

**Official Newsletter of the BG Micah Jenkins
SCV Camp 1569**

Volume XIV Number IV

April 2015



Honoring the Gray

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Micah Jenkins Camp Meeting Tuesday, April 14th 2015

**Regularly scheduled meeting will be at 7:00 PM at the
Mayflower Seafood Restaurant at
2124 Celanese Rd, Rock Hill, SC
Come early join the fellowship and eat.**

**Vernon Terry will be our speaker for April. Vernon
will be discussing firearms used during the WBTS. He
will also have some on hand for show. Vernon will also
be telling us about the surrender ceremonies at
Appomattox.**



**The War is Over
Our Ancestors Did Their Best
Lee surrenders at Appomattox
The North Left the South in Ruin**

Commander's Comments

Meeting Attendance

We need to have a serious discussion about meeting attendance.

No one expects everyone to attend every meeting. And a few of us have had complications which prevent us from getting out and about. But most of us are up and high spirited and could take one night a month and attend our Camp's meeting. So there must be something that the Camp is doing, or not doing, that keeps you from joining us.

Why am I worried? In February there were only six members present. Granted, we were overwhelmed with visitors and guests. As a matter of fact, non-members outnumbered the members. The good news is that we are adding new members and they seem to benefit from our Camp. They also have a good attendance record.

We need our older members to attend our meetings. We need your advice and your knowledge to keep things going. So if there is something we need to do, or not do, let me know. See you at our April meeting.



Looking for Somewhere to Get Confederate Stuff?

If you are ever heading up hwy 81 in the Shenandoah Valley take exit 243, please stop in and visit Rex Miller in the Shenandoah Heritage Market. He has lots of Confederate items (including some books that are very hard to find). You can also check out his store on his website:

www.ConfederateShop.com

Another place to visit, a little closer, is Dixie Republic. They boast to be: the South's Largest Confederate Store. They are located at: 1315 Hwy 25 N, Travelers Rest, SC. You can find out more about the store on their website: www.dixieoutpost.net or you can call them at: 864-834-7024.

Plan on stopping by when you are near either of these two Confederate stores.



Prayer Closet

- Please pray for the unspoken families that are having health and financial problems.
- Please pray, as well, for those unemployed and continually looking for employment.
- Please continue to keep Jim Floyd on your prayer list. Jim is doing much better since his fall.
- Please continue to keep Brad Blackmon's wife, Deborah, on your prayer list.
- Please continue to keep Ray Baker on your prayer list. Ray is doing much better, but still needs your prayers.
- Please continue to keep Micky Parris on your prayer list. He falling issues don't seem to be going away.
- Please continue to pray for the SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. Continue to pray for our country.
- Pray for our service men and women and for their families.

*Camp Chaplain,
Mike Short*

From the Chaplain

Please send your Prayer Requests to our Camp Chaplain, Mike Short. Mike can be contacted by phone (803-547-5446) or by email (cmshort@comporium.net).

**Visit the Micah Jenkins Camp website at:
<http://bgmicahjenkins.org/>**

Time Line April 1865

Apr 1st – At the Battle of Five Forks George Pickett could not withstand the federal envelopment move around Petersburg that began here.

Apr 2nd – 9th - Battle of Fort Blakely, Alabama

Apr 2nd - With the Petersburg line crumbling, Lee informs Davis he will abandon his position that evening. The Confederate government evacuates Richmond and Mayor Joseph Mayo surrenders the city to General Godfrey Weitzel.

Apr 2nd – At the Battle of Selma Wilson defeats Forrest.

Apr 3rd - Union troops occupy Petersburg and Richmond.

Apr 4th - President Lincoln visits Richmond, walking to the Confederate White House with a detachment of 10 men protected him.

Apr 4th - Battle of Jetersville, Virginia

Apr 6th – At the Battle of Saylor’s Creek (Sailor’s Creek) George Meade defeats John Gordon, Dick Ewell, and R. H. Anderson. Anderson and Ewell accidentally became separated from the main body of Lee’s Army. 8,000 Confederate soldiers are forced to surrender.

Apr 7th - Grant begins communication with Lee known as the “Surrender Letters.”

Apr 8th – At the Battle of Appomattox Station cavalry under Phillip Sheridan strikes the rail depot south of the Appomattox Court House, driving the Confederates back and capturing essential supplies.

Apr 9th - After attempting to break-out of the Union envelopment, Robert E. Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysess S. Grant at the home of Wilmer McLean in Appomattox Court House.

Apr 11th - Confederate government withdraws to North Carolina.

Apr 14th - Lincoln is assassinated on Good Friday by John Wilkes Booth in Ford’s Theatre.

Apr 15th - Lincoln dies in a boarding house opposite Ford’s Theater. Andrew Johnson takes the oath of office.

Apr 18th - Sherman and Johnston reach agreement on the surrender of all remaining armies in the Confederacy.

Apr 19th – Lincoln’s funeral is held in Washington.

Apr 24th - General William T. Sherman learns of President Johnson’s rejection of his surrender terms to Joe Johnston. General Grant, who personally delivered the message, orders Sherman to commence operations against Johnson within 48 hours. Sherman is incensed but obeys orders.

Apr 26th - P. G. T. Beauregard surrenders, Durham Station, North Carolina.

Apr 26th - Joe Johnston surrenders to William Tecumseh Sherman

Apr 26th - John Wilkes Booth is shot while fleeing a burning tobacco shed.

Apr 27th - Carrying former Federal prisoners-of-war the Sultana explodes on the Mississippi River near Memphis.

Apr 29th - Commercial shipping restrictions lifted from most Confederate ports

Famous Quotes

As the Confederates were taking leave of Appomattox, and about to begin their long and dreary tramp homework, many of the union men bid them farewell. One of Grant’s men said to one of Lee’s veterans, “Well, Johnny, I guess you fellas will go home now to stay.”

A tired and tried Confederate, unsure of the spirit in which the words were spoken and who was not at the moment in the best mood for banter, replied, “Look here, Yank! You guess that we fellas are going home to stay? Maybe we are. But don’t be given us any of your impudence. If you do, we’ll come back and lick you again.”

- As remembered by Major General John B. Gordon C.S.A.



The Surrender at Appomattox

The Last Salute Of The Army Of Northern Virginia. From the Boston Journal, May, 1901

It is an astounding fact that among the thousands of official documents bearing upon the Civil war in the National Archives at Washington there is absolutely nothing dealing with one of the most dramatic features of the great four years' internal struggle—the actual ceremonies attendant upon the formal surrender by General Lee's army of all Confederate property in their possession at Appomattox Courthouse thirty-six years ago.

When General Lee surrendered to General Grant, April 9th, 1865, the war was virtually over, but of the details of the surrender, the pathetic sadness on the one side, the jubilant satisfaction on the other, and, more particularly of the precise arrangements, the mode of procedure and the Northern army officer whose duty it became to take charge of the rebel arms and the rebel battleflags as they were given up—of all this our official war records tell not a word.

Why this is so the chief actor in the closing scene of the bloody drama, General Joshua L. Chamberlain, of Brunswick, Me., set forth in a pithy sentence to a Boston Journal writer the other night: "The war was over when Lee signed the terms of surrender, and with the closing of the war all official record-writing ceased."

And just as it is true that there are no official records bearing upon this notable surrender scene, so also is it true that there are no official records describing the really remarkable disbandment of the Southern military and its departure in fragments for home. Only recently, in fact, has this matter been treated of, and that by a magazine almost four decades after the event!

Truly, some of the most absorbing history is, in the minting, slow quite beyond belief. Passing strange it seems almost that upon a writer of a generation which has no intimate connection with the Civil war should devolve the not unpleasant, nor in the light of facts, ill-timed, task of setting down in complete detail that story which long ago should have had a full official telling.

Joshua Chamberlain wrote: "I went thither directly and found assembled in the tent two of the three senior officers whom General Grant had

selected to superintend the paroles and to look after the transfer of property and to attend to the final details of General Lee's surrender. These were General Griffin of the 5th Army Corps and General Gibbon of the 24th. The other commissioner, General Merritt of the cavalry, was not there. The articles of capitulation had been signed previously and it had come to the mere matter of formally settling the details of the surrender. The two officers told me that General Lee had started for Richmond, and that our leader, General Grant, was well on his way to his own headquarters at City Point, so called, in Virginia. I was also told that General Grant had decided to have a formal ceremony with a parade at the time of laying down of arms. A representative body of Union troops was to be drawn up in battle array at



Appomattox Courthouse, and past this Northern delegation were to march the entire Confederate Army, both officers and men, with their arms and colors, exactly as in actual service, and to lay down these arms and colors, as well as whatever other property belonged to the Rebel army, before our men.

"I was told, furthermore, that General Grant had appointed me to

take charge of this parade and to receive the formal surrender of the guns and flags. Pursuant to these orders, I drew up my brigade at the courthouse along the highway leading to Lynchburg. This was very early on the morning of the 12th of April.

"The arrangement of the soldiery was as follows: The Third Brigade on one side of the street in line of battle; the Second, known as Gregory's, in the rear, and across the street, facing the Third; the First Brigade also in line of battle.

"Having thus formed, the brigades standing at 'order arms,' the head of the Confederate column, General Gordon in command, and the old 'Stonewall' Jackson Brigade leading, started down into the valley which lay between us, and approached our lines. With my staff I was on the extreme right of the line, mounted on horseback, and in a position nearest the Rebel soldiers who were approaching our right.

"Ah, but it was a most impressive sight, a most striking picture, to see that whole army in motion to

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The Last Salute Of The Army Of Northern Virginia. From the Boston Journal, May, 1901

lay down the symbols of war and strife, that army which had fought for four terrible years after a fashion but infrequently known in war.

"At such a time and under such conditions I thought it eminently fitting to show some token of our feeling, and I therefore instructed my subordinate officers to come to the position of 'salute' in the manual of arms as each body of the Confederates passed before us.

"It was not a 'present arms,' however, not a 'present,' which then as now was the highest possible honor to be paid even to a president. It was the 'carry arms,' as it was then known, with musket held by the right hand and perpendicular to the shoulder. I may best describe it as a marching salute in review.

"When General Gordon came opposite me I had the bugle blown and the entire line came to 'attention,' preparatory to executing this movement of the manual successively and by regiments as Gordon's columns should pass before our front, each in turn.

"The General was riding in advance of his troops, his chin drooped to his breast, downhearted and dejected in appearance almost beyond description. At the sound of that machine like snap of arms, however, General Gordon started, caught in a moment its significance, and instantly assumed the finest attitude of a soldier. He wheeled his horse facing me, touching him gently with the spur, so that the animal slightly reared, and as he wheeled, horse and rider made one motion, the horse's head swung down with a graceful bow, and General Gordon dropped his swordpoint to his toe in salutation.

"By word of mouth General Gordon sent back orders to the rear that his own troops take the same position of the manual in the march past as did our line. That was done, and a truly imposing sight was the mutual salutation and farewell.

"At a distance of possibly twelve feet from our line, the Confederates halted and turned face towards us. Their lines were formed with the greatest care, with every officer in his appointed position, and thereupon began the formality of surrender.

"Bayonets were affixed to muskets, arms stacked, and cartridge boxes unslung and hung upon the stacks. Then, slowly and with a reluctance that was appealingly pathetic, the torn and tattered battleflags were either leaned against the stacks or laid upon the ground. The emotion of the conquered soldiery was really sad to witness. Some of the men who had carried and followed those ragged standards through the four long years of strife, rushed, regardless of all discipline, from the ranks, bent about their old flags, and pressed them to their lips with burning tears.

"And it can well be imagined, too, that there was no lack of emotion on our side, but the Union men were held steady in their lines, without the least

show of demonstration by word or by motion. There was, though, a twitching of the muscles of their faces, and, be it said, their battle-bronzed cheeks were not altogether dry. Our men felt the import of the occasion, and realized fully how they would have been affected if defeat and surrender had been their lot after such a fearful struggle.

"Nearly an entire day was necessary for that vast parade to pass. About 27,000 stands of arms were laid down, with something like a hundred battleflags; cartridges were destroyed, and the arms loaded on cars and sent off to Wilmington.

"Every token of armed hostility was laid aside by the defeated men. No officer surrendered his side arms or horse, if private property, only Confederate property being required, according to the terms of surrender, dated April 9, 1865, and stating that all arms, artillery, and public property were to be packed and stacked and turned over to the officer duly appointed to receive them.

"And right here I wish to correct again that statement so often attributed to me, to the effect that I have said I received from the hands of General Lee on that day his sword. Only recently, at a banquet in Newtown, glass., of the Katahdin Club, composed of sons and daughters of my own beloved State, it was said in press dispatches that a letter had been read front me in which I made the claim that I had received Lee's sword. I never did make that claim even, as I never did receive that sword.

"As I have said, no Confederate officer was required or even asked to surrender his side arms if they were his personal property. As a matter of fact, General Lee never gave up his sword, although, if I am not mistaken, there was some conference between General Grant and some of the members of his staff upon that very subject just before the final surrender. I was not present at that conference, however, and only know of it by hearsay.

"But, as I was saying, every token of armed hostility having been laid aside, and the men having given their words of honor that they would never serve again against the flag, they were free to go whither they would and as best they could. In the meantime our army had been supplying them with rations. On the next morning, however, the morning of the 13th, we could see the men, singly or in squads, making their way slowly into the distance, in whichever direction was nearest home, and by nightfall we were left there at Appomattox Courthouse lonesome and alone."

Details of the Surrender of General Lee at
Appomattox Courthouse, April 9th, 1865.

By General J. L. Chamberlain.

Source: Southern Historical Society Papers, Richmond, Va., January -December. 1904.

John Brown Gordon (February 6, 1832 – January 9, 1904)

John Brown Gordon (February 6, 1832 – January 9, 1904) was one of Robert E. Lee's most trusted Confederate generals by the end of the War. After the war, he was a strong opponent of Reconstruction and is thought by some to have been the titular leader of the Ku Klux Klan in Georgia during the late 1860s. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as a U.S. Senator from 1873 to 1880, and again from 1891 to 1897. He also served as the 53rd Governor of Georgia from 1886 to 1890.

Gordon was descended from an ancient Scottish lineage, and was born on his father's farm in Upson County, Georgia, the fourth of twelve children. Many Gordon family members fought in the Revolutionary War. He was an outstanding student at the University of Georgia, where he was a member of the Mystical 7 Society, but left before graduating. He studied law in Atlanta and passed the bar examination. Gordon and his father, Zachariah, invested in a series of coal mines in Tennessee and Georgia. He also practiced law. Gordon married Rebecca "Fanny" Haralson, daughter of Hugh Anderson Haralson, in 1854, and they had a long and happy marriage.

Although lacking military education or experience, Gordon was elected captain of a company of mountaineers and quickly climbed from captain to brigadier general (November 1, 1862), to major general (May 14, 1864). Though Gordon himself often claimed he was promoted to lieutenant general, there is no official record of this occurring. Gordon was an aggressive general. In 1864, Gordon was described by General Robert E. Lee in a letter to Confederate President Jefferson Davis as being one of his best brigadiers, "characterized by splendid audacity".

Gordon was a brigadier general and brigade commander in D.H. Hill's division in the Peninsula Campaign in 1862. During the subsequent Seven Days Battles, as Gordon strode fearlessly among his men, enemy bullets shattered the handle of his pistol, pierced his canteen, and tore away part of the front of his coat. He was wounded in the eyes during the assault on Malvern Hill.

Assigned by General Lee to hold the vital sunken road, or "Bloody Lane", during the Battle of Antietam, Gordon's propensity for being wounded reached new heights. First, a Minié ball passed through his calf. Then, a second ball hit him higher in the same leg. A third ball went through his left arm. He continued to lead his men despite the fact that the muscles and tendons in his arm were mangled, and a small artery was severed by this ball. A fourth ball hit him in his shoulder. Despite pleas that he go to the rear, he continued to lead his men.

He was finally stopped by a ball that hit him in the face, passing through his left cheek and out his jaw. He fell with his face in his cap and might have drowned in his own blood if it had not drained out through a bullet hole in the cap.

After months of recuperation, in June 1863 Gordon led a brigade of Georgians in Jubal A. Early's division during the Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania. His brigade occupied Wrightsville on the Susquehanna River, the farthest east in Pennsylvania any organized Confederate troops would reach. Union militia under Col. Jacob G. Frick burned the mile-and-a-quarter-long covered wooden bridge to prevent Gordon from crossing the river, and the fire soon spread to parts of Wrightsville. Gordon's troops formed a bucket brigade and managed to prevent the further destruction of the town.

At the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, Gordon's brigade smashed into the XI Corps on Barlow's Knoll. There, he aided the wounded opposing division commander Francis Barlow. This incident led to a story (which many people consider apocryphal) about the two officers meeting later in Washington, D.C., unaware that Barlow had survived the battle. The story was told by Barlow and by Gordon and was published in newspapers and in Gordon's book.

Seated at Clarkson Potter's table, I asked Barlow: "General, are you related to the Barlow who was killed at Gettysburg?" He replied: "Why, I am the man, sir. Are you related to the Gordon who killed me?" "I am the man, sir," I responded. No words of mine can convey any conception of the emotions awakened by those startling announcements. Nothing short of an actual resurrection from the dead could have amazed either of us more. Thenceforward, until his untimely death in 1896, the friendship between us which was born amidst the thunders of Gettysburg was greatly cherished by both.

— John B. Gordon, *Reminiscences of the Civil War*

Some historians choose to discount this story, despite contemporary accounts and the testimony of both men, because of Gordon's purported tendency to exaggerate in post-war writings and because it is inconceivable to them that Gordon did not know that Barlow subsequently fought against him in the Battle of the Wilderness.

At the start of the 1864 Overland Campaign, in the Battle of the Wilderness, Gordon proposed a flanking attack against the Union right that might have had a decisive effect on the battle, had General

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John Brown Gordon (February 6, 1832 – January 9, 1904)

Early allowed him freedom to launch it before late in the day. On May 8, 1864, Gordon was given command of Early's division in Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell's (later Early's) corps. Gordon's success in turning back the massive Union assault in the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House (the Bloody Angle) prevented a Confederate rout. He left with Early for the Valley Campaigns of 1864 and was wounded August 25, 1864, at Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Confederate cartographer Jedediah Hotchkiss's official report of the incident stated, "Quite a lively skirmish ensued, in which Gordon was wounded in the head, but he gallantly dashed on, the blood streaming over him." His wife Fanny, accompanying her husband on the campaign as general's wives sometimes did, rushed out into the street at the Third Battle of Winchester to urge Gordon's retreating troops to go back and face the enemy. Gordon was horrified to find her in the street with shells and balls flying about her.

Returning to Lee's army after Early's defeat at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Gordon led the Second Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia until the end of the war. In this role, he defended the line in the Siege of Petersburg and commanded the attack on Fort Stedman on March 25, 1865 (where he was wounded again, in the leg). At Appomattox Court House, he led his men in the last charge of the Army of Northern Virginia, capturing the entrenchments and several pieces of artillery in his front just before the surrender. On April 12, 1865, Gordon's Confederate troops officially surrendered to Bvt. Maj. Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain, acting for Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

It is exceedingly difficult to determine Gordon's exact role in the Klan, but given the nature of his testimony, his almost constant travel throughout Georgia and the South, and his desire to maintain peace, social order, and white supremacy, one can conclude with reasonable certainty that he was at least titular head of the Georgia Ku Klux Klan. Even so, he probably had little knowledge of and little control over the local klaverns, as this terrorist association was never fully organized. Although it is remotely possible that Gordon was unaware of the threats and violence southern whites so often employed against southern blacks, it seems more plausible that Gordon simply "looked the other way" and countenanced such excesses as the price that had to be paid if social peace—a peace determined and defined exclusively by southern whites—was to be regained and preserved. Gordon may not have condoned the violence employed by Klan members, but he did not question or oppose it when he felt it was justified. He would do what had to be done to assure a white-controlled social order, but he hoped it could be accomplished without violence.

As the government of the State of Georgia was being reconstituted for readmission to the Union, Gordon ran for governor in 1868, but was defeated. He was a firm opponent of Reconstruction and endorsed measures to preserve white-dominated society, including restrictions on freedmen and the use of violence. Gordon was thought to be the titular head of the Ku Klux Klan in Georgia, but the organization was so secretive that his role was never proved conclusively. During congressional testimony in 1871, Gordon denied any involvement with the Klan, but did acknowledge he was associated with a secret "peace police" organization whose sole purpose was the "preservation of peace."

Gordon was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1873, and in 1879 became the first ex-Confederate to preside over the Senate. He was a strong supporter of the "New South" and industrialization. The next day he obtained a promise from President Ulysses S. Grant to remove Federal officials in Georgia who had gained their positions through fraud or corruption.

Gordon resigned in May 1880 to promote a venture for the Georgia Pacific Railway. He was elected Governor of Georgia in 1886 and returned to the U.S. Senate from 1891 to 1897. In 1903 Gordon published an account of his Civil War service entitled *Reminiscences of the Civil War*. He engaged in a series of popular speaking engagements throughout the country.

General Gordon was the first Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans when the group was organized in 1890 and held this position until his death. He died while visiting his son in Miami, Florida, at the age of 71 and was buried in Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia; upwards of 75,000 people viewed and took part in the memorial ceremonies.

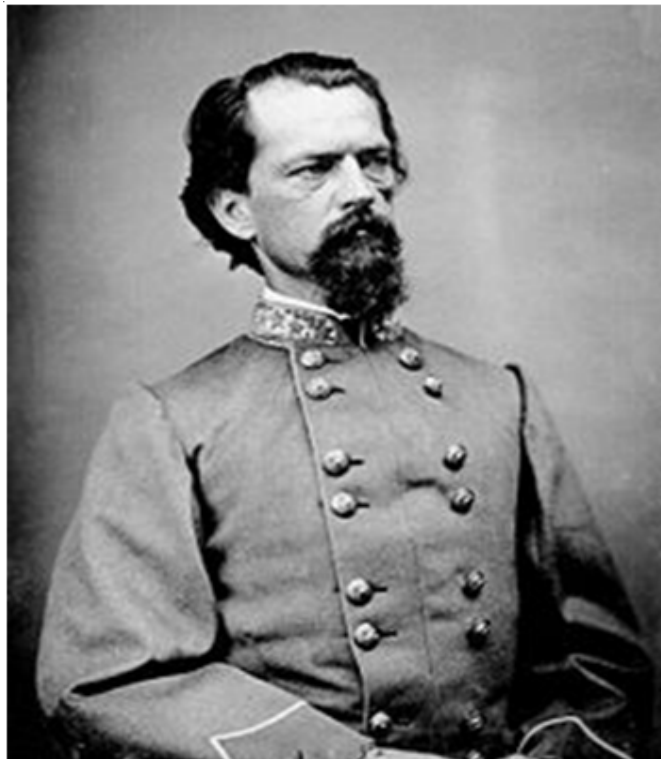
Gordon's statue by sculptor Solon Borglum is located on the northeastern part of the grounds of the Georgia State Capitol. The U.S. Army Fort Gordon installation in Augusta, Georgia, is named for Gordon. The statue of Gordon on the grounds of the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta is the only public equestrian statue in the city. U.S. Highway 19 in Gordon's native Upson County, Georgia, is named in his honor. There is a statue of Gordon on the lawn of the Thomaston, Georgia, courthouse. Gordon State College in Barnesville, Georgia, is named for Gordon.

A more gallant, generous, and fearless gentleman and soldier has not been seen by our country.

—President Theodore Roosevelt



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John Brown Gordon (February 6, 1832 – January 9, 1904)