



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 2024



Commander's Column

Greetings Fellow Compatriots,

We had very good attendance for our March meeting. However, there was a compatibility problem between Ken Temples' tumble drive and my laptop, so he was not able to give his talk on Flat Rock, NC. He will schedule it for later meeting. The best news is that Neel Flannagan brought his Application for New Membership with him and was approved to be our newest member. Congratulations, Neel! It is great to have him as a part of the General Joe Wheeler Camp.

Ken Temples and I went to the Legislation Day at the South Carolina State House on Tuesday March 26th. The group that attended was made up of the SCV, UDC and CofC members that were recognized in the chambers of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Afterwards, we enjoyed a very good meal at the Palmetto Club. Wish more could have joined us during our time in Columbia. See photos later in the newsletter.

Please make every effort to attend our upcoming Ladies' Night to be held on Friday April 5th at 6:30pm at the Outing Club on Outing Club Road. We are looking forward to hearing Dr. John Baxley as our guest speaker. The catered dinner consists of roast pork loin, double stuffed baked potatoes, spiced fruit, rolls, green beans, salad, tea or water and Italian cream cake for dessert. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Contact me at 803-341-4142 or email me at bmjmaiken@gmail.com to add your name to the list no later than March 31st, so arrangements can be made with the caterer. You can pay at the door.

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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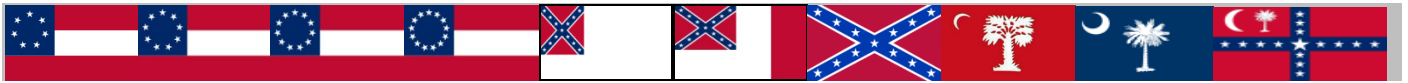
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1st Lieutenant Commander

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.

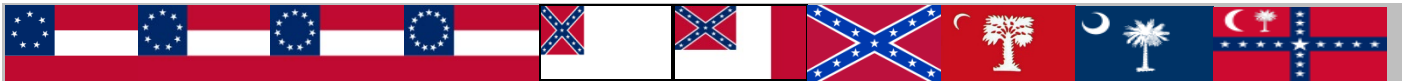
2nd Lieutenant Commander

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

- Saturday 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

It was great seeing our fellow Compatriots at the March meeting and being able to spend some time together in fellowship and camaraderie while enjoying a good meal together. We had some problems getting the program to work with the laptop, so will have to reschedule Ken Temples’ talk on Flat Rock, NC another time. We had very good attendance with 12 members and 4 guests. I am looking forward to seeing you at Ladies’ Night on April 5th.



From the Chaplain's Desk



In Chapter five of 2 Kings there is the story about the miracle of the healing of Naaman the great warrior and Captain of the King of Syria. Naaman sought after Elisha who would tell him to dip himself seven times in the Jordan River to heal his leprosy. It worked! But there is another story inside this story that has always had a profound effect on me. It is the faith, trust and total commitment of the slave girl who waited on Naaman's wife. This slave girl somehow heard that Naaman desired to be cleansed of his leprosy and said in verse 3 , "I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy!"

Now think on this. It was Naaman's army that raided her village, destroyed, and burnt it down as they did in all raids. Captured her and made her a slave. Took her away from her family and friends, who they most likely murdered. And because of this she would most likely never return home to her homeplace, which was so important to folks back then. It was this slave girl who loved God and knew about the Prophet Elisha residing in Samaria that still after all that Naaman had done to her and her family found in her heart a love for others regardless of the situation she found herself in. So, the next time we find ourselves in a tough situation, I pray we can still think of others and their situation over our own. God bless.

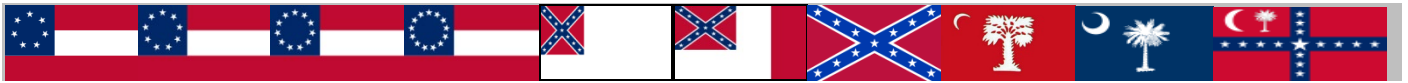
Blessed be His Name, Ken



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

Jacob Cook, Lee Duvall, Eddie Rodgers, Janice Moore & grandson Collin Umbarger, Joe and Brenda Willis, Henry Richardson, Mark LeGrand's parents, and Danny Brown's granddaughter Kenli





General Wheeler and His Family Tragedy

John C. Griffin, March 1, 2024, blueandgrayeducation.org

John C. Griffin is the site director at Pond Spring, the General Joe Wheeler Home, in Hillsboro, Alabama.

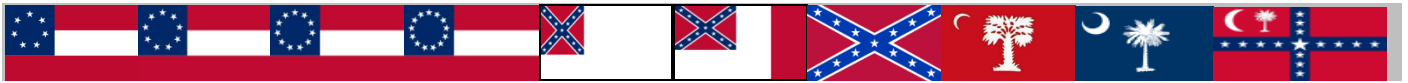


Confederate General Joe Wheeler's son, Naval Cadet Thomas Wheeler
courtesy of the author

By all accounts, Confederate General “Fightin’ Joe” Wheeler lived an interesting life. Best identified as the commander of the cavalry of Gen. Braxton Bragg’s Army of Tennessee during the Civil War, Wheeler found success afterward as a planter, lawyer, and congressman in Washington, D.C. He stayed there for almost 16 years, before returning to the military as a major general in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War of 1898. But one aspect of his life that has been little explored is that of family man.

Wheeler met his future wife, Daniella, in 1863, and they wed in 1866. Soon after, their family grew, with the birth of daughters Lucy (1866), Annie (1868), and Julia (1870), followed by their first son, Joe, Jr. (1872), and youngest daughter Carrie (1877). In 1881, they were blessed with their last child and second son, Thomas. It was this child that made the ultimate sacrifice in serving his country and his fellow man.

As the youngest, the life that Thomas knew was dramatically different from that of his older siblings. Born three days before his father began his first term in Congress, his childhood was split between summers at Pond Spring near Courtland, Alabama, and winters at the family residence in Washington, D.C. His life was one of love and adoration from his family. Annie once said of Thomas: “He was marvelously manly, yet simple-hearted as a child. We called him ‘Baby,’ and he did not object to it, as most boys would.”

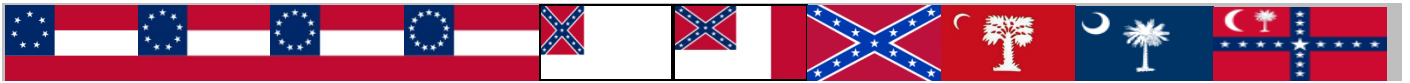


Thomas Wheeler's gravesite | courtesy of the author

Choosing a life in the Navy and not in the Army (like his father and brother), Thomas received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1897, his papers being signed by the acting Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt. Upon the outbreak of war with Spain in early 1898, Thomas was commissioned to serve on the USS *Columbia*. While there, Thomas served as an unofficial aide to his father. After the war, he went north with the Navy to Camp Wikoff, a military hospital commanded by his father that had been established on Montauk Point, New York, near the tip of Long Island. Here, his main duty was to be an information gatherer for family members who had shown up looking for their sons, husbands, and fathers.

Tragedy struck on the evening of September 7, 1898, when Thomas drowned while attempting to save the life of a friend. Although there were no witnesses to their demise, all physical evidence pointed toward this fact. A letter addressed to General Wheeler, the mortician who prepared the body for burial, stated, "I never before saw such positive proof of the nature of that struggle. Naval-cadet Wheeler's arms were extended in such a position as to show that he was trying to hold his friend up. On his shoulders and neck were marks from finger nails showing that a man was clinging to his shoulders and neck. I also found that blood vessels were broken, showing a great exertion of strength on his part. There were no such marks on Lieutenant Kirkpatrick. The evidences were very marked that Cadet Wheeler was certainly drowned trying to save his friend."

Thomas was brought home and laid to rest next to his mother, who had passed away two years prior, on May 19, 1896.



SCENES FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSE



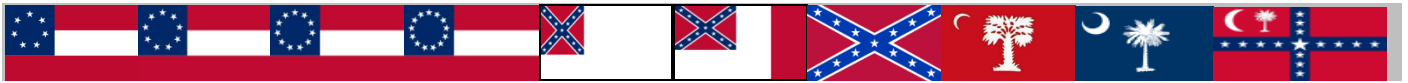
South Carolina House of Representative Chambers



South Carolina Senate Chambers



Blake Moore & Ken Temples in front of John C. Calhoun Statue



SAVE OUR NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD MONUMENTS



H. R. 7474

“This Act may be cited as the Robert E. Lee Monument Removal Act”

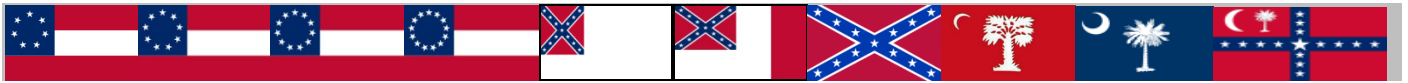
“To direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove the Robert E. Lee Monument at Antietam National Battlefield, and for other purposes.”

Fellow Southerners and Like-Minded individuals,

Yes, you read that correctly. It is being called the Robert E. Lee Monument Removal Act and its purpose as stated in the bill in Sec. 3 is to, remove the Robert E. Lee Monument from National Park Service property for destruction pursuant to subsection (b), which states “The Secretary shall procure the services of a private entity to destroy the monument and the Secretary may sell the raw materials of the monument as scrap and may retain such proceeds of such sale as may be necessary to offset the costs of procuring services.”

In recent efforts, One-Click Politics has been used with some effect. Most recently, One-Click Politics was used to contact responsible parties concerning Stone Mountain and was determined to be successful as a total of over 2,000 emails were sent pertaining to two letters.

It is time once again to let your voice be heard. The attached link will go to all of the United States Congress (US House and US Senate). You will be asked to enter your information



including address which will only send the letter to your US House and US Senate member. Make sure to sign your name and click submit. You can click expand the letter and make changes. I removed the generic title and addressed my members by name. The letter can be changed; however, always be civil in your remarks. Any foul language or insulting remarks will automatically get your email deleted.

Follow the link below and let your voice be heard as a citizen.

https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/messages/edit?promo_id=22221

In duty to our Southland and our History,

R. S. Jason Boshers, Commander-in-Chief
Walter D. “Donnie” Kennedy, Lt. Commander-in-Chief
James R. “Ron” Kennedy, Chief-of-Heritage Operations

Happy Birthday!

Camp Compatriots for April

Mike Harber – April 9

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

