



Fighting Joe Wheeler
Camp 1372

The Fighting **Joe Wheeler** Dispatch

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Adjutant/Secretary/

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Larry Muse

Chaplain:

Rex Webb

Color Sergeant:

Sam Nelson

Quartermaster:

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Commander Emeritus:

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Sergeant At Arms:

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The Next Camp Meeting will be at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 11, 2008
at the New Merkel House

This Month: Compatriot John Thomas will speak on the CSS Hunley

"The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not." -**Thomas Jefferson**

"We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." **James Madison**

While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but once they lose their virtue they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader. -
Samuel Adams

Democracy creates an aura of moral legitimacy for acts that would otherwise be considered tyranny. **Walter Williams**

"[T]he States can best govern our home concerns and the general government our foreign ones. I wish, therefore...never to see all offices transferred to Washington, where, further withdrawn from the eyes of the people, they may more secretly be bought and sold at market." **Thomas Jefferson**

"The whole of that Bill [of Rights] is a declaration of the right of the people at large or considered as individuals. ... [I]t establishes some rights of the individual as unalienable and which consequently, no majority has a right to deprive them of." **Benjamin Franklin**

With respect to the words general welfare, I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of powers connected with them. To take them in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of the Constitution into a character which there is a host of proofs was not contemplated by its creators. **James Madison, The Federalist Papers**

**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

On October 25 we were scheduled to have a recruiting and public information table at the Old Baker Farm's Cottin' Pickin' Celebration. I spoke with Pam Baker at length in September when she explained how excited she was that we would be there and how well we should fit in with their program. She also explained what other activities would be happening that weekend and spent considerable time telling me the history of the Baker family, the farm, and the land on which the farm is located. All I needed to do was download and print an application from their web site and everything would be set.

Imagine my surprise when we received a letter on October 22 from Jerry Baker stating that they did not have space available for "this particular type of display."

When I spoke with Mr. Baker he would only say that he did not know us and didn't want any of his guests to be "offended". Needless to say he will be receiving our response prior to our November meeting and I will have a copy of the letter available for the membership. I will also be happy to provide Mr. Baker's address to anyone who would also like to send a polite correspondence.

A very important part of our November meeting will be opening the floor for nominations for the 2009 elected officers. I have appointed a nominating committee which will make recommendations, however, nominations from the floor will be welcomed and encouraged. Formal voting will take place at our Annual Meeting in December.

Elected officers include Camp Commander, First and Second Lt. Commanders, Adjutant/Treasurer, and Chaplain. Other offices will be appointed by the newly elected commander.

November is also the time when we have a secret ballot to decide the recipient of the *Robert E. Lee Award*. It was established to recognize the camp member who has most reflected the character and devotion to duty of General Lee during the previous year. The next two meetings are two of the most important of the year as they will determine the direction the camp will follow for the next year. Please put some thought into the officers and please make plans to attend both meetings.

Steve Johnson, Commander



**Former Mayor Holk sues Foley over mural.
Complaint asks judge to not allow painting to be sold
Friday, October 24, 2008 By GUY BUSBY
Staff Reporter**

FOLEY — A mural of the Battle of Mobile Bay has spawned a court battle between the city and the man who was the municipality's mayor for 20 years.

Arthur Holk, mayor from 1976 to 1996, filed a lawsuit in Baldwin County Circuit Court asking that he be declared the owner of the painting and that the work not be sold.

City Council members voted in September to sell the painting after being told the work could be worth as much as \$200,000. The lawsuit asks that a judge issue a temporary restraining order to stop any sale.

The mural, depicting the start of the 1864 battle between Union and Confederate forces, was completed in 1941 by John McCrady. The work hung in the Grand Hotel in Point Clear for four decades. Holk said in an earlier interview that hotel managers gave him the painting after the facility was remodeled around 1985. He said he donated the painting to be hung in the Foley Public Library.

The complaint stated that a condition of Holk's donation was that the painting remain on public display.

"The defendant (Foley) has ceased to use the painting in the express manner that was contemplated between the parties when it was donated to the city," the complaint said. "Due to the defendant's actions, the property should revert back to the plaintiff (Holk)."

The painting was moved to the Foley Senior Center when the library was remodeled about 10 years ago, according to city officials. The mural was moved from the Senior Center during hurricane repairs and was later placed in the break room at the Public Works Department. The mural now hangs in the conference room at City Hall.

Mayor John Koniar said at the Monday night City Council meeting that Foley officials will not take any action on the painting until the lawsuit is settled.

"Until we clear up ownership, it is kind of in limbo," Koniar said. "So we will have to go to court, determine who owns it and then after we do that, we'll determine which way to go."

At the meeting, resident Fred Eastwood suggested that the painting could be given to the Baldwin County Archives to allow the work to be displayed to the public while relieving Foley of the expense of insuring and protecting the mural.

The painting was commissioned by Grand Hotel's owner, Edward Roberts, in the 1930s, according to a 1947 Press-Register story on the hotel. McCrady had to revise the work after Roberts told the artist that he wanted the painting to show the Confederate forces winning the battle, according to the story.

Born in Mississippi in 1911, McCrady is known for paintings done around the middle 1940s of nostalgic Southern scenes, including steamboats, plantations and cotton fields, according to Internet reports. One work listed for sale in an upcoming auction in New Orleans, "Political Rally," depicting a crowd watching a speech in Mississippi in 1935, has an estimated price of \$200,000 to \$300,000, according to the gallery catalog. The artist died in 1968.

Confederate general's name stays on school

Published: Nov. 4, 2008 at 3:04 PM

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Nov. 4 (UPI) -- A Florida school board has voted to keep the name of a Confederate general and early leader of the Ku Klux Klan on one of its high schools.

Members of the Duval County Board of Education dismissed the controversy over having a Jacksonville school named after Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and said the community's energy would be better spent helping the district improve its dismal academic record, the (Jacksonville) Florida Times-Union said Tuesday. "The children didn't ask anybody to change the name of their school; the children asked for help to read and write," board member Vicki Drake said prior to Monday's 5-2 vote to keep Forrest High as is.

The two dissenting votes were cast by the board's two African-American members, who agreed with critics who said it was time to change the name that had been applied in 1958 as a rebuke of the Supreme Court's ruling banning school segregation.

The newspaper said the board heard more than two hours of public testimony, including statements that said Forrest's early association with the Klan was a bad rap, and that the ex-general had actually become a proponent of civil rights during Reconstruction.



"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."

Confederate Relic Room: Long-lost papers shine a light on Confederacy's financial crisis

BY OTIS R. TAYLOR JR.

On the verge of crisis 145 years ago, the Confederate States of America sought an economic rescue not unlike the one U.S. financial institutions recently got.

Confederate accounts were overdrawn, and credit from overseas investment firms was about to dry up because lenders weren't confident the Southern states could repay their mounting debts. So, in 1863, Alabama businessman Colin J. McRae was sent to Europe to orchestrate a bailout of the Confederacy.

A record of purchase for small arms ammunition purchased from Eley Brothers in London and sold to the Confederate Army in November 1863. The exhibit of the papers of Colin J. McRae are on display at the Confederate Relic Room in Columbia. Colin J. McRae was a purchasing agent in London for the Confederacy.

In 2002, a trove of documents from McRae's time in England and France was found in the attic of a home in Alabama. The papers revealed the impact of European financing on the Civil War and provided historic details of the Confederate supply chain.

"It's primary material," said Rodger Stroup, the director of the S.C. Department of Archives and History. "That really is so important. It's original materials and not something produced later."

More than 2,500 documents, including 1,000 that relate directly to the Civil War, make up The Colin J. McRae Collection housed at the S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum.

The entire collection won't be exhibited until 2011 during the Civil War Sesquicentennial, but a few items are on display now.

Nobody knew the collection existed until William and Wendy James bought an old Queen Anne house in Mobile, Ala., to turn it into a bed-and-breakfast. Now known as the Kate Shepard House, it once belonged to McRae's niece. And in the attic, in long-forgotten boxes, McRae's papers had sat for decades.

The James' discovery unearthed a significant part of American history.

McRae, a cotton commission merchant in Mobile who had served on Alabama's delegation to form the South's provisional government, was sent to Europe to audit Confederate accounts and monitor the transactions of Caleb Huse, a Confederate purchasing agent.

Given the title of chief financial agent, McRae's duties included the refinancing, maintenance and disbursement of a \$15 million loan from Emile Erlanger & Company, a French banking house. McRae refinanced the loan at a more favorable rate, and then backed the loan bonds with cotton shipments from the South.

McRae made the purchasing of goods — from munitions to printed currency — more efficient. He also supervised blockade routes, which took ships and cargo from England to the Caribbean and then on to Southern port cities such as Charleston, Wilmington and Savannah.

Everything, it appears, was recorded and itemized. And McRae's bookkeeping makes this abundantly clear: Imported goods were the lifeline of the Confederacy.

"There really wasn't much in the way of stuff being produced" in Southern states, Stroup said.

On display are invoices such as an order for projectiles, ammunition and cartridges. There's currency — 15-, 25-, 50- and 75-cent notes — printed on English watermarked paper. An 1835 Enfield Rifle has "SC" inscribed on the butt.

At the end of the war, the United States sought to prosecute McRae because the government assumed he was hiding money. McRae never returned to Alabama; he died in Belize.

It's unclear how his papers, an impressive record of the Civil War, ended up in Alabama. But Kristina Dunn Johnson, the Confederate Relic Room's curator of history, said McRae's family visited him in Belize. Johnson said the museum is fortunate to have the papers. The collection, appraised at more than \$300,000, was sold "at a discount" — for \$250,000 — "because we were a museum and we're going to keep it together," Johnson said.

The museum is within \$8,000 of a \$125,000 fundraising goal to complete the purchase. (The state contributed the other half.)

"It's lucky to have the support of a strong donor base and the state of South Carolina," she said. "Our luck is that people care about our museum."

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