



THE LEGIONARY

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A Publication of the Sons of Confederate Veterans

LT. GEN. WADE HAMPTON CAMP NO. 273

Columbia, South Carolina ♦ www.wadehamptoncamp.org

Paul C. Graham, Editor

A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHERN MEN

SOUTHERN HERITAGE GROUP, NAACP REMAIN AT ODDS

By Jonathan Battaglia

South Carolina flies the Confederate flag at its capitol.

A tiny square flag on the front lawn of the State House isn't just a piece of cloth to people on either side of an issue that now divides South Carolinians.

In 1962, an all-white legislature voted to place the Confederate flag atop the State House dome, but the legislature decided in 2000 to move the flag in front of the Capitol building. It now stands on a 30-foot pole next to a monument honoring fallen Confederate soldiers.

Despite the compromise, the war of words over the proper place for the flag still rages on. Since 2000, the NAACP has repeatedly voiced its opposition to flying the flag, while others have defended the flag as a sign of Southern heritage.

Donald Gordon, the Division Lt. Commander for the South Carolina Sons of Confederate Veterans, is a supporter of keeping the flag in its current place. For Gordon, the Confederate flag did not have a racial component until the 1960s, when the South was being desegregated.

"The Federal Government did not understand that you could be proud to be a Southerner and not be a racist," said Gordon, a 1969 USC alumnus. "Prior to that, confederate flags were all over the stands at football games. It had nothing to do with white versus black. It had to do with being proud to be a Southerner."

But to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the flag does not symbolize Southern pride. In 1999, they organized a national economic boycott against South Carolina's \$14 billion-a-year tourism industry.

See *FLAG*, Page 3



THE WADE HAMPTON MEMORIAL SERVICE

By Rev. Robert Slimp

The Wade Hampton Memorial Service, which has been sponsored for the past several years by our Camp, will be held at On April 10 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at Keenan Chapel at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Our guest speaker will be Dr. David Aiken, a professor of English who teaches at both The College of Charleston and The Citadel. Dr. Aiken is an authority on Wade Hampton and has written an excellent book on *The Sack and Destruction of Columbia*. In addition to his address, we will have excellent music. Following the formal serviced, we will walk to the grave of Lt. General Hampton, which bears the inscription, "whole hearted, true hearted, faithful and loyal," where a brief memorial ceremony will take place. We are honoring not only a great soldier, but a statesman who the Governor of South Carolina and rescued not only the Palmetto State, but Florida and Louisiana from the continuing horrors of Reconstruction. He also served two terms as the United States Senator from South Carolina.

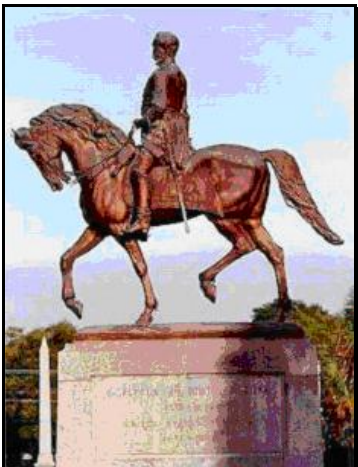
Following the ceremony at the grave, we will walk to his equestrian statue where Confederate reenactors will fire a rifle and an artillery salute to our greatest hero and namesake. The ceremony will end with the sounding of taps and tattoo.

If the weather is good, Wade Hampton direct descendent has invited us to visit the Millwood, Hampton's favorite plantation. Following its burning by the war criminal, General William T. Sherman,

all that remains are the ruins of six Corinthian columns.

Please plan to come to this notable event and invite your friends. This Observance is open to the public and we hope for a large turnout. This is important, because we want everyone in the greater Columbia area to see how we, as members of the SCV, honor our ancestors.

This is a very important event, and we should all participate! ☪



This month, the Pee Dee Rifles Camp will host the 2010 South Carolina Division Convention in Florence, SC. It is an election year and we will be casting votes for division officers as well as vote on a proposed constitutional amendment. The importance of this is that we are electing leadership that will represent the SC division during the Sesqui Centennial Celebration beginning later this year. This event, over the next few years, may bring the SCV back into the national forefront. The decisions made in Florence this month will directly impact how the nation sees our organization. I encourage camp members who can make the trip to Florence on March 26 and 27 to do so. If you have not already registered for the convention and wish to do so, information can be found online at www.tinyurl.com/scscv2010.

One thing that I am especially excited about is the proposed constitutional amendment. Part 1 of the proposed amendment will add two standing committees, the H.L. Hunley JROTC Award Committee and the South Carolina Confederate Veterans Grave Registration Committee. While both of these items have been active in the SCV for some time now, the amendment reaffirms our commitment to promoting and protecting the Confederate soldier's good name.

The HL Hunley JROTC Award is a great way to show the support and respect that the SCV has for our country's future leaders. The award was designed to promote visibility of the SCV in the community as well as having outstanding young JROTC cadets wearing the SCV Medal on their chest for three years.

The SC Confederate Veterans

Grave Registration is a program designed to locate, identify, and document the final resting place of every SC Confederate Veteran buried in the state as well as every SC Confederate Veteran buried outside of the State. This is a daunting task that the division is 100% committed to completing.

These are just two of the many things that the SC Division does that promotes our organization in a positive way. It shows their commitment to the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name and guardianship of his history. I am positive that we are making Stephen Dill Lee and our Confederate ancestors proud.

This month's camp meeting is scheduled for March 18. Our guest speaker will be Aliene Shields from the Wade Hampton Chapter of the UDC. I hope to see you there! ☺

CHAPLAIN'S WITNESS

LARRY BATES

"...this is definitely an event NOT to miss! It is an accurate depiction of what we learn in our Social Studies curriculum."

"...wonderful job all of you do to help our students have a better understanding of this time in history."

"...such an amazing authentic recount of history! The experience was unforgettable, not only for the students but for the teachers/parents as well."

You have just read some quotes from teachers who attended the 2009 Battle for Columbia School Day. Last year our event had 800 students and 18 educational stations, most of them led by SCV members as instructors. This year we have registered about 670 students for the 2010 event. This is not an actual decrease from the previous year. We always try to keep our registration at 600 students. Some years we go over because the final groups to contact us have a large number of students and we do not want to turn anyone away. This year we ended registration in February. Although this year will be the 7th Battle for Columbia, April 30 will mark the 5th school day.

It has been a real pleasure to see the students and teachers come through over the years—to see them excited, happy, and eager to learn in a relaxing and fun environment. The real heroes of School Day are the instructors. They all have some expertise in a particular area of WBTS history. Some are experienced at helping with school days and a few are courageous first timers with a heart to teach kids. All, however, are willing to give of their time

to come out and help. They do a great job and never disappoint!

It is, therefore, not easy for Rusty Rentz and I to ask for a new team to take over School Day for 2011. Both of us have seen our responsibilities on the home front and the job increase in the last couple of years. I have parents who are elderly and more in need of my help on a regular basis. A new team could build on what has been started and improve school day with some new and fresh ideas. We will still be here and help through a transition.

Being in the SCV is not just a reason to get together once a month, eat a meal, and listen to a good speaker. Being a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is an identity. What we do can be stated succinctly: tell the truth about the war and defend the good name of the Confederate soldier. We are neither political, nor do we have an agenda. There are many different opportunities to serve in the SCV—recruiting, holding office, cemetery restoration and upkeep, being a speaker at meetings. There is something for everybody. School Day is one opportunity to assist in educating the youth of South Carolina. The quotes at the beginning of the article attest to that. We hope some Camp members will step up to the plate, not just to help me and Rusty out, but to have a heart to help educate the youth of South Carolina about the Confederate soldier.

Finally, in the last month a few of our Camp members have suffered the loss of a loved one. Christ said, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." Please know we are sorry for

your loss and that we grieve and mourn with you during this difficult time and pray God's blessings upon you and your families. ☹

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

Gentlemen,

As of March 3rd, we have 182 regular paid members and 16 paid associate members. See you at the next meeting and remember, RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER!

-Ricky Badger

CAMP CALENDAR

March 26-27 – SC Division Convention in Florence SC Reception on Friday evening with business meetings on Saturday.

See www.tinyurl.com/scscv2010 for details.

April 10 – BFC Work Day - Sandy Run, SC

April 10 – Wade Hampton Memorial Observance at Trinity Cathedral, Columbia SC

April 17 – BFC Work Day - Sandy Run, SC

April 17 – Columbia Speedway's Racers Reunion. Old Columbia Speedway 2001

Charleston Hwy Cayce SC. The Wade Hampton Camp will have a recruiting booth.

April 24 – BFC Work Day - Sandy Run, SC

April 30 – Reading of the Roll of the Dead on SC's State House steps in Columbia SC. On Friday each Confederate soldier who died during the War of Southern Independence is honored by a solemn bell chime

April 30 – Battle For Columbia Education Day

May 1 – Confederate Memorial Day Observance at Columbia's Elmwood Cemetery and SC State House

May 1-2 – Battle For Columbia, Sandy Run SC

Figures from the NAACP claim to have cost the state an estimated \$500 million since the boycott was enacted. Last summer, the NCAA's Atlantic Coast Conference moved one of its annual championship baseball tournaments from Myrtle Beach.

Gordon claims tourism in the state has actually increased since the boycott.

"They're really discriminating against South Carolina and discriminating against business people," Gordon said. "Their being offended is actually showing their anti-Southern bigotry."

NAACP President Ben Jealous, who gave a speech at Columbia's annual King Day at the Dome Rally last month, called the confederate flag "an act of intimidation and hatred." Gordon said Jealous should realize that the flag is there to remember fallen Confederate soldiers, which included black and white men.

"The NAACP is not the body that society should look to, they should look to the senators and the house members that put the flag there," Gordon said. "For every person that's offended, there's probably two or three that feel good about where it is."

U.S. Senator Chris Dodd, Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have all said they support removing the flag from State capitol grounds in previous trips to South Carolina. In 2007, USC football coach Steve Spurrier said he believes the flag should be removed as well.

Dominique Grate, USC's chapter president for the NAACP, says there can't be any other compromise on the issue other than taking it off the State capitol grounds.

"It is a symbol of heritage, but it's a heritage of racism and bigotry," said

Grate, a second-year African-American and religious studies student. "It doesn't belong in front of the seat of power in our state."

South Carolina is currently the only Southern state with the confederate flag still flying on its capitol's grounds. Since 2000, any legislation to remove the flag from the State House has been defeated.

"If that banner was good enough for them to fight and die for, then it's good enough to stand by as a memorial for the dead soldiers that this state calls to arms," Gordon said. "[The NAACP] ought to just respect our heritage and therefore earn respect from us. We've given them respect, it's now time for them to step up to the plate and go on and quit making this an issue." ☾

Source: *The Daily Gamecock*, 02/09/2010.

SENATOR ROBERT FORD VS. THE NAACP



According to *The State Paper* (25 February 2010), Robert Ford, a Democratic candidate for governor, said that the NAACP's boycott over the Confederate Flag on SC Statehouse grounds is over. According to the article, "Ford cited an upcoming religious convention in Columbia, where 12,000 Methodists from three different branches of the church are meeting. The NAACP has not discouraged the meeting." According to Ford, "The fact that these black (Methodist) churches will come here and spend millions of dollars simply means the NAACP's boycott is officially over. So we can invite the NCAA tournament back."

The NAACP was quick to respond to Ford's proclamation. Rev. Mickey James, president of the Myrtle Beach branch of the NAACP, told *The Post and Courier* that "The only people who can abolish the boycott are those on the national board in Baltimore." Of course, Senator Ford does not speak for the NAACP, but his declaration is, *de facto*, indisputable. If Benedict College and the City of Columbia do not recognize the boycott (See *The Legionary*, December 2009) and the black churches cited above do not view it as a barrier to having their convention here, of what force is it?

Rather than go into detail with regard to the NAACP response and the "bob

and weave" of those people who say they support the boycott, yet defy it, I thought I might treat you to a rare glimpse of sanity in politics. Robert Ford, unlike his adversaries, is actively involved in encouraging respect and mutual toleration. Where does this mutineer stand with regard to those of us with roots in the Confederacy? The following is extracted from Senator Ford's web site, www.robertfordforgovernor.com:

African-Americans aren't the only people on this planet. Therefore, it makes no sense for anyone not to try to understand his fellow man. In the South, we have our white brothers and sisters and some of them embrace and love their Confederate heritage just as much as African-Americans embrace and love their ties to African cultures.

In South Carolina and the other Southern states the heritage of some white people is centered on the Confederacy. As a black person and a black senator, who wants to be a great state senator, not to work with white senators who embrace the Confederacy is ridiculous and makes no sense. When you take into account my exposure to the non-violent direction action philosophy it is unimaginable for me to turn my back on anyone, no matter who they might be.

In the South Carolina General Assembly there are 46 senators and 124 state house members. In the Senate there are only nine black senators and in the State House there are 26 African Americans. Now how can any of the African-American legislators be successful if they don't try to work with their white counterparts and men and women who embrace the Confederacy?

Speaking of the Confederacy and slavery, I must point out that in 1816 a black man named Denmark Vesey bought his freedom after he won a large amount of money in the

lottery in Charleston. Once Vesey became a free man one of the first things he did was to purchase slaves. At one point, Vesey had 51 slaves working for him. As you know, Vesey led a failed slave revolt and was hanged in 1822.

Also there were many, many slave owners and not all of them were white. Some were black. So my detractors and African-Americans who so much want to live in the past should be careful because they might find out that their ancestors also owned slaves. If so, they must accept history for history's sake and move on.

No one has a right to be angry with anyone who loves their ancestors because many of our ancestors, I am sure, did a lot of bad things to a lot of people. We must embrace each other as brothers and sisters and people of God. We must accept each other, the good and the bad and move forward. This is the only civilized thing to do. This is what our good Lord would have us do.

If anyone spent five minutes of their time to contrast the position of the NAACP and others who go out of their way to slander the good name of our ancestors with the position of Senator Ford, I think it would be abundantly clear to any honest person who the "haters" and "racists" are.

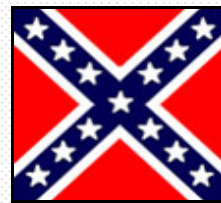
Thank you, Senator Ford, for reminding all of us that we can, in fact, "all get along," and that the ongoing flag drama is unnecessary, counterproductive, and needs to end.

Editor's Note: The foregoing is not a political endorsement of the Wade Hampton Camp or the SCV. It is, however, nice to have something positive to say with regard to this tedious & tiresome issue for a change.... As always, we report, y'all decide! ☾

Important Dates in *The Cause for Southern Independence*:

- Mar. 2, 1861: Texas is admitted into the Confederacy. At Galveston, the Federal Revenue Cutter *Henry Dodge* is seized by Texas State Troops.
- Mar. 4, 1861: Lincoln is inaugurated president, and newspaper editorials in the South proclaim that this means war.
- Mar. 11, 1861: The Confederate Congress unanimously adopts the Constitution of the C.S.A.
- Mar. 16, 1861: Jefferson Davis arrives in Montgomery, AL to accept the post of Provisional President of the newly organized C.S.A.
- Mar. 4, 1862: Confederate troops enter Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- Mar. 6, 1862: The Battle of Elkhorn Tavern (Pea Ridge) commences.
- Mar. 9, 1862: Battle of the *Monitor* and the CSS *Virginia* in Hampton Roads, VA
- Mar. 18, 1862: Judah P. Benjamin appointed Confederate Secretary of State.
- Mar. 17, 1864: Confederate forces attack Federal occupied Corpus Christi, TX.
- Mar. 22, 1864: After a heavy snowfall in Richmond, Confederate soldiers engage in a grand snowball fight.
- Mar. 24, 1864: Confederate Cavalry under Gen. N.B. Forrest, captures Union City, TN.
- Mar. 13, 1865: President Davis signs legislation allowing Negroes in the Confederate Army. Gen. Lee acts promptly and soon black troops are seen in Confederate uniforms in Richmond.
- Mar. 21, 1865: The Battle of Bentonville concludes. It was the last significant effort to halt Sherman's advance.
- Mar. 29, 1865: Appomattox campaign begins. Near Petersburg, VA, there is heavy fighting near the junction of Boynton & Quaker roads.

Next Camp Meeting
THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH
6 O'CLOCK P.M.



SEAWELL'S
RESTAURANT
1125 Rosewood Drive
Columbia, SC

SPEAKER

Aliene Shields

TOPIC

"The Miracle of Private
 Thomas M. Shields"

Y'ALL COME!!!

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