The Georgia Secession Convention of January 1861 and the Ordinance of Secession

by Joe Byrd Historian

for the

TRR Cobb, Camp #97, Sons of Confederate Veterans' Historical Presentations Series

The program for the May 2 (2024) regular meeting of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, TRR Cobb Camp #97, will be provided by the above historian.

The Georgia Secession Convention was convened on January 16, 1861 at the State Capitol of Milledgeville. All of the 133 (at that time) Georgia counties were represented by from one to three delegates. Initially, the delegates were evenly divided on the issue. After three days of debate and discussion, The Ordinance of Secession was passed by a vote of 208 in favor to 89 opposed. After approval, the delegates were asked to sign the document, but six delegates protested in writing. The names of these six individuals appear on the lower right-hand corner of the Secession Document. Despite this action, all six dissenters



indicated that they would support their state. This program focuses on the events leading up to the Secession Convention, the delegates who played a prominent role in influencing the outcome, and the remaining work of the body as it continued until the end of January.

The meeting is open to the public. This presentation is part of the Sons Confederate Veterans Camp #97 monthly series of historical talks about the South, the War Between the States, the Confederacy, and other historical aspects of the era, and is provided as a public service. The talks are presented by authors, historians, and researchers. The meeting is held at 7:00 pm, the first Thursday of each month, at the Smith House, 1760 Old Epps Bridge Road, Athens, 30605.

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