



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 March 2022*

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Commander's Column

Greetings to all,

Hope this newsletter finds you all doing well. After the cancellation of our January Prayer Breakfast and no meeting in February, I'm ready to see everyone at our March meeting at 6:45pm at the Aiken County Museum. I'm hoping this will be the kickoff to normalcy once again.

Our SCV Legislative Day on February 9th did not have a good turnout. Only about 25 compatriots showed up out of approximately 2,129 members in SC. Blake and I were proud to represent the Wheeler Camp that day. If just two members from each Camp in the State came that day, we would have had at least 120 or more there. The poor showing presented a weak organization to those we were trying to meet with. Our State Division Lt. Commander Marcus Griffis who worked so hard to organize that event said he was going to have to re-think the entire way that we do this event. Please don't take this as me criticizing anyone in the Wheeler Camp, Lord knows I've miss a few myself, but it's just disappointing when this was a State-wide event!

Nathan, Blake and I will represent the Camp in Charleston on March 19 for the SCV Annual SC State Convention/Reunion. It is still not too late to register for you to go.

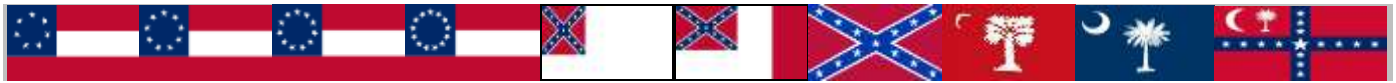
The Battle of Aiken will be hosted by the Bee Camp the last weekend of February. It's always a great event, and the H.L. Hunley replica will be there.

First Lt. Commander Lee Duvall will be giving us a presentation on the CSS Shenandoah for our upcoming camp meeting. Let's all come out and support Lee. I'll bring coffee, water, and some dessert snacks for the meeting. See you there.

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

I am Fraternally Yours, Ken





1st Lieutenant Commander

This 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/>. This year the 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 SC Division Leadership Conference in Irmo, SC at the River Center in Saluda Shoals Park was held on Saturday Feb. 5th. It was well attended and the two breakout sessions were very informative.

I attended the Sgt. Berry G. Benson Camp #1672 celebration of Berry G. Benson's 179th birthday in the Sunset Hill Cemetery in North Augusta on Sunday Feb. 6. The great and great-great granddaughters of Berry Benson were in attendance.

BAD NEWS FOR RE-ENACTORS!!

BLACK POWDER IS SADLY NO LONGER MADE IN AMERICA

OCTOBER 01, 2021 By *Kurt Martonik*

After nearly 220 years, the last black powder manufacturer in America is closing its doors. For the tens of thousands of muzzleloader hunters, cowboy action shooters, and black powder cartridge enthusiasts, the closure of GOEX inevitably means less supply and increased cost in the years ahead.

Hodgdon Powder Company, the owner of GOEX, announced the immediate closure of its Camp Minden, Louisiana facility in a statement on Sept. 28.

Black powder was the first gunpowder. Invented by the Chinese in 850 AD, it is a saltpeter, sulfur, and charcoal mixture. When smokeless powders hit the scene at the turn of the last century, black powder was slowly phased out of most military and sporting applications. But a dedicated base of black powder fans remains, mainly composed of muzzleloader hunters, cowboy action shooters, and re-enactors.

“Effective immediately, Hodgdon Powder Company, Inc. has decided to cease manufacturing operations at the company's Camp Minden, Louisiana site while evaluating strategic options for the black powder business,” Hodgdon stated in its release. “The business will wind down operations while an evaluation process on the future of the black powder business takes place.”



Black powder America: Reproduction flintlocks, like the rifle shown here, often shoot well with black powder loads. Two 1-pound jugs of black powder shown.



There are several modern black powder alternatives. When they hit the scene, most were immediately plagued with ignition and accuracy issues. Alternatives like Pyrodex are made with additives that make them safer to ship.

GOEX has made a name for itself in the shooting industry, being the only current manufacturer of black powder in the United States.

“Strategic options for the GOEX and Olde Eynsford brands of black powder, along with the manufacturing capabilities, will include a potential sale of the business,” the release said. “All affected employees will be retained through Dec. 31, 2021, to assist in an orderly closing of the site and receive severance commensurate with their years of service to the company.”

End of an American Black Powder Legacy

The exact reasons Hodgdon is shuttering GOEX are unclear, but there are a few noteworthy events that lead up to the closure:

- On Oct. 1, 2020, Hodgdon took over the Blackhorn 209 muzzleloader brand from Western Powders. Blackhorn 209 is a black powder substitute that is optimized using the standard 209 shotgun primer used in most inline muzzleloaders. This added to their line of black powder substitutes including Pyrodex and Triple Seven.
- On June 18, 2021, a fire broke out at the GOEX Camp Minden facility. While no one was injured, it may have played into Hodgdon’s decision. Black powder is extremely dangerous to manufacture, which causes endless liability issues for the company.

An American History

Through the Vietnam era, field artillery shells used black powder in their ignition systems. *New York Public Library*

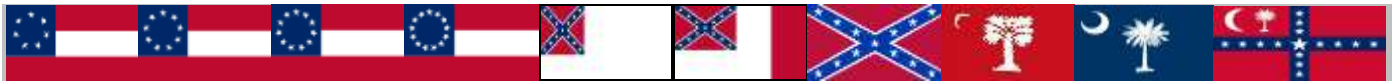
In 1802, DuPont opened its original US black powder facility in Delaware along the Brandywine River. By 1912 the need for black powder had grown, and DuPont opened another production plant in Berlin, Pennsylvania.

The Berlin plant supplied black powder for the US Military from WWI through Vietnam. Smokeless powder was the primary gunpowder during these years, but many artillery shells and aerial bombs used black powder in their ignition systems. The US Army procured over 8 million pounds of black powder from 1967-1968.

In the 1970s, the Berlin plant became part of GOEX. With the Vietnam War winding down, manufacturing began to support the sporting industry.

In 1997, GOEX manufacturing was moved to an Army-owned facility in Minden, Louisiana. Camp Minden has a long history of military munitions manufacturing that lasted from 1942 to 1994.

Hodgdon Powder Company purchased GOEX on Jan. 1, 2009, and made it a point to update the black-powder manufacturing process, making it safer for employees and improving the quality of the product.



A Comparison of black powders and modern alternatives. *Schutzen Powders*

Traditional black powder is still produced and imported into the US in limited quantities. The most common imported brand of black powder found on American shelves is Swiss Black Powder, made by Schuetzen Powder Energetics, Inc.

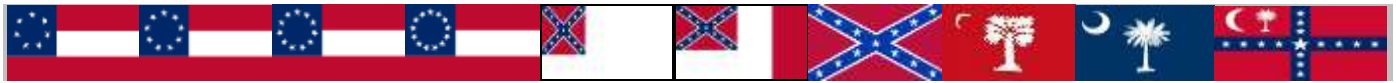
Expect to see demand outweigh supply soon, making black powder harder and harder to find.

For muzzleloader hunters, this is not the end of the world. There are still a lot of black powder substitutes available on the market. Hodgdon still makes Pyrodex, Triple Seven, and Blackhorn 209, available in both powder and pellet form. The company said the GOEX closure would not impact the production of any of their other product lines, including black powder substitutes.

These black powder alternatives are safe to use in traditional muzzleloaders if the manufacturer recommended load data is followed.

For cowboy action and black powder cartridge rifle shooters, it may be a different story. Many black powder competitions have strict rules regarding the use of traditional black powder. This may have to change.

While it's unclear what this will mean for the future of black powder in America, there are rumors that potential buyers are interested in picking up GOEX. Black powder enthusiasts are waiting patiently in the wings for good news, smoke poles at the ready.



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

- February 25-27 – Youth Day on Friday and The Battle of Aiken on Saturday and Sunday.
- March 4-6 – Youth Day on Friday and The Battle for Broxton Bridge outside of Ehrhardt, SC on Saturday and Sunday.
- March 18-19 - SC Division Reunion in Charleston, SC
- March 28th - Sgt. Berry G. Benson Camp #1672 celebration of Lt. General Wade Hampton's 204th birthday in the Wade Hampton Park in North Augusta at 6:00pm.
- Wednesday April 6th – Second Legislative Day at the Statehouse in Columbia. We will meet at the Confederate Monument @ 0830 for prayer & then go to our scheduled meetings with our legislators & senators.
- Friday April 8th – Wheeler Camp Ladies' Night Celebration at the Outing Club.
- Saturday April 23rd – Brig. Gen. E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Confederate Memorial Service at 11:00am at Magnolia Cemetery in Augusta, GA.
- Sunday April 24th – Hephzibah Confederate Memorial Service at 3:00pm at Hephzibah Cemetery in Hephzibah, GA.
- Saturday May 7 – SC Confederate Memorial Day Service at the Statehouse and in Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia.

Adjutant's Report

It will be really be nice to have a monthly meeting on Monday March 7 at 6:45pm at the Aiken County Historical Museum. We have not been together since the Christmas party last December due to the Covid. Remember the camp decided that we will not normally have a meal anymore at the meetings. See you then.

From the Chaplain's Desk



Count Your Blessings

Counting our blessings may seem like a simple thing to do to make us feel better, but sometimes that is all that gives us hope. When bad things happen to us, counting our blessings helps us to pick up the pieces and move on.

Sometimes, we need a little more help than just listing off the good things in our life after a bad thing happens. Sometimes, disaster may strike – like a hospitalization or an accident, a divorce or a job loss, a loss of a family member or a close friend. These are times that try our souls.

The Bible says in **Hebrews 12:1-3** “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. Let us run with perseverance the race that is set out before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, then you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

We may suffer physically and emotionally when we lose belongings or people. Let us remember to place a higher value on our eternal treasures and rewards than on our physical possessions.




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

Confederate Arizona (Ordinance of Secession March 28, 1861)

From Wikipedia

This article is about the Confederate States Territory of Arizona (1861–1865)

Arizona Territory	
 <p>Map of the Confederate States with Arizona Territory highlighted</p>	
Capital	<p>Mesilla (1861–1862)</p> <p>San Antonio (<i>in exile</i>; 1862–1865)</p>
Governor	<p>1861–1862 Col. John R. Baylor</p> <p>1862–1865 Dr. Lewis S. Owings (<i>in exile</i>)</p>
Legislature	Arizona Territorial Legislature
Historical era	American Civil War
Ordinance of Secession	March 28, 1861
Col. Baylor's Proclamation ^[a]	August 1, 1861
Organized by Confederacy	January 18, 1862
Occupied by U.S.	July 8, 1862
Surrender of C.S. Trans-Mississippi Department	May 26, 1865



Arizona Territory, colloquially referred to as **Confederate Arizona**, was an organized incorporated territory of the Confederate States that existed from August 1, 1861 to May 26, 1865, when the Confederate States Army Trans-Mississippi Department, commanded by General Edmund Kirby Smith, was surrendered at Shreveport, Louisiana. However, after the Battle of Glorieta Pass, the Confederates had to retreat from the territory, and by July 1862, effective Confederate control of the territory had ended. Delegates to the secession convention had voted in March 1861 to secede from the New Mexico Territory and the Union, and seek to join the Confederacy. It consisted of the portion of the New Mexico Territory south of the 34th parallel, including parts of the modern states of New Mexico and Arizona. The capital was Mesilla, along the southern border. The breakaway region overlapped Arizona Territory, established by the Union government in February 1863.

Arizona was proclaimed a Confederate territory on August 1, 1861, after Colonel John R. Baylor's victory at the Battle of Mesilla. His hold on the area was broken after Glorieta Pass (March 26–28, 1862), the defining battle of the New Mexico Campaign. In July 1862, the Confederate territorial government withdrew to El Paso, Texas. With the approach of Union troops, it relocated to San Antonio, where it remained for the duration of the civil war. The territory continued to be represented in the Confederate States Congress, and Confederate troops continued to fight under the Arizona banner until the war ended.

The political geography of the two Arizona Territories differed in that the Confederate Arizona was approximately the southern half of the historic New Mexico Territory, while the Union-defined Arizona Territory was approximately the western half of what had been New Mexico Territory, which became the basis for present-day Arizona.

Background

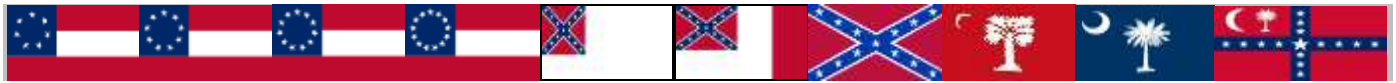
Before the start of the war, the land of the current states of New Mexico and Arizona was part of the New Mexico Territory and the Gadsden Purchase, which ran parallel to William Walker's Republics of *Lower California* and *Sonora*. As early as 1856, the territorial government in Santa Fe had raised concerns about being able to effectively govern the southern part of the territory. It was separated from the rest by the Jornada del Muerto, a difficult stretch of desert.

In February 1858, the New Mexico territorial legislature adopted a resolution in favor of the creation of the Arizona Territory. The border was to be defined along the 32nd meridian west from Washington. The legislature proposed that all the Indians of New Mexico would be removed to northern Arizona.

In April 1860, impatient for Congress to act, the territory called a convention and 31 delegates met in Tucson. In July 1860, the convention drafted a constitution for a "Territory of Arizona" to be organized out of the New Mexico Territory south of 34th parallel north. The convention elected Lewis S. Owings as the Territorial Governor, and elected a delegate to Congress.

Anti-slavery Representatives opposed creating a new territory, as they feared it had the potential to become a slave state. Many people in the area were pro-slavery, with business connections in southern states, from which some had migrated. In addition, all of this new territory lay below the old Missouri Compromise line of demarcation between slave and free states.

Since the proceedings of the Tucson convention were never ratified by the United States Congress, the Provisional Territory was not considered a legal entity. For a time it operated as a *de facto*, if not *de jure*, government for the intended Arizona Territory. Dr. Lewis S. Owings, Governor of the Provisional Territory, appointed James Henry Tevis to raise the first Territorial Militia. This comprised three companies of Arizona Rangers for the protection of the Territory from marauding Apaches and bandits. Two companies were raised in the Pinos Altos mining camp, and another at Mesilla.



Secession

1861 map showing the Confederate Arizona Territory

After the start of the American Civil War, support for the Confederacy was strong in the southern part of the New Mexico Territory. Some residents felt neglected by the United States government. They worried about the lack of sufficient troops to fight the Apache. These Native Americans were attacking White settlers, killing off ranchers and mining camps all over Traditional Arizona. This became open warfare following the February 3–9, 1861 Bascom Affair, that brought Cochise into the war. Arizona settlers were also disturbed by the closing of the Butterfield Overland Mail route and their stations in March 1861, which had connected the Arizona frontier colonies to the East and California.

In March 1861, the citizens of Mesilla called a [secession](#) convention to join the Confederacy. On March 16 the convention adopted a secession ordinance, citing the region's common interests and geography with the Confederacy, their political sympathy with the Southern secession movement, their opposition to the "sectional" party, the "Black" Republicans, the need of frontier protection, and the loss of postal service routes under the United States government, as reasons for their separation. The ordinance proposed the question of secession to the western portions of the territory. On March 28 a second convention in present-day Tucson met and ratified the ordinance. The conventions subsequently established a provisional territorial government for the Confederate "Territory of Arizona." Owings was elected again as provisional governor and Granville Henderson Oury was chosen as a delegate to petition for the territory's admission into the Confederacy.

Confederate Units

- Arizona Militia (1860–1862)
- Arizona Guards (Pinos Altos mining camp)
- Arizona Rangers (Mesilla)
- Minute Men (Pinos Altos mining camp)
- Herbert's Battalion, Arizona Cavalry (1862–1863)
- Capt. Thomas Helm's Company (Arizona Guards)
- Capt. G. H. Oury's Company (Arizona Rangers)
- Capt. R. L. Swope's Company (Arizona Rangers)

Major Campaigns

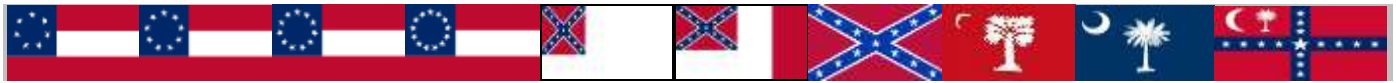
Arizona was thought to be important to the role of the New Mexico Territory in the American Civil War primarily because it offered Confederate access to California. Consequently, it was the scene of several important battles in the war's Trans-Mississippi Theater.

In July 1861 a force under Lieutenant-Colonel John R. Baylor arrived in El Paso, Texas across the border from Mesilla. With support from the secessionist residents of Mesilla Baylor's 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles entered the territory and took a position in the town on July 25. Union forces under Major Isaac Lynde at nearby Fort Fillmore prepared to attack Baylor. On July 25 the two armies met outside of town at the Battle of Mesilla in a brief engagement in which the Union troops were defeated.

Major Lynde then abandoned Fort Fillmore and began a march north to join the troops at Fort Craig under Colonel Edward R. S. Canby. However, his retreat came to a halt in severe heat and was overtaken by Baylor. Lynde surrendered his command without a shot fired at San Augustine Springs, in the Organ Mountains.

On August 1, 1861, the victorious Baylor proclaimed the existence of a Confederate Arizona Territory, which comprised the area defined in the Tucson convention the previous year. He appointed himself as permanent governor. Among his cabinet members was the Mesilla attorney Marcus H. MacWillie, who served as the territorial attorney general.

The next month, Baylor's cavalymen under Bethel Coopwood, marched north from Camp Robledo along the Rio Grande and surprised a Union force of New Mexican militia cavalry in a small engagement west of the Rio Grande at



the village of Canada Alamosa, ending with another Confederate victory and the capture of 25 men of that unit including its commander. The next day after disarming and paroling the captured New Mexican enlisted men, Coopwood retired southward along the west bank of the river with the two captured Union officers and an NCO to a camp 15 miles to the north of Fort Thorn. There a Union column of Mounted Infantry sent to relieve the New Mexican militia force caught up with Coopwood, and skirmished for a few hours with the Confederates until their ammunition was depleted, forcing the Mounted Infantry to retire northward to their base at Fort Craig.

The proposal to organize the Confederate Territory of Arizona was passed by the Confederate Congress in early 1862 and proclaimed by President Jefferson Davis on February 14, 1862. Coincidentally, Arizona statehood was approved exactly fifty years later on February 14, 1912.

Raising the Confederate Flag in Tucson.

Efforts by the Confederacy to secure control of the region led to the New Mexico Campaign. Baylor sent Company A, Arizona Rangers to Tucson to protect the population from the Apache and delay the advance of Union troops from Fort Yuma.

In 1862 Baylor was ousted as governor of the territory by President Davis, and the Confederate loss at the Battle of Glorieta Pass forced Confederate retreat from the territory. On March 30, Union forces fought a smaller engagement against a detachment of Company A, Arizona Rangers, a Confederate force destroying supply depots along the California Column route of advance on the Gila River, 80 miles east of its base at Fort Yuma. This skirmish, known as the Battle of Stanwix Station, was the westernmost engagement of regular forces in the Civil War, and successfully delayed the advance of the California forces.

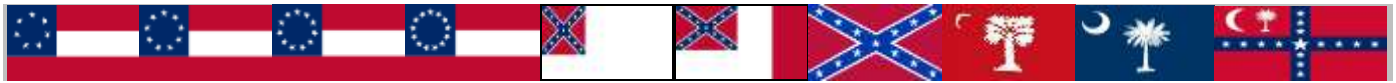
The following month a small picket troop of the Rangers north of Tucson fought with an equally small Union cavalry patrol from the California Column in the so-called Battle of Picacho Pass again delaying the advance of the California Column to Tucson.

By July 1862, Union forces of the California Column were approaching the territorial capital of Mesilla from the west but severe flooding of the Rio Grande barred their way and they had to divert north to Fort Thorn and the San Diego Crossing and wait two weeks for the water to fall enough for a crossing. With Canby advancing down the east bank of the Rio Grande and the loss of control of the countryside to New Mexican guerillas after the Second Battle of Mesilla the Confederates abandoned Mesilla and retreated south to Franklin, Texas.

In 1862 the California Column volunteers who fought at Stanwix Station and Picacho Pass fought at the Battle of Apache Pass against 500 Apaches. The battle is considered part of the American Civil War. There were also several engagements between Apaches and Confederates. The Battle of Dragoon Springs marks the only known Confederate combat deaths in the modern confines of Arizona. Other engagements include the Siege of Tubac, the Battle of Cookes Canyon, the Battle of the Florida Mountains, the Battle of Pinos Altos and a number of other smaller skirmishes.

The territorial government relocated to Franklin, and then with Confederate military units retreated to San Antonio abandoning West Texas. For the rest of the war, California Column troops controlled all of Confederate Arizona, Franklin and Fort Quitman in West Texas. The government in exile remained in Texas for the duration of the war, although MacWillie continued to represent the territory in the First and 2nd Confederate States Congresses. Minor resistance in Arizona continued at the partisan level, and Confederate units under the banner of Arizona fought until the end of the war in May 1865.





Happy Birthday!

Camp Compatriots for March

Clair Henkes – March 3

Kevin Beck – March 4

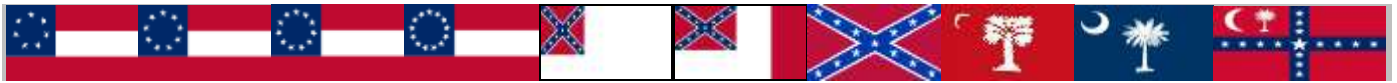


Ken Temples, Eddie Rodgers and Blake Moore represented Aiken at the Legislative Day at the Statehouse in Columbia on February 9th

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 Wreaths Across America (WAA) Mobile Education Exhibit Came to Aiken

The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit visited Aiken on February 22nd for a one day show and tell of what Wreaths Across America is all about. Remember – Honor – Teach about all of our Veterans that gave so much for the freedoms that we have in this great county!! Ted Walker and Blake Moore represented the General Joe Wheeler Camp at the exhibit.



The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit



Inside of the WAA Mobile Education Exhibit, L-R Julie Hardaway UDC & DAR, Ted Walker SCV & SAR, Blake Moore SCV & SAR, WAA Ambassador, Jennifer Merrill, Aiken Mayor, Rick Osbon, WAA Ambassador, Stefan Brann, and Janice Moore UDC & DAR



REMEMBER
our fallen veterans.

HONOR
those who served.

TEACH
the true history.



Mayor Rick Osbon pinning the Vietnam War Era Veterans pin on Ted Walker



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 scheduled on Jan. 22, 2022 at the Aiken County Historical Museum was cancelled due to Covid.
- 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 on Saturday Dec. 17, 2022 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 6:45pm 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