



Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863, Conyers, Ga.

# GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



Volume 6, Issue 6

October, 2010

### Camp Officers:

**Commander: Tommy Cook**

[1st. Lt.Cmdr@joewheeler863scv.org](mailto:1st.Lt.Cmdr@joewheeler863scv.org)

**2nd. Lt. Cmdr: Joe Underwood**

[2nd Lt. Cmdr@joewheeler863scv.org](mailto:2nd.Lt.Cmdr@joewheeler863scv.org)

**Camp Adjutant: Steve Camp**

[Adjutant@joewheeler863scv.org](mailto:Adjutant@joewheeler863scv.org)

### Coming Events

October 3, 2010 - **"Sunday in the Park"** - Oakland Cemetery, Noon - 6:00 pm., Atlanta, GA.

October 9, 2010 - **"Auction of Airliewood"** - Holly Springs, Mississippi.

July 14 - 16, 2011 - **2011 SCV Reunion**, Montgomery, Alabama

### Inside this issue:

**"Our Commanders Comments"** 2  
By: Commander Tommy Cook

**"Georgia Raises Battleflag on I-75"** 2  
Announcement from SCV website

**"Grant's Holy Springs Headquarters will be Sold at Auction on Oct. 9"** 3  
By: Kathryn Jorgensen  
(continued from page 1.)

**"Battle Flag Resolution"** 3  
By: Charles Kelley Barrow, Cmdr., Army of Tennessee, SCV.

**"Battle Flag Resolution"** 4  
By: Charles Kelley Barrow, Cmdr., Army of Tennessee, SCV. (Continued from page 3)



## Grant's Holly Springs Headquarters Will Be Sold At Auction On Oct. 9



By: Kathryn Jorgensen, Oct. 2010 Civil War News

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. — On Oct. 9 an auction bidder could become the owner of Airliewood, the restored Gothic Revival mansion where Gen. U.S. Grant made his headquarters and had Christmas dinner with his officers and family in 1862.



Airliewood, the Holly Springs mansion that saw so much history, and underwent a \$5 million restoration, will be auctioned at a low reserve

Joe and Kathy Overstreet, who spent \$5 million restoring and enlarging the home, have set a low reserve of \$750,000, "which is what we paid for the house before we did a penny of renovation," he says.

Joe Overstreet is a native of Oxford, Miss., who loves Civil War history. One day in 2002 he passed Airliewood, which was in disrepair, and saw a "for sale" sign.

They decided to undertake restoring the mansion. "There weren't that many homes where Grant and others stayed that are left and documented," he says. "We wanted to restore it as it

was in 1858."

Airliewood, its name since 1938, was built by planter William Henry Coxe. It is a few blocks off the courthouse square in a historic district known as Mansion Row.

The house, with some 5,000 square feet, was the most grand in Holly Springs, sitting on a 15-acre landscaped estate. Its cast iron fence which ran for a hundred yards along Salem Avenue was a duplicate of one at the U.S. Military Academy.

The mansion had mantels of marble and marbled slate and silver hardware. It had Holly Springs' first bathroom with running water, which was pumped by hand. Every room had cords for call bells.

Behind the mansion were a carriage house, in the same architectural style, and a servants' house.

Eighty workers from seven states worked on the renovation. The restoration began with the cast iron fence along the front. The Overstreets added an addition of more than 4,000 square feet and an attached garage.

The addition was built with approval of the city's preservation committee and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

"Every step of the way from de-

sign and construction had prior approval," Overstreet says. One of the requirements was that there be a distinction between the new and old.

The original house exterior was plaster painted pinkish tan and scored in red to give a look of square stone blocks.

"We confirmed this when we tore down a tacked-on upstairs bath built in probably the 1920s, and found a section of the original wall untouched," Overstreet says. To make the distinction clear, the addition exterior is not scored.

Airliewood is the Overstreets' second home. They moved into the new part in 2005 and completed restoration in 2006. The house was officially unveiled at the April 2006 Holly Springs Pilgrimage.

It received the 2006 Award of Merit for Restoration and Rehabilitation from the Mississippi Heritage Trust.

Len Riedel, Executive Director of the Blue & Gray Education Society, which the Overstreets support, says of the restoration, "You can smell the cigar smoke and hear the spurs rattling on the porch in your mind's eye."

Riedel imagines Gen. Grant sitting in his office in the double parlor collecting reports and

(Continued on page 3)



# Our Commanders Comments



*By: Commander Tommy Cook*



Fellow members and friends of Joe Wheeler Camp 863,

As fall approaches it is time for our camp to prepare for the "Old Town Festival" held in historic Old Town Conyers. This year the festival will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. You will find numerous arts/crafts and food vendors, as well as the booth for the Joe Wheeler Camp. Once again we will set up shop, distribute pamphlets and try to raise a little money for the camp by selling flags, tags, books and other items. We need you to help man the booth this year so be prepared to sign up for the event. If you can't make the October meeting please contact Steve Camp and let him know when you can help out. I have participated in this event for several years and it has always been a pleasure to represent our camp.

You will meet a lot of "Southern Friendly Folks" and have a chance to educate our community about the SCV.

It is now time to pay your National, State and Camp level dues if you have not done so already. You should have received a statement from our state adjutant in early August. If not please contact our camp adjutant, Steve Camp and he will provide you with a statement. Steve will be collecting dues at the next meeting. That will be your last chance to get your dues to Steve so if you have not paid and do not plan to attend the next meeting then mail yours in today. Steve will have to mail in the dues to State and National following our October meeting.

As a reminder, you are encouraged to attend the "Sunday in the Park" event at Oakland Cemetery which is noon – 6:00 PM on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. The

event features tours, music, food, crafts and other activities. You can visit the Oakland Cemetery website to learn more about the event.

At our last meeting the mini-program was provided by A.J. Lamb about his Confederate ancestor who was from Emanuel County GA and is buried in Jefferson County. He shared documentation obtained from the National Archives. Be prepared to answer the call next meeting and share your Confederate ancestor's information as A.J. did. Thank you A.J.!

I look forward to seeing all of you on October 12<sup>th</sup> at the next camp meeting. Your attendance is needed and appreciated; please make it special by joining us!

Yours in the South,

Tommy Cook



## Georgia Raises Battleflag on I-75



**HUGE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG GOING UP ON I-75 IN GEORGIA**

(ATLANTA - 21 September 2010) In conjunction with the launch of events to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the War Between the States, the Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will be erecting a 100' flagpole with a Confederate battle flag on Saturday, September 25, 2010 at I-75 Exit 71, just north of Tifton.

The flag raising is part of the ongoing Flags Over Georgia project of the Sons of Confederate Veterans here in the state and is designed to increase

awareness of the significant role that Georgia played during the War. Due to the current political climate in America, there is more interest today than any other time in the last hundred years regarding our Confederate Heritage as people attempt to understand the South's stand against an out-of-control federal government.

Earlier this year, the Florida Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans received national attention when they, too, raised a large Confederate battle flag alongside a major expressway in their state.

Georgia Division Commander, Jack Bridwell, had this to say about Saturday's flag raising, "This beautiful Flag signals the start of our

*Announcement from SCV website*

celebration of the Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence. We will continue to highlight times, sites, and people over the next 4 years; hopefully the public will join us in this celebration. "

The Sons of Confederate Veterans are also preparing to launch a statewide radio and television campaign with commercials which will educate the public about Georgia's Confederate heritage and role during the War in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the War Between the States.

Interviews or more information about the Sons of Confederate Veterans or the flag raising may be obtained by contacting the Georgia Division at 1-888-SCVinGA or online at [www.GeorgiaSCV.com](http://www.GeorgiaSCV.com).



# Grant's Holly Springs Headquarters Will Be Sold At Auction On Oct. 9



By: Kathryn Jorgensen, Oct. 2010 Civil War News (Continued from Page 1)

smelling the smoldering fires set during Gen. Earl Van Dorn's raid a few days earlier.

Union and Confederate forces had skirmished in Holly Springs on Nov. 13 and Nov. 28-29. Grant marched into Holly Springs on the 29th and on to Oxford.

According to the *Official Records*, on Dec. 3 Grant ordered that Holly Springs be made the main depot for supplies "of every kind needed" except horses, which were to be sent to the front.

After his Dec. 20 raid Gen. Van Dorn reported burning "an immense amount" of stores, cotton and many trains he estimated worth \$1.5 million. He also took many arms and 1,500 prisoners.

Grant returned to Holly Springs on Dec. 22, remaining until Jan. 9.

"He had taken liberties Gen. Henry Halleck didn't like and paid a severe price," says Riedel. "Still, his mettle showed. He didn't wilt and quickly made the decision to regroup, return to Memphis and reengineer his campaign against Vicksburg."

Grant's stay was not Airliewood's only

## connection with the Civil War

University of Georgia English professor Hubert H. McAlexander, a native of Holly Springs, wrote a history of the property that can be read at [www.airliewood.com](http://www.airliewood.com). According to him Holly Springs changed hands more than 50 times and the house was likely occupied again.

A local woman noted that soldiers took target practice on the iron fence finials and pried tiles from the porches.

Postwar, the 3rd and 13th U.S. Regiments occupying New Orleans traditionally escaped the threat of yellow fever by spending the summer and fall camped in Holly Springs.

There was little interaction between the civilians and soldiers until 1875 when local families were suffering financially in the depression following the Panic of 1873. The commanders of the two U.S. regiments were offered rooms for rent in the mansion, beginning a season of social life between the military and residents.

Three years later, according to McAlexander's history, author Sherwood Bonner published *Like Unto Like*, a novel set in

Holly Springs the summer of 1875, in which the mansion figuring prominently.

The estate passed through several families until it was abandoned in 1896. By then half its land had been sold.

Why are they selling the house after so much expense and effort to restore it? Joe Overstreet explains they live in Memphis, their children are elsewhere and don't need it as a second home. Once they decided to part with the house they decided an auction was the best way to go.

Had they listed it for sale, the house could be on the market for years. An absolute auction creates a date certain, and that's what they wanted.

What will the new owner be buying? Six bedrooms, four baths, chef's kitchen, music room, exercise room, sun room, three porches, 10 fireplaces, a four-car garage and a lot of history.

Photos can be seen at the Morris Auction Group's Web site, [Morrisauctiongroup.com](http://Morrisauctiongroup.com), and [www.airliewood.com](http://www.airliewood.com).



Offered by Charles Kelly Barrow, Cmdr, Army of Tennessee, SCV

Adopted at the Anderson, SC Reunion - 2010

**WHEREAS**, the approach of the Sesqui-centennial will be a time to educate not only the people of

# BattleFlag Resolution



these United States but of the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the most recognized symbol of the Confederate States is the Battle Flag, a flag each

of us hold dear; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of the Confederate Battle Flag by extremist political groups and individuals

who seek to clothe themselves in respectability by misappropriating the banner under which our

southern ancestors fought for a Just Cause which is as noble as much latter day is ignoble; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sons of Confederate Veterans are the true inheritors of legacy and symbols for

which the Confederate Veterans fought and died; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sons of Confederate Veterans does denounce the use of the Confederate Battle

Flag and any other Confederate symbol by any hate group and/or the Ku Klux Klan as the

desecration of a symbol to which any hate group and/or the Ku Klux Klan has no claim; and

**MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH WHEELER CAMP #863,  
CONYERS, GA.**

805 Commerce Drive  
Conyers, GA. 30094

E-mail: [commander@joewheeler863scv.org](mailto:commander@joewheeler863scv.org)



«AddressBlock»

Mailing

Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3



# BattleFlag Resolution



Offered by Charles Kelly Barrow, Cmdr, Army of Tennessee, SCV

**WHEREAS**, the misuse of the Confederate Battle Flag by any extremist group or individual

espousing political extremism and/or racial superiority degrades the Confederate Battle Flag and

maligins the noble purpose of our ancestors who fought against extreme odds for what they knew

was just, right, and constitutional; and

**WHEREAS**, the misuse of other flags and symbols of the Confederate States of America and the

Confederate States Army, Navy, and Marines is similarly degrading,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Sons of Confederate Veterans in General

Convention assembled in Anderson, South Carolina, does hereby condemn in

the strongest

terms possible the use of the Confederate Battle Flag or any other flag, symbol, seal, title or

name bearing any relationship whatsoever to the Confederate States of America or the armed

forces of that Government by any such extremist group or individual, of whatever name or

designation by which know, and

**LET IT BE FUTHER RESOLVED**, that the Sons of Confederate Veterans in General Convention

assembled, does hereby condemn in the strongest terms possible the inappropriate use of the

Confederate Battle Flag or any other flag, seal, title or name bearing any relationship whatsoever

to the Confederate States of America or the armed forces of that Government of the Confederate

States of America by individuals or groups of individuals, organized or unorganized, who espouse

political extremism or racial superiority and that this resolution shall be made known to all media

outlets now and throughout the years of the Sesquicentennial and it shall be made patent and

entered into the permanent records and archives of the General Headquarters of the Sons of

Confederate Veterans at Elm Springs in Columbia, Tennessee.



**Fergit Hell!!!**