

Fighting Joe Wheeler
Camp 1372

The Fighting **Joe Wheeler** Dispatch

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The Next Camp Meeting will be at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 9, 2009
at the New Merkel House

This Month's Speaker: Compatriot Jim Darden will speak on Ft. Delaware

Words of Wisdom

"[A] good moral character is the first essential in a man, and that the habits contracted at your age are generally indelible, and your conduct here may stamp your character through life. It is therefore highly important that you should endeavor not only to be learned but virtuous." **George Washington** (letter to Steptoe Washington, 5 December 1790)

"Think about it: We went into slavery pagans; we came out Christians. We went into slavery pieces of property; we came out American citizens. We went into slavery with chains clanking about our wrists; we came out with the American ballot in our hands... Notwithstanding the cruelty and moral wrong of slavery, we are in a stronger and more hopeful condition, materially, intellectually, morally, and religiously, than is true of an equal number of black people in any other portion of the globe." **Booker T. Washington**, from his book *Up From Slavery*

"Would it not be better to simplify the system of taxation rather than to spread it over such a variety of subjects and pass through so many new hands." **Thomas Jefferson** (letter to James Madison, 1784)

"I here declare my unmitigated hatred to Yankee rule -- to all political, social and business connection with the Yankees and to the Yankee race. Would that I could impress these sentiments, in their full force, on every living Southerner and bequeath them to every one yet to be born! May such sentiments be held universally in the outraged and downtrodden South, though in silence and stillness, until the now far-distant day shall arrive for just retribution for Yankee usurpation, oppression and atrocious outrages, and for deliverance and vengeance for the now ruined, subjugated and enslaved Southern States!
..And now with my latest writing and utterance, and with what will be near my latest breath, I here repeat and would willingly proclaim my unmitigated hatred to Yankee rule-- to all political, social and business connections with Yankees, and the perfidious, malignant and vile Yankee race." **Edmund Ruffin** 1865(from his last letter, written prior to his suicide which he committed due to yankee victory)

**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,

Here we are in the good "Ole Southern Summer Time"

We were pleased at the turn out of Camp 1372 at the recent Alabama Division Meeting in Mobile several weeks ago. As a camp we have to be excited to have several members as officers at the division level. An outstanding job was done by Alabama Division Commander Robert Reames, Chief of Staff Carl Jones, and Treasurer Larry Muse. We also had Rex Webb, John Thomas, Sam Nelson, and myself in attendance. Several, I believe 10, Amendments were voted on. Each individual voted their heart, not as a political block, but as individuals who care. The Semmes Camp was a wonderful host, and the event was held at the historic Admiral Semmes Hotel in downtown Mobile. All seemed to enjoy the event, especially the ones that stayed overnight. Thanks to all that attended the event and represented the camp.

A special wedding took place last weekend. Our very own Division Commander and camp member Robert Reames was married to a Confederate lady. Miss Jacquelyn Young Became the bride of Robert. We wish them and the family nothing but the "Confederate Best". Congratulations to both!

We have our annual Camp Deep Sea Fishing trip coming up on August 2nd. We will travel down on Saturday the 1st and tour Fort Morgan during the re-enactment and living history event. We will then fish for snapper, grouper, and what ever else "takes the bait" on a trip out of Orange Beach on Sunday.

After the fish are cleaned we will travel home or stay over for more camaraderie. I really look forward to this trip as I think all have enjoyed it in the past. Let me know how we can make it even better and I shall try.

Let's enjoy the summer and to our best to represent our forefathers.

Thank you,
Hank Arnold
Camp Comander



Cadet Membership Program

The Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp is now accepting new recruits, ages 0-12, into our ranks as Cadets.

This is an excellent way to get young men interested in the SCV, and more importantly, their Heritage.

The cost is \$10.00 Annually.

With their membership they will receive a Certificate of membership bearing their ancestors' name, and their own newsletter.

See 1st Lt. Commander Carl Jones for membership applications at the next meeting, or you can download them from the SCV website at www.SCV.org.

Lt. General Joseph Wheeler Scholarship Program

The Alabama Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans has voted to approve three \$1,500.00 college scholarships per year.

This is a great way to help offset the cost of sending your son or daughter to college.

Details of the program can be found on the Division website at www.aladivscv.com

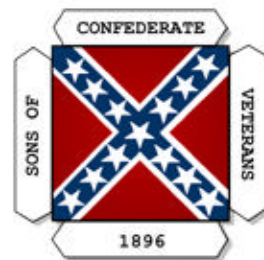
Other Programs of Interest in the Alabama Division

- Alabama Guardian Program
- Alabama Division Reunion Planning Guide
- I-65 Retired Flag Program
- Stonewall Jackson Memorial fund
- Sam Davis Youth Camp

Information concerning all of these programs can be found at the Alabama Division Website:
www.aladivscv.com

The Charge of General Stephen D. Lee

"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."



See you at the Next Meeting.

Arrive Early and Bring a Friend

History or Hate: Part 2

Posted: 7:30 PM May 7, 2009

Last Updated: 11:29 PM May 7, 2009

Reporter: Heather Bianca

Email Address: heather.bianca@wctv.tv

Red, White and Blue.

It may have the same colors as the American Flag, but the Battle Flag used by Confederates symbolizes different things to different people.

But are the feelings associated with the Confederate flag as strong today as they were decades ago? Dale Landry says, "That flag in itself is a flag that totally symbolizes terrorism."

Many call the Battle Flag the most misunderstood flag and it's no stranger to the "C" word-- controversy.

Sons of Confederate Veterans say it's unfortunate the flag their ancestors fought and died under isn't celebrated the way they think it should be.

"We don't think there's a thing we should not be proud of because we had ancestors who were willing to fight for freedom and independence," says Bob Hurst of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

But the NAACP says there is much more rooted in the history, other than pride.

"For a lot of African Americans that would be fear, that can be pain and hurt from memories of persecution of what they saw folks when they did use this," says Dale Landry, Tallahassee Branch President of the NAACP.

As the word "racist" is thrown around to describe true Confederate followers, the Sons of Confederate Veterans say that couldn't be further from the truth.

"We are not a racist organization. Never have been, don't accept them. It's a sad thing for us that there have been groups that have taken our battle flag and misused it," says Bob Hurst. Perhaps misused, but many say not enough to let go.

"As long as they fly that flag at meetings of the Ku Klux Klan and Sons of Confederate Veterans wants us to sit back and honor them flying that same flag over any monument in the United States of America, they are totally wrong. If they can't see the comparison. That flag stands for one thing. Terrorism. Period," says Dale Landry.

"Is it important that we are the United States of America or is it important that we take this one sign, this one symbol that was at the peak of the divisiveness to make us this United States of America," says Juvais Harrington, treasurer for the Tallahassee Branch of the NAACP.

So is it History or hate? You decide.

History or Hate: Part 3

Posted: 7:34 PM May 7, 2009

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Reporter: Heather Bianca

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Nelson Winbush is intent on defending the flag his grandfather fought for during the Civil War.

Perhaps what's most surprising is which flag that is.

"My feeling is it is the most misunderstood flag in the world because people look at it and don't really know what the hell they're looking at," says Nelson Winbush, who's grandfather fought for the Confederacy.

A flag similar to this one once draped over the coffin of Nelson Winbush's grandfather.

Perhaps, nothing to write home about in most cases, but Louis Napoleon Nelson was an enslaved African American who proudly fought for the Confederacy.

Although Winbush's stories differ from what can be found in most history books, he's determined to share his grandfather's unique first hand accounts of the war.

"I'm fortunate enough to have pictures, newspaper clippings, letters from other confederate veterans from him at various times during his life, and people have difficulty arguing with something that's in print," says Nelson Winbush.

At the young age of 14, Winbush's grandfather Louis Napoleon Nelson put on a woolly gray uniform and went off to war with the sons of his master.

Nelson took on several roles, first as a cook but later seeing action under the command of Nathan Bedford Forrest. Even though Nelson couldn't read or write, he had memorized the entire King James Bible, which earned him the title of Army Chaplain.

And after several years of service, he finally returned home to Tennessee.

"When the war was over he got back to his master's place. He stayed there for another 12 years. They got along real good," says Winbush.

Winbush is one of only a few Black members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

As the last direct link to his grandfather, Winbush has a passion to pass along his stories for all who are willing to listen.