

*July 2008*

**Commander's column – by Nick Posey**



The Georgia Division Reunion in Villa Rica on June 14th went very well for Camp #158. We were well represented at the reunion with fourteen members in attendance; eleven of those were voting delegates during the business session. I want to thank every member that gave up his Saturday to attend this reunion to take care of important Division business. This was probably the longest reunion ever. It started at 9:00 a.m. and ended after 6:00 p.m. Reunions are usually over by 2:30 or 3:00. This reunion was especially important to Camp #158 because of a vote by Division membership to award funding for various camp projects. Our project, as you know, was the Confederate Powder Works Chimney restoration.

The money awarded by the Georgia Division to fund these preservation projects came from state tag funds. According to a law recently passed by the legislature, any organization that has a specialty tag issued by the state is eligible to receive \$10.00 in revenue per tag, for each of that organization's specialty tags purchased for a vehicle in the state of Georgia. There are certain restrictions on this money, which permit it to be used only for educational or historic preservation type projects. I believe

the total amount of tag fund money available at the reunion for funding camp projects was close to \$100,000.

Camp #158 submitted a project funding application requesting a grant of \$42,000 from the Georgia Division for our chimney restoration project. A project, in order to be funded, had to receive a minimum of 40% of votes cast by the delegates. Each delegate could vote for up to three projects listed on the ballot. When the votes were counted, our project received 201 votes, or 78%, which was the highest number received for the ten projects on the ballot. I believe there were 258 voting delegates at the reunion. Four other projects also received funding.

Another item of importance at the reunion was the election of Division officers. There was a change of the top three officers in our Division leadership. We now have a new Division Commander, Jack Bridwell; a new Division Lt. Commander North, Joel Coleman, and; a new Division Lt. Commander South, Gary Ursery. Division Adjutant Tom Brown was unopposed and Judge Advocate Martin K. O'Toole was re-elected.

**We will not have a monthly camp meeting during the month of July, due to Sconyers being closed for two weeks after July 4th.** Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 14th, at 7:00 p.m. at Sconyers.

**Dues Information** - Annual SCV membership dues for the new membership year will be due starting August 1st. SCV National dues are scheduled to increase \$10.00 at the start of the new membership year, which means our annual Camp #158 dues will increase from \$41.00 to \$51.00 per year. If you would like to save \$10.00 on next year's dues, they can be paid before August 1st at the \$41.00 rate. Dues must be sent to the Adjutant and must be mailed & postmarked by July 31st to SCV National Headquarters. If you plan to take advantage of this \$10.00 savings, get your dues to the Adjutant ASAP. If you have questions about dues, Adjutant Perry Herron can be reached at 803-613-1246. Mail dues to this address:

**Adjutant Perry Herron**  
**1002 McKenzie Street**  
**North Augusta, SC 29841**

**Sons of Confederate Veteran's Websites**  
**B/G E. Porter Alexander Camp #158:**  
<http://www.eporteralexander.homestead.com/Index.html>

**Georgia Division SCV Website:**

<http://www.georgiascv.com/>

**SCV National Website:**

<http://www.scv.org/>

**SCV News Blog**

[www.sonsofconfederateveterans.blogspot.com](http://www.sonsofconfederateveterans.blogspot.com)

### \*\*\*\*\*Announcements\*\*\*\*\*

■ **THERE WILL NOT BE A CAMP MEETING DURING THE MONTH OF JULY. Sconyers Bar-B-Que Restaurant will be closed starting Saturday, July 5th and doesn't reopen until Thursday, July 24th.**

■ **Saturday, August 2nd – Magnolia Cemetery Workday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

■ **Thursday, August 14th – Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 will meet at Sconyers Bar-B-Que Restaurant at 7:00 p.m. Speaker to be announced later.**

■ **Saturday, September 6th – Magnolia Cemetery Workday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

■ **Thursday, September 11th – Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 will meet at Sconyers Bar-B-Que Restaurant at 7:00 p.m. Speaker to be announced later.**

### *Scripture for thought...*

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; - **Romans 3:23**

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; - **Acts 3:19**

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. - **Mark 16: 16**

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. - **Proverbs 3:5-7**

### ◀**Southern Quotes**▶

"The time for compromise has now passed, and the South is determined to maintain her position, and make all who oppose her smell Southern powder and feel Southern steel." - **Jefferson Davis used these words in his inaugural speech on February 16, 1861**

"The assertion that the South fought for slavery is Yankee propaganda and a monstrous distortion." - **Jefferson Davis**

"We are not fighting for slavery. We are fighting for independence." - **Jefferson Davis**

"Every time I look at Atlanta I see what a quarter million Confederate soldiers died to prevent." - **John Shelton Reed**

**The following facts about the Confederate Powder Works were taken from excerpts of a speech, "The History of the Confederate Powder Works," by Colonel George Washington Rains given to the Confederate Survivors Association in Augusta on April 26th, 1882:**

The entire supply of gunpowder in the Confederacy at the beginning of the conflict was scarcely sufficient for one month of active operations, and not a pound was being made throughout its limits. To enter upon a great war without a supply of this essential material, and without effective means of procuring it from abroad, or manufacturing it at home, was appalling. No one was so well aware of this condition of things as the president of the Confederate States, who, being an educated soldier, was fully alive to the requirements of war, and at once took active measures for the creation of war material. Among these was the erection of a great gunpowder manufactory.

In my young architect and civil engineer, C. Shaler Smith, recommended by the proprietors of the Richmond Tredegar Iron Works, I at once recognized genius of a high order, and placed in his hands my rough sketches of buildings to elaborate and give architectural finish. All know with what results, the fine taste exhibited in the massive and beautiful structures which ornamented the banks of the Augusta Canal, for two miles, bore witness of his success.

Thus material was gathered from all the Southern states to unite with the resources of the city of Augusta, to construct the largest and finest gunpowder factory, to be found in any country. On the 20th of July 1861, I examined the Augusta Canal and resources of the city, and later selected the location of the Powder Works, beginning at the site of the United States Old Magazine, half a mile from the Western city limit. Land adjacent

was purchased, and also that between the canal and the river for a distance of two miles, so that the different buildings required, might be separated by intervals of at least one thousand feet for safety in case any one of them should have an explosion.

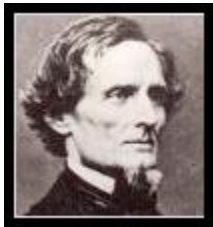
At the beginning of the war, business was more or less paralyzed, so that the manufacturers and builders were, to a considerable extent, thrown out of employment, which enabled contracts to be made advantageously at the usual prices. Thus, the total cost of the entire works did not exceed three hundred and eighty five thousand dollars.

These buildings were erected of the excellent bricks supplied by the Augusta and Hamburg yards, which were worked to their full capacity, and above five millions were supplied. The handsome granite of Stone Mountain, on the Georgia Railroad, was employed for the sills, lintels, copings and foundation stones.

In the projection of this part of the Powder Works, I conceived the design of making the central portion present the appearance of a grand monumental structure. For this purpose the chimney was placed centrally, and its exterior dimensions considerably enlarged; in fact, it is composed of two distinct parts, the chimney and outside obelisk; the former being enclosed at its base by a square tower, nineteen by thirty-five feet in height, whose battlements arose to view above the front walls. From the top of this tower the enveloping obelisk commenced, and ascended one hundred and fifteen feet, making the complete structure one hundred and fifty feet from the ground to the coping. The interior chimney flue is five square from bottom to top. The corner stone, or rather the box, containing the usual documents, was by a fancy of the architect, placed in one of the corners of the top coping of the obelisk.

## *Sons of Confederate Veterans*

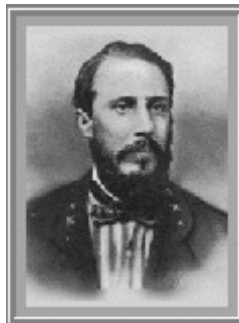
Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158  
Post Office Box 3694, Hill Station  
Augusta, Georgia 30904



*"Truth crushed to the earth is truth  
still and like a seed will rise again."*  
-- President Jefferson Davis

## **NO CAMP MEETING IN JULY!**

**Next SCV Camp #158 Meeting: Sconyers Bar-B-Que Restaurant – August 14th  
Wig Wag – July 2008 Edition  
Monthly Newsletter of Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158**



**Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Augusta, Georgia**