

★ **Commander's Comments** ★
by Dr. John Baxley

March was another busy month for the Gen. E. Porter Alexander Camp. The weekend of March 4th, 5th and 6th several members of our camp participated in the annual reenactment of the Battle of Broxton Bridge in the Carolina Low Country. Compatriots Ben Creech, Ron Udell, Tommy Chappell, Roy Stampley, and Bill Stohrs helped man and fire a ten pound Parrott cannon owned by "Sgt. Mac" from Ft. Meade, Florida. With over twenty cannons, hundreds of infantry to include Roger "Rabbit" Combs, and many more on horseback, it was a surreal or religious experience fighting the Yankees on the actual battlefield. Several wives also participated to include Vivian Stampley and Mrs. Winstead, Joe's new bride. Joe Winstead was very active with his quartermaster trailer and store making many sales for the camp and getting "hitched" for the second time. Again our camp was well represented and thanks to all who participated.

Several camp members participated in the Manassas battle reenactment the weekend of March 20th in Claxton, Georgia. Tommy Chappell, Ben Creech, Joe Winstead, and Roy Stampley were especially active again manning the Sumter Flying Artillery brought up from Florida by Sgt. Wallace McLeroy of Ft. Meade.

On March 24th we had our first Magnolia Cemetery cleanup with several from the "old man's crew" helping. Ron Udell, Jack Bailie, Tobin and Joyce Burnett, Mike Milford, Bill Stohrs, and Roy and Vivian Stampley were on hand. We were able to mow, rake, and weed eat the Confederate Dead Section, the Survivor Section, Mary Hall's grave as well as most of the Confed-

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Spring Cleaning: Cmdr. John Baxley, Jack Bailie, Tobin and Joyce Burnett, Mike Milford, Bill Stohrs, Roy and Vivian Stampley, and Ron Udell met on March 24th to maintain the Confederate sections of Magnolia Cemetery.



Editorial: Confederate Memorial Day & Stan Clardy's *Soldiers in Gray*

“Have I Made You Proud of Me?”

Confederate Memorial Day this year dawns upon a different America than that of 2015 or the years prior. The Sons of Confederate Veterans and other Southern heritage organizations have dealt with dwindling attendance at their memorial ceremonies as the years progress with minimal or no media coverage in the past, but this year it appears that the hostility against our heritage by the media, radicals, and politicians is continual. The naive populace believed in the 90's that the haters of our heritage would be appeased with the removal of our memorial flags and the changing of our state flag, but most of us knew this to be false. There only needed to be one incident to trigger the avalanche of assaults on our Confederate heritage and, it didn't matter if the individual was a member of a Southern heritage group or not, the deed was done, the haters took advantage of the situation and the misguided crusade against memorial flags, our statues, monuments, street names, etc. began.

I was listening to the CD of Stan Clardy's excellent composition, *Soldiers in Gray*, lately, which many of you have seen in person, and I began thinking of all that we have lost since I first heard it in 1999 and tears came to my eyes. We had high hopes at the turn of the century that our heritage could still be preserved and

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Last Camp Meeting:

Dr. Debra Van Tuyll Speaks on the Confederate Press

During the March 2016 meeting of the Alexander Camp, Dr. Debra Van Tuyll, Professor of Communications at Augusta University and University of South Carolina graduate, spoke about the Confederate press during the War and her new book, *The Confederate Press in the Crucible of the C.W.* She stated she wanted to entitle it; *The Third Stripe*, for the third bar in the “Stars and Bars” flag represented the press while the first and second one represented the state and the church, respectively.

Van Tuyll began by requesting the lights be turned down to only the oil lamps on the tables and stating this was what our ancestors had to endure each evening. She stated that 80% of the families in the South were literate and their chief source of reading material was the local newspaper and the Bible. Each week the head of the family would journey into town to pick up the local paper at the post office to which he subscribed. The newspapers were usually the only source for national news, relayed political and social information, and moral insights to teach values, and were usually read in its entirety. Local news was far less important as it was often received in small towns by “word of mouth.” She stated there were four daily newspapers in Augusta each, except for one, associated with a political party.

As the War was personal to each Southerner, Van Tuyll explained that the people hungered for news of its progress and the prospects for their loved ones serving in the military. However, this became more difficult as the conflict progressed. Though editors were exempt from military service, printers were not as fortunate and 80% of them were enlisted. In the South, the ability to publish newsprint was limited as there were only 27 paper printing facilities, no manufacturing for ink, and no type foundries. By 1865, there were only 263 newspapers in the Confederacy still in operation.

Following her insightful presentation, Cmdr. Baxley gifted the book, *When the South was Southern* by Andrew Grissom, to Dr. Van Tuyll.

During the meeting, two members were officially sworn into the Camp by Cmdr. Baxley and Lt. Cmdr. Posey: **James D. Donehoo** who joined on the record of his Confederate ancestor, **Pvt. Barnett D. Donehoo**, and **Daniel West**, who joined on the record of his Confederate ancestor, **Sgt. Daniel G. Kane**.

Cmdr. Baxley discussed the upcoming Confederate Memorial service to be held at Magnolia Cemetery on April

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The Wig Wag

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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:

14 April: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting
Topic: The Battle of Franklin
7:00 PM at Sconyers Barbecue

17 April: Hephzibah Confederate Memorial Day Service at 2:00 PM

17 April: “Stories of the Confederacy”
Augusta Canal Trails Talk
Westview Cemetery Office at 3:00 PM

25 April: Wright Camp’s Confederate Memorial Day Service at Confederate Monument
2:00 PM in Evans, Ga.

30 April: Alexander Camp’s Confederate Memorial Day Service
11:00 AM: Memorial March at Confederate Monument
Noon: Service at Magnolia Cemetery

30 April-1 May: Old Clinton War Days in Gray, Ga.

7 May: Confederate Memorial Day Services
Noon at the State House
Columbia, SC

10-11 June: Georgia Division Reunion
Conyers, Ga.

12-18 June: Georgia Confederates Youth Camp
Refuge Baptist Camp in Carnesville, Ga.

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*
- 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

*Died in Confederate Service



Above: Cmdr. Baxley is initiated as an artilleryman at the Broxton Bridge reenactment. **Below:** "Major Ron Udell, Tobin Burnett and Bobby Snider meet with Eddie Rogers aka "Gen. Hampton" at Hampton Park in North Augusta to remember the General's birthday on March 28th.

Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

30th. He stated the re-enactors will march from the Confederate Monument on Broad to the cemetery at 11:00 AM. He discussed the maintenance of the Confederate graves at Magnolia Cemetery and the development of a young man's crew to assist the older compatriots in their duties. Baxley asked younger compatriots interested in working one Saturday per month at the cemetery to sign their names on a roster.

Adjutant Nick Posey stated that there were 29,300 members of the SCV on 10 July 2015 which rose to 33,000 by September 21, 2015 following the heritage attacks. On January 5th, SCV membership had declined to 28,600 as members failed to renew their memberships and rose again to 29, 720 members by January 26th. He stated the reduced price Life Membership offer netted 698 new Life Members for a total of 4,255 Life Members. There are presently 607 members designated as "Friends of the SCV". The Alex-

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Proud (Continued from page 1)

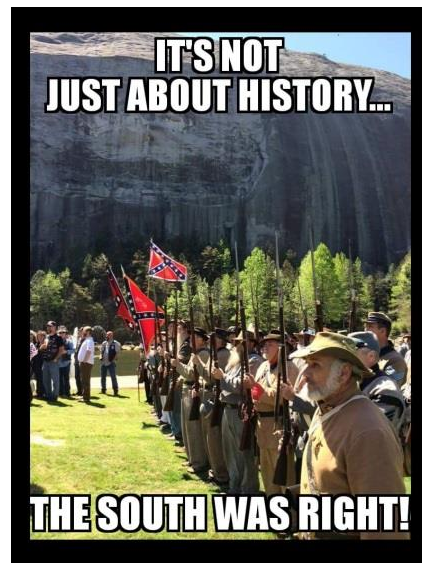
the "good name of our Confederate soldiers" would prevail even among those of both political parties, liberals as well as conservatives, Northerners and Southerners. June 2015 changed all of that.

Rather than submit to a defeatist attitude, I would hope that our present dilemma and re-listening to Clardy's emotional compositions will re-energize our resolve and embolden us to action. If "Dixie still burns in your heart" like it does in mine, you will persevere in the knowledgeable of the truth about our soldier-ancestors and stand defiant knowing there is nothing the haters or the media can do "to change what the flag means to you." As he admonishes us in the song, *Soldiers in Gray*, "we must keep the memory alive of the reason they chose to fight--not for oppression of a man--but to save our Southern land!"

Clardy's lyrics truthfully express the essence of the SCV's Charge in that "we now hold a sacred trust" for "they passed a legacy to us." It is imperative that we share the truth about our ancestors with others, become a more active participant in the Camp's activities, and contribute to the SCV and other worthy heritage organizations. Perhaps we would be more prompted to do so if we ask, as Clardy contemplates about his own ancestors, "Are they watching from beyond the sky?" and we mimic his self-doubting contemplative query to his Confederate ancestor, "Have I made you proud of me?"

Have you made your Confederate ancestor **proud** of you? Have you remembered his service and his sacrifice or is he "crying for their loved ones left behind"?

I would adjure you this year to defy the haters who denounce your ancestor's battle flag and seek to remove memorial monuments and attend one of the many Confederate Memorial Day services in the area particularly the one the Alexander Camp is conducting on April 30th at Magnolia Cemetery. May we rest in the assurance, as Clardy perceives, "Across the years I think I see, they are smiling at me," and to state unabashedly "that we hope to meet them someday in that land far away where the soldiers in gray have gone."



The above meme posted recently on Facebook features "Major" Ron Udell and the Camp's Honor Guard at Stone Mountain Memorial Park during the National Confederate Memorial Day Service held on April 2nd.



Veteran Discrimination at Indiana's Crown Hill Cemetery

In 1931 the US War Department had the remains of 1,616 Confederate soldiers removed from Greenlawn Cemetery to Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Indiana.

These soldiers represent nearly all of the Confederate States of America and were buried, not individually, but rather in a "mass grave." These soldiers died as prisoners of war at the Union's Camp Morton.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans honors these veterans with a public ceremony and the placement of a wreath each April. In past years the grave site was decorated with Confederate flags. However, this year the cemetery is prohibiting the Indiana Division SCV from any display of the Confederate flag or any other Confederate symbol.

Confederate veterans have been recognized by Congress as "American Veterans" and should have all rights and honors consistent to their service--including the display the flag under which they served and died. As there should be equal rights for all American veterans, to deny them this right is discrimination.

Compatriots are encouraged to write a strong but polite note to the cemetery and ask that they allow equal rights for all veterans--which include the prominent placement of the colors under which they served and died. The cemetery's address is:

Crown Hill Cemetery
700 West 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Effort Underway to Remove Statue of General Lee and Rename Lee Park in Charlottesville, Virginia

The Vice Mayor of Charlottesville Virginia, Wes Belamy, has called for the removal of the statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee and the renaming of Lee Park in which it resides. On March 22nd, Belamy and his ilk met in the park to announce their campaign. Belamy has allies on the City Council most notably the radical Northern transplant, Kristin Szakos, who was instrumental in the city ending its celebration of Lee/Jackson Day in January.

All compatriots, especially veterans, are requested to contact the Charlottesville city officials at the following email address and express your displeasure with this proposal:

council@charlottesville.org

Commander's Comments (continued from page 1)

erate General graves. Emma Givens showed up at break time with coffee and hot Krispy Creme doughnuts. A good time was had by all as we left the cemetery in beautiful shape with new flags flying.

The month of April will be busy as it is Confederate History and Heritage Month. Past Commander Ken Temples from the Aiken, S.C. Wheeler Camp will be our guest speaker for our April 14th camp meeting at Sconyer's. Ken will speak about the Battle of Franklin. I have heard this talk and it is a good one. You don't want to miss it.

We will have our annual Hephzibah Cemetery Confederate Memorial Day service at 2:00 p.m. on April 17th. Emma Givens always does a wonderful job organizing the event and our Honor Guard will be present. We always have a speaker and we will honor our dearly departed Compatriot, John Givens.

Our big event of the year will be our annual Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony at Magnolia Cemetery in Augusta on April 30th. Ceremonies begin between 10:30 and 11:00 at the Confederate Broad Street monument and continue around 12:00 Noon in the Confederate Dead section of the cemetery. President Jefferson Davis (a.k.a. Robert Hayes) from Abbeville, S.C. will be our guest speaker and we will have black powder salutes and the individual honoring of our own ancestors during the event. It would be especially great to have a big turnout for this event this year to show our support for our Confederate heritage, history, and Southern culture and to keep the flag flying!

I wish to thank all involved in making our camp one of the best in the SCV and making in a true delight to be a member of. Have a Great Dixie Day and remember Deo Vindice!

Your humble servant, Commander Baxley

Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 3)

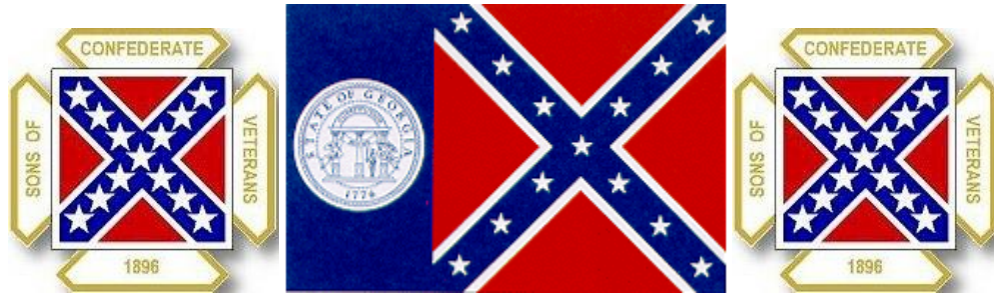
ander Camp now has 103 members with 24 SCV Life Members and 18 Georgia Division Life Members of which 14 compatriots are both.

Quartermaster Joe Winstead reported \$425 in sales at the Broxton Bridge re-enactment, and stated he has plans to attend the Battles of Manassas re-enactment in Claxton, Ga.

Past Cmdr. Ron Udell updated his report verifying that the present owner of Maurice's Barbecue no longer allows Confederate flags, the singing of *Dixie* nor Confederate uniforms in their restaurants. He stated he had placed a pre-emergent weed killer on the Confederate section of Magnolia Cemetery and there were only a few sticks, broken limbs and leaves present on his last visit.

Lt. Cmdr. Posey made a motion to present our gracious host with a plaque to display honoring his service to the Camp. The motion was seconded and approved by the Camp.

The meeting was adjourned by Cmdr. Baxley. After the benediction, *Dixie* was sung by the Camp.



**CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE
&
ANNUAL SOUTHERN HERITAGE MARCH
SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016**

**MAGNOLIA CEMETERY
3RD STREET & WALTON WAY - AUGUSTA, GEORGIA**

THIS SERVICE IS IN HONOR OF THE BRAVE CONFEDERATE AMERICANS IN GRAY WHO FOUGHT AND DIED FOR THE SOUTHERN CAUSE.

OUR SOUTHERN HERITAGE MARCH WILL BEGIN AT 11:00 A.M. ON BROAD STREET AT THE BASE OF THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT, LOCATED BETWEEN 7th & 8th STREETS, AND WILL END AT THE CONFEDERATE DEAD SECTION IN MAGNOLIA CEMETERY. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

Seating for the memorial service will be available at 10:30 a.m., at the Speaker's Platform located adjacent to the Confederate Dead Section in Magnolia Cemetery.

Memorial Service starts at 12:00 a.m.

******* Program Speaker *******

Mr. Robert Hayes

Speaking in the character of CSA President Jefferson Davis

For additional information call: 706-294-7813

This Event is Sponsored By:

**Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158
Sons of Confederate Veterans - Augusta, Georgia**

The Sons of Confederate Veterans reserves the right to approve flags & banners carried in the Southern Heritage March, and flags displayed at Magnolia Cemetery during the memorial service. We also reserve the right to restrict the participation of anyone who does not adhere to proper codes of dress and behavior.



The Wig Wag

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Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158

<http://eporteralexander.homestead.com>

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Grovetown, Ga. 30813

Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.

Editor



April is Confederate History & Heritage Month

Confederate Memorial Day: April 26th

Confederate Medal of Honor Recipient: Private James Keelan

James Keelan was born in 1818 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia of parents descended from Scots-Irish immigrants. The family migrated into upper East Tennessee where he helped on the farm never receiving any formal education. Like most boys, James grew up hunting and fishing and became a first-rate farmer.

When the War began, 43-year-old Keelan enlisted in the Will Thomas Legion which consisted of mostly Cherokee and mountaineers. In November 1861, the unit was instructed to guard the railroad bridge at Strawberry Plains above Knoxville.

On November 8th, while standing guard, Private Keelan single-handedly defended his post against an overwhelming enemy force intent on burning the bridge. Armed with but a single shot pistol and a Bowie knife, Private Keelan killed the first sapper at point-blank range. In the desperate hand-to-hand fight that followed, Private Keelan was shot in the left elbow, the right arm, and the right hip, suffered three sabre cuts to the neck and scalp, and had his left hand severed at the wrist. Despite these wounds, Private Keelan slashed to death two of his attackers and seriously wounded an undetermined number of the enemy before they fled the bridge.

On August 20, 1994, the Virginia native was posthumously honored with the Confederate Medal of Honor for his stalwart one-man defense of the bridge at Strawberry Plains. He was the fortieth Confederate soldier to earn this distinction and the one of six Tennesseans to receive such. His Confederate Medal of Honor is on permanent public display in the UDC Confederate Museum in Knoxville.

Right: The 11 star "Stars and Bars" battle flag of the Augusta Guards (Captain W. C. Dillon's Company, Georgia Volunteers) which was captured by the 17th Indiana Infantry Regiment near Kingston, Georgia. On the reverse side of the flag are inscribed the words "God Shield the Brave. Our Hearts are with You". The flag is presently in the Georgia State Flag Collection.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, April 14th
at 7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

"I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

-- Revelation 1:17b-18 (NIV)

