



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 September 2022*

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Commander's Column

Greetings Compatriots,

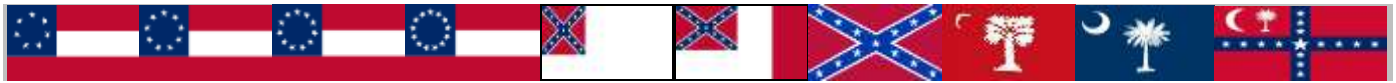
Hope this finds you all doing splendid. Our last meeting was a good one with Compatriot Dr. John Baxley bringing an outstanding talk on the Confederate Medical Department and what was going on in Augusta, Ga. during the war on the medical side. It was a very informative talk. Thank you, John.

We were honored to have Mrs. Julie Hardaway, The U.D.C. Recorder General of Military Service Awards, with us also that evening. Julie is one of the hardest working ladies that I know. She is truly a Guardian of Southern History. She recently went out to Bethany Cemetery and cleaned some of the memorial monuments. The huge Captain Aquila S. Seigler marker with a confederate soldier standing guard on top looks like it was placed there just yesterday! Go take a look. It is beautiful. Thank you so much Julie. You're showing us men how it's done.

When you see some of your Camp Officers again, thank them for their service. We had our Officers Meeting on August 15th, and I thought it was a very productive meeting with our eyes not only on the present, but also on the future. Thank you, Officers.

I also want to thank each of you that paid your Camp dues. You not only re-enlisted for another year as a Wheeler Camp member, but as a living guardian of your Confederate ancestor's good name, his heroic deeds and his values and principles. Thank you all so much. If I can help you in any way, let me know.

The nation we now live in is exactly what our ancestors sacrificed so much to keep from happening. They could see the writing on the wall. General Lee in December of 1866 wrote to a friend his thoughts on America at that time.



"I can only say that while I have considered the preservation of the constitutional power of the General Government to be the foundation of our peace and safety at home and abroad, I yet believe that the maintenance of the rights and authority reserved to the States and to the people, not only essential to the adjustment and balance of the general system, but the safeguard of the continuance of a free government. I consider it as the chief source of stability to our political system, whereas the consolidation of the States into one vast republic, sure to be aggressive abroad and despotic at home, will be the certain precursor of that ruin which has overwhelmed all those that have preceded it."

Lee knew that sooner or later without a check, that the Northern bureaucrats and political zealots would one day destroy the Constitution and bring this nation to its knees.

Our Lt. Commander-in-Chief, Don Kennedy is a staunch advocate of limited government, or should I say Real "States Rights." His beliefs have led him to appearances on TV and many other talk radio programs across the nation including Col. Oliver North's radio show, Bill Maher's show Politically Incorrect, BBC, and French National TV. When a Talk Radio Show in New York was nearing the end of its program, the host asked Mr. Kennedy "When is the South going to make a stand?" Mr. Kennedy asked, "What do you mean." The host then responded, "The North and the nation are looking to the South to save our country!" So, just as our ancestors were the first to rise up and tell the Federal Government "NO!" It may well be the Sons of Confederate Veterans Organization that will help save this nation by continuing to relentlessly tell the TRUTH about this nation's history and the TRUE History of the South. Let's all help to turn the tide. To God be all the Glory!

Remember, Our September Meeting is on September 12th.

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

Blessed be His Name, Ken



1st Lieutenant Commander

2023 National Reunion

Register NOW for 2023 Reunion

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

See you on **September 12th** at 6:45pm at the Aiken County Historical Museum for our next camp meeting. Blake Moore will give a talk on the Battle of Fredericksburg December 11 – 15, 1862. See you there.



2nd Lieutenant Commander

Discovery of Civil War-era cannonball by visitor temporarily closes Fort Sumter

by Joseph Erickson
Tuesday, August 9th, 2022



Fort Sumter temporarily closes after discovery of historic ordnance (National Park Service)

CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV) — Tourists often flock to Fort Sumter to learn more about Charleston's rich history. However, on Saturday, August 6th, one group of visitors likely got more of a history lesson than they bargained for when someone discovered a historic ordnance. According to the National Park Service, the ordnance was found within the fort's parade ground.

Charleston Police Department's explosives team responded to investigate, and the fort was closed to the public. Experts identified the ordnance as a Civil War-era cannonball. As the removal of ordnances is the responsibility of the Department of Defense, the United State Air Force took possession of the cannonball, according to the National Park Service.

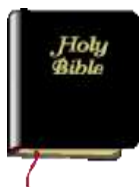
No injuries or damage to the fort were reported. While one scheduled tour had to be canceled on Saturday, operations resumed on Sunday as normal.

Adjutant's Report

All monies have been paid to National and SC for the 2022 renewals. Thank you for being so prompt in paying your dues, so it could all be paid before the August 31 deadline. The camp lost one member who decided not to renew. We always hate to lose any member. We currently have 21 members on our role.



From the Chaplain's Desk



The Root of Sin

The Bible talks a lot about how you cannot serve God and money equating the desire for money as a religion. For centuries, these “other religions” have included money and politics – both rooted in the desire for power and power over others. In our time, some have made many other things their religion. These include Environmentalism, Critical Race Theory, LGBTQ, and on and on and on. Our Western Christian culture is being attacked like no other time in our history.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 1 Timothy 6:10 (ESV)

The basic problem facing our world is not social inequity, or lack of education, or even physical hunger. Highly educated and well-fed people have greeds, hates, passions, and lusts that are not eliminated by education. The root of sin in each of our hearts is extremely deep, and this is the basic cause of the world's problems. Only the fire of the Lord can burn it out. This is precisely what Christ came to do. He didn't come to treat symptoms. He came to get at the very heart of man's disease.



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

Hatred for the proud Confederate Soldier that fought so bravely to defend his country's freedom from unfair taxes and STATES' RIGHTS has never been treated as badly since Reconstruction as they are today!! They are trying to erase Southern history forever and replace it with woke and ungodly believes.

Commission calls for stripping Robert E. Lee of honors at West Point

The Naming Commission focused on the two service academies after recommending new names in May for Army bases that honor Confederate officers.

The congressional commission reviewing Pentagon property honoring the Confederacy is recommending renaming facilities and removing depictions dedicated to Robert E. Lee and other leaders at West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy.

The Naming Commission, in its second report to Congress, focused on the two service academies after recommending new names in May for Army bases stretching from Texas to Virginia that honor Confederate Officers.



The biggest changes in the new round are set for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where multiple buildings and other facilities are named for Lee, who served as superintendent before leading the Confederate Army during the Civil War.



The biggest changes are set for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where multiple buildings and other facilities are named for Lee, who served as superintendent before leading the Confederate Army during the Civil War. | US Military Academy

By BRYAN BENDER
08/29/2022 04:21 PM EDT

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That includes Lee Barracks, where cadets are housed, a day care center, a road, a gate and a portrait that hangs in Jefferson Hall of Lee wearing his Confederate uniform.

POLITICO first reported in June that the famous portrait would be singled out by the bipartisan commission for removal.

“The Commissioners do not make these recommendations with any intention of ‘erasing history,’” its new report released on Monday states. “The facts of the past remain and the commissioners are confident the history of the Civil War will continue to be taught at all service academies with all the quality and complex detail our national past deserves.

“Rather, they make these recommendations to affirm West Point’s long tradition of educating future generations of America’s military leaders to represent the best of our national ideals,” it adds.

Other Confederate generals who will no longer be honored on the campus include P.G.T. Beauregard, who led the attack on Fort Sumter that marked the opening of the Civil War, and William Hardee, another former superintendent who fought for the Confederacy.

At the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., the commission calls for renaming Buchanan House, the superintendent’s quarters honoring Adm. Frank Buchanan, a leader of the Confederate Navy, as well as an engineering building named for Cmdr. Matthew Maury, an astronomer and a Confederate naval officer.

However, the commission decided that Confederate artifacts contained in museums do not fall under its jurisdiction, “since the purpose of these museums is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret historically significant artifacts pertaining to that base, mission, or other focus.”

It also does not call for the removal of any grave markers for the Confederate fallen. “No grave markers at the United States Military Academy or the United States Naval Academy — nor at any base under the remit of the Commission — would be considered for removal,” the report says.

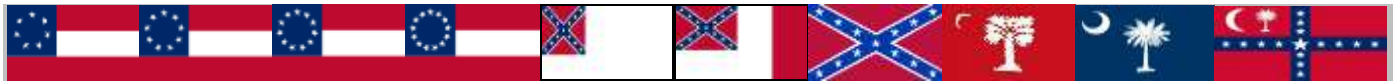
A final report to Congress is due by Oct. 1 on the remaining assets at other DoD installations that were not covered in the first two reports. Lawmakers and the Pentagon chief must approve the changes before they can go into effect.



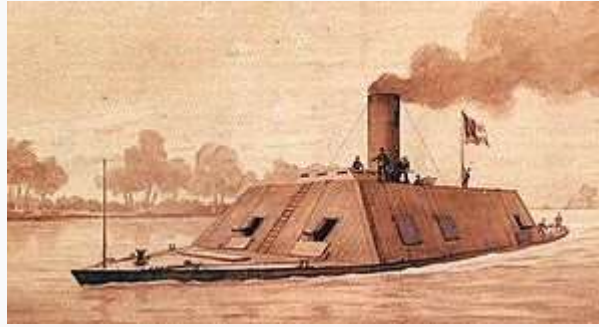
Augusta, Georgia's son and hero Joe Wheeler

**General Joseph "Fighting Joe" Wheeler of
19th Alabama Infantry and Lieutenant
Bennett H. Young 8th Kentucky Cavalry,
United Confederate Veterans reunion,
Louisville, Kentucky, 1900**





C.S.S Arkansas (From Wikipedia)



A drawing of C. S. S. *Arkansas* by R. G. Skerrett

History

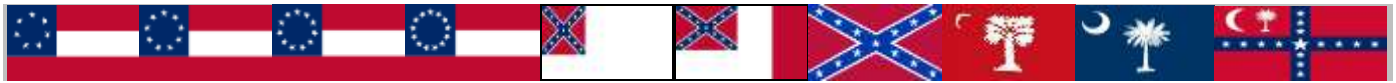


Confederate States

Name	<i>Arkansas</i>
Namesake	State of Arkansas
Ordered	August 24, 1861
Builder	John T. Shirley, Memphis, Tennessee
Cost	CS\$ 76,920
Laid down	October 1861
Launched	April 1862
Commissioned	April 25, 1862
Fate	Destroyed by her crew, 6 August 1862

General characteristics (1862)

Class and type	Arkansas-class ironclad
Displacement	1,200 long tons (1,200 t) (designed)
Length	165 ft (50 m)
Beam	35 ft (11 m)
Draft	11.5 ft (3.5 m) (designed)
Speed	8 miles per hour (13 km/h)
Complement	232 officers and men
Armament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ram at the bow • 2 × 8 in (203 mm) Columbiad smoothbores in bow ports • 2 × 6.4 in (163 mm) rifled muzzle-loading guns (RML) in stern ports • 2–3 × 6.4 in (163 mm) RMLs, 2 × 9 in (229 mm) Dahlgren smoothbore guns and 1–2 × 32-pdr smoothbores in broadside ports.
Armor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casemate: Railroad iron over wood and compressed cotton • Pilothouse: 2 in (51 mm) • Casemate roof: 0.5 in (13 mm) • Casemate stern: Thin iron sheets



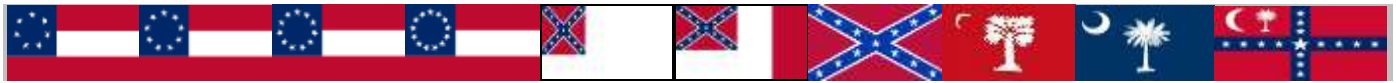
CSS Arkansas was the lead ship of her class of two casemate ironclads built for the Confederate States Navy during the American Civil War. Completed in 1862, she saw combat in the Western Theater when she steamed through a United States Navy fleet at Vicksburg in July.

At the outset of the American Civil War, the Confederate States of America had a lack of warships. Seeking to offset the Union's advantage in numbers through technology, Stephen R. Mallory, the Confederate States Secretary of the Navy, decided to build ironclad warships. An experienced steamboat man from Memphis, Tennessee, named John T. Shirley visited Mallory in mid-August 1861 and offered to build a pair of such ships to defend the middle portion of the Mississippi River. Acutely aware of the lack of Confederate naval facilities in the region able to build ironclads, Mallory and Shirley signed a contract for two ships, *Arkansas* and her sister ship *CSS Tennessee*, at \$76,920 each on August 24. Neither Shirley nor his master builder Primus Emerson owned a facility suitable for building a ship, and none were available for use in Memphis. The pair ultimately settled on a riverfront site below the bluff on which Fort Pickering sat on the southern edge of Memphis where *Arkansas* was laid down in October 1861.

Shirley consulted with naval architect John L. Porter and gun designer John M. Brooke during his trip and their views greatly influenced the design. Unlike virtually every other Confederate ironclad, the *Arkansas*-class ships were built with a traditional keeled-hull design with vertical sides to their casemates, probably to improve their seakeeping abilities in the Gulf of Mexico. The ships measured 165 feet (50.3 m) between perpendiculars, had a beam of 35 feet (10.7 m), and a depth of hold of 12 feet (3.7 m). As designed they would have displaced about 1,200 long tons (1,200 t) and had a draft of 11.5 feet (3.5 m). They were equipped with a pair of horizontal direct-acting steam engines, each driving one propeller using steam provided by four coal-burning, high-pressure boilers, although two additional boilers were added to *Arkansas* while she was under construction. The ship had a maximum speed of 8 miles per hour (13 km/h) in still water, but mechanical problems reduced that speed considerably in service. The boiler combustion gases exhausted through a single funnel seven feet (2.1 m) in diameter made from thin iron plates. Although the amount of coal storage aboard the ships is unknown, *Arkansas* demonstrated a range in excess of 300 miles (480 km) during her brief career.

The *Arkansas*-class ships were equipped with a pointed cast-iron ram that was bolted to their bows at or just below the waterline. They were designed to mount four guns, two on each broadside, but *Arkansas* was modified while under construction to accommodate 10 guns, three on each broadside and two each on the fore and aft faces of the casemate. Sources differ as to the exact numbers of each type, but the ship was armed with two 8-inch (203 mm) 64-pounder Columbiads in the front face of the casemate and a pair of 6.4-inch (163 mm) 32-pounder smoothbore guns converted to be rifled cannons in the aft face while the broadside armament consisted of two 9-inch (229 mm) Dahlgren guns and four 32-pounders of which at least two had been rifled, according to naval historian Myron J. Smith. The side gun ports allowed the guns there to traverse somewhat, but the oval gun ports on the fore and aft faces of the casemate were very narrow which badly restricted those guns' ability to traverse and severely limited the ability of the gun crews to see their targets.

The vertical sides of the sisters' casemates were constructed from oak logs two feet (61 cm) thick while the fore and aft faces of the casemate sloped at a 35° angle from the horizontal and were built from 12-inch-thick (305 mm) oak squares to which were nailed oak planks six inches (152 mm) inches thick. Behind the sides of the casemate was a layer of compressed cotton, possibly 20 inches (508 mm) deep, backed by a wooden bulkhead between each gun port. *Arkansas* was intended to be armored with rolled iron plates, but the only delivery of such plates was diverted to the ironclad *CSS Eastport* which was much further along in construction. Instead *Arkansas* used railroad "T" shaped-rails, possibly 4 inches (102 mm) deep, alternating top and bottom to present a relatively smooth surface. The pilothouse protruded one or two feet (0.30 or 0.61 m) above the top of the casemate and was protected by two layers of 1-inch (25 mm) bar iron. The visibility of the pilot was badly restricted by the narrow slits cut in the sides of the pilothouse. The casemate roof was



minimally protected by 0.5 inches (13 mm) of wrought iron boiler plate and the deck fore and aft of the casemate was unarmored. A shortage of rails meant that the stern face of the casemate was only protected by boiler plates. The broadside gun ports were protected by hinged iron shutters divided into upper and lower halves, but the fore and aft gun ports were fitted with iron collars into which the gun fit when firing. Captain William F. Lynch, commander of Confederate naval forces in the region, described *Arkansas* as inferior to the ironclad CSS *Virginia* and criticized the quality and construction of the ship's armor and smokestack

The *Arkansas* was similar in style to the more famous C.S.S. *Virginia* (Merrimack), the ships were both 165 feet long and 35 feet wide, and were constructed in Memphis. Since a labor shortage delayed completion, they were not finished when the Union captured Memphis in May 1862. One ironclad was burned to prevent capture, and the *Arkansas* was towed south to the Yazoo River.

Lieutenant Isaac Brown, the ship's commander, showed great innovation and determination in completing construction of the craft. A sunken barge loaded with railroad rails was raised so that the rails could be bolted to the hull of the *Arkansas*, and local planters opened their forges to the builders. On July 12, the work was completed and Brown steered the ship down the Yazoo and into the Mississippi.

The *Arkansas* came out of the Yazoo with guns blazing. She ran off three Union ships, inflicting heavy damage on two of them, and ran a gauntlet of 16 Union ships, damaging several as she slipped down the river toward Vicksburg, Mississippi. The Union commander, Admiral David Farragut, was furious that a single ship could cause so much damage to his flotilla, so he sent his ships in pursuit of the Confederate menace. At dusk, Farragut marked the position of the *Arkansas* as it lay anchored at Vicksburg. In the dark, he sent his ships one by one past this position, and each ship fired a volley into the spot where the *Arkansas* should have been. But Brown had fooled the Yankees by moving his ship after dark.

The *Arkansas* sparred with two other Union ships on July 22, successfully running off the ships but suffering damage to her engines. The ship was ordered south to Baton Rouge on August 3 to support Confederate operations there, but the *Arkansas* suffered more engine problems and ran aground. While the crew worked on repairs, the U.S.S. *Essex* steamed up for a confrontation. The *Arkansas* set sail, but a propeller shaft broke and left the vessel circling helplessly. She ran aground again, and the crew blew up the ship before the *Essex* could move in for the kill. *Arkansas* was set on fire and destroyed by her crew after her engines broke down. The C.S.S. *Arkansas*, the most feared Confederate ironclad on the Mississippi River, is blown up by her crew after suffering mechanical problems during a battle with the U.S.S. *Essex* near Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Although the *Arkansas* was never defeated, unreliable engines doomed the craft to an early death. Her remains lie under a levee above Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Happy Birthday!

Camp Compatriots for September

Danny Brown - September 26

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 hosted 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 6:45pm 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