



★ **Commander's** ★  
**Comments**  
 by Lee Herron

After six long years, the Confederate Powder Works Chimney Restoration Project has finally begun. The crew from International Chimney Corporation arrived on Thursday, November 19th for a pre-construction meeting and to start work on the chimney. They were met and welcomed by camp members David Powell, Tommy Miller Sr., Fred Bussey, Henry Gilmer, Danny Martin, Ken Kitchens, Commander Lee Herron, and B/G E. Porter Alexander, UDC member Mae Gilmer. Please take time to go down and look at the work they are doing. Who knows, you might even see a Confederate flag on top of the chimney?

This year is winding down and, as I have been preparing for our annual Lee/Jackson Banquet, one thing has become very clear. Where did we find time to go to work or do anything else? The list of activities and accomplishments in which camp #158 has been involved is nothing short of spectacular! This will be highlighted during the banquet. Speaking of our banquet, Camp Surgeon Ron Udell will have the banquet tickets available at the Dec. 10th meeting. Thank you Ron for printing the tickets! Adult tickets are \$12.00 and children 12 and under are \$6.00. Please come prepared to purchase your ticket or at least to reserve one. Be aware, if you choose to reserve a ticket, you must still pay for the ticket whether you come to the banquet or not. If you

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**Editor's Note:** Below is the second in a series of articles on Georgia military units in which Richmond County men served during the War Between the States.

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Light Artillery Battalion**

After being mustered out in March 1862, Richmond County men who had served in Company D, "Oglethorpe Infantry" commanded by J.V.H. Allen and Company I, "Walker Light Infantry," commanded by Samuel H. Crump, of the now defunct First Georgia Infantry (Ramsey's) formed artillery companies in April. While in Augusta, the companies became part of the newly organized 12th Georgia Light Artillery Battalion, which mainly consisted of men from four companies of the defunct Ramsey's regiment and one from DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties. However, having no artillery, the unit would serve primarily as infantry.

After being well drilled and paraded through Augusta, the battalion was sent by train via Atlanta to Tennessee. On July 4th near Ringgold, a head on collision with another train killed eight men and several horses. The battalion was then sent to Chattanooga, which was under siege, where four companies were converted to infantry, issued Enfield rifles, and sent to Bridgeport to reinforce General Heath.

The battalion was then ordered to Jacksboro, Tennessee and sent near the Kentucky line to Huntsville, where the 6th US Infantry Regiment had built a fort called Fort Cliff. On August 13, 1862, the 12<sup>th</sup>, along with the 43rd Alabama Infantry Regiment, drove the Union men from their position, and captured the fort. The 12th Georgia lost three men-- one wounded and two captured, and gained a hero, when Lt. J.N. Talliaferro captured the enemy's colors.

On October 1st, Capt. J.V.H. Allen's Company was transferred out of the 12th and was sent to Savannah where they were placed in the newly formed 63rd Georgia Infantry Regiment. The loss of that company brought about a reorganization of the 12<sup>th</sup> with Capt. Crump's Company, being divided into two separate companies. One became Company D and was initially commanded by Capt. Crump, while the other was designated Company F and was commanded by Capt. George M. Hood.

In November, the battalion was sent to defend the Georgia and Carolina coast. In July 1863, Company D, F and two other companies of the 12<sup>th</sup> were sent by rail to Morris Island, SC and ordered into Battery Wagner. The enemy attacked at daylight, and was repulsed with heavy loss after hard fighting. On the night of the 14th, volunteers from the 12th were involved in a night assault on the enemy in front of Battery Wagner losing eight men in the fight. On the 17th, the 12th was replaced by fresh troops and was sent to Fort Johnson on James Island missing the attack on Fort Wagner the next day made famous in the movie, "Glory."

(See 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia on page 3)

*Last Camp Meeting*

**Alexander Camp Quizzed by COC**

During the November meeting of the Alexander Camp, two members of the Jeanie Benson Chapter #884, Children of the Confederacy, Ms. Allison Herron, daughter of Adjutant Perry Herron, and Ms. Summer Herron, daughter of Commander Lee Herron quizzed the Alexander Camp on their knowledge of Confederate heritage and the history of the War Between the States. Dividing the camp into three teams, the ladies asked each team to answer questions from the COC primer. Two people from each team could raise their hand and given two chances to answer a question correctly. Initially, the ladies showed images of famous Confederates and asked the camp to identify that person i.e. Jefferson Davis, Bell Boyd, etc. They then asked 25 questions which included “Why did the South fight the War?” “What were the five famous battles that were turning points in the War?” and “Who was Sam Davis?” When the quiz ended, Team One won by one point followed by Teams Two and Three, respectively. Following the quiz, Commander Herron presented each of the ladies with a framed photo of the Confederate Powder Works chimney.

Commander Herron called the meeting to order and recognized two guests: Pat Price who is transferring his membership from a camp in New Mexico and Wayne Shepherd who saw the recruitment billboard on Wrightsboro Road. He stated Easter Seals is offering its Augusta Heritage ornament this year featuring the old Richmond Academy and that they may have Confederate Powder works chimney ornaments as well. He stated camp T-shirts and Powder works chimney prints were available for purchase. Commander Herron thanked the thirteen people who helped with the cemetery clean-up on November 7th. He reported that the 2010 Lee-Jackson Banquet will be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Burns United Methodist Church fellowship hall. The menu will consist of barbecued chicken, baked ham, butterbeans, green beans, macaroni and cheese, corn muffin, banana pudding, tea and coffee. Cost of the meal will be \$12 per adult and \$6 for children under the age of twelve. Tickets for the banquet will be available

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*The Wig Wag*

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**Important Dates to Remember:**

**Coming Events:**

6 December: **North Augusta Christmas Parade, 2:00 PM**

10 December: **BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting  
Topic: ???  
7:00 PM  
Sconyers Barbecue**

23 January: **Lee-Jackson Banquet  
Burns U.M.C. Fellowship Hall  
7:00 PM**

**Ga. Division Lee- Jackson Parade  
Milledgeville, Ga.  
10:00 AM**

**Notable Confederate Birthdays:**

- 6 December: Col. John Singleton Mosby
- 12 December: Gen. Stand Watie
- 13 December: Clement C. Clay, MC
- 16 December: Gen. Robert Garnett\*  
Gen. Henry Heath
- 17 December: Gen. Samuel Jones
- 18 December: Gen. Arnold Elzey (Jones)  
Gen. Samuel French
- 19 December: Gen. James Archer\*  
Gen. John C. Carter\*
- 21 December: Robert Barnwell Rhett
- 25 December: Gen. Preston Smith\*
- 3 January: Thomas H. Watts, Atty. Gen
- 5 January: MGen Joseph Kershaw
- 6 January: MGen John C. Brown
- 8 January: BGen Tom Green\*  
**LGen James Longstreet**
- 9 January: Christopher Memminger, Sec. Treas.

\*Died in Confederate Service

at the next meeting. The Georgia Division Lee-Jackson Parade will be on the same day as the banquet at 10:00 AM in Milledgeville.

Herron reported 16 members have not renewed their camp dues, but it is probable eight of these will renew based on past history. Of the remaining eight, four might renew and one member, Larry White, he was unable to contact; however, Compatriot Creech stated he might be able to contact him. Herron stated three members definitely will not renew: Arlington Milford, Daniel Carr, and Kent Turner. He continued by stating that International Chimney will be on site at the Powder works Chimney on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> for a preconstruction meeting at 9:00 AM. All camp members are invited to attend.

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## 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia (continued from page 1)

The four companies of the 12th were rotated back and forth between James Island and Battery Wagner, which was under constant bombardment and siege, until September 7th when Battery Wagner was abandoned to the enemy.

(To be continued...)

## Last Camp Meeting (continued from page 2)

Camp participation in three Christmas parades was discussed: Grovetown, December 5<sup>th</sup> at noon, Hephzibah on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM, and North Augusta on December 6th at 2:00 PM. After a discussion, the camp decided to participate in the parades in Grovetown and North Augusta.

Commander Herron reported that on Sunday evening November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Confederate monument in Augusta was defaced and desecrated by juveniles. City crews were quick to clean the monument, and Herron spoke with Richmond County Sheriff Sgt. Paul Evans who is the supervisor of the individual handling the case. Sgt. Evans reported that witnesses saw two young black males vandalizing the monument, but no suspects were apprehended. Herron stated the camp was offering a \$500 reward to which the officer expressed approval. He continued by stating it is a felony in the state of Georgia to deface a monument with a five year prison sentence. He reminded the camp that in June 2007 a motion was made and passed authorizing a \$500 reward for vandalism of the Confederate monument which could be raised to \$1000 with consensus of camp officers. He asked the camp for authorization to do such, and it was approved. It was suggested that the Georgia Division be contacted to determine if they might increase the reward amount.

Lt Cmdr. Richard Smith discussed the Sons of the American Revolution ceremony held in Louisville last month in which the camp donated \$50 to the effort. He stated at least 60 people attended the event and three SCV camps were represented. Smith stated the SAR deeply appreciated the camp's donation. Quartermaster Joe Winstead stated he sold \$240 in merchandise at an event in Saluda, SC. Treasurer Nick Posey stated there was \$1330 in the Lee-Jackson Banquet Fund and that a donation of \$25 was made last month to the Confederate Powder works chimney restoration fund.

During general announcements, it was reported there will be a memorial service for a Confederate soldier, W.B. Chapman of the Cherokee Artillery on November 21<sup>st</sup> at Elmhurst Cemetery in Elberton. On November 20-21st, there will be an Old South Thanksgiving and Harvest Festival in Abbeville, SC. The date was changed because politically correct forces in the City Council had eliminated anything "Confederate" in its Old South Christmas event.

The meeting was adjourned by Commander Herron. After the benediction, the camp sang *Dixie*.

The large monument dedicated to Richmond County Confederate servicemen on Broad Street in downtown Augusta was defaced on November 8<sup>th</sup>, by racist vandals who spray painted anti-white messages. The Richmond County Sheriff's Office has responded, and witnesses at the scene in the 700 block of Broad told an (Augusta) *Chronicle* reporter they noticed someone spray painting the landmark at about 8:30 P.M.

Messages were marked in black and include the words "black power", "I hate whites" and "cracker killers" as well as an obscenity against whites in large letters.

On November 30th, Lee Herron, Commander of B/G E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans said the award is now \$1,350 for information leading to the arrest of the vandal. It had been \$1,000. Mr. Herron said the additional donation came from Sgt. Berry Benson Camp #1672 of North Augusta, which bears the name of the soldier represented on top of the Confederate monument.

Source: *August Chronicle*

### Commander's Comments (Continued from page 1)

know in advance that you will not be able to make the banquet after reserving a ticket, call Ron or myself and let us know, and we can sell the ticket to someone else. I hope to see everyone there.

The Christmas season is upon us, so I would like to take this time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Remember, that Christmas is about the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I would also like to take this time to thank everyone for their support during my first year as Commander of Camp #158! The commander's position is a very time consuming and sometimes hair pulling position, but it is also a very rewarding one. My time as Commander of the B/G E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 will be something that I will always cherish, and that is because of the men that make up Camp #158! You know and live the meaning of duty!

The speaker or speakers for December will remain unnamed until the night of the meeting and will be rather impromptu, but I can assure you that you do not want to miss the meeting! Can you guess who it is? The only way you will know for sure is to come to the meeting.

Remember, it is your duty!!!

# The Wig Wag

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*Editor*



**Have a merry Christmas &  
a Happy New Year!**

## 145 Years Ago: Battle of Nashville

- 5 December 1864: Near Smithfield, Va., Confederate sailors board and capture the Federal tugboat *Lizzie Freeman*
- 9 December 1864: USS *Otsego* sunk by Confederate torpedo in Roanoke River
- 10 December 1864: Sherman reaches Savannah and begins a twelve day siege
- 16 December 1864: Battle of Nashville; Hood's army is defeated and withdraws southward.
- 18 December 1864: Hood's Army skirmishes at Spring Hill, Tenn.
- 21 December 1864: Gen. Hardee evacuates Savannah, Georgia
- 23 December 1864: At DeVall's Bluff, Ark., Confederate guerilla Captain "Doc" Rayburn parols some of his Federal prisoners
- 24 December 1864: The Yankee fleet attacks Ft. Fisher, NC with a heavy offshore bombardment. Federal forces fail to capture it the next day.
- 7 January 1865: Danish ironclad "Sphinx" leaves Copenhagen to secretly become CSS *Stonewall*.

**RIGHT:** The battle flag of the 31<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry Regiment. The flag was issued to the regiment at Dalton, Georgia during the winter of 1863-4 and was carried by Ensign William Bellew until the Battle of Nashville where he was captured. Bellew stripped the flag from its staff before the Yankees could capture it and hid it in his coat. Imprisoned at Camp Chase, Ohio as a POW, he eventually sewed it into the lining of his coat. When he was released in June 1865, he returned home to Gibson County, Tennessee with the un-surrendered flag.

## Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, December 10th  
7:00 PM at**



### **Sconyers Barbecue**

**Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road**

### *Scripture Thought*

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

--John 1: 14

