

The Fighting Joe Wheeler Dispatch



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Camp Officers:

Commander: Spencer Harris

1st Lt. Commander: Barry Cook

2nd Lt. Commander: Joe Payne

Adjutant: Dave McCombs

Chaplain: Tim Whitfield

Color Sergeant: Pat Acton

Quartermaster: David Knight

Sergeant At Arms: Pat Acton

Camp Surgeon: Dr. Rick Price

Dispatch Editor: David Fisher

Commander Emeritus: Dr. Ira West

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Please send articles or other
information for inclusion in
"The Dispatch" to
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Tuesday, August 11, 6:00 pm

*Walking the Line, Rediscovering and Touring the
Civil War Defenses on Modern Atlanta's Landscape*

Speaker: Laurence Krunemaker

**!!! NEW MEETING TIME
6:00 PM !!!**

This Month During the War Between the States (1861-1865)

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| August 5, 1861 | Lincoln signs the Revenue Act of 1861 into law, creating the first national income tax in American history |
| August 30, 1861 | Acting without higher approval, Major General John C. Frémont issues an edict freeing the slaves of all Confederate sympathizers in Missouri |
| August 9, 1862 | Battle of Cedar Mountain (Slaughter Mountain), Va. |
| August 11, 1862 | Confederate partisans capture Independence, Missouri |
| August 19-21, 1862 | Federal raid on L & N railroad |
| August 27, 1862 | Stonewall Jackson captures and plunders Union supply depots at Manassas Junction, Va |
| August 28, 1862 | Battle of Second Manassas (Bull Run) begins at Brawner's Farm |
| August 29/30, 1862 | Battle of Richmond, Ky |
| August 8, 1863 | Robert E. Lee offers to resign as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia |
| August 5 1864 | Battle of Mobile Bay, Al |
| August 31, 1864 | Battle of Jonesborough, Ga |



<http://www.fightingjoewheelercamp.org>



SCV Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372



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Alabama: We Dare Defend Our Rights

"The principal for which we contended is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form." - Jefferson Davis, May 1865

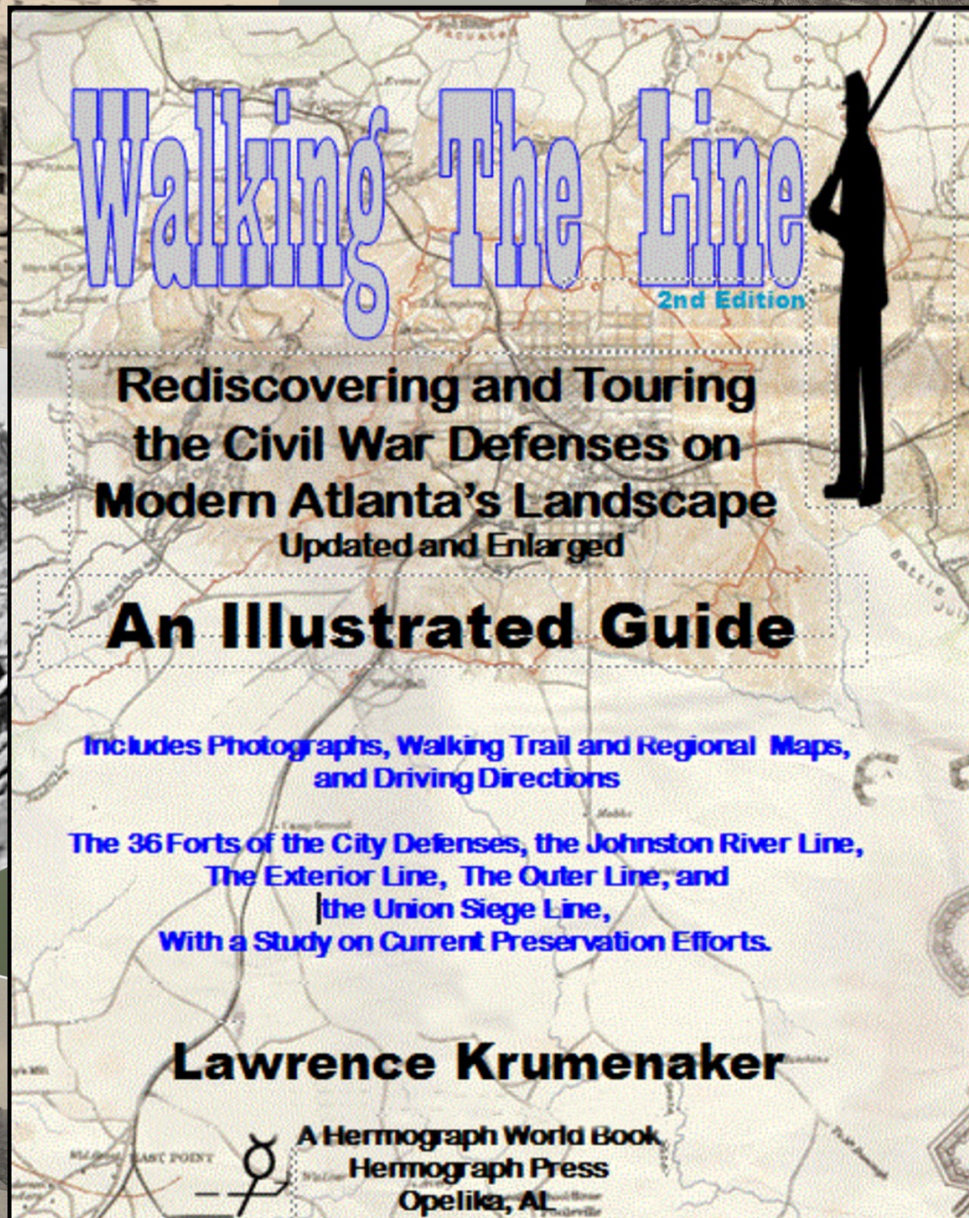
The Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp presents

Walking the Line

Rediscovering and Touring
the Civil War Defenses on Modern Atlanta's Landscape

by

Laurence Krumenaker



August 11, 2026
New Merkel House
6:00pm



Commander's Report



August 2026

Brothers, Friends, Compatriots,

I hope that all of you have had a wonderful Summer. July was a hot one but good. Personally, as I write this, I'm a little over a month and a half married and in the throws of moving my new bride into my home here in Meadow Brook and combining our lives. I'm so blessed to have her, but so ready to get her here full time. At our meeting on August 11th, I'll be just a few days away from her moving in.

If you got to come out to the gun show, then thank you for your support. The show was very successful I believe. We are learning every time we go. The new display really draws people's attention, the merchandise that Barry put together for us is selling well, and we passed out another 500 flyers with flags to the show crowd and had several very in-depth conversations with people very interested in our cause. I believe that we are 1 or 2 shows away from the revenue generated by the gun show completely offsetting any costs associated with conducting the gun show.

Barry and I are working on a new flyer to hand out at the gun show and will hopefully have it ready for your review at our next meeting.

RENEWALS! RENEWALS! RENEWALS!

My goal is to grow our camp in numbers with our ultimate goal of being the largest camp in Alabama, the first step towards growth is renewing our current membership. If you have not already renewed, please do so. If you don't know if you have renewed contact me or Dave McCombs and we will let you know.

Walking the Line, Rediscovering and Touring the Civil War Defenses on Modern Atlanta's Landscape

This is the latest book by our August speaker Dr. Larry Krumenaker. He's a historian and an astronomer and was recently in town speaking at the Birmingham Zoo in his astronomical capacity. I very much look forward to having him join us on August 11th.

As always, I encourage you to invite at least one person to join you at the camp meeting.

Thank you, brothers, for the opportunity to be your commander, I look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks.

Deo Vindice

Spencer Harris

Commander Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372



Chaplain's Report



Reading from Philippians Chapter 2 Verse 14 - *“Do everything without grumbling and arguing”*.

During the recent American Independence celebration there was a lot of hype given it was a milestone birthday for America. Unfortunately, we also heard a lot of complaining from some about how bad we have it here in this country, how they hate the 4th of July holiday and criticizing the heritage of the founding fathers. There is a part of our population that complains just about everything that makes this country great, exceptional and strong. It is not hard to miss the complainers because they are there every time you turn on the news. They don't seem to realize that no matter what your income level that you are better off here than living in any another country in the world.

Coinciding with the celebration of America's 250th birthday has been the FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament. The World Cup has brought soccer fans from all over the world to America by the tens of thousands, many for the very first time. Contrasting the unpatriotic spoiled Americans blasting their own country have been these soccer fans from all over the world experiencing how exceptional America is compared to where they come from. They were in awe of the abundance and choices we have here. They loved everything they discovered here from Buc-ee's to craft beers, from gun ranges to entertainment districts around the stadium's where their teams competed.

The Apostle Paul advises that we should be thankful for what we have and not be complainers. Perhaps the opinions of World Cup fans from across the world will influence these negative, unpatriotic Americans to realize they are living in the best place on earth to live.

Deo Vindice
Tim Whitfield,
Chaplain FJW Camp 1372



Reader's Corner



Excellent overview of changing attitudes that everyone seems to have missed except SCV groups & Abbeville Institute.

From p82 of The Independent Institute's publication, "Liberty at 250; The Birth of America".
Submitted by Dr. Fred Moss

ESSAY

The Declaration as Majoritarian and Democratic: The Case of Southern Secession

By William J. Watkins Jr.

Did the seceding states in 1860 and 1861 reject the Declaration of Independence? Most Americans would answer the question in the affirmative. A 2024 poll by Nationhood Lab reports that 63 percent of Americans "define themselves via the civic ideals in the Declaration of Independence" (Nationhood Lab 2024). The ideals referenced by the pollsters correspond to the second paragraph of the Declaration, which is often described as stating the American theory of government—a theory grounded in individual rights and equality (Barnett 2019, 28).

While the individualistic and liberal understanding of the Declaration is favored on both the modern right and left, there is another interpretation that views the document as majoritarian democratic (Shain 2024, 109). This approach puts emphasis on the Declaration's final paragraph, which declares the several states free and independent with the full power to govern themselves. This older and communally inspired theory does not view the Declaration as setting forth a theory of government, but rather the right of secession (Maier 1997, 191). Southerners appealed to this older view in justifying their withdrawal from the union in 1860–61.

Southern Reliance on the Declaration

The Southern secessionists, according to historian William C. Davis, believed "they were the keepers of the original flames of 1776 and 1787" (1994, 83). The purity of the Revolution, Constitution, and Jeffersonian Revolution of 1800, they argued, had been displaced by ideas exalting national power over state autonomy. Multiple pamphlets, speeches, and addresses testify to the Southern belief that they were the true intellectual heirs of the Founders. For example, South Carolina's Wade Hampton put the matter succinctly: "If we were wrong in our contest, then the Declaration of Independence of 1776 was a grave mistake, and the revolution to which it led was a crime" (quoted in Cisco 2004, 319). Hampton reasoned that "if Washington was a patriot, Lee cannot have been a rebel; if the enunciation of the grand truths in the Declaration of Independence made Jefferson immortal, the observance of them could not have made Davis a traitor" (quoted in Cisco 2004, 319).

Essential to understanding Hampton's point of view is an interpretation of "grand truths." Rather than individual rights and equality, Hampton and his colleagues pointed to self-government in the several states as the North Star of The American Revolution.

William J. Watkins Jr. is a research fellow at the Independent Institute and president of the Greenville, South Carolina, Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society.



Reader's Corner



July Meeting with Brent Goodwin as speaker

