



# 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 2023*



## *Commander's Column*

### **Greetings Fellow Compatriots,**

After no meeting in February, I'm ready to see everyone at our March 6 meeting at 6:30pm at the Aiken County Historical Museum. I'm providing a meal for the meeting hoping that this will be a springboard for once again having meals at our camp meetings. I feel like this is a very important time of fellowship and comradery to be able to spend time together before the business meeting begins.

The SC Division Leadership Conference was held on Saturday Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> at the River Center at Saluda Shoals Park. In the morning everyone was led by Commander Smith and C-O-S Stevens to learn about many issues that were on so many people's minds. They explained how to get on the SC and National websites and what you could do while on them, as well as many other issues. After this, three training sessions were held in the morning and repeated again in the afternoon. It was well attended and very informative and a lot was learned by all. See group photo later in the newsletter.

I attended the Sgt. Berry G. Benson Camp #1672 celebration of Berry G. Benson's 180<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Sunset Hill Cemetery in North Augusta on Sunday Feb. 19. It was postponed a week due to bad weather the previous Sunday. There was good attendance.

I hope many of you came to the Battle of Aiken this year.

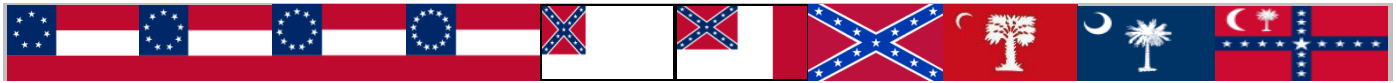
Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations. May God bless you and may God bless Dixie. Blake

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



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## *1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander*

The Wheeler Coins have been ordered and are scheduled to be shipped March 6. You can buy several at the April meeting for \$10 each for yourself or to sell or give to friends.

### **2023 Division and National Reunions**

#### **Register NOW for 2023 Reunion**

Registration for the 2023 SC Division Reunion scheduled on March 10 & 11 at Seawell's Restaurant in Columbia, SC can be found on the Division website at <https://scscv.com/2023-state-convention/>.

Registration for the 2023 SCV National Reunion to be hosted by the James McKeller Camp #648 at Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas. The dates are July 19 through 22, 2023. To register, please visit the Reunion website, <https://www.2023scvreunion.org/>.

## *2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander*

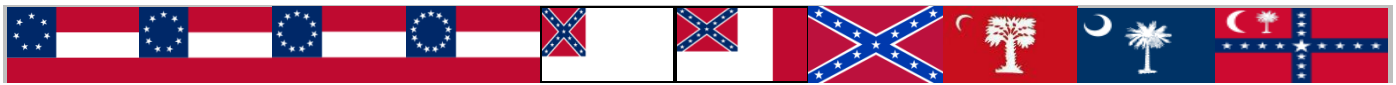
**The following is a list of important events during the next few months  
Additional information will be added as it becomes available.**

- March 4 & 5 – Battle for Broxton Bridge outside of Ehrhardt, SC
- March 6 – Wheeler Camp meeting at Aiken County Historical Museum at 6:30pm
- March 10 thru 11 - SC Division Reunion in Columbia, SC
- March 28 - Sgt. Berry G. Benson Camp #1672 celebration of Lt. General Wade Hampton's 205<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Wade Hampton Park in North Augusta at 6:00pm.
- Friday April 7 – Wheeler Camp Ladies' Night Celebration at 6:30pm at the Outing Club
- Saturday April 29– Brig. Gen. E. Porter Alexander Camp's Confederate Memorial Service at 11:00am in Magnolia Cemetery in Augusta, GA
- Saturday May 6 – SC Confederate Memorial Day Services in Columbia, SC
- Sunday May 7 – Wheeler Camp's Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service at 3:00pm in Bethany Cemetery



## *Adjutant's Report*

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting. It has been awhile since we have met. Our speaker will be Joe Long from the Confederate Relic Room. His topic will be "Captain Parker and the Confederate Naval Cadets in South Carolina." Come and hear an excellent presentation.



*From the Chaplain's Desk*



A month ago, we lost the Matriarch of our family. She was 89 years old and lived a Godly life. We all called her Maw Maw. She was not perfect and carried a very independent air wherever she went. Maw Maw was an “Old South” woman. She lived her life bathed in Old South values, principles, and faith. Many times, her way of life would not adhere with that of many of her numerous grandchildren. But she never let her way of life become a wedge between her love for those children. And because of that she was always held in the highest esteem by all the family. When Maw Maw died, she in many ways kept living. As recorded in Hebrew 11:4 on the faith of Abel, “...and being dead he yet speaketh.” So, if I leave you with anything from this column, it is that you live your life in a way so that when you are called home that your good and Godly legacy will live forever. So, live your life in a Spirit-filled and loving way so many in your family will reflect back on your life from time to time and thank God that your love and example was there for them. “... For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away” (James 4:14). So, we will not be here on this earth forever, but the legacy we leave will last for eternity. So, let’s do all we can to leave a legacy of edification and love. God Bless, Ken

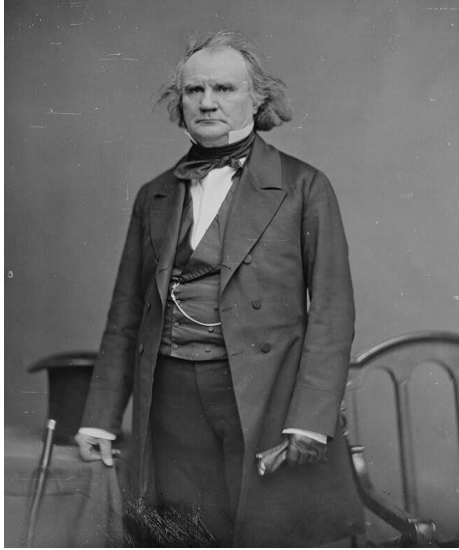
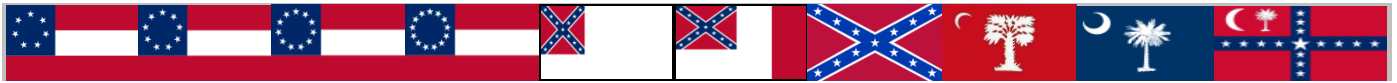
	<p><b>Chaplain's Prayer List:</b> Please remember our fellow compatriots and their family members who need prayers:  Michael Allen, Jacob Cook, Lee Duvall and his daughter Melanie, Clair Henkes, Tom Huckabee, Ken Temples &amp; SC Adjutant Joe and Brenda Willis</p>
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*From the Abbeville Institute Blog  
(AbbevilleInstitute.org)*

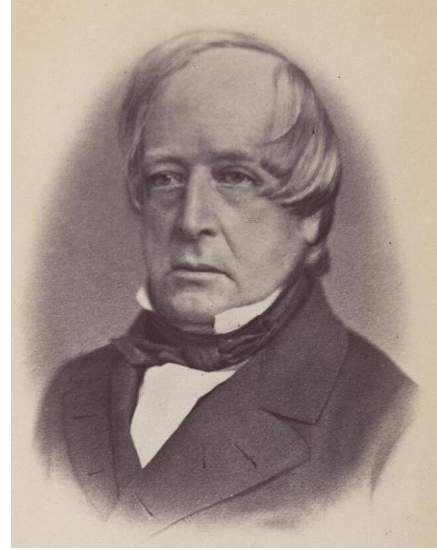
**Lincoln and Coincidence?**

By Rod O'Barr  
February 8, 2023

*The question is, why was Lincoln so intent on stopping the two CS Ambassadors [James Mason and John Slidell] that he would break the law and risk war with Britain? Evidence strongly suggests Lincoln feared they might be offering emancipation to gain European allies. During the time of the CS Ambassador's captivity [November-December, 1861], word was circulating that the CS might emancipate its slaves. That could open the door for Britain and France to ally with the CSA*



James Murray Mason was a grandson of George Mason who is the Father of the United States Bill of Rights. James Mason was a Democratic Congressman from Virginia, 1837-1839; Senator, 1847-1861; and Confederate Minister to England who was kidnapped off the British ship RMS Trent by a Union warship most likely acting under direct orders from Abraham Lincoln.



John Slidell was a United States Senator from Louisiana from 1853 to 1861. Before that he was a U.S. House member from Louisiana, a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and U.S. Minister to Mexico (1845-1846). He was sent by President James K. Polk to negotiate the Rio Grande as the southern border of Texas, and the purchase of California. In late 1861, he ran the Union blockade out of Charleston, SC with James Mason en route to Cuba then Great Britain and France on the RMS Trent

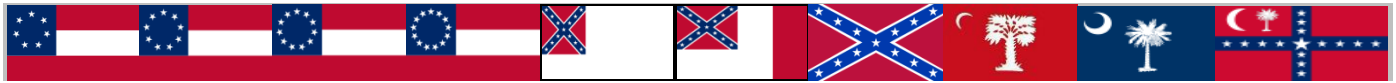
OCTOBER 12, 1861, Confederate Ambassadors James Mason and John Slidell set sail for England, Mason to be Minister to England and Slidell Minister to France. They were bound for England via Cuba where they boarded a British packet ship the RMS *Trent*.

Was it mere coincidence that a Union warship, the *San Jacinto*, was notified by the US Consul in Cuba of the *Trent's* departure for England, and that the Union ship's Captain decided to break Maritime Law, intercept the British ship, and take the two Confederate Diplomat's captives?

The two prize captives were taken to Massachusetts November 2, 1861 where rousing cheers and accolades from the Lincoln administration greeted the Union Captain. At least up until the British Government's Prince Albert sent a "sharp response" to Lincoln's government demanding an apology and the release of the commissioners within 7 days. Otherwise, war would be declared, and the Confederacy would be immediately diplomatically recognized. British Lord Palmerston convened a special cabinet committee to prepare for war with the U.S. and ordered reinforcements to Canada and the British Atlantic fleet.

Back peddling cowardly like a child caught with hand in the cookie jar, "Honest Abe" proclaimed to the world that the Union Captain had "acted on his own" in stopping that British ship and taking the two diplomats in violation of law. The Union Captain, previously rewarded, was then made the scapegoat and punished for his actions.

British records reveal that Lincoln was lying about the Union Captain acting on his own. In a letter from Viscount Palmerston to Queen Victoria, November 29, 1861, the following is written:



.... *General Scott, who has recently arrived in France, has said to Americans in Paris that he has come not on an excursion of pleasure, but on diplomatic business; that the seizure of these envoys was discussed in a Cabinet meeting in Washington, he being present, and was deliberately determined upon and ordered...*

It was no coincidence that the Union Captain just happened to act on his own and stopped a British ship which just happened to have on board two CS Ambassadors. It was all ordered by Lincoln!

<sup>7</sup> Secretary of State William H. Seward negotiated with the British to a compromise, and the Confederate Ambassadors were released on January 1, 1862. A British Government steamer was sent to Massachusetts to receive the CS dignitaries, sailing to England arriving the last week in January 1862.

The question is why was Lincoln so intent on stopping the two CS Ambassadors that he would break the law and risk war with Britain?

Evidence strongly suggests Lincoln feared they might be offering emancipation to gain European allies. During the time of the CS Ambassadors captivity, word was circulating that the CS might emancipate its slaves. That could open the door for Britain and France to ally with the CSA. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 1861 a newspaper titled "The Express" published the following:

*The secessionists of Maryland are openly reviving a speech of General Toombs, an authority as high as Jefferson Davis himself, in which he reminded Congress, two years ago, that the South always held in her own hands the power of emancipation as an ultimate recourse.... It is at present declared by secessionists that it will be the policy of the Confederates to abolish slavery rather than yield to the North the opportunity of doing it.*

On November 30, 1861 a British paper called "Once A Week," provides an early indication of Southern willingness to emancipate stating, "*the Confederate authorities are already saying publicly that the power of emancipation is one which rests in their hands; and that they will use it in the last resort.*" Obviously, a lot of Confederate emancipation rumors were stirring.

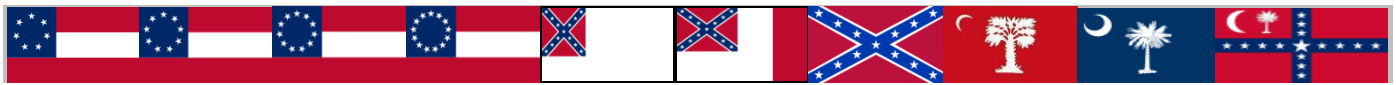
Could it be that an offer to end slavery in exchange for European alliances was being carried by the CS Ambassadors? There is good evidence that was the case, which would explain Lincoln's desperation to prevent the CS diplomats from reaching England.

Was it mere coincidence that the same week the CS Ambassadors Mason and Slidell arrived in England, a pertinent article broke in a British newspaper called "The Spectator." It spelled out, in the kind of detail that belies rumor, what it called "*that indirect but accurate way in which great facts get abroad;*" certainly a description of communications carried by Ambassadors. The following secretive treaty offer had been leaked to the press:

*The Confederacy have offered England and France a price for active support. It is nothing less than a treaty securing free trade in its broadest sense for fifty years, the complete suppression of the import of slaves, and the emancipation of every negro born after the date of the signature of the treaty....*

"The Spectator," even though an anti-South newspaper, affirmed the reality of the CS offer to free the slaves. Would an anti-South newspaper have ever broke such a story favoring the South in the eyes of British readers were it not convinced of its credibility? It says the offer originates from "*the Mississippian,*" an obvious reference to CS President Jefferson Davis.

A February 17, 1862 entry in the diary of Lincoln's Ambassador to England, Charles Francis Adams, says the following:



*A visit from Bishop McIlvaine, who came to tell me the result of a conversation he had held at breakfast with Sir Culling Eardley this morning, that gentlemen had apprised him of the existence of rumors that Mr Mason had brought with him authority to make large offers towards emancipation if Great Britain would come to the aid of the confederates. He even specified their nature, as for example, the establishment of the marriage relation, the restoration of the right of manumission, and the emancipation of all born after a certain time to be designated.*

Adam's diary entry also says that the offer "*needed to be energetically treated both here and at home.*"

Allowing for the eight or so days needed for Adams to communicate across the Atlantic, and a few days to put together a plan, is it mere coincidence that on March 7, 1862 Lincoln sends a resolution to Congress offering something he had up to then resolutely resisted doing. Lincoln had long resisted a general offer of compensated emancipation because of his fear, and the fear of his constituents in the North, that freed blacks might migrate North. But now it appears, to head off the rumored CS offer to end slavery, Lincoln offers all the slave States compensated emancipation, even without a colonization plan in place. He certainly had to be greatly concerned to do that!

But from the slave States he gets no response. Meanwhile the CS offer to end slavery is hitting newsstands around the world.

So, on July 12, 1862 Lincoln calls a meeting with the border slave State legislators trying to convince them to accept his offer. They vote down his offer 20-8. Seven of the eight who voted for his offer to emancipate explain why:

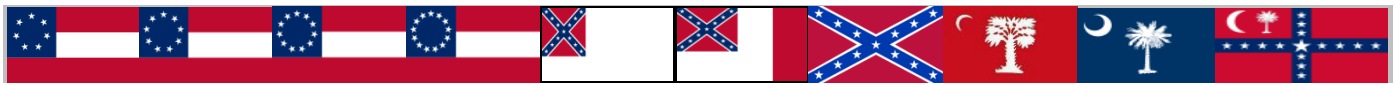
*We are the more emboldened to assume this position from the fact, now become history, that the leaders of the Southern rebellion have offered to abolish slavery amongst them as a condition to foreign intervention in favor of their independence as a nation. If they can give up slavery to destroy the Union; We can surely ask our people to consider the question of Emancipation to save the Union.*

These border slave State legislators, who called the CS offer a "*fact, now become history,*" were in a position to confirm the secretive CS offer as "*fact*" given they were in continuous communication with the leadership of those seceded sister slave States who were trying to get them to join the Confederacy. Would these Union loyal legislators have ever told their President during a time of war, that a matter of such strategic importance was a "*fact*" if they had not confirmed it?

They at least convinced Lincoln it was a fact. For it is not mere coincidence that the very next day after meeting with those seven legislators, July 13, 1862, Lincoln sat down and drafted his "Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation."

No wonder Lincoln called it a "*war measure*" intended to keep Britain and France out of the war. Once again, he was attempting to preempt the Confederate offer of emancipation, but this time believing it to be a "*fact*" instead of mere "rumor," Lincoln had upped the ante of his compensated emancipation "offer" to a mandatory "proclamation" of uncompensated emancipation freeing the slaves under Confederate control.

**[Publisher's Note by Gene Kizer, Jr.: Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation supposedly freed the slaves in Confederate territory where he had no control. It actually freed no slaves or very few. Secretary of State William H. Seward made fun of Lincoln and said: "We show our sympathy with slavery by emancipating slaves where we cannot reach them and holding them in bondage where we can set them free."]**



Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation deliberately did not touch the slaves in the five Union slave states of Maryland, Delaware, Missouri, Kentucky and New Jersey, nor in West Virginia, that ironically came into the Union in early 1863 as the sixth Union slave state. West Virginia was admitted to the Union as a slave state just weeks *after* the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect.

The EP also did not free any slaves in already captured Confederate territory. It carefully listed the states, counties and captured Confederate territory where blacks would remain in slavery.

Three Union slave states, Maryland, Missouri and West Virginia, ended slavery close to the end of the war.

Three others, New Jersey, Delaware and Kentucky, had slavery eight-and-a-half months *after* the war. Slavery in those states was not ended until the Thirteenth Amendment kicked in, in December, 1865.]

One thing can be certainly deduced from all these too “coincidental” actions of Lincoln. His desire to emancipate was a reaction to the Confederate offer made January 1862, and in no manner was he motivated by a genuine concern for the slaves.

Another certain deduction from the Confederate offer to emancipate is that the Confederacy did not secede and fight to perpetuate the institution of slavery

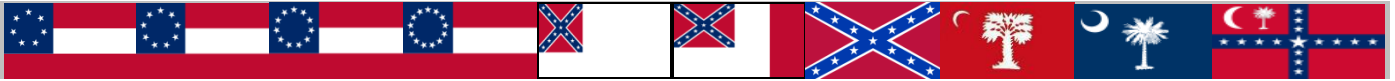
## SC SCV LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE GROUP PHOTO



## SCENES FROM THE BATTLE OF AIKEN



Opening Confederate volley of cannon fire to start the attack



The Confederate attack is on. Watch out yankees here we come.



Calvary saber fighting



Clair Henkes and Ken Temples talking about a very interesting Confederate artifact display

# Happy Birthday!

## Camp Compatriots for March

Clair Henkes – March 3

Kevin Beck – March 4

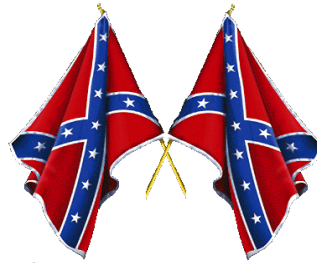
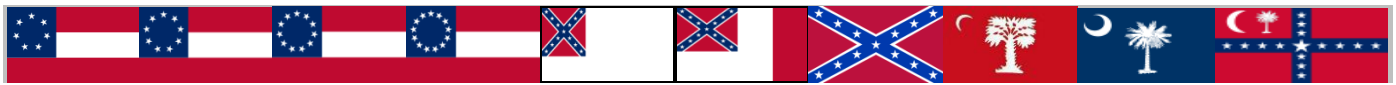
Ched Hett – March 18

### 2023 – 2024 Camp Officers

Blake Moore– Commander  
Lee Duvall – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander  
Mark LeGrand – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **2023 Camp Special Activities**

- April – The Wheeler Camp Annual Ladies' Night is scheduled on Friday April 7, 2023 at 6:30PM at the Outing Club.
- May – The Wheeler Camp will host the Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service on Sunday May 7, 2023 at 3:00PM in Bethany Cemetery.
- Dec. – The Wheeler Camp will host the Wreaths Across America Service on Saturday Dec. 16, 2023 at 3:00pm in Bethany Cemetery honoring all Veterans, especially Confederate Veterans.

The Camp has adopted and cares for 54 Confederate graves located in Bethany Cemetery, Aiken's largest cemetery where the only Unknown Confederate grave is located in the city.

**MEETING TIME:** Normally, the camp meeting is the first Monday of the month at 6:45pm 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](mailto:scscv1245@gmail.com)**