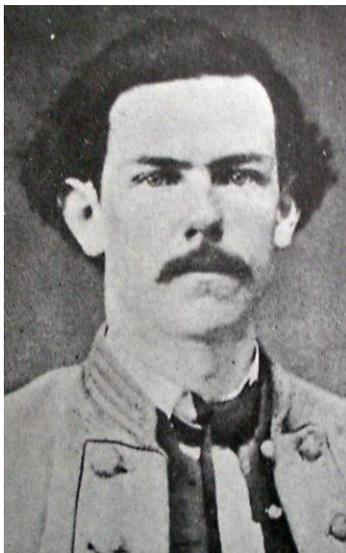
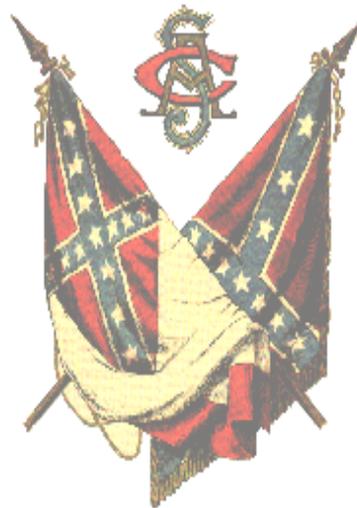

NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



**THE
SILVER
GRAY**



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May 2012

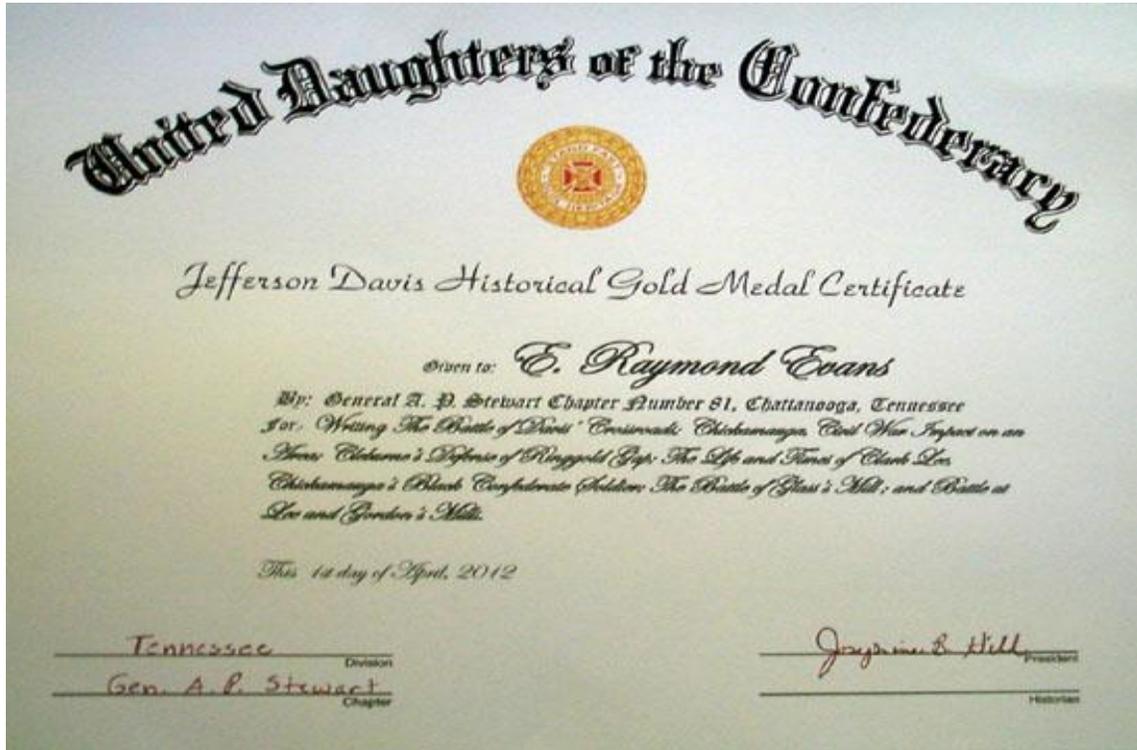
No. 5



2012 Confederate Memorial Day was celebrated at John B. Gordon Hall in La Fayette.

Member Receives UDC Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal Award

As shown below, Raymond Evans has won the UDC Davis Historical Award for researching and writing books dealing with the war.



TRIP TO CHICKAMAUGA

THE CHATTANOOGA DAILY GAZETTE

Thursday Morning, May 11, 1865, Page 3

[Editor's Note: Less than a month after the end of the war what can only be called the first Civil War re-enactment took place on the Chickamauga Battlefield. Some of the men thought it would make a picnic outing more exciting for the ladies and give themselves a chance to appear as heroes by a rumored attack by "guerillas." The local newspaper printed the following account of the event.]

At an early hour yesterday morning a large party of ladies and gentlemen left town for a Pic Nic on the battlefield of Chickamauga. Owing to the numerous prevailing reports of guerrillas being in that section, the originators of the affair deemed it prudent to take an escort with them. Accordingly, twenty-five or thirty mounted men from the Reserve Artillery led the head of the column, while the rear was by brought up by infantry from the 18th Ohio. On the road out the officer commanding the mounted men received information which caused him to believe that a small body of guerillas was in the neighborhood.

Arriving at Cave Spring a short time before noon, the party halted for dinner. Credit is due the ladies of the party for the style and character of the eatables which were spread out in great abundance for the party. The gentlemen connected with the Commissary part of the expedition also done their part well. After dinner the party started for Crawfish Spring, and when about two miles from cave Spring, firing was heard in the direction of the advance and in a few moments the men were to be seen tearing back down the road as if driven by a superior force.

The rest of the mounted men and all the party who had arms, dashed forward to reinforce our men and the entire command charged down a lane or by-road. As a non-combatant, having no arms, and being incapable of seeing where the glory came in, now that the war is over and all unemployed officers are due to be mustered out of the service, and having a due regard for the safety of our limbs, not wishing to increase our weight an ounce, declined acceding to the peremptory order "Charge, Chester, charge," which we heard somebody give; said order being associated with certain unpleasant reminiscences, and quietly trotted to the top of a hill, from which, we supposed we could overlook the scene of the proposed fight.

On arriving at the top of this hill, we were highly delighted to see that our men had charged into a piece of woods a short distance beyond, from whence the sound of rapid discharges of fire arms gave note that somebody got fooled. While admiring the brilliancy with which the whole affair had been carried out, a couple of bullets from the opposite direction whistled through the trees above, and at the same time the infantry skirmishers deployed through an open field on the right.

At this time matters began to look funny and the surgeon of the expedition rode up, saying, "The colonel had sent for him presuming there were some cases needing his aid. Visions of a field hospital, with a surgeon's amputating table began to rise before our mind, and we concluded to retire while in good order. The firing being over shortly after, the mounted men and the infantry rejoined the main body.

Being the advance, of course, we could not say personally, what occurred along the column of riders, ambulances and wagons. One lady, who had complained at dinner time of being tired and was riding in an ambulance when the first shots were fired, loudly called for "a horse" and mounted for the purpose, we presume, of being "in at the death."

The acting Quartermaster because suddenly reminded that the General Order required all Quartermasters to remain with their trains in time of action and, wanting to get his ambulances out of the road, in a hurry, attempted to give two orders at once. Several gentlemen who were riding in the rear of the column, also distinguished themselves, but great credit must really be given the ladies of the party, all of whom were for the first time under fire, for the coolness which they manifested under the trying circumstances.

After this little episode the cavalcade proceeded to Crawfish Spring, thence to Lee and Gordon's Mill, on the Chickamauga and back to town, lunching there in the evening at a fine spring on the roadside. The day was one of unalloyed pleasure, and as no accidents resulted from the encounter with the guerrillas, the affair was not marred by the smallest thing which could excite regret.

"Sham Battle" at Snodgrass Hill

The Chattanooga Times

September 11, 1898

[Editor's Note: During the Spanish American War Park Superintendent arranged for a Kentucky Regiment to perform a re-enactment of the Battle of Snodgrass Hill at Chickamauga. The local newspaper printed the following account of this event.]

The sham battle by the 2nd Kentucky yesterday morning was one of the prettiest and one of the most interesting sights that has ever been witnessed at Chickamauga Park. The battle was for the purpose of representing the famous fight that occurred on Snodgrass Hill in 1863, and a number of persons who were in that engagement and who witnessed the sham battle yesterday say it was a most correct representation.

Cos. I, M, K, D, and G represented the federal forces and occupied a position on the crest of Snodgrass Hill. The boys were dressed in blue and were stationed on the exact point occupied by the federals. The attacking force, representing the Confederates, consisting of Cos. H, L, E, C, F, and B, and occupied the position of

the Confederates. These boys were dressed in khaki trousers to distinguish them from the federals. The Confederates came out of the woods at the foot of the hill and went into position in sight of the enemy.

The federal line was already formed, and it was only a short time until the Confederates were arranged in battle formation. The federals opened the engagement by firing two volleys. At this, the Confederates advanced a short distance and returned the fire. The firing then became general, the federals firing in volleys and the Confederates replying with two or three volleys and then firing at will. This firing was kept up for several minutes until the air was dense with smoke and it was impossible to see the combatants.

During the firing, the Confederates had advanced some distance, and when the smoke cleared away, the federals found them much nearer. At this they were ordered to lie on the ground, and in this position began another heavy fire. The Confederates opened up a terrific fire at the same time and then began the repetition of the famous charge up the hill. Issuing from the dense smoke and mingled with the din and roar of the fight, could be heard the rebel yell as the Confederates wildly charged the Union line.

A large number of spectators witnessed the fight, and as the charge was made they were seized with the excitement and ran nearer the soldiers to see the result. The volleys and rapid firing of the guns made a terrific din and could be heard for miles. The battle was a great success, and the Kentuckians were complimented on the excellent manner in which they executed the maneuvers. Maj. Helburn was in command of the federal forces, and Maj. Owens was in command of the Confederate.



Battle re-enactment at Snodgrass Hill.

F. O. Smith, J. C. Boner, and M.D. Griffy, delegates to the G. A. R. reunion, witnessed the fight, and pronounced it a great success. The battle was arranged by

Gen. A. P. Stewart for the purpose of obtaining a photograph to go in a history he is writing on the Battle of Chickamauga.

An Old Reb in Blue

The following is a very pretty incident connected with the sham battle. A. J. Erwin, who resides near the park, is a Confederate veteran and participated in the famous charge. He was near the scent when the sham fight began yesterday, and seeing again that terrible charge he simply became wild with excitement and stated that he wanted to be in the fight and go over the same ground with a gun once again. The boys accordingly dressed him in a uniform and he was given a gun and a number of blanks. He at once joined in the fight, and although he is nearly 65 years of age he executed the different maneuvers as though he was young again and facing real bullets. Although he fought on the side of the Confederates in the Civil War he went in the Union lines yesterday, just for a change, fighting just as fiercely as though in the Confederate line.



General A. P. Stewart

Chaplain's Corner



Last month I told you about the origins of Confederate Memorial Day and its beginning in Georgia on April 26, 1866. honoring those who had fallen on both sides began to take hold and on May 5, 1868, Memorial Day was officially proclaimed by Gen. John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11 and was first observed on May 30, 1868. Flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at the Arlington National Cemetery . The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890, it was recognized by all of the Northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days set aside in their states since 1866 until after World War

I, When the holiday changed from honoring just those died fighting in the War Between the States, to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war. It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May, though several Southern states still honor the Confederate War died on separate days. January 19 in Texas, April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi, May 10 in South Carolina and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday in Louisiana and Tennessee.

Revelation 21:4 *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there will shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away*

Prayer List: Mike Dodd of the Lafayette Camp has been on our prayer list for a few months and told me at the Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony in Lafayette that he will have major surgery the last day of May. Let us all continue to remember to pray for him and that this surgery will repair his health.

May God Bless,

James Fletcher, 1st Brigade and Camp #707 Chaplain
Ph. 256-657-5998
E-mail jdfletcher@stateofdade.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15

Camp Meeting: The May 2012 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 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 (Adjutant)
639 Canyon Park Dr.
Trenton, Georgia 30752-2640

HONORING OUR CONFEDERATE HERITAGE

