



CAMPTALK

The monthly Newsletter of the Capt. J.J. Dickison Camp 1387, Sons of Confederate Veterans, 10th Brigade, Florida Division, Army of Tennessee, Melbourne Florida

Vol. 27 No. 12 December 2011

Editor Don Young

December 2011 MEETING

MEMAW's BBQ 600 East Eau Gallie Blvd. Indian Harbour Beach, FL

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Order from menu 7:00 – 8:00 Program 8:00 – 8:45 Business Meeting.

Meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month.

Male descendants of men who served the Confederacy, their wives and others interested in the War Between the States are invited to attend.

CAMP OFFICERS

Chaplain Tim Cobb	321-259-8391
Treasurer Tom Watkins	321-254-0241
2 nd Lt.	Open
1 st Lt. Don Young	321-452-3207
Adjutant	Open
Commander Kevin Atchison	321-242-1126

CAMP STAFF

Color Sgt Evan Phillips	321-961-9407
Q'termaster	Open
Judge Advocate Don Lock	321-752-9276
Public Information Officer	Open
Editor Don Young	321-452-3207
Heritage Don Young	321-452-3207
Matron Of Honor	Open
UDC/OCR Liaison Miss Lee	452-3207

COMMANDERS CORNER

Our November meeting featured Compatriot Robert Meeks presenting a 4th installment of WBTS prisons. His program focused on several well-known Yankee Prisons along with 1st hand accounts of conditions endured by our ancestors. Our thanks to Robert for a very good presentation.

Our December meeting time will be moved to **8 December** and used to hold our annual Christmas Social. See the program listing for details and plan to come out and enjoy some good old fashioned season's greetings with your compatriots and family. Everyone is encouraged to bring a wrapped gift (under \$10) to participate in a gift exchange. In addition, we will still be collecting can goods and non-perishable items that can be taken to CITA.

Your annual dues were late as of 31 October. You will now have to pay a \$5 reinstatement charge. If you are among those who did not reenlist, please reconsider staying with the SCV.

Call Commander/Adjutant Kevin Atchison or a Camp officer in the next several days or mail your dues to Kevin. Please renew your membership.

In Service to The South, Kevin Atchison Commander Camp 1387

EVENTS

08 Dec	Annual Christmas Meeting
9-11 Dec	Raid at Ft. Pierce
26 Jan	Camp Meeting
13-14 Jan	Lexington VA Vigil

PROGRAM

Annual Meeting and Christmas Dinner - CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

We will hold our annual Christmas meeting/social gathering **08 December** at our regular meeting time/location/schedule. Please bring a wrapped gift for exchange valued at about \$10. Miss Lee and the Camp ladies will provide baked goods and treats for our deserts. Ladies, please call Miss Lee if you are willing to participate.

Veteran's Day Parade



The Veteran's Day Parade followed the usual route through old downtown Melbourne. We had a nice 5 man Color Guard and were followed by a vehicle covered with magnetic SCV signs and "We Support Our Troops" flags. We are pleased to report that our unit was widely welcomed by the spectators with salutes, "Our boys...", cheers, and "Thank you!" A tip of the kepi to compatriots Rob Murray, Gerry and Greg Carson, Commander Kevin Atchison, and Don Young. Miss Sarah drove the vehicle, followed by Richard Lee and Wesley Frank on their three wheelers for the Mechanized Cavalry. The bikes made a nice addition to the unit with their custom decorations and flags. A great traditional event complete with lunch at O'Malley's.

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Massing of The Colors

After the parade we went to BCC Cocoa. The Military Order of World Wars and BCC Cocoa campus held their annual Massing of the Colors on Veteran's Day. The program was very well coordinated, went very smoothly and was a grand salute to our Veterans and service branches. We will continue to participate in this nationally recognized event.

CITA DONATIONS

Please remember our annual support to the local Christ Is The Answer (CITA) family and veteran support organization. Bring large size canned goods and other nonperishable foods or personal toiletry items to the December meeting, we will get them delivered.

LEXINGTON LEE/JACKSON VIGIL

WHEN: FRIDAY JANUARY 13, 2012 & SATURDAY JANUARY 14, 2012.

WHERE: Downtown Lexington, Virginia

The Heritage Defense Committee of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is sponsoring a confederation-wide vigil and protest in Lexington, Virginia for the city's passage of an insulting, discriminatory and illegal ordinance that bans Confederate flags from flag holders on city owned light poles.

Off and on since the early 1900's, the Sons of Confederate Veterans have sponsored a Lee/Jackson birthday events in Lexington. Since 2000 the Stonewall Brigade Camp has sponsored a Lee/Jackson Birthday celebration complete with seminars, memorials and a downtown parade festooned with Confederate flags on city light poles.

In 1991 the SCV was forced to sue the city of Lexington to have their Lee Jackson parade go forward – the city signed a court enforceable consent decree promising not to interfere with Confederate symbols again.

Now, in an insulting move deliberately aimed at the SCV, the City has passed an ordinance permitting only government flags (US, VA & city of Lexington) to fly from the city light poles. Unfortunately for the city, legal research has shown that if sued over the unconstitutional ordinance, the City of Lexington will most likely lose. The lawsuit is being drafted as I write. Until the filing date, we must put maximum pressure on the city of Lexington to peacefully redress this ongoing insult to our heroes – Lee & Jackson, in the town where their hallowed remains lie.

In response to this ongoing outrage, the Sons of Confederate Veterans urges all available compatriots to attend the Lee/Jackson celebration in Lexington (<http://leejacksonday.webs.com>) and to participate in a weekend Flag vigil/protest in downtown Lexington. A resolution by the Commander-in-Chief encouraging your participation will soon follow this notice.

Remember the excitement generated in 2000 at the Columbia SC Statehouse Rally – let's rekindle that excitement! And we will hold this event annually until this insult to our heroes is lifted.

WILL YOU HELP? WILL YOUR CAMP HELP? IF YES, HERE's HOW:

1. Plan to come to Lexington, VA the weekend of January 13-14, 2012. If necessary, plan your own Camp's Lee-Jackson celebration for the following weekend. If your camp's

celebration is the same weekend as the Lexington event, consider sending a representative delegation to Lexington. Info at: <http://leejacksonday.webs.com>

2. Have your Camp sign up to man one of the 60+ light poles in downtown Lexington. From Friday 13 January 2PM til dark and Saturday 14 January 10AM until dark your Camp will be responsible for having a 2-member team holding a Confederate flag at the Camp's designated light pole. Your Camp may name the pole to honor a Confederate hero (and will be so listed in the event program). Registration is \$100 (which will be used to fund the Lexington Litigation). We suggest no more than 2 hour tours per team – so the Camp needs to make sure they have sufficient man power to cover their pole. If necessary 2 camps can register for the same pole. Children may participate accompanied by a responsible adult. Each team should have a cell-phone with them.
3. Register at: LexingtonLeeJacksonVigil@gmail.com or call 828-669-0097. Checks made payable to SCV Heritage Defense (note on check for Lexington) and mailed to P.O. Box 59 Columbia, TN 38402. Follow this event on Facebook at: **Lexington Lee Jackson Vigil/Protest** and **Save Our Flags – Boycott Lexington, Virginia**

FROM THE DESK of Dr. Thomas Y. Hiter, Chief of Heritage Defense, SCV

Web sites of interest: - Read much more on these web sites - UDC & SCV a chance of a lifetime - March with the Stonewall Brigade Camp 1296 in the Lee-Jackson Day Parade in Lexington where Lee & Jackson lived and are buried.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/saveourflags/?ref=ts>

<http://www.saveourflags.webs.com/>

SAVE OUR FLAGS IN LEXINGTON, VA
Dixie Outfitters™ Designer Series

10% PROCEEDS GO TO THE STONEWALL BRIGADE CAMP
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS #1296 - LEXINGTON, VA

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=220905114633808>

<http://www.leejacksonday.webs...com/>

General Joe Wheeler: A Life of Distinction

The phrase "Confederate Cavalry leader" generally conjures up an image of a larger-than-life individual who was not only an imposing physical specimen but one who could also command respect and awe by his mere presence. Certainly Nathan Bedford Forrest, JEB Stuart, John Hunt Morgan, Turner Ashby and Wade Hampton, to name a few, fit this description. Another trait this group had in common was that they were all, with the exception of Forrest, from prominent families in their respective states. Forrest, of course, created his own prominence before the War ever began.

There was another Confederate cavalry leader who shared none of these traits with this illustrious group but was a truly outstanding, if somewhat controversial, leader who was lauded by General Robert E. Lee as being one of the two best cavalrymen in the War. He eventually became a national hero and one of the most honored men of his time. His name was Joe Wheeler but for most of his life he was better known as "Fightin' Joe" Wheeler.

There was certainly nothing about the early life of Joseph Wheeler to indicate future greatness. He was born in Augusta, Georgia on September 10, 1836, but business reverses suffered by his father forced the family to relocate to Connecticut where there were relatives. Through the financial support of two well-to-do aunts, young Joe was able to attend a highly thought of private academy for his education. Upon graduation he applied for admission to the United States Military Academy at West Point which offered a free education to those who were accepted. His application contained character references which described young Wheeler as "excellent young man, of pure morals and of good intellect" and "of sufficient learning" to succeed at West Point. His application was approved and signed by the U.S. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis. The two would become better acquainted in the future. In another interesting coincidence, the superintendent of the USMA when Joe Wheeler was admitted was a Southern gentleman named Robert E. Lee.

Although admitted with good recommendations, Joe Wheeler's performance at West Point was not outstanding. He was well-thought-of by his peers and was described in such terms as "always earnest and quiet", "a true gentleman always" and "rarely spoke when he had nothing to say", however, his academic performance was spotty and he graduated in 1859 ranked third from the bottom of his class. His worst subject at the academy was "Cavalry Tactics".

While at the academy Joe was given the nickname "Point" by a fellow cadet which indicated that there was "neither length, breadth or thickness" to the young cadet. The diminutive Wheeler stood but 5 feet 2 inches and weighed only 110 pounds. He would remain this size the rest of his life with his weight varying by only a few pounds.

After graduation from West Point and initial training in Pennsylvania, 2nd Lieutenant Wheeler was assigned to a post in New Mexico. It was on the journey westward that he would receive the nickname that would stay with him for the rest of his life. Lt. Wheeler was assigned to guard a wagon that had been separated from the rest of the party moving westward. The wagon contained a mother and a just-born baby. The isolated wagon was attacked by a band of Apaches who were driven off, almost singlehandedly, by Wheeler. From that point on he would be forever known as "Fightin' Joe".

Although he had spent most of his life to this point in the Northeast, Joe still considered himself a Southerner and a Georgian and resigned his 2nd lieutenant's commission in the U.S. Army on April 22, 1861 after Southern states, including Georgia, began seceding from the Union.

Amazingly, in less than 24 months he was a Confederate major general and in command, at the age of 26, of all the cavalry of the Army of Tennessee, one of the three major units of the Confederate Army.

His first assignment as a Confederate officer, however, was as a first lieutenant with a Georgia

regiment. He was assigned to a post at Pensacola as an artillery officer under the command of General Braxton Bragg. His performance was outstanding and caught the attention of Confederate Secretary of War Leroy Pope Walker. By the Fall of 1861, Walker had resigned as secretary of war and received an appointment by President Jefferson Davis to the rank of brigadier general. General Walker was given command of four regiments of Alabama infantry organized in Huntsville, Alabama.

Through his political connections, Walker was able to secure for Lt. Wheeler a controversial 4-rank promotion to full colonel and made him commander of the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment. As commander of the 19th Alabama, Wheeler again performed outstandingly, especially at the Battle of Shiloh where his troops captured 2000 Union troops and a Union general.

Within four months Col. Wheeler was made commander of three cavalry regiments in the corps of General William Hardee. Again his performance was impressive and in October of 1862 he was made Chief of Cavalry for the Army of Mississippi and made a brigadier general. He was only 26 years old. In less than a month he was ordered to take command of all the cavalry of the Army of Mississippi (later retitled the Army of Tennessee) which, incidentally, included the units of Nathan Bedford Forrest and John Hunt Morgan. From that time until the end of the War, Gen. Joe Wheeler was rarely not engaged in active combat and proved a major nemesis for Union forces, especially those under the command of Gen. William Rosecrans.

Joe Wheeler was promoted to major general from January 20, 1863. When General Joseph E. Johnston succeeded Braxton Bragg as commander of the Army of Tennessee, he retained Gen. Wheeler as his chief of cavalry and, upon the death of General JEB Stuart in May of 1864, Joe Wheeler became the highest ranking cavalry officer in the Confederate Army. Not bad for a young man who had finished near the bottom of his class at West Point and had made his poorest grades in "Cavalry Tactics".

The period from May through August of 1864 proved to be the high water mark for Gen. Wheeler and his cavalry as the smaller Confederate force routed divisions of Sherman's cavalry at Newnan, Macon and northeast of Atlanta in a valiant attempt to protect Atlanta. During these encounters the Confederates took more than 3000 prisoners.

Despite these successes, Joe Wheeler came under criticism from some other generals that his troops were out of control. Quite possibly these were the result of personal clashes or even envy of successes of one so young. These things do happen in the military. No charges were ever filed against Wheeler but President Jefferson Davis made the decision to replace him as AOT cavalry commander with the more seasoned General Wade Hampton. Jefferson Davis did say of Joe Wheeler that he was "one of the ablest, bravest and most skillful of cavalry commanders".

Joe Wheeler was an intrepid leader who led from the front. He was wounded three times in combat and had 16 horses shot from under him - a number exceeded only by the magnificent Forrest. In addition, thirty-six of his staff officers died in battle as his units were constantly in the thick of the fight. Joe Wheeler was small in stature but big in heart. It was said by some of his troops that he feared nothing.

His last action of the War typified his devotion to duty and honor that so characterized him. He was captured with a small band of volunteers as they worked their way to south Georgia in an attempt to assist President Jefferson Davis in his bid to escape capture by the yankees after he and his family had left Richmond before the capital became overrun with federal troops. Gen. Wheeler was imprisoned at Fort Delaware but was released in June. This did not, however, end the saga of Fightin' Joe Wheeler.

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After a venture in business in New Orleans after the War, Joe Wheeler returned to Alabama and settled into the life of a planter. He opened a law practice (he was self-taught) and became involved in politics. He was elected to Congress in 1880 and ultimately served a total of eight terms. The highlight of his tenure in office, to me, was in 1894 when he gave a speech before Congress about the true causes of the Great War of 1861-65 . In this speech he exposed the hypocrisy of the North regarding the issue of slavery and the effects on the South of the abominable tariffs imposed by the northern-controlled government.

Joe Wheeler's greatest fame was yet to come, though.

In April of 1898 a Declaration of War against Spain over the matter of Cuba was sent to the White House by Congress (they actually use to do things like that). President William McKinley approved the measure but was concerned that young Southern men would not join the U.S. Army because of the bad feelings left over from the treatment of the South during the War and Reconstruction. Secretary of War Russell Alger suggested a plan to recruit former Confederate generals for the war effort to encourage other Southerners to join the U.S. Army.

Congressman Joe Wheeler, now 61 years old, was approached about this service and agreed to accept a commission as a major general in the volunteer army. He was joined by former Confederate generals Fitzhugh Lee and Tom Rosser of Virginia and Matt Butler of South Carolina.

General Wheeler was given command of the cavalry which included that famous unit known as the "Rough Riders". It was while directing troops at San Guasimas that General Wheeler, noticing that the Spanish troops were falling back, stood up straight in his stirrups and yelled at the top of his lungs, "We've got the damned Yankees on the run". One of his aides then tactfully reminded the general that HIS troops were, in fact, the "damned Yankees". Old habits are hard to break for a true Confederate.

Gen. Wheeler was the only one of the four former Confederates to actually see combat duty.

After his service in Cuba he was offered a commission as a brigadier general in the regular army which he accepted. He was eventually sent to the Philippines to assume command of U.S. forces there. As a result of his service in Cuba and the Philippines he became a national hero.

Joe Wheeler, the young boy from Georgia who grew up to become "Fightin' Joe", reaped many rewards and much recognition for his service. He is one of two Alabamians (his adopted state) honored with a statue in Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol. He is one of only two Confederate generals buried at Arlington National Cemetery (the other is Brigadier General Marcus Joseph Wright who was the chief compiler of Confederate war records for the national archives).

Wheeler Dam across the Tennessee River near Muscle Shoals is named in his honor (a plaque at the dam identifies him as "the South's fightingest general"). His home, Pond Spring, near Courtland, is a major historic site in the state. One of the truly outstanding camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp #1372 in Birmingham. He is, of course, safely ensconced in the Alabama Hall of Fame. These are only a few of the recognitions he has received.

One of the nicest recognitions for the general is an inscription on the large monument (obelisk) that marks his grave at Arlington. On one face of the obelisk is this:

SOLDIER, STATESMAN
GENTLEST, TENDEREST
AND MOST LOVABLE OF MEN.
HE HAS FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT,

.....

HE HAS FINISHED HIS COURSE,
HE HAS KEPT THE FAITH.

I believe it can safely be said that General Joe Wheeler lived a life of distinction.

Note: Articles from past years of CONFEDERATE JOURNAL are available in book form. Articles from 2005-2007 are in Volume 1 and can be ordered online at <http://createspace.com/3540609> and articles from 2008-2009 are in Volume 2 and can be ordered online at <http://createspace.com/3543269>. Volume 3 containing articles from 2010 and 2011 will hopefully be available in February or March 2012.

Bob Hurst is a Southern Patriot who has interests in the history of the South (especially the Confederacy) and the antebellum architecture of the South. He is Commander of Col. David Lang Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans in Tallahassee and is also 2nd Lt. Commander of the Florida Division, SCV. He can be contacted at confederatedad1@yahoo.com or 850-878-7010.

Damaged confederate memorial attracts little attention. The monument at the Walton County Courthouse is missing its hand that pointed skyward. The Destin Log 14 November 2011.



<http://www.thedestinlog.com/news/little-45217-nwfdn-memorial-attention.html?mid=52>

Editor's Note: This is an interesting article about the first known Confederate Monument. It is in Florida and was erected in 1871. There is no photo of the missing pointing hand. Sorry not enough room for the whole article.

PRESS RELEASE

GEORGIA POWER BACKS DOWN OVER CONFEDERATE FLAG

(Atlanta - November 22, 2011) Earlier this year, Georgia Power twice removed Confederate flags from the graves of veterans buried in the Yellow Dirt Baptist Cemetery located within the grounds of Plant Wansley. When Georgia Power failed to respond to concerns of family members of the veterans buried in the cemetery, the families decided to contact the Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for help. Following several weeks of activity by members of the local SCV camp, the Haralson



Invincibles Camp #673, as well as support from the entire Georgia Division, Georgia Power spokesman Mark Williams finally acknowledged the families' concerns and admitted that Georgia Power and its parent company, the Southern Company, do not have authority to control the cemetery where veterans are buried.

Family members have expressed their appreciation to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the largest heritage preservation organization in the state and across America. Georgia Division Commander Jack Bridwell spoke on behalf of the SCV, "We are happy to see that Georgia Power has finally acknowledged that it has no authority to remove flags from the graves of these veterans, and we are happy to have been able to provide help to these families who wished to honor their ancestors. It is unfortunate that Georgia Power refused to honor the requests of the family members until our organization became involved. We will continue to fight for the preservation of Southern heritage and the respect of veterans across Georgia whenever such violations as these by Georgia Power occur; and we appreciate the outpouring of appreciation shown to the SCV by local residents and elected officials of Heard County.

Despite acknowledging their errors, however, neither Georgia Power nor the Southern Company have issued an apology to the families for removing the flags; nor have they restored the flags that were originally taken by Georgia Power employees. Georgia Power spokesman Konswello Monroe previously admitted that the company took the flags in a statement to the media: "Yes, we did remove those flags that were put up October 8, and we will be monitoring. If they are put back up we will remove them once again." The families of the veterans buried in the cemetery have not yet decided whether or not to press charges for the theft of the flags or the violation of the state and federal laws which protect the graves and flags of veterans. Family members and SCV leaders will be meeting within the next several days to discuss whether or not to have warrants issued for the arrest of Georgia Power officials.

For more information about Georgia Power's decision to restore the Confederate flags at the Yellow Dirt Baptist Cemetery, please contact Jack Bridwell, Division Commander of the Georgia Sons of Confederate Veterans at 1-866-SCV-in-GA or online at www.GeorgiaSCV.org.

Ft. Pierce Raid - Dear History Buff,

If you are into history collections and you would like to acquire pieces please do check out this web site about a U.S. Civil War Historian's Auction scheduled for December 10th at The "Raid on Fort Pierce Reenactment" held at the Savannah Park on E. Midway Rd. Fort Pierce, FL. To see pictures and a schedule please click below:

<http://www.auctionzip.com/cgi-bin/auctionview.cgi?lid=1296515&kwd=&zip=34981&category=0>

If this is not your cup of tea please do send it on to someone you know who does like this sort of thing. I hope to see you there,

Leonard Wheelley, Asset Auction Services, 772-971-9231