

## Wade Hampton III

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Wade Hampton III** (March 28, 1818 – April 11, 1902) came from a wealthy planter family and shortly before the war was one of the largest slaveholders in the Southeast. He was elected to the state legislature. During the American Civil War, he served as a Confederate cavalry leader, reaching the rank of lieutenant general. In the postwar years, he returned to serve as a Democratic Party politician from South Carolina.

Near the end of the Reconstruction, Hampton was elected as the 77th Governor of South Carolina, serving 1876-1879, and later was elected as a U.S. Senator. His campaign as governor was marked by extensive violence by the Red Shirts, a paramilitary group that served the Democratic Party by disrupting elections and suppressing black voting in the state. They contributed to the Democrats regaining control of the state government in this period.

### Contents

- 1 Early life and career
- 2 Civil War
- 3 Postwar years
- 4 Later years
- 5 Personal life
- 6 Legacy and honors
- 7 In fiction
- 8 See also
- 9 Notes
- 10 References
- 11 Further reading
- 12 External links

### Early life and career



The Col. William Rhett House, 54 Hasell St., Charleston, South Carolina, the birthplace of Wade Hampton III

Wade Hampton III was born in 1818 at 54 Hasell St. in Charleston, South Carolina, the eldest son of Wade Hampton II (1791–1858), known as "Colonel Wade Hampton", and Ann (née Fitzsimmons) Hampton. His mother was from a wealthy family in Charleston.<sup>[1]</sup> After the War of 1812, his father had built his own fortune on land speculation in the Southeast.

The senior Hampton was an officer of dragoons in the War of 1812, and an aide to General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. The boy was the grandson of Wade Hampton (1754–1835), lieutenant colonel of cavalry in the American War of Independence, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and brigadier general in the War of 1812. Wade III's uncle by marriage, James Henry Hammond, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and as Governor of South Carolina. In the late 1850s he was elected to the South Carolina Senate.

Wade Hampton III grew up in a wealthy planter family, receiving private instruction. He had four younger sisters. His was an active outdoor life; he rode horses and hunted, especially at his family's North Carolina summer retreat, High Hampton.<sup>[2]</sup> The youth was known for taking hunting trips alone into the woods, hunting American black bears with only a knife. Some accounts credit him with killing as many as 80 bears.<sup>[3]</sup>

In 1836 Hampton graduated from South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina), and was trained for the law, although he never practiced. His father assigned certain plantations to him to manage in South Carolina and Mississippi.<sup>[1]</sup> The younger man also became active in Democratic state politics.

He was elected to the South Carolina General Assembly in 1852 and served as a state Senator from 1858 to 1861. After Hampton's father died in 1858, the son inherited his vast fortune, the plantations, and his slaves.

### Civil War

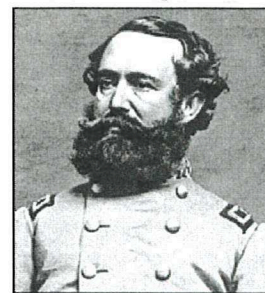
Although Hampton was conservative on issues of secession and slavery, and he had opposed the division of the Union as a legislator, when war began, he was loyal to his state. He resigned from the South Carolina Senate and enlisted at the age of 42 as a private in the South Carolina Militia. The governor of South Carolina insisted that Hampton accept a colonel's commission.

Although he had no military experience, his years of managing plantations and serving in state government were considered signs of leadership. As was also the case in northern regiments, the elite were commissioned based on their social standing and were also expected to finance military units. Hampton organized and partially financed the unit known as "Hampton's Legion," which consisted of six companies of infantry, four companies of cavalry, and one battery of artillery. He personally paid for all the weapons for the Legion.

Hampton was a natural cavalryman—brave, audacious, and already a superb horseman. Of officers without previous military experience, he was one of three to achieve the rank of lieutenant general, the others being Nathan Bedford Forrest and Richard Taylor.

Hampton first saw combat in July 1861, at the First Battle of Manassas, where he deployed his Legion at a decisive moment, giving the brigade of Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson time to reach the field. He was wounded the first of five times during the war when he led a charge against a federal artillery position, and a bullet creased his forehead.

### Wade Hampton III



Wade Hampton during the Civil War

#### United States Senator from South Carolina

##### In office

March 4, 1879 – March 3, 1891

**Preceded by** John J. Patterson

**Succeeded by** John L. M. Irby

#### 77th Governor of South Carolina

##### In office

December 14, 1876 – February 26, 1879

**Lieutenant** William Dunlap Simpson

**Preceded by** Daniel Henry Chamberlain

**Succeeded by** William Dunlap Simpson

#### Member of the South Carolina Senate from Richland District

##### In office

November 22, 1858 – October 8, 1861

**Preceded by** John Smith Preston

**Succeeded by** Edward John Arthur

#### Member of the South Carolina House of Representatives from Richland District

##### In office

November 22, 1852 – November 22, 1858

#### Personal details

**Born** March 28, 1818  
Charleston, South Carolina

**Died** April 11, 1902 (aged 84)  
Columbia, South Carolina

**Political party** Democratic

**Alma mater** South Carolina College

**Profession** planter, soldier, politician

**Committees** United States railroad commissioner 1893–1897

#### Military service

**Allegiance**  Confederate States of America

**Service/branch**  Confederate States Army

**Years of service** 1861–1865

**Rank**  Lieutenant General

**Commands** Hampton's Legion  
Cavalry Corps, Army of Northern Virginia

**Battles/wars** American Civil War

After the election, Hampton became known as the "Savior of South Carolina," and among those Democrats elected who were called "Redeemers." He was re-elected in 1878; the Red Shirts gave support but less violence was required.<sup>[9]</sup> Two days later, he was thrown from a mule while deer hunting and broke his right leg. Several weeks later, his right leg was amputated due to complications arising from this injury.

Despite refusing to announce his candidacy for the Senate, Hampton was elected to the United States Senate by the General Assembly on the same day as his leg was amputated. He resigned from the governorship to serve two terms in the Senate, until 1891. He was among Bourbon Democrats who appealed to some freedmen in support of his win.<sup>[12]</sup> John L. M. Irby won the seat in the state elections of 1890.

## Later years

From 1893 to 1897, Hampton served as United States Railroad Commissioner, appointed by President Grover Cleveland. In 1899, his home in Columbia, was destroyed by fire. An elderly man, he then had limited funds and few means to find a new home. Over his strong protests, a group of friends raised enough funds to build him one.

He was a hereditary member of the South Carolina Society of the Cincinnati.

## Personal life

In 1838, Hampton married Margaret Preston (1818-1852). Their children were: Wade Hampton IV (1840-1879), Thomas Preston Hampton (1843-1864, killed in the war), Sarah Buchanan Hampton (1845-1886), John Preston Hampton (1846-1847), and Harriet Flud Hampton (1848-1853).

In 1858, Hampton III married Mary Singleton McDuffie (1830-1874). Their children were: George McDuffie Hampton (1859-1917), Mary Singleton "Daisy" Hampton (1861-1934), Alfred Hampton (1863-1942), and Catherine Fisher Hampton (born and died 1867)

In 1890, Hampton's niece Caroline, an operating room nurse, married William Halsted, later known as the "father of American surgery" for his contributions. He had developed the surgical glove to try to protect Caroline's skin from the harsh surgical sterilization chemicals.<sup>[13]</sup>

Wade Hampton died in Columbia. He is buried there in Trinity Cathedral Churchyard.

## Legacy and honors

Statues of him were erected in the South Carolina State House building and in the United States Capitol. An equestrian statue by Frederick W. Ruckstull was erected on the grounds of the S.C. state capitol in Columbia, in 1906.

In the wake of the June 17, 2015, massacre at the Charleston Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church by white supremacist Dylann Roof, there was a push to remove Confederate symbols in the United States Capitol, including the Hampton statue.<sup>[14]</sup> Congressional representatives voted to retain the statues.<sup>[15]</sup>

To honor Hampton for his leadership in the Civil War and the "redemption" of the state from Reconstruction-era reforms, the General Assembly created Hampton County from Beaufort County in 1878. The town of Hampton Courthouse, later shortened to Hampton, was incorporated on December 23, 1879, to serve as the county seat of Hampton County.

Across South Carolina, many towns and cities renamed streets for him. At least eight municipalities in South Carolina have a street named "Wade Hampton" (Beaufort, Charleston, Duncan, Greenville, Greer, Hampton, Taylors, and Walterboro) and approximately 47 towns in the state have streets named "Hampton". Two high schools in South Carolina are named Wade Hampton High School: in Greenville and in Varnville. A residence hall at Hampton's alma mater, the University of South Carolina, was named for him.

A Hampton Park was dedicated in Charleston and another in Columbia in his honor. The historic Hampton Heights neighborhood in Spartanburg is named after him. In 1964, Wade Hampton Academy was started in Orangeburg, considered a segregation academy. The school merged with Willington Academy in 1986 to become Orangeburg Preparatory Schools, Inc.

In 1913, Judge John Randolph Tucker named the Wade Hampton Census Area in Alaska to commemorate his father-in-law (it was renamed Kusilvak Census Area in 2015).<sup>[16]</sup>

An artillery battery was named after Wade Hampton at Fort Crockett, built on Galveston Island, Texas. The Wade Hampton Battery was one of four coastal artillery batteries and contained two 10-inch guns. During World War II, the SS *Wade Hampton*, a Liberty ship named in honor of the general, was sunk off the coast of Greenland by a German U-boat.

In Greenville County, South Carolina, the section of U.S. Route 29 that connects the city of Greenville to Spartanburg is called Wade Hampton Boulevard. There is also a fire district (Wade Hampton Fire Department) named in his honor placed on the east side of Greenville, adjoining the Greenville city limits, which include Wade Hampton High School.

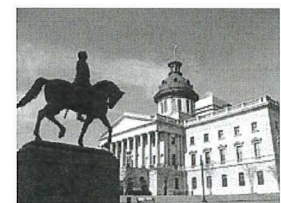
Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton III received the Confederate Medal of Honor, an award first proposed by the Confederate Congress during the war but today administered by the Sons of Confederate Veterans to recognize valor and bravery by American Confederate soldiers who are ineligible for the Federal Medal of Honor.

## In fiction

In Margaret Mitchell's novel *Gone with the Wind*, Scarlett O'Hara's first husband, Charles Hamilton, serves in Hampton's regiment. As it was fashionable (according to Mitchell) to name baby boys after their fathers' commanding officers, Scarlett's son by Charles is named Wade Hampton Hamilton. In the film version of *Gone With The Wind*, the letter sent to Scarlett advising her of Charles' death is shown to be signed by Hampton.

In the *North and South* trilogy by John Jakes, the character Charles Main serves with Hampton's cavalry throughout the Civil War.

Hampton appears in a small role in *How Few Remain*, the first novel in Harry Turtledove's *Southern Victory Series*, an alternate history in which the South wins the American Civil War. Later in the series, in the novel *American Empire: Blood and Iron*, Hampton's fictional grandson Wade Hampton V appears as a character.



Statue of Wade Hampton at South Carolina State House



Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Wade\_Hampton\_III&oldid=796050972"

---

- This page was last edited on 18 August 2017, at 04:35.
- Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.