



The Gen. Gordon Dispatch

The Gen. John B. Gordon Memorial Camp #1449
P. O. Box 6003 . Thomaston, Georgia 30286
Web site: www.johnbgordon.com



April 2010

Welcome Our New Members

We welcome Joe and Randel Daniel as new members this month. They joined under their 3rd Great-grandfather, Biggers Daniel. Biggers Daniel was born June 1, 1824 in South Carolina. He enlisted as a Private on February 20, 1863 in Company D, 2nd State Line Infantry Regiment of Georgia. This company was called the "State Volunteers". The Georgia State Line consisted of two regiments funded, organized, and commanded by Gov. Joe Brown and were to guard the Georgia railroads, which were owned primarily by the State of Georgia. Of course, the State Line was united with the Confederacy and fought in the Atlanta Campaign and were also sent out of the state to fight along with units of the Confederate Army in the fall of 1864 and January thru April of 1865. Biggers Daniel died in 1898 and is buried in Flint River Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery in



Dates to Remember!

Confederate Memorial Services

Sunday, April 25th:
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: The Rock Confederate Cemetery
Speaker: Compatriot Jack Grubb

Monday, April 26th
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Glenwood Cemetery Confederate Section, Thomaston, Ga.
Speaker: Chaplain Eddie Rainey

Monday, April 26th
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Greenwood Cemetery Confederate Section, Barnesville, Ga.
Note: This service is held by the Lamar County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Remember--No Regular Monthly Meeting in April !

Confederate Memorial Day

Our Camp is hosting two Confederate Memorial Day services this year. I urge every member to attend at least one service if possible and bring friends and family with you. Low attendance at memorial services sends the message to the public that very few "care" anymore.

The *Thomaston Times* and the *Upton Beacon* have agreed to print the following press release:

Thomaston's John B. Gordon Memorial Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans invite you to



participate in their annual observance of Georgia's Confederate Memorial Day. Join us as we commemorate the vigilance, tenacity, and sacrifice of the Confederate people who endured the hardships of war and occupation. Memorial services will be held at the

Rock Confederate Cemetery on Sunday, April 25 at 2:00 p.m.; and Glenwood Cemetery in Thomaston on Monday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. Each service will feature a speaker and color guard. Additional information is available on our website at: www.JohnBGordon.com

Lest They Be Forgotten ...

From the May, 1893 issue of
"Confederate Veteran,"

The Origin of Memorial Day

It is a matter of history that Mrs. Chas. J. Williams, of Columbus, Ga., Instituted the beautiful custom of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers, a custom which has been adopted throughout the United States. Mrs. Williams was the daughter of Maj. John Howard, of Milledgeville, Ga., and was a superior woman. She married Maj. C. J. Williams on his return from the Mexican War. As colonel of the First Georgia Regulars, of the Army in Virginia, he contracted disease, from which he died in 1862, and was buried in Columbus, Ga.

Mrs. Williams and her little girl visited his grave every day, and often comforted themselves by wreathing it with flowers. While the mother sat abstractly thinking of the loved and lost one, the little one would pluck the weeds from the unmarked soldiers' graves near her father's and cover them with flowers, calling them her soldiers' graves.

After a short time while the dear little girl was summoned by the angels to join her father. The sorely bereaved mother then took charge of these unknown graves for the child's sake, and as she cared for them thought of the thousands of patriot graves throughout the South, far away from home and kindred, and in this way the plan was suggested to her of setting apart one day in each

year, that love might pay tribute to valor throughout the Southern States. In March, 1868, she addressed a communication to the Columbus Times, an extract of which I give:

"We beg the assistance of the press and the ladies throughout the South to aid us in the effort to set apart a certain day to be observed from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, and to be handed down through time as a religious custom of the South, to wreath the graves of our martyred dead with flowers, and we propose the 26th day of April as the day."

She then wrote to the Soldiers' Aid Societies in every Southern State, and they readily responded and reorganized under the name of Memorial Associations. She lived long enough to see her plan adopted all over the South, and in 1868 throughout the United States. Mrs. Williams died April 15, 1874, and was buried with military honors. On each returning Memorial Day the Columbus military march around her grave, and each deposits a floral offering.

To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will 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 principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals 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.



During a forced march in the summer of 1862, Stonewall Jackson stopped to consult with one of his general officers. The entire command then passed, and as Jackson and his officers rode forward to rejoin the column, the former discovered a private up a persimmon tree. Asked by the commander why he was so far in the rear, the private replied, 'Eating simmons.' 'Persimmons?' roared Jackson. 'Why they are not even ripe yet?' 'Like'em green just now,' explained the soldier. 'And why?' asked Jackson, softening a little with amusement at the fellow's laconic reply. 'To draw my innards up to fit my rations.'