



# GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



### Camp Officers:

**Camp Cmdr: John L. Maxey**

[Commander@campjoe Wheeler.org](mailto:Commander@campjoe Wheeler.org)

**1st Lt. Cmdr: Jerry New**

[1st.Lt.Cmdr@campjoe Wheeler.org](mailto:1st.Lt.Cmdr@campjoe Wheeler.org)

**2nd Lt. Cmdr: Mark Camp**

[2nd.Lt.Cmdr@campjoe Wheeler.org](mailto:2nd.Lt.Cmdr@campjoe Wheeler.org)

**Camp Adjutant: Steve Camp**

[Adjutant@campjoe Wheeler.org](mailto:Adjutant@campjoe Wheeler.org)

**Editor: J. H. Underwood**

[joe@onesmetalmolding.com](mailto:joe@onesmetalmolding.com)

### Coming Events

April 12, 2015 - **Relocation and Dedication of the Twiggs County Confederate Monument** - Twiggs County Courthouse - Jeffersonville Georgia

April 14, 2015 - **Open House meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

May 12, 2015 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

### Inside this issue:

**"Our Commanders Comments"** 2  
By: Commander John Maxey

**"14th National Confederate Memorial Service to be held at Stone Mountain"** 2  
News Release from the Georgia Division, SCV.

**"Last Fort to Fall"** 2  
Invitation from the Civil War Heritage Trails Newsletter - April 2015

**"Utoy Primitive Baptist Church and the Battle of Utoy Creek"** 3  
by: Utoy Cemetery Association and Editor J. H. Underwood (Continued from page 1)

**"Confederate Odyssey: The George W. Wray Jr. Civil War Collection at the Atlanta History Center"** 3  
a book

**"Twiggs County Monument to be Dedicated on Courthouse Grounds"** 4  
Release from GA. Division

## Utoy Primitive Baptist Church & the Battle of Utoy Creek

From the Utoy Cemetery website by J. H. Underwood - Editor



Atlanta's historic Utoy Cemetery is a fenced three and a half acre suburban cemetery located at 1465 Cahaba Drive SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30311, behind the old Utoy Primitive Baptist Church (now the Temple of Christ Pentecostal Church), 1911 Venetian Drive SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30311. The cemetery was originally part of the Utoy Primitive Baptist Church, but in 1984 was deeded to the Utoy Cemetery Association, Inc.



Utoy Primitive Baptist Church 1947

Utoy Primitive Baptist Church, apparently the oldest Baptist Church in present Fulton County, was constituted August 15, 1824, in a log house just west of the present church, which is now located at the corner of Venetian Drive (originally Utoy Road) and Cahaba Drive, in Southwest Atlanta. The church was apparently moved to its present location in the summer of 1828. Today, the Utoy Church building itself is owned by the Temple of Christ Pentecostal Church, Inc., an organization that has an active African-American congregation of approximately 100 members.

This location is about 6 miles from the State Capitol in Atlanta, and the Utoy Church has apparently

been used for burials from 1816 until 2006. The cemetery contains inscribed tombstones from 1816 to 2006 and is associated with the earliest period of European-American settlement (1810s-1870) in what is now Fulton County, Georgia. Utoy Cemetery is the oldest of the few identifiable properties to survive from that period.

A number of Negro slaves, who were also Utoy Church members, are apparently buried in the western portion of the cemetery, along with at least one verified Revolutionary War veteran. Moreover, there are Confederate, War of 1812, World War I & II, Spanish-American War, and Vietnam conflict veterans, plus Atlanta's first physician buried in Utoy Cemetery.

During the 1864 Battle of Utoy Creek, Utoy Church served as a military field hospital for captured Union and wounded Confederate soldiers. There are at least twenty-three (23) unknown Confederate soldiers, from Gen. S.D. Lee's Corps of Bate's Division, buried at the Utoy Cemetery. These were among the 35 Confederate casualties of the Battle of Utoy Creek, who died from wounds treated at the Utoy Church field hospital. One additional known casualty of this conflict and eleven (11) known other Confederate veterans are also buried at Utoy. Additionally, a portion of the Rebel defensive line still exists, only a few feet north of the Confederate graves.

The primary surgeon during the battle, and at the Utoy Church

field hospital, was Dr. Joshua Gilbert, who was assisted by Miss Sarah Hendon as a nurse, and other volunteers from the area. Both Dr. Gilbert and Miss Hendon are buried in the Utoy Cemetery with DAR and UDC memorial recognition.

Dr. Gilbert was Atlanta's first doctor. He was born in 1815 in South Carolina and was graduated from the old Augusta Medical College in 1845 and then came to Atlanta. At that time, Atlanta was called Marthasville and was located in DeKalb County. Here Dr. Gilbert practiced medicine until his death in 1889.

Dr. Gilbert and Miss Hendon treated both Confederate and captured Union soldiers.

A Colonel James S. Boynton, commanding the 30<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry of Brigadier General H. R. Jackson's Georgia Brigade, was treated here after being wounded at the Battle of Utoy Creek, one mile Northwest of Utoy Cemetery, along what is now Cascade Road SW. Colonel Boynton later became President of the Georgia Senate and, on March 5, 1883, the day after the death of Governor Alexander H. Stephens, he became of Governor of Georgia, to serve until a special election could be held.

A week after Colonel Boynton's wound and treatment, his division commander, Major General William B. Bate, was treated here (10 August 1864) from wounds received at the Battle of Utoy Creek, and was evacuated



# Our Commanders' Comments



By: Commander John Maxey



Southern Gentlemen,

I know all of you are looking forward to our April show of our relics at the camp on the 14th of April. That's also the

date that Mr. Booth cried the words "Sic Semper Tyrannis" from the stage of Ford's Theatre in 1865.

I know all of us will enjoy seeing the artifacts. Those who bring the relics, also bring a wealth of knowledge about them. I learn a lot each year we have done this.

You have probably heard by now that the Texas Division is getting some flack for the State's SCV auto tag. We have the same tag here in Georgia. Several of our members proudly sport them on their vehicles. It seems the dogs of Political Correctness never sleep.

As the weather warms up we'll be doing some Cemetery cleaning in the months ahead. Past Commander Underwood has one located on Guthrie Cemetery Rd. near Walnut Grove. We'll find out more info at the meeting. Looking forward to seeing each of you there.

Have a "Dixie" day,

John L. Maxey  
Commander



# 14th National Confederate Memorial Service to be held at Stone Mountain



News Release from the Georgia Division

Saturday April 11, 2015 @ 1 PM in front of the Carving Reflection Pool

Civil Round  
Table Cobb County Member Friends of Camp McDonald

DAVID FLOYD 770-979-2637 OR  
DLFreb@msn.com

HOSTED BY:

The GEORGIA Society Military Order of the Stars & Bars, David Denard Commander of the GA. Society MOS&B  
Quest Speaker Michael Shaffer President

FOR OTHER INFO CONTACT:

DAVID DENARD 706-678-7720 OR  
denardodian@bellsouth.net

**TELL THEM @ GATE YOU'RE A MEMBER OF THE SCV & GET IN THE PARK FREE FOR THE DAY BRING A PICNIC AND ENJOY A DIXIE DAY IN THE PARK.**



# Last Fort to Fall



Invitation from the Civil War Heritage Trails Newsletter - April 2015



Georgia: The Last Fort to Fall:

The 150th Anniversary of the Battle

of West Point will be held on Saturday, April 18, 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, at Fort Tyler, West Point GA.



Gen. Robert C. Tyler  
Commander of Ft. Tyler

the forts commander. This was the last Confederate fort to be captured during the Civil War thus giving Fort Tyler the distinction of being the "last fort to fall."

150 years later soldiers will once again occupy the grounds of the fort. Activities will include musket drill, musket firing, soldier life demonstrations and tours of the fort. Experience the fort by candle light between 8:00 and 10:00 pm as it might

have been the night before the battle and walk among the luminaries along the path.



Admission is .FREE!

For more information visit their website at [www.forttyler.com](http://www.forttyler.com).



## Utoy Primitive Baptist Church & the Battle of Utoy Creek



From the Utoy Cemetery website by J. H. Underwood - Editor (Continued from page 1.)

to Barnesville, Georgia to recuperate.

Union casualties were interred here until 1866, when they were moved by the US Quartermaster's Office at Atlanta, to the National Cemetery in Marietta, Georgia.

The Battle of Utoy Creek was a major victory for the Confederates and a terrible loss to the Union Army under Sherman. Sherman's original plan for capturing Atlanta, poorly executed as it was by Schofield, forced Sherman into an unwinnable siege war. Total U.S. Forces amongst the two corps in killed and wounded were a little less than two thousand troops. The Confederates losses included 35 killed and two hundred wounded or captured.

The significance of the Battle of Utoy Creek has long been underemphasized by historians, because General Sherman underreported his battle casualties and battle failures to Washington, so as not to impair President Lincoln's re-election chances. It was only after General Sherman outflanked the Con-



federate Army to the south of East Point, and cut the railroad ties at Jonesborough, that he secured a Confederate victory in the Battle of Atlanta, thus ensuring President Lincoln's re-election, and the fall of the Confederacy.

The Georgia Historical Commission has placed a marker near the Corner of Venetian Drive and Cahaba Drive in SW Atlanta signifying the importance of the Utoy Church and cemetery: The DAR and the UDC have marked and im-

proved both Revolutionary and Civil War graves.

The Utoy Church and Cemetery are part of a popular driving tour of Civil War historical markers, starting at the Battle of Ezra Church and Westview Cemetery Markers, then to Utoy Church, and on to the Surrender, Fort Hood, and Change of Command Markers.

The Utoy Cemetery was listed in the Georgia Register of Historic Places on June 10, 2011 and the National Register of Historic Places on February 23, 2015 raising the status of this important early Atlanta landmark, intimately associated with the Civil War Battle of Utoy Creek, to its proper and well-deserved prominence and recognition.

Col. James (S)toddard Boynton mentioned earlier was the 51st Governor of Georgia and the brother of my Great Great Grandfather, Yancey Boynton.



## Confederate Odyssey: The George W. Wray Jr. Civil War Collection at the Atlanta History Center.



(February/March 2015 Civil War News Book Review)

By Gordon L. Jones. Photos, notes, bibliography, index, 448 pp., 2014, Georgia, www.ugapress.org, \$49.95.

This is an important book describing in detail much of the comprehensive George W. Wray Jr. Confederate arms and artifacts collection at the Atlanta History Center.

The Wray collection contains a remarkable number of rare Confederate firearms and also includes swords, bayonets, knives, uniforms, headgear, canteens, cartridge and cap boxes, bullet molds, bullets, cartridges, flags and artillery.

All of the items discussed are illustrated in outstanding full-color photographs.

Although there is an abundance of valuable information for collectors, Gordon Jones's work is far more than a mere collection catalog. His broader view is that this unique collection reveals a fascinating backstory more important than the items' face value as rare objects or quasi-religious relics of the Lost Cause.

Jones uses the Wray collection as a vehicle to chronicle and analyze the Civil War South and its industry, economy and social

structure, as well as evoke the personal sagas of individual soldiers. This approach provides an excellent example of the value of artifacts as evidence in the study of history.

Jones details how an agrarian, slave-labor, almost pre-industrial Confederacy, using a combination of free and slave labor, struggled to create a manufacturing and supply system.

It organized and distributed an array of captured, manufactured and imported firearms, uniforms and other war materiel from both state and central governments to soldiers in the field.

Domestically produced Confederate small arms, never more than a fraction of the numbers necessary to equip Southern armies, ranged from good-quality Richmond Armory products to crude state-contracted pieces. The Confederate ordnance department repaired and cannibalized captured firearms, but their provenance is often difficult or impossible to establish.

Jones demonstrates this issue with a rifle-musket that has a Richmond-made lock-plate and all its remaining parts apparently scav-

enged from Springfield rifle-musket variants. The gun may have been put together in Richmond during the war using captured damaged Springfields, but may also be a postwar creation. We will never know, but the latter possibility remains a concern for Confederate arms collectors.

The collection includes sharpshooter arms used by both sides. Examples include Berdan Sharps and Whitworth rifles and some civilian target rifles, one a probable Macon Arsenal product.

Several Northern target rifles are also illustrated. Although a number of Union units were supplied with civilian target rifles and some were ordered for use in the siege of Charleston, there is no military provenance for these particular guns except for some being from the same New Hampshire maker as the much heavier target rifle supposedly used by a Confederate sharpshooter and "found" in Devil's Den after the Battle of Gettysburg – a discredited story.

This book makes an outstanding and invaluable contribution to the materiel history of the Civil War.

**MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH WHEELER CAMP #863,  
CONYERS, GA.**

P. O. Box 82718  
Conyers, GA. 30094

E-mail: [commander@campjowheeler.org](mailto:commander@campjowheeler.org)



**We're on the Web!**  
[www.campjowheeler.org](http://www.campjowheeler.org)

«AddressBlock»

Mailing

Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3



## Twiggs County Monument to be Dedicated on Courthouse Grounds



News Release from the Georgia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans



BEFORE

The newly located and renovated Twiggs County Confederate Monument is to be Dedicated on 12 April 2015 at 3 p.m. on the Courthouse grounds. Please forward and come if you can.

Invitation for Wreath placements from UDC member Judy Wall Smith...

The Georgia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy® Sidney Lanier Chapter #25 and The Georgia Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Request the honor of your presence to Celebrate the Relocation and Dedication of the Twiggs County

Location: Confederate Monument ,  
Twiggs County Courthouse Jefferson-  
ville, Georgia  
Sunday, 12 April 2015, 3:00 p.m.



AFTER