

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

March was a busy and productive month for the Camp. The highlight of the month was the Augusta St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Camp's participation was a booming success. Everyone up and down Telfair and Broad Streets loved our float. Firing almost 30 rounds of black powder, our uniformed compatriots lured thousands from their homes, office buildings, and pubs to see them re-enact the "Irish Volunteers" of the 5th Georgia Infantry. The crowd was thirty deep on Broad Street where many folks, black and white, waved, saluted, cheered and sang "Dixie" as we passed by. Before the parade, many participants from other floats visited our float to be photographed with us as we explained our heritage and the Irish Volunteers. Unfortunately, the media, as per usual, ignored our efforts. I wish to thank all that helped with our success to include Ron Udell, Joe Winstead, Gary Hattaway, Tommy Miller, Bobby Snider, Billy Belger, Wade Fuller, Roy and Bill. Bill Berry was helpful in getting us into the event and Jimbo Thrash was helpful with P.C. issues.

The Color Guard and re-enactors were also busy in March with Ron Udell, Tommy Miller, Sr., Joe Winstead, and Garry Hattaway performing a black powder salute at the Benson Camp's annual General Wade Hampton Birthday Celebration. Joe Winstead, Billy Belger, David Armour, and Carol Nettles represented our camp

(Continued on page 5)



The Gray Becomes Green: Displaying the Irish tricolor and Irish Confederate battle flags, the "Irish Volunteers" consisting of the Alexander Camp's Honor Guard and compatriot re-enactors, led by "Major" Ron Udell, fire a volley to the delight of onlookers during the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Augusta on March 17th.

Editorial: *Confederate Memorial Day*

Two Forgotten Mississippi Confederate Graves

In Tippah County, Mississippi in the Lowery Methodist Church cemetery is the grave of William Jefferson Blythe who served in Company F, 34th Mississippi Infantry. Blythe's weathered tombstone (**right**) records the fact he served in the Confederate Army, but no flag flies below it in memory of his service. His two brothers also served and survived the War. In another cemetery at Waverly Plantation in Carroll County, Mississippi is the grave of William Alexander McCain who died in 1863 while serving in Company I, 5th Mississippi Cavalry. It too has no flag to remember his service. These graves are not unlike the many Confederate graves throughout Dixie where our veterans rest in peace. However, these are the paternal ancestors of two men whom we all know—former President Bill Clinton and Arizona Senator John McCain.



More than likely, being politicians rather than statesmen and influenced by the media, these men are ashamed of their Confederate ancestors. We know they have condemned their banners. Perhaps if these men had come of age in the early part of the 20th century, they might have been proud of their ancestor's role in the struggle for Southern independence as were Generals George Patton, Simon Buckner, and "Chesty" Puller. However, in today's "enlightened" society, all deceased individuals are judged through the myopic lens of "political correctness" which examines whether they have contributed to the 21st century idea of a multiracial

(See "Forgotten" on page 3)

Last Camp Meeting

Dr. Russell Brown Speaks on Augusta's Guns: "The Guns of Semple's Battery"

During the March 2015 meeting of the Alexander Camp, Dr. Russell Brown, a Brooklyn, NY native with a doctorate in history, and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Augusta Civil War Round Table, spoke on the topic, "The Guns of Semple's Battery". He stated the guns were only one of two surviving sets of Confederate guns—the other being those of the Rockbridge Artillery which are at VMI.

Dr. Brown stated that Semple's guns were left in Hamburg, SC following the surrender of the Confederate armies and possibly taken to the Augusta Arsenal by US Colored Troops. In 1958, two of the guns were given to Fort Gordon where they are presently on display in front of Alexander and Meyer Halls. The other two are on the campus of Augusta State University where they are mounted on metal carriages.

Brown stated Henry C. Semple was born in Virginia and settled in Montgomery, Ala. where he became a lawyer. In 1862, he formed an artillery battery recruiting troops from Mobile and Montgomery. The battery's bronze 6 ½ lb. Napoleons were manufactured in New Orleans by Leeds and Company. They were initially ordered to Mobile then joined the Army of Tennessee where the guns saw their first action at the Battle of Perryville being a part of Cleburne's Division. They participated in all the major campaigns of the Army of Tennessee with significant losses in men and horses at Murfreesboro, Resaca, Atlanta, and Jonesboro. Two of the battery's guns were captured at Murfreesboro, and its colors—a large first national and the battery's large blue guidon with a white border—were captured at Ringgold Gap. The battery was on its way to North Carolina when the War ended.

Following Dr. Brown's interesting presentation, Dr. Baxley presented the book, "The Hunt for Confederate Gold" to him in appreciation.

During the meeting, there were three applications of membership—all grandsons of the late Compatriot John and Emma Givens family: Jonathan R Givens, Trent A. Givens, David A. Givens (cadet) and Jack D. Phelps who join the camp on the record of their Confederate ancestor, John A. Givens of Co. C, 6th Tennessee Infantry.

Cmdr. Baxley announced the Camp's participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17th and a scheduled cemetery clean up on March 28th. He announced the Camp needed someone with a small riding mower to assist in the

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The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

**16 April: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp
#158 Meeting
Topic: "Unity in Defeat"
7:00 PM at Sconyers Barbecue**

**19 April: Confederate Memorial Day Service
Hephzibah, Georgia @ 2:00 PM**

**25 April: Confederate Memorial Day Service
11:00 AM Memorial March at
Confederate Monument
11:45 AM Service at Magnolia
Cemetery**

**26 April: Wright Camp's Confederate Memorial Day
Service at Confederate Monument
2:00 PM in Evans, Ga.**

**1-3 May: Pres. Jefferson Davis's Last Cabinet
Meeting Commemoration at Calloway
Plantation, Washington, Ga.**

2-3 May: Old Clinton War Days in Gray, Ga.

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

**8-10 May: Kentucky First Brigade (Orphan
Brigade) surrender reenactment at
Calloway Plantation, Washington, Ga.**

18-19 May: Battle of Resaca reenactment

**12-13 June: Georgia Division Reunion at Nash
Farm Battlefield**

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

9 May: BGen. William E. "Grumble" Jones*

*** Died in Confederate Service**

Forgotten (continued from page 1)

integrated democracy in America. Anyone who failed to meet that standard is subject to indifference, condemnation and historical censorship. Having served in any capacity in the Confederate military or government is an automatic conviction of guilt. The recent demand to remove statues and to strike the names of individuals, despite their significant contributions to academia and their fellow citizens, from halls on college campuses and other institutions is yet another consequence of this aberrant ideology.

This past year we have seen a number of attacks on our heritage not unlike that in previous years. The removal of the battle flags from the Lee Chapel at Washington and Lee University, the renaming of Lee Hall at the North Carolina YMCA facility, the refusal by the state of Texas to issue an SCV license plate, and the omission of Confederate veterans from the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame are just a few of the incidents that in previous decades would have seemed impossible. Disregarding the societal ills that may have occurred under the Stars and Stripes or any European flag at present or in the past, media hacks are quick to convey the totality of America's racial sins onto the Confederate battle flag. Recently, an article in a conservative magazine called for Southerners to cease flying the Confederate battle flag while more left leaning ones suggested making Lee's surrender date a national holiday while another proclaimed, "General Lee was No Gentleman."

There is no greater moment than the present for those who love their Southern heritage and who remember the sacrifices of their Confederate ancestors to commit ourselves to unity of purpose and a firm resolve not to waver. Not unlike our heroes, we must make a stand for what is right, true, and just during this "Second Reconstruction" period—especially when the media, politicians, businesses and academia have abandoned the truth.

On Saturday, April 25th, the Alexander Camp will brave the elements and gather at Magnolia Cemetery to remember the brave men and women who gave their fortunes, their homes, their wellbeing and even their lives for us—their descendants. Make an effort to be there, to remember your Confederate ancestor and be sure to invite friends and bring your children. If you can't be there, make an effort to attend one of the many Confederate memorial services scheduled across South Carolina and Georgia or just go out and put a flag on a veteran's grave. Unlike the ancestors of Bill Clinton and John McCain, let's make sure our local veterans are not forgotten.

Last Month's Meeting (continued from page 2)

in the maintenance of the cemetery. Future cemetery clean up dates will be April 18th and April 24th. Cmdr. Baxley stated the next Camp meeting will be held on April 16th with a Confederate Memorial Day service to be held in Hephzibah on April 19th. The W.H.T. Walker Chapter UDC will hold its Confederate Memorial Day service in Westview Cemetery on April 26th at 2:00 PM.

Baxley discussed the possibility of the Alexander Camp joining with another local camp for a picnic during the summer, developing a Camp day trip to an historic site, and having a Camp Christmas social on December 13th at 2:30 PM at the Aiken County Museum.

Lt. Cmdr Posey welcomed and announced the reinstatement of Compatriot Jim Kirshner to the Camp.

2nd Lt Cmdr David Armour reported he is developing a membership package for new camp members.

Quartermaster Winstead stated he took the Camp store to the Broxton Bridge and Manassas re-enactments.

Past Cmdr. David Moncus stated he knew someone who would refurbish the memorial fountain at the cemetery before the Camp's annual Memorial Service without cost. He made a motion for the Camp to donate \$100 to the SCV's Heritage Operations Fund at the Gold Level, which was seconded and approved by the Camp.

Past Cmdr. Ron Udell stated each of the Camp's re-enactors who participated in the Firing on Columbia event received monetary compensation for their efforts which will be donated back to the Camp.

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

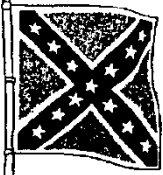
Virginia Flaggers Raise Second Confederate Flag near Lexington, Virginia

On March 28th, the Virginia Flaggers raised a 20' x 30' Confederate battle flag on an 80 foot pole alongside Interstate 64/81 on private land near Lexington, Virginia in a private ceremony. The flag was hoisted, according to their website, as a memorial to "our Confederate dead and a beautiful tribute to our gallant ancestors" and in response to the removal of the Confederate battle flags from Lee Chapel at Washington and Lee University.



The flag is the fourth roadside flag raised in the Old Dominion by the group since September 2013. Earlier this year, the group raised a similar flag on Route 60 near Lexington. The group hopes to erect another flag in Charlottesville which recently voted to end the observance of the Lee/Jackson Day state holiday. While they have received four offers for placement sites in the city, the cost of the poles are expensive with the cost of an 80 foot pole around \$6,000 with another \$1,200 to install.

Heritage



REPORT

University of Texas Student Government Seeks to Remove Statue of Jefferson Davis from Campus

In late March, the Student Government of the University of Texas in Austin voted almost unanimously to approve a resolution that seeks the removal of the statue of President Jefferson Davis from near the University's infamous Tower. Led by its President Xavier Rotnofsky and Vice-President Rohit Mandalapu, the student government hopes to dialog with university officials to accomplish the task of removing the statue of the man whom the historically ignorant Rotnofsky calls "a racist".



On March 2nd the statue was defaced on its base when a debased individual wrote the word "Chump" in blue chalk.

The statue of Davis was placed on the campus after World War I alongside a statue of President Woodrow Wilson to symbolize the reunification of the nation.

In the past, calls by heritage haters to remove the statues of Confederates at UT were mollified by placing statues to Martin Luther King, Jr. and Barbara Jordan on campus.

The proposal will be sent to the president's office for approval. The current university president, Bill Powers will be departing in June and Gregory L. Fenves, now executive vice president and provost, will be his successor.

Nonetheless, compatriots are asked to email the following UT official and politely request the statue remain in its present location:

Nancy Brazzil
Deputy to the President
nancy@po.utexas.edu

Geoff Leavenworth
Chief Communications Officer
geoff@po.utexas.edu

Carol Longoria
Assistant Deputy to the President
carol@po.utexas.edu

Beth Edwards
Executive Assistant to the President
beth@po.utexas.edu

Commander's Comments (continued from page 1)

at the Battle of Manassas reenactment in Claxton, Ga.

Our other big event in March was the first big cemetery cleanup at Magnolia Cemetery. Bill Stohrs and Tommy Chappell mowed the cemetery for over three hours on March 26th while Ron Udell and I raked and pulled weeds. On March 27th, Gary Hattaway pressured washed the podium and speakers stand while Ron cleaned the gravesites for the seven Generals until his arm fell off. David Moncus, Ben Creech, Terry Bowers, Mike Milford, Allen Johnson, and Nick Posey finished the cleanup on March 28th mowing, weed eating, and raking. A big thanks to all that helped! Thanks to your efforts the Confederate Dead section of Magnolia Cemetery looks great!

The speaker for our next camp meeting on April 16th will be our Fifth Brigade Commander, Thomas Miller. Jack Marlar, Past Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, will be our speaker for our Confederate Memorial Day service on April 25th. Lt Cmdr. Nick Posey will speak on April 2nd at Oakley Park to the Edgefield, SC Camp where he will speak on the true history of slavery.

Thanks to all for a great start to 2015. Come on out and bring a friend to one of our events. I hope to see you at Sconyers on the 17th. Have a great "Dixie Day" and "Deo Vindice"!

Florida Governor and Cabinet Omit Confederates from Veterans Hall of Fame

On March 24th, Florida Gov. Rick Scott and his Cabinet on Tuesday refused to honor three prominent Florida Confederate heroes: A former governor, Edward Perry; Florida's first adjutant general, David Lang; and Samuel Pasco, a Harvard-educated prisoner of war and US senator for whom Pasco County is named.

All three men had been chosen by a nominating council of seven volunteers to be members of the 2014 class of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. However, they were denied recognition on narrow legal grounds.

The executive director of the state Department of Veterans Affairs, Mike Prendergast, rejected all three for failing to comply with a requirement to have an honorable discharge from the US armed forces.

Compatriots are asked to again contact Governor Scott and ask him to change the guidelines to include Confederate veterans in the Veterans Hall of Fame and to sign an online petition which seeks the same:

Governor Rick Scott:

<http://www.flgov.com/contact-gov-scott/email-the-governor/>

Petition

https://www.change.org/p/florida-cabinet-and-dept-of-veterans-affairs-leave-no-american-veteran-behind-induct-florida-s-historical-veterans-in-the-florida-veterans-hall-of-fame?just_created=true

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Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.
Editor



April is Confederate History and Heritage Month

Confederate Memorial Day: April 26th

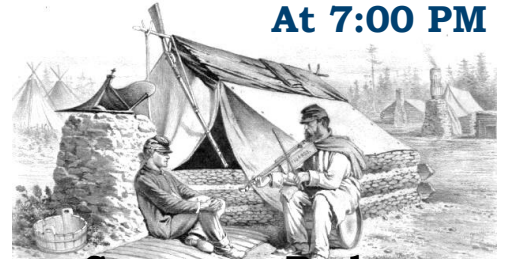
150 YEARS AGO: Gen. Lee Surrenders

- 9 April 1865: Gen. Lee surrenders the Army of North Virginia at Appomattox Court House, Va.
Federals capture Fort Blakely, Ala.
- 10 April 1865: Gen. Lee issues his famous General Order No. 9 to his troops
- 13 April 1865: Sherman's Army enters Raleigh, NC
Confederate torpedo sinks the USS *Ida* in Mobile Bay
- 14 April 1865: Mobile, Ala. is captured by Union forces
Union President Lincoln is shot at Ford's Theater in Washington by noted actor John Wilkes Booth; he dies the next day
- 16 April 1865: Gen. Robert C. Tyler is killed in action near West Point, Ga.
- 18-19 April 1865: Battles of Boykin's Mill and Dinkins' Mill, SC
- 19 April 1865: Confederate Archives and Treasury are placed in bank vaults in Augusta, Ga. by Lt. W. H. Parker, CSN
- 21 April 1865: Rather than surrender, Col. John Mosby disbands his partisan rangers at Marshall, Va.
- 26 April 1865: Gen. Joseph Johnston surrenders the Army of Tennessee at Bennett House near Durham Station, NC
- 29 April 1865: Union President Andrew Johnson orders the removal of commercial restrictions from most Southern ports except Texas
- 4 May 1865: Gen Richard Taylor surrenders Confederate forces in the Department of Alabama, Mississippi and east Louisiana at Citronelle, Ala.
- 10 May 1865: President Jefferson Davis is captured by Union cavalry at Irwinville, Georgia

Right: The 12 star "Stars and Bars" battle flag of Co. C, White County's "Dixie Rangers", 65th Georgia Infantry which was captured near Barnesville, Ga. during a skirmish on April 19, 1865 by a detachment of the 4th Indiana Cavalry. The flag is presently in the Museum of the Confederacy collection.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, April 16th
At 7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue

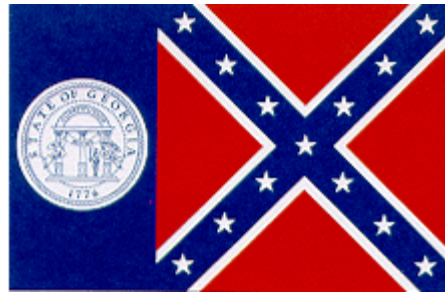
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

For to be sure He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in Him, yet by God's power we will live with Him...

2 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV)





CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE &

ANNUAL SOUTHERN HERITAGE MARCH

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015

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 11:45 a.m.

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

***Mr. Jack Marlar – Past Commander of the SC Division SCV
Topic: "Why We Remember: Truth, Honor and Dignity"***

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.

