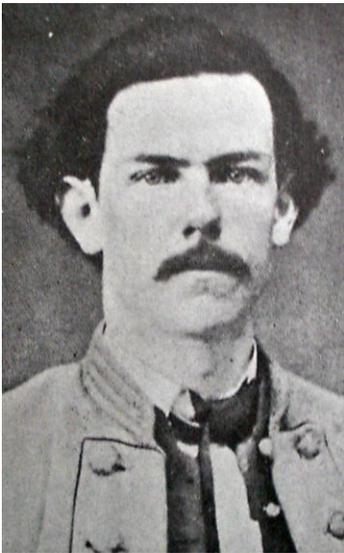
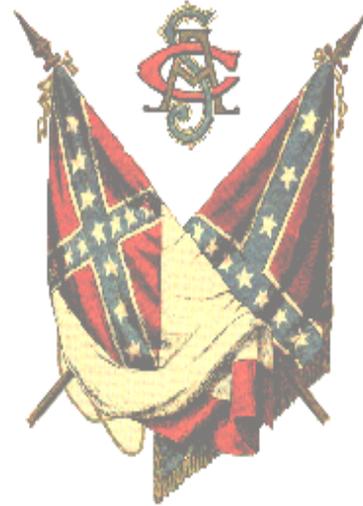

NEWSLETTER OF STATE OF DADE CAMP NO. 707



THE SILVER GRAY



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Last year's Georgia Mechanized Cavalry meeting.

SLAVERY AND SECESSION

The Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans recently was asked to fund a project of distributing a Speech by Pastor John Weaver entitled: The Truth About The Confederate Battle Flag... After debate and discussion (heated at times) the Executive Council voted overwhelmingly against supporting the project. Among numerous historical errors in "Paster" Weaver's presentation is his statement that: "The war was not over slavery. Slavery has only been made an issue by the liberal revisionists. It was not an issue." It would be enlightening to examine the actual Georgia Resolution for Secession that clearly states the reasons for this action.

In the months leading up to secession, Senator Robert Toombs of Georgia had seven proposals for the South: Equal rights to bring slaves into the territories; enforcement of the fugitive slave laws; punishment of terrorists like John Brown; no laws dealing with slavery would be approved except if a majority of slave holding states agreed (sort of like Calhoun's concurrent majority); nothing could be changed in Constitution - excluding the African slave trade ban - unless agreed to by every state which had slavery.

Georgia adopted its Declaration, heavily influenced by the positions of Senator Robert Toombs, on January 29, 1861. "... For the last ten years we have had numerous and serious causes of complaint against our non-slave-holding confederate States with reference to the subject of African slavery. They have endeavored to weaken our security, to disturb our domestic peace and tranquility, and persistently refused to comply with their express constitutional obligations to us in reference to that property, and by the use of their power in the Federal Government have striven to deprive us of an equal enjoyment of the common Territories of the Republic."

"...The people of Georgia, after an equally full and fair and deliberate hearing of the case, have declared with equal firmness that they shall not rule over them. A brief history of the rise, progress, and policy of anti-slavery and the political organization into whose hands the administration of the Federal Government has been committed will fully justify the pronounced verdict of the people of Georgia. The party of Lincoln, called the Republican party, under its present name and organization, is of recent origin. It is admitted to be an anti-slavery party."

"While it attracts to itself by its creed the scattered advocates of exploded political heresies, of condemned theories in political economy, the advocates of commercial restrictions, of protection, of special privileges, of waste and corruption in the administration of Government, anti-slavery is its mission and its purpose. By anti-slavery it is made a power in the state. The question of slavery was the great difficulty in the way of the formation of the Constitution. While the subordination and the political and social inequality of the African race was fully conceded by all, it was plainly apparent that slavery would soon disappear from what are now the non-slave-holding States of the original thirteen...."

“...These are sound and just principles which have received the approbation of just men in all countries and all centuries; but they are wholly disregarded by the people of the Northern States, and the Federal Government is impotent to maintain them. For twenty years past the abolitionists and their allies in the Northern States have been engaged in constant efforts to subvert our institutions and to excite insurrection and servile war among us. They have sent emissaries among us for the accomplishment of these purposes. Some of these efforts have received the public sanction of a majority of the leading men of the Republican party in the national councils, the same men who are now proposed as our rulers. These efforts have in one instance led to the actual invasion of one of the slave-holding States, and those of the murderers and incendiaries who escaped public justice by flight have found fraternal protection among our Northern confederates.”

“These are the same men who say the Union shall be preserved.”

“Such are the opinions and such are the practices of the Republican party, who have been called by their own votes to administer the Federal Government under the Constitution of the United States. We know their treachery; we know the shallow pretenses under which they daily disregard its plainest obligations. If we submit to them it will be our fault and not theirs.”

“The people of Georgia have ever been willing to stand by this bargain, this contract; they have never sought to evade any of its obligations; they have never hitherto sought to establish any new government; they have struggled to maintain the ancient right of themselves and the human race through and by that Constitution. But they know the value of parchment rights in treacherous hands, and therefore they refuse to commit their own to the rulers whom the North offers us. Why? Because by their declared principles and policy they have outlawed \$3,000,000,000 of our property in the common territories of the Union; put it under the ban of the Republic in the States where it exists and out of the protection of Federal law everywhere; because they give sanctuary to thieves and incendiaries who assail it to the whole extent of their power, in spite of their most solemn obligations and covenants; because their avowed purpose is to subvert our society and subject us not only to the loss of our property but the destruction of ourselves, our wives, and our children, and the desolation of our homes, our altars, and our firesides.”

“To avoid these evils we resume the powers which our fathers delegated to the Government of the United States, and henceforth will seek new safeguards for our liberty, equality, security, and tranquility.”

The resolutions of the other Confederate states expressed positions very similar to that shown above by the State of Georgia. In view of these considerations it becomes very clear that slavery certainly did have something to do with the cause for which the Confederates fought the war. While most Confederate soldiers may not have personally owned slaves, they clearly saw it as within their property rights to do so if the circumstances permitted it.

The Death of Robert E. Lee

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Americans love to hear a story of our nation's past. Please share this story with your family, I dedicate to our American Servicemen and women defending this nation. Lee served in the United States Army for nearly 32 years.

Robert E. Lee, who died on October 12, 1870, is honored throughout this great nation. The world famous carving to Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee is just a short drive from Atlanta, Georgia at Stone Mountain Park. A statue also stands tall, of Lee and "War Horse" Traveller, at Monument Ave., in Richmond, Virginia.

Do your children know who Robert E. Lee was?

A yearly tribute to Lee is held at Statutory Hall, site of the Old Congressional Building, in Washington, D.C. There are also events planned in Virginia, Georgia and other states in commemoration of the 200th birthday of Robert E. Lee on January 19, 2007.

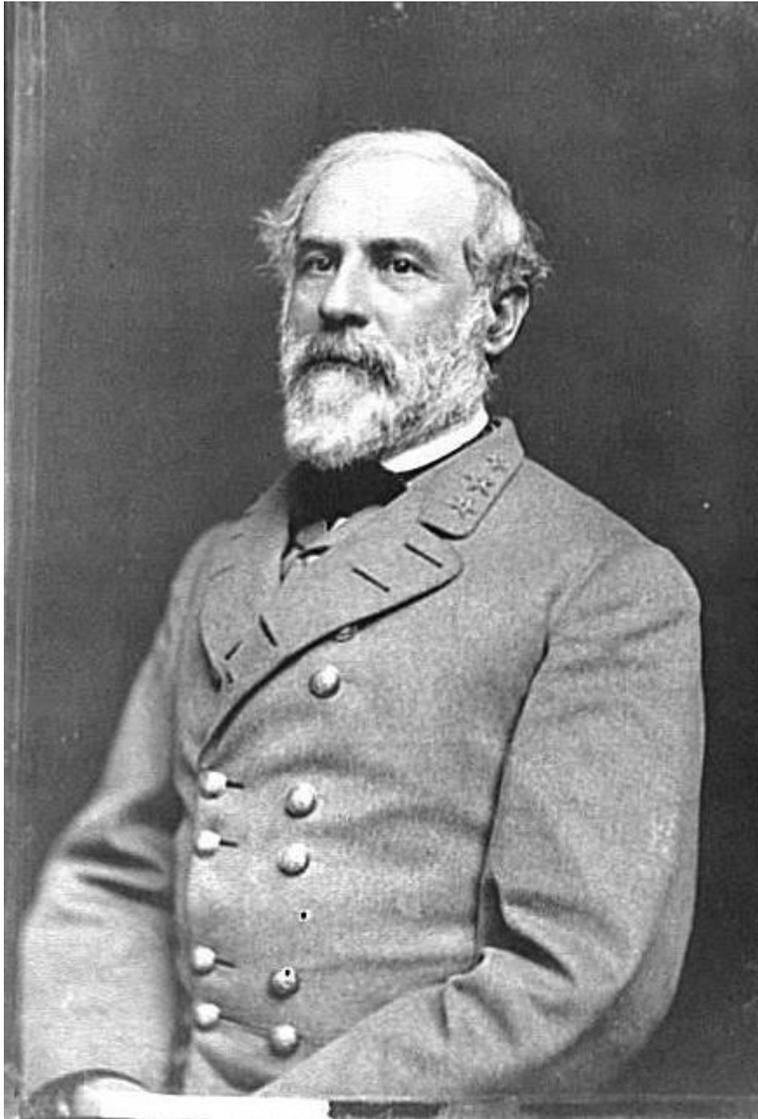
President Eisenhower knew and appreciated the proud history of our nation. While serving as U.S. President, Dwight Eisenhower was criticized for displaying a portrait of Robert E. Lee in his office. The president's response to this gentleman was kind but honest and here is a part of what he said; "General Robert E. Lee was, in my estimation, one of the supremely gifted men produced by this nation."

Lee also believed in the education of the young folks. He helped save a financially troubled "Washington College" in Lexington, Virginia. Returning home from a church meeting, Robert E. Lee sat at the supper table and was about to say grace. The general could not say a word and slumped down in his chair. It was believed that he had a stroke. It has been written that Lee's grief for the Southern people, some of whom were made poor from the War Between the States, may have contributed to his failing health.

His condition seemed hopeless when a doctor told him, "General, you must make haste and get well – Traveller – has been standing too long in his stable and needs exercise." Lee could only shake his head as he knew he would never again ride his beloved horse. It is written that Robert E. Lee stayed in the same condition, until Wednesday; October 12, 1870, when, at nine-thirty in the morning, in the presence of his family, the general quietly passed away.

The church bells rang as the sad news passed through Washington College, Virginia Military Institute and the town of Lexington. School Cadet's carried the remains

of the old soldier to Washington Chapel where he lay in state. Most buildings were covered in black for mourning.



Memorial meetings were also held throughout the South and as far North as New York. At Washington College in Lexington, eulogies were delivered by: Rev. Pemberton, Rev. W.S. White – Stonewall Jackson's Pastor – and Rev. J. William Jones. Jefferson Davis brought the eulogy in Richmond.

When all settled down, Mrs. Robert E. Lee said, "If he had succeeded in gaining by the sword all the South expected and hoped for, he could not have been more honored and lamented." A funeral procession for Lee marched through the town of Lexington and an artillery salute was fired as his hearse was driven to the school's chapel.

After Lee's death Washington College became known as Washington and Lee College. The Trustees of the school also tendered Mrs. Lee a deed to the president's house and an annuity of \$3,000.00 but she declined both.

The coming year, 2007, is being called "The Year of Lee" as Lee's 200th birthday will be remembered on January 19, 2007. What is your state, city, county or civic organization planning to commemorate this great American's birthday? This was an American who deserves to be remembered.

Robert E. Lee's last words were "Strike the Tent."

Lest We Forget!



The Chaplain's Corner

As we celebrate "Veteran's Day" which will be on November 11, we need to remember our fellow veterans and thank them personally for what they have done. Whether it was serving in World War II, North Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Granada, the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan or any of the un-named conflicts in the world. We don't have many World War I veterans to thank today, but that war was involved in us having "Veteran's Day". It was originally called "Armistice Day", because an armistice, or suspension of hostilities, was signed by the opponents on November 11, 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 veteran's 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 high in what you have done. May our own personal sacrifices be worthy of those who sacrificed so much to insure that the American Dream will never die. And may God Bless America forever.

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

Prayer list: Lewis Leach (as of this writing) is at Erlanger hospital in the intermediate care area. Lewis continues to improve to therapy, but he still needs our visits to talk to him to help bring him out of this condition. Wedge Morrison's granddaughter, Rachel, has a very serious illness. Ronnie Watts requests prayer for his Dad who has health problems. Let us remember all of these in our thoughts and prayers. I believe that prayer is an answer for many of the hardships we as mortals face.

May God bless,
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