



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

# GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



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### Coming Events

August 11, 2015 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

September 8, 2015 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

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## Spangler Farm Field Hospital Open Weekends

July 2015 issue of "Civil War News"



"The Last Full Measure: The Dead at the Spangler Farm" at 1:15 p.m. explores the site of the Spangler Farm field hospital cemetery and the stories of those buried there.

Visitors to the farm can learn about period farm life, artillery, medicine and field hospital systems, soldier burials and more with NPS interpretive rangers and living historians who tell about the soldiers, officers, surgeons, chaplains and civilians connected to

The historic George Spangler Farm Civil War Field Hospital Site is open to visitors through Aug. 16 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with four new interpretive programs.

The George Spangler Farm is one of Gettysburg Battlefield's best examples of a Civil War field hospital. More than 1,900 men were treated there. Among them was Confederate Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Armistead. He died two days after leading his Virginia brigade across the stone wall at the angle where he was mortally wounded during the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble assault.

The Gettysburg Foundation and the National Park Service (NPS) are offering four half-hour programs that relate the stories of

the Spangler family, the fighting, medical care and the dead.

"George Spangler Family at Work" is a living history program at 10:15 a.m. that demonstrates trades of the period and civilian life at the farm.

"Manning the Guns: Artillery at the Spangler Farm" at 11:15 a.m. gives visitors a chance to join NPS living historians and discover the experiences of Civil War artillerists by becoming a cannon crew member. More than 100 Union cannon occupied the fields surrounding the George Spangler Farm during the Battle of Gettysburg.

"An Army Field Hospital: The George Spangler Farm" at 12:15 features the field hospital set up at the Spangler Farm.

the farm.

Through donations which helped the Gettysburg Foundation purchase the 80-acre property within the park boundary, the Spangler Farm's authenticity remains intact and its future has been secured.

Access to the farm is provided by shuttle bus only from the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center. Shuttle tickets are required and are sold at the lobby ticket counter. Adults are \$5, ages 6-12 are \$2.

For information about the George Spangler Farm to go [www.gettysburgfoundation.org/spangler](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/spangler)



## Our Commanders' Comments

By: Commander John Maxey



Southern Gentlemen,

Our last meeting was well attended and I know everyone enjoyed themselves. I would like to thank those of

you that show up early to set things up and stay late to put things away. Without your efforts I don't know what I'd

do. Every meeting just seems to get better.

During our next meeting we will be swearing in some new faces. Mr. Barry James and Mr. Don Myers will be joining our ranks as the newest members of Camp #863. Mr. Barry James also gave us a mini-program about his Confederate ancestors. It's always great to have new members.

With cooler weather ahead we'll begin

to do our Cemetery clean-ups again. As of late, its just been too hot to do so.

Our next meeting will be on August 11th, I hope to see all of you there. Our mini-program that night will be our very own Past Commander Joe Underwood. It will be good.

Until then have a "Dixie" day,

John Maxey, Cmdr.



## Last Confederate Metal of Honor Issued

News brief from the July 2015 issue of "Civil War News"



PEARISBURG, Va. — At 11 a.m. on July 11 a Confederate Medal of Honor ceremony for Tapley P. Mays was held at the Giles County Courthouse.

Mays was a native of Pittsylvania County who enlisted in Co. D, 7th Virginia Infantry, on May 13, 1861, at the courthouse in Pearisburg. In May 1862

he was promoted to color sergeant and wounded less than two months later at Frayser's Farm (Glendale), Va.

Acting as ensign and carrying the colors, Mays was mortally wounded on Sept. 14, 1862, at South Mountain. He died Sept. 17 at Boonsboro, Md.

Mays was one of 57 soldiers named by the Confederate Congress to be honored, but no money was ever available for medals of honor. In 1977 the Sons of Confederate Veterans struck them. The very last medal will be awarded to

the citizens of Giles County.

It will be permanently displayed at the courthouse along with a Henry Kidd portrait of Mays whose company trained on the courthouse lawn where the ceremony will be held.

After the ceremony reenactors were invited to camp and take part in the living history program at the nearby Andrew Johnston House museum.



## Georgia Division Update



Gentlemen,

Many of you and your Camp members should be receiving your (Member Retention System) MRS dues billing statement this past week.

I also wanted to make you aware that the Georgia Division has also sent out a MRS dues billing statement to all the Division's non-renewing members from 2012, 2013 and 2014 which was approximately 1,100 non-renewing members. Hopefully with all the recent attacks against our Confederate Heritage these non-renewing members will see how important it is to retain their membership with the Sons of Confederate Veterans

and will renew their memberships.

I know SCV National staff has been swamped with inquiries so be patient with them. I know many of you have been inundated with new members and renewed interest yourselves. On the Division level we have been swamped as well, our HQ Camp has grown from 42 members to almost 80 members and many new Division associate members. Our Genealogy Officer Hu Daughtry who receives inquiries from the SCV National and Division web-sites, calls from the Division and National 1-800 numbers and inquires that come through me, Hu indicates for the last 4 weeks he has received over 50 inquires per week and it's not slowing down. So a big hooray for

Brother Hu and his efforts and please be patient with us if we haven't gotten back with you.

We have totally sold out of our stock of our Pastor Weaver CDs "The Truth Concerning The Confederate Battle Flag" the 2,000 CDs we had in stock was gone within a week. A big thank you to Compatriot Joel Coleman who along with me takes the orders from other Camps in our Confederation and distributes them at our cost. Joel gets far more out than I. We have just received another bulk order of 10,000 CDs, so we have replenished our stock and ready to get more CDs out to give the uninformed a history lesson of the origins of our beloved Confederate Battle Flag.

Continued on page 3.



## Georgia Division Update (Continued)



We are still in negotiations with the Georgia Department of Revenue (DOR) to get our specialty tag re-issued and back in the tag offices. Our past meeting with them last week was very productive and the DOR has expressed an interest to get this issue resolved. We have expressed to them that the input we have received from our membership is that we are negotiable in regards with the faded background but non-negotiable in regards with the SCV logo being on the tag. Hopefully we will have this issue resolved within a couple of weeks.

Please encourage your members to make a donation when they send in their MRS billing statements to our Heritage Defense and Flags across Georgia project funds. We are currently incurring legal expenses for the research and attorney fees for the specialty tag defense, also we know that Atlanta's State Senator Vincent Fort plans to enter legislation in the next legislative session to remove Confederate Memorial day, Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis's State holidays and more-likely legislation regarding the Stone Mountain Carvings. We need to be ready for this up-coming fight during the next legislative session. Already we have seen our

enemies taking action and calling for the Confederate monuments to be removed in Macon, Statesboro, Eastman and Monticello. We need to be erecting more Flagpoles than ever, for every one flag these spineless politicians take down we need to raise 10 Battle flags to replace it.

Deo Vindice,

**Timothy F. Pilgrim**  
Adjutant, Georgia Division



## A Message from Our Division Commander



As you know, we are presently under attack by almost every politician, "news" person, and anyone who can find their way before a camera or reporter. The heinous crime committed by the mentally unstable kid in South Carolina is being used to paint us as something we're not. We've been around since 1896, but that fact doesn't seem to set a precedent.

We must stand strong and together, there is nothing that would please our enemies more than for us to fight among ourselves. Regrettably, we're on the threshold of another battle, not with arms but with numbers, with words and with the truth, which is, as always, on our side. We can't allow them to beat us down, the truth and right will win, but only if we stand together as a solid cohesive unit. The majority of these people are so uninformed about our history, they don't have a clue about the facts!

We met with Commissioner Riley of the Georgia Department of Revenue, July 1st, and the outcome was, shall we say, less than amiable. Commissioner Riley, was not open to any suggestions presented to her by myself, Judge Advocate Dan Coleman, Division Adjutant Tim Pilgrim, our General Counsel and Past Judge Advocate, legal representative, Martin O'Toole, or Brigade Commander, Charlie Parks. She arrived for the meeting with a preset decision that there will be no SCV Tag with the Battle Flag or with our organizational logo on it. Commissioner Riley and the Department of Revenue General Counsel, who were also present during the meeting, position was they have the authority to remove the Battle Flag

and SCV logo solely based on the recent Supreme Court ruling on the Texas SCV specialty license tag. We have had the logo in place on the tag since its inception, now the Commissioner has, on her own stated, that our logo and the Battle Flag "may be offensive to some people". Her statement was offensive to me, but then I don't work for the Governor.

So the current situation is that our specialty tag has been pulled by the Dept. of Revenue pending a redesign without the SCV logo. We are currently having General Counsel O'Toole investigating what our legal options are moving forward. We, as a Division, need to make some hard decisions, we either accept Commissioner Riley's decree to design our specialty tag using a neutered version, not to have any specialty tag at all or if we have legal grounds to move forward with legal actions against the Department of Revenue but who can expect success with that after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision?

It is my position as your Division Commander and the consensus of the Officers attending the meeting, that if we have sound legal standing to move forward with legal action against the Dept. of Revenue for violating state law. I believe this is what our membership expects us to do, to show strength and resolve with this matter and to defend the flags of our Confederate Heroes.

I request that all our Camps discuss this issue at your next Camp meeting and take a vote on what course of action you would want the Division to take. Below are the three options as we see them:

Options:

1. Accept the decree to re-design our specialty tag without the SCV logo. If this is selected, offer a re-design option as well.
2. Cease having a specialty tag. (What would be the purpose without the SCV logo, our members could donate \$10 a year extra to the project fund and have the same effect)
3. Pursue legal action against the Department of Revenue if determined we have legal grounds to do so. If this option fails, we could divert back to option 1 or 2.

I would ask that all Camp Commanders contact your Brigade Commanders with the results of the Camp's vote. I'll plan on having an early Executive Council meeting the first of August so we can bring this matter before the Division's Executive Counsel and tally each Brigade's votes and suggestions.

Another point Commissioner Riley brought before us during the meeting, she hasn't had any input from our membership or Georgia citizens on her actions to remove the SCV specialty tags with the SCV logo and Battle flag on it. So let's, as an organization that honors our Confederate Ancestors, let her know where we stand on this issue, please e-mail Commissioner Riley at the following address to express your concerns that she has pulled the SCV specialty tags with the SCV logo, and as usual be professional and polite:

Commissioner Lynne Riley

[Lynne.riley@dor.ga.gov](mailto:Lynne.riley@dor.ga.gov)

Live the Charge,

Jack  
GA Div Cmdr

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

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.campjowheeler.org](http://www.campjowheeler.org)

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## Resolution of Support Battle Flag of the Confederacy



A resolution in support of the display of the Confederate Battle Flag from the Sons of Union Veterans;

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, condemn the use of the confederate battle flag, as well as the flag of the United States, by any and all hate groups; and

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,

support the flying of the Confederate battle flag as a historical piece of this nation's history; and

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, oppose the removal of any Confederate monuments or markers to those gallant soldiers in the former Confederate States, and strongly oppose the removal of ANY reminders of this nation's bloodiest war on the grounds of it being "politically correct;" and

WHEREAS, we, as the descendants of Union soldiers and sailors who as members of the Grand Army of the Republic met in joint reunions with the Confederate

veterans under both flags in those bonds of Fraternal Friendship, pledge our support and admiration for those gallant soldiers and of their respective flags;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in the 119th Annual National Encampment, hereby adopt this resolution.

