



THE GILMOR BLADE

Those who allow the surrender of their history,
also surrender their future!



Official Newsletter of

THE COL. H.W.GILMOR CAMP, No. 1388, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

April, 2017

April 12 meeting features Dave Booz on "Gettysburg: Day Two"

The Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp #1388 will hold its next meeting April 12, 2017 at 7:30 PM at the Baltimore County Historical Society, 9811 Van Buren Lane, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

We have scheduled May 13, 2017 as a work day at Confederate Hill so that we can get ready for Confederate Memorial Day on June 3rd. We will meet at Confederate Hill at 9 a.m. We are only asking for whatever time you can give us on May 13th, but the more hands, the quicker the work.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on November 4, 2017 for the Annual Gilmor Candlelight Dinner. More information to come.

Our guest speaker this month, David T. Booz, is currently an instructor in Civil War Era Studies at Gettysburg College. He was the Director of the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg for one year and has taught at McDaniel College and Carroll Community College. Before teaching in college, Dave was a teacher and high school principal in Carroll County, MD. He has been an active member of the North-South Skirmish Association for 40 years and frequently speaks to groups regarding American history, particularly on Civil War topics. He and his wife, Barbara, live just outside Gettysburg in Orrtanna, PA. See "April meeting," p.3

"The Charge"

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit 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 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."

Minutes: March 8, 2017 Camp meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:33 p.m. by Commander Dan Pyle. Chaplain Bob Wagster offered the Invocation. Commander Pyle led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Salute to the Confederate Flag. Commander Pyle read The Charge of General Stephen Dill Lee. Commander Pyle introduced a number of guests and members.

Commander Pyle introduced our guest speaker,

Frank Armiger. Mr. Armiger gave a very good talk and Power Point presentation on "The First Day at Gettysburg."

BREAK

Adjutant Elliott Cummings summarized the Minutes of the February 8, 2017 Camp meeting.

MOTION: To approve the Minutes as summarized.

PASSED

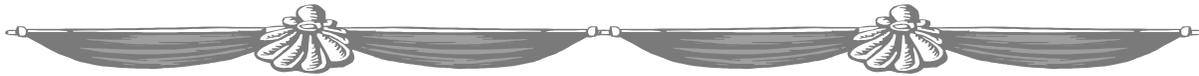
Commander Pyle reported that he is working on awards for Camp members.

Commander Pyle has scheduled Saturday, May 13, 2017 for a clean up day at Confederate Hill, Loudon Park, prior to the June 3, 2017 Confederate Memorial Day. Compatriot Bob Wagster reported that some stones on Confederate Hill are leaning and will require some maintenance.

Commander Pyle made a number of announcements: March 14, 2017 - Deadline for Haskins/Claggett Award See "March Minutes," p.7

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April, 2017

The Civil War is unearthed at Parkers Crossroads Battlefield

By Amanda Gerry
From:
<http://www.wbbjtv.com/2017/03/17/civil-war-unearthed-parkers-crossroads-battlefield/>

PARKERS CROSSROADS, Tenn.: A site where cannons were fired and horses stomped in the Battle of Parkers Crossroads back in 1862. In 1993, a Union burial ground was discovered here, but historians believe there are more.

“We know there have to be other burials on or near the battlefield,” said Steve McDaniel, historian for the Parkers Crossroads Battlefield Association.

So local historians reached out to state archeologists and the war commission. About two months ago the first of three phases in the search for answers began.

“It included using ground penetrating radar which sends waves down through the ground and will pick up changes that have taken place in various periods of time,” McDaniel said.



What they found led to the digging of six trenches about two weeks ago. That field is where historians believe Confederate soldiers from the Battle of Parkers Crossroads may still lie.

“The victors were the Federals. The Union Army, they never came back to exhume the Confederate soldiers,” said McDaniel. “So we think these may be southern boys under that soil.”

Historians say, they do not intend to disrupt any graves they find but will mark them and use their locations to piece together how the battle played out. “We want to fully interpret how the battle took place,” McDaniel said, “as also what happened after the battle.”



Experts told WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News the date for the third and final phase, which will unearth what is found beneath the soil, will likely happen in four to ten weeks.

Important message from your Adjutant: Major change in collection of SCV dues

For a number of years, the SCV fiscal year has ended on July 31. Camps were given until November 1, a three month “grace period” or window, to collect and remit dues. In practice, because it takes Camp Adjutants and Treasurers a few days to prepare the report and payment for Headquarters, dues needed to be paid by about October 27. In a normal year, maybe 12 or so people did not pay “on time”, but most of these were made up as reinstatements later with the addition of a \$5 Headquarters' fee.

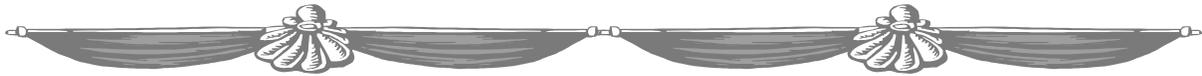
This procedure has been completely changed. Under the new procedure, anyone who has not paid dues by September 1, only a one month grace period, will be dropped from SCV membership. This gives Adjutants and Treasurers a window of only about 27 days to collect all dues. Keep in mind that there is no “Gilmor Blade” in the months of July and August to remind members that dues are due.

What I would respectfully ask is that each of you considers paying your SCV dues starting June 1. Dues are \$45 (\$30 National Dues + \$15 Camp Dues). Life Members are asked to pay only Camp dues of \$15.

Please send your check, payable to The Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp, to our treasurer:
Bruce G. Null
2600 Masseth Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21219

To further explain this change, below is Maryland Division Commander Terry Klima’s memo to all Camps:

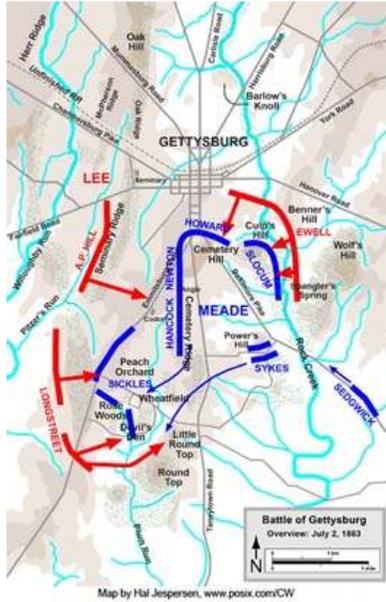
Gentlemen:
Please see the attached notification from the Adjutant-in-Chief Doug Nash regarding two items which will affect the way dues are handled, going into the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
See “Dues payment change,” p. 3



April, 2017

April meeting *Continued from p. 1*

Dave’s presentation this month will be on Longstreet’s Assault on July 2, 1863. The Confederate attack on July 2, 1863, was one of the most ferocious attacks of the war. Two Southern divisions smashed into the Union 3rd Corps and parts of the 2nd, 5th and 12th Corps. By the time the fighting died out for the night, thousands of men had been shot down. Confederate forces hit the Yankees from the Bushman and Slyder farms to Devil’s Den and the Triangular Field, then Little Round Top. More Southern infantry-men hit the Northerners in the Wheatfield and the Peach Orchard and from there across the fields to Cemetery Ridge.



Map from <http://www.totalgettysburg.com/gettysburg-day-2.html>

How successful was the attack? What impact did it have on the next day? Why do we not hear of Longstreet’s attack like we hear of "Pickett’s Charge"? Let’s try to answer these questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US!

SPRING CLEANUP:
CONFEDERATE HILL
LOUDON PARK CEMETERY

SATURDAY, MAY 13
9 AM

Dues payment change *Continued from p. 2*

Note that the grace period has been reduced from 90 days to 30 days. Accordingly, it will be necessary for Adjutants to begin the process of sending dues notices out earlier than in the past.

Additionally, note that the proration of dues will apply to new members only. Delinquent members who are renewing must pay for the entire year.

Additionally, this is the official notice of these changes from the Adjutant-in-Chief, Douglas W. Nash, Jr:

The General Executive Council (GEC) met in Elm Springs on Saturday, March 11, 2017 and voted, without objection, to change two (2) items which will affect doing business going into the 2017-2018 fiscal Year.

First – As you all know a grace period of 90 days has been afforded to members to renew their dues and not be considered as becoming delinquent on August 1st each year. That period will now change to only 30 days, meaning that a member who fails to renew by September 1st will become delinquent.

Second – Currently we prorate dues for both new and delinquent renewing members. Beginning with the 2017-2018 fiscal year proration will apply to only new members. Delinquent renewing members will no longer be able to prorate.

Thank for your help and cooperation in this matter. We don’t want to lose anyone as a member. Please consider paying your dues for 2017-2018 in June to avoid delinquency fees in September.
Sincerely,
Elliott Cummings, Adjutant
Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp, SCV



April, 2017

Humanity and Hope in a Southern Prison

By Peter Cozzens

From:

https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/author/peter-cozzens/?_r=1

For more than the obvious reasons, Civil War soldiers in both armies despised military prisons. Not only were the inmates held against their will, but the hunger, filth, vermin, rampant disease, overcrowding, brutal treatment and soul-crushing ennui made prison camps slaughterhouses of slow death. Andersonville, the infamous Georgia prison, was the ultimate abattoir; during the summer of 1864 nearly one in three Union inmates died. In other Confederate prisons, the average mortality rate was 15.5 percent; in Union prisons, 12 percent.

There was one remarkable exception: the virtually unknown Cahaba Federal Prison, 15 miles southwest of Selma, Ala. At Cahaba, the mortality rate was just 3 percent, a lower death rate than that among American prisoners in German stalags during World War II. According to federal figures, only 147 of the 5,000 prisoners interned at Cahaba died there.

What made Cahaba unique among Civil War prisons? Simple humanity. The prison commandant, Col. Henry A. M. Henderson of Kentucky, understood Northerners. He had graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University and the Cincinnati Law School. Shortly after graduation and finding his true calling in the church, Henderson became a Methodist minister. When he assumed command of Cahaba in July 1863, a month after it opened, he pledged to run the prison with as much com-

passion as discipline and good order permitted.

Henderson didn't have a lot to work with. The prison was built around a partly completed, 15,000-square-foot cotton warehouse in the town of Cahaba on the west bank of the Alabama River. Within its brick walls, 250 rough-timber bunks, capable of sleeping two men each, were built one atop of the other. An unfinished roof left 1,600 square feet in the center exposed to the elements. Confederate prison authorities built a 12-foot-high wooden stockade around the warehouse, with allowance made for a small outdoor cooking yard. The prison's official capacity was 500; by the time Henderson arrived, it already had climbed to 660, with latecomers compelled to sleep on the dirt floor of the warehouse.



Plan of Cahaba Prison. From <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3711>



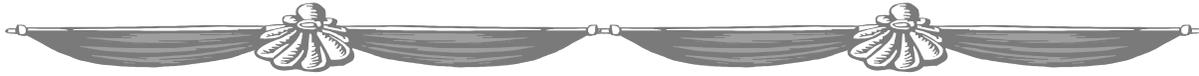
View of the site of Cahaba Prison

From

<http://www.civilwaralbum.com/misc/16/cahawba4.htm>

The Kentuckian's first order of business was to improve sanitary conditions. Drinking water came from an artesian well that emptied into an open gutter, which in turn flowed 200 yards through town before entering the northwest corner of the stockade. In his effort to depollute the water supply, Henderson had a willing ally in the prison surgeon R. H. Whitfield. Making his case to the Medical Department, Whitfield said the water, in its course from the well to the stockade, "has been subjected to the washings of the hands, feet, faces, and heads of soldiers, citizens, and negroes, buckets, tubs, and spittoons, of groceries, offices, and hospital, hogs, dogs, cows, and filth of all kinds from the streets and other sources." Whitfield's graphic plea did the trick; quartermasters installed pipes to replace the open ditch, and clean water flowed into the prison.

To ensure it remained that way, the latrines – closed outhouses, not open filth holes in the center of camp, as at Andersonville – were built at the southeastern corner of See "Cahaba prison," p.5



April, 2017

Cahaba prison *Continued from p.5*

the prison, where the water exited. Consequently, dysentery was almost unknown at Cahaba; the majority of prisoners who died there seem to have entered the prison already in a weakened state.

Those who fell ill were well cared for at the prison hospital, located in a rambling, two-story hotel called Bell Tavern that the Confederacy had commandeered to serve both the guards and the prisoners. Whitfield treated Northerners and Southerners with equal consideration. Men died in the Bell Tavern hospital, but not for want of care.

Neither did they die for want of effort by Henderson, who in the autumn of 1864 found himself commandant of the most overcrowded of all Civil War prisons. That summer the Union's commanding general, Ulysses S. Grant, halted prisoner-of-war exchanges. As a result, Cahaba's population surged to 2,151 in October, a number 600 percent above the prison's capacity (Andersonville ran 330 percent above capacity at its peak). Each man had only 7.5 square feet to call his own; those at Andersonville had 35 square feet of space, albeit squalid, per man.

Despite the ban on exchanges, Henderson bypassed his own chain of command and proposed to the Union district commander, Maj. Gen. Cadwallader C. Washburn, a special exchange of 350 of Cahaba's most debilitated inmates. Cadwallader forwarded the request, along with a letter praising Henderson's management, but General Grant denied the appeal.

Henderson persevered. With winter drawing near and the prisoners poorly clad, he suggested to Washburn that the federals send a truce ship up the Alabama River to Cahaba with supplies. Henderson and Washburn overcame the reservations of their superiors, and in December a Union steamboat off-loaded 2,000 uniforms, 4,000 pairs of socks, 1,500 blankets, medicine and mess tins.

Henderson had done his best. But with overcrowding came a drop in rations, an inevitable course in a South scarcely able to feed its own troops by then. Prisoners wanted food more than supplies. Most of them bartered their new clothing to guards in exchange for victuals, and, reported Henderson sadly, the prisoners "were left with the same scanty clothing and ragged blankets in a climate particularly severe in winter."

Homesickness and ennui could kill men as effectively as disease, so Henderson and his subordinates did what they could to keep the men's minds occupied. "Every day on the arrival of the mail, one of them would bring in a late paper, stand up on a box and read the news," recalled Sgt. Melvin Grigsby of Wisconsin. "In many other ways, such as procuring writing material and forwarding letters for us, they manifested such kindly feeling as one honorable soldier will always manifest toward brother soldier, enemy though he may be, in misfortune."

Prisoners at Cahaba also were blessed with their own angel of mercy: Amanda Gardner, whose



Remains of a chimney at the prison site. From <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3711>

well-appointed home stood just outside the prison compound. There was no doubting her pro-Confederate convictions; Ms. Gardner had lost one of her two sons to Yankee bullets at the First Battle of Bull Run. But she had a reputation, a prison guard told Sergeant Grigsby, "of being one of the kindest-hearted and most intelligent women in town." Soon after Cahaba opened, she began sending gifts of food that her young daughter slipped through cracks in the stockade walls with the connivance of friendly guards. When winter came, she cut every carpet in her home into blankets to "relieve the suffering of those poor prisoners."

Most beneficial to prisoner morale was the generous use she made of a superb book collection her uncle had bequeathed her. Prisoners had See "*Cahaba prison*," p.7



March Minutes *Continued from p. 1*

submissions.
 April 1, 2017 - Maryland Division, SCV clean up at Benner Hill, Gettysburg.
 April 15, 2017 - Maryland Division, SCV Convention, Newburg, Md.
 May 20, 2017 - Captain Henry Wirz Ceremony, Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington D. C.
 June 1, 2017 - Past Commander-in-Chief, SCV Kelly Barrow will speak at the Battle of Sharpsburg Camp.
 June 3, 2017 - Confederate Memorial Day, Confederate Hill, Loudon Park, Cemetery, Baltimore, Md.
 June 10, 2017 - Private Wesley Culp ceremony at the Virginia Monument, Gettysburg. Susan Hathaway of the Virginia Flaggers will be the guest speaker.
 June 23 -25, 2017 - Corbit's Charge, Westminster, Md.
 August, 26, 2017 - Col. William Norris Camp Potomac River Crossing.
 September 16, 2017 - Maryland Division, SCV clean up at Benner Hill, Gettysburg.
 October 14, 2017 - Captain Vincent Camalier Camp Point Lookout Ceremony.
 November 4, 2017 - Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp Annual Candlelight Dinner, Maryland Country Club.
 November 18, 2017 - Remembrance Day, Gettysburg.

1st Lt Commander Gene Leasure reported that a Federal Court has ruled that New Orleans can move forward on the removal of Confederate Monuments in that city. Elliott Cummings suggested that there may be some additional judicial remedies to prevent the removal.

Compatriot Leasure also reported that Confederate monuments in

Virginia are protected by State law. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 9:16 p. m.

Camp minutes: February 8, 2017

Due to an editorial mishap, the February 2017 minutes were omitted from the March Blade.
 The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Commander Dan Pyle. Chaplain Bob Wagster offered the Invocation. Commander Pyle led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and the Salute to the Confederate Flag. Commander Pyle read The Charge of General Stephen Dill Lee. Twenty-one members and guests were in attendance. Commander Pyle introduced a number of guests and members.

1st Lt Commander Gene Leasure introduced our guest speaker, Sue Boardman. Mrs. Boardman gave a wonderful talk and Power Point presentation on the "Gettysburg Cyclorama."

BREAK
 Adjutant Elliott Cummings summarized the Minutes of the January 11, 2017 Camp meeting.
MOTION: To approve the Minutes as summarized. **PASSED**
MOTION: To wave the Treasurer's Report. **PASSED**

Commander Pyle suggested a Saturday, May 13, 2017 clean up day at Confederate Hill, Loudon Park, prior to the June 3, 2017 Confederate Memorial Day. Commander Pyle reported on the criteria for the Maryland Division, SCV, Haskins / Claggett Award and discussed other National SCV Awards.

Commander Pyle reported that Jake Duda, Co. D 2nd Maryland Infantry is sponsoring a tour of the 5th

Respectfully submitted,
G. Elliott Cummings
Adjutant

Regiment Armory Maryland Museum of Military History on Saturday, February 18, 2017, 11:00 a. m. Requests to attend must be received by February 16, 2017. Commander Pyle reported that the Annual Maryland Division, SCV Convention will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2017 at the Maryland Veterans Museum, Newburg, Maryland.

2nd Lt Commander Mike Williams discussed the Annual Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp Candlelight Dinner at the Maryland Country Club. Our preferred date of Saturday, November 11, 2017 has been taken. It was agreed that the alternative date of Saturday, November 4, 2017 was acceptable. 2nd Lt Commander Mike Williams discussed the 501 C3 implication of a gift to the Camp from Mrs. Fred Habicht.

1st Lt Commander Gene Leasure reported that our guest speaker for the April 12, 2017 meeting will be Dave Booz. His topic will be "The Second Day at Gettysburg." In addition, Compatriot Leasure has discussed a presentation by David Craig on World War I. 2017 is the Centennial of the United States' entry into "The Great War." He will also be contacting author and historian Ross Kelbaugh for a possible speaking date.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 9:26 p. m.
Respectfully submitted,
G. Elliott Cummings
Adjutant



Cahaba prison *Continued from p. 5*

only to send a note by a guard to Gardner or her daughter to borrow a book from library. At Andersonville prisoners scuffled over dog-eared back issues of Harper’s Weekly to alleviate the tedium. At Cahaba inmates enjoyed finely bound copies of the classics and a wide assortment of recent novels, as well as works of history, philosophy, science and poetry. Word of Gardner’s kindness spread beyond the prison walls to the Union lines; when a federal cavalry detachment realized they had captured her remaining son, they paroled him through the lines to her care.

Despite the best intentions of Henderson and Gardner, life at Cahaba was not easy. By late 1864 the average daily issue of rations fell to 12 ounces of cornmeal, 8 ounces of often-rancid beef and occasionally some bug-infested peas. Prisoners were not starved, but they were hungry enough that thoughts of food permeated their dreams. “The same experience was often repeated,” remembered an Illinois cavalryman, Jesse Hawes. “Go to the bed of sand at 9:00 p.m., dream of food till 1:00 or 2:00 a.m., awake, go to the water barrel, drink, and return to sleep again if the rats would permit sleep.”

The rat population grew apace with that of the prisoners until they became a plague. They burrowed through the warehouse and swarmed over the cooking yard. “At first they made me nervous, lest they should do me serious injury before I should awake,” said Hawes. “But after several nights’ experience that feeling was supplanted by one of

irritation that they should keep waking me up so many times that at length became nearly unbearable.”

Harder yet to bear were lice, from which no prisoner was free. An Illinois private said that after his first night at Cahaba his uniform was so infested that it “looked more like pepper and salt than blue.” Hawes agreed. Lice “crawled upon our clothing by day, crawled over our bodies, into the ears, even into the nostrils and mouths by night.”

To compound the prisoners’ misery, in early March 1865 the inmates of Cahaba faced a natural disaster of the first order. For several days rain had pounded the prison and inundated the surrounding countryside. On March 1 the Cahaba River, north of town, overflowed its banks. Water raced through Cahaba and swept into the stockade. Latrines backed up, and by nightfall prisoners found themselves waist-deep in ice-cold, fetid water.

Unfortunately for them, Colonel Henderson was no longer at Cahaba. With the war winding down, General Grant had relented on prisoner exchanges. Confederate authorities detailed Henderson to organize exchanges at a neutral site in Vicksburg, leaving the prison under the command of Lt. Col. Samuel Jones, a mean-spirited martinet who once threatened to run Ms. Gardner out of town because of her “sympathy for the damned Yankees.” Refusing an appeal from his own guards to permit the prisoners to seek refuge on high ground outside the stockade until the waters receded, Jones left the federals shiv-



Grounds of the Cahaba Prison site. From <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/36732553187595656/>

ering in the water for three days. Then, as the water finally drained from the stockade, he told the incredulous inmates that they were to be paroled immediately. The war was all but over.

For four weeks steamboats plied the Alabama River with prisoners. Most were taken to Vicksburg, where they mingled with the skeletons in blue from Andersonville. Some 4,700 Union prisoners awaited transportation home. Some 1,100 were sick, nearly all of whom were from Andersonville. The Cahaba men, reported Union department commander Napoleon T. Dana, were in “excellent health.”

But not for long. On April 24, the long months of humane work by Henderson ended in unspeakable tragedy. The Union paddle steamer Sultana left Vicksburg crammed with 2,000 Union prisoners, more than half of them Cahaba men. The Sultana had faulty boilers and a legal capacity of 376 passengers. Three days after setting off up the Mississippi three of the four boilers exploded, and the Sultana sank. Three-quarters of the men onboard died.

See “Cahaba prison,” p. 8



Cahaba prison *Continued from p. 5*

General Dana took care to see that no harm came to Henderson while he was at Vicksburg, assigning a detachment of Indiana cavalry to act as the colonel’s personal body-guard. After the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, not even a well-meaning Confederate like Henderson was safe within Union lines. So Dana spirited him across the Mississippi River into a camp of Texas Rangers.

Henderson went on to live a long and productive life. He served two terms as superintendent of public

schools in Kentucky before returning to the clergy. The Reverend Doctor Henderson was pastor of the Jersey City, N.J., Methodist Church when on May 11, 1883 its most prominent member, Mrs. Hannah Simpson Grant, passed away. Her son, Ulysses S. Grant, entrusted funeral arrangements to Henderson and asked him to prepare an appropriate eulogy. It was a high tribute to Henderson’s character indeed that the former commanding general of the Union army would place such trust in the one-time commandant of a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp.

Henderson died in Cincinnati in 1912. Obituaries incorrectly said he had been a Confederate general, omitting any reference to his duty at Cahaba. Not that it mattered. After the 1865 flood the county seat moved from Cahaba to Selma, and by the turn of the century Cahaba was a ghost town; the warehouse prison demolished for the bricks. The horrors of Andersonville and notoriety of its commandant Henry Wirz would forever remain etched in American memory; memories of Col. Henry A. M. Henderson’s humanity were buried with the good reverend.

THE GILMOR BLADE

Bruce and Nancy Null
2600 Masseth Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21219



The Gilmor Blade is the monthly publication of the Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp #1388, Sons of Confederate Veterans.



SAVE THE DATES:
April Camp meeting 4/12/17
Speaker: Dave Booz

Confederate Hill Cleanup: 5/13/17
Starts at 9 AM