

THE LEGIONARY

December 2008

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

REMEMBERING SC'S SECESSION FROM THE UNION

Editor's Note: The birth of the country that came to be known as the Confederate States of America began with the secession of South Carolina from the Union. Because this December marked the 148th anniversary of this monumental event, we thought it might be interring for our readers to reprint the SC Ordinance of Secession. With it, we have also published some historical items of interest concerning this event that appeared in the January 5, 1860 edition of Harper's Weekly. We hope you enjoy it!

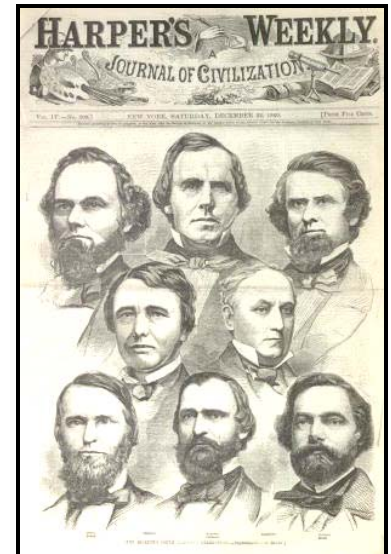
South Carolina Ordinance Of Secession

AN ORDINANCE to dissolve the union between the State of South Carolina and other States united with her under the compact entitled "The Constitution of the United States of America."

We, the people of the State of South Carolina, in convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained, That the ordinance adopted by us in convention on the twenty-third day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was ratified, and also all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly of this State ratifying amendments of the

said Constitution, are hereby repealed; and that the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of the "United States of America," is hereby dissolved.

Done at Charleston the twentieth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty.



The SC Congressional Delegation
Harper's Weekly, 01/22/1860

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LETTER FROM FREDRICKSBURG, CHRISTMAS DAY 1862

Editor's Note: As we prepare to experience the joy of Christmas that comes from being able to spend this special time with our family, friends, and loved ones, let us not forget the sacrifices made by our Confederate ancestors during war for our independence. Below is a letter from a Confederate soldier written on 25 December 1862 to his sister that provides a rare look into the life of the soldier at Christmas during this difficult time.

To: Anna Simpson
Camp near Fred'burg
Dec 25th, 1862

My dear Sister

This is Christmas Day. The sun shines feebly through a thin cloud, the air is mild and pleasant, [and] a gentle breeze is making music through the leaves of the lofty pines that stand near our bivouac. All is quiet and still, and that very stillness recalls some sad and painful thoughts.

This day, one year ago, how many thousand families, gay and joyous, celebrating Merry Christmas, drinking health to absent members of their family,

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

- RUSTY RENTZ

I would like to thank the camp for the opportunity to have served this year as your Commander. I feel it is both an honor and a duty to serve in this capacity. With a camp our size there is an enormous amount of planning and coordinating to ensure operations and meetings run in a professional manner. This could not have been accomplished without each and every one of you that stepped forward and assumed varying degrees of responsibility. I would like to personally thank each of you no matter how small or large the task you assumed this year.

I ask each of you to give your support to Commander Robert "Doc" Spigner this year as he assumes office January 1, 2009. Commander Spigner will bring new ideas, energies and momentum to our camp. Please give consideration to volunteering for staff positions or projects the camp may undertake this year.

I hope we will all remember the real reason for the season. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is sometimes easy to get caught up in the festive atmosphere of the season and not celebrate this day as we should.

I can not over emphasize the need to grow our organization. While serving as commander from 1999-2001 I would occasionally mention that our organization was graying. Gentleman, this is truer today than then. We need to recruit to increase our numbers, but we also need to place a priority on recruiting younger men. This is why I feel it is so important that we conduct programs in schools, support the Sam Davis Youth Camp and continue to have a School and Education Day in conjunction with the *Battle For Columbia*. I would again ask that each of you make a renewed effort to recruit at least one new

member next year.

Our January meeting will be moved from our regular meeting night to accommodate our annual Lee-Jackson Banquet on Friday January 30, 2009. There is an insert in this Legionary, and it will also be in the January Legionary, advertising our Lee-Jackson Banquet. This evening will be an excellent occasion to bring your wife and children, as well as guest, to honor these two Southern Generals. I ask that each of you mark this day on your calendars and make plans to attend. It is a necessity that we have an accurate head count in order for *Seawell's* to prepare accordingly, so we are asking you to let us know how many will be in your party.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to have served you this past year and I look forward to seeing you in January.

CHAPLAIN'S PULPIT

- LARRY BATES

One reason why the War Between the States burns in our hearts is that our parents and grand-parents passed on to us information about our Confederate ancestors. In fact, this great legacy Southerners share, of telling stories about our Confederate ancestor that we heard as kids, and now we tell to our own children, is one reason why I don't panic in this politically correct world that wants to snuff out the truth about the War and the Confederate soldier. The Scriptures say in Psalm 44:1, "O God, we have heard with our ears, Our fathers have told us, the work that Thou didst in their days, in the days of old". The importance of passing on from one generation to the next generation the truth about the War, the Confederate soldier, why he fought and his faith in God, cannot be overstated. And, where maybe some of our relatives have been negligent in carrying on the cause, there are things we can do to help.

I'd like to encourage you to

consider a couple of ways you can make an impact on your own family. First, think about having a Southern Cross ceremony for your ancestor at his place of rest. I, along with a cousin of mine from the Gen. Bratton Camp in Winnsboro, have done two of these ceremonies for our extended family in the last couple of years. We sort of split duties, where my cousin took care of introductions, reading the charge, and giving a brief history of what our ancestor (great-grandfather) did in the war and afterwards. I was able to do a first person impression of my Confederate ancestor and give a history of his Confederate service in story form. Everyone seemed to have a good time and some even shed tears when thinking about the sacrifices and hardships our ancestor endured. I was honored to present my mother with a Confederate Battle flag since she is the closest living relative to my great-grandfather. After the ceremony, we answered questions and I explained to the family about my uniform

and accoutrements, sort of like Tommy Rollings did at our November meeting. I think for the younger members, it was a day that they will never forget. Southern Crosses can be purchased from National or from a couple of Camps in our Division.

A second way to carry on this great tradition is to attend memorial services. There are at least three held annually in our area, the SCV Observed Confederate Memorial Day Service held the first Saturday in May, Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Memorial Service in March, and the Sgt. Richard Kirkland Memorial Service in December in Camden. The last two mentioned seem to have minimal attendance, which is hard to understand since they were such great men. By attending a memorial service yourself and bringing your children and maybe other family members, you will be doing something to help pass on the great history of the Confederate soldier. †

CHRISTMAS 1862

and sending upon the wings of love and affection long, deep, and sincere wishes for their safe return to the loving ones at home, but today are clad in the deepest mourning in memory to some lost and loved member of their circle. If all the dead (those killed since the war began) could be heaped in one pile and all the wounded be gathered together in one group, the pale faces of the dead and the groans of the wounded would send such a thrill of horror through the

hearts of the originators of this war that their very souls would rack with such pain that they would prefer being dead and in torment than to stand before God with such terrible crimes blackening their characters. Add to this the cries and wailings of the mourners - mothers and fathers weeping for their sons, sisters for their brothers, wives for their husbands, and daughters for their fathers - [and] how deep would be the convictions of

their consciences.

Yet they do not seem to think of the affliction and distress they are scattering broadcast over the land. When will this war end? Will another Christmas roll around and find us all wintering in camp? Oh! That peace may soon be restored to our young but dearly beloved country and that we may all meet again in happiness.

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The South Carolina Convention

This body continues to sit, having refused to adjourn over the holidays. Addresses to the Southern States and to the world have been issued and published; their length precludes their publication here. Three Commissioners- Messrs. Adams, Orr, and Barnwell- have been appointed to treat with the United States Government. Nothing has been done with regard to the commercial relations of the new nation: the United States Collector continues to issue clearances and to collect duties. On Christmas Day Mr. Manigault's resolution, instructing the Governor to make forthwith all preparations which may be needed to assert by force the right and jurisdiction of South Carolina in its territory, was lost.

On the 26th, a resolution was passed declaring citizens of South Carolina all citizens of the United States within her limits on the 20th inst., the date of her secession. Another provides for a Convention of slaveholding States at

Montgomery, Alabama, for the purpose of forming a Southern Confederacy, under the Constitution of the United States. The Convention, in secret session, adopted an ordinance continuing the present Federal revenue officers in their places, and also continuing the United States revenue and navigation laws in force, subject to certain regulations.

The South Carolina Proclamation of Independence

Governor Pickens has, agreeably to the ordinance of session, issued a proclamation, proclaiming to the world sovereign, free and independent State, and as such has a right to levy war, conclude peace, negotiate treaties, leagues, or covenants, and do all acts whatever that rightly appertain to a free and independent State.

Resignation of the South Carolina Delegation

The Speaker laid before the House on the 24th, a letter signed by Messrs. M'Queen, Bonham, Boyce, and Ashmore, of South Carolina, as follows:

SIR,- We avail ourselves of the earliest opportunity since the official communication of the intelligence, of making known to your honorable body that the people of the State of South Carolina, in their sovereign capacity, have resumed the powers heretofore delegated by them to the Federal Government of the United States, and have thereby dissolved our connection with the House of Representatives. In taking leave of those with whom we have been associated in a common agency, we, as well as the people of our Commonwealth, desire to do so with a feeling of mutual regard and respect for each other- cherishing the hope that, in our future relations, we may better enjoy that peace and harmony essential to the happiness of a free and enlightened people.

JOHN M'QUEEN,

M. L. BONHAM,

W. W. BOYCE,

J. D. ASHMORE.

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

CHRISTMAS 1862 CONTINUED

But enough of these sad thoughts. We went on picket in town a few days ago. The pickets of both armies occupy the same positions now as they did before the battle. Our regt was quartered in the market place while the others occupied stores and private houses. I have often read of sacked and pillaged towns in ancient history, but never, till I saw Fredricksburg, did I fully realize what one was. The houses, especially those on the river, are riddled with shell and ball. The stores have been broken open and deprived of every thing that was worth a shilling. Account books and notes and letters and papers both private and public were taken from their proper places and scattered over the streets and trampled under feet. Private property was ruined. Their soldiers would sleep in the mansions of the wealthy and use the articles and food in the house at their pleasure. Several houses were destroyed by fire. Such a wreck and ruin I never wish to see again.

Yet notwithstanding all this, the few citizens who are now in town seem to be cheerful and perfectly resigned. Such true patriots are seldom found. This will ever be a noted place in history.

While we were there, Brig Genl Patrick, U.S.A., with several of his aides-de-camp, came over under flag of truce. Papers were exchanged, and several of our men bought pipes, gloves, &c from the privates who rowed the boat across. They had plenty of liquor and laughed, drank, and conversed with our men as if they had been friends from boyhood.

There is nothing new going on. I am almost dead to hear from home. I have received no letters in nearly three weeks, and you can imagine how anxious I am. The mails are very irregular. I hope to get a letter soon. Dunlap Griffin is dead, died in Richmond of wounds received in the last battle. Capt Hance is doing very well. Frank Fleming is in bad condition. (He has been elected lieutenant since he left.)

Write to me quick right off. I wish to hear from you badly. Remember me to my friends and relatives, especially the Pickens and Ligons. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Your bud

Tally

Pres Hix cam for the remains of Nap his brother and Johnnie Garlington yesterday and will take them to Richmond today. They will be carried on home immediately. Tell Aunt Caroline Jim is getting on finely. Howdy to all the negros. I have received the bundle of clothes sent to Columbia. The bundle contained one shirt, one scarf, and two pairs of socks. At least I suppose it is the one you sent to Col[umbia] to be sent to Barnwell at Richmond. I am a thousand times obliged. When is Harry coming? Oh! that peace may soon be restored to our young but dearly beloved country and that we may all meet again in happiness.

ADJUTANT'S DESK

Gentlemen, as of December 18th, we have 185 regular paid members and 18 paid associate members. See you at the next meeting and remember, RECUITE A NEW MEMBER

**REMEMBER COMPATRIOTS,
THERE WILL BE NO DECEMBER MEETING...
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOURS FROM THE OFFICERS
AND STAFF OF THE WADE HAMPTON CAMP!**



Important Dates in *The War for Southern Rights*:

- Dec. 1, 1863 – Confederate spy Belle Boyd is released from prison in Washington, DC.
- Dec. 4, 1862 – Gen. Johnston assumes overall command in the west.
- Dec. 5, 1862 – At Coffeville, MS, on the MS Central Railroad, Confederates defeat a force of Federal Calvary.
- Dec. 6, 1889 – Death of Confederate Jefferson Davis in New Orleans, LA.
- Dec. 8, 1860 – US Sec. of Treas. Howell Cobb resigns. The GA native will become a Confederate Maj. Gen. in 1863.
- Dec. 10, 1861 – An act of the Confederate Congress in Richmond admits KY to the Confederacy, thus completing the 13 states.
- Dec. 11, 1861 – Suffering under the Union blockade, Charleston, SC is struck by a disastrous fire that sweeps through its business district.
- Dec. 12, 1862 – In MS, the *USS Cairo* strikes a torpedo in the Yazoo River. She is the first US ship sunk by this method.
- Dec. 13, 1862 – Battle of Fredericksburg, VA. Over 186,000 troops are engaged in the fighting there.
- Dec. 14, 1862 – At Fredericksburg, the Federal Army withdraws after being severely beaten in the previous days' assaults.
- Dec. 17, 1860 – At Columbia, the SC Secession Convention issues a resolution in favor of SC seceding from the Federal Union known as the United States of America.
- Dec. 18, 1862 – At Lexington, TN, Gen. Forrest's Cavalry defeats a Federal cavalry force.
- Dec. 20, 1860 – By a vote of 169 to 0, SC adopts an Ordinance of Secession and the Union is dissolved.
- Dec. 26, 1860 – In Charleston Harbor, SC, State Troops seize Castle Pinckney.
- Dec. 27, 1863 – Confederate Congress abolishes substitution for military service.
- Dec. 28, 1862 – Vicksburg Campaign. Battle of Chickasaw Bayou.
- Dec. 30, 1861 – SC troops seize the US arsenal at Charleston, after Pres. Buchanan's failure to remove US troops from the Charleston Harbor.

No Camp Meeting IN DECEMBER



**Y'all Have a Merry
CHRISTMAS
&
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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