

SOUTHERN CONSTELLATION



June, 2012

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"They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance" Union General John Sedgwick spoke these words just moments before being shot dead by a Confederate sharpshooter at Spotsylvania.

Message from the Commander

Commander Don Saunders

Thank you: Jim Siske, Don Long, Clark Porter, Cat Cline, Joyce Phillips, Doug Phillips, Ann Nowland, Pat Johnson, and Don Saunders. Over 170 flags were placed in Green Hill and First Presbyterian Cemeteries for Confederate Memorial Day.

Thank you: John Plybon and Bill Jones for representing the SCV and Sloan Camp at Summerfield Founders Day, May 19th.

Thank you: Chaplin David Long for speaking at the Sloan Camp Confederate Memorial Day service on May 10th.

Vidalia Onion Report = Thanks to Mike Myers, Tim Saunders, and Don Saunders for bringing 444 bags (That's 4,440 pounds) of onions from Fayetteville to Greensboro. Eric Garrison defended his title of Vidalia Onion King. Eric sold 121 bags. Other outstanding onion heads include David Moore, Gordon Teetor, and Darnaye Teetor. Thanks to all who participated.

At the May meeting, the camp voted to make a \$100 donation to the NC Division Heritage Defense Fund to support the Reidsville monument effort.

Our June 19th speaker will be NC Division Commander, Tom Smith. Commander Smith will present a program on relics from the war - buttons, buckles, and bullets. You will not want to miss this program.

Charge to The Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought; to your strength be given the defense of the Confederate Soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principals he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General
United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906

The Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain David A. Long, III

In Richmond Hill I was asked to be the Chaplain of the Historical Society. The night arrived and we were introduced to the gathering of folks who had come for our installation. Each one of us was given a badge which had on it our name and the office which we held. My badge had my name and under it was the office I held. The name of the office was "Chaplin". I did not want to embarrass the maker of the badge so later on I had the name changed to "Chaplain". Since I did not want to remain "silent" nor did I wish to be a movie star with that world-famous name, it was easier to have the name changed!

The word "chaplain" comes from the Latin word "capella" which means "chapel". A chapel, by definition is a building of worship smaller than a church. A minister is assigned to a specific area and given specific duties.

As one who has served in the U.S. Army, but not as a Chaplain, I was interested to learn more about the office and something of its history. I knew that men of God were with the Hebrews when they went into battle. Samuel, the Priest, was such a man. I did want to know the history of the office of Chaplain in the U.S. Military.

Since July 29, 1775, over 25,000 Army Chaplains have served as religious and spiritual leaders for 25 million soldiers and their families.

Always present with their soldiers in war and in peace, Army Chaplains have served in more than 270 major wars and combat engagements.

Nearly 300 Army Chaplains have laid down their lives in battle. Six have been awarded the Medal of Honor. Currently, over 3,000 Chaplains are serving the total army representing over 140 religious organizations.

When I was in Seminary, and as a 1st Lieutenant in the North Carolina National Guard, I had an opportunity to visit with Colonel Meek, the Chief Chaplain of the Fourth Corps (that word is pronounced "core" like an apple). Chaplain Meek was stationed at Ft. McPherson (named for a Yankee General, James McPherson, who was killed in the Battle of Atlanta).

I went out to see him and invited him to come speak at our Seminary. While with him, I asked him the question. "Colonel," I said "there are only, as I can see, two chaplains in the military. Good ones and sorry ones. The good ones are God's man first and the sorry ones try to be a "buddy" to the men." "I had not thought of it that way but you may be correct", he answered. Chaplain Meek had been a highly decorated Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps. He came out of the Korean War and wanted to become a minister of the Gospel. He went to Seminary and seeing that the Marines used Navy Chaplains, and not wanting to wear the Navy blue, he became a Chaplain in the U.S. Army.

Things have changed very little. The first Chaplains had in their number, men who had been forced out of the parish ministry, or were charlatans. The C.S.A. had over 640 Chaplains. They were paid very little, and part of their pay was food for their horses! The largest number of them were Baptists and Methodists, although some Episcopalians, Lutherans, Presbyterians and Roman Catholics also served.

John Roseburg was a Chaplain in the Revolutionary Army and the first U.S. Chaplain killed in battle. John McElroy, S.J. was one of the first Roman Catholic Chaplains in the Mexican-American War. He later founded Boston College. Milton L. Haney was a Chaplain in the Northern Army. He had attained the rank of Captain and as the ranking officer, took over at the death of his Captain and ran the artillery battery to which he had been assigned.

He received the Congressional Medal of Honor and was called "The Fighting Chaplain" by the men of the 55 Illinois.

Francis P. Duffy who served in World War I, was the most highly decorated Chaplain in the history of the U.S. Army. Charles Liteky, a Chaplain in the Vietnam war was awarded the Medal of Honor.

It is with a great deal of honor and appreciation that I now carry the title, "Chaplain".

The Greensborough Patriot

June 5, 1862

The Late Fight at Hanover.

Richmond, Va., May 30, 1862.

To the Editor of the Richmond Examiner:

I give you an exact account of the fight at Lebanon Church, Hanover county, on the 27th, and hope you will let the people know something of that severe and unequal contest.

About 11 ½ a.m. a captain of the Virginia Cavalry informed Col. Charles C. Lee, of the 37th North Carolina troops, that the enemy was advancing, but that he believed it to be a mere marauding party, which might be captured by prompt action. General Branch was at his headquarters, more than a mile distant, and as no time could be lost, Col. Lee soon ascertained that the enemy was advancing in considerable force, he, therefore sent forward the remainder of his regiment, and placed it in line of battle across the road, and sent back for Captain Latham's artillery to reply to a battery which had opened upon his regiment. He also asked Colonel Wade, of the Twelfth N. C. troops to place his regiment in the woods on the right to prevent a flank movement; he then deployed Company A, of the 37th as skirmishers, to protect the left flank.

Captain Latham, with two guns of his battery, came forward and replied vigorously for a short time until a shell was thrown into his caisson, which caused it to explode, killing two men and two horses and wounding seven men. Our guns now ceased to fire while moving back the disabled section. Company F, of the 37th, now opened fire with Enfield rifles upon the advance of the enemy and put him to flight, killing a lieutenant and two of his men. The enemy now retired from view, having engaged us for two hours. Gen. Branch about this time came upon the field, and ordered the Eighteenth and Thirty-seventh forward to support Colonel Lane's Twenty-eight North Carolina troops, which had been sent early in the morning to support two companies of the Thirty-seventh on picket some four miles distant. These two regiments commenced to advance under Colonel Lee the respective regiments being commanded by Colonel Cowen, of the Eighteenth, and Lieutenant Colonel Barber, of the 27th, Colonel Lee soon ascertained that the enemy had planted a battery of artillery on a hill in front of him, with a strong infantry support. This was reported to General Branch. General Branch ordered Colonel Lee to charge the battery with the Eighteenth and Thirty-seventh—Col. Lee sent to the

General asking him to cause Latham to engage the enemy's battery and to send up other infantry support for the Eighteenth and Thirty-seventh commenced the charge—the Eighteenth sweeping gallantly through an open field in the face of a terrible fire with good effect. At the same time the Thirty-seventh advanced with rapidity and steadiness through a dense forest in which the undergrowth was so thick that a man could not be seen more than thirty steps. The Thirty-seventh rushed forward with enthusiasm until it encountered the Yankees who were concealed behind logs, trees and in the cut of a roadway, which was bordered by a fence of cedar brush. Here the enemy had every advantage of a position, while his force was vastly superior, but Col. Lee's men stood like veterans. Officers and men stood as firm as rocks within fifteen or twenty paces of the Yankee line. Volley after volley of grape from their cannon and Minnie balls from their infantry mowed down our men, still the Thirty-seventh moved forward, driving the enemy before it. Unable to stand the well-directed fire of the Eighteenth and Thirty-seventh, the enemy fled from his battery, leaving his flag on the field. While these two regiments were fighting as only brave men can fight, and were driving from his position an enemy of six regiments of infantry and one battery of artillery, strange to say no assistance was sent to them, though General Branch had at his side a battery of artillery and four regiments of infantry. At last, when no longer able to stand alone against such heavy odds, the two regiments fell back, stubbornly contesting the ground as they retired. They had fought long, especially the thirty-seventh, which had been under fire for nearly six hours. Their loss was very heavy. The Thirty-seventh had only seven companies on the field (companies B and E being on picket, and company B being detailed to guard the wagon train, yet it lost a hundred and sixteen killed, wounded and missing, more than one out of every three men. The loss of the Eighteenth was quite severe they leaving some hundred and sixty of their men on the field. Col. Campbell's Seventh and Col. Wade's Twelfth N.C. troops now covered the retreat, holding the enemy in check in fine style. None of our other troops were in the action, except Captain Saunders' company of the Thirty-third N.C. troops, which while deployed as skirmishers, captured a Yankee hospital, and with it a surgeon, four men and 10 horses. The hospital contained forty-nine wounded Yankees. Their loss was quite severe—greater perhaps, than our own, including a field officer.

Our officers all behaved well. Col. Lee and Maj. Hickson were both knocked from their horses by shells.

Lieut. Col. Barbers' horse was killed under him, and he was slightly wounded in the neck. Adjutant Wm. F. Nickolson's horse was killed and came very near falling on him.

Col. Lane's regiment was entirely cut off, and had to take care of itself. Colonel Lane had cause to be proud of his men.—Then encountered the advanced regiment of the enemy and killed some eighty or more, and captured some sixty-eight prisoners, who were sent to Richmond, besides others, who afterwards escaped.

Col. Lane was then opposed by a superior force, which almost entirely surrounded him, yet he conducted his command off and reached Richmond yesterday. His loss, however is great, as many of his men broke down and, it is believed, were captured by the Yankee cavalry. Capts. Ashcraft and Farthing, of the Thirty-seventh, with some one hundred and forty men, were on picket, and started to Col. Lane, when they heard his firing. Capt. Ashcraft, with forty-four of his men, and fifteen of Captain Farthing's escaped; the rest, it is feared, were captured.

The above is a true statement of the facts which will make the battle of Lebanon Church a sad, but so far as the company and regimental officers are concerned a brilliant affair for North Carolinians. Of the rest public must judge.

“HANOVER.”

JUNE 2012						
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JULY 2012						
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Calendar of Events

347th Regular Meeting (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

Tuesday, June 19th, at 6:00 PM
 Capt. Bill's Seafood
 6108 West Market St.
 Greensboro, NC 27409
 (336) 852-5162

Speaker: NC Division Commander, Tom Smith, will present a program on relics from the war - buttons, buckles, and bullets.

348th Regular Meeting (Col. John Sloan Camp #1290)

Tuesday, July 17th, at 6:00 PM
 Capt. Bill's Seafood
 6108 West Market St.
 Greensboro, NC 27409
 (336) 852-5162

Camp Staff

Don Saunders - Commander
 Josh Myers - Lt. Commander
 Sammy Scott - 2nd Lt. Commander
 Thad Tucker - Treasurer
 Mike Myers - Adjutant
 David Long - Chaplain
 John Pugh - Color Sergeant
 Rahlo Fowler - Chief of Staff
 Jeff Frank - Newsletter

Mailing Address

Colonel John Sloan Camp #1290
 P.O. Box 4895
 Greensboro, NC 27404
