



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

The Augusta Confederate Powder Works was Col. George Washington Rains' solution for the gunpowder that was so desperately needed by the Confederacy. When completed, the Confederate Powder Works sat along the Augusta Canal for two miles in 1862. It truly was a marvel then. And now its chimney is all that remains of this once great complex. The chimney is by itself truly a marvel too. Should we have placed the battle flag sign there? At the time it seemed like a good idea. Should it remain there now that it is restored? I ask you to read what is stated on the two tablets on the sides of chimney:

**THE OBELISK-CHIMNEY**

*Sole remnant of the extensive Powder-Works here erected under the auspices of the Confederate Government is by the Confederate Survivors Assoc. of*

*Augusta, with the consent of the City Council, conserved in Honor of a fallen Nation and inscribed to the memory of those who died in the Southern Armies during the War Between the States.*

The other side reads:

*George Washington Rains USMA, Brig/General Ordnance, CSA; Brevet – Major, USA; Captain, 4<sup>th</sup> Artillery.*

*Who under almost insuperable difficulties erected and successfully operated the Powder Works-A Bulwark of the Beleaguered Confederacy.*

Those two statements pretty much says it all. And now that it is restored as with a couple of exceptions, should a

(Continued on page 3)



**Remembering our Confederate Veterans:** Alexander Camp Compatriots Joe Winstead, Gary Hattaway, and Cmdr Ron Udell participate in Veterans' Day ceremonies on Broad Street in Augusta on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

On Dec. 25, 1861, "The Daily Constitutional" of Augusta printed an editorial on how different this Christmas was from those in the past:

**Christmas**

The extraordinary events of the last twelve months give unwonted themes for thought, and fill the hearts of our people with strange emotions on the recurrence of this festal day. Christmas comes not now to us arrayed in gayest colors, light hearted and joyous, and attended with songs and revelry. It comes with its mingled associations of mirth and of sorrow, to find our people earnest and thoughtful-at the same time buoyant and hopeful-less inclined to gleeful frolics and merry-makings, yet looking cheerfully and confidently to a smiling future of sunshine and happiness, and cloudless prosperity.

Since last Christmas, a great revolution in our political destinies has taken place. An old and rotten Government, which was about to become an engine of oppression and degradation to the South, has been thrown off with a disdainful and heroic spirit becoming a free and proud people, and in its stead has been erected a Confederacy of States, homogeneous in tastes, and habits, and interests, and thoroughly adapted to secure to its citizens all the rights and immunities for which

(See **Christmas** on page 2)

## Last Camp Meeting

### Removal of the Battle Flag Sign from the Powder Works Chimney Discussed

During the November Camp meeting, the removal of the battle flag sign from the Powder Works Chimney by the Augusta Canal Authority was once again discussed by the Camp and Georgia Division Advocate Dan Coleman. Cmdr. Udell reported the Canal Authority's plan for flagpoles adjacent to the chimney have not as yet been finalized as they are being designed by a Georgia Tech student. Udell reassured the camp that Mr. Sherrouse continues to reiterate that the Canal Authority's intent is to erect four flagpoles adjacent to the chimney and fly the Confederate national flags plus the Georgia Secession flag. After a lengthy discussion ranging from the legality of putting up the sign to whether those on the Division's tag funding committee would have voted to provide the funds to restore the chimney if they knew the battle flag sign was to be removed, the Camp voted to refrain from taking any part in any lawsuit by the Georgia Division to restore the Confederate battle flag sign on the chimney.

During the meeting, there were two applications for membership: **Tommy Chappell** who joins on the record of his Confederate ancestor, Pvt. John Absalom Chappell of Co. A, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Georgia State Troopers and **William "Bill" Belger** who joins on the record of his Confederate ancestor, Pvt. Eldred Gooding of Co. D, 11<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Infantry. Certificates of membership were presented to two compatriots: P. Scott Dedmond and James Martin

As the meeting was held on Veterans Day, Cmdr Udell recognized all veterans and invited them to stand. The camp then applauded them for their service.

Cmdr. Udell discussed the upcoming Christmas parades and the camp decided to participate in the North Augusta Christmas parade on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to the meeting, prayers for given for Tommy Miller's wife, Doris, Jules Godene, Stan Scritchfield's grandson, and Fred Bussey's son.

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

### *The Wig Wag*

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## Important Dates to Remember:

### Coming Events:

**8 December: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp  
#158 Meeting  
Topic: Medical Dilemmas at  
Gettysburg  
7:00 PM  
Sconyers Barbecue**

10 December: Old South Christmas Ball  
Greenville, SC

**11 December: North Augusta Christmas Parade  
2:00 PM**

**17 December: Magnolia Cemetery Clean Up  
8:30 AM**

**21 January: Alexander Camp's Lee/Jackson  
Banquet  
Burns UMC Fellowship Hall  
6:30 PM**

### 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

## Christmas (Continued from page 1)

the American revolution was successfully fought, and of which Abolition hate, and Yankee greed would deprive us. This second war for independence is now being waged by the Southern people with a devoted heroism, which eclipses the brightest deeds of the first, and with a steadiness of purpose, a spirit of sacrifice, a lavish patriotism, an enthusiasm of heart, and hand, and will, pervading all classes and ages, which give the most perfect assurance of a triumphant result...



## Third National Flag Removed from Caddo Parish Louisiana Monument

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the governing body of Caddo Parish in Shreveport, the Caddo Parish Commission, in an eleven to one vote, voted to remove the third National Confederate flag and flagpole from the Caddo Parish Confederate Monument. They had previously determined since the Caddo Parish Police Jury had voted to erect the flagpole, the commission had the legal right to vote to remove it. District 5 Commissioner, Joyce Bowman, requested the removal with only one courageous commissioner, Doug Dominick, voting against the majority.

The historic location, where the last Confederate flag was lowered in 1865 and where Gov. Henry Watkins Allen gave his farewell speech to the people of Louisiana, has had a Confederate flag flying from that pole since 1951, whether it has been a battle flag or currently, a Third National.

### Texas DMV Votes Against SCV Plate

In a totally politically motivated vote, a board of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles rejected the Texas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans request for a specialty license plate featuring its organizational logo. The vote, taken ironically the day before Veterans Day, was unanimously against its approval. Initially, the DMV had approved the plate, then reconsidered its decision and voted again which ended in a 4 to 4 vote.

After Texas Governor Rick Perry, who has presidential aspirations, stated he did not support the plate and after protests by a number of anti-Confederate heritage groups, the governor appointed board's decision was not surprising. The Texas Division is planning on filing a lawsuit against the state to obtain the same rights as other nonprofit organizations.

"It's very disheartening when people are swayed by emotional issues rather than looking at things historically and correctly," said Michael Givens, SCV Commander in Chief. "Now, because of their actions, they're going to cause the state of Texas to have to foot the bill for a lawsuit and the taxpayers will have to pay for that and it's completely unnecessary.

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

sign be stuck on the side? Several have said that it now looks the way it should—as it was in 1862. During our November meeting, after much “fan fair or fan the flames (and I say that loosely), with the majority of the members

present, the camp voted **not** to participated in a lawsuit with the Georgia Division. There were no “yes” votes; however, a few did not vote at all. Regardless of what happens, we determined approximately eight years ago to have the chimney restored like it was when the Confederate Survivors Assoc. of Augusta added the tablets, etc. It is done. I thank God that this very important piece of the Confederacy and of our history will be there long after you and I are gone. And we should not forget that the Confederate Powder works touched all of our Confederate ancestors' lives one way or another, and it would have been a terrible thing (an injustice) to withhold division tag funds to preserve the chimney just because a battle flag sign was not on the chimney. Don't forget the top of the chimney, if it had not been restored when it was, had some bricks that were loose and in danger of falling out. Fortunately, it is preserved so others can enjoy it for many years to come. Let's move on, and, hopefully, the Canal Authority will do what is right. They now have that chance.

As we were short on time at the last meeting, may I offer thanks to Gary Hattaway for providing the transportation to Bethel United Methodist Church in Orangeburg, SC for the grave marker and iron crosses dedication service on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Ken Kitchens, Ben Creech and his wife, Belinda and Lt. Commander Lee Herron were also in attendance. Thanks also to Ms. Karen Black, President of the Paul McMichael Chapter 427 UDC for inviting us and for serving the nice meal.

Gary Hattaway, Joe Winstead and I participated in the Veterans' Day Ceremony at 4th and Broad with the camp wreath displayed as usual. Tom Smith, Carol Nettles and Paul Stampely also attended.

We had a cemetery cleanup the weekend of November 19<sup>th</sup> before Thanksgiving, and Ben Creech and I also went the day before Thanksgiving to do a touch up. Thanks to all who worked on the 19<sup>th</sup> to help with this worthy task. We plan to do a cleanup just before Christmas, probably on the 17<sup>th</sup> since the 24<sup>th</sup> is on a Saturday.

Ken Kitchens is the contact person if you wish to buy a Confederate Powder Works fly ash bottle. Also many thanks and hats off to Henry and Mae Gilmer who sold four fly ash bottles this past week. Christmas is right around the corner, so one of these would make a great gift for some one. And speaking of Christmas, I truly hope y'all have a blessed and merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I hope you will get what you want. (I think Ben Creech said something about a horse?)

Our next upcoming meeting will be December 8<sup>th</sup>. Our planned speaker will be Dr. John Baxley and he will discuss “Medical Dilemmas at Gettysburg”. Please plan to be at Sconyers Barbeque and to remember our Southern Heritage and to support our Camp and its activities when possible. **Remember the Charge! God Bless the South!**

# The Wig Wag

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Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.  
*Editor*



**Have a Merry “Southern” Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year!**

## **150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Dranesville, Virginia**

- 8 December 1861: CSS *Sumter* captures Union whaler *Eben Dodge* in the Atlantic
- 12 December 1861: A large scale fire destroys “Secession Hall” and the downtown business section of Charleston, SC
- 14 December 1861: BGen. H.H. Sibley takes command of Confederate forces in New Mexico and Arizona territories
- 17 December 1861: Federals attempt to block Savannah harbor by sinking seven vessels loaded with stones
- 18 December 1861: A large number of Confederates are captured after Yankees attack their camp near Milford, Missouri.
- 20 December 1861: Friendly fire between SC and Kentucky CS troops results in significant casualties during the Battle of Dranesville, Va.
- 22 December 1861: Skirmish near New Market, Virginia  
A large fire destroys Confederate ordnance and commissary stores in Nashville, Tennessee
- 26 December 1862: US admits to illegal act and surrenders kidnapped Confederate Commissioners Mason and Slidell to British authorities
- 4 January 1862: Romney Campaign: Gen. Stonewall Jackson and his command enter Bath, western Virginia
- 6 January 1862: The Texas State legislature appropriates \$5,000 to pay the cost of transporting all clothes and other contributions to Texans serving in the Confederate Army.

**Right: The battle flag of the First Kentucky Infantry Regiment** which was involved in a friendly fire incident with troops of the 6<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Infantry during the battle of Dranesville, Virginia on December 20, 1861. Signing up for one year’s service, the regiment missed the battle of First Manassas, but fought at Yorktown in April 1862 repulsing two charges before disbanding in May 1862.

## **Next Camp Meeting**

**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 PM**



**Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road**

### *Scripture Thought*

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel whose origins are from of old...

--Micah 5:2(NIV)

