

★ **Commander's Comments** ★  
by Lee Herron

I hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas this year and that the New Year will be even better. Please remember that Christmas is not about presents and “What did you get?”, but about God’s greatest gift to us--the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus is THE reason for the season.

Tickets will be available for our Lee/Jackson Banquet at the December meeting. The tickets will be \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. The guest speaker will be the Army of Tennessee Commander, Thomas Strain Jr. and his talk will be about “General Lee: Life after Appomattox.” The banquet will be held at Burns United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM on Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please invite your friends and family.

If you have not paid your SCV dues by now, you are late and will need to pay a \$5 reinstatement fee to be a member in good standing again. The camp will not pay the reinstatement fee!

I will give the December program and it will be about “The Charge” and our duty that is derived from it. Hope to see each one of you at the meeting. Remember, it is your duty to be there!

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**Remembering our Veterans:** The Alexander Camp Honor Guard shows the flag and presents a wreath during Augusta’s Veterans’ Day Observance on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Pictured right to left are Compatriots Joe Winstead, Roy Stampley, Ben Creech, Jerry Haddaway, Henry Gilmer and “Major” Ron Udell.

**Editor’s Note:** Below is the continuation of a series of articles on Georgia military units in which Richmond County men served during the War Between the States. Companies D and F of the 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Light Artillery consisted of men from Richmond County.

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Battalion Moves into Maryland**

In June 1864, the 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Battalion, as part of Evans Brigade in Gordon’s Division under General Jubal Early, moved north into the Shenandoah Valley. Along the way, they marched across the Natural Bridge of Virginia on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and paid their respects at the grave of Gen. “Stonewall” Jackson in Lexington on the 25<sup>th</sup>. After marching about twenty miles per day, they were able to reach Martinsburg on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Federal troops there had planned a feast in celebration of Independence Day, but Gordon’s Division drove them out of town and across the Potomac River. Subsequently, the Confederate Army enjoyed the Fourth of July feast.

The next day, Evans’ Brigade crossed the Potomac River below Shepherdstown into Maryland. On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, they pushed the Yankees deeper into their stronghold at Maryland Heights, across the river from Harpers Ferry. The 12<sup>th</sup> lost several men in this fight. After

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*Last Camp Meeting*

**Jack Marlar Speaks on Christmas Celebrations in the South versus the North**

During the September meeting of the Alexander Camp, the SCV's Field Representative, Jack Marlar of the South Carolina Division, spoke to the camp of the celebration of Christmas in the South versus the North. Compatriot Marlar has been a camp commander, brigade commander, SC Division Commander, and commander of an artillery reenactment unit. He initially thanked the camp for its refurbishment of the Confederate Powder Works Chimney and commended the camp for its rededication ceremony. Marlar then suggested that camp members read the article on slavery in the last *Confederate Veteran* and to memorize it and distribute it to their Southern friends.

Compatriot Marlar began his discussion by mentioning a letter written to Gen. Lee in 1864 by three Southern girls who wondered why Santa had forgotten them during the War. Gen. Lee aptly sent a reply that stated he met Santa on Christmas Eve on the front lines and asked him to sell the toys that he intended to give the children so that medicines, bandages and food could be purchased and given to the soldiers. He then spoke of various incidences that occurred during the War at Christmas. Marlar explained that prior to the War, the North, especially New England, frowned upon the celebration of Christmas because of its Puritan background. The Puritans believed that celebrating Christmas was akin to paganism and idolatry and celebrated productivity and work rather than merry making. The South, however, celebrated the day with fireworks, games, Yule logs, and Southerners decorated their homes with greenery. Eggnog was particularly a Southern favorite especially among slave children. Marlar suggested that the camp read the article in the *Confederate Veteran* by David Aiken in which William Gilmore Sims' writings are discussed. Rather than an elfish Santa Claus, Sims writes that Southerners favored Father Christmas who stressed the importance of good behavior and hospitality. Hunting and jousting was a favorite of the men during Christmastime while prepar-

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**Important Dates to Remember:**

- 20 December: South Carolina Secession Day
- 9 January: Mississippi Secession Day

**Coming Events:**

**9 December: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting**  
**Topic: The SCV Charge**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Sconyers Barbecue**

**12 December: Jackson, SC Christmas Parade**  
**3:00 PM**

**15 January: Lee-Jackson Banquet**  
**Burns UMC Fellowship Hall**  
**7:00 PM**

**22 January: Ga. Division Robert E. Lee Birthday & Secession Celebration**  
**Old Capitol**  
**Milledgeville, Georgia**

29 January: Millen Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet  
Featuring Stan Clardy's "Soldiers in Gray"  
7:00 PM  
Magnolia Springs State Park

**Notable Confederate Birthdays:**

- 6 December: Col. John Singleton Mosby
- 12 December: Gen. Stand Watie
- 13 December: Clement C. Clay, MC
- 16 December: Gen. Robert Garnett\*  
Gen. Henry Heath
- 17 December: Gen. Samuel Jones
- 18 December: Gen. Arnold Elzey (Jones)  
Gen. Samuel French
- 19 December: Gen. James Archer\*  
Gen. John C. Carter\*
- 21 December: Robert Barnwell Rhett
- 25 December: Gen. Preston Smith\*
- 3 January: Thomas H. Watts, Atty. Gen
- 5 January: MGen Joseph Kershaw
- 6 January: MGen John C. Brown
- 8 January: BGen Tom Green\*  
**LGen James Longstreet**
- 9 January: Christopher Memminger, Sec. Treas.

\*Died in Confederate Service

ing food and planning parties was done by the ladies.

Marlar continued by recommending that each member become of a member of the SCV's Sesquicentennial Society. He stated most members can initially join by donating \$200 of the total amount of \$2,000. Marlar recommended SCV Life Membership to all compatriots and commended the Tommy Miller family for their three generations of life membership. Following the program,

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## History Channel Forces Removal of Georgia Division SCV Sesquicentennial Ads

The History Channel has made the decision to force cable television companies, including Comcast and Charter, to removed ads paid for by the Georgia Division SCV commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the War Between the States.

The series of twelve television commercials was part of a statewide radio and television campaign aimed at educating the public on Georgia's important role and the historical causes of the War.

The commercials came under scrutiny of the History Channel when a little-known politically correct internet site began attacking the History Channel for allowing the commercials to broadcast in their programming.

Vice-president Nancy Alpert of A&E Television, the parent company of the History Channel, gave the following explanation of her decision to ban the historical ads: "The subject matter of each of the SCV ads, plus the actual language... is well beyond our guidelines for any advertising on AETN."

The commercials clearly offer a different point of view than that which is usually presented by documentaries on the History Channel; yet the channel has purported in the past to be an outlet which offers competing, and even controversial, opinions about historical events. Speaking on behalf of the Georgia Division, Commander Jack Bridwell had this to say, "We find it more than interesting that the History Channel has no problem airing shows with controversial theories about history, including more than one show which speculates that extraterrestrial aliens in UFO's somehow redirected human history, and yet the same channel does not see the value in allowing a non-profit, educational organization to present the Southern view of the causes for the War."

Contact Mr. Abbe Raven, President and CEO of A&E, at the following and tell him you are saddened by their historical bias and to restore the ads:

A&E Television Networks  
235 E. 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10017  
Telephone: 212-210-1400

## 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Battalion (Continued from page 1)

fighting at Maryland Heights all day on the 7th, Evans Brigade marched all night and the next day and camped on the night of the 8th on the western slope of the mountain just west of Frederick, Maryland.

Meanwhile, Union Gen. Lew Wallace had traveled to the Monocacy River just east of Frederick and gathered up all the forces that he could to oppose Early so as to delay his advance. Wallace only had a few untested troops at his disposal before the arrival of Gen. James Ricketts' Division with over 3,000 battle hardened veterans. Lee's plan to force Grant to divert troops north was working; however, Early and his men thought they were only facing new recruits and militia.

On July 9th, Gen. Gordon's Division crossed the Monocacy not knowing the true nature of their enemy which would soon prove to be costly.

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

Cmdr. Herron presented Marlar with a bottle of the fly ash from the Powder works chimney.

During the officer reports, Ron Udell introduced Ken Moore who stated he was seeking re-enactors to participate in a video shoot for his upcoming video entitled *Shadows of Augusta*. Udell stated the Camp's Honor Guard's participated in the Sandy Oaks Rodeo on October 29th with Ben Creech, Jack Bailey, Tommy Miller, Fred Bussey and himself in attendance. He also stated that the Honor Guard participated in Veterans' Day celebration in Augusta on November 11<sup>th</sup> with a number of compatriots in attendance. Cmdr. Herron expressed his thanks to all those who were involved.

David Powell commended all those who assisted with the Powder Works Chimney dedication namely Ben Creech, Tommy Miller, Marie and Gary Haddaway and especially, Cmdr. Lee Herron.

Commander Herron initially recognized all US veterans during the meeting which occurred on Veterans Day. He then discussed the proposed protest of the Klan at Augusta State University and the reason why it was cancelled. He also spoke of an article in the *Augusta Chronicle* that was wrongly titled "Confederate Group Joins Klan" and the successful efforts by the author and editor to print a retraction.

Herron stated the following will be candidates for camp offices: Commander: vacant, Lt. Cmdr.: vacant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cmdr. David Shockey, Adjutant: Perry Herron, Treasurer: Nick Posey and Jack Bailey, Quartermaster: Joe Winstead, Chaplain: Ben Creech, Historian and Web Master: Terry Bowers, Recording secretary and newsletter editor: Arnold Huskins, Judge Advocate: Alan Johnson and David Powell, Camp Surgeon: Ron Udell, and Sgt at Arms: Nathan Salyer. He stated there will be nominations from the floor for these offices at the next meeting and that both he and Nick would assist any individual interested in being Commander or Lt. Commander.

The upcoming Christmas parades were discussed with camp participation approved for Grovetown, North Augusta, and Jackson, SC. Prior to the meeting, Herron requested prayers for Jerry Grisby, Dr. John Baxley, Jules Godene, Timothy Bowers, and Kristy Rogers.

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

# The Wig Wag

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*Editor*



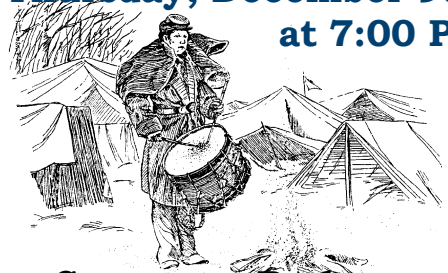
**Have a merry Christmas and a  
happy New Year!**

## 150 YEARS AGO: South Carolina Secedes from the Union

- 12 December 1860: Secretary of State, Lewis Cass, resigns because of Buchanan's refusal to reinforce Fort Sumter.
- 14 December 1860: Georgia calls for a convention of the Southern states to form an independent nation.
- 17 December 1860: South Carolina Secession Convention is called to order and decides unanimously to secede from the Union
- 20 December 1860: South Carolina Secession Convention approves the Ordinance of Secession. Gov. Pickens demands that Buchanan relinquish control of Forts Sumter and Moultrie.
- 21 December 1860: SC Representatives withdraw from the US House
- 22 December 1860: SC selects three commissioners to arrange for delivery of public lands, including the forts, to the now independent state. Lincoln's opposition to the Crittenden Compromise becomes public ending the proposal's potential to circumvent the secession crisis.
- 26 December 1860: Major Robert Anderson moves his command from Fort Moultrie to Ft. Sumter.
- 31 December 1860: Charleston is notified by telegraph that a US man of war with troops is on its way.

**Right:** South Carolina Secession Flag. The day after South Carolina seceded from the Union, this red flag was raised over the Charleston Custom House and spread to other cities as a symbol of secession. The inverted crescent or gorget is a sign of distress. The original flag was 68" x 92" and was subsequently flown on the CSS *Dixie*.

**Next Camp Meeting**  
**Thursday, December 9th**  
**at 7:00 PM**



**Sconyers Barbecue**  
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

### *Scripture Thought*

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

- Isaiah 7:13-14

