



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 2024*



Commander's Column

Greetings Fellow Compatriots,

I would like to start off the New Year wishing everyone many blessings and good health. Remember to keep the Lord first in your life.

We had a very good time at our Camp Christmas party on December 4th. Everyone enjoyed all of the food that was brought for the pot luck dishes. (See picture later in newsletter.)

The 6th Annual Wreaths Across America (WAA) Service at Bethany Cemetery was a **tremendous success!!** The rain held off until after the service and the placing of the wreaths was completed. On Saturday Dec. 16 we honored 54 Confederate Veterans and 354 other Veterans who were recognized with a wreath being laid on his/her grave. It was a very inspiring service with about 45 persons in attendance including representatives from heritage organizations SCV, UDC SCSSAR and NSDAR. (See pictures later in newsletter.) Thanks to all of the dedicated organizations that participated in the service, as well as those who provided wreaths for Bethany Cemetery. Specially thanks to Tony Venetz, WAA Area Coordinator and a Friend of the SCV. I want to also thank Mike Harber and Ken Temples who worked with me in the cold on Friday getting the cemetery looking very nice.

The 17th Western Carolina SC Division Prayer Breakfast scheduled for Saturday January 20, 2024 at 9:00AM at the Aiken County Historical Museum. Our guest speaker is SC Division Chaplain Danny Blackwell. I hope everyone is planning on coming and bringing their family and friends. Camp members remember to bring your breakfast items to the Aiken County Museum no later than 8:15AM, so we can setup for breakfast. As Sons of Confederate Veterans, it is important that we gather together in His name to start off the year right.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Prayer Breakfast on January 20th. Remember that there will be **NO** February meeting. The next monthly meeting will be held on March 4th.

Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations. May God bless you and may God bless Dixie. Blake

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



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1st Lieutenant Commander

Register NOW for 2024 Division and National Reunions

Registration for the 2024 SC Division Reunion to be hosted by the Litchfield Camp #132 at the Ocean Drive Beach Resort in North Myrtle Beach. The dates are April 12 & 13, 2024. Information on the reunion is listed on website scscv.com and enter the following:

<https://scscv.com/calendar/#!event/2024/4/13/south-carolina-division-state-convention>

Registration for the 2024 SCV National Reunion to be hosted by the Secession Camp #4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in North Charleston, SC. The dates are July 16 - 21, 2024. To register, please visit the Reunion website, <https://scv4.org/2024/>

The 2025 SCV National Reunion will be in Houston, TX.

2nd Lieutenant Commander

The following is a list of important events over the next few months.

- Saturday Jan. 6th – SC Division EC meeting at Confederate Relic Room, Columbia, SC at 10:00AM
- Saturday Jan. 20th - The 17th Annual Western Carolina SCV Division Prayer Breakfast at the Aiken County Historical Museum at 9:00AM.
- Saturday Jan. 20th – Brig. Gen. Barnard E. Bee Camp #1575 Lee-Jackson Banquet at Aiken County Shriner Club at 6:00PM. Contact Danny Francis at 803-334-8448 for reservations.
- Saturday Jan. 20th – Brig. Gen. E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Lee-Jackson Banquet at Bobby’s BBQ begins at 6:00PM. Contact Carl Mixon at 706-231-5311 for reservations.
- Saturday Feb. 3rd - SC Division Leadership Conference in Irmo, SC at the River Center in Saluda Shoals Park. Registration will begin at 8:30am.
- Feb. 23rd thru 25th – 29th Annual Battle of Aiken
- March 2nd & 3rd – Battle for Broxton Bridge outside of Ehrhardt, SC
- Friday April 7th – Wheeler Camp Ladies’ Night Celebration at 6:30PM at the Outing Club
- April 12th & 13th – 128th SC Division Reunion in North Myrtle Beach, SC



The SC Division Leadership Conference will be on Saturday Feb. 3rd in Irmo, SC at the River Center at Saluda Shoals Park. Registration will begin at 8:30am. The day’s event times will be from 9:00am till about 4:00pm. This year we will have a free full-plate meal consisting of sliced beef brisket, smoked chicken, squash casserole, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, green beans, dinner rolls sweet tea, unsweet tea and water for all attendees along with some good fellowship.



Adjutant's Report

The Camp provided a good pot luck meal that was enjoyed by all. We had great fellowship and sang a couple of Christmas carols to get us into the mood of the season followed by "Dixie". We had seven members and eleven guests including one prospective member Aidan Ashworth and his mother Cheryl Smith returning a third time in attendance.

From the Chaplain's Desk



Robert Louis Stevenson lived during the time of the War for Southern Independence. Just as he was growing up in Edinburgh, Scotland, kids in this country were also watching lamplighters and maybe thinking the same thoughts. This devotional is from Anne Graham Lotz.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16, NKJV

One night when Robert Louis Stevenson was a small boy, his nanny called him to come to bed. Oblivious to her summons, he was staring at something outside his nursery window. The nanny walked over, stood at his shoulder, and inquired patiently, "Robert, what are you looking at?" The little boy, without taking his eyes away from the window, exclaimed in wonder as he pointed to the lamplighter who was lighting the streetlamps, "Look, Nanny! That man is putting holes in the darkness!"

You and I may not be able to change the world, but surely each of us can put a hole in the darkness! Turn on the Light! Share what Jesus means to you and give God's Word to someone else!

All through the ages, men and women have done just that! They have turned on the Light so that a living faith in God has been passed from generation to generation. Not everyone has been attracted to the Light, but one by one people have come to Him for truth, wisdom, hope, salvation, and eternal life.

Have a blessed Dixie New Year to all and remember that Jesus is the REASON FOR ALL SEASONS



Chaplain's Prayer List: Please remember our fellow compatriots and their family members who need prayers:

Michael Allen, Jacob Cook, Lee Duvall and his wife Lynn & daughters Madison & Melanie, Clair Henkes, Tom Huckabee, Ken Temples, Eddie Rodgers, Blake & Janice Moore & grandson Collin Umbarger, Joe and Brenda Willis, Henry Richardson, Mark LeGrand's parents, and Danny Brown's granddaughter Kealey



Legal battle over Confederate flagpole on I-85 in Spartanburg County inches forward

By Chris Lavender clavender@postandcourier.com

Nov 28, 2023



A large Confederate battle flag on a 120-foot-tall flagpole in Spartanburg County near Interstate 85. The flag was first raised in October 2022.

By Chris Lavender clavender@postandcourier.com

SPARTANBURG — It's been more than a year since a massive Confederate battle flag was raised on a flagpole over Interstate 85 in Spartanburg County as the legal battle between the county and the property owner inches forward.

Spartanburg County has sued the Spartanburg County Board of Zoning Appeals' determination that the property owner wasn't required to have a permit to construct the towering pole, which allowed the flag to keep flying.

On Nov. 27, 2023 parties on either side of the legal action argued before Circuit Judge Mark Hayes on the issue of whether a permit should have been required. Hayes will rule at a later date.

On Aug. 6, 2022, the South Carolina state flag was raised for two months before the Confederate battle flag was raised on the same 120-foot-tall pole. The Confederate flag has continued to fly where more than 80,000 vehicles pass by it daily.

The Spartanburg County Planning and Development Department issued on Oct. 21, 2022, a notice of violation citing a 1999 zoning law banning flagpoles that have no accompanying uses, such as a home or a business.

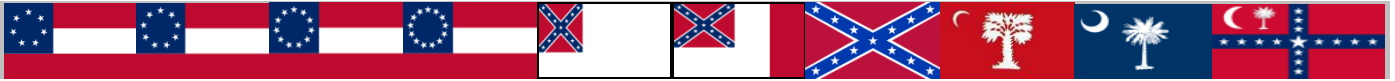
This past January, the Spartanburg County Board of Zoning Appeals voted that the county's violation notice should not have been issued to the local Sons of Confederate Veterans Chapter. The county filed an appeal on Feb. 28, 2023 asking the court to reverse the Spartanburg County Board of Zoning Appeals' decision.

Attorney Ethan Jedziniak, representing the county, argued at the hearing the flagpole was a structure that should have required a permit to build. He said the Confederate flag was not the issue.

"I don't care what they have flying up there," Jedziniak said. "That is not what this day is all about. This is not a 6-foot pole you put in your driveway. You have got to get a permit for something like this."

The only permit issued by the county was one for electrical work at the site on Teaberry Road. A permit from the Federal Aviation Administration was secured to clear the height of the flagpole. Fundraisers were held to help build the flagpole.

The local Sons of Confederate Veterans Chapter asked the county on three separate occasions if building permits were required to construct a flagpole and was told no permit was required.



Attorney Joshua Hawkins, representing the local Sons of Confederate Veterans Chapter, said the county’s zoning ordinance does not classify flagpoles as a structure. It did not require a permit to be constructed, Hawkins said.

“The county’s Unified Land Management Ordinance clearly finds that a flagpole does not constitute a structure,” Hawkins said.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans filed a separate lawsuit in November 2022. The complaint requests the court to declare the placing of a flagpole on the Camp’s property does not change the use of the property and prevent the county from requiring a land-use permit. The Sons of Confederate Veterans “desired to exercise its right to free speech by placing a large flagpole upon the property that would be visible,” according to the complaint.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY



6TH ANNUAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA SERVICE



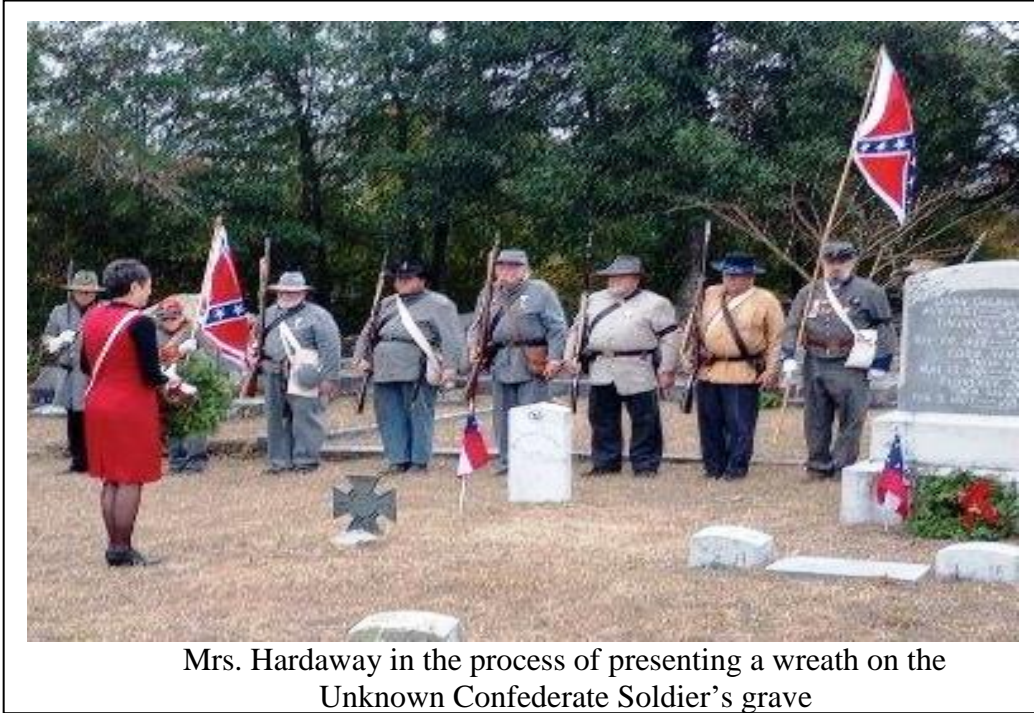
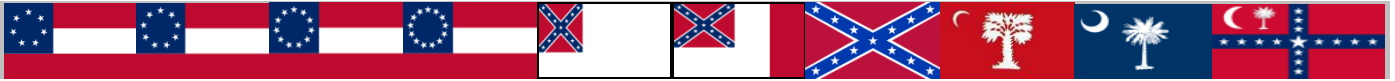
Mrs. Julie Hardaway, Vice President General, UDC giving greetings



Mrs. Janice Moore, NSDAR Regent Esther Marion Chapter giving greetings



Mr. Kevin Kerr, SCSSAR Registrar Henry Laurens Chapter giving greetings



Mrs. Hardaway in the process of presenting a wreath on the Unknown Confederate Soldier's grave



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



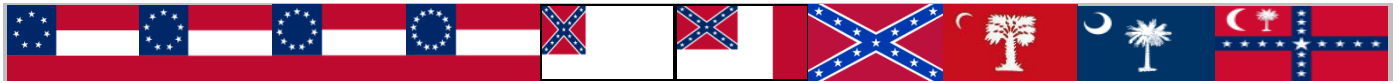
Jordan Fulmer laying a wreath



Annsley Fulmer laying a wreath



Kendall Fulmer laying a wreath



17th Annual Western Carolina SC Division Prayer Breakfast

General Joe Wheeler Camp #1245 Aiken, SC

Dear SCV Compatriots, UDC, OCR and Friends,

The Wheeler Camp would like to extend to you, your family and friends an invitation to our 17th 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

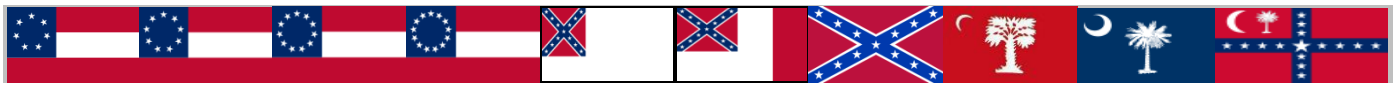
On Saturday January 20, 2024

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

**Our speaker will be Rev. Danny Blackwell,
SC Division Chaplain**



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



An Old Article from the “Weekend Edition”

<https://www.npr.org/2011/08/07/138587202/after-years-of-research-confederate-daughter-arises>

This is from the “Weekend Edition” about an old article from the North Carolina NPR that was dated August of 2011. There were a lot of articles written during this period related to the CSA because it was the 150th anniversary of the War Between the States.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. It's of particular importance to the United Daughters of the Confederacy, an organization for female descendants of Confederate soldiers.

The group includes 23 elderly women who are the last living daughters of those who served. One of them is black.

Mattie Clyburn Rice, 88, spent years searching through archives to prove her father was a black Confederate. As she leafs through a notebook filled with official-looking papers, Rice stops to read a faded photocopy with details of her father's military service.

"At Hilton Head while under fire of the enemy, he carried his master out of the field of fire on his shoulder, that he performed personal service for Robert E. Lee. That was his pension record," Rice says.

Rice's father, Weary Clyburn, applied for a Confederate pension in 1926, when he was about 85. Rice was 4 years old then, the daughter of a young mother and an elderly father who regaled her with stories of his time spent in South Carolina's 12th Volunteer Unit. But when Rice repeated those stories as an adult, she was accused of spreading tall tales.

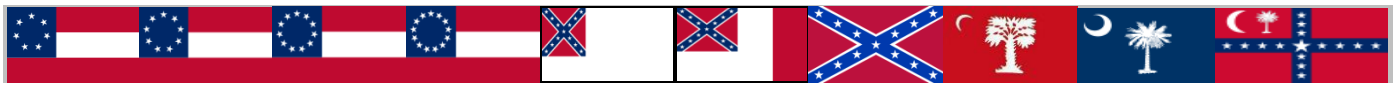
"Nobody believed me. Nobody. Not even the children," she says. "They are just beginning to believe, 'cause now they see it in print."

Friends and family members doubted that Rice's father, who was born a slave, supported Confederates. Military leaders also didn't officially enlist blacks until the very tail end of the war.

But once Rice found her father's pension application in North Carolina's state archives, Civil War groups started calling. United Daughters of the Confederacy member Gail Crosby keeps track of soldiers' daughters — officially called "Real Daughters" — for the group. Crosby says she was thrilled to invite Rice to join.

"We're always so excited when we find any Real Daughter, and immediately I found a chapter in her area, let the chapter know that we had this lady," she says.

Rice is the second black Real Daughter to be recognized by an organization that was once exclusively for white women. Yet some progressive historians and Civil War buffs frown at her father's story. They say the very term "black Confederate" supports the notion that the Civil War



wasn't about slavery. Even so, University of North Carolina history professor Fitz Brundage says the contributions of enslaved blacks to the war effort should be recognized.

"If Southern states in the early 20th century had given pensions to all the African-Americans who, as slaves, were conscripted to build trenches, work on railroads [and] do all manner of heavy labor for the Confederate war cause, there should've been tens of thousands of African-Americans who received pensions," he says.

But, Rice says, her father went to war willingly, though his story is complicated. He ran away with his best friend, who was white and the son of his master. Rice says no matter how historians view that narrative, she's glad she proved her father contributed to the Confederate cause.

"I wanted the world to know what he did," she says.

Rice says she never could have imagined joining the United Daughters of the Confederacy as a young woman growing up in the Jim Crow South. But she says times have changed: Not only is she a member, but two of her daughters are as well.

Happy Birthday!

Camp Compatriots Birthdays in January

Terry Bouknight – January 24

Jason Crane – January 28

2023 – 2024 Camp Officers

Blake Moore – Commander

Lee Duvall – 1st Lt. Commander

Mark LeGrand – 2nd Lt. Commander

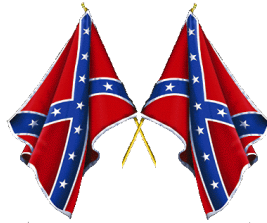
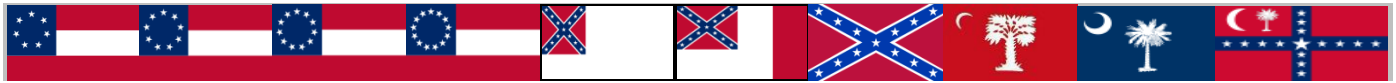
Danny Brown – Adjutant

Bob Ritter - Treasurer

Ken Temples – Chaplain

Nathan Oxner – Color Sergeant

Nicholas Ward – Judge Advocate



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.

2024 Camp Activities

- Jan. – The 17th Western Carolina SC Division Prayer Breakfast scheduled on Saturday Jan. 20, 2024 at 9:00AM at the Aiken County Historical Museum.
- March – Wheeler Camp meeting is scheduled on March 4th at Aiken County Historical Museum at 6:30PM.
- April – The Wheeler Camp Annual Ladies' Night is scheduled on Friday April 5, 2024 at 6:30PM at the Outing Club.
- May – May 6th camp meeting will be a picnic at J.W. Osteen's cabin at the Battle of Aiken site at 6:30PM.
- May – The Wheeler Camp will host the Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service on Sunday May 5, 2023 at 3:00PM in Bethany Cemetery.
- June 3rd, August 5th, September 9th, October 7th, November 4th and December 2nd camp meetings will be held at the Aiken County Historical Museum at 6:30PM. No camp meeting will be held in February and July.
- Dec. – The Wheeler Camp will host the Wreaths Across America Service on Saturday Dec. 14, 2024 at 3:00PM in Bethany Cemetery honoring all Veterans, especially Confederate Veterans.

MEETING TIME: Normally, the camp meeting is the first Monday of the month at 6:30PM with no camp meeting in February or July. The camp meeting in September is on the second Monday due to Labor Day. The Prayer Breakfast is our regular meeting in January.

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

For additional information contact: scscv1245@gmail.com