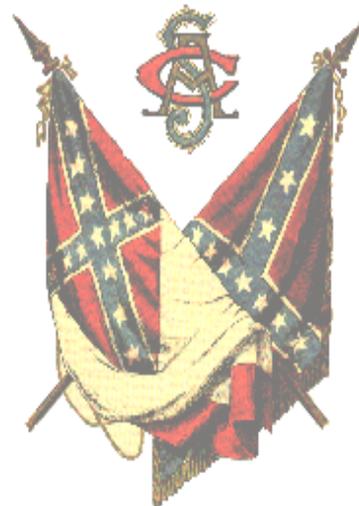
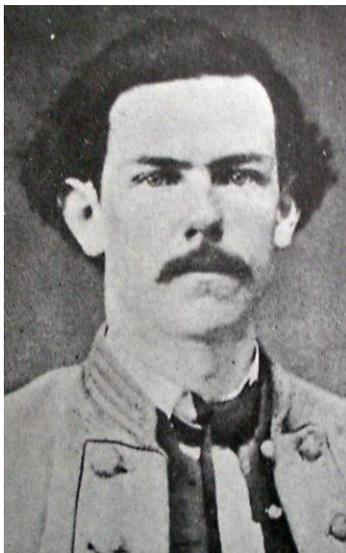


---

**NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707**



**THE  
SILVER  
GRAY**

---

Vol. 17

November 2012

No. 11

---



Colonel Henry M. Ashby, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, "The Lookout Rangers."

# **The Lookout Rangers**

## **Colonel Henry Marshall Ashby**

### **and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tennessee Cavalry**

In 1860, Chattanooga was a small river town situated on south side of the Tennessee River in the shadows of Lookout Mountain. Surrounded by rugged mountains on three sides, the city lay at the end of the Tennessee River Valley. At that day, and in that place, slavery was a fact of life. The largest slave owner in the local area was Daniel F. Cocke. He was born in 1816, in Fauquier County, Virginia, the son of Washington and Sarah Flowerree Cocke. He came to Bledsoe County, Tennessee, as a young man and made a fortune in stock-raising and other businesses. He moved to Chattanooga Creek about 1855, building a plantation mansion called "Oakland." He was farming this plantation with 45 enslaved Africans at the time of the 1860 U. S. Federal Census. His nephew was Henry Marshall Ashby who had been born in Fauquier County, Virginia in 1836, and moved to Chattanooga to live with his uncle. On the 1860 Federal Census. He gave his age as 22 and his profession as "trading." This probably meant that he was dealing in horses or slaves.

After Tennessee joined the Confederacy at the start of the war, many of the local men rushed to join the Confederate cause. A group of young men in Hamilton County, with several from neighboring Dade and Walker Counties in Georgia, organized a cavalry company on June 15, 1861 and elected William F. Ragsdale as Captain. They called themselves the "Lookout Rangers" and went to Knoxville, where they were sworn in to Confederate Service on August 1, 1861 as Company "A" in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin M. Branner.

Henry M. Ashby was in Knoxville on business at the time, and he enlisted as a Private in Co. A, 4<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry Battalion in Knoxville. Shortly after, he was elected Captain of Co. G in the 5<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry Battalion. When the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry Battalions later merged to form 2<sup>nd</sup> Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, he became Colonel of the regiment. The men became a part of Colonel John Pegram's Cavalry Brigade and assigned to the command of Brigadier General Felix Zollicoffer, whose main responsibility was to guard the Cumberland Gap. At the start of the war, the State of Kentucky attempted to declare neutrality.

General Zollicoffer crossed into Kentucky in late 1861 and fought the Battle of Fishing Creek, or Mill Springs as it was known to the Federals, Kentucky, which was one of the earliest battles of the war. General Zollicoffer was killed in the fighting and the men retreated back into Tennessee. The regiment spent the first year and a half of the war putting down Unionist insurrections in upper east Tennessee and then joined the Confederate Army of Tennessee for the Battle of Murfreesboro. For the Battle of Murfreesboro (known to the Federals as Battle of Stones River) Colonel Ashby was transferred with his regiment from Pegram's Brigade to the Brigade commanded by

General John A. Wharton. Their major action consisted of capturing a large Federal wagon train — consisting of several hundred wagons — many pieces of artillery, and about 1,000 infantry.

Ashby's regiment took part in several actions in Kentucky during early 1863, and came to the local area for the battle of Chickamauga as a part of General Nathan Bedford Forrest's Cavalry Corps.

Pegram's brigade joined the Army of Tennessee and Ashby's regiment helped destroy a Union Army wagon train at the Battle of Stones River (December 31, 1862, January 2, 1863).[6] The brigade then again engaged in independent operations in Kentucky. The brigade again fought with the Army of Tennessee at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19 and 20, 1863.[6] Pegram transferred to the Army of Northern Virginia after the battle but Ashby and his regiment remained with the Army of Tennessee.

When General Forrest was transferred to Mississippi, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tennessee Cavalry was assigned to General Joseph Wheeler's Corps and fought with this unit for the rest of the war. Under the overall command of General Joseph Wheeler, Ashby's regiment was heavily engaged in the Battle of Brown's Mill near Newnan, Georgia on July 30, 1864. They helped turn back a raid south of Atlanta by Union Brigadier General Edward M. McCook, who had been sent by Major General William T. Sherman to cut supply and communication lines to Atlanta. In June 1864, Ashby was assigned to command a brigade of four Tennessee cavalry regiments in Brigadier General William Y.C. Humes's division in Major General Wheeler's corps during the Atlanta Campaign.

The regiment also took part in the Battle at Cassville, which was one of two towns that was completely destroyed by Sherman during the war and never rebuilt.

Ashby's brigade harassed Sherman's advanced units during the Carolinas Campaign in early 1865. Because Humes was wounded on March 10, 1865 at the Battle of Monroe's Crossroads, Ashby, who was the senior colonel in Humes's division and who had also been briefly disabled by having his horse shot from under him at the same battle, led the division until the end of the war. Colonel Ashby led the last Confederate Cavalry charge in the Battle of Bentonville at the end of the war.

Although sometimes referred to as an acting brigadier general, Ashby ended the war as a colonel. Major General Wheeler later wrote that he had been told unofficially by Confederate War Department officials that brigadier general commissions had been issued for Ashby, James Hagan and Moses Wright Hannon near the end of the war, no such commissions ever were delivered. Ashby signed a parole on May 3, 1865 as "Colonel, commanding Division."

After the war, Ashby visited New York City but soon returned to Knoxville. On May 10, 1868, Eldad Cicero Camp, Jr., a former Federal Army major, local lawyer and future coal industry tycoon, accused Ashby of cruelly mistreating 431 Federal soldiers

that had been captured by Confederate forces in 1862, leading to Ashby's arrest and indictment for treason. Ashby posted bail and withdrew to Atlanta, but returned to Knoxville in 1868 after the charges were dropped.

On July 9, 1868, Ashby encountered Camp on Gay Street, and a brief struggle ensued, with Ashby attacking Camp with a cane, and Camp striking Ashby with an umbrella. The following day, Ashby confronted Camp at the latter's law office near the corner of what is now Walnut and Main. According to some reports, Ashby attempted to strike Camp with a cane, and according to others, Ashby drew a derringer. In any case, Camp drew a pistol and fired, killing Ashby.

After Camp was arrested for murder, his bail was posted by several former Unionists, among them future Knoxville Journal editor William Rule. Knoxville's pro-Democratic newspaper, the Daily Press and Herald, dubbed Camp a cold-blooded killer, while the city's pro-Republican paper, the Knoxville Whig, hailed him as a hero. The county's acting district attorney eventually issued a nolle prosequi, and Camp was never prosecuted for the killing.

"Funeral of Colonel Ashby" *The Atlanta Constitution* stated on July 15, 1868. "The remains of Colonel Henry M. Ashby were interred yesterday afternoon at six o'clock PM in Gray cemetery. The very large number that attended the remains sufficiently attested the respect for the deceased. The funeral ceremonies were conducted by Rev. James Park of the First Presbyterian church. We could not gain admittance, but learn that the Rev. Pastor delivered lessons of wisdom to the living, which, we trust, was not as "seed sown upon dry ground." The funeral procession was very large. Many gathered about the grave of Ashby, and all wept that he should have so foully fallen."



## **Grave Stone Dedication for Clark Lee: Chickamauga's Black Confederate**

The stone from Skyline Monument Company for Clark Lee, the enslaved African who fought as a soldier with the 1<sup>st</sup> Confederate Infantry Regiment from Georgia, has been delivered to the Forest Hills Cemetery in St. Elmo. It looks exactly like a VA stone, except this one lists all the battles in which the man fought. The stone will be erected on his grave in the near future. The perpetual care fund for upkeep on the stone has already been paid.

Plans are being made now to conduct a public dedication of the stone as a part of our local celebration of Confederate Memorial Day in April. It is hoped that a good turnout from the camp will be possible. More information will be provided later.



## The Chaplain's Corner

As we celebrate and observe "Veteran's Day" which will be on November 11th, we need to remember our fellow veterans and thank them personally for what they have done. Whether it was servin in World War II, Korea, Veitnam, Panama, Granada, the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afganistan or any of the unnamed conflicts in the world. We don't have many World War 1 veterans to thank today, but that war was involved in us having "Veteran Day". It was originally called "Armistis Day," or suspension of hostilities, was signed by the opponents on November 11th, 1918. The hostilities stopped at 11:00 AM that morning. I know many of the older generation will remember it first being "Armistice Day". It was changed in 1954 to "Veteran's Day" to honor all the

veterans who have served.

Remember that the "Sons of Confederate Veterans" is the oldest veterans group in the U.S. , it being pre-dated by the "United Confederate Veterans which started even earlier. When we celebrate this day by being in a parade or assisting in any way, hold your heads in what you have done. May our own personal sacrifices be worthy of those who sacrificed so much – that the American dream will never die. And may God Bless America forever.

**II Samual 22:4** *"I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so I will be saved from my enemies."*

**Prayer List :** In our prayers, we need to keep our service people in our thoughts and prayers, especially those that are still in harms

May God Bless,

James Fletcher  
1st Brigade Chaplain  
Ph. 256-657-5998  
Email chaplain@scv.org

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 20: Camp Meeting: The November 2012 meeting of the State of Dade Camp 707, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 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.
- December 1: Christmas Parade: The annual Christmas Parade in Dade County will be held on December 1, 2012. More information will be given at the November meeting.



**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**

