



Fighting Joe Wheeler
Camp 1372

The Fighting **Joe Wheeler** Dispatch

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June 2011

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Color Sergeant:

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Quartermaster:

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Larry Muse / Dr. Richard Price

Aide de Camp:

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Commander Emeritus:

Dr. Ira West

Sergeant At Arms:

Walt Williams

Camp Surgeon:

Dr. Richard Price

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Please send articles or other information 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, June 14, 2011
at the New Merkel House

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

This Month: Review of the Division Reunion

Words of Wisdom and Warning

"[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)

~ Calling All Cadets ~ Educating for the Cause ~

Do you have a son of age Birth to 12 or know of a young man this age with Confederate Ancestry? If so, we **Want You** to enlist them in the *Sons of Confederate Veterans Cadet Program!* To sign up Cadets, please contact the 1st Lt. Commander.

**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,

It's Summertime in the South. As the temperature climbs and we try to find a cool spot, think back to nearly 150 years ago. Lee was advancing toward Gettysburg, it was hot, the roads were thick with dust, you carried 40 pounds of weapon and equipment and your shoes hurt. But you marched on to keep the northern invader occupied on his own turf to get the crops growing in the Valley. You marched because it was your duty! They fought for freedom from oppression, not to keep the slaves down on the farm. And they fought hard, and they prevailed in deed and in spirit as we honor them today. Keep on marching brave soldier.

The Wheeler Camp marched on in May, hosting the Alabama Division Reunion. The reunion was held at the Zamora Shrine, what an event it was. The Reunion was attended by over 100 from around the State. You that attended should have been impressed, not only by the event, but by all the hard work of many Camp members and spouses. I was most pleased of the work done by the camp membership under the leadership of the Co-Chairmen, John Thomas and Steve Johnson, we salute you Sirs!

Please be aware of the needs of those who suffered during the recent rash of bad weather and tornado's. Our hearts and prayers go out to all that suffered. We had damage at the New Merkel House and don't know when it will be available. We held a camp clean-up day the Saturday after the storm and again the Sunday afternoon after the closing reunion service. Thanks to all that helped with the chain saws, trimmers, and hard work. I don't know of another service group that helped at the New Merkel House, thanks guys! We are fortunate to have Jerry Cornelius provide his business to us a meeting place until we know the status of the New Merkel House, thank you Jerry.

Please be advised that we have 2 camp members battling health issues at this time, Mike Parker has had bypass surgery and Mike Wilky is dealing with test and treatment. These are two Good Men that need our thoughts and prayers.

Please be careful as we head into the summer, hold your heads high as we Honor the Confederate Veterans.

Thanks,

Hank Arnold
Camp Commander
FJW 1372



