

★ **Commander's  
Comments** ★  
by David Moncus

Happy New Year! This will be my last commentary as Camp Commander. It has been a good two years, and I have enjoyed it. Ours is a very good camp, and you men should be proud of yourselves and what you have accomplished over the years. I want to thank everyone for your support and cooperation during this period. Some compatriots have done a whole lot, others have done some things, and sadly some have done nothing. I thank you for being an Alexander Camp member, but if you have not been fulfilling your duty to honor your ancestors, I do really encourage you to make a change starting in 2015.

There is less and less general public and corporate support for the true history of the South. Political correctness has demonized the gallant men and women who supported the defense of our sovereign Confederate nation from Northern invasion. We, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, are the only line of defense left for protecting our heritage, monuments, cemeteries and true history of the Confederate cause. Because of this, your help is needed, so please get busy supporting the camp and the memory of your Confederate ancestors.

You can start by attending our Lee/Jackson Banquet on January 24th. The cost is \$12.00 per person and tickets must be purchased or reserved by our next regular meeting date of January

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**An award winning effort:** Alexander Camp's Confederate re-enactors and compatriots earned two trophies, respectively, for their entry while participating in the Grovetown, Ga. and Jackson, SC Christmas parades last month.

**SCV C-I-C to Speak at Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet**

The BGen. E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 will hold its annual Lee/Jackson Birthday Banquet on January 24th, at 6:45 pm. The event will be held at the Burns Memorial United Methodist Church fellowship hall at 2372 Lumpkin Road in Augusta. The meal will be catered, and a choice of pork or chicken will be available accompanied by several sides, dessert, and iced tea and coffee. The cost is \$12.00 per ticket. The preferred dress code is period dress or business casual, and a Richmond County deputy will be on duty in the parking lot for security.

The guest speaker will be SCV National Commander-in-Chief Kelly Barrow. Cmdr Barrow is a history teacher and has written several books, one of which is a very informative treatise on black Confederate soldiers. Several of Cmdr. Barrow's Confederate ancestors are buried in the Bugg Cemetery off Wrightsboro Road just before Grovetown in Columbia County.

During the Banquet, new Camp officers for the next two years will be sworn in by Cmdr. Barrow. They are: Commander: Dr. John Baxley, 1st Lt. Cmdr.: Nick Posey, 2nd Lt Cmdr.: David Armour, Adjutant/Treasurer: Nick Posey, Quartermaster: Joe Winstead, Chaplain/Color Sgt.: Ben Creech Newsletter Editor: Dr. Arnold Huskins, and Surgeon: Dr. Ed Johnson.

Tickets will be available at the January 8th camp meeting, and all compatriots are urged to come and be prepared to obtain tickets for themselves, their families and any invited friends. Compatriots of all camps are welcome to attend.

Please contact 1st Lt Cmdr. Nick Posey or Compatriot Carl Tommy Miller for more information or to purchase tickets: Compatriot Posey at 706-855-1895 or email [nicholasposey@comcast.net](mailto:nicholasposey@comcast.net); Compatriot Miller at 706-863-6207 or email [crebl@knology.net](mailto:crebl@knology.net).

## Last Camp Meeting

### John Whatley Speaks on the Typical Georgia Confederate Soldier

During the December meeting of the Alexander Camp, John C. Whatley, author of the "Typical Confederate" series, spoke on the typical Georgia Confederate soldier. A retired Army artillery officer and the author of numerous articles and six books, Whatley is a re-enactor with the First Regiment Georgia State Line.

Whatley began by discussing that the primary military unit in antebellum Georgia was the militia which was a company size unit. These groups were led by local society leaders and created their own uniforms and developed their own rules. They would meet, drill, socialize, smoke, and drink. Examples of these were the Augusta's Clinch Rifles, Macon Volunteers, Chatham Artillery, Gate City Guards, and Oglethorpe Light Artillery.

He explained that the chief agricultural product in antebellum Georgia was not cotton but superseded by cattle and corn respectively. During the secession crisis, the vote for secession was not unanimous and the results were possibly tampered by a pro-secessionist governor. Alexander Stephens who would become the Vice President of the Confederacy voted against secession as did a number of legislators; however in a show of solidarity their votes were reported as supportive of the majority.

After the firing on Fort Sumter, the typical Georgian volunteering to fight was in his 20's, native-born, and unmarried. His militia uniform was either gray, green, blue, or light blue and he fought for his sweetheart, wife or family. Once in camp, he found life boring and spent his hours either singing, swimming, fishing, reading, writing letters, gambling or attending religious services when not drilling or on guard duty.

As the War progressed, the poor rail transportation system failed to meet his needs and he spent his time foraging consuming birds, squirrels, deer, possum, and even rats. He suffered from a variety of diseases such as dysentery, small pox and measles. The typical Georgia soldier suffered from the lack of adequate clothing and shoes and, if victorious on the field, supplemented his attire with that of the deceased enemy.

Mr. Whatley stated 750,000 Georgians served in the Confederate military and nearly one-third of them became casualties while serving. The 21st and 17th Georgia Infantry

### *The Wig Wag*

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## Important Dates to Remember:

- 9 January: Mississippi Secession Day
- 10 January: Florida Secession Day
- 11 January: Alabama Secession Day
- 19 January: Georgia Secession Day
- 26 January: Louisiana Secession Day
- 1 February: Texas Secession Day

### Coming Events:

**8 January: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting**  
**Topic: The Women of Roswell Mill**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Sconyers Barbecue**

**17 January: Gen. Robert E. Lee Birthday Celebration**  
**Milledgeville, Ga.**

**24 January: Alexander Camp's Lee/Jackson Birthday Banquet**  
**6:45 PM**  
**Burns UMC Fellowship Hall**

24-25 January: Battle of Pocatigo reenactment

6-7 February: Stephen D Lee Institute  
Double Tree Hotel  
Dallas, Texas

<http://stephendleeinstitute.com/events.html>

7 February: Alexander Stephens' Birthday Event  
11:00 AM  
Crawfordville, Ga.

### Notable Confederate Birthdays:

- 11 January: BGen Richard Griffith\*      \*Died in CSA Service
- 12 January: MGen Jones M. Withers
- 14 January: Cmdr Matthew F. Mairy
- 15 January: MGen John C. Breckinridge  
MGen Lafayette McLaws
- 18 January: BGen James Chestnut, Jr.
- 19 January: Gen Robert E. Lee**
- 21 January: LGen T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson\***
- 23 January: BGen John R. Chambliss, Jr.\*
- 24 January: BGen John Pegram\*
- 26 January: BGen Lloyd Tilghman\*
- 27 January: LGen Richard Taylor**
- 28 January: MGen George E. Pickett  
MGen Thomas C. Hindman
- 29 January: MGen Franklin Gardner
- 31 January: Capt John R. Tucker, CSN
- 2 February: Gen Albert Sidney Johnston\***  
BGen Abner M. Perrin\*
- 3 February: Gen. Joseph E. Johnston**
- 6 February: MGen John B. Gordon**  
MGen James E. B. "JEB" Stuart\*  
MGen William D. Pender\*



## Confederate Battle Flag and Three Historic Flags Removed from Flag Display in Pensacola

On December 11th, in a case of political correctness superseding history, the Escambia County (Florida) Board of County

Commissioners in a 4-1 decision voted to remove the Confederate battle flag and three other historic flags--British, French, and Spanish--and fly only the US and Florida flags at county facilities. The decision was made despite the fact that the county and its principal city, Pensacola, pride themselves on being under "Five Flags."

Originally the board was to consider replacing the battle flag with the first national flag, the "Stars and Bars" after several liberal minority residents complained about the battle flag's presence at the Pensacola Bay Center. The city of Pensacola replaced the battle flag in its flag displays with the "Stars and Bars" in 2000.

During the discussion, SCV member, Tommy Ratchford, encouraged the commissioners to replace the battle flag with the Confederacy's last flag, the Third National.

The decision to remove the four historic flags was prompted by newly elected commissioner and military veteran, Doug Underhill, who stated that he only took an oath to the US flag and ignorantly stated "putting any other flag on the dias with (the US flag) is an insult not to our past, but to our present and our future."

Commissioner Wilson Robertson cast the lone dissenting vote having supported Ratchford's suggestion.

## SCOTUS to Determine Legality of SCV License Plates

On December 5th, in a decision that may affect SCV license plates across the country, the US Supreme Court has agreed to review a lower court ruling in favor of the Texas Division, SCV. A federal district judge ruled the state's denial of the specialty plate was constitutional. But an appeals court reversed that decision in a 2-1 vote stating the state "engaged in impermissible viewpoint discrimination."

Texas, under the auspices of then, gubernatorial hopeful and Attorney General Greg Abbott, appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court. While the state allows a number of plates honoring veterans, it denied the SCV plate because liberal minority residents considered the Confederate battle flag on the organization's logo "offensive".

The case involves the government's ability to choose among the political messages it allows drivers to display on state-issued license plates. A decision is expected in March.

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

8th. Please contact Lt Cmdr Nick Posey or myself to buy tickets.

Officer elections were completed at our December monthly meeting. Dr. John Baxley will be taking over as Camp Commander immediately following the Lee and Jackson Banquet. I urge you to give him your full support.

I hope to see you at our meeting this month. Please bring a guest or two.

## Last Camp Meeting (Continued from page 2)

had the highest casualty rates of any Georgia unit--75%.

Commander Moncus reminded the Camp of the annual Lee/Jackson Banquet which will be held on January 24th at Burns United Methodist Church fellowship hall at 7:00 PM. The cost will be \$12 per person. He thanked all those who participated in the Christmas parades and reported that the Camp's entry won second place in both the Grovetown and Jackson, SC parades. He stated the Camp will also participate in the North Augusta parade on December 14th. Moncus attended the Georgia Division Executive Council meeting where \$1110 was appropriated to refurbish the Camp Morton POW monument in Indiana where 111 Georgia soldiers are buried. The EC voted to appropriate \$1,200 to the Montgomery Sharpshooters Camp to assist in their efforts to erect a Confederate monument where a Stars and Bars flag will fly for eleven months and various other Confederate national flags will fly during Confederate History Month. Cmdr Moncus discussed the Ringold Case in which the Division decided to drop the lawsuit against the city with the chief reason being the existing law protecting memorials and monuments is impotent. In light of this development, he stated the Alexander Camp leadership was wise not to pursue legal action against the city of Augusta when the battle flag was removed from the Powder Works Chimney for, in doing so, Division monies and efforts were conserved.

Officer elections were held and the following individuals were elected for the next two years:

Commander:	Dr. John Baxley
1st Lt. Cmdr:	Nick Posey
2nd Lt Cmdr:	David Armour
Adjutant/Treasurer:	Nick Posey
Quartermaster:	Joe Winstead
Chaplain/Color Sgt.:	Ben Creech
Newsletter Editor:	Dr. Arnold Huskins
Surgeon:	Dr. Ed Johnson

1st Lt Cmdr Nick Posey made a motion to give Larry Sconyers a gift basket for his generosity in providing the Camp a gratis meeting space. The motion was seconded and approved by the Camp.

The meeting was adjourned by Cmdr Moncus. Following the benediction, *Dixie* was sung by the Camp.

# The Wig Wag

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Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.  
*Editor*



## Remembering Our Heroes on their Birthdays:

**Gen. Robert E. Lee: January 19th**

**Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson: January 21st**

## 150 YEARS AGO: The Capture of Fort Fisher, NC

- 7 January 1865: The French built ram, CSS *Stonewall* sails from Denmark under the name *Sphinx*, she arrives in Cuba too late to help the CSA
- 12 January 1865: The formidable ironclad ram, CSS *Columbia*, grounds on a sunken wreck while coming out of her dock at Charleston
- 13 January 1865: With a combined army-navy force of 59 ships and 10,000 men, the Federals attack the 1500 Confederate defenders at Fort Fisher, NC
- 15 January 1865: Suffering twice the casualty rate of its defenders, Union forces capture Fort Fisher, NC closing the port of Wilmington
- 23 January 1865: Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor assumes command of the Army of Tennessee after Gen. John B. Hood is relieved
- 25 January 1865: The CSS *Shenandoah* arrives at Melbourne, Australia
- 31 January 1865: Gen. Robert E. Lee is named General-in-Chief of the Armies of the Confederate States
- 3 February 1865: Hampton Roads Peace Conference: Denying Confederate autonomy but willing to make concessions regarding slavery, Lincoln's discussions with CS Vice-President Stephens regarding peace prove to be futile.  
Battle of River's Bridge, SC: Confederates attempt to stall Sherman's advance at the Salkehatchie River
- 5-7 February 1865: The battle of Hatcher's Run, Va: Confederates maintain their defensive lines against several Union Army assaults

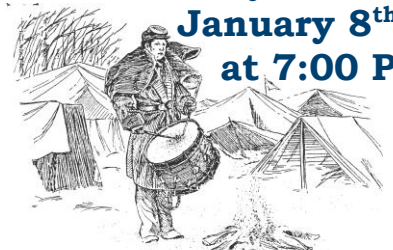
**Right: Second National pattern flag in reverse colors** made by the women of Wilmington, NC and presented to the Confederate garrison at Fort Fisher, NC which was captured by Union troops on January 15, 1865. Discovered in the home of a private collector in 1932, the flag was donated to the city of Wilmington and is now housed in the Cape Fear Museum.

## Next Camp Meeting

Thursday,

January 8<sup>th</sup>

at 7:00 PM



## Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

### Scripture Thought

... our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed...So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

-- Romans 11:11-12 (NIV)

