



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 2023*



Commander's Column

Greetings Fellow Compatriots,

I want to thank 1st Lt. Cmdr. Lee Duvall for filling in for me at the August meeting. I have talked to several members, and they said that Lee did a good job conducting the meeting, providing the meal and also giving a very interesting talk about Camp Chase, a Confederate soldiers' prison camp in Columbus, Ohio.

We had an Officers' Meeting on August 18 to collect Camp members' dues and discuss getting in contact with any member who had not paid yet. Thank you so much to those who have renewed their memberships and for being faithful to the SCV and your Camp. We lost one member, Michael Allen. He said that he is still interested in the SCV, but he decided that he would not be able to renew his membership at this time

Since the first Monday in September is Labor Day, we will meet on the second Monday, September 11th at 6:30pm at the Aiken County Historical Museum. Our speaker will be General Martin W. Gary Camp #1532 member Tom Plowden. He always gives a very good talk. Danny Brown will be providing the meal. So, come out, hear a great presentation, and support your Camp.

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.”



R
E
M
E
M
B
E
R

I
T

I
S

Y
O
U
R

D
U
T
Y

T
O

S
E
E

T
H
A
T

T
H
E

T
R
U
E

H
I
S
T
O
R
Y

O
F

T
H
E

S
O
U
T
H

I
S

P
R
E
S
E
N
T
E
D

T
O

F
U
T
U
R
E

G
E
N
E
R
A
T
I
O
N
S



1st Lieutenant Commander

2024 and 2025 National Reunions

Register NOW for the 2024 Reunion

Registration for the 2024 SCV National Reunion to be hosted by the Secession Camp #4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in North Charleston, SC. Next year will be the election of new National Officers. 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. No website information has been provided on the National SCV website.

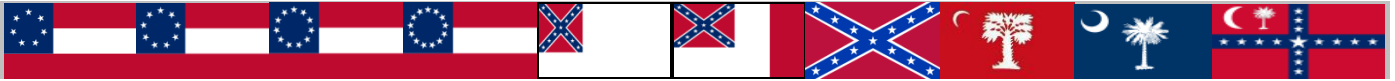
2nd Lieutenant Commander

A publication of the Archaeological Institute of America

Scientists identify bones found near Powder Magazine in Williamsburg as Confederate soldiers

Friday, August 25, 2023

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA—Colonial Williamsburg archaeologists have determined that the remains of 21 or 22 men found in a historic area of the city belong to Confederate soldiers, according to a report in the *Daily Press*. Archaeologists identified bones discovered in Colonial Williamsburg as belonging to Confederate soldiers. More than a year ago, scientists uncovered a mass grave near the Powder Magazine on Duke of Gloucester Street. The old building was once used to store guns in the 1700s. However, Dr. Jack Gary, the director of archaeology for Colonial Williamsburg, said researchers began studying the remains in March 2023. The men likely died in a Union-operated hospital established after the Battle of Williamsburg on May 5, 1862, during which there were 1,682 Confederate and 2,283 Union casualties. “Multiple buildings were taken over to be used as hospitals,” he said. That includes a Baptist church that once stood next to where the bones were found, and it may also be the link to identifying the buried soldiers. “The way we might be able to do that is through a list of named individuals who died in the hospital,” said Gary. The list of 59 names includes descriptions of patients who died, and scientists hope that what they learn from the bones will identify the soldiers. Scientists are looking to find out details such as the ages of the soldiers buried. The men’s remains will eventually be reburied, along with the artifacts found with them, including a snuff bottle, toothbrush, buttons, and gold coins. “I’m really happy we’re able to work toward identifying these guys (and) then provide some level to dignity” in their reburial, said Jack Gary.



The following pictures are courtesy of “*The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*”:



Gold Coins



Trouser Buckle



Vest or Jacket Button



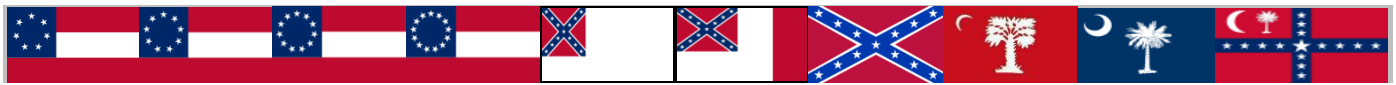
Toothbrush



Porcelain Snuff Bottle



Colonial Williamsburg Magazine Burials



By-Laws Committee

The By-Laws Committee Chairman has completed the changes to the Joe Wheeler By-Laws and the revised By-Laws were emailed to the Camp members. Lee Duvall, Chairman

Wheeler Coin Committee

The Wheeler Coins continue to sell well. Since last month, the Camp members have increased the sale of the coins from 112 to 122 coins. Lee Duvall, Chairman

Adjutant's Report

All monies have been paid to National and SC for the renewals. Thank you for being so prompt with paying your dues, so it could all be paid before the August 31 deadline. One member has decided to not renew his membership. We always hate to lose any members.

From the Chaplain's Desk



General Lee's last words have been recorded as "Strike the Tent." Many historians say that in his last moments he was thinking back on time he spent in service because just a while before saying "strike the tent" he was giving orders to Gen. Hill to come up. But I think that was not the case. Why do I think this. Because of the deep spiritual heart that Lee carried with him daily, I lean on the following thought. Lee was Episcopalian, and he had been to many funerals where the scripture of 2 Corinthians 5: 1-6 was quoted. Saying in certain translations, including the translation used by the Episcopalians the following.

(1) "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2) For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven. (3) if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. (4) For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. (5) Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. (6) So, we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord.

Lee knew his time was up as he lay there on his death-bed. Lee also knew that as long as his spirit called his earthly body (or tent) home that he would be absent from the Lord. Lee was ready to meet his Lord, so he asked the Lord in his last breath to "strike the tent." In other words, to remove or take this earthly home (this earthly body) down so he could experience a new home in heaven.

Brothers, will you be ready to strike this earthly tent as Lee did when your time comes? If you're not sure, let's talk. Blessed be His Name, 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, Eddie Rodgers & Joe and Brenda Willis



Letter from General Nathan B. Forrest to His Son William Montgomery Forrest

William Montgomery Forrest was the son of General Nathan B. Forrest. The following page contains the only known picture of William in a Confederate uniform, he was 14 when the war started. He attempted to join the Tennessee Mounted rifles with his father, but his age disallowed him. He would later join his father's command and was on his staff. By age 18, he had been wounded three times in combat ...one at Fort Donelson, the battle of Harrisburg (Tupelo) and Spring Hill Tennessee.

By the end of the war near Gainesville Alabama, General Forrest fearing he was going to be killed wrote his son Willie a letter as a guide for him to live by.... I quote. "What I must desire of you my son, is to never gamble or swear. These are baneful vices and I trust you will never practice either. As I grow older, I see the folly of these vices and beg that you will never engage in them. Your life has heretofore been elevated and characterized to a high tone morality, and I trust your name will never be stained by the practice of those vices which have blighted the prospects of some of the most promising youth of our country. Be honest, be truthful in all your dealings with the world. Be cautious of the selection of your friends. Shun the society of the low and vulgar. Strive to elevate your character and to take a high and honorable position in society. You are my only child, the pride and hope of my life. You have fine intellect, talent of the highest order. I have watched your entrance on the threshold of manhood and life with all the admiration of a proud father, and I trust your future career will be an honor to yourself and a solace to my declining years. If we meet no more on earth, I hope you will keep this letter prominently before you and remember it as coming from your affectionate father."

Willie would later graduate from the University of Mississippi and have four children.



William Montgomery Forrest

Happy Birthday!

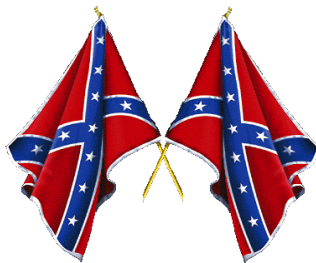
Camp Compatriots for September

Danny Brown - September 26

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

- September 11, October 2, November 6 and December 4 camp meetings will be held at the Aiken County Historical Museum at 6:30pm.
- 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