

★ **Commander's
Comments** ★
by Ron Udell

Well April is here whether we want it or not. With the way the weather has been, or should I say hasn't been (as in cold weather), we should have a little extra money in our pockets with lower heating bills to help pay for the high gas prices or for other things that we may need. (I truly hope that they will soon come back down.)

We have had a busy couple of months so far this year with the continuing work on the Confederate monument and in the cemetery, the reenactments taking place, the living history programs, and the few services in which a few have taken time to participate. Thanks to all who have done so!

April is Confederate History and Heritage Month as we all know, and Governor Deal again signed the proclamation on December 6th, 2011 proclaiming April 2012 as Confederate History Month in Georgia. As usual, Augusta's mayor did the same "quietly".

Our Confederate Memorial Day service is a few short weeks away on April 21st. This service is very important to us as members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and gives us a moment to pay tribute and to remember our ancestors--our great-great grandfathers and the Confederate dead buried at Magnolia Cemetery and to those that are buried in cemeteries across the South. We all should make every effort to plan our activities so that we can be there at this special time to remember them. It is our duty as members of the Sons of Confed-

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**Teachers in Gray
and Butternut**

Compatriots Ron Udell, Lee Herron, Barbara and Bill Storrs, and Steve Burke (not pictured) taught school children Southern history at the living history program held at the Georgia Welcome Center on US 301 on March 30th.

Editorial: *Confederate Memorial Day*

It's all About "Them"

Recently on the PBS series, "Finding Your Roots", the jazz musician/vocalist and New Orleans native, Harry Connick, Jr., was told by a genealogist that one of his ancestors was a Confederate soldier. Instead of being elated that his ancestor defended his homeland and served in the military, the distressed Connick replied, "Don't tell me that please..." Needless to say, the shallow musician has limited knowledge of why our ancestors fought for their independence and has consumed the lie that the Confederate soldiers' sole reason for their service was racial.

Besides causing us to ignore his music, Connick's attitude should inspire each of us who cherish our Confederate ancestor's service to renewed vigor in honoring their service and the thousands of other brave patriots who defended the South 150 years ago. Despite the seemingly overwhelming tide of "political correctness," the continual outpouring of falsehoods by academic institutions and opportunists, and the blatant and all too frequent heritage violations, we need to continue to stand strong and to tell others the truth about our great great grandfathers/uncles.

One of the ways to refute the ignorant and to make a statement for our brave ancestors is to attend a Confederate memorial service this month. The BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp's memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 21st at 10:45 AM in Magnolia Cemetery. This ceremony is not about the Camp or its officers—it is about **them**—honoring those who gave their all and whose final resting place is there: Sgt. W. Bowers

(See "**Them**" on page 3)

Last Camp Meeting

Compatriot David Moncus Speaks on the Early Railroads of the South

During the March camp meeting, Compatriot David Moncus, past Commander of the Waynesboro Camp and a descendant of railroad workers, spoke on the early railroads of the South. Utilizing the book, *Railroads of the Confederacy*, he stated that in the early 1850's then Senator Jefferson Davis advocated Southern industrial progress to include the building of rail lines. Rail lines tended to open up new lands to settlers and offered jobs and investment opportunity. Most of the South's railroads were constructed for financial gain hauling both passengers and freight. Unfortunately, rail travel was dangerous with one in 88,000 fatalities, and it suffered from differing gauges which limited unrestricted travel. Moncus explained that wrought iron t-bar rails had a life span of ten years but often wooden or steel plated wood rails were utilized which had to be replaced more frequently. He stated there were 8,700 miles of track in the South in 1861 with Virginia and Georgia having the most. Georgia had 18 rail lines with the prominent lines from Augusta being to Savannah and Milledgeville. Moncus explained that during the War, railroads played an important role, especially during the First Battle of Manassas, and the capture of rail centers like Corinth, Atlanta, and Petersburg were an essential part of Union strategy.

Following his interesting presentation, Compatriot Moncus was presented a framed photograph of the Confederate Powder Works chimney by Cmdr. Udell.

Cmdr. Ron Udell reported the camp had 107 members in February and Adjutant Nick Posey stated the camp presently has 109 members. Udell stated the Bradford pear trees in the Confederate cemetery have been cut and the stumps ground down. He and Brigade Cmdr. Neil Dickey attended a meeting with the Augusta Canal Authority and they discussed future plans for the Powder Works Chimney which would include signage and flagpoles with a limited budget of \$35,000. Cmdr Udell reported that the camp had received a thank you note from Doris Franklin's daughter, Collette. He stated that the Easter Seals historic Augusta ornaments were available for purchase and reminded the camp of the Georgia Division Reunion in Bainbridge in June.

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The Wig Wag

is the official publication of the BGen. E. Porter Alexander Camp #158, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Augusta, Georgia. It is published monthly (except July) for the benefit of camp members. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official views of the SCV or the E. Porter Alexander Camp. Send all articles and comments to the editor at the address on the last page or email: Rebeleye@aol.com.

Important Dates to Remember:

- 17 April: Virginia Secession Day
- 26 April: **Confederate Memorial Day** (Ala., Fla., Ga., Miss.)
- 6 May: Arkansas Secession Day

Coming Events:

12 April: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting
Topic: Innovations Because of the War
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue

21 April: Confederate Memorial Day Service Parade 10:00 AM at CS Monument
Magnolia Cemetery at 11:45 AM
Augusta

26 April: Confederate Memorial Day Service
6:00 PM, Columbia County Monument
Evans, Ga.

28 April: Confederate Memorial Service
11:00 AM in Hephzibah

5 May: Confederate Memorial Day Services
Noon, State House
Columbia, SC

5-6 May: Battle for Columbia re-enactment

28 May: US Memorial Day Service
11:00 AM at All Wars' Monument
Augusta

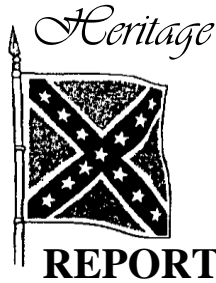
8-10 June: Georgia Division Reunion
Bainbridge, Georgia

http://georgiascv.org/2012_georgia_reunion.php

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

- 10 April: LGen. Leonidas Polk*
BGen. Thomas R. R. Cobb*
BGen. James E. Rains*
- 12 April: BGen. George B. Anderson*
- 13 April: BGen. Leroy A. Stafford*
- 13 April: President Thomas Jefferson
- 15 April: Joseph E. Brown, Gov. Ga.
- 17 April: BGen. Philip St. George Cocke*
- 21 April: Robert M. Hunter, Secy. State
- 23 April: John G. Shorter, Gov. Ala.
- 25 April: BGen. James Dearing*
- 26 April: **MGen. Ambrose R. Wright**
1 May: MGen. John Bankhead Magruder
7 May: Varina Howell Davis, First Lady
9 May: BGen. William E. "Grumble" Jones*

*Died in CSA Service



Confederate Flag Excluded from Flag Display at Museum of the Confederacy's new Appomattox Museum

When the new Museum of the Confederacy's Appomattox Museum recently opened for visitors, the US flag and the modern flags of the seceded states were flying; however, noticeably absent in the flag display was the Confederate flag. The prospect of no Confederate flag flying outside the new museum has riled those in the SCV and Southern heritage communities who believe the Museum's recent "politically correct" stance has betrayed the intentions of its founders. As a result, the SCV's General Executive Committee requested in late March that no SCV camp participate in the museum's opening ceremonies and the Virginia Division is considering expulsion of the MOC's President and CEO, S. Waite Rawls, III.

Mistakenly, Rawls believes the flag should not fly at the new museum stating "Appomattox is a metaphor for the reunification of the country" and to place the flag in that content would be "unhistorical untruth".

During the opening ceremonies, protesters peacefully displayed Confederate flags and a plane conveyed the message "Reunification by Bayonet SCV 1896".

SCV Commander-in-Chief Michael Givens believes the solution is to have the local authorities pressure Rawls to include the Confederate flag in its flag display and has requested that all compatriots contact the following Appomattox officials:

Mayor Paul Harvey: pharvey@appomattoxva.gov
434.644.7955 (mobile)

Sam Carter, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors
sam.carter@appomattoxcountyva.gov

Senator Thomas A. Garrett, Jr.
district22@senate.virginia.gov

C. Matthew Farris, House of Representatives
DelMFarris@house.virginia.gov

Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

Quartermaster Joe Winstead proclaimed he wanted 100% camp participation in the purchase of memorial pavers to be inscribed adjacent to the Confederate Monument. He stated the camp will earn more money if a larger amount of pavers are engraved at one time.

Prior to the meeting, prayers were requested for Doris Miller, David Powell, Philip Weaver, Ernie Franklin, John Gibbons, Jules Godin, Jim Kirshner, and Fred Bussey's son, David and Stan Scritchfield's grandson.

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

Commander's Comments (Continued from page 1)

erate Veterans. The Camp will have a cemetery cleanup on April 20th; the day before the ceremony (we hopefully had one on April 7th, as this was written prior to publication) and compatriots are needed to set up for our service on the morning of the 21st and after the service as usual.

Since our March meeting we have had at least ten members participate in the re-enactment of the battles at Manassas (near Claxton, Ga.) on March 17th and 18th, (which was Gary Hathaway's first re-enactment), the living history/heritage day at Georgia Southern University, the Wade Hampton birthday remembrance on March 28th in North Augusta and the living history program at the Georgia Welcome Center on US 301 on March 30th in Screven County for school and home schooled children and students from a Christian school in Sylvania. Even some students from Allendale Schools were there. The students, for the most part, seem to be interested in what we were showing them, especially when the cannon was preparing to fire. Thanks to all who participated!

Some of us will be attending the annual Georgia Division Confederate Memorial Day service at Stone Mountain Memorial Park on April 14th. We have had excellent attendance there the last four or five years, so hopefully this year that will continue. Also consider making plans to attend the 2012 Georgia Division Reunion in Bainbridge, Ga. on June 8-10th. Mark your calendars as the Division will be voting for new officers.

Ken Kitchens still has Confederate Powder Works fly ash bottles to sell. He will have some at the meeting if you would like to purchase one. Also remember that we still have pavers available which will be placed adjacent to the Confederate monument. Please consider purchasing one in memory of your Confederate ancestor.

And lastly, remember those on our prayer list and to pray for them.

Our next upcoming meeting will be Thursday, April 12th. Our speaker will be Mr. Kenny Jarrett from Jackson, SC. He is world famous for his rifle collection and is founder and owner of Jarrett Rifles. He will speak on "Innovations Because of the War". Some of what he will discuss will concern things which took place in Augusta. Please plan to be at Sconyers Barbeque to remember our Southern heritage and to support our Camp and its activities when possible. We have a lot going on in this upcoming year and you will miss something if you don't come. **Remember the Charge! God bless the South!**

"Them" (continued from page 1)

of Tennessee, W. Applewhite of Louisiana, Jerimiah Lucy of the CS Navy, B. Thomas of Texas, HJ Haskew of Florida among many others. Don't let **them** be forgotten or slandered. Take the time to remember **them** this month.

The Wig Wag

Official Publication of the

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158

<http://eporteralexander.homestead.com>

April 2012 Issue
1316 High Woods Pass
Grovetown, Ga. 30813

Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.
Editor



April is Confederate History and Heritage Month

Confederate Memorial Day: April 26th

150 YEARS AGO: New Orleans Falls

- 11 April 1862: Confederates surrender Ft. Pulaski, Georgia
- 12 April 1862: The "Great Locomotive Chase" occurs in northwest Georgia
Confederate Army of Northern Virginia created
- 16 April 1862: CS Congress authorizes conscription of able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 35
- 18 April 1862: Federals begin bombardment of Forts Jackson and St. Philip below New Orleans
- 24 April 1862: CSS *Nashville* runs blockade into Wilmington, NC with 60,000 muskets and 40 tons of powder
- 25 April 1862: New Orleans, the largest city in the CSA, falls to Union forces
Fort Macon, NC surrenders to the Federals
- 28 April 1862: Forts Jackson and St. Philip surrender to Federal forces
The British ship *Oreto* arrives in Nassau to be converted to the CSS *Florida*
- 1 May 1862: Yankee troops under Gen. "Beast" Butler enter New Orleans
- 4 May 1862: Federals occupy Yorktown, Virginia
- 5 May 1862: Battle of Williamsburg, Virginia: Gen. Longstreet defeats the Federals under Hooker
- 7 May 1862: Battle of Eltham's Landing, Virginia
- 8 May 1862: Battle of McDowell, Virginia: Jackson routs the Federals

Right: This nine star "Stars and Bars" flag, 12' x 18', was captured by Lt. Col. Alexander Warner of the 13th Connecticut Infantry which served as Provost Guard in the Crescent City after its capture by Union forces. This flag was acquired by Calvin Bullock from E.C. Bonaventure of New York on January 13th, 1936, who three days earlier had acquired it from the Rains Galleries, a dealer of rare books, manuscripts and autographs. It is now in the Zaricor Flag Collection.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, April 12th
at 7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard

Scripture Thought

...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day...and that he appeared to Peter and then to the Twelve.

--1 Corinthians 15: 3-5 (NIV)

