

Fighting Joe Wheeler
Camp 1372

The Fighting **Joe Wheeler** Dispatch

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Quartermaster:

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Larry Muse / Dr. Richard Price

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Commander Emeritus:

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for inclusion in "The Dispatch" to:

Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372

P.O. Box 43362

Vestavia Hills, AL 35243

The Next Camp Meeting will be at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 8, 2011
at the New Merkel House

*** The monthly Leadership Meeting will be held at 6:15 pm prior to the camp meeting ***

This Month: Past Alabama Division Commander David Allen will speak on General
Patrick Cleburne – A Brief Sketch of his Military Career and Alabama Connections

Words of Wisdom and Warning

"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 luster 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@charter.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 now in the Sesquicentennial!

The State of Alabama left the union in January 1861. Other states were to follow leading to the founding of The Confederate States of America.

We now look forward to the Inauguration Celebration for President Jefferson Davis in Montgomery on 2-19-2011. This is looking to be a huge event with a parade and re-enactors prior to the ceremony at 12:00. There will be a cannon salute following the inauguration. Please join us for this event. We need to line up at 11:00 AM for the parade. The nation will be watching, let's give them a quality show.

We held our Lee/Jackson Banquet 1-15-2011. A quality event with some 50 attendees. The speaker was Dr. John Killian, who gave an excellent talk on General Lee, followed by a States Rights secession speech. You had to be there, it was beyond words.

Remember that our camp meeting is at 7:00 PM on Tuesday the 8th. We will have the program first from 7:00 to around 8:00, followed by a break and then the business meeting at 8:15. It is our hope that this change will appeal to visitors and allow our speaker to leave at the break if they have to travel. The leadership meeting previously held on the first Tuesday of the month will be held at 6:15 prior to the camp meeting. We will hold an Alabama Division Reunion Committee meeting on Tuesday the 1st at 7:00 PM at the New Merkel House.

I was pleased to speak at Valley Intermediate school this past week to some 400 4th graders as they studied the War Between the States. I'm proud that the kids got to hear true history rather than the version they are taught in class. They were attentive and liked the bullets from Alabama battlefields that I shared with them. If you get the chance to speak and teach true history, please do so. If not, call me and I'll try to do it.

It will be a busy Confederate Year, please join us to remember and celebrate.

Thank you,
Hank Arnold
Camp Commander
FJW 1372



Adjutant's/Surgeon's Report - Feb of 2011

Copied From: "The Marble Valley Boys" By Wayne Wood. Page 36

Why am I a Soldier?

On November 20, 1864, the Montgomery Daily Advertiser published a letter dealing with the subject of why a Confederate Soldier was giving his service to the South during the Civil War. It was written from Henry Wood to his father, Allen Wood. Our family does not have the original copy thus it is not known whether Henry wrote it himself or copied it. It Was edited for the newspaper. It doesn't matter who wrote it really. The letter is worth reading for it reveals the sentiment of the south during the war.

Wayne Wood

Why am I a Soldier?

This question is ably and patriotically answered in the following private letter from a member of the 12th Alabama Regiment to his father in Coosa County.

Wayne Wood

In Camp, Near Richmond
May 22nd 1862 (?)

Dear Father: Here I am, far away from home, and loving friends, and long cherished associations—from all that makes life dear to me. And why am I here? Was it merely that I might be an actor in scenes novel and exciting, that I forsook the delights of home, and subjected myself to the trials and privations of camp life, and the fearful untold dangers of the battlefield? Let me consider. If I can satisfy myself that I am right, in being here, conscious me to my fate, and nerve my arm for the deadly conflict, whenever I may be called to meet it.

I am here, because a numerous and powerful enemy has invaded my country, and threatened our subjugation. Long had the two sections of this great country lived together in harmony, under a constitution, framed by men whose wisdom, and integrity have seldom been equaled.

The manufacturing pursuits of the North and the agricultural products of the South, seemed to create a mutual dependence, which by many, was supposed to constitute a bond of union, too strong to be broken. For many years this bond was held as sacred, and palsied be the tongue that would utter the word, disunion.

While this harmony, so delightful to be remembered, continued, the country to a degree which astonished all Europe. But evil councils at length prevailed in the heart of the greedy North. The sacred safe guards provided in the Constitution were, one after another, overthrown, and one section of the country was found using the power, which numerical strength supplied, to oppress the other. This, brought me here! I am here, because those who once called us friends, now call us rebels, and openly proclaim their purpose to subjugate us—nay! even to annihilate us, simple because we claim the same privilege for ourselves. When we found that the difference between us and our Northern brothers rendered it impossible for a compromise were treated with scorn and contempt, and we were made to understand by many indirect, but practical demonstrations, that we must submit to the will of a majority, whether that majority should conform to the Constitution, or govern its cause by its own sectional interest and selfish ambition.

I am here because I believe that defensive war is justifiable. True, nothing can be plainer than that war in itself is unnatural, and would never occur if all men would observe the law that bids them love others, as they love themselves; but when my fellow man so far forgets this law, as to assail my personal rights, my property or my friends, the same law which bids me to love him, requires me to compel him (if in my power) to respect all my rights. The present war is on our part, emphatically a war of defense, and would not lose its defensive character, and even if in prosecuting it we should find it necessary to advance into the very midst of the enemy's territory.

Camp life has no charms for me, nor would I seek the battlefield for its own sake.

To dwell among the loved ones at home, would be far more agreeable to every feeling of my heart, than to encounter either my present or prospective experience. But more than all other earthly goods I covet for my friends, as well as for myself, the privilege of choosing the Civil Institutions under which we live. To secure this privilege, I am here, and would regard myself unfaithful to my country and my country's GOD, if I should for a moment, shrink from the just responsibilities of a soldier. I am here under a stern sense of duty, and impressed in some degree with the obligations that rest upon me as a soldier. My health must be cared for, my morals must be guarded against the seductive power of evil examples and all the duties of a soldier must be faithfully discharged. I owe this to myself, to my friends, my country and my GOD.

Continued



continued ~ Adjutant's & Surgeon's Reports

Determined then to occupy my place with honor to myself, with comfort to my friends, and with some advantage to my country's cause, I cheerfully consent to be a soldier, to hear a soldier's burdens – to die! If need be a soldier's death. God grant that I may ever possess the true soldier's spirit.

I am here, not knowing what destiny awaits me. Many, by the exposure of camp life contract diseases, which they would probably have escaped, had they remained at home, and dying far away from home and friends, now lie buried in a stranger's grave, while many others fall in the midst of the clash of arms and scarcely find a decent burial, and who am I! that I should escape both of these contingencies? This thought may awaken emotions in my bosom, which some would think unmanly; to me they seem rational and worthy of one who believes himself, as I do, immortal, and I will therefore strive to cherish them.

With such feelings and sentiments I am here, and committing myself for time and eternity to Him who stands pledged to men and angels, that those who sustained in their cause.

Come comrades! I am in for the War; I have shouldered my musket, and it must not be thrown down (unless wrested from me by the Hand that is stronger than all) until the nations of the earth, including the proud boasting North, shall confess that we are not rebels; but a nation of freemen, who know our lights and knowing dare maintain them.

H. B. Wood
To Mr. Allen Wood, Coosa County, Alabama

Surgeon's Report

A day in the Life of a Regimental Surgeon
Richard D. Price MD, Division Surgeon

It has been said that serving in the military during wartime was "hours of boredom followed by minutes of sheer terror." This writer has heard that from veterans from WWII to the present and from what I've read, the WBTS was no exception. Our front line ancestors had drill, details, and diversions to fight boredom and "nostalgia". Diversions included: chess, checkers, marbles, cards, pharo tables, "chuck-a-luck", whiskey, and pornography. Other diversions included Masonic lodges, music, and theater. Of course, the Great Revival had a profound effect on the behavior of the Confederate Army. When they weren't busy treating battle or wounds or getting their equipment ready for marching, surgeons in a brigade or division would form medical societies to discuss current topics and techniques. According to CPT LeGrand Wilson, MD, Surgeon of the 42nd Mississippi, a typical day consisted of:

0500 Reville/Roll Call	1200 Dinner
0700 Breakfast	1400 Company/Regimental Drill
0800 Surgeon's Call	1700 (Break)
0900 Guard Mounting/Squad Drill (according to the Manuel of Arms)	1800 Dress Parade
1000 Company Drill	1900 Supper
1100 Recess	2100 Taps

In Surgeon's Call, the sick in each company were escorted by a detailed sergeant and file by the Surgeon's tent. Most diagnoses were made in short order and treated as best as Confederate supplies would allow. Dr. Wilson would meet the soldiers with opium in one pocket and in the other pocket, he carried a mercurial compound called Blue Mass. If his patient complained of diarrhea, then he got opium; if his patient needed his bowels to be opened, then he got the Blue Mass. Lincoln took Blue Mass to control his depression episodes ("melancholia"). Surgeon's Call was no trifle matter. Dr. Aristedes Monteiro, Regimental Surgeon for the 10th Virginia Cavalry complained that disease was spread by "poor sanitation, poor diet, and poor medical knowledge". He found the latrines, called "sinks," too close to the living quarters as they were created more for convenience than sanitation. Both sides in the war served dessicated ("desecrated") vegetables; they had the vitamins boiled right out of them. This led to outbreaks of scurvy and other nutritional diseases. In the 3 months prior to the fall of Ft. Donelson, Dr. Wilson records regimental deaths due to measles or its complications (sequelae):

9th Texas 96 men 3rd Mississippi 65 men 1st Mississippi 43 men

These were more than those killed in battle. This is also reflected in the total number of deaths during the WBTS that those who died from disease outnumbered those killed in battle or from wounds by a ratio of 2:1.

Yankee Deaths in the war:	Battle/Wounds	110,000	Disease	250,000
Confederate Deaths in the war:	Battle/Wounds	94,000	Disease	164,000

Diseases included: Fevers (Typhoid/Typhus/Continued); Diarrhea and Dysentery; Measles; Malaria; Pneumonia; Other Respiratory Diseases (Catarrh, Bronchitis, Tuberculosis); and Venereal Diseases.

References: Cunningham, H.H. Doctors in Gray. 1958, 1976, LSU Press. Baton Rouge
Danett, S.L.G. and Burkart, R.H. Confederate Surgeon Aristedes Monteiro 1969, Dodd, Mead, and Co. NYC
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Wilson, L. The Confederate Soldier. 1902, 1978. Memphis State University Press. Fayetteville, AR



Fighting Joe Wheeler

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2011 Lee-Jackson Banquet

Photographs



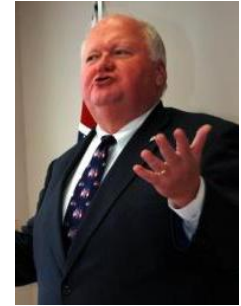
Commander Hank Arnold opened the Lee/Jackson Banquet



2nd Lt Commander Randell Thrasher shows the Picture Art work that will be placed at Refuge Church Cemetery



1st Lt Commander Carl Jones introduces our Speaker for the Lee/Jackson Banquet, Rev. John Killian



Dr. John Killian speaks on the greatness of the two Generals Jackson and General Robert E Lee. Their Great Personnel Character and military skills



Dr. John Killian continues his program; The States Right of Secession. A GREAT Speech!



Robert E. Lee Award Winner, Dr. Richard Price



Dr. Killian receives an Honorary Membership in The Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp

