

THE LEGIONARY

JANUARY 2009

A Publication of the Sons of Confederate Veterans

LT. GEN. WADE HAMPTON CAMP No. 273

Columbia, South Carolina ♦ www.wadehamptoncamp.org

A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHERN MEN

PRAISE FOR LEE AND JACKSON

By Chuck Baldwin

January is often referred to as "Generals Month" since no less than four famous Confederate Generals claimed January as their birth month: James Longstreet (Jan. 8, 1821), Robert E. Lee (Jan. 19, 1807), Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson (Jan. 21, 1824), and George Pickett (Jan. 28, 1825). Two of these men, Lee and Jackson, are particularly noteworthy.

Without question, Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson were two of the greatest military leaders of all time. Even more, many military historians regard the Lee and Jackson tandem as perhaps the greatest battlefield duo in the history of warfare. If Jackson had survived the battle of Chancellorsville, it is very possible that the South would have prevailed at Gettysburg and perhaps would even have won the War Between the States.

In fact, it was Lord Roberts, commander-in-chief of the British armies in the early twentieth century, who said, "In my opinion, Stonewall Jackson was one of the greatest natural military geniuses the world ever saw. I will go even further than that--as a campaigner in the field, he never had a superior. In some respects, I doubt whether he ever had an equal."

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COLUMBIA'S LONGEST DAYS RETURNS ON FEBRUARY 7, 2009

A fun and educational day for the family sponsored by the Greater Columbia Civil War Alliance to commemorate General Sherman's March to Columbia, SC and the burning of the city will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2009.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Re-enactment of the Firing on the State House (8:45 a.m.)

Hart's Battery will re-enact Union cannon's firing on Columbia and the State House. Just as it happened on February 16, 1865, Union cannon's under the command of General Sherman will once again ring out from the West Columbia side of the Congaree River at the Gervais Street Bridge. This impressive event of sight and sound is free to the public.

Sherman's March Bus Tours

There will be two different narrated Sherman's March bus tours. The first, the Congaree Creek tour, is a 3-hour bus tour that retraces the steps of General Sherman's troops as they approached and entered Columbia from February 15-17, 1865. The second, Sherman's Left Wing bus tour, traces the route of the Left Wing of General Sherman's army as it marched through central Lexington County in February of 1865.

The Congaree Creek tour includes first hand accounts of Union soldiers, reporters and Columbia residents. This tour gives participants the opportunity to stand on the original earthworks built for the Confederate defense, walk along the Saluda River to see the remains of one of the largest textile mills of the early 1800's, see the bridge abutments of the Gervais Street and Saluda River Bridges that were burned by the Confederates and travel along the same streets that Union soldiers traveled as they entered Columbia.

Sherman's Left Wing bus tour will travel to the southern boundary of Lexington County, where the union army entered the county. The tour will visit skirmish sites along the North Edisto River and make stops at Jeffcoat's, Horsey's and Gunter's Bridges, where dismounted Confederate cavalry and artillery disputed the Union army's crossing the river. Local re-enactors will make these skirmishes come alive.

See *Longest Days*, Page 2

Happy New Year Compatriots and friends of the Camp. My hope for the camp is to grow and prosper this year. I want to thank each of you for your trust and faith in electing me to lead you and the camp in 2009. I will work for you and the camp to the best of my ability. There will be some new changes that I am sure will meet with your approval. My goals for the year are to increase attendance of our meetings. We have always had some of the finest speakers for our members and this year will not change. I would like to see us work on the Cemetery Program, sponsor at least one child to the Sam Davis Youth

Camp and come up with a fund raiser that can help support the camp and our charities. My email will be listed in every newsletter so that you can contact me at anytime with any questions, complaints or suggestions. This is your camp and without you there is NO camp. We all had reasons for joining the SCV, now let us remember those reasons and rededicate ourselves to our Ancestors and make them proud that we have chosen to remember them and the cause for which they fought for. May our Father in Heaven give us the strength to carry on. ♦

THE CHARGE

"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."

REV. ROBERT SLIMP

INTERESTING NEWS

The first Southern National Congress (SNC) since the Confederate Congress adjourned at the end of March, 1865, convened in Hendersonville, NC, on December 5 – 7, 2008.

Over 100 Southern men and women from more than fourteen Southern States meet at the Kanuga Conference Center.

The meeting was a "resounding success," according to Thomas Moore of Charlottesville, VA, who was elected SNC Chairman.

The SNC is a representative assembly of citizens of the Southern States, in an attempt to provide an alternative, legitimate forum to express Southern

grievances and present Southern interests in a way that no longer appears to be feasible through today's political process.

Retired History Professor and Stephen Dill Lee Institute founder, Dr. Clyde Wilson, said that "the SNC will reclaim the political legacy of great Southerners like Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson and John C. Calhoun. That legacy is individual freedom and a small central government limited to its enumerated Constitutional powers; and which is the creation, the servant and the agent of the sovereign people acting through their respective states." Wilson pointed out that in recent decades, the

Federal Government has engaged in a "long train of abuses and usurpations of our Constitution." If these trends continue, our government will have jettisoned the Constitution and we will find ourselves living under "absolute Despotism."

It was pointed out that the SNC was meeting, as did the Continental Congress in April, 1774 to represent their States and voice their "Remonstrance's and Petitions for the Redress of Grievances."

The SNC is now exploring ways in which it can operate and conduct business between annual plenary sessions through the creation of a secure Internet forum. According to Vice Chairman Mark

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LONGEST DAYS

The Confederates burned all three bridges and delayed the Federal advance by one day. The tour then proceeds north of the town of Pelion, S.C. to visit campsites of the Union army and numerous skirmish sites. The tour ends near the town of Lexington, which was partially burned by Union troops.

Historic Columbia Bus Tour

A new bus tour has been added this year—an entertaining and informative narrated bus tour of important Civil War era buildings and landmarks in the downtown Columbia area. Unlike some other Southern cities, Columbia has a wealth of pre-Civil War public and private structures for the history lover. Each building has a story and many are available to be toured. This tour will involve some

walking and touring of historic buildings so wear comfortable shoes.

Civil War Expo (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

A Civil War Expo, a full day of activities, will be held at the Columbia Mills Building (301 Gervais St.), which houses both the S.C. State Museum and the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum. Civil War artifacts will be on display from museums and personal collections. The living history portion of the expo will feature hobbies and crafts of the time period. Re-enactors will be on hand to display uniforms and weaponry. The public is also invited to bring their Civil War era artifacts for a free, professional appraisal. Also, from 11-1 we will feature a virtual tour of General Sherman's March on Columbia as well as,

a guest speaker.

Grand Ball (8-11 p.m.)

The Grand Ball will be held in the Congaree Room at the Mills Building. Live period music and dance calling will be provided along with refreshments. Tickets are \$35 per couple and \$20 per individual. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Semi-formal, formal, or period attire is requested. Please note that tickets must be purchased in advance for... Grand Ball, Congaree Creek Bus Tour, Historic Columbia Bus Tour, & Sherman's Left Wing Bus Tour.

To Order Tickets:

Contact the GCCWA by e-mail at gccwa@knappagency.com or by phone at (803) 217-0071.

You can also visit the official web site at www.ColumbiasLongestDays.com ♦

**Individuals interested in joining the SCV or this Camp should contact
Compatriot Scott James: Phone (803) 781-1836, E-mail wscottjames@bellsouth.net
WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN!**

While the strategies and circumstances of the War of Northern Aggression can (and will) be debated by professionals and laymen alike, one fact is undeniable: Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. Jackson were two of the finest Christian gentlemen this country has ever produced. Both their character and their conduct were beyond reproach.

Unlike his northern counterpart, Ulysses S. Grant, General Lee never sanctioned or condoned slavery. Upon inheriting slaves from his deceased father-in-law, Lee immediately freed them. And according to historians, Jackson enjoyed a familial relationship with those few slaves that were in his home. In addition, unlike Abraham Lincoln and U.S. Grant, there is no record of either Lee or Jackson ever speaking disparagingly of the black race.

As those who are familiar with history know, General Grant and his wife held personal slaves before and during the War Between the States, and, contrary to popular opinion, even Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation did not free the slaves of the North. They were not freed until the Thirteenth Amendment was passed after the conclusion of the war. Grant's excuse for not freeing his slaves was that "good help is so hard to come by these days."

Furthermore, it is well established that Jackson regularly conducted a Sunday School class for black children. This was a ministry he took very seriously. As a result, he was dearly loved and appreciated by the children and their parents.

In addition, both Jackson and Lee emphatically supported the abolition of slavery. In fact, Lee called slavery "a moral and political evil." He also said "the best men in the South" opposed it and welcomed its

demise. Jackson said he wished to see "the shackles struck from every slave."

To think that Lee and Jackson (and the vast majority of Confederate soldiers) would fight and die to preserve an institution they considered evil and abhorrent--and that they were already working to dismantle--is the height of absurdity. It is equally repugnant to impugn and denigrate the memory of these remarkable Christian gentlemen.

In fact, after refusing Abraham Lincoln's offer to command the Union Army in 1861, Robert E. Lee wrote to his sister on April 20 of that year to explain his decision. In the letter he wrote, "With all my devotion to the Union and the feeling of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, my home. I have therefore resigned my commission in the army and save in defense of my native state, with the sincere hope that my poor services may never be needed . . ."

Lee's decision to resign his commission with the Union Army must have been the most difficult decision of his life. Remember that Lee's direct ancestors had fought in America's War For Independence. His father, "Light Horse Harry" Henry Lee, was a Revolutionary War hero, Governor of Virginia, and member of Congress. In addition, members of his family were signatories to the Declaration of Independence.

Remember, too, that not only did Robert E. Lee graduate from West Point "at the head of his class" (according to Benjamin Hallowell), he is yet today one of only six cadets to graduate from that

prestigious academy without a single demerit.

However, Lee knew that Lincoln's decision to invade the South in order to prevent its secession was both immoral and unconstitutional. As a man of honor and integrity, the only thing Lee could do was that which his father had done: fight for freedom and independence. And that is exactly what he did.

Instead of allowing a politically correct culture to sully the memory of Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. Jackson, all Americans should hold them in a place of highest honor and respect. Anything less is a disservice to history and a disgrace to the principles of truth and integrity.

Accordingly, it was more than appropriate that the late President Gerald Ford, on August 5, 1975, signed Senate Joint Resolution 23, "restoring posthumously the long overdue, full rights of citizenship to General Robert E. Lee." According to President Ford, "This legislation corrects a 110-year oversight of American history." He further said, "General Lee's character has been an example to succeeding generations . . ."

The significance of the lives of Generals Lee and Jackson cannot be overvalued. While the character and influence of most of us will barely be remembered two hundred days after our departure, the sterling character of these men has endured for two hundred years. What a shame that so many of America's youth are being robbed of knowing and studying the virtue and integrity of the great General Robert E. Lee and General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. ♦

Source: *NewsWithViews.com*, 01/16/2008

SNC

Thomey of Louisiana, Southerners wishing to participate in these deliberations, and/or becoming a delegate should apply via the SNC website-southernnationalcongress.org

It is worth noting that many of those who were delegates are members of the SCV. It will be interesting to see how this organization develops. Thus far, the main purpose is to establish a way of communication with our federal government so that they will understand our grievances and hopefully find a way to reach and alleviate them. ♦

Editor's Note: The publication of this article does not imply an endorsement, either implicit or explicit, of the SNC by the SCV or the Wade Hampton Camp.

ADJUTANT DESK

I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as adjutant for 2009. As of January 6, 2009 we have 187 members and 18 associate members.

Did you know, as a SCV member of the Wade Hampton Camp 273 you should be receiving three different publications?

The Confederate Veteran Magazine is published six times a year and is mailed at non profit bulk mail rates. This saves the SCV money on postage but the US Postal Service will not forward them if you have a change of address. If you have any question about General Headquarters having your correct information, you can verify it by entering your SCV ID number and your last name in the box at the following link: www.scv.org/checkData.php.

The Palmetto Partisan is the official

newsletter of the South Carolina Division. It's published four times a year and is mailed to division members. If you are not receiving this publication, log on to our division web site at www.scsdv.com and click on the membership button. This will bring up the membership page. On the right side of the page click on the address and officer change button; this will bring up an email addressed to the state adjutant. Type in your name & address and submit.

The Legionary is our camp's newsletter and is published monthly. If you are not receiving this publication, please check the information on the camp roster located at the sign in table at every camp meeting or call me at 803-732-3050. I can also be reached at rickybadger@aol.com. ♦

RICKY BADGER

Important Dates in *The War of Northern Aggression*:

- Jan. 1, 1863: Confederates under Maj. Gen. John B. Magruder recapture Galveston, Texas, routing three companies of the 42nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.
- Jan. 2, 1863: Confederates and Federals battle at Stones River, Tenn., where more than 23,000 soldiers are killed, wounded or captured in three days of fighting.
- Jan. 9, 1861: Citadel Cadets turn back The Star of the West, a Union ship loaded with more than 200 Federal troops attempting to reinforce Fort Sumter. This action was the first in the War Between the States.
- Jan. 9, 1861: Mississippi secedes from the Union.
- Jan. 10, 1861: Florida secedes from the Union.
- Jan. 11, 1861: Alabama secedes from the Union.
- Jan. 17, 1864: Southern forces under Lt. Gen. James Longstreet rebuff Federals at Dandridge, Tenn., but are unable to pursue fleeing Yankees because of a lack of supplies.
- Jan. 19, 1861: Georgia secedes from the Union.
- Jan. 26, 1861: Louisiana secedes from the Union.
- Jan. 29, 1863: Union troops massacre Shoshoni Indians at Boa Ogoi, Idaho.

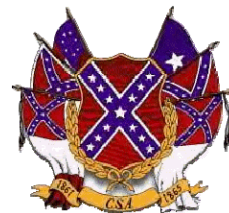
Y'all Come!!!

Lee-Jackson Banquet

Friday, Jan 30

6:00 PM

RSVP Required



Seawell's Restaurant

1125 Rosewood Drive

Columbia, SC

See insert for Details

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