

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, April 12, 2009
at the New Merkel House

This Month's Speaker: Tom Moxley will speak on the Character of Robert E. Lee

Words of Wisdom

"I am honest in my belief that it is not fair to my men to count negroes as equals. Let us capture negroes, of course, and use them to the best advantage." **General William T. Sherman, United States Army, 1864**

"Laws are made for men of ordinary understanding and should, therefore, be construed by the ordinary rules of common sense. Their meaning is not to be sought for in metaphysical subtleties which may make anything mean everything or nothing at pleasure." **Thomas Jefferson**

"May it be to the world, what I believe it will be, (to some parts sooner, to others later, but finally to all,) the signal of arousing men to burst the chains under which monkish ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to bind themselves, and to assume the blessings and security of self-government." **Thomas Jefferson**

"the people of the United States are no longer living under a Government of laws, but every citizen holds life, liberty and property at the will and pleasure of the army officer in whose military district he may happen to be found" **Chief Justice Roger Taney,**

"The principle is not that a human being cannot justly own another, but that he cannot own him unless he is loyal to the United States" **London Spectator-1863, in response to the Emancipation Proclamation**

"Each State, in ratifying the Constitution, is considered as a sovereign body, independent of all others, and only to be bound by its own voluntary act. In this relation, then, the new Constitution will, if established, be a FEDERAL, and not a NATIONAL constitution." **James Madison, Federalist No. 39**

Nothing fills me with deeper sadness than to see a southerner apologize for the defense we made for our heritage. **President Jefferson Davis.**

**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 celebrated a fine Confederate History Month in April. The ceremony at Elmwood was well attended and well put together. We as Camp 1372 have a vast resource pool to draw from and I really appreciate those that rose to the occasion and put their efforts forth to celebrate this event. John Thomas pulled a team together for clean up and made certain the sight was ready for the event.

Thanks to all that spent the Saturday at Elmwood preparing the grounds. Bobby Horton did a splendid job with the music, we are blessed to have that level of musical talent in our camp. Alabama Division Commander Robert Reames was our speaker for the event and did a great job speaking of the veterans and what they mean to us as SCV. Mike Brasier was our Honor Guard and fired the salute. Much like our forefathers, Mike was Short in numbers but Large in spirit, good job Mike. A special thanks to Rex Webb for the invocation and to Carl Jones for his reading of the list of veterans resting in Elmwood. A job well done by ALL Camp 1372 members involved!

The celebration continued on the capital grounds in Montgomery the following Monday as we held the state Confederate Memorial day service. There was a good crowd of over 100 people in attendance. They came from all walks of life, from the motorcycle groups to the folks in period dress. The music was awesome, our own Bobby Horton included. Robert Reames did a fine job as the featured speaker. Connie Mori did a splendid job organizing the event. Our veterans should be so honored.

We should speak of the "down side" of Confederate History Month if there was one. The act of desecration by one individual, a city councilman, who took it upon himself to remove the flags placed upon veteran's graves in Auburn's Pine Hill Cemetery was despicable. On Tuesday the 5th the issue was addressed by the Auburn City Council, and an apology was made by the culprit.

The SCV, along with the UDC and private citizens responded in large numbers to see that this wrong was addressed. Many spoke against this vandal, who for apparent political reasons tried to take the law into his own hands. His actions were wrong! None spoke better than our own Division Commander, Mr Robert Reames.

The event was very well attended by Brigade and Division level officers, and at least 7 SCV camps were represented. The response and outcry of the citizens was well received by the City Council, and the press recorded the event. The South shall prevail!

We look forward to the Alabama Division meeting in Mobile later this month. We as Camp 1372 have 10 votes at this meeting, lets be well represented.

Thanks to all for honoring our Confederate Heritage as we did this past month. Let's grow in numbers and remember our ancestors with the honor they deserve.

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

Auburn councilman caught in confederate flag flak issues apology By Associated Press

6:54 AM CDT, May 6, 2009

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — An Auburn city councilman has apologized for removing miniature confederate battle flags from the graves of confederate soldiers.

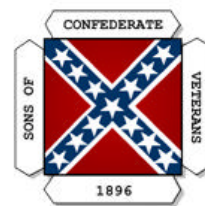
Arthur Dowdell, who represents Ward 1, read the statement at Tuesday night's city council meeting. The apology was made to members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Dowdell was criticized for removing the flags at Pine Hill Cemetery on April 23rd.

He defended his actions saying he thought the flags were placed at the cemetery by the Ku Klux Klan. Dowdell said he had not been told about the Confederate Memorial Day ceremony.

See you at the Next Meeting.

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."

History or Hate: Part One

Just a few blocks away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Tallahassee, lies a quiet cemetery.

In one corner, rests a group of white headstones. Some bear a name others a simple C.S.A, standing for Confederate States of America.

"This flag that they fought under and died under is sacred and it should be treated that way," says Bob Hurst of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

A haunting symbol of the days of slavery, many say the Battle flag stirs emotions.

To groups like Sons of the Confederate Veterans, the war was about freedom and independence from the north, not slavery. The flag represents their heritage and shouldn't be kept quiet. "Southerners now are afraid to proclaim their pride and their history because of political correctness. I think that's sad because everyone has a right to be proud of their heritage." says Bob Hurst.

But there are those who see it in a different light, a harsher light.

"We need to have things remind us of our heritage. To remind us so that we don't forget what happened. So yes, the confederate flag should exist, but it should be in a museum and no where else," says NAACP Treasurer Juvais Harrington. The flag itself saw many changes throughout the war. Nelson Winbush's grandfather saw it first hand as he fought for the confederacy.

"They both had a little tip of blue at the top a streak of red, streak of white. So consequently, Yankees were following the confederate flag and confederates were following the US Flag. Pretty darn confusing for both sides and embarrassing. So out of necessity the Battle Flag was created," says Nelson Winbush.

The NAACP says decades of oppression and terrorist acts by groups like the KKK *using* the battle flag during their raids, has etched emotions that are too difficult to forget.

"Until they're ready to deal with the hatred, the terrorism that is associated with that battle flag, There are other flags that the Sons can claim because there are other flags that were used by the soldiers," says NAACP President Dale Landry.

It's a flag that represents different things to different people, a flag that divides and a flag that unites.

Gen. James Longstreet wounded, May 6, 1864

By ANDREW GLASS |

5/6/09 4:26 AM EDT Text Size:

On this day in 1864, Confederate Gen. James Longstreet became caught in the fire of his own troops during the Battle of the Wilderness, near Fredericksburg, Va., leaving his right arm paralyzed.

Longstreet recovered sufficiently from his wounds to be at Robert E. Lee's side to the end, surrendering with him at Appomattox, Va., to Gen. Ulysses Grant, the top Union commander. After the Civil War, he remained close to both Lee and Grant, his fellow 1842 West Point classmates.

In becoming an active postwar Republican, Longstreet backed the party's Reconstruction policies in the South. The sole senior Confederate officer to be branded a "scalawag," Longstreet endorsed Grant for president in 1868 and attended his Inauguration. Six days later, Grant named him as a surveyor of customs for the port of New Orleans. He later served as U.S. marshal in Georgia, the U.S. minister to the Ottoman Empire and, for seven years until his death in 1904 at the age of 82, the U.S. commissioner of railroads.

During election riots in 1874 in Louisiana, Longstreet rode out to meet protesters but was pulled from his horse, shot by a spent bullet and taken prisoner. While federal troops eventually restored order, Longstreet's use of African-American troops further fueled denunciations by fellow Southerners.

In retelling the story of his war wounds in his memoirs, published in 1896, Longstreet wrote that being embroiled in postwar controversies had been more personally painful to him than the serious wounds he had suffered in the Civil War.

"Bad as was being shot by some of our own troops in the Battle of the Wilderness — that was an honest mistake, one of the accidents of war — being shot at since the war, by many officers, was worse," Longstreet declared.

Source: "From Manassas to Appomattox," By James Longstreet (republished in 1992)

Actors opposing "Battlefield Walmart"

Academy and Emmy Award-winning actor Robert Duvall has added his voice in opposition to a proposed Walmart Supercenter near a Virginia Civil War battlefield where Confederate General Robert E. Lee first met the Union's Ulysses S. Grant.

At a news conference in Locust Grove on Monday Duvall, a descendant of Lee, said he will help preservationists in "chasing out" the retailer from a site near the Wilderness Battlefield. Duvall said he has no grudge against Walmart but believes in capitalism coupled with sensitivity.

Congressmen Peter Welch of Vermont and Ted Poe of Texas joined Duvall in representing states that lost many lives at the Wilderness battle 145 years ago.

The Walmart proposal must first be approved by Orange County supervisors.

Duvall portrayed his ancestor General Lee in the 2003 film "Gods and Generals."

Another Oscar winner, Richard Dreyfuss, came to the Washington area in March to defend the battlefield.