

15th Regiment South Carolina Volunteers



15th Regimental Report
Camp #51 Lexington County, S.C.
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Volume XI, Issue I

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January 2003

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**Winner of the S. A. Cunningham Newsletter Award,
Camps with over 50 members.
2002 SCV National Convention - Memphis Tennessee**

**Winner of the Ambrose Gonzales Newsletter Award,
Palmetto Level First Place
2002 South Carolina SCV State Convention - Aiken**

Let the Newsletter Editor know if you wish to receive your newsletter by email.

Send all camp correspondence to:

**15th Regiment SC
Vols
P.O. Box 84381
Lexington, SC
29073**



— Last Call —

On February 1st if you have not paid,
your membership will lapse.

Official Notification 2003 SCV MEMBERSHIP DUES

All members are hereby notified that your 2003
Sons of Confederate Veterans Membership Dues are now due.

Each year we are required to pay our dues between August 1st and February 1st.
Member's dues not post marked by February 1st will be dropped from the roster and
will be required to pay
National Headquarters a \$5.00 re-instatement fee.

Regular Membership is currently \$37.00 per year.
(\$20.00 National, \$5.00 State, & \$12.00 Camp 51)

Life Membership Options:

National	\$300.00
State	\$100.00

Payments can be made to the Camp Adjutant at the
January Camp Meeting

or

Mail your payment to the Camp Adjutant at:
15th Regiment SC Vols
P.O. Box 84381
Lexington, SC 29073

Confederate - American

General Joseph Wheeler



Joseph Wheeler was born in Augusta, Georgia, on September 10, 1836, the youngest of four children. His mother died in 1842, and shortly thereafter his father lost his fortune. Wheeler's father decided to take the children and return to his home state of Connecticut. Young Joe eventually went to live with his maternal grandparents and his aunts, Mary and Augusta Hull. He received his schooling at the Episcopal Academy in Cheshire, Connecticut, and on July 1, 1854 at age 17, he was admitted to West Point, subsequently graduating in 1859.

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Joseph Wheeler reviewing a parade in Huntsville, Alabama. Photograph is undated; however, is believed to have been taken following the 1898 Spanish-American War. Note the United Confederate Veterans Organization emblem on the saddle blanket.

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Some highlights of his career:

At age 26, he became one of the youngest Confederate Generals, and rapidly rose from Brigadier to Major General during 1863. In February of 1865 Wheeler was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General of The Army of Tennessee.

He participated in more than 500 skirmishes and commanded in 127 battles. As sobering proof of his personal exposure to danger during this period, records show that 36 staff officers were wounded at his side, and 16 horses were shot from under him.

He was characterized by General Robert E. Lee as one of the two outstanding cavalymen in the War Between the States (General J.E.B. Stuart was the other).

In the 1870's, Wheeler studied law, and after passing the Alabama Bar Exam, became an attorney for the Tuscumbia, Courtland, and Decatur Railroad (later Southern Railway).

He was first elected to Congress in 1880. Following his initial two-year service, he was defeated. Running again at the next opportunity two years later, he would serve continuously until taking leave from Congress in 1898, at the beginning of the Spanish-American War.

Subsequently, Wheeler was commissioned by President McKinley to serve as Major General of Volunteers in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

General Joseph Wheeler died in 1906 and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

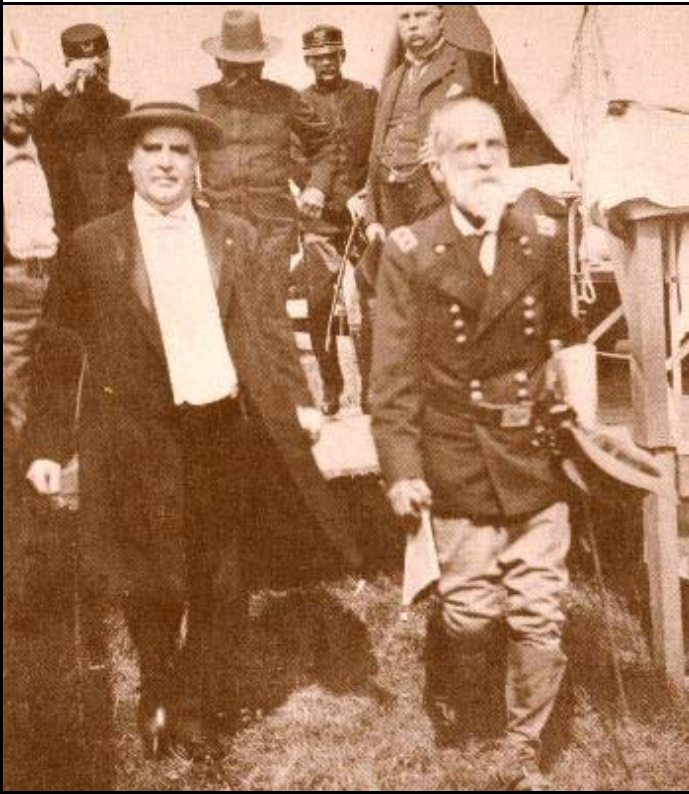


Spanish-American War- Wheeler and officers (left to right): Major Dunn, Major Brodie, Maj. Gen. Wheeler, Chaplain Brown, Colonel Leonard Wood, Lt. Col. Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt (circa 1898).

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<http://www.wheelerplantation.org/Joe.htm>

Joseph Wheeler was the only Confederate general to attain the same rank later in the United States Army. Three decades after he commanded Confederate cavalry forces, he volunteered at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War and was commissioned a Major General of Volunteers in Cuba. He later became a Brigadier General of the Regular Army in the Philippines.



Above: President William McKinley and Gen. Wheeler tour Camp Wikoff at Montauk Point, NY. Following the Cuban Expedition, General Wheeler commanded Camp Wikoff for a time. (circa 1898) Camp Wikoff was established as a camp within which the Army was essentially "quarantined" prior to the units moving to other camps or mustering out. The camp also served as a hospital for the many soldiers that were suffering from yellow fever following the Cuban campaign.

Fresh from West Point, with strong personal convictions and unshakable courage, he fought for his native Georgia at the outbreak of the Civil War and won fame as a cavalryman. During the Civil War he was in more than 500 skirmishes; commanded in 127 full-scale battles; had 18 horses shot from under him; and lost 36 staff officers from his side.

"Fighting Joe" moved to Alabama in 1869, practiced law, and operated his plantation in Lawrence County. He was elected to Congress in 1884 and to successive terms until 1898, when he again entered military service. It was his intense desire to show that Southerners could be counted on as citizens of the United States that prompted him to volunteer, at 62, for service in the Spanish-American War. Alabama honored its beloved fighting man by placing his bust in Statuary Hall, Washington, D.C. The nation honored him in 1937 by naming the dam across the Tennessee River at Muscle Shoals for "the South's fightingest general."

http://www.archives.state.al.us/famous/j_wheel.html

New Members

Larry D. Sharpe
Russell Everett Moyer

William W. Rentiers III
Jason Horace Rauch
Gerald Osborne Terrell Jr.

Danny Rey Schumpert
Julian Todd Leaphart

***Please make plans to attend this month's meeting so that we can swear you in.

The Army Historical Foundation™

To Preserve the Heritage of the American Soldier

BG Joseph Wheeler, USA

When war broke out between the United States and Spain in 1898, President William McKinley, in a move to help heal the wounds of the Civil War and reunite North and South, appointed a number of former Confederate officers to command volunteer units. One of these former rebels was Joseph Wheeler, popularly known as “Fighting Joe.”

Joseph Wheeler was born on 10 September 1836 in Augusta, Georgia, to a family that had moved from New England. After his mother died and his father lost his fortune, the Wheeler family returned to Connecticut. In his youth, he did not receive regular education. Nevertheless, he earned an appointment to West Point in 1854.

After graduating from West Point in 1859, Wheeler served with the Mounted Rifles in the Regular Army and participated in campaigns against Indians in Kansas and New Mexico. His career with the Army, however, would be relatively brief. When southern states began seceding from the Union in 1860 and 1861, Wheeler decided to side with the newly formed Confederacy. He resigned his commission on 22 April 1861 and joined the Confederate Army.

Initially commissioned as a first lieutenant of artillery, he was appointed colonel of the 19th Alabama Infantry on 4 September 1861 and led the regiment at Shiloh in April 1862. Shortly after the battle, MG Braxton Bragg made Wheeler the chief of cavalry of the Army of Mississippi. In October 1862, he was promoted to brigadier general. He was later promoted to major general in January 1863, and, in 1864, he was promoted to lieutenant general at the age of twenty-eight.

For much of the war, Wheeler was almost constantly engaged in battle. He participated in hundreds of battles and skirmishes, including Murfreesboro, Chickamagua, Chatanooga, and Atlanta, was wounded three times, and had sixteen horses shot from under him. In addition, thirty-six staff officers fell while serving at Wheeler’s side.

During the Atlanta campaign, Wheeler conducted several effective raids against the Union lines of communication. After Atlanta, however, Wheeler’s command was criticized for lacking discipline, and Wheeler was replaced by LTG Wade Hampton.

After his capture in Georgia in May 1865, he was sent to Fort Delaware and remained there until his release on 8 June. During Reconstruction, Wheeler was engaged in a number of activities. He was a merchant in New Orleans for a brief period before eventually settling in Alabama. He later became a cotton grower, lawyer, and politician. He was elected to Congress in 1881 and eventually served eight terms in the House of Representatives. Wheeler was also active in efforts to reintegrate the former Confederate states into the Union.

When war broke out between the U.S. and Spain in 1898, President McKinley appointed Wheeler a major general of volunteers. Wheeler, then at the age of 62, was given command of a dismounted

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South Carolina Society Order of Confederate Rose

There has been interest expressed in the formation of a chapter of the South Carolina Order of Confederate Rose. This will be an excellent opportunity for those ladies who wish to become a member of a supporting organization of our Camp and the SCV.

An organization meeting of the Lexington Chapter of the OCR will be held in conjunction with the January 30th meeting of our Camp. Let's encourage our ladies to attend this meeting and become involved in the OCR.

The OCR is an independent support group to the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization and local camps thereof, governed by its own bylaws and standing rules. The OCR is nonprofit, nonracial, nonpolitical and nonsectarian.

The OCR assists the SCV with their historical, educational, benevolent and social functions. Special emphasis is placed on the preservation of Confederate symbols. As there are few rules and restrictions to stifle the creativity of its members, each OCR Chapter is free to focus on the activities important to its local SCV Camp along with supporting their efforts on the state and national levels.

For more information, the ladies can contact **Andrea Wolfe** at **732-1563** or email her at **SC_15TH_REGIMENT@HOTMAIL.COM**.

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cavalry division in V Corps, the unit assigned to undertake the invasion of Cuba.

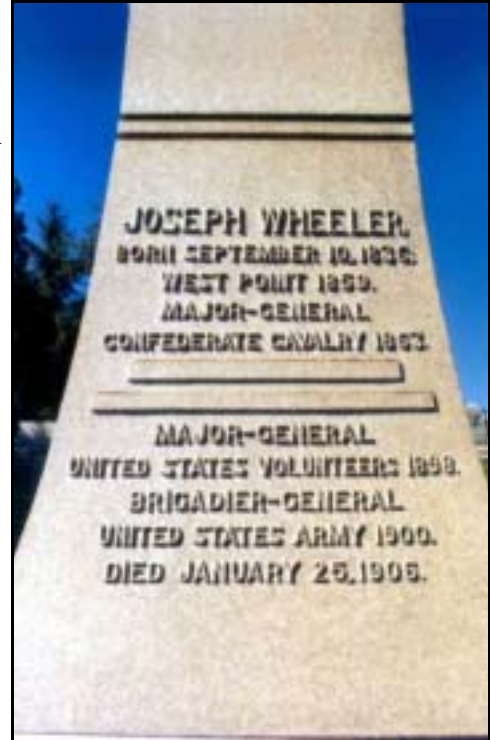
While Wheeler's service in Cuba was relatively brief, he played an important role in the fighting shortly after American forces landed on 20 June 1898. After coming ashore at Daiquiri, Wheeler pushed his forces forward toward the coastal village of Siboney, where additional landings were to take place. There, he learned from Cuban rebels that Spanish forces held the town of Las Guasimas, a strategic point three miles inland and along the road to Santiago.

Wheeler decided to attack. On the morning of 24 June, Wheeler's troops, after advancing on narrow and tangled trails, were met with heavy volleys of rifle fire, forcing Wheeler to call for reinforcements. However, just as they arrived, the Spanish began to retreat towards Santiago. As the Spaniards began to retire, Wheeler, always an excitable soldier, was alleged to have cried out, "We got the damn Yankees on the run!" proving that old sentiments die hard. While the battle was brief and casualties light, it was an important engagement because it eliminated the threat of enemy troops interfering with landing operations and cleared the road to Santiago.

After Las Guasimas, Wheeler, like many others, fell ill from the tropical diseases ravaging American troops. Despite his condition, Wheeler participated in the battle for San Juan Hill and provided advice to MG Shafter, commander of U.S. forces in Cuba, during the siege of Santiago.

After the war, Wheeler commanded Camp Wikoff, a convalescent and demobilization center at Montauk Point on Long Island. In June 1900, he was commissioned a brigadier general in the

Regular Army, but resigned a few months later. He died on 25 January 1906 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Commander's Comments

Commander's Comments
January 2003

Dear Compatriots:

It has been one year since I began my service as commander of our fine camp. Searching for the appropriate words for this column, I went back and reviewed my comments for January 2002 and December 2002. In January I said that we should "begin anew our purpose, the preservation of our Southern history for future generations." I said we could start to accomplish this goal by completing our Lake Murray project and taking on new projects. In December I looked back with pride, as we all can in Camp 51, at our accomplishments during the past 12 months. I believe that we are living up to our obligations, as inheritors of the Confederate soldiers' good names, by preserving our Southern history for future generations. Sometimes when we watch and read the news, it seems like we are in an impossible uphill struggle. But, the good things that happen all around us are seldom in the news. However, I would like to point out that we have accomplished a lot over the past year and have received favorable news coverage for our work. There is much to do. If we pull together, we can accomplish even more in 2003 than we did in 2002.



We had a good turn out for our first work session at the Corley Street cemetery with 13 compatriots participating in weather starting the day at 16 degrees. Working with State Archaeologist Jonathan Leader, we identified 30 graves. We cleaned off the briars and vines from one grave and replaced head and footstones at five graves. We also established a 100-foot baseline for measuring the locations of all graves and produced scale drawings of the cemetery fences and marked graves. It was fascinating to watch the ground penetrating radar at work and see the results verified with probes. Everyone had the opportunity to help operate this sophisticated equipment.

We have much to do with the work at Corley Street Park and the Lake Murray monument project. We will be scheduling another work session to complete the identification of grave locations and mark the head and foot of each grave with fieldstones. We will also be scheduling appearances at gun shows, reenactments, and other local events to sell memorial bricks and solicit donations for the project. We will need plenty of volunteers for these events. Be sure to help this important project to its conclusion by doing your share.

As we begin this year, we are looking for volunteers interested in serving in positions of responsibility. We need people to serve on several committees and areas of need including scrapbook, recruiting, retention, newsletter, etc. We need your help. We also need people to provide articles on their Confederate ancestors for the newsletter and possibly a future book. This can be some of the most fascinating and enjoyable work possible. One can learn so much about what their ancestors experienced during the war. If this interests you but you do not know quite how to get started—just ask. We have a number of compatriots in Camp 51 with experience in identifying and documenting Confederate ancestors. Just ask for help and we will help you get started.

Let us make 2003 even better and more productive than last year.

Thanks again for your support,
Wayne D. Roberts
Commander

Platform of the Alabama Democracy

Adopted at Montgomery, January, 1860

1. Resolved by the Democracy of the State of Alabama, in Convention assembled, That holding all issues and principles upon which they have heretofore affiliated and acted with the National Democratic party to be inferior in dignity and importance to the great question of slavery, they content themselves with a general re-affirmance of the Cincinnati Platform as to such issues, and also endorse said platform as to slavery, together with the following resolutions:

2. Resolved further, That we re-affirm so much of the first resolution of the Platform adopted in Convention by the Democracy of this State, on the 8th of January, 1856, as relates to the subject of slavery, to wit: "The unqualified right of the people of the slaveholding States to the Protection of their property in the States, in the Territories, and in the wilderness in which Territorial Governments are as yet unorganized."

3. Resolved further, That in order to meet and clear away all obstacles to a full enjoyment of this right in the Territories, we re-affirm the principle of the 9th resolution of the Platform adopted in Convention by the Democracy of this State on the 14th of February, 1848, to wit: "That it is the duty of the General Government, by all proper legislation, to secure an entry into those Territories to all the citizens of the United States, together with their property of every description, and that the same should remain protected by the United States while the Territories are under its authority."

4. Resolved further, That the Constitution of the United States is a compact between sovereign and co-equal states, united upon the basis of perfect equality of rights and privileges.

5. Resolved further, That the Territories of the United States are common property, in which the States have equal rights, and to which the citizens of every State may rightfully emigrate with their slaves or other property, recognised as such in any of the States of the Union, or by the Constitution of the United States.

6. Resolved further, That the Congress of the United States has no power to abolish slavery in the Territories, or to prohibit its introduction into any of them.

7. Resolved further, That the Territorial Legislatures, created by the legislation of Congress, have no power to abolish slavery, or to prohibit the introduction of the same, or to impair, by unfriendly legislation, the security and full enjoyment of the same within the Territories; and such constitutional power certainly does not belong to the people of the Territories in any capacity, before, in the exercise of a lawful authority, they form a Constitution preparatory to admission as a State into the Union; and their action in the exercise of such lawful authority certainly cannot operate or take effect before their actual admission as a State into the Union.

8. Resolved further, That the principles enunciated by Chief Justice Taney, in his opinion in the Dred Scott case, deny to the Territorial Legislature the power to destroy or impair, by any legislation whatever, the right of property in slaves, and maintain it to be the duty of Federal Government, in all of its departments, to protect the rights of the owner of such property in the Territories; and the

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principles so declared are hereby asserted to be the rights of the South, and the South should maintain them.

9. Resolved further, That we hold all of the foregoing propositions to contain *cardinal principles* -- true in themselves, and just and proper, and necessary for the safety of all that is dear to us, and we do hereby instruct our Delegates to the Charleston Convention to present them for the calm consideration and approval of that body -- from whose justice and patriotism we anticipate their adoption.

10. Resolved further, That our Delegates to the Charleston Convention are hereby expressly instructed to insist that said Convention shall adopt a platform of principles, recognising distinctly the rights of the South as asserted in the foregoing resolutions; and if the said National Convention shall refuse to adopt, in substance, the propositions embraced in the preceding resolutions, prior to nominating candidates, our Delegates to said Convention are hereby positively instructed to withdraw therefrom.

11. Resolved further, That our Delegates to the Charleston Convention shall cast the vote of Alabama as a unit, and a majority of our Delegates shall determine how the vote of this State shall be given.

12. Resolved further, That an Executive Committee, to consist of one from each Congressional district, be appointed, whose duty it shall be, in the event that our Delegates withdraw from the Charleston Convention, in obedience to the 10th resolution, to call a Convention of the Democracy of Alabama, to meet at an early day to consider what is best to be done.

Source: Dwight Lowell Dumond, *Southern Editorials on Secession*
(New York, 1931), appendix I, pp. 517-18.

**March 14th & 15th
South Carolina
SCV State Convention
USS Yorktown - Mount Pleasant, S.C.**

It's time to make your plans to attend the 2003 South Carolina SCV State Convention in Mount Pleasant. The membership of Secessionville Camp #4 have put together another first class event for our organization.

Ancestor Highlight

THE CONFEDERATE SERVICE OF THE IRVIN FAMILY OF CLEVELAND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

By Wayne D. Roberts

1st Lieutenant Ancil Jackson Irvin, 90th Regt., Dist. 2, North Carolina Militia

Private Amos Hardin Irvin, Co. D, 5th North Carolina Volunteers,

Co. D., 15th Reg. North Carolina Infantry,

Co. B, 49th Reg. North Carolina Infantry

Private John Jethro Irvin, Co. B, 49th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry

Private Abram Christopher Irvin, Co. F, 34th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry

Private James Gilford Irvin, Co. C, Second Battalion North Carolina Junior Reserves

Co. D, 71st Regiment North Carolina Infantry

The Irvin family was a part of the great migration of Scotch-Irish settlers who settled in the Carolina Piedmont during the Colonial period. James Irvine (the "e" was dropped in the nineteenth century) settled first in the Ninety Six District of South Carolina. His home may have been along Buffalo Creek in present day Cherokee County, South Carolina. He served in the Revolutionary War in Johnston's Company of Hammond's Regiment of South Carolina Militia. He was wounded three times (including a saber wound to the head) at the Battle of Eutaw Springs and taken prisoner by the British. After the war he moved a short distance above the state line and settled in present day Cleveland County, North Carolina. He built a log house sometime between 1785 and 1790. In 2002 this log house is still standing and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. James Irvin married Rebecca Hardin and they had 11 children. The ninth child was Ancil Jackson Irvin born October 2, 1815. He married Elizabeth Beam and had 10 children, four of them sons. Ancil Jackson Irvin and all four of his sons answered North Carolina's call to arms.

Amos, the eldest son, was the first to enlist in the Confederate Cause. He enlisted on May 14, 1861 barely one month after hostilities began. He was 23 years old at the time he enlisted. The unit was mustered in on June 11, 1861 at Garysburg, North Carolina as the 5th Regiment North Carolina Volunteers for twelve months service. Amos served in Company D. The regiment spent the rest of the month at Garysburg before reporting to Yorktown, Virginia on July 1, 1861. The regiment remained in and around Yorktown on the Peninsula until the fall of 1861. On November 14, 1861 the 5th North Carolina Volunteers were redesignated the 15th Regiment North Carolina Troops. With the Union offensive on Roanoke Island, North Carolina, the 15th Regiment was sent to Suffolk to relieve troops sent to North Carolina before being sent to North Carolina themselves in March 1862. They arrived back at Yorktown on April 15, 1862 and were placed in General Howell Cobb's Brigade in General John Magruder's Division as Union General McClellan prepared to open his Peninsula Campaign. On April 16, 1861 the regiment was involved in

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heavy fighting at Lee's Mill before forcing the Yankees back. Then began a slow withdrawal up the Peninsula toward Richmond. Magruder's Division was on the Confederate left flank at the Battle of Seven Pines but was not involved in the action.

General Robert E. Lee succeeded the wounded General Joseph E. Johnston and began organizing his army for the defense of Richmond. Lee took the offensive to drive McClellan from Richmond. Magruder's Division was on the Confederate right guarding the Williamsburg Road during the Seven Days Battles. The Division was involved slightly near Savage Station before heavy action at Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862. The regiment was largely inactive and served as a rear guard at Richmond and later Gordonsville as Lee shifted his army northward.

During the Sharpsburg campaign the 15th North Carolina was part of the defense of Crampton's Gap on September 14, 1862. The Confederate forces, including Cobb's Brigade, were driven from the field under great confusion by a superior force. Many Confederate soldiers were captured including Amos H. Irvin. He was imprisoned at Fort Delaware, Delaware. He was transferred to Confederate authorities at Aiken's Landing, Virginia on October 2, 1862 and officially exchanged on November 10, 1862. He returned to his regiment in time to take part in the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862 where he was slightly wounded. On January 9, 1863 Company D of the 15th Regiment North Carolina Infantry was transferred in its entirety to become Company B of the 49th North Carolina Infantry.

Shortly after Amos returned to active duty with his old company in his new regiment, he was joined by his brother John. John enlisted in Co. B, 49th North Carolina Infantry on February 20, 1863 as he turned 18 years of age. The two brothers served together for the next 15 months. Much of the winter and spring of 1863 was spent in eastern North Carolina in campaigns to retake New Bern or defend the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad from attacks originating in New Bern. The regiment was sent back to Virginia on May 30, 1863 and was assigned to the defense of Petersburg in the absence of the Army of Northern Virginia off campaigning in Pennsylvania. Upon the return of Lee's army in late July, the 49th returned to eastern North Carolina.

During the winter of 1864 the 49th North Carolina continued to defend the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad in North Carolina and participated in raids and movements in eastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. One campaign was against Suffolk, Virginia where they were engaged against United States Colored Troops.

The 49th North Carolina was called back to the Virginia theater in May 1864 to defend Richmond and Petersburg from Benjamin Butler's Union army attempt to take these cities. Amos was wounded in the shoulder on May 13, 1864 in heavy fighting at Drewry's Bluff, Virginia. He remained in the hospital at Richmond until he received a furlough for 30 days on June 9, 1864. John continued with the regiment until he was killed in the trenches at Petersburg on June 30, 1864. Recovered from his wound, Amos returned to Petersburg from his furlough and is listed as present on the June 30, 1864 muster roll. That is the last mention of Amos Irvin in his compiled service record. According to family tradition he died fighting at Petersburg during the siege.

Abram Christopher Irvin was the third of the four Irvin brothers. He enlisted in Company F of the 34th North Carolina Infantry on September 17, 1862 at the age of 18. The 34th North Carolina Infantry was organized at Camp Fisher near High Point, North Carolina for 12 months service on October 25, 1862. The

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regiment was transferred to Camp Mangum near Raleigh and transferred to Confederate service on January 1, 1862. The regiment was placed in a brigade commanded by Joseph R. Anderson and sent to defend eastern North Carolina from Union incursions. On April 18, 1862 the 34th North Carolina Infantry was reorganized for three years of service or the duration of the war. A few days later the regiment was sent to the Army of Northern Virginia. Following the reorganization of this army by its new commander, General Robert E. Lee, the 34th Regiment North Carolina Infantry was placed in the brigade of Brigadier General William Dorsey Pender in A. P. Hill's Light Division in Lt. General T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson's Second Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. The regiment soon saw action in the Seven Days campaign east of Richmond. Abram Irvin was wounded on June 27, 1862 at the Battle of Gaines' Mill. The wound must have been serious because he did not return to active duty until early in 1863.

The next major campaign for Abram was the Battle of Chancellorsville. Here the 34th North Carolina Infantry took part in Jackson's famous flanking maneuver leading to the Confederate victory. Following the death of Jackson at Chancellorsville, Lee again reorganized his army. He promoted A. P. Hill to Lt. General in charge of the newly created Third Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. Pender was promoted to succeed Hill as commander of the Light Brigade. Alfred M. Scales succeeded Pender as commander of the brigade.

Abram's final campaign proved to be Lee's second invasion of the north resulting in the Battle of Gettysburg. The Battle of Gettysburg developed on July 1, 1863 as Hill's Third Corps marched toward the edge of the town. Major General Henry Heth's Division was in the lead with Pender's division following behind. As Heth's division became fully involved and unable to drive the Union troops back, Pender's Division was ordered into the fray. Brigade commander Alfred M. Scales was wounded by shrapnel on July 1 and disabled. On July 2 Scales' brigade was involved in heavy skirmishing. Pender was mortally wounded during the action on July 2. The day of July 3, 1863 was the third and final day of fighting at Gettysburg culminating in the famous Pettigrew-Pickett's Charge.

During that action, on July 3, 1863, Abram Irvin was captured. He was confined at Fort Delaware from July 7, 1863 until he was transferred to Point Lookout, Maryland on October 18, 1863. After the war, Abram had a celebrated career as a Baptist minister in his native Cleveland County, North Carolina. There is speculation in the family that his service as a Baptist minister may have been inspired by his actions during imprisonment at Point Lookout. According to his obituary in 1926, he served as a nurse and assisted in laying out the dead for burial. He became very sick during his confinement and was exchanged at Aiken's Landing on February 21, 1865. He was very active in the organization and leadership of the local United Confederate Veterans, serving for a time as commander. He was a beloved preacher and citizen at the time of his death in 1926.

James Gilford Irvin was the youngest of the four Irvin brothers. He was not old enough for Confederate conscription when he enlisted on May 27, 1864 in Company C of the Second Battalion of the North Carolina Junior Reserves. This unit was also known as Captain John K. Wells' Company of Major John H. Anderson's Battalion of the Second Junior Reserves. The junior reserves were also known as the "17 year old boys." The Second Battalion was organized on May 31, 1864 at Camp Holmes near Raleigh. On July 16, 1864 the Second Battalion was reorganized with eight regiments under newly promoted Lieutenant Colonel John H. Anderson. The unit spent the summer and fall of 1864 guarding the railroads at Goldsboro and Weldon in eastern North Carolina, ready to check the advance of Union troops moving inland from the coast. The fall was not a healthy time for James as he was admitted to the hospital in Wilmington for dys-

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entry, and then sent home for 21 days convalescence. On December 7, 1864 the unit was reorganized into the 71st North Carolina Infantry commanded by newly elected Colonel John H. Anderson. Captain Wells' Company C became Company D of the new regiment with members from Cleveland and Rutherford Counties.

On December 8, 1864 the 71st Regiment was ordered to Belfield, Virginia to check the advance of Union General Warren's Corps, coming under fire for the first time. Most of the winter of 1865 was spent waiting for the enemy along the Chowan River and at Goldsboro. They now composed a brigade of Junior Reserves under the overall command of Major General Robert F. Hoke. The 71st Regiment was involved in a minor skirmish at South West Creek near Kinston on March 8, 1865. With news of Sherman's approach, Hoke's division was sent to Smithfield, North Carolina where they were united with General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee. The 71st North Carolina was on the left of Hoke's Division in the Battle of Bentonville on March 20-21, 1865. This was the heaviest fighting the 71st Regiment was involved in, losing 41 men killed or wounded. This was also the last major battle of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. The Army surrendered on April 26, 1865 at Greensboro. All soldiers surrendering received final pay of \$1.25. However, many of the soldiers had already melted away, fearing prison.

With all four of his sons in Confederate service, Ancil Jackson Irvin also did his part. Although he was 46 years old in 1861, he served as First Lieutenant of the 90th Regiment, District 2 of the North Carolina Militia in Cleveland County, his home. Serving in the Home Guard allowed the peace to be kept and younger, more able-bodied men to serve in active campaigning.

My great-grandmother was Susan Roxana Irvin Spake. She was the daughter of Ancil Jackson Irvin and the sister of the four Irvin brothers discussed above. I never knew my great-grandmother. She died 11 years before my birth. However, as I write this in December 2002, there are still several of her grandchildren living. During my lifetime, I knew all of her children and grandchildren and eagerly listened to tales of the Irvin family. One constant theme expressed over the years was that of the sadness in the Irvin family home. The loss of two sons and brothers in the war was so severe that stories of mourning continue nearly 140 years later.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January	18th	Corley Street Park Cemetery Project Work Day
January	18th	Lee-Jackson Dinner MOS&B Oakley Park Plantation
January	30th	Camp Meeting
February	27th	Camp Meeting
March	15th	SC SCV State Convention



The *Staunton Spectator*, January 22, 1861, p. 2, c. 3

To the People of Augusta County.

Fellow Citizens:--Ten days of the session of the General Assembly have passed away, and little has yet been done toward the adjustment of the controversies which unhappily distract our country. Knowing the anxiety which all true patriots must feel in regard to the condition of public affairs, I am impelled by a sense of representative duty, to give you such information, and such words of counsel, as seem to me appropriate to the occasion.

Since the first day of the session, Richmond has been the scene of unexampled excitement.--The disunionists from all parts of the State have been here full force, and have sought to bring every influence to bear to precipitate Virginia into secession and civil war. It will be for the people to determine, whether their efforts shall be crowned with success. It behooves them to be vigilant, if they value the peace of the country, and desire to escape the burthens of Military service and grinding taxation. If secession takes place, in my judgment, civil war is inevitable, and the people must expect their taxes to be doubled, if not quadrupled. State bonds are now selling, in New York, at a discount of twenty-five per cent, and it is idle to talk of borrowing money. It must be raised, and raised in millions of dollars, by taxation. The newspapers inform us, that in South Carolina, negroes are, at this early stage of their struggle, taxed sixteen dollars per head, and that the government has resorted to forced loans from the Banks and property holders. One case is mentioned, in which a merchant, with a capital of \$40,000, was compelled to loan to the State \$8,000.

Sooner or later, the burthen must fall on the landholders. Slaves, stocks, bonds and other personal property, may be sold and removed, but the land must remain, to bear the brunt of taxation. It is proper that you should understand this, that you may vote intelligently on the questions which will soon be submitted for your decision at the polls.

I do not propose, in this brief letter, to enter into any elaborate discussion of the doctrine of secession, or to point out all the disastrous consequences that would flow from it. It will suffice to say, that it is a doctrine of New England origin. It had its birth among the Federalists of that section of the Union, during the war of 1812, and was nurtured in the celebrated Hartford Convention. In 1814, it was denounced by such Republicans as Spencer Roane, and Thos. Ritchie, as treason. While I do not endorse this strong language to its full extent, in my judgement, it is at war with the whole theory of our institutions, and is subversive of every principle of popular government.

The favorite scheme of many of the leading politicians is, to break up the Union, with a view to reconstruct it. Their plan is, to form a Southern Confederacy. I am unalterably opposed to both of these propositions; I believe that either would be the source of incalculable evil. In my opinion, there is no natural antagonism between the Northern and Southern States. On the contrary, each is necessary to the other. They are the complements of each other, and together constitute the most perfect social, industrial and political systems, that the world has ever seen. Each is indispensable to the welfare of the other. They minister to each others' interests and necessities. The South produces what the North wants, but cannot produce; and the North furnishes what the South needs, but cannot supply for itself. The diversity of productions, and systems of labor, should therefore be a bond of Union instead of a source of Discord. The present condition of antagonism and alienation is unnatural. It is not the legitimate result of any conflict of the social and in-

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dustrial systems of the two sections, but is the work of those "DESIGNING MEN," both North and South, against whom Washington so impressively warned us in his farewell address.

It is true that the Northern States, under the lead of such men, have been guilty of gross outrages on the rights of the South--outrages which would justify the most energetic measures of retaliation, but I have not been able to persuade myself that a dissolution of the Union furnishes the appropriate means of redress. I believe that all our rights can be secured, and all our wrongs most effectually redressed in the Union, and under the Constitution. Secession, instead of being a remedy, would be an aggravation of them all. I have not been able to perceive how we could add to the security of our slave property by surrendering the guarantees of the Constitution, and substantially bringing down the Canada frontier to the borders of Virginia. It would lead to emancipation and probably to emancipation in blood. Nor can I see how we would *secure* our rights in the territories by *abandoning* them. I am equally at a loss to understand how we will establish any of our demands against the Northern States on a firmer basis, by severing our connection with them, and thereby from us, the million and a half of friends we had in those States at the last election.

My view of the true policy of Virginia is, that she should remain in the Union until all Constitutional means of obtaining redress for the past and security for the future, shall have proved fruitless. I do not think the time has come for an appeal to the arbitrament of arms.

Should the Union be dissolved peaceably, and a Southern Confederacy be formed, it is clear that the policy of the new government will be shaped by the Cotton States. Free trade and direct taxation for the support of the Federal Government, will be the cardinal features of that policy, on your interests.

The expense of sustaining the present government of the U. S., ranges from sixty to eighty millions of dollars per annum. This amount is raised by duties on foreign goods, imported into the country. Those persons who purchase foreign goods, pay the tax, as an element in the price of the goods, while those who buy no foreign goods, pay none of the tax. The tax is therefore *voluntary*, if paid. But under the system of free trade and direct taxation, the tax would be *involuntary*. No election would be left to the people to pay it or not, as they might think proper. It would be levied, like the State tax, by assessment on the property of the country. Assuming that the cost of maintaining the Southern Confederated Government would be but one half the amount expended by the present government of the U. S., the contributive portion of Virginia would approximate five millions of dollars. You will readily comprehend how heavily it would bear upon the people to pay this large amount, in addition to the present State taxes, out of their hard earnings. The postal system in Virginia now costs the general government \$263,389 more than all the receipts from it. The cost of carrying and distributing the mails, in the Southern States, exceeds the revenues derived from postages in those States, by \$3,510,648. If the Union is dissolved this expense must be provided for by direct taxation, or the people must dispense with the facilities afforded by their mails.

Should war follow the dissolution, the consequences must be of the most frightful character. Brother would be arrayed against brother, and the whole land would be drenched with blood. The border country would be ravaged and laid waste with fire and sword. Firesides and fields would be desolated by invading armies, and the wail of the widow and the orphan would be heard in all our valleys! Real estate would be depreciated more than 50 per cent; business in all its departments would be paralyzed; credit destroyed; personal property of all kinds impressed for public use; our slaves incited to insurrection; and ruin and desolation would overwhelm the whole country.

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Passing from the contemplation of this mournful picture, I proceed to invite your attention to the subject in its financial aspect.

If civil war should ensue, it would be impossible to estimate the amount of additional taxes that would be required. That would depend upon contingencies which no human sagacity can clearly foresee. But when we look to the extent of our sea coast, and inland frontier, to be guarded, it is evident that the pecuniary cost must be enormous, to say nothing of the withdrawal of large bodies of our population from the productive labor of the country, and the loss resulting from capital, in the form of lands and machinery, lying idle. The people should weigh these matters well before they decide to embark on the unknown and tempestuous sea of convulsion and revolution.

You will perceive from the report of the proceedings of the General Assembly, that Virginia has been pledged, so far as that body had the power to pledge her, to make common cause with South Carolina, and to resist every attempt by the Federal Government to coerce her "into submission or obedience." This language is ambiguous, and I sought, in vain, to obtain a satisfactory explanation of its meaning. If it contemplated resistance to any effort to *subjugate* the State, it would be comparatively harmless, because it is hardly to be supposed that any such effort will be made; but if it was intended to indicate the purpose of Virginia to resist, by force, all efforts of the Federal Government to coerce the citizens of South Carolina to obey the laws of the U. S., I would regard it as in a high degree mischievous.

This resolution of the General Assembly did not meet my approbation, nor receive my vote. In the first place, I thought the Legislature, by that act, was anticipating one of the appropriate functions of the Convention about to be called; and, in the next place, I did not feel warranted in assuming the quarrel of South Carolina. She had chosen to act for herself without the co-operation of the other Southern States, and I could see no good reason why we should espouse her quarrel. I stated, on the floor of the Senate, that I had but little sympathy with her extreme position. Her causes of dissatisfaction were not the same with ours and her aims were entirely different from ours. She was dissatisfied with the financial policy of the Government, whilst we were seeking redress for wrongs of a very different character.

Her object, as avowed by her leading men, was to break up the Union, whilst ours was to preserve it, if it could be done consistently with our rights and honor. Moreover, I expressed the fear that our inconsiderate pledge might encourage South Carolina to acts of rashness, whilst, in the North, it might be construed as a menace, and tend to defeat a speedy and peaceful settlement of our difficulties. In these views I may have been mistaken, but honestly entertaining them, I felt bound to follow the dictates of my judgement, and withhold my assent from the resolution.

The bill providing for the call of a Convention has been passed, and the election for members of that body will take place on the 4th of Feb. The proposition originally submitted, was to call a Convention, with unlimited powers, and to let its action be final. Under this scheme, the Convention might have overturned the present State government, and established a military Dictatorship in its stead, and the people would have had no redress, except by forcible revolution. But after an arduous struggle the bill was amended so as to allow the people to decide at the polls whether the action of the Convention shall be final or not.

It is to be hoped that every voter of Virginia will be at the polls, and vote to **RETAIN THE SOVEREIGN POWER OF THE PEOPLE IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE**. If they properly appreciate their rights and liberties, they will never trust them in the hands of any set of men, without reserving an efficient control over them. Who would entrust his private fortune to any one without some guarantee for its security?

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And is it not more important to reserve the right of ultimate judgement, in a matter which involves not only the prosperity, but also the lives and liberty of the people?

Strong intimations have been thrown out through the public press, that a treasonable scheme has been concocted at Washington to overthrow the Federal Government. It is charged that Senators, and others, who have sworn to support the Constitution, have conspired to subvert it. Information which I have received from other sources, which I believe to be reliable, tend to confirm these intimations, and induce the belief that a provisional government for the South, has already been agreed on, and that its great seal has been provided, a name adopted, and every arrangement made to put it into operation, on or before the 4th of March. The servants of the people have thus assumed to be their masters, and usurped the power which, according to our bill of rights, resides only with the people.

I repeat, then, let the people be jealous of their rights. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. No election ever held in Virginia was half so important as that to be held on the 4th of February. Let every voter be at the polls. Let no business, however urgent, and no obstacle, however formidable, prevent any from attending. The voice of Augusta will be potential, and may control the result. Select men who will faithfully represent your deliberate sentiments. Especially, let every man vote that the action of the Convention shall be submitted to the people for their ratification or rejection.

The usage in Virginia heretofore, has been to allow the people to vote whether they would have a Convention or not. If the voice of the people was pronounced in favor of a Convention, it was called, and its action was submitted to the people for their approval or disapproval.--The Legislature has now departed from ancient usages, and it is for the people to determine whether they will blindly sanction, in advance, whatever the Convention may do, or require the result of its deliberations to be submitted to them for final ratification or rejection. Let the people hold the power in their own hands! Let them never surrender their liberty into the hands of any body of irresponsible men. It is too precious an inheritance to be dealt with thus lightly and inconsiderately.

Fellow Citizens! the issue is in your hands! A heavy responsibility rests on you!

May the Great Disposer of events so guide your conduct that peace and happiness may be restored to our distracted country, and that the Union which we have been taught to regard as the Palladium of our liberties, shall be established on a firm foundation and rendered perpetual.

Very respectfully,
Your fellow citizen,
ALEX. H. H. STUART.

P. S. Since the above was written, the House of Delegates have passed two important bills; one for the establishment of an Ordinance Bureau, and the other appropriating one million of dollars for military defence. This is but the beginning of the end!

A. H. H. S.

Re-enactors 2003 Event Schedule

Jan 24-26	Hagood's March - Charleston, SC (BAE)
Jan 31 - Feb 2	Rivers Bridge - Allendale, SC (BAE)
Feb 21-23	Battle Of Aiken - Aiken, SC (BAE)
Mar 7-9	The Columns - Florence, SC.(BAE)
Mar 14-16	Battle Of Averasboro - Averasboro, NC (BAE)
Apr 4-6	Battle Of Cheraw - Cheraw, SC (BAE)
Apr 12	Ft. Sumter Living History - Charleston, SC (BAE)
Apr 25-27	Fairview Church - Fountain Inn, SC (BAE)
May 3	Confederate Memorial Day - Columbia, SC (BAE)
(BAE)	<i>Battalion Affiliated Event</i>
(O)	<i>Other</i>
(I)	<i>Information Only</i>



15TH REGIMENT SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEERS

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 Email: SC_15th_Regiment@hotmail.com

Next Camp Meeting
January 30th, 7 PM
 Carolina Wings Restaurant
 North Lake Blvd. Lexington

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will submit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier’s good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.”

Stephen D. Lee

The 15th Regimental Report is a monthly publication of the Lexington, South Carolina Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 51.