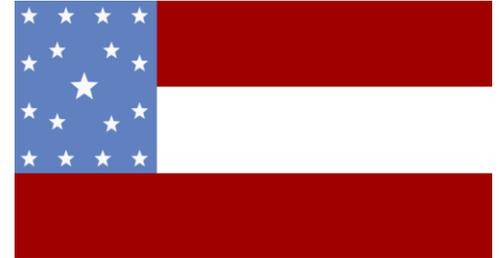




# The Republic



## The newsletter for the California Division Sons of Confederate Veterans



“Our Southern homes have been pillaged, sacked, and burned; our mothers, wives, and little ones driven forth amid the brutal insults of your soldiers. It is any wonder that we fight with desperation? A natural revenge would prompt us to retaliate in kind. But we scorn war on women and children. We are fighting for the God given rights of liberty and independence as handed down in the Constitution by our fathers. So fear not. If a torch is applied to a single dwelling or an insult offered to a female of your town by a soldier of this command, point me out that man and you shall have his life.” *Confederate General John Brown Gordon to the citizens in York, Pennsylvania during the Gettysburg campaign of 1863.*

**Volume 4 Number 5 June 2015**

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS  
CALIFORNIA DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT  
2014 – 2015  
BY: PAST DIVISION CMDR. FARRELL D. COOLEY

The California Division presented a check for \$2300 to headquarters during the national convention in Charleston, SC, 2014, specifically for the Elm Springs Museum Project. Combining all past donations to this fund raiser the division qualified for the Gen. Robert E. Lee Council with total donations over \$5000 since 2011. Also, consider that many California members sent in donations individually on their own. This kind of dedication cannot go unnoticed.

During the Charleston reunion our division was proud to bring home numerous awards for our members for their outstanding support and dedication. As the Div. Cmdr. I arranged to visit with our busiest camps for luncheons to present the awards to our members. We had a grand time in San Diego, Orange County and a joint camp luncheon in Fresno California, where members from Bakersfield, Modesto, Sacramento and Fresno attended to receive awards. Many thanks goes to Past ATM Cmdr. Chuck Norred (Coach) who organized the event. For those members awarded, but I could not visit with, I mailed via US Mail.

Our division has 12 camps with less than 300 members. Of these camps, 4 camps do not accomplish a whole lot, but the other 8 are busy, and I'm proud to speak of their accomplishments. The Sacramento Camp 1627 now has the most members of all camps in California. They conducted Headstone Dedications, Memorial Services, both CS and US. They are

especially talented in recruiting the cooperation of the UDC and SUV into their ceremonies. The Commander Allen Davis is a natural leader and minister who attained the Christian Award during the Charleston Reunion 2014. This camp has donated toward every Division Project we've had and they donated directly to headquarters; reference Platinum Level - CV Magazine, March/April 2015, p. 48.

The San Diego Camp 302, Orange County Camp 1770, Inland Empire Camp 1742, and Fresno Camp 1804 are also very productive, doing much of the same type activities on a monthly to bimonthly basis. We conduct memorials, with color guards, we dedicate headstones and the Fresno Camp has installed complete monuments at different cemeteries in their area. Orange County has donated canned food to the homeless and toys to the children of the Orangewood Children's Home for children of the court system. The OC Camp 1770 is also a member of the Platinum Level Heritage Support Team, Ref: CV Magazine, March/April, 2015, p .48. San Diego keeps watch of the homeless veterans in the San Diego area, participating in color guard duties for their funerals. However, this is only a portion of their contribution. Their Camp Lt. Cmdr. David Sanders organized an SCV table and booth at the Genealogy Jamboree held in Pasadena every year.

The Past Lt. Cmdr. of the division (2 terms) and Camp 1742 Cmdr. John Smoley is constantly preaching Dixie as he portrays President Jefferson Davis and his wife portrays Varina. They set up huge tents side by side with carpeting, book shelves, bed, dining room table and all; it is called the Confederate White House and they do this at all the reenactments around Southern Cal. Their purpose is to educate and recruit for the SCV. It should be noted too that Commander Smoley goes out of his way to include members who are over 100 miles away in the desert areas of California, like Palm Springs and surrounding areas, where he'll organize camp meetings periodically. Commander J. Smoley Camp 1742 is especially talented in mass e.mailing of educational material dealing with the WBTS, politics and how it relates to today's environment. We also have numerous members who reenact in every camp and during their weekends they also promote and recruit for the SCV.

Our Division Heritage Officer, Steve Smith of San Diego Camp 302 has been answering the liberals over the internet every day since taking on the position several years ago. He writes letters, gets involved and tries to educate others by bringing to people's attention the facts of history which are ignored. Steve is a Past Commander of Camp 302 and participates in all the activities of the Father A. J. Ryan Camp, including color guard duties and 21 gun salutes. All of us in the California Division are proud of Steve Smith as he volunteered to lead the California Division for the next 2 years, after being nominated to Division Commander during our division convention this past March 2015. Thank You to Commander Steve Smith, USMC (Ret.) & Curator of the Miramar USMC Air Station Museum in Miramar, Calif. Go there on vacation and see their fantastic collection of Airplanes, Trucks and more. Tell 'em you're coming to visit too and I'm sure he'll give you a personal tour.

The Los Angeles Camp 1208, Bakersfield Camp 2048 and Modesto Camp 2023 should be recognized too. The LA camp has made a series of donations to various confederate and preservation projects. Dr. Vern Padgett, a member in camp 1208 is a valuable asset to the SCV Calif. Division serving as the Division Adjutant for about 15 years. The Bakersfield Camp is up and coming with a couple of new members who are motivated and excited to participate in the SCV. Men like the Rev. Cannon William Bower who was nominated to the Div. Chaplain's position this

past March. Also, Steven Browning who volunteered to speak to us during our Division Reunion, and Commander Jon Fowler who volunteered to be a Brigade Commander for the upper part of the state this past March, 2015. It should be noted too, that the Bakersfield gang has for a number of years conducted a toy drive for the less fortunate children every Christmas season; this being done under the banner of the SCV.

Another gentlemen who motivated his camp to life that was about to die is Mr. Dan Shepard Ph.D., nominated to be Camp Commander, Modesto 2023. He represented his camp during the Fresno Camp joint SCV Awards Luncheon, 2014. He has pushed our cadet program and he volunteered to give us a presentation during our division convention this past March, 2015. Mr. Shepard is a professional in the Modesto area and a great asset for our California Division. Thank You Dan!

This past March 2015 we conducted our California Division Convention and Reunion in Bakersfield. I believe we had a record turn-out for attendance and participation with 58 registered members and guests. Past Division Cmdr. Farrell Cooley conducted a Leadership Conference or Seminar, where we enjoyed listening to other leaders in the SCV, such as Commander Chuck Norred, Commander John Smoley, Commander Steve Smith and Commander Farrell Cooley. The whole purpose of this seminar is self-improvement and self-awareness in order to be better leaders within the SCV; something that is a lifelong experience.

Our division has some great men with BIG hearts, who would do anything for a compatriot and for the success of our organization. It all starts at the camp level, getting together to discuss business, to eat, drink and join together in brotherhood. Where else can you go to be with like-minded men dealing with such a serious subject as our heritage, seldom understood by the public? During this convention we elected to create 2 new Brigades due to the size of California. Congratulations to Brigade Commander David Sanders, Camp 302 who will represent the southern part of the state. Congratulations to Brigade Commander Jon Fowler, Camp 2048 who will represent the upper part of the state. Also, Congrats to our Lt. Div. Cmdr. Scott Price, Camp 1770, and Div. Chaplain William Bower, Camp 2048. Our new Division Commander is Steve Smith of Camp 302 who has served as Camp Commander, Division Commander and Division Heritage Officer. Thank You to these gentlemen for their leadership and guidance as we enter the next 2 years. Several officers will remain in their respective positions.

During our division convention and reunion, we also make note of our members who made the "Honorable Mention" brochure; they are nominated by each camp commander to be praised during the division convention each year. This proves to be a motivational and moral tool to acknowledge the men in each camp who have contributed to each camp's success. Additionally, this year, a number of special awards were handed out to show appreciation of faithful service during my terms. Past Division Commander, Farrell D. Cooley, acknowledged the following men with tokens of appreciation.

Rebel of the Year: Commander Steve Smith, Camp 302

Rebel of the Year: Dr. Vern Padgett, Camp 1208

Rebel of the Year: Commander John Smoley, Camp 1742

Camp of the Year: Commander Scott Price, Camp 1770

Special Tokens of Appreciation:

Camp Commanders:

Jim Stephens, Camp 302  
John Smoley, Camp 1742  
Scott Price, Camp 1770  
Jon Fowler, Camp 2048  
Chuck Norred, Camp 1804  
Allen Davis, Camp 1627

Div. Chaplain: Ernie Powell, Camp 302

Div. Web Master: Mike Climo, Camp 1742

Compatriot: Richard Kline, Camp 1804

In closing, it's been an honor for me to serve the SCV as Division Commander from 2011 to 2015. I've given as much as I can give and feel as though we made good progress during my 2 terms. We've conducted fund raisers for Elm Springs and Heritage, educational seminars with 2016 Vision and Leadership, plus we've kept up our communications with all Commanders and Adjutants. We pushed our newsletter as a method of communication and encouraged new growth and development. The positive response showed in times like this past March in Bakersfield where we received overwhelming support from our membership. In fact, we passed a motion to deliver as much money as we can raise from camps and/or individuals for Heritage Defense and present that during our next National Reunion in Richmond, Virginia. I'm here to support our new leaders whenever they ask and I wish them all the success in the world. I've always believed there is room for improvement in all the things we do, so we must continue to be the best we can be. Be sure and check out our California Division Web Site at: [www.californiascv.org](http://www.californiascv.org)

Farrell D. Cooley (Past California Division Commander for current Div. Cmdr. Steve Smith)

*Editor's Note: Every year division reports are published in the "Book of Reports" distributed during the National Convention & Reunion. This is the report submitted for the California Division covering the past year 2014 – 2015, to be issued this July 15<sup>th</sup> – July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Richmond, VA.*

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### *A Word from Division Commander Steve Smith*

My dear compatriots,

I hope all is well in the land of Golden State. From what I have seen, many camps went to work right after the Division reunion.

I cannot tell you what an honor it is to be the commander of this division! As a Retired Marine "try" is not in the vocabulary, rather it is "do". Things may not always work as planned, and other things pop up...lovingly referred to as "Damn Variables". Sometime those "damn variables" do not give us the results we intend, but we do what we have to do!

We have a heck of a fight on our hands....preserving our heritage and defending the honor of our ancestors. I have lost count of how many times I have posted facts on the web to defend our heritage. We know many people will never change their minds about the South and the Battle flag; fine, we cannot worry about the petty minds of bigots. It's the folks on the fence we have to persuade. General Lee would handle these people, regardless of their demeanor, with respect and kindness. I believe him to be such a Christian man; an example we should follow. Let God and facts guide you in your responses

to small minded folk. Not everyone can be Southern or a good Southern Sympathizer.

This is the worst time for our heritage, the attacks are many and from every direction. There are a few ways to fight this battle, we are the guys on the front lines, standing side by side our ladies of the UDC to keep up the fight, and it is a fight, we may not be throwing punches or sending volleys of lead, but we are fighting. We counter the attacks with fact, and hit them over and over again, until our point sinks in. we will not convince all, we will convince many.

Sometimes the battle takes place in the court room, and that takes money. National HQ has asked to pass the hat around, gents, Farrell & Vern will be heading to Richmond, for the national convention. I am asking every camp commander to challenge their members for \$5.00 or \$10.00, to donate to the National Heritage Defense Fund, and send to Vern our Division Adjutant. Vote on a motion to send a portion of your camp's treasury towards this fund raiser. Camp 302 was able to raise \$130.00 during the Jefferson Davis birthday luncheon. Jeff Davis would be proud! I think it appropriate for our past division Commander, Farrell Cooley, and division Adjutant, Vern Padgett, to hand a check to CIC Kelly Barrow for about \$3000.00. Let those east coast boys know we are dead serious about our heritage out in California. Like the 300 Spartans fought, we will show what 300 California men of Southern blood can do! Be not afraid to ask for a donation from our brothers in blue, as attitudes change, the Stars and Stripes will be under attack, it has already started! They will start coming to us to help, and we will help. Use your available resources to fight this fight. It is our heritage and the heritage of our kids and grandkids. What would our ancestors say to us in the afterlife if we do not put up the best fight we possibly can? We all swore an oath, to honor our ancestors, we must do everything we can to keep their memories alive.

If you find some little known fact about the South, the Confederacy, slavery, and/or the talking points the other side uses, pass the word, let other SCV members know what you found and where you found it. We have to be factual.

Several of us have the word "Commander" in our title, which means we need to lead; not always easy. But we took the title, now, time we do the job. Keep the fire lit, keep the boys active!

What have you done for the South today?

Deo Vindice  
Steve Smith  
California Division Commander.



**Sons of Confederate Veterans**  
*Division Brigade Cmdr. Jon J. Fowler*  
*Camp Albert S. Johnston #2048*  
*Mechanized Cavalry of Kern County*

Dear Compatriots:

I hope this finds you well.

I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to all of the camps to inquire about their local "Honor Guard" and what is working for them and what has not worked. I know with everyone's busy schedule and such, that time is a precious thing...but, please contact me at:

Jonrebtennessee@gmail.com

I also firmly believe that the California SCV can be very influential in raising awareness and showing our southern heritage.

It is my intention that the Honor Guard be a collective of all camps represented. I would also like to state that as a part of the next State Convention that (at a minimum each Camp have a representative) the Honor Guards have a meeting to get to know one another, fellowship, network and lastly share ideas. Bring your CAMP FLAG & STAND.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to each camp, as a "heads up" to let them know, that I will be contacting each Commander or Adjutant after July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to inquire about a representative for their local camp.

Thank you for your consideration to my communication.

Kind Regards,  
Jon J. Fowler  
California Division Brigade Commander



## Celebrate Jefferson Davis Day?

As members of the SCV we are proud of our Confederate ancestors for their bravery and courage as well as their conviction to the cause of freedom. But as proud as we are of our ancestors, it's not politically correct for us to fly our flags or celebrate Confederate holidays. Those of us 'behind enemy lines' in California, have come to expect outright hostility, especially to our flag, which was banned from sale or display by state agencies last September. Is it any coincidence that many of the same factions which are working to ban our flag and change our history are also working to eliminate our faith?

Perhaps one of the recent rants against the South was regarding the State of Alabama's celebration of Jefferson Davis Day. This was the target of the June 1, 2015 edition of "The Nightly Show" whose host, Larry Wilmore, berated both Davis and instantly linked the celebration of the holiday to slavery. He then went on to link the mindset of Southerners who are "nostalgic for the Old South", with the Holocaust of the Jews in Germany. He titled this section of the show as "that state is cray" meaning crazy or insane. While this is a cable show on Comedy Central, it does articulate the hatred for the South that is ubiquitous in pop culture.

Just a few things to set the record straight about Jefferson Davis...

He was an American soldier, a graduate of West Point, an Army officer, politician, and devout Christian who was also a US Congressman, a US Senator, and the US Secretary of War before becoming the President of the Confederate States of America. He was never tried or convicted of treason and later encourages Southern reconciliation with the United States in his book "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government".

As an American Episcopalian, Davis held the constitutional view of 'freedom of religion' (as

contrasted with the current push for 'freedom from religion') and did more for equality than any other political figure of his time. The abstract of the paper "Jefferson Davis, Religion, and the Politics of Recognition" by D. Jason Berggren said this:

*"At a time when Catholics and Jews were often held in contempt and discriminated against, one president did more than any other American president before the twentieth century to symbolically recognize them. That president was Jefferson Davis. Through his appointment power, the Confederate President created the first administration in American history that included Protestants, Catholics, and Jews. Unlike his contemporary Abraham Lincoln who only appointed Protestants to high office, Davis practiced the politics of recognition by appointing individuals identified with persecuted religious minorities. In this regard, contrary to conventional wisdom, Jefferson Davis was a remarkable president, a president ahead of his time."*

The paper goes on to say that it was the character of Jefferson Davis, formed by his faith in God, which propelled his political stance as well as sustaining him during times of trial. From an objective point of view, why wouldn't you celebrate the life of this man? He was the embodiment of the American spirit of accomplishment, of hard work, and of faith.

The reality behind the celebration of Jefferson Davis Day is that most will just see it as a long weekend and forget to remember the man. Much like the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, there will be some commemoration services, but the average person will simply see it as a day to themselves. The difference being is that while MLK day is received with a generalized acceptance, just the mere mention that Davis day would be celebrated in Alabama created a firestorm of anti-Southern hate speech.

We can learn from Jefferson Davis the virtues of faith, hope and charity and we can draw those virtues into our lives. When others demonstrate their ignorance regarding the War Between the States, we must simply and patiently work with them and cause them to ask questions – especially about the causes that animated the conflict. The more

honest questions that they ask, the more informed they will become.

But as for The Nightly Show host Larry Wilmore's thin comparison of the Confederacy with Nazis..... Now that's just 'cray'!

Rev. William Bower  
Calf. Division Chaplain  
Camp 2048 Chaplain

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## Heritage Defense Fund Raiser

Our division has been trying to encourage and emphasize the need for replenishing our Defense Fund needed at headquarters. One of the past issues of the CV Mag, the Chief of Heritage Defense, Ben Jones asked everyone to contribute whatever they can and do it fast. I know Camp 1627, Sacramento and Camp 1770, Orange County responded immediately and we were recognized in the pages of the CV for our dedication. Additionally, I believe some individuals sent donations directly to IHQ. However, the need hasn't been satisfied and may never be fully satisfied, considering the mindless attacks we find ourselves trying to defend.

Our division has been successful in conducting fund raisers on the division level where we ask members and/or camps to donate whatever they can towards the project being emphasized. During our recent division convention and reunion in Bakersfield several members stepped up to the plate and gave us checks for heritage. After the convention, several camps responded, below will be a current update on who has donated toward this current drive provided by our Division Adjutant, Vern Padgett.

One of our powers of influence for this division is to respond to the immediate issues facing our organization. If you read the

Veteran, we always seem to have several important issues on the table. I always felt it was more effective to concentrate upon one issue at a time and then make a big deal of it, because it is you the member that has sacrificed your dollars to support the California Division and ultimately our organization in Tennessee. What this meant to me is that as a leader in the Calf. Division how can I promote the effort we put forth and bring attention to ourselves, especially in comparison to other divisions across the country. Like it or not, we are judge by others and comparatively speaking encourage other camps and divisions to respond even more considering they live in the heartland and we don't.

Please help us be successful and if you can afford a few bucks towards the defense of our heritage, cut a check today. Or add what you can do with whatever the camp can do and make it a camp check to the California Division, earmarked for the Heritage Fund Project.

Vern and I will deliver the results to our leaders during the Richmond, VA National Reunion coming up in a few weeks in July. We need your attention to this matter right-away, so Vern can deposit and prepare.

### Send your donations to:

**SCV Calf. Div. Adjutant  
Vern Padgett, Ph.D.  
5412 Citrus Grove Pl.  
Whittier, CA 90601**

Below, will be a current tally of where we stand by brother Vern. Thank You in advance for joining this important project.

Always Yer Rebel,  
Farrell D. Cooley  
Past Calf. Division Commander 2011 - 2015

Gents,

For Heritage Defense:

\$200 from Henry Cardenas / Camp 1208 Los Angeles

\$100 from John Hussy / Camp 1742 Inland Empire

\$ 20 from John Fowler / Camp 2048 Bakersfield

\$ 50 from Bill Lee / Camp 1804 Fresno

\$ 25 from Ted Boyias / Camp 2062

\$ 60 from Camp 2023 / Modesto

\$500 from Camp 1770 / Orange County

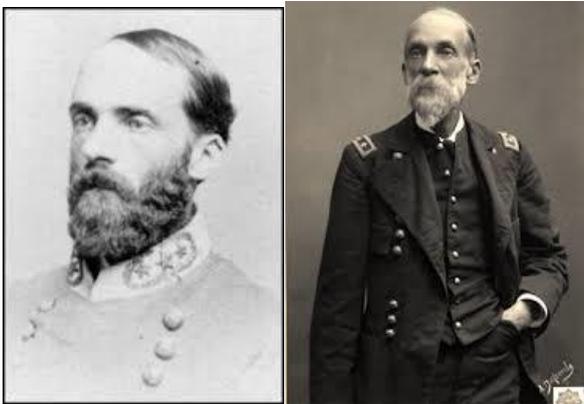
\$170 from Camp 302 / San Diego

For a total of \$ 1125 (so far)

Vern Padgett

SCV Calif. Division Adjutant / Treasurer  
Camp 1208

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Fighting General Joe Wheeler  
Confederate Cavalry Leader

Did you know?

Fighting Joe Wheeler was wounded 3 times during the WBTS, had 16 horses shot out from under him, 6 staff officers were killed by his side and another 30 were wounded.

He entered West Point at 17 years of age in 1854. General Lee considered him to be one of two best cavalrymen in the war. At one

point, he was Commander over Forrest and Morgan.

Joe Wheeler got his nickname, 'Fighting' Joe Wheeler from a fight with Indians prior to the war, where it was said he charged a group of them on horseback, firing his colt pistol and chasing them off to protect an ambulance wagon with a young mother, new born child, surgeon and teamster driver. One of his men said, "Joe warn't afraid of nuthin' or nobody."

Joe Wheeler proved him himself in battle leading men under fire, communicating and directing his regiments. He caused havoc to a number of US Generals, such as Don Carlos Buell, Rosecrans and Sherman. He published manuals titled, "Horse Marines", and "Cavalry Tactics." By May of 1863, he was promoted to Major General by the Confederate Congress.

In middle 1863, he personally led 600 men in a cavalry charge at Duck River in TN, to keep Forrest and his men from being cut-off. It was Wheeler who authorized the cavalry raid into Kentucky by John Hunt Morgan. However, Morgan proceeded into Indiana and Ohio where he was eventually captured and unable to escape. This expedition kept about 60,000 union troopers up north and away from Bragg's Army of Tennessee.

At one point, Wheeler and his men destroyed about 500 supply union wagons during Rosecrans's retreat to Chattanooga, estimated to be the largest amount of supply wagons captured and destroyed during the war for either side. During the Atlanta campaign, Wheeler and his men of about 5,000 confronted Sherman's 9,000 men and mauled them at different points. He protected the flanks and rear guards for Bragg, Johnston and Hood. He captured US General Stoneman and 5 Brigadier Generals at Macon, GA taking about 3,200 prisoners and many supply and artillery wagons.

Leave it to politics by a couple of Generals and before you know it, it was recommended that Wheeler be placed under the command of General Wade Hampton.

Interesting, is Wheeler's devotion to duty and how he handled the situation without conflict, but continued to do his duty, confronting the Yankees in South Carolina. Others would have resigned in bitterness, but not Wheeler...his character showed how dedicated he was without personal glory.

By February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1865, the Confederate Congress again promoted Joe Wheeler, this time to Lt. General and in South Carolina he chased US General Kilpatrick from capture while Kilpatrick was still in his pajamas.

After the surrender of General Lee and Johnston in April, 1865, Lt. General Joe Wheeler addressed his troopers with kindness and honor, calling them heroes, veterans, and patriots. However, Wheeler was not done after the surrenders. He, living up to his character of Knighthood, asked for volunteers and started riding to Georgia to escort President Jefferson Davis. Jefferson was to be captured on May 10<sup>th</sup> in Irwingsville, Georgia and three days after, Fighting Joe Wheeler was also captured.

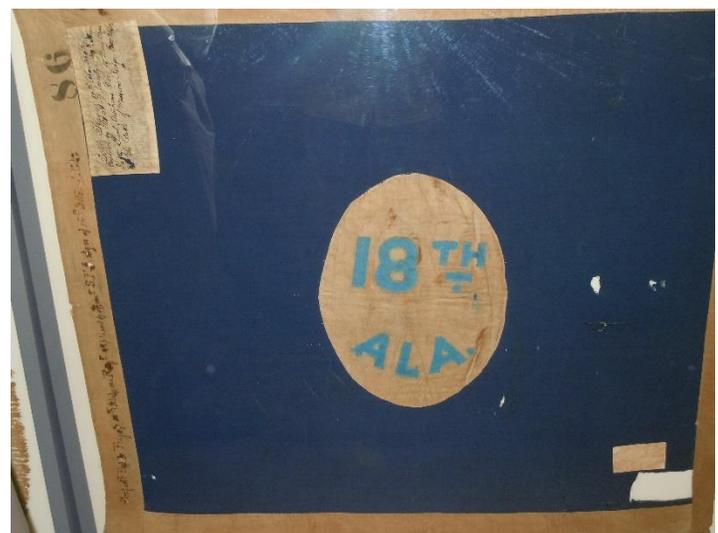
All the captured Confederate Officials and General Wheeler were boarded upon a prison boat destined for Savannah, GA. During the voyage, General Wheeler cared for by rocking on his shoulder, Varina Davis's baby daughter, Winnie. He was released from Fort Delaware, a Yankee prison on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1865.

Wheeler's dedication didn't end with the end of the WBTS, he went on to be a business owner, a planter and eventually a lawyer. By 1880 Wheeler was elected to Congress, representing Alabama for almost 20 years. He was recognized for addressing Congress in 1894 about the causes of the WBTS and claimed that it was hypocrisy to attribute the war to slavery. He went into great depth, speaking on States Rights, Constitutional Government, the Morrill Tariff and the origins of Slavery. His speech can be viewed over the internet, reference: Richmond Dispatch, July 31, 1894.

In 1898, with the Spanish-American War going on CS General Joe Wheeler

petitioned President McKinley to serve in the U.S. Army to liberate Cuba. McKinley made him a Major General of Volunteers in the US Army. His dismounted Cavalry, better known later as "Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders", organized regiments to ride on San Juan Hill near Santiago. This forced a peace treaty with the Spanish. Wheeler returned home as a hero and defender of a united union.

He died in 1906 while visiting NY and is one of only a few Confederate Officers buried in Arlington Cemetery in Virginia. (The Uncivil War, Shattering the Historical Myths: Leonard M. Scruggs, Universal Media, 2011, pp. 305 -317)



Montgomery Alabama Archives Department  
Preserved Flags of our ancestors units

