



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 May 2022*

Remember Confederate Memorial Month in SC They fought for freedom 161 years ago!!



Commander's Column

To my Wheeler Camp Brothers,

If you missed our Ladies Night, then “Bless your heart” because you certainly missed a great time of food and fellowship. Our speaker, Mrs. Julie Hardaway gave an outstanding presentation of the history of one of Aiken’s most elite and oldest families, the Croft Family. I found it to be most interesting and so did the ladies. Our Camp presented a nice check to Lee Duvall to help support the kids at “Broken Outreach Ministries” of which Lee is totally dedicated to. I want to thank everyone who had a part in making this evening a huge success. Our next Camp sponsored event will be our Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service in Bethany Cemetery on May 1st at 3:00pm. Our bagpiper will be back this year and this years’ Service will be just a little bit different than the past. I think you will enjoy it. Please put this date on your calendar. If you are not working or under the weather, you need to make every effort to be there for this Service. Let us all show up and take a few minutes to pay the kind of respect for our ancestors that they truly deserve.

I’ll be bringing a presentation on General Joe Wheeler at our May 2nd regular meeting at the museum. Wheeler was quite the soldier! Our State Confederate Memorial Day Service will be held in Columbia at the Statehouse starting at 9:30am. Afterwards moving to Elmwood Cemetery starting at 11:00am and concluding with a picnic on the grounds. (bring your own picnic and chair). The busy SCV season will be winding down for most of us after this event in Columbia, so let’s try and go out in style.

1st Lt. Lee Duvall has put together a great lineup of guest speakers to come bring our Camp interesting and informative speakers for the rest of this year. Thanks Lee. Also, thanks to Nathan Oxner for creating our own private Wheeler Camp facebook page. Please check it out. Nathan did a great job with it. You can always go here for the latest Wheeler Camp news and upcoming events.

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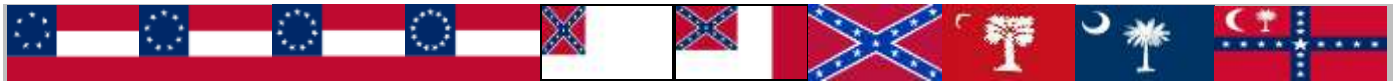
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God bless you all for being so faithful and supporting to your Camp. Invite someone to come with you to a meeting. It could very well change their lives. It certainly did for me.

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

I am Fraternally Yours, Ken

1st Lieutenant Commander

I am so appreciative for the very generous donation that I received from the Camp for “Broken Outreach Ministries” that I support. I will use it to benefit the ones that really are in need of help.



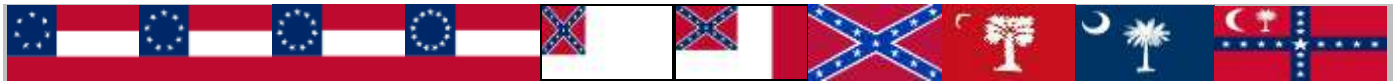
1st Lt. Commander, Lee Duvall, receiving the donation for “Broken Outreach Ministries” from Commander Ken Temples

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 following is a list of important events in May.

- 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 9:30am 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.



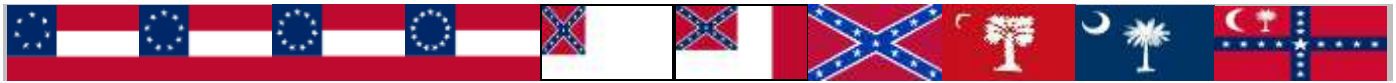
Adjutant's Report

We had a great Ladies' Night for the April meeting with lots of good food and a great presentation by Mrs. Julie Hardaway talking about the Croft Family. For her Christ-like values of Service, Unselfishness, Helpfulness and Generosity to the General Joe Wheeler Camp, she received the General Joe Wheeler Ladies' Service Award. It was much deserved for her many years of faithful dedication to not only the Cause, but to the Camp. The Camp really appreciates all that she has done throughout the years.



The next regular meeting will be on Monday May 2nd at the Aiken County Historical Museum at 7:00pm.





From the Chaplain's Desk



Are You Saved?

Romans 8:32, NIV - He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Jesus hung on the Cross for three hours, wracked with white-hot physical pain, tortured mentally and emotionally, crushed by the weight of guilt and shame and sin that was ours, but became His. Suddenly, the birds stopped chirping, the vultures stopped circling, the breeze stopped blowing, and everything became deathly still as darkness-pitch-black darkness-descended. The cries that could be heard were no longer just coming from the victims on the crosses but from the bystanders as they cowered, then fled in panic. Even the hardened soldiers must have shuddered at the supernatural power and anger that permeated the atmosphere.

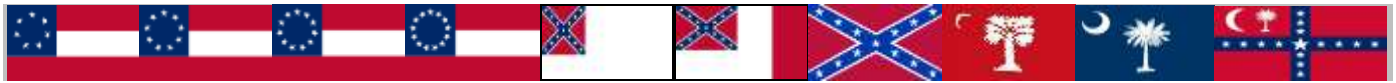
As terrified people looked up, searching the sky, there were no clouds to block the sun, but it was nowhere to be seen! Where it had been was just blackness! Why? The eerie darkness that descended was not just nature feeling sorry for the Creator who was nailed to the altar of the Cross. It was the very judgment of God for your sins and mine.

Your sin has been judged at the Cross, so you can be saved from judgment. **Are you saved?**



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 Memorial Day

7 May 2021

The United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans cordially invite all Southern people to Honor our brave Southern Ancestors with a gathering of descendants at the Soldiers Monument on the North grounds of the South Carolina State House and Remembrance Service at the Confederate Burial section at Elmwood Cemetery.

Period or Dress Attire is requested for this solemn event honoring our heroes.

<p>9:30 AM Prayer Service Soldiers Monument South Carolina State House</p>	<p>11:00 AM Memorial Day Service Elmwood Cemetery Columbia, SC</p>
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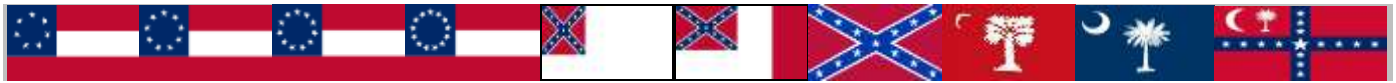
After the Memorial Service at Elmwood, you are invited to bring a picnic dinner for your group and spend time visiting and remembering all of the Confederate Heroes that are interned at the Cemetery. A self guided tour will be included of Elmwood Cemetery in the program for everyone.

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- Parking for the prayer service is located at any parking space around the State House.
 - Parking for the Memorial Service at Elmwood Cemetery is outside of the entrance of the Cemetery with Handicap Drop off at the Confededate Section and Handicap Parking at the Entrance Parking Lot.

Artillery and Infantry salutes will be at Elmwood Cemetery with the wreath laying at the Confederate Monument at the Confederate Section.

***** No weapons are allowed at the State House Grounds*****





A response to someone who criticized the observance of Confederate Memorial Day and asked why we Southerners are "angry".

Dear Ms. Kinley-Ruth:

You appear to be a genuinely decent and thoughtful person, and your post is doubtless well intentioned. One of your remarks deserves to be addressed in some detail. You say, "I never know whether you folks are really talking like this because it keeps the fervor going for your re-enactments or because you are still so angry, after all these years."

Because you do seem to be an empathetic person, let me try a little role-reversal on you.

Suppose that you had been born and raised in a place whose history, culture, traditions, mindset and values set it as much apart from the rest of the "United States" as Switzerland is from France, or Ireland from England.

Suppose you loved this place, its people and your own place in it very deeply; suppose, in fact, that you were so much a part of it that it was hard to tell where you stopped and it started.

Suppose this place you cherished had once found itself at odds with other members of the Union it had helped to found; had attempted peaceably and in good faith to leave that Union, in accordance with the provisions of that Union's very own constitution; and had instead been invaded and obliged to fight a horrific war against overwhelming odds, during which its cities were looted and destroyed, its countryside ravaged, and its civilian population robbed and brutalized. Suppose that having lost that war, your homeland was further crippled by a dozen years of corrupt and vindictive military occupation called, with supreme irony, "Reconstruction."

Suppose that this place you love subsequently became the repository for all of America's frustrations, the object of its ridicule and cynical exploitation, and the "whipping boy" for its national racial guilt trip. Suppose you had to listen to a daily litany of how your homeland was a dark and backward place populated by incestuous mongoloids. Suppose you were ridiculed for your accent, and for your unabashed love of God, place and family.

Suppose you found your history turned inside out and your heroes vilified in order to appease the professionally offended. Suppose your children were expelled from school, ostracized and even beaten for displaying the symbol their great-great-grandfathers fought under. Suppose that some municipalities where your brave dead were buried, far from home, refused to allow their graves to be decorated, even for a few hours, with the flag they died for. And suppose that when, as an American, you objected to this very un-American treatment, you were told to sit down and shut up, or be branded a racist, a white supremacist, or even un-American yourself.

That's a great deal of supposing, I know, but try to manage it, if only for a second. Now consider your original remark in light of it. Our experience as Americans has been painfully different from yours in some respects. On the day known as Memorial Day, this difference is particularly poignant for us, when our Confederate dead are systematically excluded from national mourning. We have -- or try to have -- our own Confederate Memorial Days, state by state, but often these are given no official sanction. And you ask if we are angry.

Suppose you were us.

Roger McCredie
Past Chief of Heritage Defense
Sons of Confederate Veterans



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON	NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
AMERICAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, vs. THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, JOHN TECKLENBURG, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, HONORABLE ALAN WILSON, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Defendants	CASE NO: 2022-CP-10- AFFIDAVIT TO SUPPORT DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND WRIT OF MANDAMUS AND OTHER RELIEF

NOW COMES THE PLAINTIFF, being duly sworn and deposed and states the following:

I am Brett Barry the President of the American Heritage Association. I have been president for four years.

In late August of 2021, it came to my attention that the Lee Memorial had been removed. On September 2nd, the American Heritage Association sent a letter to South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson making him aware of the removal and requesting him to enforce the Heritage Act. He acknowledged receipt of the letter in a written reply on September 3rd, 2021.

On December 7th of 2021, Attorney Bill Connor, on behalf of the American Heritage Association, sent a letter to Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg and Members of City Council requesting the Lee Memorial be put back in place.

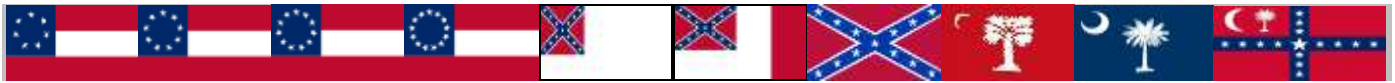
On December 29th of 2021, the City of Charleston responded to Mr. Connor's letter without a commitment to restore the Lee Memorial to its original location.

On January 14th of 2022, a letter signed by 36 members of the South Carolina House of Representatives was sent to Attorney General Alan Wilson requesting he take legal action to have the Lee Memorial reinstalled.

On February 17th of 2022, the American Heritage Association sent out a press release exposing the Lee Memorial removal which to my knowledge had been previously unreported by the press.

On February 17th of 2022, a letter was sent by the Attorney General to Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg urging him to restore the Lee Memorial to its original condition or he would go to court to uphold the Heritage Act.

On March 24th of 2022, I was made aware that Memminger Auditorium had been renamed



Joint UDC & SCV Statement on the City of Charleston



**UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY
&
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
SOUTH CAROLINA DIVISIONS**



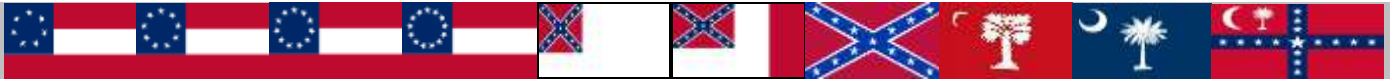
April 15, 2022

Open letter to the membership of the UDC & SCV SC Divisions,

In 1947, the United Daughters of the Confederacy placed a memorial on King Street in Charleston honoring General Robert E. Lee. This memorial stood intact until the August of 2021, when Mayor John Tecklenburg ordered its removal and in our opinion, violated the Heritage Act. The South Carolina Attorney General sent a letter to Mayor Tecklenburg urging the city “to restore the Lee Memorial to its original condition. Unless the Lee Memorial is restored to its rightful place in preserving history, we will go to court to uphold the Heritage Act. The rule of law must prevail.” In addition to the Attorney General, the American Heritage Association is investigating whether the action of the mayor constitutes “misconduct in office” and are considering legal actions to ensure that the memorial is replaced.

The attorneys of the City of Charleston are of the opinion that the Lee memorial is not covered by the Heritage Act and therefore was legally removed. Based on the City’s stance, we believe that this issue will only be settled in court and that the Attorney General will initiate the proceedings. Leadership from both the United Daughters of the Confederacy and The Sons of Confederate Veterans South Carolina Divisions are actively involved in this battle. It is our belief that the law was broken, and that the monument must be restored to its original position on King Street.

The City of Charleston has also changed the name of Memminger Auditorium, which was named for Christopher Gustavus Memminger. Mr. Memminger served as a SC State Representative and was credited for implementing a program for a Graded School System in Charleston that was second to none in the country. He also was a drafter and signer of the Ordinance of Secession, the Secretary of the Confederate Treasury and after the war between the states, once again returned to the SC Legislature. The renaming of Memminger Hall, the destruction of the John C. Calhoun monument and the removal of General Lee’s monument are all examples of the intentions of the City of Charleston to erase our Southern history. **IT MUST BE STOPPED.**



**UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY
&
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
SOUTH CAROLINA DIVISIONS**



We commend the American Heritage Association (AHA) for their continuous diligence in defending our states history. As of yesterday, they have filed a lawsuit against the City of Charleston for the removal of the Lee monument and the renaming of Memminger Auditorium. We need to support them as much as possible, so we are asking our membership to donate to the AHA as well as subscribing to their newsletters. They are better equipped to fight this battle than we are, so we need to support them in any manner possible. Donations can be made online at www.americanheritageassociation.org or you may send a check made payable to "American Heritage Association" to: P.O. Box 12368, Charleston, SC 29422

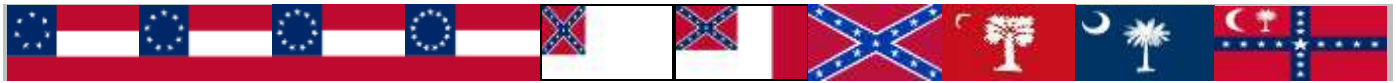
As the various lawsuits progress pertaining to the General Lee Memorial, Memminger Auditorium, and the John C. Calhoun monument, we will keep you updated and possibly call on you for your support.

Once again, we would like to thank the American Heritage Association for their dedication.

May God Bless Dixie,

Darlene Dowdy, President

Perry Smith, Commander



Why Can't SC Governor McMaster Proclaim Confederate Heritage Month?

Mississippi Governor Again Proclaims Confederate Heritage Month

By Emily Wagster Pettus

April 13, 2022

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves is defending his decision to again name April as Confederate Heritage Month, nearly two years after he signed a law retiring the last state flag in the U.S. that featured a Confederate battle emblem.

The Republican governor signed a proclamation without fanfare Friday. It does not mention slavery — the defense of which was Mississippi's stated reason for trying to secede from the U.S.

In response to a question at a news conference Wednesday, Reeves said he issued a Confederate Heritage Month proclamation "in the same manner and fashion that the five governors that came before me, Republicans and Democrats alike, for over 30 years have done."

"And we did it again this year," Reeves said. "Didn't think this was the year to stop doing it."

Four governors before Reeves — not five — issued Confederate Heritage Month proclamations. By state law, Mississippi also has a Confederate Heritage Day in April, which is a holiday for state employees.

Mississippi has taken steps in recent years to distance itself from symbols of the Confederacy, including removing some monuments, with critics saying the images glorify racism in a state where nearly 40% of residents are Black. In June 2020, Mississippi legislators voted with bipartisan support to retire the Confederate-themed state flag, and voters that November approved a new flag featuring a magnolia.

Reeves's office did not announce his signing of the latest Confederate Heritage Month proclamation. The Mississippi Free Press was the first to report that a Sons of Confederate Veterans chapter on Monday had a social media post showing it. Reeves has issued a similar proclamation each year since becoming governor in January 2020.

Reeves's proclamation says "we honor all who lost their lives in this war" and "it is important for all Americans to reflect upon our nation's past, to gain insight from our mistakes and successes, and to come to a full understanding that the lessons learned yesterday and today will carry us through tomorrow if we carefully and earnestly strive to understand our heritage and our opportunities which lie before us."

Mississippi's secession ordinance in 1861 said: "Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery — the greatest material interest of the world."

Former Mississippi Gov. Ray Mabus, a Democrat who held the office from 1988 to 1992, did not issue a Confederate Heritage Month proclamation, and he criticized Reeves for doing so.

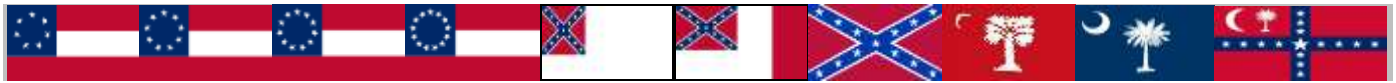
"His 'Confederate Heritage Month' proclamation sounds like he's endorsing critical race theory: learn from the past etc," Mabus wrote Tuesday on Twitter. "Heritage of Confederacy is treason and slavery. We should learn from those things just maybe not in way he imagines."



Jefferson Davis 5th Street Bridge Between Augusta, GA and North Augusta, SC

Great news!! After renovation of the Jefferson Davis 5th Street Bridge between Augusta, GA and North Augusta, SC converting it from a vehicular to a pedestrian bridge, the original plaques erected by the UDC in 1931 to the memory of Jefferson Davis have been reinstalled on the 5th Street Bridge. They are in great shape and look new. It was under some uncertainty whether they would be reinstalled. Photos taken by Tom Plowden of the General Martin W. Gary Camp #1532.





Virginia Museum of the Civil War Discontinues Battle of New Market Reenactment & Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation Acquires Historic Mill House in Winchester, VA

By [Colby Johnson](#)

Published: Apr. 18, 2022 at 7:43 PM EDT

NEW MARKET, Va. (WHSV) - Since the 1970s, the Virginia Museum of the Civil War in New Market has hosted annual reenactments of the Battle of New Market on May 15. However, that tradition has come to an unceremonious end.

The museum has made the decision to permanently discontinue the reenactment.

This comes after the reenactment was canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19. The museum cited diminishing attendance numbers and rising costs over the last decade as two of the biggest reasons for its decision.

“It kind of seemed inevitable to us. We’ve been seeing not only fewer and fewer spectators each year for the reenactment, but we were seeing fewer and fewer reenactors as well. Even a lot of the guys that are local to here are starting to retire,” said Sarah Hebert, supervisor of historical interpretation for the Virginia Museum of the Civil War. The museum said COVID-related funding and staffing shortages accelerated the decision, as well as a rise in safety issues at reenactments.

“Everybody’s dealing with funding issues. A lot of museums have closed because of COVID, and we’re fortunate to still be open. So, this just seemed like the right way to go. We’ll miss aspects of it, but we’re hoping we can do something in the future that brings more of an educational side,” said Hebert.

The museum still plans on performing living history events for the anniversary of the battle and will do so this year in May.

“We’ll do some artillery demonstrations and also just black powder demonstrations for folks to see the whole process of loading and firing a weapon and just how in-depth that is, and that’s something you kind of miss out on with a reenactment,” said Hebert.

Elsewhere in New Market, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation scored a recent win in Richmond protecting a historic mill house in Winchester.

“During the third battle of Winchester that house was used as a hospital site. There are recorded statements by men who were treated there that came back after the war,” said Nicholas Picerno, Chairman Emeritus of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

House Bill 1278 was signed into law by Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin. It authorized the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources to turn the 38-acre property over to the foundation.

“We were able to demonstrate the historical significance of the property. We also believe there are probably still soldiers from the war that are buried on that property as well since it was a hospital site,” said Picerno.

The foundation will now be able to preserve and protect the historic property.

“Relic hunting will be illegal on the property. A law was passed last year that made relic hunting on property that is owned by a battlefield foundation illegal. It’s a class one misdemeanor,” said Picerno.



The foundation works to restore its properties to as close as it can to their appearance during the civil war. It also does archaeological work on them, and puts up interpretive markers to inform visitors about the property.

On May 14 and 15, on the same day as the anniversary of the Battle of New Market, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation will be hosting a living history event with battle recreations in McDowell, Virginia for the 160th anniversary of the Battle of McDowell.

As for the Battle of New Market, you can read the full statement from the museum on its decision to discontinue the reenactment below.

Since the early 1970s, New Market Battlefield State Historical Park has hosted one of the longest-running annual large-scale battle reenactments in the nation. However, for well over a decade we have witnessed diminishing numbers of spectators and participants while costs of the event have increased. In addition, providing for the safety of staff, spectators, and reenactors has become more complex. In response to a dramatic rise in documented issues at large reenactments, we have found it necessary to increase security efforts to address these potential threats. Accordingly, we have determined to discontinue the annual May 15 reenactment. A series of public activities including tours, lectures and small scale, focused living history presentations, will mark the May 15 anniversary date of the Battle of New Market.

Changing interest, technology, and interpretive opportunities require us to re-direct our staff and resources toward new, innovative programming. Visitors to the park can look forward to educational events presented by skilled volunteer living historians many times throughout the year.

We will continue to be a venue for civilian and military living history which encourages one-on-one interaction between historical interpreters and visitors. We are committed to providing a meaningful and enjoyable experience for our visitors in their desire to understand life in Virginia during the Civil War.

Happy Birthday!

Camp Compatriots for May

Ken Temples – May 25

Mark LeGrand – May 31

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 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 was held on April 8, 2022 at the Outing Club.
- May – The Wheeler Camp will host the Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service on May 1, 2022 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 starting at 7:00pm 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