

# THE LEGIONARY

February 2006

A Publication of the Sons of Confederate Veterans

Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp #273

Columbia, S.C.

[www.wadehamptoncamp.org](http://www.wadehamptoncamp.org)

*"A Fraternal Organization of Southern Men"*



Columbia as it appeared after Sherman's troops laid waste to the city in February 1865.

## Remembering a Night of Devastation

In remembrance of the Burning of Columbia by Union troops under Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman in 1865, a full day of activities are scheduled for Feb. 18.

"Columbia's Longest Days: February 1865," sponsored by the Greater Columbia Civil War Alliance will take place Feb. 18.

It involves a full day of activities commemorating General Sherman's march to Columbia and the burning of the city, beginning at 9 a.m. with a re-enactment of Union cannon firing on the State Capitol.

Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. there will be narrated bus tours that will follow the path of Sherman's march through Lexington County into Columbia.

See Columbia, Page 5

## S.C. Relic Room Exhibit Features Hampton Swords

After more than 80 years, Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton's swords - two of them, in fact - are back in South Carolina.

The S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Museum is displaying through Nov. 1, the saber Hampton used throughout the War Between The States, along with the saber Hampton's sisters presented to Maj. Gen. M.C. Butler in 1863, after Butler had lost a foot at Brandy Station.

**"Flashing Sabers, Thundering Hooves: S.C.'s Confederate Cavalry," Through Nov. 1**

Part of an exhibit titled "Flashing Sabers, Thundering Hooves: South Carolina's Confederate Cavalry," The Relic Room has created a special exhibit for Hampton's swords, along with other items such as a rare Confederate saddle and pistol that may have been used by Hampton during the war.

"We feel very privileged to be able to make the items available for viewing by South Carolinians," said Joe Long, Curator of History for the Relic Room and a Lt.

See Hampton, Page 7

## CSS Stonewall - From Confederate Ironclad to Japanese Warship

The *CSS Stonewall* never had much of a chance to strike a blow for the Southern cause, but she enjoyed an interesting career in Asia following the War Between The States.

Stonewall, a 1390-ton ironclad ram, was built in Bordeaux, France, for the Confederate Navy. Embargoed by the French government in February 1864, prior to her launching, she was subsequently sold to Denmark. Upon completion of her construction in late 1864, the Danish government would not accept delivery and

her builder secretly resold her to the Confederates.

Commissioned at sea as *CSS Stonewall* in January 1865, she attempted to obtain supplies in French waters, then sailed for Madeira, Azores, en route to America, where she was ordered to attack Federal naval forces and commercial shipping. Forced into Ferrol, Spain, by a storm, she was confronted by *USS Niagara* and *USS Sacramento* in March 1865.

See Stonewall, Page 5

# Here's Hoping Success of Lee/Jackson Continues in '06

**C**ompatriots, it was my great pleasure to see a good number of you at our Lee/Jackson Banquet last month.

I noticed quite a number of faces I hadn't seen in some time.

Is this a sign of things to come? I certainly hope so!

We have a very full platter ahead of us in the next few months.

The Camp will be looking for volunteers for the Commemoration of Sherman's burning of Columbia, The Palmetto Sportsman's Classic booth at the Fairgrounds, Wade Hampton's Birthday service, and of course, The Battle for Columbia School day and the event itself.

I certainly hope many of you who have been "sitting on the fence" will be ready to start the new year out by jumping into some of these very worthwhile Camp activities.

In addition to my fellow Camp compatriots, I was pleased to see several members of both the Palmetto Camp No.

## Commander's Corner

### Tommy Rollings

22 and Hampton Redshirt Riders Camp No. 1876.

Let not the bonds of friendship and brotherhood we have made be weakened! We need to continue to support our Compatriots in all the local Camps.

The speaker at this month's meeting

## Welcome, New Compatriots

The Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp welcomes four new members:

**Wayne J. Heckle**  
**Moulton "Monk" A. Phifer, III**  
**William "Bill" C. Rogers**  
**Alan Rush**

will be Dr. David Aiken, who has recompiled the amazing firsthand accounts of the burning of Columbia as reported by William Gilmore Simms.

I have heard nothing but the greatest of compliments on Dr. Aiken's work and believe we would be making a mistake if we didn't each bring a guest to see the true story of the burning of Columbia!

A review on Dr. Aiken's book can be found here: <http://www.wadehampton-camp.org/br-bocs.html>.

Please spread the word as much as you can about our outstanding program this month and bring a guest!

I sincerely look forward to seeing a roomful of re-energized Southern men with a determined look in their eyes on Feb. 16!

Thank you all for your words of support and encouragement regarding my election as Commander.

Remember, I will not be successful without YOU!

See y'all on the 16th.

## Land Deal Will Protect Historic Morris Island from Development

Morris Island, the scenic and historic barrier island at the mouth of Charleston Harbor, will avoid development and be placed in public hands, according to those involved in the three-way deal.

The Ginn Co. purchased a chunk of the island for \$6.5 million Wednesday and agreed to resell it to the nonprofit Trust for Public Land for \$4.5 million. The company also agreed to donate \$500,000 to help plan for the island's future, company founder and president Bobby Ginn said.

"It was never our intent to develop the property in a commercial manner, with hotels or condominiums," Ginn said. "What we wanted to do was preserve the accessibility for residents of Charleston County."

Charleston Mayor Joe Riley, who worked on the deal with Ginn and David Agnew of the Trust for Public Land, heralded the news.

"What we have here is a very generous and community-spirited company," Riley said. "This is such a huge achievement, and we're so excited."

Blake Hallman, a volunteer with the nonprofit Morris Island Coalition, agreed. "This is the best scenario possible: Everybody wins. I would say that the Morris Island Coalition is exultant at everyone's work to preserve the island."

Ginn, whose company has had an option to purchase the land for several months, grew up in Hampton. He has visited the island more than 30 times, beginning when he was 13 years old.

He said his company, which is based outside Orlando, Fla., strives to get involved in the communities where it works. This donation, which ultimately will total about \$3 million, is one of its biggest to date.

The company is developing large areas

in Mount Pleasant and also owns property in the Charleston Neck, but there are no quid pro quos involved, he said, adding that it currently has no zoning requests pending before any Lowcountry government.

"We have a huge land-holding position in the Charleston and Mount Pleasant area. The people who will live in and use these facilities will now have a new ocean-front park that they can go to," Ginn said. "That's the motivation, if any. As Charleston and Mount Pleasant go, we go."

Ginn bought the property from the Yaschik Development Co. of Charleston, which paid about \$3 million during a foreclosure proceeding in the mid-1980s. The island's profile has risen in recent years as various developers proposed building as many as 60 homes on the island, which can be reached only by boat.

-Charleston Post & Courier

## Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

*"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit 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 which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."*

-Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, New Orleans, La., April 25, 1906.

## The Legionary

is the official publication of the Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp, No. 273, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Columbia, S.C. Individuals interested in joining the Camp or the SCV should contact the following individuals:

Commander Tommy Rollings (803) 791-1130  
Adjutant Layne Waters (803) 798-2429



# Citadel Professor to Talk on Columbia's Devastation

February is the month when South Carolina SCV camps remember the savage burning and sack of Columbia, S.C., on Feb. 17-18, 1865. It was a terrible atrocity against helpless civilians, mostly women and children.

Our speaker on Feb. 16 will be Dr. David Aiken, a professor of English at the Citadel and the author of "A City Laid Waste," which is the story of the burning of Columbia.

In his book, Dr. Aiken captures in gory detail the destruction of South Carolina's capital city as Gen. William T. Sherman brought his scorched-earth campaign to the first state to succeed from the Union.

As Sherman prepared to leave Savannah, Ga., with 60,000 troops to invade our state, which had a defense force of less than 20,000 men, he boasted to a meeting of his staff and commanders, "I'm going to march to Richmond. I expect to turn north by the end of the month, (January) when the sun does - and when I go through South Carolina it will be one of the most horrible things in the history of the world. The devil himself couldn't restrain my men in that state."

True to his word, Sherman's men burned Barnwell, which they nicknamed "Burnwell," Blackville, Bamberg. Branchville and Midway. Previously, he had destroyed Atlanta, Milledgeville, Covington and a dozen other towns and cities in Georgia.

He spared Savannah, only because he needed it as his staging area for the invasion of the Palmetto State.

Dr. Aiken is convinced beyond any doubt that Sherman actually ordered the burning of Columbia and will prove it in his talk.

His book is based mainly on the outstanding reporting of William Gilmore Simms. Simms, was one of America's greatest authors during the antebellum period. He was as well known throughout the country as James Fenimore Cooper and Nathaniel Hawthorn.

He is not as well known today, because Simms described himself by saying, "I am an ultra-Southron." However, his novels, histories and romances of the South give us a picture of our Southland that may be found nowhere else.

When Sherman invaded South Carolina, Simms left his plantation "Woodlands" near Barnwell and took his family and all of his

## Chaplain's Pulpit

Robert Slimp

files, books and belongings to Augusta, Ga., for safety. He then hurried to Columbia in order to be there for Sherman's occupation of the city.

Simms was on the scene. He deftly recorded the events of February 1865 in a series of eyewitness accounts published in the first ten issues of the Columbia Phoenix. Simms walked the fire-ravaged streets, interviewing Columbia residents and Union troops.

He was threatened with arrest by the occupation authorities, because of his truthful reporting in which he catalogues the widespread looting and atrocities committed against women, the brutal treatment of former slaves by Union soldiers, and the destruction of historically significant documents, works of art, homes, churches and plantation houses.

Dr. Aiken describes this account as a Southern masterpiece. In his introduction to the book, Aiken clarifies the significance of Simms's articles and draws attention as important for understanding the occupations' impact - the cultural prosperity enjoyed in Columbia prior to Sherman's arrival, the enormity of the invasion itself, the sufferings of the city's residents, and the efforts to cover up the crimes and discredit witnesses such as Simms who dared to report the truth.

Dr. Aiken will remind us of the incident in which Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton, whom Sherman blamed for the burning of Columbia, confronted Gen. Oliver Howard in Columbia, in August 1876.

Howard had been one of Sherman's commanders during the rape of Columbia. The two men were introduced at the home of a Major Gibbs. Howard offered the single hand that the war had left him. Hampton stared icily, "I cannot take your hand, sir," he said with quiet precision, "until you retract your statement as to my connection with the burning of this city."

The one-armed Union General was prompt and generous, "I fully admit that I was mistaken in the matter. Sherman did order the burning of Columbia. I hope that

you will forgive and forget it."

Again he held out his hand and Hampton seized it. The two became friends at once."

Sherman was a truly ruthless man. He especially disliked slaves and was often observed kicking slave children out of his way when they tried to surround him and thank him for freeing them.

Ten years after his destruction of Georgia and South Carolina, which he torched because he had a hatred for the people of this area, he turned his rage against the American Indians and during a campaign against Western Indians declared "The only good Indian is a dead Indian."

This slip of the tongue was widely criticized by the press and possibly cost him the Republican nomination in 1876. By then, even Yankees were catching on to Sherman's ruthlessness.

If y'all want to hear the truth about the burning of Columbia and many smaller towns in South Carolina in February 1865, you must come to this meeting. Please come and bring as many friends with you as possible. Hearing Dr. David Aiken will be a most rewarding experience. This is a Chaplain's column and I am happy to remind y'all that Dr. Aiken is an ordained Southern Baptist Pastor. He has served churches as a pastor and is presently teacher of the Men's Sunday School class at the historic First Baptist Church of Charleston, where he also serves as a deacon.

In this age of revisionist history and political correctness, we all need to hear the truth about the War for Southern Independence.

Much of the media refuses to tell the truth about our Southland. Dr. Aiken has dedicated his life to teaching and writing the whole truth about Dixie.

## Research Problems?

The SCV can help. For complete assistance in all aspects of lineage & genealogy contact:

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# Southerners Tell Yankees ‘Back Off Our Armstrong Gun’

**T**he mean old Yankee army took our gun and won't give it back. How rude.

Admittedly, Confederate soldiers were using the famous Armstrong rifled cannon to shoot as many of them as possible 141 years ago this month down at Fort Fisher, but is that any excuse for larceny?

And people blame overwrought Southerners for not letting The Late Unpleasantness fade away. If they would just give us back all the stuff they took, maybe we would shut up.

OK, we probably wouldn't really shut up. It's our nature to get all puffed up about "Tha Wo-ahr," and we'd have one less thing to complain about.

In January 1865, the Southern army was all but whipped. About the only thing left of the Confederacy was North Carolina and parts of southside Virginia.

There might as well have been a giant bull's-eye painted on Fort Fisher, the big sand fort down the Cape Fear River from Wilmington. But standing on the ramparts was a fearsome piece of artillery called the Armstrong rifled cannon.

This Big Bertha of a gun was trimmed in rosewood and brass, but beneath its beauty was a state-of-the-art artillery piece that could throw a 150-pound shell five miles with deadly accuracy.

## North Carolina Wants Famous Gun to Remain in Tarheel State

**T**o the U.S. military, it is a prized artifact and a trophy of war. To Josephus Parker, it is a reminder of battlefield valor displayed by brave men in blue and gray.

On loan to the Fort Fisher historic site from the U.S. military since 2004, the 16,000-pound Armstrong gun at its time a fearsome state-of-the-art artillery piece is due for return to West Point, N.Y.

To Parker, a retired Federal Express carrier now living in Ivanhoe, about 25 miles from Wilmington, the gun's pending departure is an abomination.

"They're not doing what is just and right for the people," said Parker, a documented descendant of three Confederate soldiers and

commander of the Gen. William MacRae Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

"The Armstrong gun does not belong to West Point but to the people of the United States," Parker wrote in a letter to President Bush on Dec. 12, 2004. "(It) should be located where it would do the most good for the most people."

He is not alone. Other North Carolina descendants of men who fought in gray echoed Parker's sentiments.

The Armstrong gun, a rifled cannon, was built by Sir William Armstrong & Co. during the war between the states and found its way to Fort Fisher, historians say, by arrangements between the Crown and Confederate President Jefferson Davis.



This area at Fort Fisher was similar to that where the Armstrong Gun was captured by Federal forces in January 1865.

The Yankees fired 40,000 shells at Fort Fisher before launching a massive amphibious assault. Three months later, the war was over and the Yankees eventually went home, taking our gun with them.

A personal aside: My great-great grandfather was an artilleryman at Fort Fisher. He was dead by the time of the battle but, being my kinsman, he likely spent a fair amount of time polishing the gun. My family did a lot of that throughout U.S. military history.

The Armstrong gun, made in England and sent to Jefferson Davis by Queen Victoria, ended up on Trophy Point at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. There it sat, being gloated over as a spoil of war by generations of cadets. I don't want to think about what

other indignities the noble gun may have suffered because tradition has it cadets court their sweethearts at Trophy Point. It's enough to give Granny Mahalia a case of the vapors.

North Carolina history buffs, taking the Yankees at their word that the war was over and all was forgiven, began asking for the gun several years ago. They were essentially told, "Finders keepers, losers weepers, Johnny Reb."

Then with a straight face, state officials said, "Hey, y'all, we've got the 140th anniversary of the battle coming up, so could we borrow (wink-wink) our big gun for just 15 months?"

They said yes. Heh, heh, heh.

So for the past year, the Armstrong gun has been where it belongs, educating visitors at Fort Fisher.

Now the Yankees want it back. They say they won the war so they should get to keep the stuff they stole. Southern history buffs say that instead of being a trophy at some Yankee Lovers Lane, it should be respectfully displayed at the only place it ever saw action.

I look at it like this. It was ours, they stole it and now we have it again. End of discussion. If the Yankees want it back, they better pack a lunch and bring a crowd.

It may take awhile.

*-Raleigh News & Observer*

Specially built 150-pound shells found their mark at a distance of five miles when fired from the muzzle-loader.

John McElroy, a U.S. Army cavalryman, described it in a memoir as "the finest piece of ordnance ever seen in this country."

"The carriage was rosewood and the mountings gilt brass," he wrote in an 1879 memoir. "The breech of the gun had five reinforcements."

The gun was neither pretty nor powerful enough, however, to stop the advance of Union armies at Fort Fisher on Jan. 15, 1865, when accounts say the Confederacy ran short of the special shells.

The gun was transported to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

**See Gun, Page 6**



## Stonewall

However, these wooden warships avoided action when the well-armed and armored *Stonewall* put to sea on 24 March. After calling at Lisbon, Portugal, the Confederate ironclad crossed the Atlantic, reaching Havana, Cuba, in May.

As the Civil War had then ended, she was turned over to Spanish Authorities.

In July 1865, the Spanish delivered *Stonewall* to the United States Government. She was laid up at the Washington Navy Yard, D.C., for the next two years, and then sold to Japan. In Japanese service, she was initially named *Kōtetsu* and, after 1871, *Azuma*.

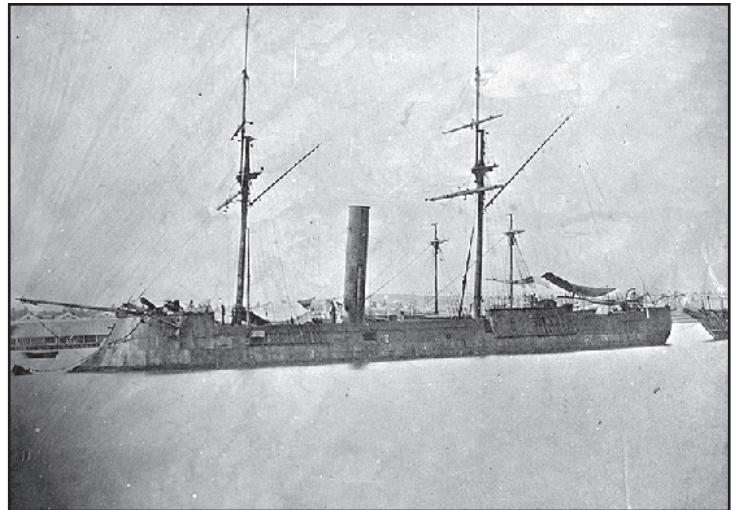
The *Kotetsu* was the first ironclad warship of the Imperial Japanese Navy. She had a decisive role in the Naval Battle of Hakodate in May 1869, which marked the end of the Boshin War, and the complete establishment of the Meiji Restoration.

*Kotetsu* was supposed to be delivered to the Bakufu in 1868, in order to reinforce the ongoing modernization of its army and navy. \$30,000 had already been paid, and the remaining \$10,000 were to be paid on delivery.

When the Boshin War between the Bakufu and pro-Imperial forces broke out however, Western powers took a neutral stance, retrieved any military advisors they had in Japan, and stopped the delivery of military material, including the delivery of *Kotetsu* to the Bakufu.

*Kotetsu* was finally delivered to the new Meiji government in February 1869. She was immediately put to use and dispatched with seven other steam warships to the northern island of Hokkaido, to fight the remnant of the Shogun's forces, who were trying to form an independent Ezo Republic there, with the help of French ex-military advisors.

On March 25, 1869, in Miyako Bay, *Kotetsu* successfully repulsed a surprise night attempt at boarding by the rebel Kaiten, essentially thanks to the presence on board of a Gatling gun.



The *Stonewall* didn't see much action against Yankee forces, but later was used to back the Meiji government in Japan.

She then participated in the invasion of Hokkaido and various naval engagements in the Naval Battle of Hakodate.

*Kotetsu* was renamed *Azuma* in 1871 and remained in military service until 1888, when she was turned to non-combat harbor service. She was broken up in 1908.

*Kotetsu* was well-armed with casemated rotating turret guns and well-armored, and considered a "formidable" and "unsinkable" ship in her time. She could sustain direct hits without her armour being pierced, and prevail against any wooden warship.

In effect, Japan was thus equipped with advanced ironclad warships only 10 years after the launch of the first ocean-going ironclad warship in history, the French Navy's *La Gloire*, launched in 1859.

-Wikipedia.org

## Devastation

The tour features stops at Congaree Creek in Cayce, Columbia Mill ruins inside Riverbanks Zoo and Garden, and the granite abutments of the burned Saluda River Bridge, also in Riverbanks Zoo and Garden.

Tickets for the bus tour are \$10 per person. That evening, a gospel concert of period music by McGowan's Band will be held in the State Museum auditorium, beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

To obtain tickets for the bus tour or gospel concert, contact Linda Byrum at (803) 898-4922 or [linda.byrum@museum.state.sc.us](mailto:linda.byrum@museum.state.sc.us).

Also during the day, the Columbia Mills Building at 301 Gervais St. features a full day of activities, including a Civil War relic show (co-sponsored by the Palmetto Relic Club), living history, museum tours and youth art show.

A symposium will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with presentations by Joe Long, curator of history at the Confederate Relic Room & Museum, on General Wade Hampton; Dr. David Aiken from the College of Charleston on his recent book "A City Laid Waste" about the burning of Columbia; Dr. Steve Bower of Fort Jackson on Sherman's military strategy; Harts Battery on Union and Confederate uniforms and arms; Martha VanSchaik on women in the Confederacy; Vennie Deas-Moore on black South Carolinians pre- and post-February 1865; and readings from Dr. James Kibler,

Jr., from his book "Poems From Scorched Earth."

Dr. David Thompson, professor of music at Limestone College will be playing piano music from the civil war era throughout the day.

Neil Rose, a respected relics appraiser from Camden, will be on hand to give free appraisals on Civil War-era-and-earlier artifacts.

There is no admission charge for these activities.

The weekend begins at 7 p.m. Feb. 17 with the unveiling at the Seibels House of the painting *Sherman's Army Crossing the Saluda River*.

Commissioned by the Greater Columbia Civil War Alliance, the painting shows Union troops crossing the Saluda on Feb. 16, 1865.

Artist John W. Jones of Columbia used an illustration drawn by a reporter traveling with Sherman's army to capture this historically accurate event.

### Membership Help Line

For complete assistance in all aspects of membership & recruiting contact:

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(803) 781-1836

# Texas Civil War Museum Opens Just Outside Fort Worth

After two decades collecting Civil War treasures, Texas oilman Ray Richey finally reached a turning point.

"Either build a third storage building or a museum," said Richey, 50. "Or I could quit collecting, which was not an option."

Richey went with the museum, an expansive building just a short walk from his office on the western outskirts of Fort Worth. But the Texas Civil War Museum, which opened to the public Jan. 25, is more than just his huge stockpile.

Richey partnered with the United Daughters of the Confederacy, whose Texas collection was displayed in Austin from 1904 to 1988. The UDC had been seeking a permanent home for their artifacts since being uprooted by renovation of the State Capitol.

"This is just a proud time for us because we've waited so long for it," said Deena Harrison Dark of the UDC.

Richey calls himself a "C-plus" history student who had little interest in the subject until he and his wife Judy came face to face with history during a trip to Washington, where they visited the Smithsonian. He later purchased some muskets at a gun show in Richmond, Va., the start of a collection that has ballooned over 21 years.

The Richeys call their museum the culmination of a dream.

Fascination with the all-American conflict, boosted by its centennial in the 1960s and Ken Burns' PBS television documentary in the 1990s, shows no sign of letting up, historian Steven E. Woodworth said.

"If a private person is going to own a lot of Civil War memorabilia or artifacts, I think this is the right thing to do with it: Put it on display, allow the public to look at it and scholars to look at it," said Woodworth, a Texas Christian University history professor and prolific author whose books include "Jefferson Davis and His Generals" and "Davis and Lee at War."

Richey built the spacious museum on property he owned at a cost of about \$2 million. His collection alone, an estimated 65 percent of which is on display, is insured for \$3 million.

"The firearms are not my favorite. You have to have them because that's what they used to kill each other," he said. "I like the personal items, the flags. That's what the boys fought for."

Among the most heart-rending is the bloodstained New Testament recovered from Confederate Pvt. Julius T. Sawyer of Georgia, who was killed at the Battle of Olustee, Fla., on Feb. 20, 1864.

Another of Richey's favorites is the Confederate battle flag Pvt. Charles P. Matthews sneaked under his shirt at his unit's surrender

and brought home to Texas. A photo next to the framed, tattered banner shows an elderly Matthews in 1910, holding the flag in a ramrod-straight pose.

"This is cool, it really is," said Tom Stuart, 53, of Flower Mound, a Civil War re-enactor and museum volunteer who pointed out possible bullet holes in the worn standard.

The museum covers 15,500 square feet and more than 3,000 artifacts that will rotate on exhibit.

Camp gear, muskets and even locks of hair from Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Gen. Robert E. Lee can be seen.

The museum has more than 200 colorful Victorian dresses collected by Judy Richey, 36 of which are on display.

The UDC collection contains more than 60 flags and items from the home front, including a piano that Davis bought for a niece.

The Civil War divided families and dramatically reordered the nation, eliminating the long-held institution of slavery at a cost of more than 600,000 American casualties about 200 times the number killed in the Iraq war.

Like the country in the 1860s, the museum is split: Bright blue uniforms of the Union are encased along the north wall, while the gray or butternut worn by Confederates is aligned along a south wall.

## Gun

tary Academy at West Point, where it has been on display ever since on a promontory high above the Hudson River called "Trophy Point," where other spoils from the Civil War, the American Revolution and the Spanish-American War are on display.

Attempts by North Carolina to have the gun returned to Fort Fisher, the only place where it was ever fired in combat, began at least 25 years ago, state officials said this week.

Parker, according to accounts from himself and others, initiated an attempt to reclaim the gun for North Carolina in 2002. Federal authorities gave what appeared to be an unbending "no," but Parker and his compatriots mostly other SCV members persevered.

For Parker, the issue has deep emotional roots. His great-great uncle, Col. Marion Parker of Enfield, was Chief of Staff for the 30th Infantry Regiment of the Army of Northern Virginia. "I think he got wounded in every battle he was in," Parker said. "It parted his hair the first time he was shot."

Granting the gun to North Carolina was out of the question for the feds, but the possibility of a loan was discussed with state officials. Disheartened that the fight for all-out return had ended, Parker withdrew from activities of the ad-hoc committee that sought the gun.

In 2003 the commanding officer of the U.S. Army's Museum of Military History conceded that the looming 140th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher in 2005 was an appropriate reason for a loan request, and arrangements were made.

That's why the Armstrong cannon has been on display at Fort Fisher for the past year. Officials at West Point say they are glad to have helped, but are anxious for its return, and do not envision any change of position that would see the gun relocated again once they have it in their hands.

"It has been on Trophy Point for 100 plus years on constant display up there, and is utilized by the cadets as part of their educational program," said David Reel, director of the West Point Museum at the U.S. Military Academy. "It belongs to West Point and is part of our national historic landmark."

Reel sympathizes but cannot oblige requests for the gun to remain at Fort Fisher.

"The piece has been at West Point longer than it has been anywhere else, and it has benefited officers of the U.S. Army through the whole duration," he said.

Be that as it may, descendants of Confederate partisans say they wish it wasn't so, although most who were interviewed recognize the Fort Fisher Museum's need to stand by its word.

"I don't think there is anyone that would not like to have that gun stay," said John Alred, a Wilmington engineer whose great-grandfather, 5th Sgt. James H. McMath of the 26th North Carolina, fought and survived the battle of Gettysburg as well as interment at a Union prison camp. "He was captured and served the last five months of the war at Point Lookout."

## In the Confederation

### What's Going On

## Clemson Takes Over Hunley Laboratory

Clemson University trustees Thursday accepted the laboratory that is preserving the Confederate submarine Hunley, along with 82 acres of land, a drydock and a wharf in North Charleston.

The agreement with the city of North Charleston and the private, nonprofit group Friends of the Hunley sets the stage for Clemson University to receive \$10.3 million in state funds to begin its "Restoration Institute," a plan to create a satellite Clemson campus in the Lowcountry.

Under the agreement, Clemson will be required to finish the Hunley's preservation and deliver it to a museum to be built in the region. Failure to meet the milestones in the agreement could cause the property to revert to the city.

Senate President pro tem Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, has been the legislative patron of the Hunley preservation since the vessel was discovered on the seabed near Charleston.

## NAACP Continues Quixotic Flag Quest

The NAACP is pushing to have the Confederate flag removed from State House grounds all together.

Lonnie Randolph, president of the S.C. NAACP, delivered a message to stay in the fight for the hundreds gathered on the State House grounds, "We have the power and if we use it we can change things."

Since 2000, the NAACP has been holding Martin Luther King Day at the Dome. It's an event started to honor the slain civil rights leader, and to protest the Confederate flag flying at the State House.

Though the flag is still flying, and the march has had lower turnout, the organization says its mission still continues to be strong.

Randolph says, "You can't spit on us and tell us it's raining. We know the difference between the two."

Dr. Randolph says the historical significance of the Confederate flag should be offensive to all races.

## Important February Dates to Remember

### Notable Confederate Birthdays

Feb. 2: Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston\*  
Feb. 2: Brig. Gen. Abner M. Perrin, Edgefield District\*  
Feb. 3: Brig. Gen. Nathan G. "Shanks" Evans, Marion  
Feb. 3: Gen. Joseph E. Johnston  
Feb. 6: Maj. Gen. Jeb Stuart\*  
Feb. 6: Maj. Gen. William D. Pender  
Feb. 6: Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon  
Feb. 8: Brig. Gen. Barnard E. Bee, Charleston\*  
Feb. 8: Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell  
Feb. 10: Brig. Gen. William R. Scurry\*  
Feb. 12: Maj. Gen. Robert Ransom, Jr.  
Feb. 16: Maj. Gen. Camille Armand Jules Marie Prince de Polignac  
Feb. 16: Maj. James P. Anderson  
Feb. 18: Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Armistead\*  
Feb. 18: Brig. Gen. James Deshler\*  
Feb. 18: Brig. Gen. Jean Jacques Alfred Alexander\*  
Feb. 20: Brig. Gen. James B. Terrill\*  
Feb. 21: Brig. Gen. Johnson Hagood, Barnwell County  
Feb. 21: Brig. Gen. John H. Winder\*  
Feb. 23: Maj. Gen. Jeremy F. Gilmer  
\*Died in Confederate service

### Coming Events

Feb. 16: Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp meeting, Seawell's  
March 23: Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp meeting, Seawell's

## Hampton

Gen. Wade Hampton Camp compatriot.

The two swords are on display from the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va., where they've been since Hampton's daughter donated them in 1913.

It's unclear why Hampton's daughter presented the swords to the museum, but there's speculation that because items belonging to Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and J.E.B. Stuart were at the museum, she may have felt that because Hampton was of their caliber, his mementos belong there, as well.

The saber Hampton used throughout the war shows signs of being heavily used. The blade shows numerous nicks and scratches, and the scabbard is bent. On at least two occasions Hampton, one of the most celebrated swordsmen of his day, killed Federal soldiers - at Gettysburg and at Fayetteville.

Unlike many soldiers of his era, Hampton chose his weapon based on its usefulness.

"The appearance wasn't important to him, but the functionality was," Long said.

Butler's saber, in comparison to Hampton's, is relatively unscathed. Prior to losing a foot, Butler was said to charge into battle with nothing more than his riding crop.

After recovering following the loss of

his foot, Hampton's three sisters met Butler and presented him with the saber. The inscription on the scabbard of Butler's saber reads: "From the Misses Hampton to M.C. Butler"

Both weapons are inscribed in Spanish with the words "Draw me not without reason; sheath me not without honor"

The McClellan-style saddle on display was designed with the comfort of the horse in mind. Because cavalry troops could be in the saddle for 36 hours or more at a time, saddle makers worked to reduce strain on horses' backs by effectively splitting the saddle in the middle, to relieve pressure.

The McClellan saddle is on loan from the Atlanta History Museum.

The .31 caliber pistol is similar to the gun Hampton wielded at Fayetteville in 1865, and may very well be the same weapon, though Long said the Relic Room hasn't been able to pin that down definitively.

The battalion flag somehow ended up in the war's closing days in Richmond, where it was snatched up by a South Carolinian, who brought it back to the Palmetto State just before the capital fell.

The Relic Room is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and the first Sunday of each month, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.



## Important Dates in the War of Northern Aggression

- Feb. 1, 1861: Texas secedes from the Union.  
Feb. 3, 1865: Some 1,200 Confederates do their best to hold off 5,000 hard-charging Federal troops at Rivers' Bridge, in Bamberg County.  
Feb. 17, 1865: Sherman burns Columbia.  
Feb. 18, 1861: Jefferson Davis named provisional president of the Confederate States of America.  
Feb. 20, 1862: Confederate forces under Col. Thomas Green thump Federals at Valverde, N.M., capturing six artillery pieces and breaking Union lines in one of the westernmost actions of the war.  
Feb. 20, 1864: Brig. Gen. Truman Seymour moved deep into Florida and approached Brig. Gen. Joseph Finegan's 5,000 Confederates entrenched near Olustee. Union forces attacked but were repulsed and soon retreated.  
Feb. 22, 1862: Confederate President Jefferson Davis inaugurated in Richmond, Va., after winning popular vote and securing six-year term.  
Feb. 22, 1864: Nathan Bedford Forrest chases Federal troops from Mississippi with a victory at Okolona, jeopardizing Sherman's Meridian Campaign.  
Feb. 27, 1864: Gen. Joseph Johnston proves up to the challenge, rebuffing Yankee forces at Whitfield County, Ga.

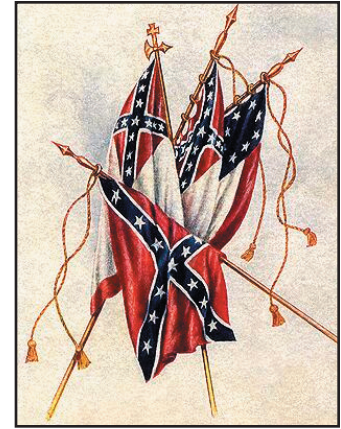
### Words To Remember

"The Army of Northern Virginia was never defeated. It merely wore itself out whipping the enemy."

*-Lt. Gen. Jubal Early*

## Next Camp Meeting

Friday, Feb. 16



7 p.m. at Seawell's  
Restaurant, on Rosewood

### Scripture Thought

"Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name."

*- Psalms 30:4*

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