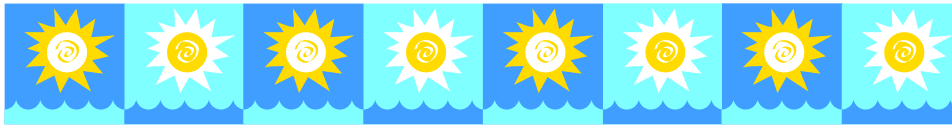




The Wheeler Dispatch



*The Official Newsletter of the General Joe Wheeler Camp #1245 in Aiken, South Carolina
A Camp built upon Duty, Honor, God and Country June 2023*



HAPPY SUMMER

Commander's Column

Greetings Fellow Compatriots,

We had a great time at our May Camp meeting remembering the good experiences that we had in the past spending evenings at J. W. Osteen's cabin and talking about yesteryears when life was not as hectic and the many stories that he would tell us. We had an enjoyable picnic at his old cabin on the grounds of the Battle of Aiken site. I am hoping that we can do this every year.

The Wheeler Camp hosted the 27th Annual Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service on Sunday May 7 at 3pm in Bethany Cemetery. We had a fairly good turnout of 21 supporters from the SCV and UDC from around the CSRA. I want to thank all that attended, especially the Honor Guard from the Brig. Gen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 from Augusta. They are always ready to help when we need them.

Remember to attend the Jack Marlar Bench Dedication on Saturday June 3rd at 2:00pm at the Signers' Monument in Abbeville, SC. Jack Marlar did so much for the SCV. A large turnout will be welcomed to show his family how much we appreciated him.

For the June 5th Camp meeting, we will be meeting in the Aiken County Historical Museum at 6:30pm. John Baxley and Jacob Cook will be providing the meal. Our guest speaker is Mr. Bing Chambers. Let's make an extra effort to attend this June meeting. This meeting, being our last until August, it would be nice to have a good turnout. Thanks again for choosing the Wheeler Camp as the Camp you support to honor your Confederate ancestor with your membership. Membership renewals will be soon coming your way, so let's all fill them out and return them in a timely fashion. We don't want to lose a single member.

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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1st Lieutenant Commander

Compatriot Bing Chambers will be our speaker for our June meeting. He is the author of the three-volume series, “And Were the Glory of Their Times” about the men who died for South Carolina in the War for Southern Independence. Mr. Chambers is a native of South Carolina, graduate of the University of South Carolina and a Vietnam Veteran. He is a 31-year member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, member of the Military Order of Stars and Bars, Abbeville Institute and Society of Independent Southern Historians. He is married with one daughter and two grandchildren.

2023 and 2024 National Reunions

Register NOW for 2023 and 2024 Reunions

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

Registration for the 2024 SCV National Reunion to be hosted by the Succession 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/>.

2nd Lieutenant Commander

The following is a list of important events during June

- Saturday June 3 - Jack Marlar Bench Dedication at 2:00pm at the Signers’ Monument in Abbeville, SC

Jack Marlar Bench Dedication

**Saturday, June 3, 2023
2:00 PM - Abbeville, SC
(rain or shine)**



The Jack Marlar Bench Dedication will take place at the Signer’s Monument on Secession Hill in Abbeville, SC.

You can come in period dress if you would like, but it is not required.

We hope to have a good turnout of Confederate Reenactors, SCV, and UDC members. No seating provided; bring a lawn chair.

Let’s show folks what Mr. Jack meant to us.

For more information, contact:
Henry Richardson (Division Lt Commander) *scdwlcommander@gmail.com*
OR Robert Roger <hr1117@artsonet.com>

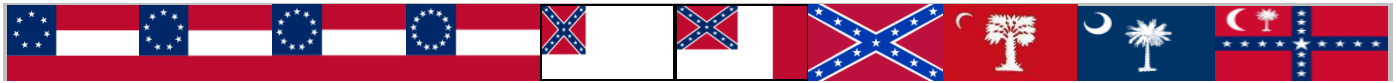
- Monday June 5 – Wheeler Camp meeting will be at the Aiken County Historical Museum at 6:30pm
- June 17 thru 23 - Sam Davis Christian Youth Camp East (see Flyer on Page 7).

Wheeler Coin Committee

The Wheeler Coins continue to sell well. So far, 73 coins have been sold. At the June 5th Camp meeting, you can buy several for yourself or give to friends. The coins look sooooo good! Only \$10 each.

Adjutant’s Report

We had a GREAT May meeting at J.W. Osteen’s cabin on the grounds of the Battle of Aiken. It was fun talking about when we would go to his cabin twice a year and listen to J.W. talk about old times. We had a good meal of BBQ with different “fixins” of slaw, baked beans and dessert. We had 9 camp members and 7 guests who attended. Cmdr. Moore gave a presentation on the Guardian Program. We learned how we can become a Guardian and take care of a Confederate Veteran’s grave. He handed out the Guardian Instructions and Applications to several members encouraging them to apply.



From the Chaplain's Desk



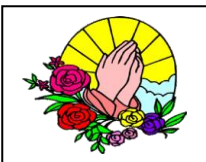
Hello Wheeler Camp brothers.

I hear that the Confederate Memorial Day Service at Bethany went well. We thank God for His blessings there. As we were in N.C. for our grand-daughter's baptism that day, I thought of you often. But as we witnessed our Susannah's baptism our thoughts and prayers and thanksgivings were on our grand-daughter. And what a site it was. As we stood along the banks of the Tuckasegee River with about 120 other believers, we were so blessed to see this day. It reminded me later of a baptism that I read about that took place in the Summer of 1862 along the Potomac River in Virginia when hundreds of Confederate soldiers stood along the banks to witness their fellow brothers be baptized. An informant who witnessed it said, "I have never witnessed a more lovely and impressive scene as every soldier with solemnity stood and watched."

After 21 Webster Baptist members came up out of the water, each with a joyous smile as big as the sun on their face, we all sang Amazing Grace, which rang out across the river valley. We sang as boats of fishermen slowly and reverently drifted by while other fishermen sat on rocks nearby in total silence. They all realized that something very special was taking place in the water that day. Do you want to experience this kind of special moment in your life? We find these words in Luke 3:16

"John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But He who is mightier than I is coming, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

If you feel moved to grow closer to God and His Son and desire to be baptized, please let me know and we'll talk about salvation and find you a river of your own where the Holy Spirit can symbolically wash your old self downstream and you can arise up out of the water a clean Child of God. Just like our Lord did so long ago as an example for us. Love you all, 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 daughter Melanie, Clair Henkes, Tom Huckabee, Ken Temples & SC Adjutant Joe and Brenda Willis

Gen. Robert E. Lee, a Devout Christian
by Edwin Gravitt, May 20, 2014

Although Robert E. Lee was still a Lt. Col. with the U.S. Army, he was still a very devout Christian who must have slept with his Bible on his night stand and in... his heart.

Shortly after Lee's death, Chaplain J. William Jones stated: "As I watched alone by his body the day after his death, I picked up from the table a well-used pocket Bible, in which was written in his characteristic chirography, 'R. E. Lee, Lt. Col. United States Army.'"

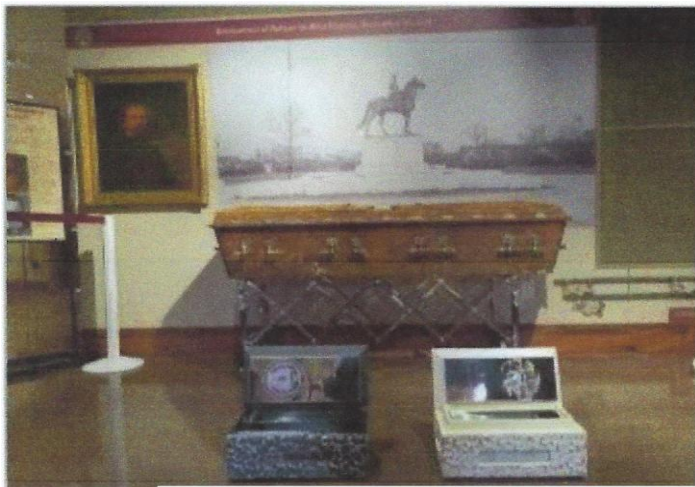


"As I turn its pages and saw how he had marked many passages, especially those teaching the great doctrine of salvation by grace, justification by faith, or those given the more precious promise to the believer, I thought of how, with simple faith, he took this blessed book as a man of his counsel and the light of his pathway; how it's precious promises cheered him amid the afflictions and trials of his eventful life; and how it's glorious hope illuminated for him 'the valley of the shadow of death.'"

"He had God in his heart," which made him "a leader unlike the famous captains of the ages. Alexander believed in himself, Caesar in his legions, Napoleon in his destiny, Lee in his God."

No such eulogy is fit nor proper for any northern general who led that Treasonist army in their infamous war against Southern Independence and our State's Rights.

Forrest's Last Ride



Forrest's Last Ride is the name of the project to reconstruct the gravesite of Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife Mary Ann Montgomery Forrest on the grounds of Historic Elm Springs and the National Confederate Museum. This will be a very large project as the plaza is 50 feet deep and 75 feet wide. Everything that was with the graves is now on the grounds and waiting to be reconstructed. The Equestrian Statue, which is the headstone of the graves will be repaired and returned to its rightful place. This project is for the repair, reconstruction, and placement of the Forrest Gravesite in its entirety and as intended by the artist Charles Henry Neihaus.

On September 18, 2021, we gathered to lay to rest, Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife Mary Ann Montgomery Forrest were on the grounds of Historic Elm Springs. On October 1, 2022, the General Executive Council voted to rebuild the entire plaza as it was originally Constructed. The estimated cost to reconstruct the entire plaza is \$150,000. Currently, \$76,000 has already been raised. This project is being done by the great-great-grandsons of General Forrest and the General Executive Council.

This cannot happen without your help and donations. This cannot be built until the money has been raised . If you wish to contribute, please send your donations to SCV National.

To pay by check:

Please make your check payable to SCV National with Forrest Plaza in the memo line and mail to:

SCV
P. O. Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402-0059

To pay by phone: call 931-380-1844, ext. 209

To pay online; <https://scv.org/paypal-donations/>

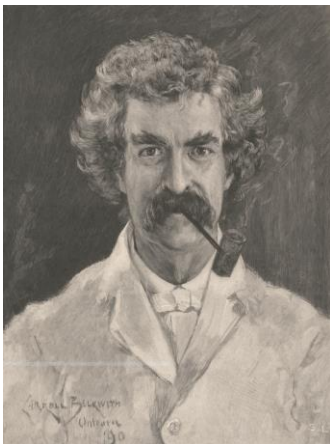
You take them down, and we will put them back up!



MARK TWAIN FOUGHT FOR THE SOUTH IN THE CIVIL WAR. HE LASTED 2 WEEKS BEFORE HE QUIT.

In 1861, the 25-year-old Missourian, alongside 14 other idealistic young men, answered Gov. Claiborne Fox Jackson's call to defend their home state.

By **CLAIRE BARRETT** 4/14/2023



Mark Twain (Library of Congress)

“You have heard from a great many people who did something in the war; is it not fair and right that you listen a little moment to one who started out to do something in it but didn't?” wrote Mark Twain in his semi-fictionalized wartime account, titled “The Private History of a Campaign That Failed.”

“Thousands entered the war, got just a taste of it, and then stepped out again, permanently,” he continued. “These, by their very numbers, are respectable and therefore entitled to a sort of voice, — not a loud one, but a modest one; not a boastful one but an apologetic one. ...”

In the summer of 1861, the former riverboat pilot went to war, according to the St. Louis Magazine, on a small yellow mule carrying a valise, a carpetbag, two gray blankets, a homemade quilt, a squirrel rifle, 20 yards of rope, a frying pan and, perhaps most importantly of all, an umbrella.

The 25-year-old Missourian, alongside 14 other idealistic young men, answered Gov. Claiborne Fox Jackson's call of 50,000 militia to defend their home state.

The few, the band of brothers, called themselves the Marion Rangers, with Twain entering their ranks as a second lieutenant.

Twain, whose real name was Samuel Clemens, had grown up amid slavery in the South. His father had owned slaves. So had his neighbors. In 1860 Twain had voted for John Bell in the presidential election, who, although a Tennessee slaveholder, had opposed secession.

Twain's vote was seemingly a vote for the status quo he had grown up around.

But as the war approached Missouri, Twain decided to take a stand — albeit a brief one.



In all, the famed author's two-week stint as a soldier in the Civil War largely amounted to him larping as a Confederate.

"The first hour was all fun, all idle nonsense and laughter. But that could not be kept up," Twain wrote in "The Private History of a Campaign That Failed."

"The steady trudging came to be like work; the play had somehow oozed out of it; the stillness of the woods and the somberness of the night began to throw a depressing influence over the spirits of the boys..."

As the men slogged farther into the woods around Hannibal, Marion County — seemingly with no real plan of action or direction — the men began to quibble over whose job it was to cook. No one seriously took orders from their "chain of command," as most didn't even know what the ranking structure consisted of.

After Twain ordered a subordinate to feed his mule the man retorted that he didn't reckon "he went to war to be a dry-nurse to a mule." Twain himself mused that he "believed that this was insubordination, but [he] was full of uncertainties about everything military, and so [he] let the thing pass."

To make matters worse, it rained continuously, according to accounts, adding to the malaise of the already downtrodden men.

Cosplaying at war, the Marion Rangers would retreat at the merest mention or sign of Union troops in the area.

"I knew more about retreating than the man that invented retreating," Twain quipped of his experience.

The men tried to retreat, "only to realize that they had no idea how to retreat," according to a report by The Great Falls Tribune. "Their paper command structure collapsed, and for two weeks they stumbled and bumbled their way around the area, until at last they were threatened by a real Yankee military force commanded, as they later learned, by colonel and soon to be general Ulysses S. Grant."

By then, the 25-year-old had had it with his little war and slipped away to his sister Pam's home in St. Louis. Soon after, Twain's brother, Orion Clemens, offered him an opportunity to go west that summer to Nevada. Twain readily accepted, summarily ending his war.

Ironically, 20 years after Twain's brush with the Confederacy, it was he who suggested to the ailing Grant that the former Union general-turned-president write his memoirs.

Grant, who was slowly dying of throat cancer, had watched as his entire nest egg disappeared after the collapse of Grant & Ward, the investment firm into which Grant had put his entire life's savings.

Motivated to provide for his beloved wife, Julia, as his inevitable death loomed, Grant got to writing. Twain had been instrumental in the formation of Charles L. Webster & Company in 1884. Though it bore the name of his nephew through marriage, Twain was its de facto head, and in February 1885 the company made Grant an offer — Grant should get as much as a 20 percent royalty, or alternatively, 70 percent of the net profits, according to historian John Vacha.

Julia was to be well taken care of and, thanks to one former Marion Ranger, the "Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant" became, next to the Bible and "Uncle Tom's Cabin," the most visible volumes in 19th-century American homes — at least, writes Vacha, **those outside the South.**



Sam Davis Christian Youth Camp East

Saturday, June 17 - Friday, June 23, 2023

**The Peaks Retreat & Adventure Center
1336 Simmons Mill Rd., Thaxton, VA 24174**

**For Young Boys and Girls - Ages 12 - 17
(children, grandchildren, great-grands, nieces & nephews)**

We Saw the Need to Restore America's Morals and Her History

We believe the only way to restore America is through Jesus Christ. We believe history must be taught with all of its facets so truth can be discerned and its lessons applied for a better future. We believe teaching the truth about God and His Bible, along with the Founders and their vision, is the only way to properly understand how we were made, the struggles we have had, the differences in play, and the futures that may be.

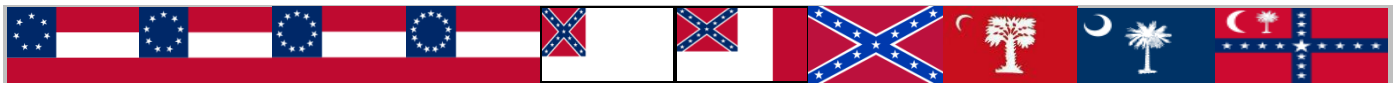
The Sam Davis Christian Youth Camp vision began as a summer camp for boys and girls, where experts gather to teach young minds what has not been taught in schools and to instill and reinforce what parents have always taught their children. We teach good manners, respect for others, and the Golden Rule as the Bible instructs. At the same time, we teach American history the way our ancestors were taught - through hands-on experiences and presentations from some very learned and respected people. Our instructors come from a pool of doctors, attorneys, pastors, professors, educators, and passionate lay people on just about every historical American subject there is. We exalt the Lord Jesus Christ in all we do.

We cover American history - from the Colonial days through World War II - from a traditional American perspective, including the Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, The War Between the States, Reconstruction, WWI and WWII, with additional devotion to studying the Scriptures every day. Students and counselors will practice good manners and etiquette at all times while having fun, learning what is typically not taught in schools as was done, and making lifelong friends.

For more information, please contact SDCYC East Director Tracy Clary at 434-774-4341 or brunswickreb@gmail.com or visit us at samdavischristian.org

SCV SC Division:

1st Lt. Cmdr. Henry Richardson <scdivltcommander@gmail.com>



27TH ANNUAL AIKEN COUNTY CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AT BETHANY CEMETERY



Happy Birthday!

Camp Compatriots for June

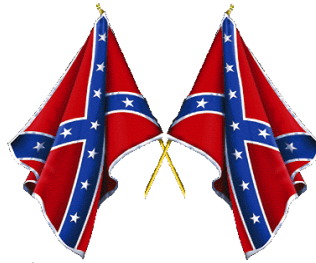
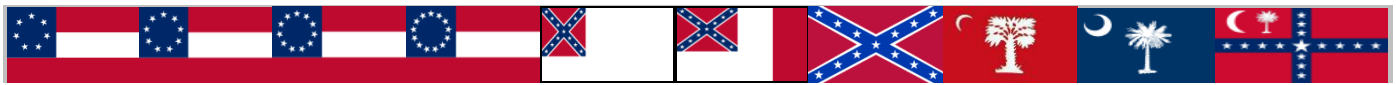
Ed Martin – June 11

Blake Moore – June 17

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.

Remaining 2023 Camp Activities

- June 5, August 7, September 11, October 2, November 6 and December 4 camp meetings will be held at the Aiken County Historical Museum at 6:30pm. No camp meeting will be held in July.
- Dec. 16 – The Wheeler Camp will host the Wreaths Across America Service 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 6:30pm 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