



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 July 2023*

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



Commander's Column

Greetings Fellow Compatriots,

The beginning of June turned out to be very busy. The Dedication Ceremony on Saturday 3rd at the Signers' Monument in Abbeville, SC was a tremendous ceremony remembering three men that have done so much for the SC SCV. Dedications were made to Jack Marlar, bench, Albert Jackson, palm tree and Robert Hayes, palm tree. The weather was beautiful. Ken Temples, Janice and myself represented the Wheeler Camp.

The Camp meeting on the 5th had a great turnout to enjoy a meal provided by John Baxley and Jacob Cook. Our thanks to them. Our guest speaker Bing Chambers presented us with a very interesting talk on the SC Confederate soldiers that perished during the War for Southern Independence. Currently, he has found approximately 5,000 SC men who died during the war that were never identified before increasing the number died to ~23,600. I want to thank our camp members for contributing to Cause to be able to donate Bing's third book of the three-volume series, "And Were the Glory of Their Times" to the Aiken County Library which indicated that they did not have the funds to purchase the book. The library had already purchased the first two books in the series.

Please remit your **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL STATEMENT** with your dues payment to our Adjutant, Danny Brown, as soon as possible. Your membership means a great deal to this Camp, but even more so to your heritage and Confederate Ancestor. So, let's all re-enlist! If anyone fails to receive a Membership Renewal Statement, let us know. We don't want to lose a single member.

I want to wish each of you a Happy Independence Day. Remember the true history of this nation points to the South and its brave warriors that fought to bringing freedom and independence to this land. Great sacrifices were made in bringing this nation into existence. Remember there were more skirmishes and battles in South Carolina during the Revolutionary War than any other colony, so don't believe the propaganda that you hear.

Remember there will be **NO MEETING** in July. See you at the August 7th meeting at the Aiken County Museum.

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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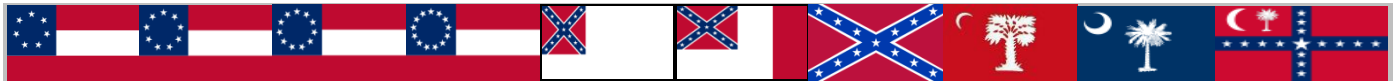
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1st Lieutenant Commander

Since Commander Moore will be out of town for the August Camp meeting, I will be replacing him, as well as being the program speaker. I will be talking about Camp Chase, a Confederate soldiers' prison camp in Columbus, Ohio. Also, with help from others, I will be providing the meal. Look forward to seeing you on August 7th.

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

You should receive your 2023-2024 Membership Renewal Statement (MRS) in the mail the first week in July. If you are not a Life Member, most are paying dues for 3 memberships: National \$35, SC \$10 and the General Joe Wheeler Camp \$20. The bill should be a total of \$65 plus any donations that you might like to make. Make the check payable to General Joe Wheeler #1245. The checks will be gathered from all of our members, deposited, and the camp will pay both National and SC dues. You should mail your MRS with dues to Adjutant Danny Brown, 601 Foreman St., Jackson, SC 29831, no later than July 31st or bring them to the August 7th camp meeting. It is very important to pay your dues on time; there is no leeway for being late.

By-Laws Committee

The By-Laws Committee and the Wheeler Camp made so many proposed changes to the Joe Wheeler By-Laws that it is taking my awhile to incorporate all of them. I am working on incorporating these changes and will email them to the Camp when finished. Lee Duvall, Chairman

Wheeler Coin Committee

The Wheeler Coins continue to sell well. So far, 85 coins have been sold. Lee Duvall, Chairman

Adjutant's Report

We all enjoyed the June meeting at the Aiken County Historical Museum. We had a good meal provided by Dr. John Baxley and Jacob Cook. We had 8 camp members and 8 guests who attended. Bing Chambers gave an interesting presentation on the background on how he researched the material for his three-volume series, "And Were the Glory of Their Times". He is continuing with his research on other SC Infantry units to write additional volumes.



From the Chaplain's Desk



As Christians, we know that we walk each day trying to do our best and be the example that Christ would desire for us, but things can go sour quickly. And the reason is Satan. We know how we should live, but life is very challenging. We are tempted this way and then that way. Sooner or later, we will trip up and find ourselves embarrassing ourselves, our family, our friends, colleagues and even disappointing our Lord in the process. This kind of failure can be traced back to a weak devotion to reading God's Word, Prayer time and not being bonded to like-minded Christian brothers and sisters.

Throughout history men have failed in these simple steps and regretted not being committed more to God's way of life. One of those historical figures was Colonel Laurence M. Keitt of Orangeburg District. After receiving a mortal wound in the Battle of Cold Harbor, Keitt was approached by his Doctor and Chaplain and told to turn his thoughts to his Spiritual life. Keitt responded, "that doctrinally his views on the subject of religion were sound, but unfortunately his practice had not been in conformity with his opinions." And a few hours later with tears running from his eyes, Keitt uttered "My Wife, My Wife." And gave up his spirit.

We do not want to find ourselves in the situation that came upon Keitt that dreadful day. We want to be ready when that last day, that day God has appointed us to die arrives. We want to be found faithful to our God. Even though spiritual trials will come, we can always grow even closer to Him by growing through each failure. The Christian life is not an easy one, but it is way better than anything else out there. So, brothers, lets stand firm for Christ each day and stay in His Word and on our knees.

Love ya, 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





President Lincoln has ordered the Invasion,
Blockade, Martial Law and Telegraph Seizure
to 'Lay Waste to the South,' in his Unbridled
and Reckless exercise of 'One Man's Power'

The Daily Picayune

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 23, 1861

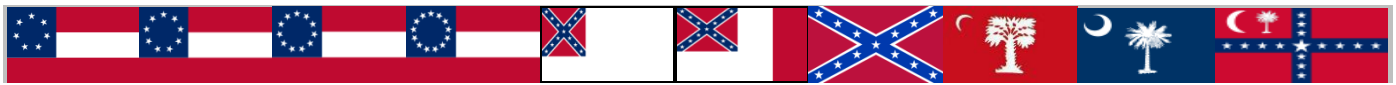
THE ONE-MAN POWER.

There is to be an extra, or called, or special session of Congress at Washington on the 4th of July. Abraham Lincoln so orders. In the meantime, he has ordered a good many other things. He has ordered the cohorts of Black Republicanism at the North to commence the work of subjugating the Confederate States of the South. He has ordered "his" army to invade Virginia, and Maryland, and Missouri. He has ordered an embargo on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, and a blockade of all the ports, from the Chesapeake to the Rio Grande. He has ordered martial law to supersede civil law in several of our cities, and has ordered the seizure of the private correspondence by telegraph, of citizens, North and South—the accumulation in the telegraph offices of a year past. He has ordered naval stations to be laid waste by fire, and naval vessels and armaments to be sunk.

The Congress which is to meet on the 4th of July, it is clear, is to be also subject to the same imperious despotism of this "one-man power." It is to register his edicts, carry out his policy, pursue his plans, effect his ends. Already we see the commencement of this work, in the operation of the same machinery by which his actions, thus far, from the start, have been impelled. The rabid, rampant, rapacious press in his interest have already begun to bring their batteries to bear upon the Cabinet. The powers of Congress are to be abridged, and its action controlled, and made to bend to the imperious will of the Administration.

It has been "compactly arranged" that "perfect unanimity will prevail," in the prompt adoption and vigorous carrying out of the Presidential policy by Congress. The Lincoln programme, without discussion, with-out opposition, is to be concurred in, and every feature of the high-handed course thus far pursued at Washington is to be adopted.

We shall see if there is a body of men, professing to represent the constituency of twelve or fourteen States, who, with a solemn oath to support the constitution of the United States upon their consciences, will pusillanimously submit to such dictation as this. The time has never been heretofore when it would not have surprised us to see the powers delegated by the people of the United States to Congress overthrown by one man's will, and we wish we could agree with our cotemporary of the New York Daily News, in the opinion that, if need be, the extra session will be made long enough to secure the fundamental principles of the U. S. constitution being trampled upon by dictators, whose "compactly arranged plans" may find a defeat at the hands of conscientious men. It is of course an insult to Congress thus boldly and unblushingly to represent to the members that they are called together to be made the mere puppets of the administration, and we agree that if the representatives are what they ought to be, they will resent this attempt to abridge their powers, and to coerce them into measures which are dangerous to the welfare of the country. But seeing what we have seen, how can we be surprised at whatever is yet to be seen, in the unbridled and reckless exercise of this "one man's power?"



Thanks to Buzz Braxton for sending me this article from Soda City Biz Wire

Lost in 1864, this flag of the Charleston Light Dragoons is coming home to SC



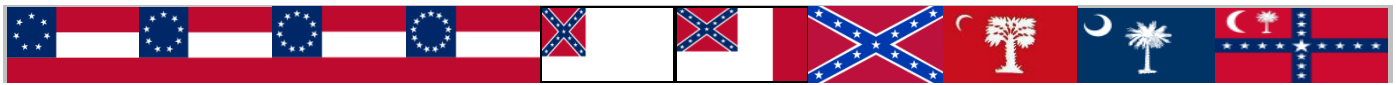
The Charleston Light Dragoons – formed in the eighteenth century – were not your everyday cavalry unit. They were more like a very exclusive social club, made up of the sons of the colony’s wealthiest citizens. They had strict rules, but the punishment for infractions usually involved alcohol – either being forced to drink large quantities, or buy drinks for the other guys.

They had relatively little combat experience for a long time. That changed dramatically in 1864, when they were sent to Virginia as part of the 4th South Carolina Cavalry Regiment, and encountered some of the bitterest fighting in the Civil War. At some point while fighting Union cavalry from Michigan, they lost a flag that served as a rallying point in battle.

And now, someone in Michigan wants to give it back, to the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum. Dave Downing is coming down to Columbia on July 5 to do just that. The public is invited to the presentation in the museum’s Education Room at noon on that date. Downing will tell the story of how he found the lost flag. And Eric Emerson, director of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, will tell the colorful story of the Dragoons themselves.

Dave Downing is among other things a Civil War re-enactor – one who usually wears blue instead of gray. He also volunteers in a project called Save the Flags, which has preserved, researched and displayed about 270 banners carried by Michigan soldiers in the Civil War, the Spanish American War and World War I. About 10 years ago, he was speaking to a community group about that project, and afterwards, one of the listeners came up to him and said, “I’ve got this flag..”

“He came back the next day and gave it to me,” Downing recalls. It was in really good shape, for a Civil War flag – so good that he decided it must be a reproduction. He set it aside, and didn’t think about it until two or three years ago.



Then, the Save the Flags project received another flag donation from the same period. It was real, but looked like it had come fresh and new from a package. That made him think of the flag he had set aside. He thought, “I wonder if it’s the real thing?” He submitted photos of it to a renowned expert who restores historical flags, who pronounced, “This thing is original. There’s no way it’s a reproduction.”

There was no question where it came from, with the huge letters S and C on a blue field, and between the letters a crudely formed palmetto tree with “Charleston Light Dragoons” printed on it.

“This doesn’t belong in Michigan,” he decided. “It belongs in South Carolina.”

Someone with the flag project knew about the Relic Room and its successful textile conservation program, and gave Downing the name and number of Executive Director Allen Roberson – to whom he will deliver the flag on July 5.

While it’s finally been found, the flag is still wrapped in mystery: “I’d never met the gentleman who gave it to me,” says Downing. “I don’t know his name; I don’t have his number.”

Dr. Emerson is focused on a different mystery: how the guidon – which is what he, being a historian, properly calls this particular flag – got lost in the first place. He is the author of *Sons of Privilege: The Charleston Light Dragoons in the Civil War*.

He thinks it happened at one of several desperate battles the unit fought in the spring of 1864 against the Michigan Cavalry Brigade, commanded by George Armstrong Custer – yes, the Little Big Horn guy. And of course, those Yankee soldiers were battle-hardened and had a huge advantage in firepower, as they carried Spencer repeating rifles.

At one point, Dr. Emerson considered that maybe it happened at the Battle of Old Church, or Matadequin Creek, on May 30. But then he realized that at that fight Thomas Lining, the unit’s color sergeant, had the flag back in the rear area, as he was one of those left behind to hold the horses while other dragoons went into the fight on foot.

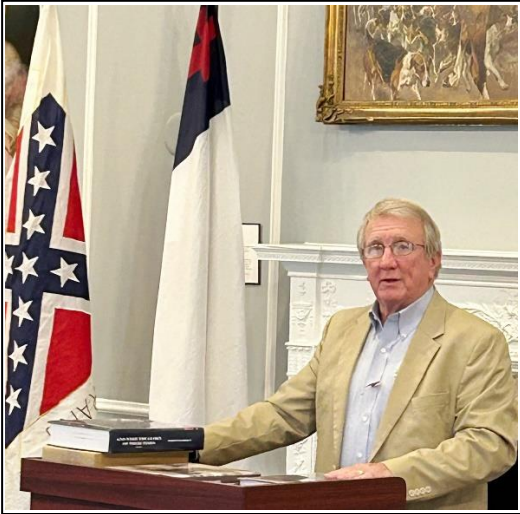
He now believes the flag was lost at Trevilian Station in June, but the evidence is incomplete. There, as it happened, Lining – frustrated at being kept out of the action – swapped places with another soldier and participated in the fighting, with fatal consequences: He bled to death after being hit in the femoral artery, making him one of 800 Confederate casualties in that engagement. It was the largest all-cavalry battle of the war.

The guidon was likely left with the other soldier in the rear. Emerson suspects that soldier was Burgess Gordon. But the flag still wasn’t safe, because at one point in this battle, “Custer and his brigade found a gap between Hampton’s troops and the Virginians of Fitzhugh Lee and rode into the rear of the Confederate line.” And Gordon was captured.

The theories are fascinating, if not certain. But however, it was lost, the flag is coming home to South Carolina on the day after Independence Day.

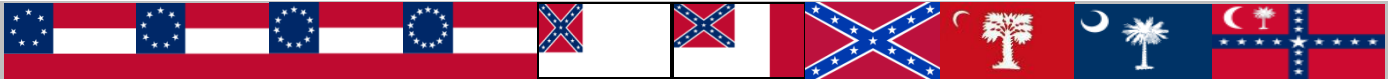


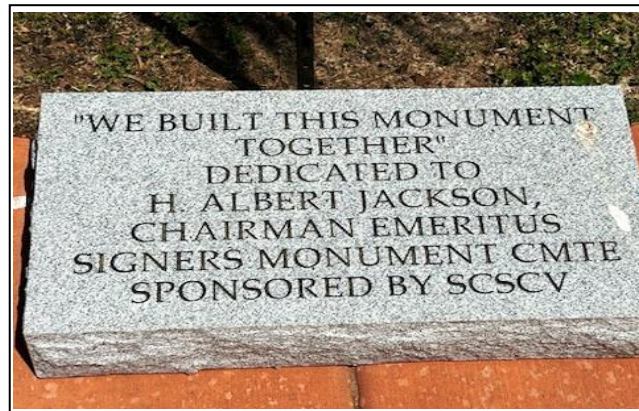
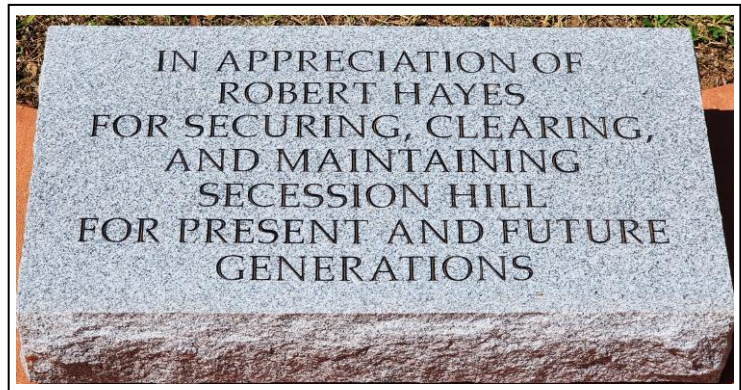
PHOTOS FROM THE JUNE CAMP MEETING



PHOTOS FROM ABBEVILLE DEDICATION CEREMONY







Happy Birthday!

Camp Compatriots for July

Cliff Tennant – July 3

Nathan Oxner – July 27

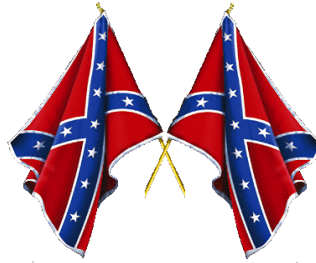
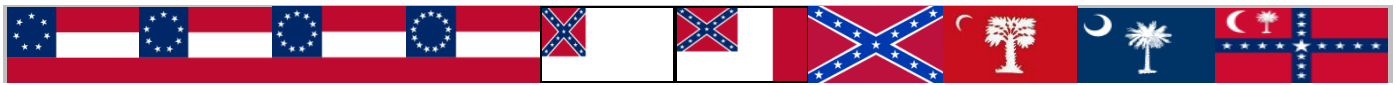
Nicholas Ward – July 30

Carson Umbarger – July 30

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

- 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