



THE LEGIONARY

APRIL 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

BATTLE FOR COLUMBIA EDUCATION DAY

By Larry Bates

The 2009 *Battle for Columbia School & Education Day* will take place on Friday, May 1, at Culler Farms in Sandy Run. The Gen. Wade Hampton Camp and the Sandy Run Community Association sponsor BFC School Day. This year will be our fourth School Day event. Registration for the event began in early August 2008 and ended in November with about 800 students and 150 teachers and adults registered to attend. The group of students this year will represent 17 schools and one home-school group.

School Day will consist of students touring different educational stations on the War Between the States from 9 am to 2 pm in groups of 40-50. As of now we have 18 different educational stations. Space will not permit a description of each station, but they are of the highest quality with over half being led by SCV members, including Commander Robert Spigner, Lt. Commander Layne Waters, Past-Commander Tommy Rollings, as well as SCV members of other Camps. Some instructors will be coming from as far away as Kentucky and Tennessee to help out for the weekend.

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THE DEFENSE OF SOUTH CAROLINA – 1865

General Sherman's campaign against South Carolina began in late December, 1864. By 9 March 1865, his troops had passed out of the state into North Carolina - leaving behind a path of total destruction 100 miles wide and extending the entire length of the state. The campaign began even before the surrender of Savannah, but due to a swollen Savannah river and harassment by General Wheeler's Cavalry, Sherman's first troops did not cross the river into South Carolina until mid January 1865. He had reported to his superiors that he expected the Carolina march to last 4-5 weeks, but in fact it was late March before his troops passed out of South Carolina into North Carolina.

"We marched backwards all the way to Goldsboro" was how one of the old men who were a part of the S.C. Militia remembered the period. The remnant of the Army of Tennessee, once again under the command of General Joseph E. Johnston, General Wheeler's Cavalry, State Militia units of boys and older men, and various S.C. commands relieved from duty in Virginia in order to protect their own farms, opposed and hindered General Sherman's march at every step.

General Sherman's troops generally regarded the people of South Carolina with contempt. In his journal, dated 26 February 1865, Thomas Osborn of the Federal Artillery gave this

"These men are the most contemptible crowd I have ever seen used as soldiers. Most of them are old, gray headed men, from fifty to sixty-five years of age, many of them have heads as white as snow, and nearly all of them are infirm; there are a few small boys among them. We shall be compelled to parole most of them as they will be unable to march with the Army, and we have not transportation for them. Humanity would demand that these old cripples and little children be all carried in ambulances."

Indeed, the Confederate forces were a motley crew, but they had hearts of steel. The mayor of Columbia reported that "there were not 1,400 able bodied men left in the entire state of South Carolina to defend against General Sherman's march." Indeed, by this time, South Carolina had lost more than 20,000 of her men to the war - fully one third of white males between ages 16-50 having been killed fighting for the independence of the Confederate States.

When they left Savannah, Federal troop strength was 60,000, consisting of the 14th, 15th, 17th, and 20th Army Corps

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Greetings Compatriots,

It looks like spring has finally come to us. Easter has come and gone. Let us remember what that holiday is really about. April is a busy month for the camp. Just about every weekend we will be at the Culler farm cleaning, cutting grass, rebuilding the earthworks—all for your camp's Battle for Columbia. It takes many volunteers to get ready for and put on this wonderful living history. The camp treats kids from local schools to a day filled with many educational stations that teach the true history of the time during the War Between the States. This was the concept from the beginning. I NEED each camp member to contribute to this even in some small way. You have been sent presale tickets. Buy the tickets or sell the tickets. We need help on the Saturday clean-up

days, School Day and on battle weekend. Everyone is NEEDED!!!

The SCSCV is helping camps raise money with the Vidalia Onion sales. As the Division Quartermaster I am responsible for this fund raiser. I have been hearing from camps all over the state about the excitement they have on the money that can be generated from this sales. At the witting of this column I haven't heard from anybody in this camp regarding whether or not they were able to presale these onions. I plan on ordering onions myself and have presold half of them. I will sale them on the side of the road if I have too. I want to raise enough money to help the Battle for Columbia and send at least one young man or woman to the Sam Davis Youth Camp. We need to fulfill the charge given to us by Lt. Gen. Stephen D. Lee.

Also I am moving this camp toward the new age of electronic newsletters. I am asking you to contact me and let me know you are on board in saving the camp money and are willing accept a e-mail version of the newsletter. The electronic copy will be larger and have more information that the printed copy you receive in the mail. You may still go to the Web site to print a hard copy if you prefer. Contact me at AppX3@aol.com to make that change.

Don't forget our April meeting will be given by Hub Clapper and his son James on SC Pee Dee Rifles.

May the glory of our Father in Heaven shine upon you and send you so many blessings that you cannot accept them all. I am always here for you my brothers.

CHAPLAIN'S WITNESS

HOWARD HUGHES

I hope you had a blessed and meaningful Easter.

I have asked *The Legionary* editor to change the name of this monthly column from the "Chaplain's Pulpit" to the "Chaplain's Witness." I'm the last guy in the world who should be in a pulpit preaching to anyone; on the occasions I've given lay sermons I've opted to speak outside the pulpit, which I believe is a special place intended to be used by those with special knowledge or qualifications. However, I am (as are all other Christians and Jews) commanded to witness, so the new title is more appropriate.

This month I have attended more funerals than usual; as of this writing it's been three in the last seven days. One of

the saddest ones I ever attended occurred a few years ago for someone I wasn't particularly crazy about; the only reason I went was because it was mandated through my employment. The presiding minister told the assembled flock that he barely knew the deceased, having met him only a few weeks before his terminal illness took its toll. I'm paraphrasing here, but the pastor said in his homily that he hoped the dear departed finally got his act together with God and his Only Begotten Son before the curtain dropped or someone was going to be in quite a pickle throughout Eternity. While that condition applies to each of us, it couldn't have been soothing in the least for any of the fellow's loved ones. How good and comforting it is to

know that when a brother or sister dies it's because Gabriel has sounded his trumpet calling home another believer.

Nineteenth century American evangelist Dwight L. Moody is credited with saying that well-meaning people are going to one day report that he has died; when that happens, those people are not telling the truth because at that particular time, he is going to be more alive than he has ever been before. The same can be said for any of us who have accepted and acknowledge without ceasing His free gift of Salvation. There's only one alternative, and I want no part of it.

A prior commitment out-of-town will prevent me from being at our April meeting; I hope to see you next month.

DEFENSE

plus a Cavalry Corps of 4,000. Each of the Federal Army Corps consisted equally of about 13,000 men. Throughout the march, each army took a slightly different route in a swath 100 miles wide from Savannah and Beaufort, S.C., to Columbia, then northeast towards Fayetteville, N.C.

The total Confederate troops involved were 33,400, although not all of them were available to defend the state in the early part of the campaign. It is estimated that at most about 5,000 Confederate forces were in the state in early January 1865. The remnants of the Hood's Army were of Tennessee and General Johnston who once again resumed command and led the men from Tennessee to South Carolina. The troops passed

through Augusta in late January, repairing the railroad as they went, and by late January there were approximately 30,000 troops in the mid-state with about 20,000 being fit for battle.

The loss of life both to the Confederate and Federal armies, and the population at large was relatively light in view of the destruction of property. In his report, the Surgeon for the Federal Forces, D. L. Huntington, puts their losses at 106 deaths and 697 wounded. A tally of first-hand accounts indicates a much higher number - something approaching 1,000 deaths. Confederate casualties are unknown for this period. There is a report of some 200 civilians being massacred in the upstate above Columbia, and

something less than 20 killed when Columbia was burned, but the records are virtually non-existent as Sherman burned almost everything in his path. The tallies made by the federal officers would indicate approximately 300 confederate troops died.

Source: Excerpted from *66 Days of Hell* by John C. Rigdon, Eastern Digital Resources.

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John Dangerfield of the Secession #4 Camp in Charleston will bring his replica of the HL Hunley Submarine which he has taken all over the South and as far west as Nevada and California where he has provided demonstrations for school days and re-enactments.

Jack Marlar, SCV National Field Representative, once told me that the SCV is about education and preservation. Having a school day is an excellent way to fulfill the Charge by teaching young students about the Confederate soldier, his honor, courage and sacrifices for a noble Cause. And, to be able to do so on a beautiful 250 acre farm where the students can see history come alive and

learn in a relaxed and fun setting, I think will be an unforgettable day in their lives.

Co-Chairman Rusty Rentz and myself would like to thank BFC Co-Chairmen, John Culler and Tommy Rollings, the Culler family, the Camp Executive Committee, and the Gen. Wade Hampton Camp for their great support of School Day. Rusty and I are also grateful to Dean Stevens of the Palmetto #22 Camp for providing us with some heavy-duty metal signage to identify the different stations.

We ask for your support of BFC School Day by purchasing the pre-sale tickets and attending the main event on

Saturday or Sunday with your family. Your contribution and presence will be both welcome and a big help. I'm sure you will also enjoy the demonstrations, food, music and battle in the afternoon. Additionally, if you are in good health and able to volunteer your time to help with the event on Saturday and Sunday, we need to hear from you, please contact one of the Camp officers, Tommy Rollings, Rusty Rentz or myself. My phone number is 315-3657 and Rusty's is 359-7507 (evenings). We also are in need of borrowing some tables and 10 ft. square tents (no sides) for School Day. Thank you very much and hope to see everybody at the Battle for Columbia.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE BURNING OF COLUMBIA

By Fannie E. Allen

Several thousand women and children, a handful of men, eighty-four squares of beautiful dwellings. Such was Columbia on February 14, 1865. On February 15, General Sherman and an army of sixty thousand men occupied the banks of the Congaree, on the Lexington side, and in two days the city presented the appearance of having passed through a rain of fire.

The shelling of the city commenced early Thursday morning. The shells fell thick and fast, in every direction, the arsenal and State House furnishing conspicuous marks. One fell directly at my mother's feet, but, fortunately, the fuse had been extinguished, and the missile did not explode. The sudden attack and the fear of what was to follow rendered us numb with fear, and we scarcely had power to take ourselves to a place of safety.

Fortunately, my father, just home from the army, although nearly dead with consumption, was with us, and we felt more secure than thousands of others less fortunate.

After an almost sleepless night, we were all startled about daybreak by a loud explosion. Hastily dressing and getting out, we learned that the South Carolina warehouse had been blown up, and the wildest rumors were afloat as to its cause.

The "swish-swish" of the pontoons being laid for the army to cross told us that Sherman intended entering the city at once. In less than an hour afterward the work of

pillage and destruction commenced. Drunken soldiers, the worst corps in the army, had been sent over, accompanied by drunken negroes, staggering around, insulting women and children, and taunting them with their helplessness. Darkness, that which we worst feared, fell, and with it began the crowning deed of all. A blaze was seen a little way off; the fire bell began to ring. Soon another blaze was seen, then another, until the whole town was a mass of flames. Soldiers, now crazy with drink, began to look for something more valuable than food or clothing. Houses were entered, and jewelry, gold and silver, plate—anything of value—was taken. This did not happen in every case. At some house an officer would stop, and that house was generally safe, as the officer would throw a guard around it. Such cases, however, were rare.

As the fire drew nearer our house on Assembly street, we began to move the household effects out. A Yankee soldier, half drunk, came by and, seeing a trunk, wanted to open it. My brother, about fifteen years of age, attempted to stop him, but was silenced with an oath, and the trunk was smashed in and rummaged through.

With our house burned, we would have fared badly, but our neighbor, Mrs. T. B. Clarkson, who came over for protection, with her baby, had the servants to erect a kind of shelter with a few boards, and under this we stopped for the rest of the

night. Sleep was impossible and, half dead with fright, we huddled under these boards, waiting for daybreak.

The scene that greeted our eyes the next day was heart-breaking. On every side, where once there had been handsome dwellings, were nothing but blackened chimneys, and in the streets were women and children, weeping over their homes and not knowing where the food for that day was to come from.

The Taylor house, afterwards known as the Haskell place, for some reason was not destroyed, and, along with several others, we took refuge there. The few men in the city took charge of all the food and established a sort of commissary, where supplies were issued several times a day for several days, until outside supplies were received.

Looking back after all these years, the burning city, with the hundreds of drunken soldiers, the scream of shells, and the discharge of guns, seems like a dream, and my impressions through that awful time are hazy. I have endeavored to give only those facts which were stamped indelibly on my mind at the time.

Source: *South Carolina Women in the Confederacy*. Columbia, SC: The State Company, 1903



FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

Gentlemen, as of April 7th, we have 190 regular paid members and 18 paid associate members.

See you at the next meeting and remember, RECRUTE A NEW MEMBER!

ANNOUNCEMENT & EVENTS

Onion Sales now through 17 April - The onions will be in on April 24th. Camp members can pick up their onions on Saturday the 25th at the BFC site from 9-3 pm.

Camp Meeting- 23 April

12, 19, & 26 April: BFC is asking for help the 3 Saturdays before the event with clean-up.

Battle For Columbia Education Day – 1 May

Battle For Columbia – 2 May – 3 May

Don't Forget to send in your \$\$\$ for BFC Ticket Sales!!!

Important Dates in *Our Second War for Independence*:

April 1861

- 11- Confederates order the surrender of Ft. Sumter at Charleston, SC.
- 12- 4:30 AM, Confederates begin the bombardment of Ft. Sumter.
- 13- Ft. Sumter surrenders to Confederate forces after a 34 hour bombardment.
- 17- Virginia adopts an ordinance of secession in Richmond.
- 19 - Lincoln declares a blockade against the ports of SC, GA, AL, MS, LA, and TX.
- 22 - Franklin Buchanan, commander of the Washington Navy Yard, resigns from the U.S. Navy to join the Confederacy.
- 27 - Federal blockade extended to VA and NC coasts. Virginia Convention invites the Confederate government to make Richmond the seat of government.
- 25 - Seven companies from the 1st, 3rd, and 8th U.S. Infantry Regiments surrender to Van Dorn near Durham Station, NC.

April 1862

- 06 - Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee—the 2nd largest battle of the war. Confederate assault drives back the Federal Army.
- 11 - Federals surrender Ft. Pulaski near Savannah.
- 22 - Confederate raiders capture several Federal vessels in Aransas Bay, TX.

April 1863

- 15 - CSS *Alabama* captures two U.S. whalers off the coast of Brazil.

April 1864

- 30 - Joe Davis, son of C.S. President Jefferson Davis, is killed at Richmond.

April 1865

- 01 - Appomattox Campaign. Battle of Five Forks, southwest of Petersburg.
- 02 - General A.P. Hill is killed near Petersburg.
- 03 - Fall of Richmond and Petersburg.
- 09 - A sad day. Gen. Lee surrenders over 26,000 veterans of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse.
- 10 - Lee issues his final general orders as a soldier, bidding his troops an “affectionate farewell.”
- 14 - U.S. President Abraham Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, DC.
- 26 - Gen. Joseph E. Johnson surrenders the Army of Tennessee near Durham Station, NC.

Next Camp Meeting
Thursday, April 23rd
6:00 p.m.



Seawell’s Restaurant
1125 Rosewood Drive
Columbia, SC

Guest Speaker:
Hub Clapper

Topic:
“SC Pee Dee Rifles”

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