



The Fighting Joe Wheeler

Dispatch

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April, 2016

Camp Officers:

Commander: David Rawls

1st Lt Commander: David Fisher

2nd Lt Commander: Hank Arnold

Adjutant: Pat Acton

Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Acton

Chaplain: Jeff Young

Color Sergeant: Bill Hass

Quartermaster: Tristan Dunn

Commander Emeritus: Dr. Ira West

Chaplin Emeritus: Dr. Charles Baker

Sergeant At Arms: Sam Nelson

Camp Surgeon: Rick Price

Dispatch Editor: Jim Darden

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The Next Camp Meeting will be at 7:00 pm, Tuesday April 12. 2ND LT Commander Hank Arnold will present a program on The Battle of Ft. Blakely.

SCV Calendar

April 12.....Camp Meeting - Ft Blakely.....Hank Arnold
April 25.....CSA Memorial Day.....Elmwood Cemetery
April 29-30.....Living History.....Confederate Memorial Park

May 7-8.....Shiloh Battlefield Tour.....Tim Kent
May 10..... Camp Meeting – Quantrill’s Raiders.....Al Byrd

June 3.....Jefferson Davis’ birthday
June 10-12.....Alabama Division Reunion.....Cullman
June 14.....Camp Meeting - Program TBD.....Jim Darden

July 12.....Camp Meeting - CSS Shenandoah.....Jeff Seymor

August 9.....Camp Meeting – Battle of Bentonville.....Tim Kent

September 13.....Camp Meeting – Program TBD.....Dr. John Killien

Visit the Camp Website - www.fightingjoewheeler.org

Please send articles or other information for inclusion in “**The Dispatch**” to Jim Darden - Editor
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Hoover, Alabama 35226
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Alabama: We Dare Defend Our Rights

“The principal for which we contended is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form.” - Jefferson Davis, May 1865

Commander's Report

Compatriots:

As we each may be aware, April is Confederate Month History Month here in Alabama, so we should all celebrate the courage and deeds of our noble ancestors in their fight to protect and defend home and hearth as well as the principles on which our country had originally been founded. Even if their military efforts may have fallen short in some respects, these valiant men showed us there are things worth fighting for and their example will hopefully give us the courage and determination to protect and defend those God given rights and privileges we sometimes take for granted.

Given that Memorial Day (April 25th) is also upcoming, it is time for our annual celebration at the Hardee Plot of Elwood Cemetery in honor of those gallant men laid to rest there. In accordance with prior practice I suggest a cleanup day of April 16th around 1:00 PM in preparation for the celebration to be held on April 24th at 2:00 PM.

So I ask you: please come to both this month's meeting and the Memorial Day Celebration at Elwood Cemetery, bringing a friend if you can. Let us follow the doctrine as presented by General S. D. Lee and re-establish truth and honor as guiding principles for our nation.

Deo Vindice,

David L. Rawls
Commander



2nd LT Commander's Report

Compatriots,

Now it's our turn! We head into Confederate History Month in April. Let's make as much noise as we can to promote the service and sacrifice our fore-fathers made to protect the South from the invaders from the north. It's funny how history portrays events. Germany, Japan, North Korea, and the USA were all invaders that marched to conquer and capture a peaceful neighbor, all are remembered in a negative way, except the North. Odd isn't it? You raise an army, you invade a neighbor, you burn, rape, rob, and kill and history remembers you as the "Good Guy". If it was to "end slavery" then why did General Grant release his slaves (in New York) 6 months AFTER the end of the war? The "winner" writes the history!

To be proactive, remember your fore-fathers were defending the sacred South! There is great honor in remembering the sacrifices your Confederate ancestors made to defend the South. GOD bless the South and the memory of the Confederacy!!

The recruiting table we had at the AGCA show was a success thanks to the help of Bill Haas, Jim Carroll, Larry Muse, and little ole me. Poor turnout for a camp of our size. Good thing we partnered with the Forrest camp to staff the recruiting tables. It was a good show and all that helped enjoyed being there.

Looking forward to pending events we have a busy month coming up in April. Camp meeting on Tuesday the 12th on the Battle of Blakeley, Confederate Memorial Day on Sunday the 24th at Elmwood. Alabama Confederate Memorial Day at Montgomery on Saturday the 23rd.

Please join us as we celebrate Confederate History Month!!

Thanks,
Hank Arnold
2nd Lt. Commander
FJW 1372



Belle Boyd - Confederate Spy

text from ~ <http://www.biography.com/people/belle-boyd>
and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belle_Boyd



Maria Isabella "Belle" Boyd, also known as "La Belle Rebelle" was born on May 9, 1844 (some sources say 1843), in Martinsburg, Virginia (now West Virginia), to a prosperous family with deep Southern roots. Her father, Benjamin Reed Boyd, was a shopkeeper. From the start, Boyd was a strong-willed, high-spirited and quick-witted person. She once rode a horse into the family's home during a party after being told she was too young to attend. According to Karen Abbott's *Liar Temptress Soldier Spy*, Boyd told her parents and party guests "my horse is old enough, isn't he?" She enjoyed a comfortable upbringing and was educated at the Mount Washington Female College. Before the winter before the Civil War's start, Boyd lived a charmed life as a debutante in Washington, D.C.

Her home town of Martinsburg was largely filled with Union supporters, but her family believed in the Confederate cause. Her father had even volunteered for the Virginia infantry. It was one of the first towns the Union took when the Civil War began. On July 3, 1861, Union soldiers entered Martinsburg following a skirmish at the nearby town of Falling Waters. According to her 1866 account, on July 4, a band of Union army soldiers heard she had Confederate flags in her room, and they came to investigate. They hung a Union flag outside her home. This made her angry enough, but when one of them cursed at her mother, she was enraged, he "addressed my mother and myself in language as offensive as it is possible to conceive. I could stand it no longer." Boyd pulled out a pistol and shot and killed the man. Following the investigation the Union commanding officer said Boyd had acted properly in the situation, and she suffered no repercussions. With that one act, Boyd's career as the "Rebel Spy" was underway, at age 17. Sentries were posted around the house and officers kept close track of her activities. She profited from this enforced familiarity, charming at least one of the officers, Captain Daniel Keily, into revealing military secrets. "To him," she wrote later, "I am indebted for some very remarkable effusions, some withered flowers, and a great deal of important information." Boyd conveyed those secrets to Confederate officers via her slave, Eliza Hopewell, who carried the messages in a hollowed-out watch case. On her first attempt at spying, she was caught and told she could be sentenced to death, but was not. She was not scared and realized she needed to find a better way to communicate.

“Cleopatra of the Secession”

Boyd started out as an informal spy, gathering what information she could. Her talents as a flirt helped her extract information from Union soldiers. She wrote down her discoveries in letters that she got to the Confederate side with the help of her slave or a young neighbor. One of these missives was intercepted and Boyd found herself in hot water with the Union. Despite facing possible execution for her crime, Boyd managed to get off with a warning.

Undaunted, Boyd decided to serve the South in a more official capacity. She became a messenger for Confederate generals P.G.T. Beauregard and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson. Boyd started out as a courier, carrying information and transporting medical supplies. By the time she was 18, word of her identity and activities became widely circulated, and Boyd found herself something of a celebrity. The press latched on to her with verve, calling her the “Cleopatra of the Secession,” “La Belle Rebelle,” the “Siren of the Shenandoah” and the “Rebel Joan of Arc.” Her high profile soon led to her imprisonment, however, although she was only held a week and continued her espionage work upon her release.

One of her most notable accomplishments as a spy came in mid-May 1862. One evening Union General James Shields and his staff gathered in the parlor of the local hotel. Boyd hid in the closet in the room, eavesdropping through a knothole she enlarged in the door. She learned that Shields had been ordered east from Front Royal, Virginia. That night, Boyd rode through Union lines, using false papers to bluff her way past the sentries, and reported the news to Colonel Turner Ashby, who was scouting for the Confederates. She then returned to town. When the Confederates advanced on Front Royal on May 23, Boyd ran to greet General Stonewall Jackson's men, avoiding enemy fire that put bullet holes in her skirt. She urged an officer to inform Jackson that “the Yankee force is very small. Tell him to charge right down and he will catch them all.” Jackson did and that evening penned a note of gratitude to her: “I thank you, for myself and for the army, for the immense service that you have rendered your country today.” For her contributions, she was awarded the Southern Cross of Honor. Jackson also gave her captain and honorary aide-de-camp positions. She managed to obtain information crucial to the Confederate cause and gave her side the details needed to help Stonewall Jackson's forces recapture the town of Front Royal. But two months later, Boyd once again got arrested for her work for Confederacy.

Arrest and Banishment

After this arrest, Boyd was sent to Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. where she spent a month behind bars. She had a longer prison stay the following year, being incarcerated for five months. Boyd then banished to the South, but she refused to stop her work. Instead of remaining cooped up, she set sail for England in May 1864 to transport Confederate papers there. But her ship was stopped by a Union naval ship and she was again arrested as a spy. Boyd fell in love with one of her captors, a Union

officer named Samuel Hardinge. The pair later married and had a daughter together. As she explained in her memoir, she thought that she might be able to woo him to the Confederate side. Hardinge did serve time in prison for giving aid to Boyd.

Despite being apprehended again, Boyd somehow convinced the Union authorities to let her go to Canada. From there, she made her way to England. Boyd turned to writing about her war adventures as a way to make money. She penned in the 1865 memoir *Belle Boyd, in Camp and Prison*, which also featured contributions from her husband Hardinge on his time in prison. Boyd became an actress in England. Following the death of her husband in 1866, she returned to the United States on November 11, 1869. She married John Swainston Hammond in New Orleans and they had four children. After a divorce in 1884, Boyd married Nathaniel Rue High in 1885. A year later, she began touring the country giving dramatic lectures of her life as a Civil War spy.

The charming Southern belle did not remain single for long, however, Boyd married for the third time in 1885 to a young actor named Nathaniel Rue High. To support herself and her family, she returned to the stage in 1886. Boyd took her final bow on fourteen years later. While touring the United States (she had gone to address members of a GAR post), she died of a heart attack in Kilbourne City (now known as Wisconsin Dells), Wisconsin, on June 11, 1900. She was 56 years old. She was buried in the Spring Grove Cemetery in Wisconsin Dells, with members of the Local GAR as her pallbearers. For years, her grave simply read:

BELLE BOYD
CONFEDERATE SPY
BORN IN VIRGINIA
DIED IN WISCONSIN AND WAS BURIED IN SPRING GROVE CEMETERY
ERECTED BY A COMRADE

