



The Wheeler Dispatch



*The Official Newsletter of the General Joe Wheeler Camp #1245 in Aiken, South Carolina
A Camp built upon Duty, Honor, God and Country January 2022*



Commander's Column

Greetings to all,

Hope everyone had a blessed Christmas, and praying for a much better New Year. Well, December was a busy month starting with the Wheeler Camp's Christmas Meeting which was well attended and very enjoyable time together. Thanks to all who brought a dish. Thanks to Blake Moore for helping me set the room up also. It was good to have had the opportunity to swear in our newest Camp member, Kevin Beck. Kevin will make us a good member. Let's all do our part to make Kevin a great Camp.

Our Camp sponsored Wreaths Across America Service went about as well as a Service could go. Many thanks to all who dedicated their time to be a part of it and many thanks to the 45 or so that came. Good attendance indeed. 2nd Lt. Blake Moore did an outstanding job filling in for me as I was unable to be a part of this Service this year. Blake's leadership has always been a great asset to our Camp over the years. Also, much thanks to Bob Ritter for being the Speaker for this Event.

Please keep in mind our Wheeler Camp Western Carolina SCV Prayer Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, January 22, 2022. It promises to be a good one with Pastor Paul Noe of Sweetwater Baptist Church in North Augusta coming to bring our message. I'll be touching base with the Camp and Camp Officers sometime after Christmas to put the finishing touches on this special time of Prayer, Fellowship and Praise to our Lord.

Remember that there will not be a February meeting this year. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Prayer Breakfast.

“Remember, Confederate soldiers never die unless they are forgotten.”

I am Fraternally Yours, Ken

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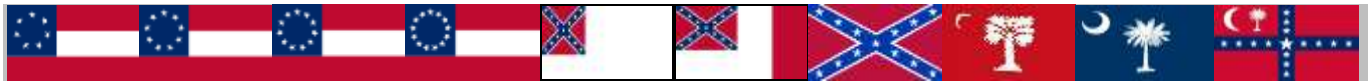
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Happy New Year!

**I just wanted to wish all a safe, and Christ-filled Happy New Year!
I think Confederate Chaplain William Edward Wiatt of the 26th Virginia Infantry said it best in his diary on December 31, 1862.**

**“What have I done for God this year?
What have I done against him?
Have I done my duty as a Christian?
Have I grown in grace and knowledge of the truth?
Have I glorified God?
Have I dishonored him?
Have I used my time, talents, heart, and all for God or for myself?
Have I been instrumental in bringing any to Christ, or, have I kept them away from Christ?
How have I managed my stewardship?
Am I better or worse than I was this day one year ago?
If called upon to give an account of my stewardship, am I ready to meet my Lord?
How gratified am I to God?
How much do I love him?
Oh! How good God has been to me and mine in the midst of so many and so great dangers!”**

Hope this little message can help us all grow closer to Christ this year.

1st Lieutenant Commander

Next year’s SC Reunion will be held March 18-19, 2022 in Charleston. It is easy to register online. Website for the SC Reunion is: <https://www.scv4.org/events/south-carolina-division-convention-2022-scv-sons-of-confederate-veterans-2022-convention/>. Next year SC Commander and Lt. Commander will be elected, so you need to come to the Reunion and vote.

The 127th SCV National Reunion will be held July 19-23, 2022 at Cartersville, GA. This Reunion will be the Atlanta Campaign Battlefield Tour Reunion with tours of battlefields at Chickamauga, Resaca, Ringgold Gap, Dalton, Kennesaw Mountain and Cheatham Hill and also Marietta Confederate Cemetery.

2nd Lieutenant Commander

The 4th Annual Wreaths Across America (WAA) Service at Bethany Cemetery was a **success!!** In attendance were about 45 including representatives from at least two DAR chapters, two UDC chapters, four SCV camps, one SAR Chapter and the Mechanized Cavalry. Bob Ritter gave an excellent talk. Mike Harber arrived an hour early for cleanup of the Confederate Dead Section and was completed by the time I got there. He helped me replace flags and place wreaths at each Confederate grave. Bethany Cemetery had 158 wreaths to put on Veterans’ graves, but with about 450 Veterans in Bethany Cemetery, we all need to try to have more wreaths available for next year.



Some attendees enjoying the Wreaths Across America Service at Bethany Cemetery



Brig. Gen. E. Porter Alexander Honor Guard firing a volley saluting the Confederate Veterans

On behalf of the Wreaths Across America organization and our family of volunteers and supporters across the country, we want to thank YOU for your support of the Mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those that serve and their families, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom. As Wreaths Across America founder Morrill Worcester told the audience at our recent Appreciation Rally "we've just barely scratched the surface" of honoring every veteran as they so deserve, but we have done so much and touched so many lives, and we could not have done any of it without your support.

During this year's National Wreaths Across America observance, more than two million dedicated volunteers placed more than 2.4 million veterans' wreaths at 3,136 participating locations across the country. At Arlington National Cemetery specifically, the Wreaths Across America program saw 66 tractor-trailers deliver over 250,000 veterans' wreaths that were placed by nearly 38,000 volunteers, many of whom were children, some participating for the very first time.

As I think of those numbers, each of those gravesites, and each of those volunteers saying the servicemember's name out loud and sharing a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy, I am immensely humbled. I am also truly overwhelmed with pride for the people of this great nation where so many individuals and communities can come together in unity and support for those who have protected our freedom. I will say it again: THANK YOU. Thank you for your time and your efforts, your sponsorships, and your help in sharing the word. Thank you most of all for taking the time during this busy season to join us in letting veterans and military families know that their service and sacrifice is both seen and appreciated and that they are not alone in their loss.

Remember. Honor. Teach.
With gratitude,
Karen Worcester, Executive Director for Wreaths Across America





**The following is a list of important events over the next few months
Additional information will be added as it becomes available.**

- Sunday Jan. 9 - World Premier showing of two locally produced movies, "The Hunley" and "Sherman's March to the Sea" at the Imperial Theater in Augusta, GA.
- Saturday Jan. 15 – Brig. Gen. E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Lee-Jackson Banquet at Bobby's BBQ. Contact Carl Mixon at 706-231-5311 for reservations.
- Saturday Jan. 22 - The Western Carolina SC Division Prayer Breakfast at the Aiken County Historical Museum at 9:00am
- Saturday Jan. 22 – Brig. Gen. Barnard E. Bee Camp #1575 Lee-Jackson Banquet at Bobby's BBQ. Contact Pete Peters at 803-507-6995 for reservations.
- Saturday Jan. 29 - **Lunch & Lecture: Civil War Music & Genealogy 101 at Oakley Park Museum** - Author Robert C. Jones presents a lecture on Civil War Music at 10 AM, and he will have a variety of American History books available for sale. Genealogy 101 presented by Tonya Guy from Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society during lunch from 11:30 to 12:30. Tour Oakley Park Museum from 12:30 to 2 P.M. Please RSVP for a box lunch for \$15 or \$10 donation for entry, children & students FREE. First in a series of Lunch & Lecture series at Oakley Park Museum. Museum Gift Shop. Call (803) 637-4027 or Text (803) 215-9798 or PM Oakley Park Museum on Facebook. opmuseum.com/
- Saturday Feb. 5th - SC Division Leadership Conference in Irmo, SC at the River Center in Saluda Shoals Park. Make your reservation by January 30th at the following web link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXwxAQHr_vieXNA7bgzqESTF6ZK7_QZW7WZpSggmLdIjd-5g/viewform
- Wednesday Feb. 9th – First Legislation Day at the Statehouse in Columbia meet at the Confederate Monument.
- Feb. 18-20 – Battle of Aiken
- March 4-6 – Battle for Broxton Bridge outside of Ehrhardt, SC
- March 18-19 - SC Division Reunion in Charleston, SC
- Wednesday April 6th – Second Legislation Day at the Statehouse in Columbia meet at the Confederate Monument.
- Friday April 8th – Wheeler Camp Ladies' Night Celebration at the Outing Club

Adjutant's Report

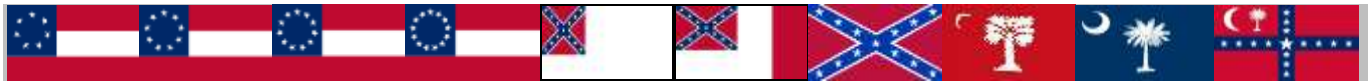
We had a great attendance for our December Christmas meeting with 10 members, including one new member (Kevin Beck) being sworn in and 12 visitors. The next monthly meeting will **NOT** be held in January or February due to the Prayer Breakfast being held on January 22, 2022.



Wheeler Camp's newest member, Kevin Beck



All are enjoying a good Christmas party meal.



From the Chaplain's Desk



Wise Men Still Seek Him

We do not know much about the Wise Men who came seeking the newborn King. It is much easier to relate to Mary and Joseph, and perhaps the shepherds, who were common people. Yet of all the players in the Christmas story, perhaps it is the wise men who are most like us because they represent the first Gentiles who came to Jesus Christ. And in their search for Jesus Christ and their response when they found Him, the wise men illustrate the essence of true wisdom.

In Chapter 1, Matthew showed that Jesus was a descendant not only of Abraham but also of David, which was necessary for Him to meet the Old Testament qualification of the Messiah. Matthew spent one verse talking about the actual birth of Jesus, then he demonstrated that Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy. Matthew 2 fast-forwards past the birth of Christ several months. That is where our story picks up in **Matthew 2:1: "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem."**

Matthew said that the magi came from the east. The magi appeared around the seventh century BC in Persia, which is modern-day Iran. The word "magi" refers to a special class of men who were skilled in astronomy and astrology. Interestingly, the magi did believe in one God, but they believed that one way you worshipped Him was through sorcery, or magic. We get our word "magic" from the magi. The wise men were experts in mathematics, agriculture, and many other sciences. In fact, they were so wise that if you were in the east, you could not become a king without having mastered the knowledge of the magi and being crowned as king by the magi. The magi were the kingmakers of their day. That explains why they were searching for the **"King of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2).**

God intended us to become wise through book learning and through our life experiences. Jesus teaches us to remain humble and give to others the gifts of love and grace he sends our way. This is perhaps the best way we gain wisdom - seeking God's presence and love so that we can give it to others. Let us continue to seek Him each day of our lives.



Chaplain's Prayer List: Please remember our fellow compatriots and their family members who need prayers:
Michael Allen, Jacob Cook, Lee Duvall and his daughter, Melanie; Clair Henkes, Tom Huckabee, & Ken Temples

World Premier Showing of Two Movies, "The Hunley" and "Sherman's March to the Sea"

On Sunday January 9th at 2:00 p.m. there will be a World Premier showing of two locally produced movies. The first movie will be "The Hunley" which was the first submarine to sink a ship at war. The second movie will be "Sherman's March to the Sea". Both movies will be shown at the Imperial Theater on Broad Street in downtown Augusta, GA. Any questions concerning further details can be addressed to General Bee Camp Commander Eddie Rogers at 803-507-0936.



General Robert E. Lee gets the last laugh as the liberals were hunting for a rare photo of Abraham Lincoln, but was not found in the box!!

Confederate artifacts were discovered inside of an 1887 box buried under a now-removed Robert E. Lee statue

RICHMOND, Va. (AP, Dec. 28, 2021) — Conservation experts in Virginia’s capital pulled books, money, ammunition, documents and other artifacts Tuesday from a long-sought-after time capsule found in the remnants of a pedestal that once held a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Over the course of about two hours, the team sliced open the 36-pound copper box and meticulously pried apart and documented the damp contents. The box had been tucked in a foundation cornerstone of the massive — and now mostly deconstructed — Richmond monument since 1887.

The time capsule had drawn substantial interest, both because it proved to be elusive during an earlier search and because historical records had led to some speculation it might contain a rare photo of President Abraham Lincoln after his death. Ultimately, such a photo was not found.

The conservation team was able to identify many of the items immediately as they were pulled from the box, though some materials were warped from water damage and required further study. Experts were on hand to triage the artifacts.

“They were more waterlogged than we had hoped but not as bad as it could have been,” said Kate Ridgway, the lead conservator for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The time capsule had been found a day earlier — buried and sitting in water — by workers wrapping up the removal of the Lee statue pedestal.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam ordered the enormous equestrian statue of Lee removed in 2020, amid the global protest movement sparked by the police killing of George Floyd. Litigation pushed back his plans, and the statue was not removed until September, after a court cleared the way.

Contemporaneous news accounts from the late 1800s detailed the placement of the box in the cornerstone of the pedestal, but a lengthy search during the statue removal came up empty.

Earlier this month, Northam ordered the pedestal removed as well, and crews working on the project again started to search for the artifact. A different time capsule was discovered two weeks ago, generating excitement, but hours of painstaking and ultimately anti-climactic examination suggested that artifact was placed by someone else, perhaps someone involved with the construction.

Ridgway said the measurements and copper material of the box opened Tuesday matched historical accounts. As the contents inside were unpacked, they largely lined up with the items listed in a newspaper article from the time.

One tidbit in that newspaper article had led to some conjecture that the capsule might contain a historically significant photo of Lincoln. It listed among the contents a “picture of Lincoln lying in his coffin.”

On Tuesday, conservators found a printed image from an 1865 issue of Harper’s Weekly that they said seemed to show a figure grieving over Lincoln’s grave — but it was not the much-anticipated photo.



“It was not an original. It was perhaps taken from a photograph, but it is an engraving,” said Sue Donovan, conservator for special collections at the University of Virginia Library.

The contents of the tightly packed box had expanded from the dampness and stuck together, making unpacking difficult, so conservators decided to relieve pressure by cutting down one side. “Not ideal, but it’s the way it is,” Ridgway said.

After Ridgway and other team members meticulously extracted each object, other conservators would cart the pieces to the back of the lab for further study and cataloging. The team made sure to photograph each object before manipulating it.

Along with several waterlogged books, pamphlets and newspapers, the box contained an envelope of Confederate money, which conservators carefully separated, and two carved artifacts — a Masonic symbol and a Confederate flag said to have been made from the tree that grew over Gen. Stonewall Jackson’s original grave.

Conservators also pulled buttons, coins and Minié balls, a type of bullet used in the Civil War, from the box. A bomb squad had checked the capsule Monday, partly to make sure there was no live ammunition inside.

Ridgway told reporters after the box had been emptied that there was some question about whether calling the vessel a time capsule was the most accurate terminology, as it did not appear to have a definitive date when it was expected to have been opened.

“A cornerstone box is probably more accurate,” she said. No inscription could be seen on the box’s interior or exterior, though Ridgway said it was possible that any such carving could have corroded away with time.



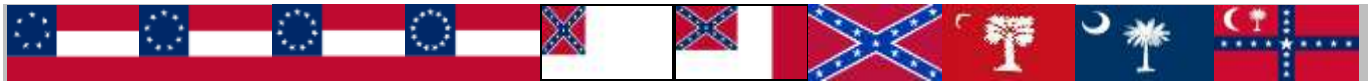
The South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans will meet on the 5th of February 2022 for our annual Division Leadership Conference.

Registration will start at 9 am and is open to any current member of the SC Division, the Conference will end at 1 pm.

The Leadership Conference will be held at the River Center at Saluda Shoals Park.

5605 Bush River Rd, Columbia, SC 29212

Registration will be accepted for the event through the 30th of January 2022 using the following web link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXwxAQHr_vieuxNA7bgzqESTF6ZK7_QZW7WZpSggmLdIjd-5g/viewform



*16th Annual Western Carolina
SC Division Prayer Breakfast*

General Joe Wheeler Camp #1245 Aiken, SC

**Dear Compatriots, UDC, OCR and
Friends,**

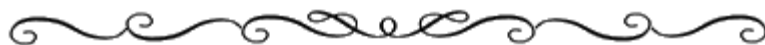
**The Wheeler Camp would like to extend to you,
your family and friends an invitation to our 16th
Annual Western Carolina SC Division Prayer
Breakfast.**

**Our Prayer Breakfast will be held in the Aiken
County Historical Museum located at
433 Newberry St. SW in Aiken, SC**

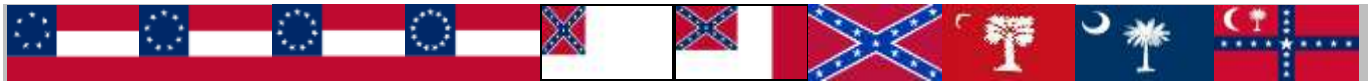
On Saturday January 22, 2022

**We will begin at 9:00AM for breakfast and Christian
fellowship.**

**Our speaker will be Dr. Paul Noe, Pastor of Sweetwater
Baptist Church, North Augusta, SC**



**Everything is free, the food, the fellowship and the Blessing!
The Wheeler Camp is looking forward to seeing you at the
Prayer Breakfast.**



Stephen D. Lee Institute 2022

Compatriots:

The 2022 Stephen D. Lee Institute will be held February 18-19, 2022, on the Gulf Coast at Beauvoir, the last home of President Jefferson Davis, in Biloxi, Mississippi. Our host hotel for the event is the Edgewater Inn, 1936 Beach Blvd in Biloxi. 1-800-323-9676 or 1-228-388-1100.

The event will take place in the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library on the grounds of Beauvoir. Registration includes access to buildings and tours of Beauvoir. The check-in table will be set up from 2-5 pm on Friday for those who wish to come early and tour the grounds. The Friday Night meet and greet at Beauvoir is from 8-9:30 pm. Saturday check-in starts at 7:45 am and the meeting starts at 8:30 am, lunch is at 12, and the banquet starts at 7:00 pm.

This year's topic is "The 21st Century Confederate."

Scheduled speakers are:

Dyan Mears, Chief Operating Officer of Beauvoir
Dean Stevens, Chairman of the SCV IT Committee
Carl Jones, Army of Tennessee Councilman, Sons of Confederate Veterans
Paul Gramling, Past Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans
Chris Sullivan, Past Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans
Walter D. "Donnie" Kennedy, Chief of Heritage Operations for the SCV

More information and registration is available at <http://www.stephendleeinstitute.com/events.html>

Please make your reservations early. The room for the Saturday night banquet has seating limited to 100 and 200 for the daytime portion only. Hope to see you there!

Deo Vindice

Charles E. McMichael
71st Commander-in-Chief, SCV
SDLI.scv@gmail.com

Aiken January 15th - Activist Engagement Training

To all, this is the political leadership conference we discussed at the Faith & Freedom Rally. Please make plans to come & tell all your compatriots about it. We have to take this country back or LOSE IT! We do that starting at the county, then state levels. If we can change our counties to Red Blooded True Americans (MAGA), then the state follows and eventually the country!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments, I look forward to seeing All my friends and cohorts there.

Attached and below is the event image we are using on Facebook. **We are building the sign-up page which we will be pushing out next ... probably ready tomorrow.** We added the "team@mySCGOP.com" email for people to contact us.

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/events/298778998861423>



WUCC 99.9fm mySCGOP.com mySCGOP.com
Part 1 FOUNDATIONAL CIVICS (CSG LEVEL 1) 9:00AM-12:00PM
Part 2 APPLIED CIVICS & PRECINCT REORG 1:00PM-5:00PM
Saturday, January 15th, 9AM - 5PM
Goshen Farm
395 Woodward Dr, Aiken, SC 29803
\$35/SESSION, \$50 FULL DAY (INCLUDES LUNCH & SNACKS)
CENTER FOR SELF-GOVERNANCE
Contact: team@mySCGOP.com

Marcus Griffis
GEM Enterprises
864-436-5153
marcusbiz90@gmail.com

Abbeville Institute: A New Civil War?

Perhaps the creation of autonomous city-states can alleviate our political differences

<https://www.abbevilleinstitute.org/a-new-civil-war/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=35bd0c58-dfdc-4c9b-9e5b-593a8f7fb06c>

...the bluecoats ...were not trying to overthrow a common sense understanding of human nature. They were not seeking the removal of God from public discourse, the establishment of the welfare state, sexual liberation, abortion, so-called gay marriage, or the feminisation of the military. While we had profound differences, we shared the same core values.

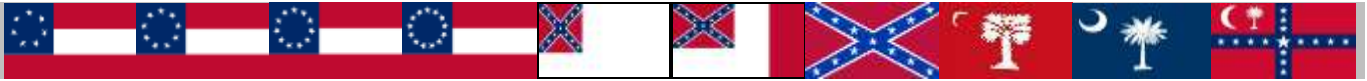
The unity that was established after that war by and large remains between the Old North and the Old South throughout America's Town & Country country. The new geographic division is between America's mega-cities and this same Town & Country.

...vastly more ominous is the contest between two worldviews, secular and Christian, which has resulted in the elimination of virtually all common ground.

...how can any form of government umbrella two such hopelessly irreconcilable worldviews as well as this new geographic division between Town & Country and Mega-City?

It would seem to me that a return to the original federalism where the states can once again challenge the federal government is the only way to keep two disparate peoples at least nominally united under the same constitution.

A return to federalism could relieve the tension between the states. As to the rising tension between some of the states and their respective Mega-Cities, I agree with those suggesting a constitutional change that allows for the existence of semi-autonomous city states.



Happy Birthday!

Camp Compatriots for January

Jason Crane – January 28

Camp Officers

Ken Temples – Commander
Lee Duvall – 1st Lt. Commander
Blake Moore – 2nd Lt. Commander
Danny Brown - Adjutant

Bob Ritter - Treasurer
Mark LeGrand – Chaplain
Nathan Oxner – Color Sergeant



The General Joe Wheeler Camp is named after Major General Joseph Wheeler of Augusta, Ga. It was Wheeler's troops who turned back Sherman's Cavalry led by Gen. Kilpatrick in February of 1865. Wheeler is known as the Savior of Aiken.

2022 Camp Activities

- Jan. – The Western Carolina SC Division Prayer Breakfast on Jan. 22, 2022 at the Aiken County Historical Museum.
- Feb. – First Legislative Day on Feb. 9 at the State House in Columbia. Details TBD.
- April - Second Legislative Day on April 6 at the State House in Columbia. Details TBD.
- April – The Wheeler Camp Annual Ladies' Night on April 8, 2022 at the Outing Club.
- May – The Wheeler Camp will host the Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service in Bethany Cemetery.
- Dec. – The Wheeler Camp will host the Wreaths Across America Service in Bethany Cemetery honoring all Veterans, especially Confederate Veterans.
- The Camp has adopted and cares for 54 Confederate graves located in Bethany Cemetery, the city of Aiken's largest cemetery where the only Unknown Confederate grave is located in the city.

MEETING TIME: First Monday of the month at 6:30pm with no regular camp meeting in January, February or July. Second Monday in September due to Labor Day.

MEETING PLACE: Aiken County Historical Museum, 433 Newberry St. SW, Aiken, SC 29801

For additional information contact: scscv1245@gmail.com