

The Fighting Joe Wheeler Dispatch



Volume XLVI, Issue 1

January, 2026

Camp Officers:

Commander: Spencer Harris

1st Lt. Commander: Barry Cook

2nd Lt. Commander: Joe Payne

Adjutant: Dave McCombs

Chaplain: Tim Whitfield

Color Sergeant: Daniel Campbell

Quartermaster: David Knight

Sergeant At Arms: Daniel Campbell

Camp Surgeon: Dr. Rick Price

Dispatch Editor: David Fisher

Commander Emeritus: Dr. Ira West

Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372,
Inc. C/O Adjutant
P.O. Box 43362
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243

Please send articles or other
information for inclusion in
"The Dispatch" to
David Fisher
810 Saulter Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35209
Or e-mail fisherda@mac.com

Tuesday, January 13th, 7:00 pm

Lee/Jackson Banquet

Speaker: Jimmy Hill

4248 Oakview Lane Birmingham 35243

Lat. 33.452914 Long. -86.737261

Coming from Hwy. 280, take the first road after the New Merkle House off Dolly Ridge Road. Heights Dermatology and Aesthetics will be on your left. Follow this road to the end by the park and baseball fields. We will be meeting in the small gray building.

Hope to see you there!!

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

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|-------------------------|---|
| January 7, 1861 | Mississippi and Alabama State Conventions meet to discuss secession |
| January 9, 1861 | Mississippi secedes from the Union |
| January 11, 1861 | Alabama adopts an Ordinance of Secession |
| January 19, 1862 | Battle of Mill Springs (Logan's Cross Roads), KY |
| January 1, 1863 | Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect |
| January 17, 1863 | Lincoln approves Congressional resolution authorizing the Treasury to issue \$100,000,000 in new notes in order to pay Union soldiers and sailors. President Lincoln also calls for regulation of the national currency |
| January 31, 1863 | Confederate ironclads temporarily break the blockade in Charleston Harbor |

 <http://www.fightingjoewheelercamp.org>



SCV Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372



FJWCamp1372@yahoo.com

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

Lee / Jackson Banquet

Honored Guest/Speaker: Jimmy Hill

January 13, 2026



Catered by Miss Myra's BBQ

New Merkel House • 7:00pm

4248 Oakview Lane, Birmingham, 35243



Commander's Report



January 2026

Compatriots, Friends, Brothers,

I can't express to you how honored I am to be asked to fill this role of Camp Commander of one of the best SCV camps in the state. I have been looking through my childhood photographs with my daughters and Amy over the holidays and every time there is a picture of my room my Battle Flag is always there on the wall. Vacations always included a tour of the nearest battlefield or fort. I've felt my Confederate Ancestors blood running through me and their pride, honor, and chivalric standard as my guide to becoming the man I am today. I see these same traits in each and every one of you and can truly say that joining this organization some 6 years ago now has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. Of course, because of the mission of the SCV, and also because of the increased knowledge and awareness of our history and the history around me, but mostly because of the brotherhood of this camp. Thank you all for that. Please know that I do take this honor seriously and will use all of my ability and talent to help this camp grow and flourish. Thank you all again.

We have a great speaker this month, Jimmy Hill our Alabama Adjutant and Chief, coming to address us for our Lee Jackson banquet. We have new officers in our ranks, Barry Cook taking on my role as 1st. Lt. Commander. I met Barry when I spoke at the Jasper Hutto Camp. Barry led that camp to raise almost \$1400, as I recall, towards paying off the debt of Elm Springs. We've also picked up a very passionate and excellent new member in Daniel Campbell who will be taking on the roles of our Color Sargent and Sargent at Arms. Daniel's passion for our history is amazing and his ability to research is extraordinary. You all know them, but please congratulate them on their new roles if you have not already.

All other officer roles will remain the same, but we will be making a few changes around the function of the roles. First and foremost, I've really enjoyed finding the camp speakers. Making the connections with the extraordinary individuals and securing their visit to our camp has been a true joy. I am going to retain that role which would typically go to the 1st. Lt. Commander. Barry, as 1st. Lt. Commander is very passionate about developing our camp pamphlets and other hand out information to maximize our effectiveness at any opportunities to meet with the public.

While I can't say enough about the brotherhood that we have here, we must grow. That will be my primary focus as leader of the camp. I read in our SCV journal a few years ago that if we had all of the actual descendants of Confederate Veterans in the SCV then our ranks would be in the hundreds of thousands if not millions. While I believe that we have made some excellent strides towards growing our camp I know that there is more that can be done. One of the



Commander's Report



challenges, at least as I see it, with our current camp meetings is that we get together and catch up, many of us not having seen each other for at least a month, we then have a speaker who we engage with, and this leaves very little time to work together on how to grow our camp. I am not proposing to change our camp meetings, but I am proposing an additional meeting. I'm going to call it the officer's mess and hold it at my house. I plan to hold this second monthly meeting two weeks after our camp meeting. I'll try and stick to the Tuesday night format, but this may change from time to time based on the needs of my girls. Our first officer's mess will be January 27th at 6PM. I'd like to ask all of the officers to attend but this is open to anyone in the camp who would like to get more involved or has ideas of how to grow the camp. I'll plan on cooking burgers for everyone.

While this honor that you have bestowed on me is one that I take very seriously and tremendous pride in, I will have times where I'll miss due to obligations for my girls. Just know that I'm still there with you in spirit and doing whatever I can to make our meetings as successful as possible.

Thank you all again for this honor,
Deo Vindice!

Spencer Harris
Commander Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp SCV
Birmingham, AL
205-577-3754



Chaplain's Report



1st Peter 1:3: *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ".*

It is a common practice to start a new year committing to changing something in our lives. These *"New Year Resolutions"* are intended to change our lifestyle for the better. In 1st Peter 1:3 the Apostle Peter talks about the ultimate change for the better.....new birth and living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. John 3:16 says whosoever believes Jesus died for their sins and rose again shall have eternal life. For those that have never accepted Christ as their Savior doing so would be the ultimate resolution.

My prayer is that everyone this Chaplain's Report reaches has a great 2026 ahead of them. We shall never forget family and friends recently lost, but we forge on into 2026 with God's assurance that as Christians we will see them again. Our opportunities to celebrate and share our God and our Heritage continue. Let's make 2026 a great year for the SCV and the Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372!

Deo Vindice

Tim Whitfield,

Chaplain FJW Camp 1362