



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 April 2022*

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Commander's Column

Dear Wheeler Camp Compatriots,

The South Carolina Division Reunion/Convention was a good one and the Secession Camp #4 in Charleston is to be commended for all their hard work on hosting this Year's Convention. Blake, Nathan and I were honored to represent the Wheeler Camp. Congratulations to Blake Moore as our "Wheeler Dispatch" Newsletter won a first-place ribbon again this year. Blake works hard as the Camp Editor, and we appreciate all his hard work. The 2023 Reunion/Convention is to be held in the Columbia area and hosted by the Columbia area Camps. Location and date have not yet been determined.

Also, Blake was appointed the SC Division Deputy Adjutant, and I was thrown onto the Legislative Committee. Perry Smith of the Ellison Capers Camp #1212 in Moncks Corner, SC was unanimously elected as the new South Carolina Division Commander, and Henry Richardson of the Pickens Camp was elected as the new 1st Lt. Division Commander.

At our recent Officers Meeting, we decided on the May 1st date for our Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service. That's a Sunday at 3pm. Please put this date on your calendars. Also please make every effort to attend our upcoming Ladies Night Out to be held on April 8th at 6:30pm at the Outing Club on Outing Club Road. Cost is \$17.00 per person. Contact me at 803-522-0180 to add your name to the list.

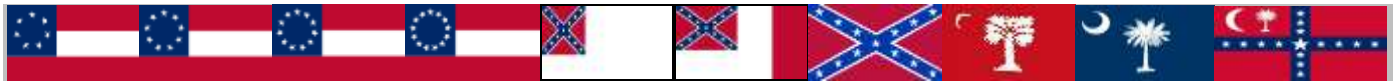
Our State Division Memorial Service will be held in Columbia on May 7th starting at the Statehouse at 9:00am and continuing at Elmwood Cemetery at 11:00am with a picnic on the grounds, (please bring your own picnic lunch and chair).

Please keep Compatriot Tom Huckabee in your prayers as he has moved to Florida to be near his son, so his son can care for him when Tom gets his other knee replacement. We will surely miss this good man and fellow brother.

Thanks to all our members for their dedication to our Camp, it's Work, and it's Cause. Let's all try hard to keep this Camp going in the right direction with an energy and commitment that would make our ancestors proud.

"Remember, Confederate soldiers never die unless they are forgotten."

I am Fraternally Yours, Ken



1st Lieutenant Commander

I enjoyed presenting to the camp my talk on the “CSS Shenandoah” at the March meeting. It was good to be back with the camp after such a long period off because of Covid.



1st Lt. Commander, Lee Duvall,
speaking on the “CSS Shenandoah”

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 Reunion was a great success with maximum attendance.

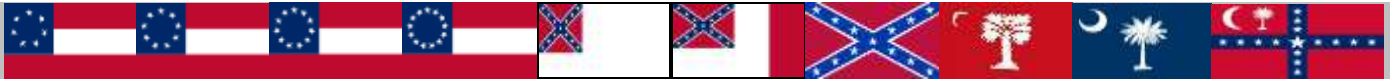
SCENES FROM THE SC REUNION IN CHARLESTON



Susan Lee from the Virginia Flaggers
gave a real pep rally for the Cause



Newly elected SC SCV Lt. Commander Henry
Richardson & Commander Perry Smith



Ken, Nathan & Blake with the outgoing Commander Jamie Graham at the Reunion

SC Division Election Results and Appointments Division Commander

March 20, 2022

Compatriots of the SC Division,

On Saturday March 19th while in the business session at the 2022 South Carolina Division Convention, an election was held for the positions of Division Commander and Division Lt. Commander. The commander position was uncontested and as a result, I was elected as your Division Commander. The Lt. Commander position was won by Compatriot Henry Richardson. We were both duly sworn into office and immediately assumed the positions.

Lt. Cmdr. Richardson and I would like to extend our gratitude to the division membership for your faith in our abilities. We will strive to represent the SC Division as "Southern Gentlemen" and concentrate on building relationships within and between the Divisions, recruiting and most importantly of all DEFENDING THE GRAVES, MONUMENTS, and HONOR of our ancestors.

We would also like to express our thanks to Past Lt. Cmdr. Marcus Griffis and Past Commander Jamie Graham for their dedicated service to the Division. Both of these fine gentlemen will continue to serve in various positions on the Division level.

The following is a list of our current Division Officers. Some appointed positions are vacant or under review and will be announced at a later date. A title with an asterisk * indicates a voting member of the Executive Committee

SC Division Elected Officers

- * Commander- Perry Smith
- * Lt. Commander- Henry Richardson
- * 1st Brigade Cmdr.- Ron Masters
- * 2nd Brigade Cmdr.- Danny Blackwell
- * 3rd Brigade Cmdr.- Mark Sheppard
- * 4th Brigade Cmdr.- Todd Hartley



- * 5th Brigade Cmdr.- Pete Peters
- * 6th Brigade Cmdr.- Todd Rinehart
- * 7th Brigade Cmdr.- Archie Herring
- * 8th Brigade Cmdr.- Buzz Braxton
- * 9th Brigade Cmdr.- Keith Day
- * 10th Brigade Cmdr.- Gary Mellard

SC Division Appointed Officers

- * Past Cmdr- Jamie Graham (non-appointed position)
- 2nd Lt. Cmdr- Currently Vacant
- * Chief of Staff- Dean Stevens
- * Treasurer- Tim Medlin
- Deputy Treasurer- Currently Interviewing
- * Adjutant- Joe Willis
- Deputy Adjutant- Blake Moore
- * Chaplain Rev. David Phillips
- Chaplain Emeritus- Walter Lindler
- * Judge Advocate- Robert Mering
- Inspector- Currently Vacant
- Color Sergeant- Rossie Meadows
- Editor- Under Review
- Genealogist- Bing Chambers
- IT Department- Under Review
- Archivist- Rob Astin
- Historian- Michael Thomas

Committee Chairs (appointed)

- Awards Chair- Mark Sheppard
- Asst. Awards- Currently Vacant
- Convention Planning- Ron York
- Flags & Uniforms- Randy Burbage
- Graves Registration- Chris Rucker
- Guardian Program- Archie Herring
- Asst. Guardian- Currently Vacant
- H.L. Hunley JROTC- Under Review
- Heritage Defense- Leland Summers
- Confederate Memorial- Currently Vacant
- Signers Monument- Robert Roper
- Heritage for the Youth- Henry Richardson
- Legislative Committee- Under Review

Please feel welcome to contact either Lt. Cmdr. Richardson or myself at the emails below.

Lt. Cmdr. Richardson- scdivLtcommander@gmail.com
Cmdr. Smith- scdivcommander@gmail.com

Respectfully,
Perry J. Smith III
Commander
South Carolina Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans, Historical Honor Society
843-475-2807
SCDivCommander@gmail.com



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

- March 28th - Sgt. Berry G. Benson Camp #1672 celebration of Lt. General Wade Hampton's 204th birthday in the Wade Hampton Park on Georgia Ave. in North Augusta at 6:00pm.
- Wednesday April 6th – Second Legislative Day at the Statehouse in Columbia has been **CANCELLED**.
- Friday April 8th – Wheeler Camp Ladies' Night Celebration at 6:30pm at the Outing Club.
- Saturday April 23rd – Brig. Gen. E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Confederate Memorial Service at 11:00am in Magnolia Cemetery in Augusta, GA.
- Saturday April 30rd – Hephzibah Confederate Memorial Service at 3:00pm in Hephzibah Cemetery in Hephzibah, GA.
- Sunday May 1st - Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service at 3:00pm in Bethany Cemetery in Aiken, SC.
- Saturday May 7th – Confederate Memorial Day in Columbia. Prayer Service at 9:00am at the Confederate Soldier's Memorial at the Statehouse. Drive to Memorial Service at Elmwood Cemetery to be held at 11:00am followed by a family picnic. Bring your own picnic and chairs. No walking procession between Capitol and Elmwood.

Adjutant's Report

We had a great March meeting with good fellowship and presentation by Lee on the "CSS Shenandoah". We had a good attendance with 10 members and 1 guest.

The next regular meeting will be on Friday April 8th for Ladies' Night. Look forward to seeing everyone at the Outing Club at 6:30pm.

From the Chaplain's Desk

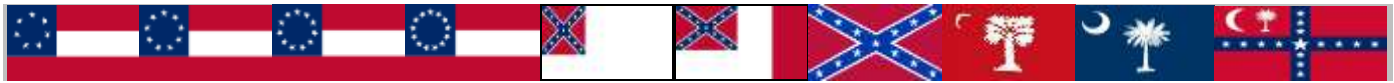


Be Humble

In almost every instance in the Bible, as well as in life, pride is associated with failure, not success. We hear a great deal about the inferiority complex, but the superiority complex of pride is seldom spoken of. It was pride that caused the fall of Lucifer, and he became Satan, the devil. It was pride that led King Saul down to a shameful and untimely death. It was pride that caused Peter to deny his Lord.

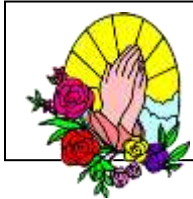
The greatest act of humility in the history of the universe was when Jesus Christ stooped to die on the cross of Calvary. And before any man can get to heaven, he must kneel at the foot of the cross and acknowledge that he is a sinner, that he has broken the Ten Commandments of God, and that he needs the grace of God in Christ. No man can come proudly to the Savior.

... he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. - Matthew 23:12



Let us remember to act as Jesus taught us as we prepare for the Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Jesus' death on the Cross and his resurrection stands out in history as the greatest sacrifice.

Let us also remember the ones on our prayer list. We know that everyone of us needs prayer, and we need the brotherly love of our fellow believers.



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

THE HOUSE THAT MAKES MY BLOOD RUN COLD

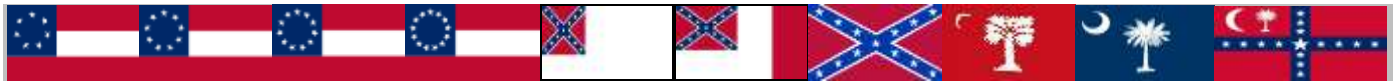
I have walked the fields at Gettysburg, where the University Greys suffered 100% casualties, and thousands of other Confederates were killed or wounded in Pickett's charge. I have walked The Cornfield at Sharpsburg, where the Greys suffered 19 out of 20 wounded. It is the bloodiest 40 acres in America for all the charges and counter charges that took place there that morning. I have stood in the Sunken Road at Sharpsburg, that road was literally filled with dead Confederates. I have walked the Sarah Bell Cotton field at Shiloh, where Grant said you could walk across it on dead bodies without your feet touching the ground. I have stood at the Confederate burial trenches at Shiloh, where those dear boys are just thrown in on top of each other. I have been to Fredericksburg, where Confederates behind a stone wall slaughtered Union troops crossing an open plain. Retreat there meant death, so the living slept with the dead that night. The dead and wounded were frozen solid to the ground that night, by their blood freezing. I have walked the woods of The Wilderness, where the wounded who could not walk, burned alive when the woods caught fire. I have stood at the Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania where the Confederate infantrymen made breastworks of their dead friends. I have been to Cold Harbor, where Confederates slaughtered Union attack after Union attack. It was said of that battle that "It was not War, it was murder". I have stood about where the Carter gin house was at Franklin, where Union and Confederates killed each other, all night long, barely 10 feet apart, on opposite sides of a trench. The blood was literally ankle deep in those trenches. I have stood in the McGavock house and stared at the blood stains on the old wood floors from the wounded, after the battle of Franklin. I have sat in the old Chapel at Ole Miss (1853, Croft Institute today) where maybe as many as 100 men died when the University was a hospital.

I don't think any of those places disturb me as much as the Harvey W. Walter house in Holly Springs.

Harvey Walter was the richest man in Holly Springs. He was an Attorney. He was instrumental in starting the Mississippi Central Rail Road. He built the largest, finest house in Holly Springs before the War. He was a Colonel and served as a Judge Advocate under General Braxton Bragg at Shiloh, and on his Staff for the rest of the War. He was a University of Mississippi Trustee after the War. He had 9 fine children.

In 1878, when Yellow Fever began to rage in Memphis and Grenada, Holly Springs had no Yellow Fever. There were several meetings in the town to decide whether or not to allow those who had fled infected towns into Holly Springs, or not. Most unaffected towns had shotgun quarantines, and they would NOT allow any refugees into their town. Harvey Walter argued that it was their Christian duty to take in refugees. Being the wealthiest man in town helped him to convince the town to take in those poor, unfortunate people.

Within a few days of taking in refugees from Grenada, they began to die of Yellow Fever. Then, Holly Springs citizens began to die of the disease. It was declared epidemic in the town. The citizens fled in droves. It is nearly impossible for us to understand that panic. They literally fled for their lives. The town mostly emptied out, by train, wagon, buggy, horseback, or by foot.



Harvey Walter, who convinced the town to bring the refugees, and the disease, into the town, stayed to help the sick, with his 3 oldest University of Mississippi graduate sons! His youngest daughter wrote years later, as an adult, of seeing her mother and father part, for the last time, on the front porch of their house that you see in the picture. She watched her mother say goodbye to her husband, and to her 3 oldest sons, for the last time, right there on that porch. The mother and the youngest Walter children were sent to safety, on the last train leaving the town. Harvey Walter and his 3 adult sons stayed to do their duty.

Harvey Walter was the first of the 4 to die. One son had the fever also, and was too sick to go help bury his father. The other two sons buried their brother also, a few days later. It is said, that son picked out his coffin before he died. The two brothers that were left burned their dead father and brother's bedding and clothing in the back yard, hoping to somehow get rid of the disease. That did not work, nothing worked. The other two brothers both fell sick. It is said they died at the exact same time.

Walter's daughter also wrote of her mother, and other brothers and sisters, returning to the house about two months later, after the fever subsided. She said her mother would roam the house at night, crying. She said it was years before her mother ever laughed again.

I have toured that house, and stood on that front porch. It makes my blood run cold.

My brother told me the other day that most of my stories are depressing. I can't deny that. I just tell history as I have found it.

I go to bed most nights thankful to the Good Lord that nobody took a shot at me that day, and that I have never seen anything even close to Yellow Fever. Our present virus is no fun, but it is NOT Yellow Fever. Remember that Civil War generation, and count your blessings.

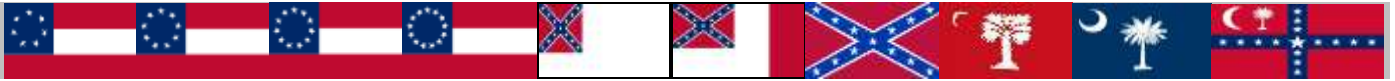
Unknown Author



Harvey W. Walter house in Holly Springs, MS

THE BATTLE OF AIKEN

More than 1000 youth attended the Youth Day at the Battle of Aiken on Friday, February 25. The kids had a great time participating in many activities and watching various displays, such as blacksmithing and wood carving to only name two.



SCENES FROM YOUTH DAY AT THE BATTLE OF AIKEN



Ike Carpenter talking about wood carving



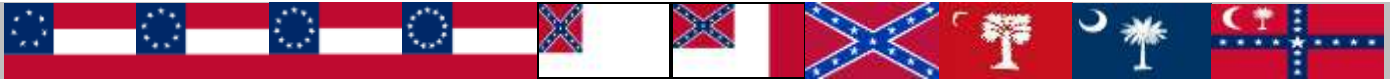
Joe Long from the Confederate Relic Room demonstrating the art of saber maneuvers



Watching cannon firing



Learning about the H. L. Hunley



Participating in the tomahawk throw conducted by Rich Baker

More than 6000 persons attended the Battle of Aiken on Saturday, February 26. It was a beautiful day and the crowds were as large as ever. Some of the scenes of the Battle of Aiken are pictured below.

SCENES OF THE BATTLE OF AIKEN





Happy Birthday!

Camp Compatriots for April

Michael Allen – April 8

Mike Harber – April 9

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

