



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 December 2022*



Commander's Column

Greetings fellow Compatriots,

Hope this, my last Commander's Column, finds each of you doing fine. I hope you and your families had a great Thanksgiving. We are indeed a blessed people. Especially, here in the South.

Our November meeting was well attended, and Lee brought us a great reminder as to how our beloved song "Dixie" originated. Thank you Lee. I want to thank everyone who donated toward our Prayer Breakfast Missionary fund. Looking forward to meeting the well-deserved recipient.

Let's all do our best to have great Camp participation at our December 17th Wreaths Across America Service at Bethany Cemetery starting at 3 o'clock. We will have the largest number of wreaths ever.

Our last meeting of 2022 will be a Christmas Celebration Camp meeting on December 5th and promises to be a fun meeting. Just bring one of your favorite dishes to add to our potluck menu. Also, bring a friend, wife or significant other along with you.

Can't wait to see the finished product on our Wheeler Camp Challenge coins. Thanks to the committee chaired by Lee Duvall for all their work toward this Camp fund raising project.

Also, thanks to the By-laws committee for their hard work in a complete update of our By-laws. We should be seeing the new and completed By-Laws soon.

- Congratulations to all of our new 2023/2024 - Wheeler Camp Officers
- Commander – Blake Moore
 - 1st Lt. Commander – Lee Duvall
 - 2nd Lt. Commander – Mark LeGrand
 - Adjutant – Danny Brown
 - Treasurer – Bob Ritter
 - Judge Advocate – Nick Ward
 - Chaplain – Ken Temples
 - Color Sgt. – Nathan Oxner
 - Newsletter Editor – Blake Moore

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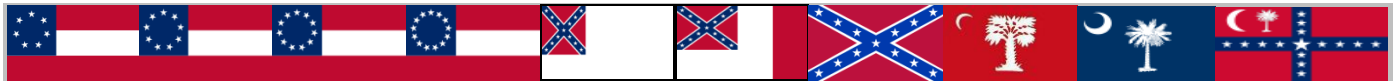
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It has been a great honor to have served this Camp as its Commander for the last two years. This Camp may be small, but it is large when it comes to honorable and hard - working men. You have made my job so easy, and I'm sure you will be faithful in your duties with Blake as our new Commander. Continue to forward the Colors as you live your lives, and let's grow this Camp in the coming years. **Merry Christmas** to you all and may Christ be glorified in all we do as a Camp and individually as proud Southerners. May God bless you all.

Sincerely, Ken

“Remember, Confederate soldiers never die until they are forgotten.”

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 **December 5th** at 6:45pm at the Aiken County Historical Museum for our Christmas “Potluck” meeting. See you there.



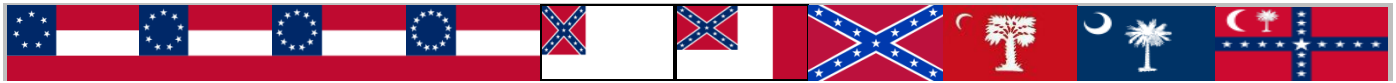
2nd Lieutenant Commander

Explorer finds rare Civil War relics on banks of drought-stricken Mississippi River

By FOX TV Digital Team, **Published** October 28, 2022, [Tennessee](#), [FOX TV Digital Team](#)



Photos shared by metal detectorist Riley Bryant, @relic.riley on Instagram, show a Civil War-era US Union box plate. (Photo credit: Riley Bryant)



A Memphis, Tennessee, history lover and relics collector made a fascinating discovery along the banks of a drought-stricken Mississippi River.

With river levels at record lows, Riley Bryant said the artifacts — a Civil War-era Union army cartridge box plate and bullets — were just sitting there among the rocks under the I-55 bridge waiting to be picked up.

"I knew what it was as soon as I saw it laying there in the mud. That feeling of first seeing it is one I will never forget!" he told FOX TV Stations. "Using a metal detector to find an artifact is one thing, but seeing one just laying in the mud after 160 years is nothing short of amazing."

Bryant, a 21-year-old college student who's been metal detecting and relic-hunting for more than 10 years, has collected and cataloged more than 75,000 artifacts from around the country. Among his other treasures are complete Civil War muskets and a rare, 1789 button commemorating George Washington becoming the first U.S. president.

The Civil War remnants were found near the former site of Fort Pickering, a military post originally established by the Confederacy in 1861.

Adjutant's Report

We had a short history on the song "Dixie" presented by Lee Duvall at our November meeting. A business meeting followed to elect new officers for the next two years. We had in attendance ten members, four guests and one perspective member, Chad Hett, who was voted on to join the camp. We are looking forward to Chad being an active member of our camp.

From the Chaplain's Desk



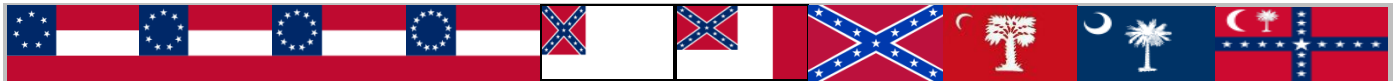
The Joy of Christmas

To Christians the joy of Christmas is not limited to His birth. It is built even more on the triumph of His death and resurrection - that gave meaning to His birth. The mysterious spirit of generosity which possesses us at Christmas is the afterglow of Calvary. The fact of the cross illuminates this day and hallows it. As we exchange our gifts, let us remember that they are symbolic of the unspeakable gift of God's love.

Billy Graham did not believe that Christians should be giving expensive gifts to each other. We should quietly give simple little gifts that are expressions of our love and devotion to the recipients. These gifts become symbolic of the gift of God's love. How much money could be saved and invested in the Kingdom of God by thousands of Christian families every year if the true meaning of Christmas was observed.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6

I pray that all of us will once again experience the joy of Christmas and comfort of our Lord ever present in our lives.



	<p>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</p>
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General R.E. Lee and Other Confederates DID NOT Commit Treason

One frequently hears purportedly informed sources as remarking that the Confederate leaders committed treason. These leaders did not commit treason. The simple reason is that the Confederates were not seeking to overthrow the United States or assist others to do so, nor to reform the United States, but to depart from the United States. The ensuing war was neither a Civil War nor a Revolution, but a war for Southern Independence. Since allegiance was no longer owed to the United States by the immanent "ex-pats" these men could not in contemplation of law be committing Treason.

Treason is defined in Webster's as: "the offense of attempting by overt acts to over throw the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance." The Constitution of the United States provides: "Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort."¹

Did the leaders of the Confederacy levy war against the United States or adhere to their Enemies within the meaning of the Constitution? Of course not.

President Lincoln, however, thought so, as in his First Inaugural Address he said: "I hold that in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution the union of these states is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments." The Constitution contains no provision that it is permanent. It provides that it may be amended, for instance. ²

It is precisely because the Constitution contains no irrevocability clause that many in the first half of the nineteenth century could applaud Daniel Webster's sentiment; "...liberty and union, now and inseparable...."³

In point of fact, no less than two states ratified the Constitution with a conditional proviso about a future rescission of ratification and nearly all with various levels of conditions requiring adoption of a Bill of Rights.

Lincoln went on: "*If* the United States be not a government proper, but an association of states in the nature of a contract merely, can it, as a contract, be peaceably unmade by less than all the parties who made it? One party to a contract may violate it – break it, so to speak - but does it not require all to lawfully rescind it?

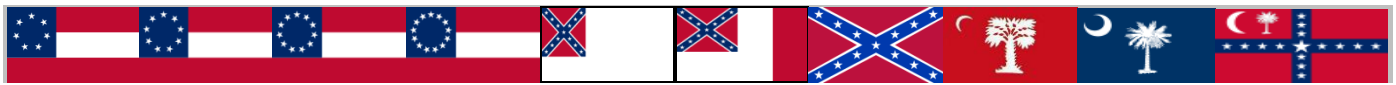
Did the President ignore the Article V which provides for amendments with less than unanimous approval of the states? A contract is terminable at the will of either party wherein there exists no provision for its termination by date or other means. Lincoln was, indeed, a poor lawyer!

In his next argument he proved to be a worse historian. He contends that: "The Union is much older than the Constitution."⁴ He argues that it was formed by the Articles of Confederation in 1774, but, of course,

¹ Article III, Section 3.

² Article V

³ Daniel Webster Second Reply to Senator Robert Y. Hayne of South Carolina, January 27, 1830.



the Articles of Confederation were not adopted in 1774 but were proposed November 15, 1777 and became effective after their unanimous adoption on March 1, 1781. Lincoln argues that since the Articles were ‘perpetual’⁵ that a constitution that sought a more perfect union would necessarily continue in that vein. But, again, the Constitution was not an amendment to the Articles, but a new replacement document. But in either case commonly accepted Rules or Canons of Construction dictate that when an amendment or restatement of a document is made contradictory to parts of the earlier document, those earlier parts are not retained in the new document unless actually included within the new document.⁶

If the Union may be deemed to have existed since the Second Continental Congress in 1774, then the States must be deemed to have existed since their founding long before 1774. In fact, such states as Connecticut operated continuously under a Charter granted in May 1662 until 1818 and Rhode Island operated continuously under its July 8, 1663 Charter until May 1843. Lincoln concluded his erroneous thinking by stating that “no state upon its own mere motion can lawfully get out of the Union.”

Lincoln was wrong on all counts. The Constitution was not created as an irrevocable document and a party to a contract of undefinable term may rescind unilaterally at any time and leave the contract. The South Carolina Declaration of Causes of Secession⁷ provides an additional prong, “We maintain that in every compact between two or more parties, the obligation is mutual; that the failure of one of the contracting parties to perform a material part of the agreement, entirely releases the obligation of the other; and that where no arbiter is provided, each party is remitted to his own judgment to determine the fact of failure, with all its consequences.”

Consequently, if the seceding states had a legal right to leave the Union, what were then the obligations of the citizens resident in the seceding states? The Constitution provides: “The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities in the several States.”⁸ When a state left the Union its citizens continued their allegiance to their state and to such sodalities to which their state might adhere.⁹ Their allegiance to the Union was terminated by their states having left the Union. Lincoln apparently completely forgot one of the principal reasons for the War of 1812; impressment. The British took the view that allegiance to the Crown is unalienable and irrevocable; that British tars in the United Kingdom’s *Navy could not renounce* their citizenship and become Americans. The Americans took the position that citizenship is revocable and the British tars could discard their subject status and become Americans at their will. To Lincoln, Southerners had fewer rights than impressed British seamen!¹⁰

The act of leaving the Union could not therefore constitute an act of treason for the seceding states were not levying War on the Union by the act of leaving nor giving Aid and comfort to the enemies of the Union. Lincoln sought to put the South in the position of having started a War by his construction of the Constitution as above stated, but that does not make it so. Therefore, Confederate leaders could not have committed treason against the United States as their allegiance remained with their states and was severed from the Union by the legal act of secession.

⁴ This canard was first uttered by Lincoln in his address at Cooper-Union on February 27, 1860.

⁵ Article XIII of The Articles of Confederation

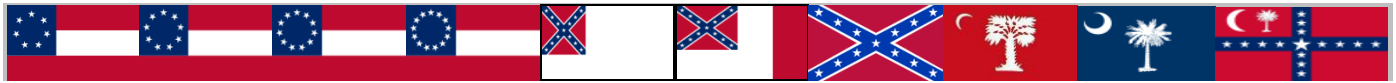
⁶ *Leges posteriores contrarias abrogant*, Subsequent laws repeal those before enacted to the contrary, aka ‘Last in Time.’

⁷ December 4, 1860

⁸ Article IV, Section 2

⁹ It is interesting to note that Amendment XIV to the Constitution in Section 1 provides; ‘ All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States *and of the State wherein they reside.* (Emphasis supplied)

¹⁰ Even today Americans may become ‘ex-pats;’ the only requirement is that they make a final payment to the I.R.S.



WHEN THE YANKEES COME!

A new “Wheeler Dispatch” Series

Excerpts from Paul Graham’s book WHEN THE YANKEES COME!

Former South Carolina Slaves Remember Sherman’s Invasion

As taken from the Slave Narratives from South Carolina Slaves
between 1936-1938 as part of Pres. Roosevelt’s “New Deal” Project.

SAMUEL BOULWARE, Columbia, Richland County. Age 82.

I remembers like yesterday, the Yankees coming along. Master tried to hide the best stuff on the plantation, but some of the slaves that helped him hide it, showed the Yankee soldiers just where it was, when they come there. They say: ‘Here is the stuff, hid here, because us put it there.’ Then the soldiers went straight to the place where the valuables was hid and dug them out and took them, it sure set old master down. Us slaves was sorry that day for master and mistress. They was getting old, and now they had lost all they had, and more than that, they knowed their slaves was set free. The soldiers took all the good horses, fat cattle, chickens, the meat in the smoke house, and then burnt all empty houses. They left the ones that folks lived in. The Yankees appear to me, to be looking for things to eat, more than anything else.

FANNIE GRIFFIN, Columbia, Richland County. Aged 94.

The worst time we ever had was when the Yankee men come thru. We had heard they was coming, and the missus tell us to put on a big pot of peas to cook, so we put some white peas in a big pot and put a whole ham in it, so that we’d have plenty for the Yankees to eat. Then when they come, they kicked the pot over and the peas went one way and the ham another. The Yankees destroyed almost everything we had. They come in the house and told the missus to give them her money and jewels. She started crying and told them she ain’t got no money or jewels, excepting the ring she had on her finger. They got awfully mad and started destroying everything. They took the cows and horses, burned the gin, the barn, and all the houses except the one master and missus was living in. They didn’t leave us a thing except some big hominy and two banks of sweet potatoes. We chipped up some sweet potatoes and dried them in the sun, then we parched them and ground them up and thats what we had to use for coffee. It taste pretty good too. For a good while we just live on hominy and coffee.

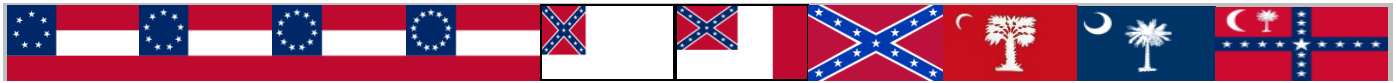
Camp Compatriots for December

No Camp birthdays in December!

2021-2022 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
Nicholas Ward – Judge Advocate



From the Confederate Legion Fighting for Truth

December 2022 Issue

By Ron Kennedy, Chief of Heritage Defense

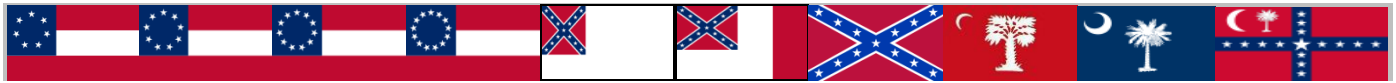
An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

Your Camp Must Become A Local Pro-Confederate Agent of Influence

The recent mid-term elections demonstrated that those who hate traditional conservative values on which our Western Christian Civilization is founded have an endless supply of money to fund their hate filled campaigns. This is true whether they are pushing gender reassignment surgery for minors or pulling down Confederate monuments. They have the financial advantage BUT we have something more important, something that can overcome their paid propagandists. We have the truth and the “home field advantage.” We have a population that by a margin of 65 to 70% still believe in their Southern heritage. Our job is to activate that inactive pool of local supporters. We do that at the camp level. We do it by becoming local agents of pro-Confederate influence. The idea that local camps must “network” with local civic clubs, religious leaders, and elected officials is not new. When Carl Jones of Alabama was Heritage Chief, he penned several articles in the Confederate Veteran urging camps to network with local civic leaders. Numerous C-i-Cs have also urged camps to contact and join local civic clubs. Six years ago, the Chief of Heritage Operations, acting on the orders of the then C-i-C Grambling, initiated Confederate Counter Attacks in which the CL sends out information every two to three months about a “Confederate” topic. The CL provides templates of letter that can be downloaded, modified if desired, and sent to local agents of influence. We have radio ads, videos, and letters that can be used to inform the public about who we are and what we stand for. Heritage promotion should be among the first items on the agenda of every camp meeting. The SCV has purchased the service of One Click Politics to assist members in contacting their elected national and state representatives. For example, if there is a move in Congress to remove monuments in National Parks, with one click our members will be able to send a personalized message to their Representatives and Senators. The system looks up the email address and send you message. It also works for state legislators. If our members use this system, it will help to create impressive political clout for the SCV.

The Confederate Legion— The Sons of Confederate Veterans Action Arm

The Chief of Heritage Promotions recently received an e-mail questioning why I described the Confederate Legion as the “action arm of the SCV.” His thought was that the entire SCV should be the “action arm.” He makes a good point as far as it goes. But running the business part of the SCV is the primary function of National Headquarters. As most military folks understand, it takes many more soldiers working the logistical support than the number of soldiers on the front line doing the actual fighting. It takes four to five noncombatants to support and supply one soldier on the firing line. If you look at a successful business operation you find that the “overhead” produces nothing to sale in the marketplace, yet it takes a major portion of the budget to finance its activities. In other words, it takes a lot of support to keep a few folks out on the streets or on the sales floor, but the business rises or falls on the activity of those few folks in the sales department. “Overhead” folks must do their job to allow the sales folks to be successful. National HQ via the General Executive Council spends a good bit of its time dealing with monument protection legal matters, financial issues, and confidential matters that must be handled in executive session. The HQ staff spend a lot of time dealing with membership issues. Volunteers, spend a lot of time working at Elm Springs, the National



Confederate Museum, and beautifying the grounds. The SCV created the Confederate Legion to provide local camps with the tools necessary to transform local, passive, supporters into active supporters who will come to the defense of our honorable Confederate Heritage.

Your Local Agents of Influence

It is not enough for SCV members to know the truth about our honorable Southern heritage—to vindicate the Cause SCV members must make sure folks in our community know the truth. And knowing the truth, our friends and neighbors will speak-up in the defense of their Southern heritage. Making consistent contact via e-mail, standard mail, and personal discussion with leaders and members of local agents of influence will eventually create a mass of supporters who will be willing to stand-up for their Southern heritage even if they are not members of the SCV. Below are examples of local agents of influence in your community. Local civic clubs • American Legion/VFW • Rotary Clubs • Kiwanis Clubs • Historical Societies • Knights of Columbus • Local Chamber of Commerce • Local religious leaders • Local elected political officials Don't expect immediate results. The key is to be polite and continue your efforts to communicate with local agents of influence. You may get an invitation to speak at one of their meetings. Persistency will pay off.

Question for Folks Seeking Financial Support to File a Monument Protection Lawsuit

I had a close friend, an attorney, and a long time SCV member from Mississippi. He has now crossed the river and is resting on the other shore. He would often remind the Kennedy Twins that “The South did not come out of Reconstruction by filing lawsuits. It took an organized effort to regain local political control of our society.” His observation was not one of a lawyer but more attuned to that of a revolutionary. He was correct. He understood that our enemies can start more legal actions than we can afford to fight. Our enemies have an almost endless supply of dollars to spend while we are very limited— even though we have managed to raise hundreds of thousand dollars to pay for the legal defense of various monuments—and a few lawsuits have been successful, at least in the short run. There are two major problems with relying exclusively on filing lawsuits as our primary means to protect our Southern heritage. First, lawsuits are very expensive even though we have many attorneys who have contributed large portions of their otherwise “billable” hours to working for the SCV for free or at a greatly reduced rate. To those attorneys we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude. But at some point, it becomes difficult if not impossible to finance all the lawsuits that confront us. Second, even if we win, our enemies do not accept their legal defeat—they appeal and/or come back with new actions later. They have almost unlimited resources. And remember, the Federal Courts belong to the same country that invaded, conquered, and occupied the South—they have a built-in bias against the South. State judges are elected and tend to avoid controversial stands that may hurt their re-election efforts. Filing lawsuits are an important tactical effort but lawsuits will never produce the strategic victory necessary to protect and (more importantly) promote our Southern heritage. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We have witnessed parishes/counties that votes conservative in every election and whose governing body is predominately “conservative” Republican, yet they aligned themselves with BLM, Antifa, and the Woke mobs by voting to remove Confederate monuments. Beginning in 2023 anyone who ask for financial support from the National SCV for a lawsuit will be asked by the Lt. Commander-in-Chief and the Chief of Heritage Promotions, “What have you done over the past few years to inform your local population, your local civic, religious, and political leaders about our honorable Southern heritage? What have you done to create massive local popular support for Southern heritage?” An ounce of prevention!



*5th Annual Wreaths Across
America Service*



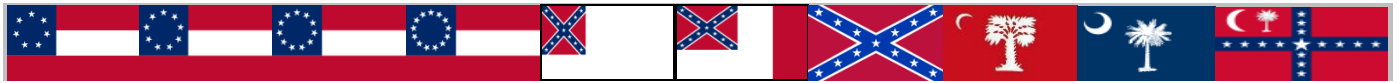
*Hosted jointly by The General Joe Wheeler Camp #1245 SCV
along with other Historical Organizations
honoring our Confederate Veterans
as well as all other Veterans
at the Bethany Cemetery (corner of Laurens St. and Hampton Ave.)
Confederate Dead Section Memorial
December 17th, 2022 at 3:00PM*

REMEMBER
our fallen veterans.

HONOR
those who served.

TEACH
the true history.

Period attire is encouraged and bring your own chair.



16th Annual Western Carolina SC Division Prayer Breakfast

General Joe Wheeler Camp #1245 Aiken, SC

Dear SCV Compatriots, UDC, OCR and Friends,

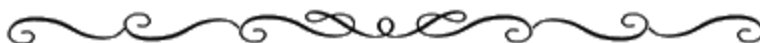
The Wheeler Camp would like to extend to you, your family and friends an invitation to our 16th Annual Western Carolina SC Division Prayer Breakfast.

Our Prayer Breakfast will be held in the Aiken County Historical Museum located at 433 Newberry St. SW in Aiken, SC

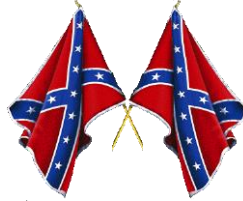
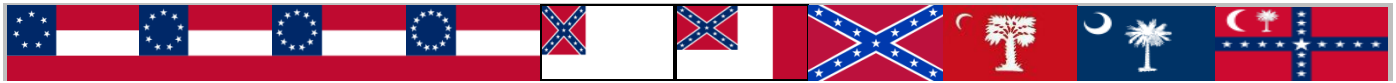
On Saturday January 21, 2023

We will begin at 9:00AM for breakfast and Christian fellowship.

Our speaker will be Dr. Paul Noe, Pastor of Sweetwater Baptist Church, North Augusta, SC



**Everything is free, the food, the fellowship and the Blessing!
The Wheeler Camp is looking forward to seeing you at the Prayer Breakfast.**



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 on February 11, 1865. Wheeler is known as the Savior of Aiken.

2022 Camp Activities

- 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.

2023 Camp Activities

- Jan. – The Western Carolina SC Division Prayer Breakfast scheduled on Saturday Jan. 21, 2023 at 9:00AM at the Aiken County Historical Museum.
- April – The Wheeler Camp Annual Ladies' Night is scheduled on Friday April 7, 2023 at 6:30PM at the Outing Club.
- May – The Wheeler Camp will host the Aiken County Confederate Memorial Day Service on Sunday May 7, 2023 at 3:00PM in Bethany Cemetery.
- Dec. – The Wheeler Camp will host the Wreaths Across America Service on Saturday Dec. 16, 2023 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 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