

Fighting Joe Wheeler
Camp 1372

The Fighting **Joe Wheeler** Dispatch

Volume XXIX, Issue 2

February 2009

Camp Officers

Commander:

Hank Arnold: (205) 213-9394

1st Lt Commander:

Carl Jones (256) 775-3607

2nd Lt Commander:

Walt Williams

Adjutant/Secretary

John Thomas

Treasurer:

Larry Muse

Chief of Staff

Steve Johnson

Chaplain:

Rex Webb

Color Sergeant:

Sam Nelson

Quartermaster:

Rex Webb: 970-0726

Commander Emeritus:

Ira West

Sergeant At Arms:

Larry Muse

Camp Surgeon: Dr. Rick Price

Dispatch Editors:

Carl Jones & Chris Thomas

Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372, Inc.
C/O Adjutant
P. O. Box 43362
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243

Please send articles or other information for inclusion in "**The Dispatch**" to
Carl Jones - Editor
412 1st Ave SE, Suite 102
Cullman, al 35055
or e-mail:
CSA6thFlorida@bellsouth.net

The Next Camp Meeting will be at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 10, 2009
at the New Merkel House

This Month: Jon Griswold will speak on
"Cabinet Members of the Confederate Government"

A Yankee officer was asked by a lady of Oxford, Mississippi, why Gen. Grierson, with his largely superior numbers of cavalry, did not attack Gen. Forrest. He said, "Madam, our entire force of 7,000 cavalry would not fight one of Forrest's brigades unless our infantry was there to support them. Not one of our brigades would fight one of his regiments, no regiment a company, and no company would charge a pair of Forrest's old boots if they were laying in the road." **From the Chattanooga Daily Rebel, published at Selma, AL, November 19, 1864**

"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." **John Adams** (Address to the Military, 11 October 1798)

"All see, and most admire, the glare which hovers round the external trappings of elevated office. To me there is nothing in it, beyond the lustre which may be reflected from its connection with a power of promoting human felicity." **George Washington** (letter to Catherine MacAuly Graham, 9 January 1790)

"What, then, is left for our government? Shall we let the seceding states repeal the revenue laws for the whole Union in this manner? Or will the government choose to consider all foreign commerce destined for those ports where we have no custom-houses and no collectors as contraband, and stop it, when offering to enter the collection districts from which our authorities have been expelled?" **New York Evening Post**, March 2, 1861 edition

"Remember democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide." **John Adams** (letter to John Taylor, 15 April 1814)

**Sign up for the Wheeler Camp Message Board and receive
"The Dispatch" by e-mail.**

Contact Compatriot Mike Little at cdr_mike_little@bellsouth.net

Alabama: We Dare Defend Our Rights

"The principal for which we contended is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form."

Jefferson Davis, May 1865

Commander's Report

Compatriots,

We are into the 2ed month of the new year, and need to look back as well as forward.

Looking back to last months activities we held a most enjoyable Lee-Jackson Banquet. It was my 1st and will not be my last. Thanks to all who worked hard to make it a success. The food was good, the companionship was better, and the speaker, Dr. Harry Reeder was great!

Dr. Reeder spoke on the virtues of General Robert E. Lee. We know of General Lee as a great man, soldier, and citizen, but Dr Reeder brought our thinking to a new level of respect for this great American. I hope we have the opportunity to hear a continuation of his talk on General Stonewall Jackson. Literature was passed out on his Civil War Tour series, which sounds like a good way to learn even more.

We were pleased to have support from the Alabama division, other SCV camps, the UDC and the OCR. Again thanks to all that worked to make this a successful event.

Looking forward, we have several events ahead of us. On the 21st of this month The Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp is pleased to host the AOT meeting. This will be a day long event of sharing with the Army. We will need to set up for the event, host the luncheon, offer support for the event, and clean up afterward. We need volunteers to support the effort, so please sign up to help, and to attend the event.

Our biggest event of the year is the Confederate Memorial Day service at Elmwood cemetery on Sunday the 26th of April. We will need to gather a week ahead of time to clean up and get ready for the event. We need volunteers to clean headstones, place marble chips, cut grass, weed eat, trim bushes and provide a general clean up to honor those that served the Cause. We also need the re-in-actors, speaker, and your attendance to make this event a success.

We are proceeding with the Adopt A Mile program. I understand we now have state approval, but must pick another location to adopt as the one planned for is already taken.

We must work on our membership. I have a list of those that have dropped out as members which has kept us from being the largest camp in the state. I would like to contact these past members and need help to do so. We should recruit new members and do all we can to get the ones that have dropped their membership to rejoin.

Let us look forward to promoting the memory of those Confederate soldiers we so respect. I look forward to your help and comradeship.

Thank You,
Hank Arnold
Commander



General Meeting Information:

Many members in the past have voiced concern over the length of our monthly meetings and the Officers wish to let you know that we have heard your concerns and worked to rectify the situation as much as possible.

The Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp now holds two meetings per month; The first Tuesday of every month is our "Camp Leadership Meeting" and the second Tuesday is our General Camp Meeting.

Any member who wishes to attend the Leadership Meeting is welcome to do so. It is at this meeting that the majority of Camp business is transacted and decisions made. We then announce and/or discuss these decisions during the business session of the General Meeting which is held the following week.

Conducting business in this manner has helped us significantly in terms of shortening the business session at the General meeting, and thereby allowing us to more rapidly progress to the monthly presentation by our guest speaker.

As a result, General Camp Meetings are normally wrapped up by approximately 9:00 pm.

If you've not been to a Camp meeting in a while, we hope that you will attend one soon.

Cadet Program:

The Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp voted in December to Amend our Camp By-Laws to allow "Cadet Membership."

In years past a young man had to be at least 12 years of age in order to be a part of the SCV. But, in recent years our National organization has adopted the SCV Cadet program which allows a limited membership for male children between the ages of birth and 12 years of age.

With the Wheeler Camp's adoption of a Fighting Joe Wheeler Cadet Corps, you can now sign your children, grandchildren and nephews up for this program.

With their membership, a cost of \$10.00 per year, they will receive a certificate, much like the one that SCV members receive, which will have their ancestors name on it. We also hope to have special activities once or twice a year for the Cadets, as well as their own version of "The Dispatch."

The children are our future. By implementing the Cadet program, we hope to create awareness of our Heritage at an early age, get them involved with Camp activities and begin preparing them for a future in the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

If you know a child who is eligible, please help us make this program a success by signing them up today. Applications can be downloaded at www.scv.org. You can fill out this application and bring it to the Camp meeting, or mail it to us at our PO Box.

Deo Vindice,

Carl Jones
1st Lt. Commander

SCV PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN MAJOR TV DOCUMENTARY

By J. A. Davis, Chairman, SCV Public Relations and Media Committee, Elm Springs, Columbia, TN,

February 3, 2009.

After a full year of working with the PBS television network, producers and the host-writer, Henry Louis Gates, the Sons of Confederate Veterans announces its participation and inclusion in the premiere of a the two hour multi-million dollar production entitled "Looking For Lincoln" which will first air on PBS nationwide on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 9 PM Eastern Time.

It will also be repeated in the days following the initial airing. Consult local listing for the airing times in your area.

Pre-play date showings to critics and select audiences indicate the production will likely be regarded as one of the top television shows of 2009 and a potential candidate for major awards. Besides a sizeable segment on the SCV, the program features former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, Doris Kearns Goodwin and about a half dozen historians.

The SCV's participation went forward after careful consideration and scrutiny by the SCV PR & Media Committee, ultimately approved by Commander-in-Chief Chris Sullivan and continued by his successor, Commander-in-Chief Chuck McMichael. A series of understandings were reached with the producers, leading to "Looking for Lincoln" host, Henry Louis "Skip" Gates and a full production crew coming to the SCV Reunion at Concord, N.C. in the summer of 2008.

Interviews were arranged with SCV members regarding Lincoln. These will appear on the program on February 11th. They include, from the PR & Media Committee, Jim Dean, of Georgia, Army of Northern Virginia Commander, Bragdon Bowling, of Virginia, and former Chief- of- Staff, Don Shelton, of Kentucky.

Considerable time is spent showing the tribute paid at the Reunion to the Clyburn family, descendants of a black Confederate soldier from North Carolina. This includes a conversation with the Associate Archivist at the North Carolina State Archives.

The program was originally conceived to be part of the commemoration of Lincoln's 200th birthday. While that remained its main theme, the segments including the Sons of Confederate Veterans represent a major breakthrough in network television for the Sons of Confederate Veterans. For those who would like an advance screening of the program on the internet, conduct a search for "Looking For Lincoln" on www.pbs.org. The program is divided into segments. The segment most centered on the SCV is titled "The Beginning of the Civil War".

Black lawmaker wants paid Confederate holiday.

S.C. state senator says it would help people understand South's history

COLUMBIA, S.C. - A black state senator is pushing a bill that would require South Carolina cities and counties to give their workers a paid day off for Confederate Memorial Day or lose millions in state funds.

Democratic Sen. Robert Ford's bill won initial approval from a Senate subcommittee Tuesday. It would force county and municipal governments to follow the schedule of holidays used by the state, which gives workers 12 paid days off, including May 10 to honor Confederate war dead. Mississippi and Alabama also recognize Confederate Memorial Day. Years ago, Ford said, he pushed a bill to make both that day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day paid holidays. He considered it an effort to help people understand the history of both the civil rights movement and the Confederacy in a state where the Orders of Secession are engraved in marble in the Statehouse lobby, portraits of Confederate generals look down on legislators in their chambers and the Confederate flag flies outside.

"Every municipality and every citizen of South Carolina, should be, well, forced to respect these two days and learn what they can about those two particular parts of our history," Ford said Tuesday.

In a state steeped in a segregationist past, "there's no love in this state between black and white basically," he said. That's not apparent at the Statehouse, where black and white legislators get along, "but if you go out there in real South Carolina, it's hatred and I think we can bring our people together."

Lonnie Randolph, president of the state conference of NAACP branches, objected to that reasoning.

"Here Senator Ford is talking about the importance of race relations by forcing recognition of people who did everything they could to destroy another race — particularly those that look like I do," Randolph said. "You can't make dishonor honorable. It's impossible."

Factoring the costs

Ron Dorgay, a Sons of Confederate Veterans member from Elgin, said race relations have moved far from hatred but he hopes Ford's bill brings more understanding of the state's past. "Even in school systems, they don't teach the correct history," Dorgay said.

Local governments, meanwhile, are seeing green, not race, when it comes to adding holidays to their calendars. Large and small counties would put up more cash to cover holidays they don't now recognize, largely for law

enforcement and emergency worker overtime, municipal and county association lobbyists said.

Only 10 of the state's 46 counties recognize Confederate Memorial Day and only 27 observe the more benign Presidents' Day.

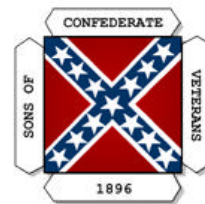
Greenville County, one of the state's wealthiest and most populous counties, doesn't offer the Confederate holiday. The Judiciary Committee said the county would spend \$156,900 to add each holiday to its calendar. Much smaller Laurens County would spend \$37,080.

Ford dismissed the costs. "The good outweighs any kind of rationale you can come up with," he said before the subcommittee sent the bill forward to the full Senate Judiciary Committee for debate, which won't happen until at least next week.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, supports the bill — and holding back chunks of the more than \$300 million the state sends local governments each year.

Counties and cities "should be respectful of that as political subdivisions of the state," said McConnell, a Civil War reenactor who runs a Charleston Confederate wares gallery and on Tuesday fretted how new junk metal collection legislation might affect his cannon. "If they don't want to be a subdivision of the state, then don't take the money."

**Our Next Meeting is on February 10, at 7:00
Arrive Early and Bring a Friend!**



"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."