



# 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    November 2022*

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## *Commander's Column*

Greetings Compatriots,

If you missed last month's meeting then you really missed a great presentation on what happened during the re-construction years in the town of Hamburg, S.C. Dan Reese gave us a fact-filled and interesting account of what is known today as the Hamburg Riots. Thanks, Dan, for all of your hard work in researching this story and bringing the truth to the light.

We are still short of the \$200 goal for our missionary ministries fund to be given out at our January Prayer Breakfast, so if you haven't had a chance to give, you can do so at our November meeting.

Please circle December 17<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for our Wreaths Across America Service at 3:00pm in Bethany Cemetery. Let's all come out in support of all of our veterans.

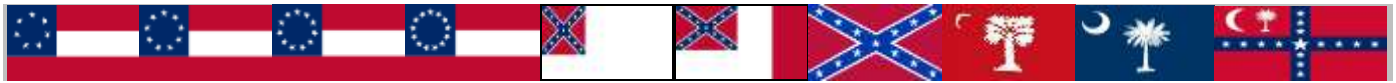
As soon as the S.C. Division lets us know when they are going to reschedule the Jack Marlar "Memorial Bench Dedication", to be held at the historic Secession Park in Abbeville, S.C., I will let you know. They had to postpone the event due to the fact that the material for making the bench was delayed at the factory.

Lee Duvall will be giving us a short history on the song "Dixie" at our November meeting. We will also be serving hotdogs and homemade chili for a meal. Please try and be at the museum at **6:30pm**. This will give us time to eat and promptly start our business meeting at 7pm. We have a good deal of things to cover that deal with new officers, the direction of our Camp and our financial opportunities from a fund-raising idea that the Wheeler Camp Fund Raising Committee has been working on for months for your approval. The proceeds from this fund raiser will go toward another Historical Project and other Camp needs. Also, if anyone wishes to serve as an officer in some capacity or switch to another position, please let me know before the meeting. You can reach me at 803-522-0180.

Once again thank you all for being dedicated to this Camp and the Cause of preserving, promoting, and honoring all things Southern.

Sincerely, Ken

**"Remember, Confederate soldiers never die until they are forgotten."**



## *1<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. To register, please visit the Reunion website, <https://www.2023scvreunion.org/>.

See you on **November 7<sup>th</sup>** at 6:45pm at the Aiken County Historical Museum for our next camp meeting. I will be speaking on a short history on the song "Dixie". Also, we'll be electing Camp Officers for the 2023-2024 term. See you there.

## *2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander*

While returning to Aiken from a trip to west Tennessee where I visited my Confederate ancestor's graves, I was listening on the radio songs from the 70's; it takes me back to my younger years when music was understandable and not so loud. Casey Kasem Top 40 Hits came on for the week of October 2, 1971. The #3 most popular song of that week was Joan Baez's version of the song "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down". The song is set sometime in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and tells the story of a Tennessee man looking back on the Confederacy during the last year of the War for Southern Independence, when Union Major General George Stoneman (his West Point roommate was Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson) was raiding southwest Virginia attacking the railroad lines of Danville, Virginia. In many ways this is a sad song, but tells the story of the times of the war. The song appeared at number 245 on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest songs of all time. You will never again hear a song as popular about Dixie.

### **The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down Song by Joan Baez**

Virgil Caine is my name and I drove on the Danville train  
'Til so much cavalry came and tore up the tracks again  
In the winter of '65, we were hungry, just barely alive  
I took the train to Richmond that fell  
It was a time I remember, oh so well  
The night they drove old Dixie down  
And all the bells were ringin'  
The night they drove old Dixie down  
And all the people were singin'  
They went, "Na, na-na-na, na-na"  
"Na, na, na-na, na-na, na-na-na"  
Back with my wife in Tennessee and one day she said to me  
"Virgil, quick, come see, there goes Robert E. Lee"  
Now, I don't mind, I'm chopping wood  
And I don't care if the money's no good  
Just take what you need and leave the rest  
But they should never have taken the very best  
The night they drove old Dixie down  
And all the bells were ringin'  
The night they drove old Dixie down  
And all the people were singin'



They went, "Na, na-na-na, na-na"  
"Na, na, na-na, na-na, na-na-na"  
Like my father before me, I'm a workin' man  
And like my brother before me, I took a rebel stand  
Well, he was just eighteen, proud and brave  
But a yankee laid him in his grave  
I swear by the blood below my feet  
You can't raise the Cain back up when it's in defeat  
The night they drove old Dixie down  
And all the bells were ringin'  
The night they drove old Dixie down  
And all the people were singin'  
They went, "Na, na-na-na, na-na"  
"Na, na, na-na, na-na, na-na-na"

### *Adjutant's Report*

We had a very good educational meeting on Monday night Oct. 3 with Dan Reese's presentation on the "True Story of What Happened at Old Hamburg in July 1876". We had 8 members, one guest and two perspective members in attendance. We want to give a warm welcome to Kevin Kerr and Chadd Hett for attending the meeting and are looking forward to them joining our camp.

### *From the Chaplain's Desk*



### **Victory Over Temptation**

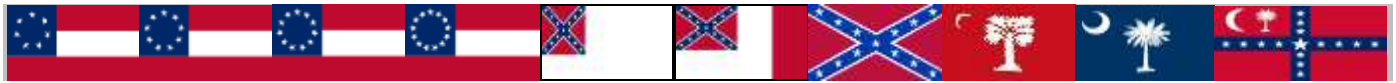
(from the Billy Graham Daily Devotional Archives)

God never promised to remove temptation from us, for even Christ was subject to it. The Bible says that "He was tested in all things, like as we, yet without sin." There is no good reason why you should seek to escape, for such times of testing have beneficial effects. There is a sense of achievement and assurance that results from victory over temptation that cannot come to us otherwise.

Temptation shows what people really are. It does not make us Christian or un-Christian. It does make the Christian stronger and causes him to discover resources of power. You can benefit from what might be tragedy, if you will only discover that in just such a time of temptation, Christ can become more real to you than ever, and His salvation will become more meaningful.

**Romans 5: 3-5 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

In all times of temptation, may we remember Your example, Lord Jesus.



**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

## **Excerpt from Confederate Veteran January, 1893**

### **The Old Virginia Town, Lexington**

#### **The unveiling of General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson statue.**

At the signal little Julia Jackson Christian pulled the cord, and the magnificent figure of the Christian soldier stood as if in life, mid the shouts of thousands who followed him to the death, and other thousands of women, maidens and you men who had grown up in the faith that a greater soldier than Stonewall Jackson had never gone to battle. The bright child who exclaimed "I underveiled it," was frightened by the noise of cannon, musketry and human voices that followed her act.

The hospitality of the people was remarkable. The pride and gratitude that their little town among the hills was the home and the burial place of Lee and Jackson was enough to bestir the entire people to the utmost to make every visitor a guest. The writer was fortunately assigned to the delightful home of Mr. McDowell.

Every old soldier present must have wished that he had served under Stonewall Jackson. The Negro men of the town who had the honor of being taught by him in his Sunday school, when boys were proud of it. One practical old man of the town, in commenting upon him as teacher at the Institute, said he was never proud of him until the Sunday that he started for the war. Then, dressed in military uniform, with spurs and on horseback, he seemed to be exactly in the proper place.

### **Susan Lee's Presentations on the History of the Virginia Flaggers**

Susan Lee, founder of the Virginia Flaggers, came to three South Carolina camps (SC 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment Hilda Camp #2069 on Oct. 17, Rivers Bridge Camp #842 on Oct. 18 and the Fort Sumter Camp #1269 on Oct. 20) to talk about the history of the Virginia Flaggers. She is a very enthusiastic person for the Confederate Cause and not afraid to express it to anyone. During her presentation, she showed slides of the 34 mega Confederate Battle Flags that the Virginia Flaggers have raised across Virginia, and she told some very interesting stories.

One story was about the Confederate Flag in front of the Last Capitol of the Confederacy in Danville, VA. The authorities decided to remove it because it was too controversial. She warned them of the consequences that might happen if they removed it. The authorities removed it, and now there are 16 mega Confederate Battle Flags around Danville.

Another story that she told was about a couple from New Jersey who were thinking about moving to Danville. As a real estate agent was showing them around, they came across the first mega Battle Flag. The wife in the back seat whispered to her husband in the front seat, and he asked the agent about the flag. The agent said it is about history, and it is controversial. A few minutes later they passed a second mega Battle Flag. The wife whispered to her husband. The husband asked the agent about the flag. The agent



told them that it is about history, and it is controversial. When they passed the third mega Battle Flag, the husband told the agent to turn around and that they were no longer interested in moving to Danville. This proves that the Battle Flag is not only beautiful, but a deterrent to yankees.

The Virginia Flaggers have a shop to buy Confederate items: <https://www.shopvaflaggers.com/shop>

## **JUSTICE TO THE SOUTH-TRUE HISTORY**

### **From the November 1893 Issue of Confederate Veteran**

Arthur Marshall, of Springfield. Mo., responds to a subscriber who wants facts as to the causes of the war. He uses quotations from Northern speakers in his introduction that are admitted. He repudiates the language of partisans at the North, one of whom said: "The war has civilized the South where all was crimes and fetters," and continues: The South planned first the cooperation and consolidation of the Colonies; Patrick Henry sounded the key note of Independence; Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration; a Southern Colony emblazoned first on her standard, " Virginia for Constitutional Liberty." A Southerner led the armies of the Revolution to victory, and it was Southern intellect and patriotism that planned the Federal Constitution, and finally brought about consolidation. To the South is due that Texas is not now a hostile government: that Louisiana is not a French republic, and that the majestic Mississippi is all in our own land. The old South led in the council chamber, in the field, and to battle. How can the Northern people bring charges so infamous against such a record of loyalty and patriotism?

The South was not responsible for slavery nor eager for its perpetuation. The first nation on the civilized globe to protest against it as monstrous was a Southern Colony. Virginia twenty-three times protested to the Crown in public acts of her Assembly, and in 1778 passed a law absolutely forbidding the further importation of slaves.

On the other hand, slavery received its first legislative sanction by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The prohibition of the slave trade was finally brought about through the influence of President Jefferson and the active efforts of the Virginians.

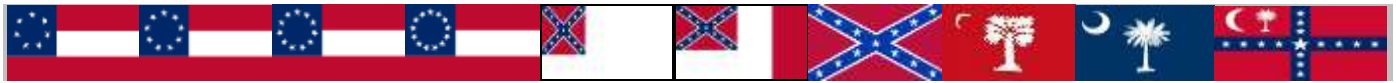
The North led with plans of gradual emancipation, slavery was not profitable there; but in the South as well, societies for abolition and colonization were organized. Naturally the South moved slowly, for to her people the problem was a vital one, the number of slaves in Virginia alone being seven times as great as in the entire North.

Civil war was the result. The North had the backing of the resources and sentiment of the world, besides overwhelming odds in battle; and for four years the South baffled an army that could have withstood the universe.

The war left the South exhausted to the last degree. The ragged, half-starved Confederate soldier, crushed with defeat, returned to his once happy and beautiful home to find his house in ruins, his farm devastated, his slaves free, his stock killed, his barns empty, his trade destroyed, and his money worthless.

The North took advantage of this helpless condition, and under the euphemism of reconstruction made an attempt to destroy the South. She was dismembered, disfranchised, denationalized, and turned into military provinces. Besides the war having rendered to the torch and sword three billion dollars' worth of property, she has been robbed from her poverty of a billion dollars in twenty years to pension Northern soldiers. Thomas Nelson Page is reported to have made this strong statement: "It was intended that the





South should be no more." But God called her forth with the old spirit; she resumed her youth like the eagle, fixed her gaze upon the sun, and once more spreading her pinions, lifted herself for another flight.

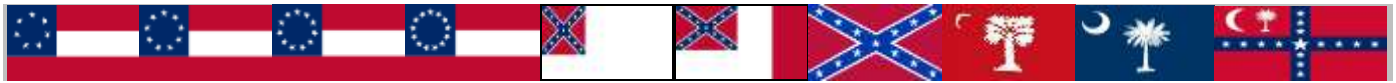
Steps must be taken to preserve from oblivion, or worse, from misrepresentation, a civilization which produced, as its natural fruit, Washington and Jefferson, Lee and Jackson. Their stories must be told and their deeds must be sung through the ages — not what its enemies thought it to be, but what in truth it was.

We are not willing to be handed down to the coming generation as a race of slave-drivers and traitors. So let the North lay aside her prejudice and hatred, and seek the truth instead. She should reveal that the Cavalier, as well as the Puritan, was on the continent from the earliest days, and has been the most conspicuous element in its progress and its freedom. She should admit that the South has a heart of feeling and honor, and is worthy of justice.

### MEGA CONFEDERATE FLAG RAISING IN SPARTANBURG, SC

**Congratulations to the Ballenger Camp #68 for their completion of the spectacular flag raising ceremony on Saturday Oct. 22. The day was beautiful, and the 30' x 50' Battle Flag was so magnificent to watch as it slowly was raised up to the top of a 120' flag pole. It really gave you goose bumps and so much pride in the Cause which we all believe in and are fighting for. Nathan Oxner and Blake Moore represented the General Joe Wheeler Camp and they really enjoyed the celebration.**





# Happy Birthday!

## Camp Compatriots for November

No Camp birthdays in November!

### Camp Officers

Ken Temples – Commander  
Lee Duvall – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander  
Blake Moore – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander  
Danny Brown - Adjutant

Bob Ritter - Treasurer  
Mark LeGrand – Chaplain  
Nathan Oxner – Color Sergeant

HAVE A VERY BLESSED THANKSGIVING AND REMEMBER THE ONE THAT PROVIDES IT ALL. **GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!!**

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 100





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 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 6:45pm with no camp meeting in February or July. The camp meeting is on the second Monday in September due to Labor Day. The Prayer Breakfast in January is our regular meeting for the month.

**MEETING PLACE:** Aiken County Historical Museum, 433 Newberry St. SW, Aiken, SC 29801

**For additional information contact: [scscv1245@gmail.com](mailto:scscv1245@gmail.com)**