

★ Commander's Comments ★  
by Ron Udell

April is here, most of the local reenactments are over, and we all should be thinking about Confederate Memorial Day and Confederate History and Heritage Month. What will you be doing on April 23<sup>rd</sup>? I hope that everyone who is able will be at Magnolia Cemetery to honor your great, great, (great) grandfather and the other Confederate soldiers buried there. They endured such hardships that we can at least take a few hours out of our busy schedule to honor them. Remember, it's your duty!

By the time you read this, we will have had our first cemetery clean up to prepare for the service. We plan to have another cleanup the day after our April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, if possible, and another clean up on April 21<sup>st</sup> (old men's crew) before our April 23<sup>rd</sup> service. On that Saturday, we will need everyone's help in setting up the large flags, putting Confederate flags on the graves, and setting up chairs. Also some minor raking will be required where we place the chairs. All officers and compatriots need to be there early that morning. (When the service is over, folks will be needed to stay and help with the cleanup and to put the chairs back on the trailer.) Let's live the charge that day!

Thanks go out to our Camp Honor Guard for providing the black powder salutes for B/G E. Porter Alexander Chapter 2671 United Daughters of Confederacy on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for their memorial service. About half of our

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**Remembering our Honored Dead:** The Alexander Camp Honor Guard participated in a Confederate Memorial Service sponsored by UDC Chapter 2671 at Bath Presbyterian Church in Blythe on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pictured (left to right, front to back) are Marie Powell, Gail Smith, David Powell, Ben Creech, Lee Herron, Gary Hattaway, Jack Bailey, Ron Udell, and David Shockey of the 5<sup>th</sup> Georgia. Present but not pictured were Tom Smith, Henry and Vince Gilmer.

Editorial: *Confederate Memorial Day*

### If We Don't ...Who Will?

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the BGen E Porter Alexander Camp will hold its annual Confederate Memorial Day services at Magnolia Cemetery at 11:00 PM with the principal speaker being one of our own, Compatriot P. Charles Lundsford, who has publically defended our heritage for many years.

Unfortunately, many of you will choose not to attend this ceremony that remembers those who gave their all—their fortunes, future, and often their lives—to fight for Southern independence and to protect their homes and families from Manassas to Gettysburg, Shiloh to Perryville, Bentonville to Appomattox, and many battlefields between. I have to ask “why”?

If you don't attend a Confederate memorial service this year, who will? It certainly won't be the politicians, our elected officials, and indifferent citizens who are more interested in pursuing their own pleasures than remembering soldiers who died long ago in a war they would rather forget. The televised and print news media will all but ignore the day believing such events to be archaic when we already have a national Memorial Day in May. Moreover, the Confederate heritage haters in the media, academia, and in racist organizations are hoping you won't attend. Not surprisingly, your absence is their victory!

As Sons of Confederate Veterans, we are obligated to remember these Southern patriots. We may be few, it may be uncomfortable for some, and “politically incorrect”, but we know it's the right, good, and proper thing to do!

## Last Camp Meeting

### Roy Vandegrift Speaks on General and Statesman, Milledge Luke Bonham

During the March meeting of the Alexander Camp, Roy Vandegriff, a native Charlestonian, educator, re-enactor, and co-founder of SCV Camp # 48, spoke on his camp's namesake, Milledge Luke Bonham. Vandegrift stated Bonham was born in Edgefield District in 1813 which, at that time, was one of the roughest areas of the country. Milledge attended local academies and completed his education at SC College. Following his studies, Bonham became First Sergeant of the Edgefield Blues and participated in the Seminole War as an adjutant on the staff of Gen. WH Bull in 1836. One year later, Bonham was admitted to the SC Bar and served as Captain of the Edgefield Huzzars. In 1840, he was elected to the SC Legislature, and, at the age of 30, married 16 year old Ann Patience Griffin. The couple received Darby plantation as a wedding gift from her father, and together, they would have 14 children of which four would die in infancy. During the Mexican War, Bonham served as Colonel in the 12<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Regiment, was slightly wounded, and later became governor of a Mexican province. In 1857, he was elected to Congress and participated in Abbeville's secession meeting. In early 1861, South Carolina sent Bonham to Mississippi to encourage their secession, and later appointed him Major General in the Provisional Army of SC. Bonham became a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army of the Potomac and participated in the First Battle of Manassas. He resigned his commission in 1862 to become a member of the Confederate Congress. Later that year, Bonham was appointed Governor by the SC legislature and served until 1864. He returned to the army in February 1865, and, after the war, became a state legislator, state railroad commissioner, and a member of Hampton's Red Shirts. Bonham died in 1890 at Sulfur Springs, NC and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia. Following his detailed presentation, Cmdr Udell presented Compatriot Vandegrift with a framed print of the Confederate Powder Works Chimney.

During the meeting, there were two applications for membership: **Craig S. Stripling** who joins the camp on  
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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. The newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of camp members and those camps participating in a newsletter exchange. 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: Rebel eye@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:

#### **14 April: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting**

**Topic: Redcliff Plantation & the War  
7:00 PM  
Sconyers Barbecue**

- 16 April: Living History at Georgia Southern Univ.  
10:00 AM-4:00 PM

#### **23 April: \*\*Confederate Memorial Day Services\*\***

**Parade 11:00 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.

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

- 7-8 May: Battle for Columbia re-enactment

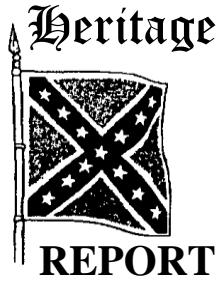
- 14 May: **Book signing for Col. "Black Jack" Travis  
2:00 PM, Gen. E. Porter Alexander Home  
Washington, Ga.**

#### **10-12 June: Georgia Division Reunion Dalton, Georgia**

<http://www.scvcamp469-nbf.com/reunionhomepage.htm>

### Notable Confederate Birthdays:

- 10 April: LGen. Leonida 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 Confederate Service



## Lexington, Virginia to Decide Flag's Display

The city council of Lexington, Virginia, the burial location of both Gen. Lee and "Stonewall Jackson," will review its policy regarding the display of the Confederate flag after a petition signed by 350 people was submitted to the Council asking that the city adopt a "firm policy for flag-display on public property and in public spaces... like the streets, to avoid future contention".

For the past 11 years, the SCV has had a parade in Lexington every Lee-Jackson Day, and this past year Lee's "Ark of the Covenant" Stars and Bars flags and the Second National Flags were placed on lampposts in the city for four days prior to the parade.

Contact the City Council and the two local newspapers, and let them know how you feel about flying the flag:

Editor: *Rockbridge Weekly*: [jeclark@ntelos.net](mailto:jeclark@ntelos.net)

Editor: *The News-Gazette*: [editor@thenews-gazette.com](mailto:editor@thenews-gazette.com)

Lexington City Council info:

<http://www.ci.lexington.va.us/electoff.htm#Mayor%20%20City%20Council>

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

Honor Guard participated, and I know Mae Gilmer appreciated those that took the time (and gave up going to a reenactment) to help her with her first Confederate Memorial Day Service as their new chapter president. You lived the charge!

Also thanks to Gary Hattaway, Ben Creech, Ken Kitchens, and Bubba Kitchens who joined me at the UDC Edisto District meeting in Norway, SC to present the colors and honor the soldiers buried at Willow Swamp Baptist Church on March 26<sup>th</sup> with a black powder salute hosted by UDC Chapter 427.

Don't forget to buy your Confederate Powder works fly ash bottle that we are selling as our Camp 158 fund raiser. When they are gone, that's it! Be sure to contact David Powell to order yours before they are gone, and you will have a little piece of history. We need to sell as many as we can to raise at least 10% of the cost to repair and seal the Confederate Monument. (It would be nice to have closer to 15%.) I know the camp can do it! Please take advantage of the chance to buy one of these bottles, and you will be doing your part to insure the Confederate Monument is repaired and cleaned. You can feel proud that you helped personally to make this happen. And speaking of bottles, hats off to David & Marie Powell for taking fly ash bottles and also Powder works Prints to the reenactment of the Battles of Manassas. They sold several bottles and a couple of prints. We still have a limited number of prints left.

Certificates of deposit, American Express payments, auto loan payments, and checks written to whom, etc.???? I'm sure you are wondering what all this means, and I would too! Come to the April meeting and find out more.

Our next meeting will be on April 14 and our speaker will be Elizabeth Laney, park interpreter for Redcliffe Plantation, who will speak on "Redcliffe Plantation and the War Between the States". Plan to be there to learn more about our Southern heritage and to support our Camp. **Remember the Charge! May God Bless Dixie!**

### Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

the record of his great grandfather Pvt. Francis Marion B. Stripling who served in Co. A, 35<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry Regiment and **Christopher Z. Stripling** who joins the camp on the record of his great grandfather, Pvt. Dekalb James who served in Co. I, 48<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry Regiment.

Cmdr. Udell announced that the camp's Confederate Memorial Day service will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and thanked all those who attended the Berry Benson celebration on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Udell reported that he had received a letter from Fred Russell of the City of Augusta regarding the refurbishment of the Confederate Monument and that two companies are being considered for the work: 3D Stoneworks in Elberton and Clark Memorials in Macon. He displayed a copy of the Georgia Division's Confederate History and Heritage month poster which can be placed in libraries and schools, and announced that there will be a Division Executive Council meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> in Macon. In appreciation for the work our last month's speaker, Major Perry Bennett, is doing at the Utoy Creek Cemetery, Cmdr. Udell recommended that a donation be given by the camp for that effort. A motion was made to that effect, seconded and approved by the camp.

During the officer reports, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Cmdr Herron stated that Compatriot Roy Stampley was presented a resolution given by the SCV regarding the passing of Compatriot Claude Ray Thomas. Herron thanked all those who attended the reenactments at Broxton Bridge and Aiken. He reported there will be a Magnolia Cemetery cleanup on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Quartermaster Joe Winstead reported the camp sold \$135 in merchandise at Broxton Bridge. Compatriot Powell reporting selling fly ash bottles to compatriots in the Waynesboro and Evans Camps and that the Berry Benson Camp requested that their \$300 donation to apprehend the Confederate Monument vandals be used to restore the monument. Compatriot Tom Smith requested that his prior donation of \$250 and an additional \$50 be used for that purpose as well. It was reported that there will be a Confederate Memorial Day service in Hephzibah at 3:00 PM on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to the meeting, Cmdr. Udell asked for prayers for Compatriots Richard Smith, Jerry Grigsby, Jules Godene, Dr. John Baxley, and Terry Bower's son, Timothy; and Fred Bussey's son, David.

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



# The Wig Wag

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**Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158**

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*Editor*



**Happy Easter!**

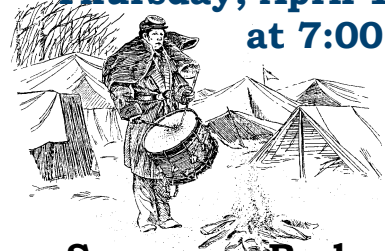
**April is Confederate History  
& Heritage Month**

## 150 YEARS AGO: War for Southern Independence Begins

- 11 April 1861: Confederates demand the surrender of Fort Sumter
- 12 April 1861: The War for Southern Independence begins with the firing on Fort Sumter by Confederate shore batteries at 4:30 AM
- 14 April 1861: Formal Union surrender and evacuation of Fort Sumter
- 15 April 1861: Lincoln declares that a state of "insurrection" exists and calls for 75,000 volunteers to subdue the Confederate States  
Braxton Bragg places Lt. John Worden under arrest in Pensacola making him the first prisoner-of-war of the conflict.
- 17 April 1861: Subject to popular vote, Virginia adopts an Ordinance of Secession
- 18 April 1861: Robert E. Lee is offered command of the Union armies
- 19 April 1861: Lincoln orders a Federal blockade of all Southern ports  
In Baltimore, twelve pro-Confederate civilians and four Federal Massachusetts soldiers are killed during the Pratt Street Massacre
- 20 April 1861: Robert E. Lee resigns from the Union Army
- 29 April 1861: Pres. Davis tells Congress and the world "We seek no conquest... all we ask is to be left alone."
- 6 May 1861: Arkansas secedes from the Union
- 9 May 1861: Confederate Secretary of the Navy Mallory orders Cmdr. James D. Bulloch to England to purchase ships, guns and ammunition
- 13 May 1861: Queen Victoria proclaims British neutrality

**Right: Palmetto Guard Flag:** Private John S. Bird, Jr. of South Carolina's Palmetto Guard placed this flag with its red star and green palmetto tree on Fort Sumter's wall facing Charleston on April 14th. It was the first Southern flag to fly on the fort after its surrender. The flag was privately owned until given to the National Park Service in 1979.

**Next Camp Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 14th**  
**at 7:00 PM**



**Sconyers' Barbecue**

**Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road**

*Scripture Thought*

...He humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on the cross!  
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name...

--Philippians 2: 8b-9(NIV)

