



# THE LEGIONARY

APRIL, 2023

A Publication of the Sons of Confederate Veterans

Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp No. 273

Columbia, South Carolina ♦ [www.wadehamptontcamp.org](http://www.wadehamptontcamp.org)

Charles Bray, Acting Editor

## A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHERN MEN

### COMMANDERS CORNER

CHARLES D. BRAY III

Compatriots, by the time you receive this month's Legionary the cutoff for the State House Rally will have passed. I am pleased that the Wade Hampton Camp will be well represented and I feel our efforts in support of pending legislation to save "ALL" historic monuments, plaques, etc. will have a positive impact.

One good piece of news is **the South Carolina House has just approved sending a resolution to memorialize the United States Congress to vote against removal of the Confederate memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.** This resolution was passed by the House 06-Apr-2023. Hopefully other states will follow our example and send their resolutions asking Congress to save the Arlington monument.

**Please RSVP if you will be attending the Thursday, April 20, 2023, monthly camp meeting.** The camp has to provide Seawall's a number of members attending so they may prepare food and set up the facility for our celebration. If we do not receive a positive response from you, we will have to estimate the number attending. Should our estimate be too high and fewer members attend we will incur the cost of those who do not attend.

Our speaker this month will be Wade Hampton Camp member Tim Manning. Compatriot Manning's topic will be "William Paul Roberts" the youngest Confederate general.

### 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.

**Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee,**

Commander General,  
United Confederate Veterans,  
New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906



### **Recruit, Recruit, Recruit**

**Individuals Interested in joining the Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp 273 should contact.**

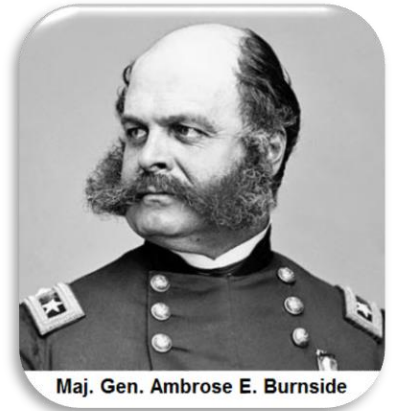
**Compatriot Bryan Pittman**

**Phone (803) 608-8813 / E-Mail [bpittman3@hotmail.com](mailto:bpittman3@hotmail.com)**



This Month, on April 19, 1862 out-numbered Confederate defenders of South Mills North Carolina foiled the much larger Union forces bent on denying Confederate naval access to Albemarle Sound.

The Battle of South Mills, occurred in Camden County on 19 Apr. 1862 at the south end of the Dismal Swamp Canal. Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside sought to blow up the locks of the canal at South Mills. He hoped to prevent the Confederates



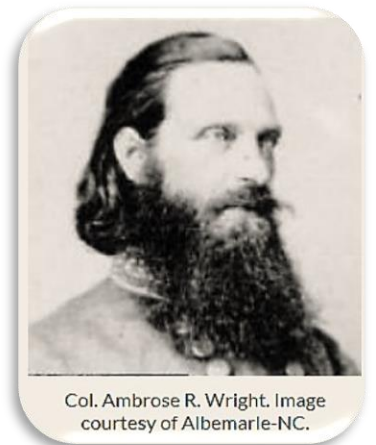
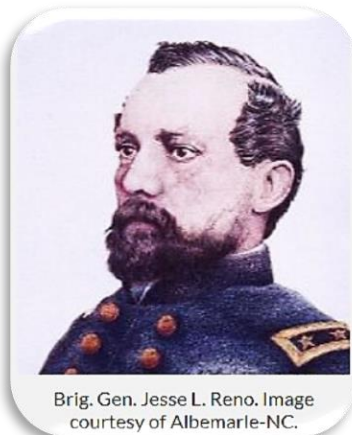
from passing their small ironclad gunboats through the canal to Albemarle Sound and threatening Union forces in the region. Burnside mounted an expedition in cooperation with Federal gunboats to move up the Pasquotank River. Brig. Gen. Jesse L. Reno commanded the expedition of 3,000 men.

Soon after midnight on the morning of 19 April, Reno's force landed about four miles below Elizabeth City. Local Confederates, led by Col. Ambrose R. Wright, had prepared for the enemy. They dug a ditch across the road with marsh woodland at each end, then filled it with wood from fences and buildings and set it on fire to block the Union's movement. This ditch, known as "the roasted ditch," is still extant.

Wright, commanding 900 men, stationed five companies and three guns in a ditch crossing the road on which Reno was advancing. Reno's troops arrived late in the morning and deployed for attack.

Wright's outnumbered men held off the Union force for four hours, until they had exhausted their ammunition. Wright fell back and assumed another defensive position, but Reno's men were too shaken and exhausted to follow.

Reno himself was troubled by inaccurate rumors of massive Confederate reinforcements assembling at Norfolk and abandoned the expedition, returning that night to the Federal ships below Elizabeth City. In the engagement, Reno lost 13 killed, 101 wounded, and 13 missing. Wright lost 6 killed, 19 wounded, and 3 captured.



## CHAPLAINS WITNESS

WALTER LINDLER

***"He is not here; for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where he lay" (Matthew 28:6 ESV).***

Let me encourage you to not let go of the Resurrection Celebration so quickly. Easter has passed; we are back to work; and the kids will soon be back to school. Things will now go back to "normal".

Yet, those of us who have surrendered to the saving work and lordship of Jesus Christ have been changed forever. We do not live by resurrection power only on one day of the year. We are encouraged to go forward with boldness and the power of the resurrection every day of our lives. It is easy to fall into the mundane routine of things and to forget all of the benefits of what the Lord has done for us. But, let's make a point to battle. Let's resolve to fight against the urge to fall into mundanity.

We have so much for which to be thankful (almost sounds like a cliché, and yet it is true); we have spiritual comfort in this life; and we have great promises for the age to come. If the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through the Spirit who dwells in you (Romans 8:11); but, if by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live (Romans 8:13); because God's love has been poured into our hearts (Romans 5:5); and The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Rom 8:16). Move forward in the Spirit! Christ was not in that tomb on the Third Day. He is risen. Likewise, we are no longer in the tomb. We are not in the pit of despair. For if we have been united with Him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Rom 6:5).

Now, let's obey the Resurrection mandate to, "Go and tell." Go to work, go to school, go to the store, go to the post office—wherever you go—go forth in the power of the Spirit of Life, and tell others (whenever the opportunity arises) that they can experience the very same blessings.

***O God of the Last Supper, God of the Cross, and God of the Empty Tomb. We come before you now and we pause. We inhale the scent of snow white Easter lilies. We see the rain as it falls in veils and sheets of April showers. We listen. Holy Week has passed, but how we long to live by the marvelous story we have heard. Let us remain ever beside you at the table of the Last Supper. Show us who is hungry. Give us the courage to offer them bread from your table. Show us who is thirsty, and give us the strength to lift up the cup of your love. Most of all, show us how to linger at the table, serving others—doing ALL that we do in remembrance of You, and the way You were when You walked this earth. We lift these simple, limited words Up to you, O God. Amen***



**Chaplains Prayer List:** Please remember our camp compatriots and their family members who are having health problems or have lost a loved one in your prayers.



**Pray for our  
Nation, State,  
Communities and  
First Responders.**



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

If you are thinking about attending meetings at any of the listed camps, ***I recommend you check with a member you know and verify the meeting date and location is still valid.***

Event	Date	Contact / Web Site
John M. Kinard Camp 35	May 3, 2023	Meets 7:00 PM <b>1st Wednesday of the Month</b> – Hawg Heaven – Hwy. 76, Prosperity, SC



Palmetto Camp 22	May 4, 2023	Meets 6:30 PM <b>1st Thursday of the Month</b> – Cayce Museum, 1800 12 <sup>th</sup> Street, Cayce, SC
SC 17 <sup>th</sup> Regiment Camp 2069	April 17, 2023	Meets 7:00PM <b>Third Monday of the Month</b> – 6822 Barnwell Rd. Hilda, SC
15 <sup>th</sup> Regt. S.C. Volunteers Camp 51	April 25, 2023	Meets 6:30 PM <b>Last Tuesday of the Month</b> – Lizards Thicket – 4616 Augusta Rd. Lexington, SC
Gen. Paul Quattlebaum Camp 412	April 25, 2023	Meets 7:00 PM <b>Last Tuesday of the Month</b> – Shealy's BBQ – 340 East Columbia Ave., Batesburg-Leesville, SC



## Quote: Woodrow Wilson – 28<sup>th</sup> U. S. President

*America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness, which are derived from Holy Scripture. Ladies and gentlemen, I have a very simple thing to ask of you. I ask of every man and woman in this audience that, from this night on, they will realize that part of the destiny of America lies in their daily perusal of this great Book of revelations. (The Bible) That if they would see America free and pure they will make their own spirits free and pure by the baptism of Holy Scripture.*



## Tale of Two Black Seamen



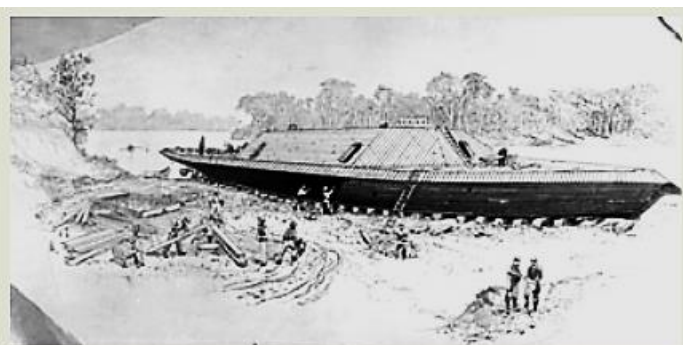
**CSA Major General  
Robert Frederick Hoke**

In early 1864 Brigadier-General Robert F. Hoke was tasked with liberating the enemy-occupied and fortified town of Plymouth on the Roanoke River in northeastern North Carolina. He began formulating his attack with the naval assistance of the still-incomplete ironclad ram *CSS Albemarle*, which was literally built in a cornfield well upriver from Plymouth.

The unfinished ship had its steam up at early dawn on April 18<sup>th</sup> and departed for Plymouth with final construction still ongoing. The *Albemarle* was instrumental in the enemy's defeat as it bombarded forts with its 6.4-inch pivot-mounted Brooke guns while Hoke's brave North Carolinians surrounded and rushed the enemy.

At least one of the black crew members on the ironclad was free-

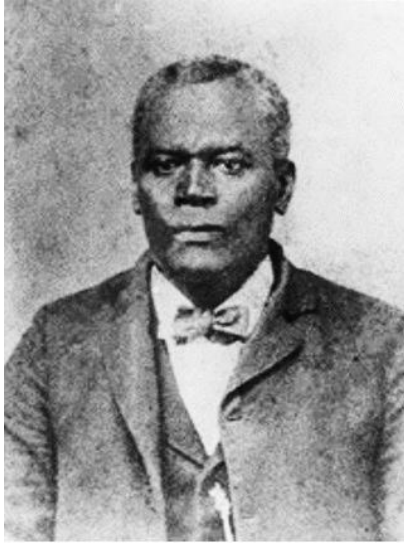
black teenager Benjamin H. Gray of Bertie County who was first assigned to the Wilmington Squadron warships and detached in the Spring of 1864 to the *Albemarle*. His position aboard was carrying bags of gunpowder to the two Brooke guns from the lower magazine. This was not unusual as free-black



"The Albemarle under construction." From the General Negative Collection, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC., Call #: N\_51\_11\_3.

crewmembers were common on Southern vessels; the *CSS Chicora* at least three black men serving aboard as well as the raider *Alabama*.

Ship's carpenter Edward Walsh served on a long string of blockade runners operating between Wilmington and Bermuda. He was captured on the runner *Elsie* and sent to prison at Baltimore, and after his release made his way to Halifax where he signed aboard the runner *Constance*, then back to Wilmington where he joined the crew of the runner *Annie*. By the end of the war, he had run the blockade 16 times, had two ships sunk under him, and was aboard two captured by the enemy.



**Benjamin Gray**

Courtesy of Port O' Plymouth Museum,  
Plymouth, NC

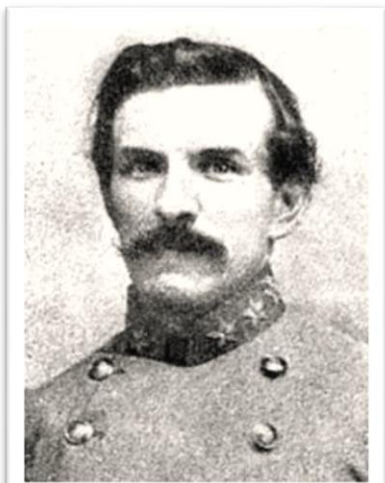
Dr. Edward Smith of American University has estimated that by February 1865, 1150 free-black seamen served aboard Southern warships, which amounted to about 20 percent of total naval personnel. A postwar resident of Bertie County, Gray was a Confederate pensioner; after his death in 1917 his widow Margaret received it.

Sources: (*Bermuda and the Civil War*, C. Diechmann, *Bermuda National Trust*, 2003; NCDNR)

Benjamin Gray was a 12-year-old boy who enlisted in the Confederate Navy in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was appointed powder boy on the famous ironclad *CSS Albemarle*. He was responsible for carrying bags of gunpowder from the magazine to the gun deck. While living in Bertie County in June 1917, he applied for a Confederate pension, which was approved by North Carolina the following month. When Gray died in 1924, his widow was granted a pension for his service.



## **Brig. Gen. James Conner** \_\_\_\_\_ (Born September 1, 1829, Died June 26, 1883)



**Brig. Gen. James Conner**

James Conner was born on September 1, 1829, in Charleston, South Carolina. Conner was Presbyterian and remarked that he identified with "Ulster" which was an archaic name for what is today known as Northern Ireland. Conner was born in Charleston, as were both of his parents, all four of his grandparents were Presbyterians of Scottish descent from Ballymena, Ireland in what is today Northern Ireland. After graduating from that state's College in 1849, he studied law and practiced it in Charleston. In 1856, he was appointed United States district attorney and served in this office until 1860. Conner authored *The History of a Suit at Law* (1857). He prosecuted the famous case against the slave ship *Echo*. He also prosecuted a member of William Walker's filibustering effort. Conner was a secessionist and supported the calling of a secessionist convention. Although he was a member of the convention, he did not vote on the ordinance of secession.

James Conner participated in the bombardment of Fort Sumter as a captain of the Montgomery Guards, a South Carolina militia unit. At the beginning of the Civil War, he declined an appointment as a district attorney for the Confederacy. Instead, he became a captain in the Hampton Legion and fought at the Battle of First Bull Run (First Manassas), taking temporary command of the legion after Colonel Wade Hampton was wounded. On July 21, 1861, Conner was appointed major of Hampton's Legion. After the Battle of Seven Pines during



the Peninsula Campaign, he took command of the 22nd North Carolina Volunteer Infantry Regiment. During the Seven Days Battles, his leg was broken by a rifle ball during the Battle of Gaines Mill. After a two-month recovery period, he returned to lead his regiment at the Battle of Chancellorsville and the Battle of Gettysburg.

He resigned his command on August 13, 1863, and became a member of the military court of the 2nd Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. Returning to field command in 1864, Conner was promoted to brigadier-general on June 1, 1864. He temporarily commanded the brigades of Brig. Generals Samuel McGowan and James H. Lane consecutively during the opening months of the Siege of Petersburg. He then led Major-General John B. Kershaw's former brigade during the Shenandoah Valley Campaigns of 1864. Six days before the main battle, Conner was severely wounded during a skirmish at Cedar Creek (Fisher's Hill) and he lost a leg to amputation which effectively ended his Confederate States Army field service, although his service record shows an assignment to General Joseph E. Johnston's command on February 25, 1865. There is no record of his parole.

Returning to his native state after the war, he took up his law practice and entered politics, allying himself with his old commander, Wade Hampton, and was elected state's attorney general. He later died in Richmond, Virginia. James Conner was buried in Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, S. C.



Brig. Gen. James Conner  
Magnolia Cemetery  
70 Cunningham Ave., Charleston, South Carolina



## No Troops from North Carolina



In mid-April 1861, President Abraham Lincoln himself raised an army – which only Congress may accomplish – for the purpose of waging war against South Carolina. The United States Constitution, Article III, Section 3 states that “Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving the Aid and Comfort.” Lincoln had sworn to defend and uphold the Constitution, a document better understood by the North Carolina governor.

“Mr. Lincoln took his seat as President on March 4, 1861. He did not receive an electoral vote in any Southern State and out of a popular vote of 2,804,560 only 1,857,610 were cast for those electors favorable to him. He carried but 16 of the 33 States then in the Union. He was inaugurated as president without having received a majority of the popular vote either of the States or the people.

An attempt by President Lincoln to reinforce the US garrison at Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, was resisted by the Confederate forces under General Beauregard, and on April 14, 1861, after a bombardment lasting thirty-six hours, the fort surrendered.

On the next day, April 15, President Lincoln issued his proclamation calling on the several States to finish their quota of 75,000 troops “to suppress



U.S. Secretary of War  
Simon Cameron

combinations too powerful for the law to contend with.” The same day, Secretary of War Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania, telegraphed North Carolina Governor John W. Ellis: “Call made on you tonight for two regiments of militia for immediate service.”

Reclining on his couch in the executive office, a mortal disease robbing him of his life’s blood, Governor Ellis received the dispatch and at one replied:

“Sir: I regard the levy of troops made by the Administration for the purpose of subjecting the States of the South, as in violation of the Constitution and a gross usurpation of power. I can be no party to this wicked war upon the liberties of a free people. You can get no troops from North Carolina.”

Governor Ellis at once issued his proclamation calling the Legislature to meet in special session. On its assembling, the Legislature issued a call for a convention of the people and authorize the enrollment of 20,000 volunteers.”

*(An Address on the Services of General Matt W. Ransom, William H.S. Burgwyn, delivered in the North Carolina Senate Chamber before the Ladies Memorial Association and citizens, May 10, 1906)*



## Bishop William Elder



One of the most faithful practitioners of civil disobedience to Federal rule during *The War of Northern Aggression* was Roman Catholic Bishop William Elder (1819-1904) of St. Mary’s Cathedral in Natchez, Mississippi.

Elder was appointed on January 9, 1857, by Pope Pius IX to succeed James Oliver Van de Velde as bishop of the Diocese of Natchez. He was consecrated in the cathedral of Baltimore by Archbishop Francis Kenrick on May 3, 1857. The diocese comprised the entire state of Mississippi.

On the eve of the American Civil War, Elder wrote to his father:  
*It is hard to tell what is to be the fate of the country. I have not enough of political sagacity to see what will be the course of events, nor what would be the fruit of the remedies proposed. We can all unite in praying to God to guide and protect us.*

Elder celebrated Mass for the wounded and ministered to soldiers and freedmen gathered in Natchez. He sent priests to serve as chaplains in the Confederate States Army and Sisters of Mercy to nurse the sick and wounded, and he gave his blessing to a Natchez volunteer company.

When Federal troops occupied the town of Natchez in July 1863, Bishop Elder refused to swear allegiance to the Union.

For an entire year, the Bishop withstood the demands of Federal officers to include a prayer for the President of the United States in his worship services. One of the Federal officers, General Mason Brayman, remained adamant that Bishop Elder complied with the mandate. In July 1864 he warned the Bishop, “If you are a patriotic and loyal man you will read the prayer with pleasure.” Elder again declined. In his diary he noted that “the consequences of refusing were in God’s hands.” Brayman later exiled Elder to Vidalia, Louisiana.

Two weeks later, General Lorenzo Thomas, Brayman’s senior, heard of the Bishop’s plight and ordered that Elder be returned to Natchez and absolved him from having to deliver the coerced prayer.

## ***Important Dates in Lincoln's War to Prevent Southern Independence***

- Apr. 25, 1861 **Indianola, Saluria & Fort Stockton, Texas** – US Army posts at Indianola and Saluria surrendered to the Texas authorities. Fort Stockton surrendered to the Texas authorities. Confederate Colonel Earl Van Dorn claimed 450 US Army prisoners at Saluria under the command of Major Caleb C Sibley.
- Apr. 27, 1861 **Richmond, VA** – On this date the Virginia Convention invites the Confederate government to make Richmond the seat of government.
- Apr. 12, 1862 **Gibraltar** - Commander T. A. Craven of USS *Tuscarora* reported that the commerce raider CSS *Sumter* had been abandoned at Gibraltar after USS *Tuscarora* had closely blockaded the ship in the port. In a spectacular but abbreviated career aboard CSS *Sumter*, Captain Raphael Semmes had captured 18 vessels to an estimated value of \$1,000,000.
- Apr. 19, 1862 **Plaquemines Parish, LA** - The Union mortar schooner USS *Maria J Canton*, Acting Master Charles E Jack, was sunk by exceptionally accurate fire from Fort Jackson.
- Apr. 15, 1863 **Coast of Brazil** – On this date the CSS *Alabama* captures two U.S. whalers off the coast of Brazil.
- Apr. 25, 1863 **Indianola, Saluria & Fort Stockton, Texas** – US Army posts at Indianola and Saluria surrendered to the Texas authorities. Fort Stockton surrendered to the Texas authorities. Confederate Colonel Earl Van Dorn claimed 450 US Army prisoners at Saluria under the command of Major Caleb C Sibley.
- Apr. 30, 1864 **Richmond, VA** – On this date Joe Davis, son of C.S. President Jefferson Davis, is killed at Richmond.
- Apr. 14, 1865 **Washington, DC** – On this Date President Abraham Lincoln is shot by John Wilks Booth at Ford's theater.

## **April Camp Meeting**



**Thursday, April 20, 2023  
6:00 PM  
Seawell's Restaurant  
1125 Rosewood Drive  
Columbia, S.C. 29201  
Speaker  
Tim Medlin**

WWW.WADEHAMPTONCAMP.ORG



Columbia, SC 29212-8711  
507 Sail Point Way

C/O Adjutant Charles D. Bray III  
A Non-Profit Organization

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