



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 2024*

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Commander's Column

Greetings Fellow Compatriots,

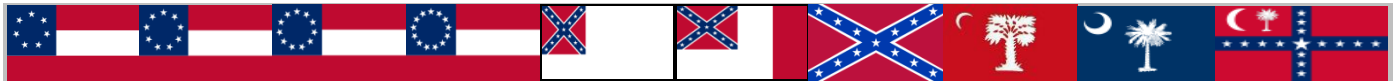
After no meeting in February, I'm ready to see everyone at our March 4th meeting at 6:30PM at the Aiken County Historical Museum. I will be providing the meal for the meeting. At the Leadership Conference it was stressed that it was very important for a camp to share a meal before the meeting to develop fellowship and camaraderie between the members. I hope some of you will volunteer to provide a meal for our future meetings this year. Our April meeting will be our annual Ladies' Night Celebration at the Outing Club on Friday April 5th starting at 6:30PM. The cost will be the same as last year, which is \$20 per person. We will start taking reservations and payment at our March meeting.

The SC Division Leadership Conference was held on Saturday Feb. 3rd at the River Center at Saluda Shoals Park. Commander Smith and C-O-S Stevens instructed everyone present about issues that have been on many member's minds and answered many questions raised during the discussions. They explained how to get on the SC and National websites and what you could do while on them. We learned what Camp Commander, Adjutant and Chaplain responsibilities are, as well as many other issues. It was well attended by approximately 100 compatriots, very informative, and a lot was learned by all. The dinner served was great, and it was also enjoyed by all. See group photo later in the newsletter.

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.”





MILESTONE

Let us all celebrate this Monday night Compatriot Nicholas Ward's 40th Anniversary as a member of the SCV. Congratulations!!

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.

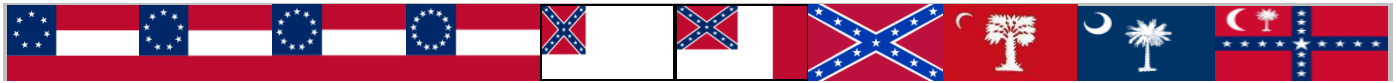
2nd Lieutenant Commander

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

- March 2nd & 3rd – Battle for Broxton Bridge outside of Ehrhardt, SC
- Monday March 4th – Wheeler Camp meeting is scheduled at Aiken County Historical Museum at 6:30PM
- Tuesday March 26th – Legislation Day at the SC State House meet inside at 10:00AM.
- Saturday March 30th - Brig. Gen. E. Porter Alexander Camp 158 Confederate Memorial Service at 11:00AM in Magnolia Cemetery in Augusta, GA
- Friday April 5th – Wheeler Camp Ladies' Night Celebration at 6:30PM at the Outing Club
- Saturday April 6th – Hephzibah, GA Confederate Memorial Service at 3:00PM at the Hephzibah Cemetery
- April 12th & 13th – 128th SC Division Reunion in North Myrtle Beach, SC
- Saturday May 4th – SC Division Confederate Memorial Service will be held in Columbia starting at the State House at 9:00am and continuing at Elmwood Cemetery at 11:00am following with a picnic on the grounds, (please bring your own picnic lunch and chair).
- Sunday May 5th – Wheeler Camp hosts the 28th Annual Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service at 3:00pm in Bethany Cemetery
- Monday May 6th – Wheeler Camp meeting will be a picnic at J. W. Osteen's cabin at the Battle of Aiken site starting at 6:30PM. I will furnish country ham, grits, iced tea and the necessary utensils and essentials will be provided. Each person should bring a dessert, vegetable, salad or some other goodie that we can share and bring a chair.

Adjutant's Report

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting. It has been a while since we have met. Our speaker will be our own Ken Temples. His topic will be on Flat Rock, NC. Come and hear an excellent presentation and enjoy some great fellowship.



Wheeler Coin Committee

The Wheeler Coins sold well this past month. Since last reported, the Camp members have done a really good job increasing the sale of the coins from 135 to 158 coins. Lee Duvall, Chairman

From the Chaplain's Desk



(Notes from a sermon by Pastor Charles A. Jennings entitled “Christ in the Southern Army”)

America had witnessed two great Spiritual Awakenings and another great Spiritual movement starting the late 1840s. But God saw fit during our darkest hour to bring upon this nation another great Revival movement. It took place among the Southern Armies during the period of 1862-1865 when over 150,000 young men came to Christ. The two major regions of the North and South saw religion in two very different ways. The North was embracing Deism, Theism, Unitarianism, and Humanism. The South held close to the more traditional and Calvinistic view and practice of scripture that had been passed down from the Protestant Reformation. It seemed inevitable that these two people of drastically different cultures would one day clash over political, cultural, and religious philosophies.

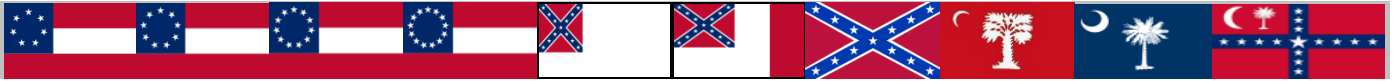
So, when the North made war with the South in 1861, it in many ways became a Holy War. It would be during this nation's darkest and most divided hour that God in His Mercy saw fit to bring upon the Southern Armies a great revival. The results of this revival are still felt to this day. It helped to bring about what we call today, “The Bible Belt.”

Little did these officers and soldiers realize when they joined together to defend their homeland that they were coming together not only to fight a war, but to experience the greatest supernatural movement of Almighty God ever to take place in an active war-time army.

This spiritual movement was supported by the Southern military leaders, its government, its folks back home, and President Jefferson Davis who saw its importance and approved the purchase of thousands of Bibles for the disbursement among its soldiers. It became an evangelical movement among the Chaplains and the top leadership.

Dr. G. Clinton Prim Jr. who experienced this awakening wrote;

“Religion is the theme. Everywhere, you hear around the camp-fires at night the sweet songs of Zion. This spirit pervades the whole Army... What a change, what a change! When one year ago card playing and profane language seem to be the order of the day. Now, what is the cause of this change? Manifestly the working of God's Spirit.”



As a result of this great Spiritual movement the evidence was everywhere, men praying in groups, the singing of the old hymns every evening echoed across the encampments and when the Army was on the move and came upon a pond, stream or river, Chaplains could be seen baptizing soldiers by the hundreds. Many of these new converts after the war enrolled in Christian Seminaries, became pastors and evangelist, and started hundreds of churches across the South.

When they laid down their arms and folded their flags for the last time at Appomattox, admitting defeat, little did they realize that within them God had won a great Spiritual victory for His people and the survival of this great nation. Isaiah prophesied in 59:19 *“When the enemy shall come in like a great flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.”*

SCV brothers, our Confederate ancestors were that standard. We should be that standard today. As the descendants of these great spiritual warriors, we can thank God daily for His Mercy and His sovereign power in sending this Spiritual Refreshing to our people at the darkest hour of our existence as a nation. Let us praise God daily for this revival and thank Him for placing us in His divine Wisdom and Mercy in the Bible-belt of the South. That we may call this place not only “home sweet home” but a sacred place, our “Beulah land” so to speak, where God can dwell with us until our last days because our ancestors called Him Lord and came home and proclaimed Him throughout the South. It was their Standard that saved this nation spiritually. Now let us emulate their faith and continue to carry the Standard of Christ high each day.

Blessed be His Name, Ken



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 Dana & Melanie, Clair Henkes, Tom Huckabee, Ken Temples, Eddie Rodgers, Janice Moore & grandson Collin Umbarger, Joe and Brenda Willis, Henry Richardson, Mark LeGrand’s parents, and Danny Brown’s granddaughter Kealey

A Confederate general refused to surrender and fled to Mexico. The Texas park named for him is the center of another standoff

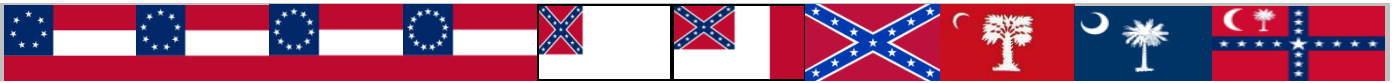
By [Catherine E. Shoichet](#), CNN

Updated 4:22 PM EST, Fri February 2, 2024

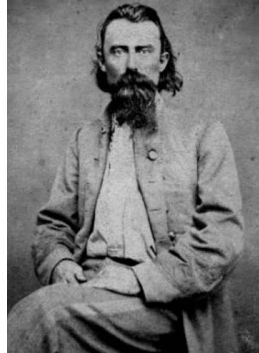
Shelby Park in Eagle Pass, Texas, has become a staging ground for state forces, the epicenter of a standoff with the federal government and a stark symbol of dysfunction at the border.

But there’s another story about this park that’s far less well known than the recent legal battle over immigration enforcement in this border city.

The 47-acre park along the Rio Grande was named after a Confederate military leader who fled to Mexico in 1865 rather than surrendering to Union troops.



A Federal Emergency Management Agency case study describing the park notes that it was named for General Joseph Orville Shelby, known to some as the “undefeated rebel.”



Joseph Orville Shelby was a Confederate general who famously fled to Mexico in 1865 rather than surrendering to Union forces.

“What struck me about it is the irony of all this,” says historian Jeremi Suri, who wrote about Shelby and other Confederate exiles in his 2022 book, “Civil War by Other Means: America’s Long and Unfinished Fight for Democracy.”

Most people likely aren’t familiar with Shelby’s story. But there’s a clear resonance between this moment and Shelby’s rarely recalled chapter of American history, Suri says.

“I see those attitudes now as well,” says Suri, who holds the Mack Brown Distinguished Chair for Leadership in Global Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. “The reason these exiles are important is they kind of (are used to) legitimize this discussion of secession...which is really sticking your middle finger up at the federal government and saying, ‘we’re going to do it our way, and you can’t make us do it differently.’”

“What this is really about is about power for groups that have power and don’t want to give up power. The naming of that park, rather than naming it Martin Luther King, Jr. Park or Cesar Chavez Park, was an assertion of power, and the irony is that assertion has now become militarized in that space again,” he says.

How a Texas border city became known as the ‘grave of the confederacy’

In the prologue to his 2010 book “General Jo Shelby’s March,” the late historian Anthony Arthur painted a dramatic picture of Shelby and his troops leaving Eagle Pass and heading south. As the group stood in the Rio Grande, they plunged the Confederate battle flag into the river rather than letting Union forces get their hands on it.

“He withdrew the black plume from his hat brim and laid it gently within the folds of the flag before it vanished beneath the muddy water,” Arthur wrote.

Local historian Jeff Taylor Sr. says rumors have swirled over the years that the flag was later retrieved from the waters. But the myth of that moment has endured, earning a nickname for Eagle Pass as the “grave of the Confederacy.” For years, a painting depicting the scene hung in the Eagle Pass City Hall. Reenactors would even travel to the border city to relive it.



“It was just something kind of famous. ... Nobody really thought about it,” Taylor told CNN.

Taylor, 67, grew up in Eagle Pass and takes pride in knowing and sharing the city’s history. For years he was the curator at the city’s Fort Duncan Museum. Taylor says one thing he is sure about: Most residents of Eagle Pass aren’t familiar with the history behind the man the park was named for.

“I’ll ask people, ‘Do you know who Shelby is?’ They’ll say, ‘I never heard of him. Did he play football with the Eagles?’” Taylor says, referring to the local high school team. “They just have no idea.”



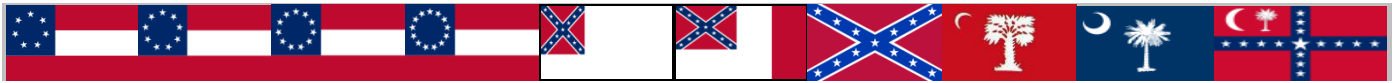
An illustration depicts Shelby in battle. He was known for wearing a plumed hat and often praised for his prowess on the battlefield.

A colony in Mexico was home to hundreds of exiled Confederate soldiers

Eagle Pass may have become known as a graveyard for the Confederacy, but for Shelby and the troops who accompanied him into Mexico that day in 1865, their cause lived on. Maximilian I, the French-installed emperor ruling Mexico at the time, rejected the group’s offer of military services, but provided them land for a colony of exiled Confederate soldiers that was known as La Carlota, after the emperor’s wife.

The group’s time in Mexico was short lived. By 1867, the year Maximilian was executed, Shelby and most of his followers had returned to the US. “He comes back to the US and declares himself a hero because he never bent his knee to Yankee power,” Suri says.

The next year, President Andrew Johnson pardoned all Confederate soldiers. And decades later, President Grover Cleveland appointed Shelby as U.S. marshal for the Western District of Missouri.



SC SCV LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE GROUP PHOTO



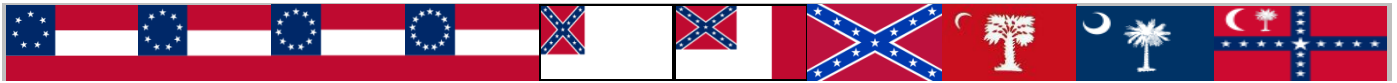
SCENES FROM KID'S DAY AND THE BATTLE OF AIKEN



David Chaltas, in character as General Robert E Lee, is educating these kids about the truth of the period around the War for Southern Independence



Opening volley to start the Battle of Aiken



Confederates charge!!



Clair Henkes (r) and Ken Temples (l) have a Confederate display to educate the attendees

Happy Birthday!

Camp Compatriots for March

Clair Henkes – March 3

Kevin Beck – March 4

Chad Hett – March 18

2023 – 2024 Camp Officers

Blake Moore – Commander

Lee Duvall – 1st Lt. Commander

Mark LeGrand – 2nd Lt. Commander

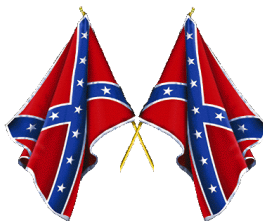
Danny Brown – Adjutant

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

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