

THE LEGIONARY

November 2006

A Publication of the Sons of Confederate Veterans

Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp #273

Columbia, S.C.

www.wadehamptoncamp.org

"A Fraternal Organization of Southern Men"

State-Sponsored Scalawags Fool Nobody

Newspaper Runs Questionable Letter Railing Against Confederate Flag

What passes for informed discussion in *The State* newspaper very much depends on the viewpoint of the author.

Take, for instance, a letter to the editor which appeared earlier this month. Alan Piercy of Columbia employed 360 words to put forth his view that while he considers the Confederate flag "sacrosanct and beautiful," it's time to take it down because it offends others. Of course, *The State* is only too happy to let this scalawag babble forth because his opinion agrees with the paper's long-standing desire to eradicate the banner.

Now, if *The State* cared one iota about logic, reasoning and intelligence - things you might think a sizeable daily newspaper would be interested in promoting - it would have ensured Mr. Piercy's letter never saw the light of day. It would have buried the letter not because its view is unpopular with many folks, but because it's so poorly thought out.

Consider: In Mr. Piercy's opening paragraph he says "I am as proud a Southerner as you will ever find, and while the banner to me is sacrosanct and beautiful," because it was misused by others later, it's time to remove it from the State House grounds. (Mr. Piercy, of course, fails to mention that hate groups such as the Klan also misused the American flag.)

He continues, "... for the African-American community in South Carolina, some 30 percent of the population, the flag ... represents menacing bands of robed Klansmen - thugs eager to flex their collective muscle, yet too cowardly to show their faces. It represents a system of separate but equal, a concept so full of lies in the Jim Crow South that it would be laughable were it not so tragic. It represents fear and oppression and cruelty."

See Letter, Page 2



A special ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. on Nov. 19 on the State House grounds to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the statue to Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton.

Hampton Camp Will Meet on November 16 at Seawell's

The Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp's next meeting will be Nov. 16 at Seawell's, because our originally scheduled meeting would have fallen on Thanksgiving.

Our speaker will be Kristina Dunn, Education Coordinator for Historic Columbia Society, speaking on South Carolina's Confederate Monuments and Cemeteries.

As most of us in the SCV know, the South is rich with memorials and monuments to our Confederate ancestors. Not only

are there sizeable cemeteries such as Elmwood in Columbia and Magnolia in Charleston with thousands of Confederate veterans, but thousands of smaller sites throughout the state and region also pay tribute to the brave men who donned the gray and butternut in defense of their homeland during 1861-65.

This will be our last meeting of the year and we'll vote on a commander and adjutant for the coming year. Let's make this final meeting of 2006 a strong one.

Elections Loom for Hampton Camp

Letter

Compatriots, this month's meeting will be an important one. It is time again for you to elect a commander and adjutant for the coming year.

Additionally, we'll be looking for a new Legionary editor in January and are seek-

Commander's Corner

Tommy Rollings

ing someone to step up for that very important job.

Audrey Peele and David Forbes are ready to hand the room set-up duties off in January, as well.

Davis Understood Importance of God

During the War for Southern Independence, President Jefferson Davis and the Confederate made several calls for days of fasting, humiliation and prayer.

President Davis also annually proclaimed a Day of Thanksgiving. At the same time from the front came dispatches which ascribed victory and preservation to Almighty God. I will share one example. Gen. Robert E. Lee issued the following order from the Army of Northern Virginia,

Chaplain's Pulpit

Robert Slimp

Aug. 13, 1863:

General Order No 83.

"The President of the Confederate States has, in the name of the people, appointed the 21st day of August as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer.

"A strict observance of the day is enjoyed upon the officers and soldiers of this

There are plenty of opportunities available for you to step forward and serve the Camp and I hope we'll have no problem filling the vacancies.

Our speaker will be Miss Kristina Dunn of Historic Columbia Foundation. Her topic will be "South Carolina's Confederate Monuments and Cemeteries," and I'm sure she'll be a most interesting speaker.

I hope the Camp will turn out in big numbers for the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the monument depicting Lt. General Wade Hampton at the Statehouse, set for 3 p.m., Nov. 19.

This is an important event that we should all try to attend.

Remember, our meeting is one week early this month due to the Thanksgiving holiday. See y'all on the 16th.

This year as we observe Thanksgiving, let us ask that God's will be done concerning our nation and our beloved Southland.

army. All military duties, except such as are absolutely necessary, will be suspended.

"The commanding officers of brigades and regiments are requested to cause divine service, suitable to the occasion, to be proclaimed in their respective commands.

"Soldiers! we have sinned against Almighty God.

"We have not remembered that the defenders of a just cause should be pure in His eyes; that 'our times are in His hands;' and we have relied too much on our own arms for the achievements of our independence.

"God is our only refuge and our strength. Let us humble ourselves before Him.

See Chaplain, Page 3

Yes, to some blacks the Confederate flag does unfortunately represent some very unpleasant images, but don't think for a second that all blacks see the flag the same way.

That's simplistic and demeaning to 30 percent of our state's population, some of whom undoubtedly don't think much of anything of the flag, just as there are plenty of whites who have no impression either way. And, yes, there are even a few blacks who have a positive view of the flag, particularly those with ancestors who sided with the South during the war.

Mr. Piercy's next error is his statement that "the flag never even appeared on our venerable State House grounds until the mid 1960s," and that it was "clearly a thinly veiled protest over pending civil rights legislation."

The flag went atop the State House dome in 1962. Some time earlier, President Dwight Eisenhower had urged the flying of the banner over state capitols in anticipation of the centennial of the War Between The States.

Let's not pretend that there weren't some serious efforts underway in parts of the South to undermine the civil rights push, but I don't recall Ol' Ike being a part of it.

Mr. Piercy adds: "To make matters worse for those of us who love it, our Confederate banner has been bastardized by racists who have pilfered it and distorted its meaning to fit their own twisted agenda."

But isn't this exactly what he's doing by saying that a) it represents the Klan, Jim Crow, oppression and cruelty, and b) that it offends all of South Carolina's blacks? Strange words for a man who claims to love the flag.

Mr. Piercy closes by writing that South Carolina needs to remove the flag because it's the "right thing."

The right thing? Says who? If he were such as proud Southerner, he'd stand up to defend his heritage, instead of penning a mealy-mouthed diatribe that besmirches the banner he claims is beautiful.

Mr. Piercy sounds like one of those weak-kneed, self-loathing intellectuals who happily attacks anything Southern if it gets him a few points with his wine-sipping, cheese-eating fellow travelers. If he wants to do so, that's his right as an American but he shouldn't try to portray himself as a proud Southerner.

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

Museum of the Confederacy to Relocate to New Site

The Museum of the Confederacy will move from its location near Virginia Commonwealth University in downtown Richmond, where it is shrouded by construction, new buildings and Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College.

S. Waite Rawls III, the museum's executive director, said the museum will vacate its spot at 1201 E. Clay St. but that the White House of the Confederacy will remain where it is.

A new site for the museum has not been determined. An independent peer-review panel recommended the move, which Mr.

Rawls said he hopes will be completed by 2011.

"The recommendations are clearly intended to get the revenue higher," Mr. Rawls said. "We want to get back to a balanced budget."

Years of declining visits and revenue had forced museum officials to cut staff, programs and operation hours.

Officials had expected to receive a \$700,000 grant from Virginia in July, but instead received a \$50,000 stipend.

The cuts in staff and hours helped reduce the museum's fiscal 2007 budget defi-

cit - which was approaching \$700,000 - to \$350,000.

The number of museum visitors has fallen steadily since its peak in 1991, when about 91,000 people visited the facility, Mr. Rawls said. About 51,500 people a year currently visit the site.

The review panel recommended that the White House not be moved with the museum.

Moving the building - which was built in 1818 - would cause the structure to lose its place on the National Register of Historic Places.

S.C. Man, Not State, Owns Civil War Letters, Court Rules

RICHMOND, Va. - A federal appeals court ruled last month that a descendent of a Confederate officer, not the state of South Carolina, owns more than 440 original Civil War letters valued at \$2.4 million.

A three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a lower court's ruling that Thomas Willcox of Seabrook Island, S.C., owns the documents that apparently have been in his family for more than 140 years.

The panel said South Carolina failed to provide evidence of ownership to overcome the common law presumption that property is owned by the person who possesses it.

"That possession is nine-tenths of the law is a truism hardly bearing repetition," Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III wrote in the unanimous opinion. "Statements to that effect have existed almost as long as the common law itself."

The state could overcome that presumption by providing evidence of recent prior possession of the property but failed to do so, Wilkinson wrote. He said there also was no evidence that the papers were public property under state law in the 1860s.

According to the court, the papers - including correspondence from Gen. Robert E. Lee - apparently were gathered by

Confederate Maj. Gen. Evander McIver Law during the 1865 attack on the South Carolina capital by Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman. Law was Willcox's great-great-uncle.

Willcox found the papers in 1999 or 2000 in a shopping bag in a closet at his late stepmother's home. Much of the correspondence was from Confederate officers to Govs. Francis Pickens and Milledge Bonham.

South Carolina obtained a temporary restraining order the day before Willcox planned to sell the papers at auction.

-The Associated Press

Chaplain

"Let us confess our many sins, and beseech Him to give us a higher courage, a purer patriotism and more determined will; that He will convert the hearts of our enemies; that He will hasten the time when war, with its sorrows and sufferings, shall cease, and that He will give us a name and place among the nations of the earth.

- R. E. Lee, General Commanding

I believe that Americans today, and those of us who are members of the SCV should look to God for guidance and direction in all that we do.

We do not dare to make our own decisions without first seeking both His will and His blessing.

May this Thanksgiving season cause us to pause and remember that we are com-

manded in the Word of God.

This year as we observe Thanksgiving, let us ask that God's will be done concerning our nation and our beloved Southland.

Remember the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ when He commanded us, "But seek ye first the King of God and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

Separatists Unite - In Burlington, Vermont

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Separatists, unite! That was the pitch last weekend by neo-Confederates, New England free-staters, Hawaiian nationalists and a clutch of other dissenters who want out of the United States.

The First North American Secessionist Convention, billed as the first national gathering of secessionists since the Civil War, included an eclectic mix of conservatives, liberals, libertarians, left-wing Green Party zealots and right-wing Christian activists.

The denim-vested representative of the Alaskan Independence Party sat next to the United Texas Republic man in his gray suit and red tie, just across from the blond pony-tailed representative of Cascadia (Oregon, Washington and British Columbia).

They joined members of such disparate groups as the League of the South, the Free State Project, Christian Exodus, Free Hawaii, the Alliance for Democracy and the Center for Democracy and the Constitution.

Research Problems?

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

Jim Harley

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Important Dates in the War of Northern Aggression

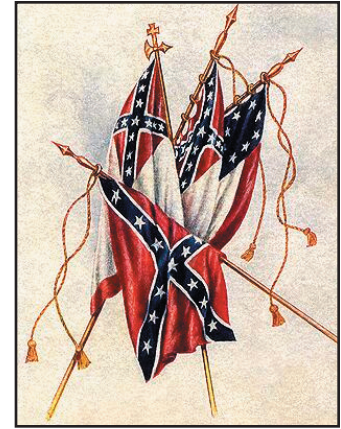
- Nov. 4, 1864: Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest led a 23-day raid culminating in an attack on the Yankee supply base at Johnsonville, Tenn. Forrest inflicts more than \$2 million in damage to Yankees.
- Nov. 7, 1862: Confederates maintain hold in Southwest Missouri with victory at Vera Cruz, Mo.
- Nov. 11, 1864: Maj. Gen. John Breckinridge drives Federal forces from Bulls Gap, Tenn., hindering Yankee plans in Eastern Tennessee.
- Nov. 19, 1861: Confederate Col. Douglas H. Cooper, commander of the Indian Department, chased Chief Opothleyahola and his band of Unionist Creeks and Seminoles from the Red Fork of the Arkansas River.
- Nov. 23, 1863: Grant outduels Bragg at Chattanooga, giving the Federals the "Gateway to the South."
- Nov. 24, 1864: Union forces under Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield fail to stop Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood's forces near Columbia, Tenn.
- Nov. 27, 1864: Patrick Cleburne and Confederate forces stop Yankee troops at Ringgold Gap, Ga.
- Nov. 30, 1864: Confederates stopped at Franklin, Tenn., losing six generals and more than 6,000 casualties.

Words To Remember

"A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday does not know where it is today."

- Gen. Robert E. Lee

Next Camp Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 16



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

Scripture Thought

"For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

-Romans 8:36

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