



Rebel Underground

Sons of Confederate Veterans
Major John C. Hutto Camp # 443
Jasper, Alabama

Published Monthly

January 2025

The Major John C. Hutto Camp's January Camp Meeting
will be in Jasper, Alabama on

Sunday 19 January 2025 at 2:00 pm

Don't miss Faye Gaston's Memorial to Bill Rambo,
former Director of Confederate Memorial Park,
Marbury, Alabama, page 2

It's not too late to pay your 2025 SCV dues.
Please help us preserve and honor our Confederate Family & Heroes

Please remit your dues (\$55.00) to the Camp Adjutant :
John McGraw
702 Haston Terrace
Jasper, Alabama 35504



IN MEMORY OF BILL RAMBO

**By Faye Gaston,
Honorary Life President of UDC
Alabama Division**

Years ago I was driving from north Alabama and decided to take the exit to the Confederate Memorial Park . I saw a tall handsome man in a Confederate uniform talking with a woman. When their conversation ended I introduced myself to him and he introduced himself to me. He was the Director of the Confederate Memorial Park. We discovered that Bill Rambo and I were cousins through a common Confederate ancestor through the lines of both our mothers. His mother was Margaret Cone Rambo and my mother was Mattie Cone Barfoot. As a result we exchanged the research each of us had done on our Cone family. He asked to borrow my tintype photo of

my Confederate great-grandfather (Joel Barfoot) and a photo of his wife on my Dad's family line. He had the photos enlarged to about 36 inches high and both displayed in two sections of the park's museum. I am still so very pleased.

Bill Rambo was a historian and gifted speaker who shared his knowledge of true Confederate history on many occasions. I heard him speak at a UDC chapter meeting. I introduced him as a speaker of a UDC Alabama Division convention historical evening as one of the few who is known by only one name "RAMBO" along with Marilyn MONROE, and Winston CHURCHILL. I heard him speak on other special occasions sponsored by the UDC or SCV.

He was presented the Jefferson Davis Historical Medal (Gold) by the UDC Alabama Division in 1989 for his service in preserving our Confederate heritage, the UDC's highest award.



I saw him riding his horse in battle re-enactments at Tallassee. I saw him and his wife in Selma at a Confederate Ball. The only time I saw him get emotional was at the ceremony for the dedication for the new museum at the Park. He had been determined that the captions for the displays would be based on the Southern view of the War Between the States. I attended one of the events at the Park held by the Children of the Confederacy sponsored by the UDC that included a service in the Chapel. He gave me many Park brochures to share that told the history of the Park that was the only "Home for Confederate Veterans" in Alabama.

Two of my granddaughters wanted me to write a book of my "memoirs". So I asked Cousin Rambo for a resume that I could include in my book because he was the outstanding relative in my family's history on my mother's line. So that resume (with a treasured photo of me with Cousin Rambo in our Confederate clothes) will be published in my book in 2025. I had that photo on display at his funeral.

The funeral of William "Bill" George Rambo, age 75, was held in the chapel of the Brookside Funeral Home in Millbrook, Alabama on December 16, 2024. It was an impressive memorial for a much loved and appreciated man. The Chapel was full that included a crowd of SCV members in Confederate uniforms. Six were pallbearers: Kenny Morrison, Calvin Chappell, Dave Neel, Daryle Masters, Paul Wolbeck, and Mark Mershimer. I was thankful to be seated with Cyndi Himes, the President of the UDC Alabama Division; Pat Godwin, President of the Selma UDC chapter; and Loretta Martin, President of the Montgomery UDC chapter. We dressed in black with hat and gloves.

The casket was covered with a Confederate flag (not the famous Battle Flag). Photos of Rambo throughout his life from a child to a man with a black beard to a white beard were shown continuously on two big screens. Speakers in three categories spoke about memories of Rambo: his SCV friends, his immediate family, and Dr. Jim Graham, his pastor of 23 years. (Randall Hughey, SCV leader in Tallassee, said it best in an e-mail: "I will never forget seeing Rambo on that beautiful white horse at the Battle for the Armory.")

The crowd walked to the grave site in the adjoining cemetery. Pastor Graham read scripture from II Timothy 4:7-8, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day---and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing." He prayed. Bobby Horton, with his guitar, sang

a solo. The singing of "Dixie" was led by SCV members with their musical instruments. "Taps" was played on a bugle. (Day is done, gone the sun From the hills, from the lake, from the skies. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.").

As we remember Rambo, we remember his signature on e-mails: Nehemiah 4:14, (After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." (Amen, Cousin Rambo).



Drawing of the Alabama Confederate Soldiers Home, first published in the April 17, 1902 copy of the *Blount County News-Dispatch*.

RAMBO'S RESUME

Bill Rambo is one of those blessed individuals who pursued a career based on his academic and recreational study of the War Between the States.

Bill Rambo holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in American History. He was a high school American History teacher for over a dozen years before accepting a position with the Alabama Historical Commission as Site Director of Confederate Memorial Park. This historic site is the only Home for Confederate veterans in Alabama. In his 30 years at the helm he directed the development

of the facility resulting in much improved preservation and interpretation of the site including outdoor displays, a living history facility and a state of the art museum which interprets Alabama's Confederate period and the history of the Soldiers' Home.

During his tenure as Site Director on occasion he served as an Adjunct Professor in American History at Central Alabama Community College and Auburn University at Montgomery and was an Elder hostel instructor teaching, "Fundamentals of the War Between the States...with a Southern perspective" sponsored by the University of Montevallo.

In his leisure time he served in the Civil War reenacting army, holding every rank from Private to Brigadier General. From 1986 until he retired in 2019 he commanded the Confederate or Union side at reenactments across the Southeast. He has participated in Civil War movies as well as numerous documentaries and battlefield interpretive films for state and national military parks.

He was a member and Camp Commander in the Sons of Confederate Veterans. In 1989 he was presented the Jefferson Davis Medal by the Alabama Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy for meritorious service in preserving our Confederate heritage.

He is descended from several direct and collateral Alabama ancestors who served in the Confederate army, including his great-great-grandfather, Dr. Samuel Rambo, who supervised the raising of the Secession Flag over the Alabama State Capitol on January 14, 1861. His great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Lydia Rambo, was a charter member and executive committee chairman of the Ladies Memorial Association, formed in 1866 to provide proper graves and grave markers for Alabama Confederate soldiers.

In response to my article about my cousin RAMBO sent by e-mail throughout Alabama, Pat Godwin sent the following information by e-mail to me.

Bill commanded the Color Guard at the FIRST dedication of the General Forrest (NBF) monument in Selma at the Smitherman Building Museum on October 7, 2000; then again, at the REDEDICATION ceremony of Confederate Memorial Circle and the NBF Monument on May 23, 2015. He spoke several times at our Lee-Jackson Banquets, hosted by Selma chapter 53 and Col. C.C. Pegues Camp 62, SCV, throughout the years.

Plus he was the guest speaker on a couple of occasions at Confederate Memorial Circle on Confederate Memorial Day. He participated in the Alabama Day Ghost Walk in 2001 at Old Live Oak Cemetery portraying General Forrest "visiting from Memphis" to reunite with his Battle of Selma comrades. It was a very memorable and inspirational "Ghost Walk" that year. The event was hosted by the Friends of Forrest, Inc. as a fund raising event for our FIRST legal defense fund against the City of Selma.

The entire South has lost a precious friend as I have lost a close personal friend---and the TRUTH of our history has lost a learned and astute advocate! The South will miss him tremendously!

Faye, your article was excellent about Bill. There is not another BILL RAMBO! We are losing far too many of our warriors for TRUTH!

We Are The Remnant!

Confederately yours,

Pat Godwin.

HUTTO CAMP OFFICERS

Commander	James R. Blackston
1 st Lt. Cmd	Trent Harris
2nd Lt. Cmd	Jeremy Jackson
Adjutant	John McGraw
Chaplain	Vacant
Judge Advocate	Cherokee Brasher
Communications	Vacant
Facebook	Brandon Prescott - Jeremy Jackson
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The Rebel Underground is dedicated to bringing our readers the very best of important news concerning Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We are not ashamed of our Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We dare to defend our rights.