

The Fighting Joe Wheeler Dispatch



Volume XLVI, Issue 3

March, 2026

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

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, March 10th, 6:00 pm

Life in the South During the War

Speaker: Leigh Ann Courington

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

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| March 4, 1861 | Abraham Lincoln becomes the 16th President of the United States of America |
| March 6, 1862 | Lincoln asks Congress to provide funds to states willing to begin the gradual abolition of slavery |
| March 8, 1862 | CSS <i>Virginia</i> engages and destroys the USS <i>Cumberland</i> and the USS <i>Congress</i> |
| March 9, 1862 | USS Monitor and CSS Virginia battle at Hampton Roads, VA |
| March 3, 1863 | Abraham Lincoln signs the Conscription Act, creating the first national military draft in American history |
| March 26, 1863 | West Virginia votes for gradual emancipation in the state |
| March 9, 1864 | U.S. Grant promoted to Lieutenant General |
| March 25, 1864 | Attack on Paducah, KY by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest |
| March 4, 1865 | Lincoln inaugurated for second term as President |
| March 27, 1865 | Siege of Spanish Fort, Alabama begins |

 <http://www.fightingjoewheelercamp.org>



SCV Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372



FJWCamp1372@yahoogroups.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

Life in the South During the War of Northern Aggression

by
Leigh Ann Courington



March 10, 2026
New Merkel House
6:00pm



March 2026

Brothers,

As always, I'm proud to be a part of this organization. It's wonderful to stand alongside men who take the time to study their heritage and to honor their ancestors. Our Heavenly Father gave us some very clear and simple rules to follow and the 5th Commandment states clearly "Honor your father and mother and it will go well with you". We are simply following the guidance given to us by our creator.

We have our first gun show coming up on March 7th and 8th and it promises to be a very good one. I look forward to hearing how the event goes off with the new format.

Our speaker this week has become a friend of mine and is very active in the Cullman historical scene. We study a lot about the battles that our ancestors fought in, but back at home the women of the South kept things running and suffered as most of us will never understand. Leigh Ann Courington will speak on these topics at our camp meeting.

REMEMBER – The meeting time has changes 6PM at the New Merkle house. Change your calendar, update your reminders, 6PM!!!!

As always, growth needs to be our focus. At least 50% of the Alabama population are likely descendants of Confederate veterans. We have a population of 5.16 million as of the 2024 census so there are likely 1.29 million men who qualify to be in our organization. We currently have a state roster of 1600 and a camp roster of 44. Think of the difference we could make if our numbers were in the 10s of thousands or hundreds of thousands. Reach out to friends and family. Try and bring someone with you to the meetings. Every person helps. We can grow this camp and can help to build our state and national organization.

I hope that all of you are doing well. I pray for you every day. Remember to use the prayer request link if you have anything specific that we need to pray for.

With love and respect,
Deo Vindice

Spencer Harris
Commander Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372



Chaplain's Report



Reading from Ephesians Chapter 6 Verse 11: *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”*

The Crusades that took place in the Middle Ages from 1095 to 1291 AD make for some fascinating reading about the European Christian's effort to capture Jerusalem and the Holy Land from Muslim control. Just like our Confederate ancestors there were many interesting characters to read about from the Crusades. Richard the Lionheart, Frederick Barbarossa, Godfrey of Bouillon, Elenor of Aquitaine, Peter the Hermit plus elite soldiers such as the Knights Templar and Teutonic Knights to name a few.

A Crusade sometimes involves war like in the Middle Ages, but Crusades also can be non-violent campaigns. A Crusade is defined as *“a long, vigorous, and determined campaign or movement to achieve a specific, often moral, social, or political goal. It signifies a passionate, sustained effort to defend or advance a cause.”*

We too in the SCV are in a passionate, sustained effort to defend or advance a cause..... preserving and defending our Southern heritage, our monuments and the good name of our Confederate soldier ancestors who fought to defend the South from invaders. Just like the Middle Ages Crusades that went on for 200 years, our cause at the SCV is protracted and spans generations. We are only the current custodians of this effort so we must develop a new generation of custodians. Please urge others to join us in this cause that has been ongoing since the SCV was formed in 1896. I look forward to continuing this *“Crusade”* with all of you as we endeavor to grow and advance our cause.

Deo Vindice

Tim Whitfield,

Chaplain FJW Camp 1362



Reader's Corner



a. Event Schedule:

- i. Gun Show – March 7-8
- ii. Confederate Memorial Day at the Capital in Montgomery – April 25
- iii. Wheeler Camp Memorial Day at Elmwood – April 26
- iv. Gun Show – July 25-26
- v. Gun Show – October 10-11
- vi. Camp Picnic – TBD
 1. Change of venue proposed, to discuss with the camp.