



Rebel Underground

**Sons of Confederate Veterans
Major John C. Hutto Camp #443
Jasper, Alabama**

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December 2025

The Major John C. Hutto Camp's December Camp Meeting
will be in Jasper, Alabama on
Sunday 21 December 2025 at 2:00 pm

Program for December is by Jeremy Booth

**THE PRESIDENT
IN ALABAMA**
Flying Trip to Tuskegee and the
Confederacy's First Capital.
RECEIVED HEARTY WELCOME
From the Rostrum Where More Than a Third of a Century
Ago the Leader of a Lost Cause Accepted the Trust,
the Ruler of a Reunited Country De-
livered an Address.
BY SEWELL HAGGARD
MONTGOMERY, December 16.—(Special).—The president and his cabinet made a
flying trip to the state of Alabama today. During the early morning hours
in a special train he crossed the borders from Georgia, and before nightfall he
had returned.
The president and his guests had the pleasure of first visiting one of the greatest
negro educational institutions in the world, under the management of the noted
Booker T. Washington, at Tuskegee. Here they witnessed the work being done in
the south to uphold the African race, mentally, morally and industriously. From
the expressions of opinion from the presidential party the sight that met their gaze
here must have been a revelation.



On this day:
President McKinley visited Alabama at the request of
Booker T. Washington
by
The Art of Alabama Politics
Yellowhammer News
Encyclopedia of Alabama

On December 16, 1898 – 127 years ago today – Republican President William McKinley visited Alabama's Tuskegee Institute at the request of founder Booker T. Washington.

Editor's note: U.S. President William McKinley, in an 1898 speech, said it was the responsibility of the federal government to mark and preserve Confederate graves, in light of national sentiment following the Spanish-American War.

In 1906, Congress passed Public Act No. 38, "to provide for the appropriate marking of the graves of the soldiers and sailors of the Confederate army and navy who died in Northern prisons and were buried near the prisons where they died, and for other purposes." Public Act No. 38 was the first of three laws that would secure full veteran's rights for Confederate War Veterans.

Most government web pages explaining this has been scrubbed from the Internet. History.com web page on [*The Battle of San Juan Hill*](#) ¶4, does not mention Gen. Joseph Wheeler's name. U.S. General William Shafter is given the credit for storming San Juan Hill, and when the order was given by Lieutenant John Miley that "the heights must be taken at all hazards," the Rough Riders led the charge up the hills. The Rough Riders and the black soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalry regiments were the first up Kettle Hill, and San Juan Hill was taken soon after. (accessed 17 December 2025)

The president arrived in Tuskegee aboard special trains from Atlanta with his family, members of his cabinet, and U.S. Army General Joseph Wheeler, an Alabamian who had previously served as a general in the Confederate Army, and was Teddy Roosevelt's commander during the Spanish American War. Storming up San Juan hill General Joseph Wheeler commanded his troops, "Come on boys, we got the Yankees on the run."

General Joseph Wheeler, a former Confederate cavalry commander, played a key role in the storming of San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War, commanding the division that included Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders; though ill, the sound of battle drew him to the front where he issued orders for the attack, securing the heights that led to Santiago's fall and becoming a symbol of national reconciliation.

Wheeler's Role at San Juan Hill:

Command: Wheeler was the senior officer in command of the cavalry division that spearheaded the assault on the San Juan Heights.

Illness & Return: He was sick with malaria at the start of the battle but returned to the front lines when fighting began, unable to stay away from the action.

Orders for Attack: Despite his poor health, he was the senior officer present and gave the crucial orders that led to the successful charge up the hill.

Holding the Heights: After capturing the position, Wheeler assured his superiors that the heights could be held, preventing a Spanish counterattack.



Confederate to American Symbol: Wheeler's participation, alongside younger soldiers like Roosevelt, symbolized the "Reconciliation" of the North and South after the Civil War, as noted by an Encyclopedia of Alabama article.

During President McKinley's visit to Alabama, Tuskegee Institute received the president along with Gov. Joseph Johnston, the entire Alabama Legislature, and a crowd of more than 6,000.

The president toured the school grounds and witnessed a parade before speaking in the school's chapel. During his speech, McKinley noted the enduring legacy of the college and the progress it had made in sowing the "seeds of good citizenship."

Yellowhammer's portion of this story originally appeared in The Art of Alabama Politics, an outlet dedicated to the wild, weird, and wonderful history of Alabama politics.

HUTTO CAMP OFFICERS

Commander	James R. Blackston
1 st Lt. Cmd	Trent Harris
2nd Lt. Cmd	Jeremy Jackson
Adjutant.	John McGraw
Chaplain	Larry Elliott
Judge Advocate	Cherokee Brasher
Communications	Tony Pennington
Facebook	Brandon Prescott - Jeremy Jackson
Quartermaster	Billy Kinchelow
Flag Committee Chairman	Trent Harris
Newsletter Editor	James Blackston

Website: www.huttocamp.com

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The Rebel Underground is dedicated to bringing our readers the very best of important news concerning Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We are not ashamed of our Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We dare to defend our rights.