Testing the patients seems to have been a precaution of the Union physicians and not a requirement of Confederate leaders. Confederate surgeon Flewellen was clearly 'anxious that every one of the Federal wounded whose life will not be positively jeopardized by the transportation shall be sent to Chattanooga.' For this reason Bragg allowed the Union physicians to choose which patients would be accepted and which had to stay behind. " Once the selection was made the patients were required to sign parole papers before being loaded onto the ambulances. Ambulances and wounded then made a difficult six-hour move to the picket line where drivers were again exchanged. The ambulance train then made its way to Chattanooga. "

The ambulance trains made three forays into Bragg's camp for the wounded. 250 patients were brought out on 29 September. 800 were recovered on 1 October, and another 700 were received on the 2nd. "Available documents do not tell of the fate that fell to the remaining 750 Union wounded. Many of the critical cases probably died while most of the less seriously injured recovered sufficiently for transfer to a Confederate prison. " The Union's recovery of its wounded was also considered an exchange of wounded prisoners. Rosecrans, therefore, returned the Confederate patients he held, who amounted to just fifty soldiers."



**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND
THE TWELVETH ANNUAL
CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL OBSERVATION**

**SUNDAY APRIL 29, 2012
2:00 P.M.**

**John B. Gordon Hall
In Lafayette**

The feature speaker will be David Cordell; Cdr Pvt John Ingraham Camp 1977. He will discuss the "Religion in the Confederate Army". [Camp Blog](#)

Directions: Take I-75 to exit 320, GA State Road 136, Resaca. Go west on S. R. 136 to Lafayette. At Business 27 (not the 27 bypass, which comes first), turn right. Gordon Academy is off the road to the right.

**COME OUT TO HONOR YOUR CONFEDERATE
ANCESTORS AND SET AN EXAMPLE FOR YOUR SONS
AND GRAND SONS.**



Sponsored by the Sons of Confederate Veterans

1-800-MY SOUTH



The Chaplain's Corner

There is something about the color green which is always refreshing to the eye and the heart. On St. Patrick's Day, noted for "The wearing of the Green" and "The luck of the Irish", there is opportunity to think of the beautiful nature of green in the early springtime. The shade implies the newness of growing things, which can lead to a bountiful harvest. It therefore becomes important that the right seeds are planted.

Lord, on this happy day, we would plant the seeds of kindness and compassion that would plant the seeds of

kindness and joy.

There were many Irish units from the South as well as from the North in the War Between The States. When they met on the battlefield, there was "No Holds Barred" in their struggle, but when the fighting was over, there was a comradeship between them that was not seen among the other Americans.

As we get ready for the 'Battles for Bridgeport Re-enactment', may we watch over each other in this mock battle since things can go wrong even when doing these.

Psalm 23:2 *"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures."*

Prayer List: Please continue to pray for Mike Dodd of the Lafayette Camp, in his serious illness.

May God Bless.
James Fletcher, Chaplain
SCV Camp #707
Ph. 256-657-5998
Email jdfletcher@stateofdade.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 4: The SCVMC Georgia 15th Annual monthly meeting will be on the 4th at the Rock Springs location at noon.
- March 10: The Officers SCVMC Georgia meeting this year is on the 10th of March in Columbia TN at noon.
- March 20: Camp Meeting: The March 2012 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 20, 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.
- March 23-25: Battle of Bridgeport Reenactment. The advance registration fee will be \$5.00 per person for adults and 2.50 for children 6-12. The Commander will have to turn in this money by March 15th. The cost will be double for those who wait until the event. Send you registration fee to P.O. Box 768, Trenton, GA 30752, or contact Larry Wheeler.



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

