

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

As you are well aware, we are just about at the end of another year--one in which has been fairly busy, but it has probably been no different than any other year. Starting with Magnolia Cemetery earlier this year and getting it somewhat back in shape during the summer to the work at the Confederate Monument on Broad Street, it's almost business as usual for Camp #158. Throughout, we were able to participate in some reenactments and important memorial services. Now Christmas is fast approaching, and I hope that it will be good to y'all and your families. Some or most of us are excited (especially our children and grandchildren) about the upcoming Christmas season and all that it brings: presents and a chance to be with family and friends a little longer than we usually are able during the year plus the added benefit of extra special good things to eat that Christmas usually brings. But let's not forget what Christmas is all about, a chance to share and remember this holy time of the year, the birth of Jesus Christ.

Nominations for Camp #158 officers were held last month. We still need someone to volunteer for the position of 1st Lt Commander and Staff Judge Advocate. I will give some time at the next meeting for someone (or those) to seek these offices. I encourage all that would like to seek a position to do so. *Live the Charge!* Let it be known at the meeting or have someone nom-

(Continued on page 3)

A Moment of Peace in a Time of War

A story is told that on Christmas Eve of 1862, 150 years ago, in Mississippi, a small band of Confederate soldiers had separated from their regiment and was attempting to rejoin their comrades. Weary and tired, they decided to make camp for the night. Sometime later, a small group of Union soldiers, also separated from their regiment, stumbled into the Southerners' small encampment. Surprisingly, no shots were fired. Instead, the Confederates shared their fire with the Yankees. With the spirit of the season, these men shared their supper and gave each other tobacco, coffee, pocket knives, and other small gifts. Supposedly, together they sang, "O Come All Ye Faithful". By the morning, both groups of soldiers departed each going to find their respective armies. After wishing each other a "Merry Christmas", they offered a prayer that they would not have to meet in battle. On December 27, 1862, two days after Christmas the two armies met at Chickasaw Bayou. Guns were fired, a battle was fought and almost 2000 men were casualties.

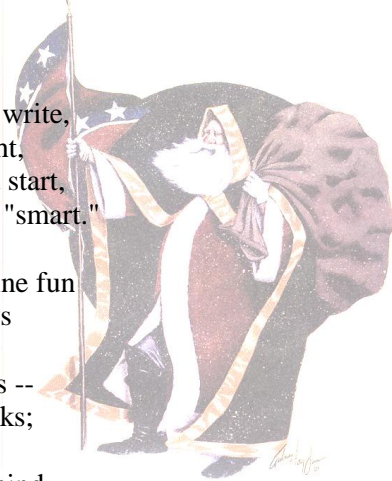
The battle actually did happen but this Christmas story is difficult to confirm, for there are too many like it. It is proof, however; of the power of the Christmas spirit, that during a time of war, even for a brief moment, there was "peace on earth and goodwill toward men..."



Editor's note: The following was printed in the *Southern Illustrated News* on December 20, 1862 to help explain to Southern children why Santa may have forgotten them. Many antidotes, short stories, and poems were written regarding this subject, but the following was one of the most popular:

Santa Claus by Mary McCrimmon

This happened one Christmas, I'm sorry to write,
Our ports are blockaded, and Santa, to-night,
Will hardly get down here; for if he should start,
The Yankees would get him unless he was "smart."
They beat all the men in creation to run
And if they could get him, they'd think it fine fun
To put him in prison, and steal the nice toys
He started to bring to our girls and boys.
But try not to mind it -- tell over your jokes --
Be gay and be cheerful, like other good folks;
For if you remember to be good and kind,
Old Santa, next Christmas, will bear it in mind.



Last Camp Meeting

Dennis Todd Features Confederate Flags of South Carolina

During the November meeting of the Alexander Camp, Compatriot Dennis Todd, a retired policeman from Cayce and Chairman of the South Carolina Division's Graves Committee, presented a program on Confederate flags of the Palmetto State. Todd began by discussing the evolution of the Confederate flag and how a South Carolinian, William Porcher Miles, was instrumental in designing the St. Andrew's cross pattern flag. He then presented a Power Point presentation showing various regimental flags (i.e. 15th, 26th, 10th, and 19th SC Infantry), several cavalry guidons, and unique flags such as the 2nd SC Regimental flag, which is probably the oldest known SC flag, and the Fort Sumter Garrison flag. Todd explained that 844 Confederate flags were captured during the War and 71 were surrendered at Appomattox. Today, there are 1500 Confederate flags known to exist and the Museum of the Confederacy has 510 in their collection.

There was an application for membership: **John Sweat** petitioned the camp for membership based on the record of his Confederate ancestor, his great grandfather, Pvt. John Jackson Sweat who served in Company H, 26th Georgia Infantry and was mortally wounded at the Battle of Second Manassas in 1862.

Cmdr Udell thanked all those who attended the memorial service at Fort Pulaski for the "Immortal 600" and stated 10% of the camp was present. However, he stated he would probably refuse to participate in any NPS events in the future if asked. Udell stated he had received a thank you note from last month's speaker, Tammy Herron, for the camp's donation to preserve the Martin Guards flag. He thanked all those who participated in the cemetery cleanup on October 13th: David Powell, Tom Smith, and Tommy Chappel. Cmdr Udell reported that the Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet will be on January 26th at Burns United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall and that there will be a roadside cleanup on December 22nd.

Nominations for Camp officers were taken from the floor and the following candidates were selected: Commander: David Moncus, 1st Lt. Cmdr: **vacant**, 2nd Lt. Cmdr.: Danny Martin, Adjutant/Treasurer: Nick Posey, Quartermaster: Joe Winstead, Historian: Terry Bowers, Chaplain: Ben Creech, Surgeon: Dr. John Baxley, Ser-

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

20 December: South Carolina Secession Day

Coming Events:

**13 December: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp
#158 Meeting
Topic: Sherman's Georgia
Rampage
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue**

14-15 December: Fort Pulaski Candle Lantern Tours

15 December: Olde South Christmas Ball
Greenville, SC
<http://www.oldsouthball.com/>

22 December: Alexander Camp's Roadside Clean-up
Augusta West Parkway

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

1-2 February: Stephen D Lee Institute
Renaissance Hotel
St. Augustine, Fla.

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

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*

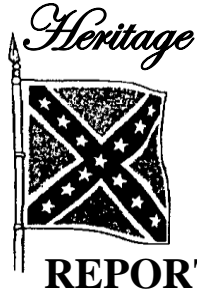
LGen James Longstreet

*Died in CSA Service

geant at Arms: Gary Hattaway, newsletter editor: Arnold Huskins, and Staff Judge Advocate: **vacant**. Officers will be voted upon during the December Camp meeting.

Lt Cmdr Herron reported that there was a delay in completing the Powder Works DVD's and related that there was a Confederate Cross of Honor for sale in a North Augusta antique store. He contacted the store owner who stated he found the marker found it on his property. The

(Continued on page 3)



Haywood County NC Commissioners May Ban Flag at Monument

REPORT

Haywood County, North Carolina commissioners are considering a proposal to ban the Confederate battle flag from being placed adjacent to the Confederate monument on the Courthouse grounds. In a proposal that was read at a meeting on November 19th and states "at no point shall the Confederate battle flag be displayed on Haywood County grounds." The Confederate battle flag is the only flag, sign, placard or other emblem singled out by this policy.

Kirk Lyons, of the Southern Legal Resource Center, states the proposal is unconstitutional and a violation of the First Amendment's freedom of speech. He is presently preparing a legal brief to share with the commissioners.

The policy only allows the placement of 12 x 16 inch Confederate first national flags only on Confederate Memorial Day and no other flags are allowed without specific permission from the County Manager. Flags from other wars placed near other monuments on the grounds are not limited by this proposal.

The policy does allow any US or state flag to be placed adjacent to monuments, and quick thinking compatriots wittingly placed the state flag of Mississippi, whose union features the square Confederate battle flag, adjacent to the Confederate monument.

Earlier this year, Confederate flags placed at the monument by compatriots were removed promptly by the county which resulted in a flag protest and subsequent removal of all flags from memorials.

Contact the commissioners via the web page below and let them know you support the flag at the monument: http://www.haywoodnc.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=70&layout=blog&Itemid=148

Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

owner is presently investigating if there is any indication that a Confederate soldier may be buried on his property. Herron also reported he and several compatriots attended the dedication of an historical marker at Darby Plantation in Edgefield on October 25th.

Adjutant/Treasurer Nick Posey stated 93 of 110 members have paid their dues with three additional members paying at the meeting. At present, 85% of camp members have renewed their SCV/Camp membership. He reported Camp members contributed an additional \$220 to the Camp itself and the following additional amounts to the Division: Flags Across Georgia Fund \$165, Heritage Defense Fund: \$165, Awareness Fund \$70 and Disaster Relief Fund \$40. Posey stated he had received a request for funds in the amount of \$400 which will be utilized to purchase concrete mix to

Commander's Comments (Continued from page 1)

inate you if you are interested.

Since our last meeting, our Honor Guard (Henry Gilmer, Tommy Chappell, Ben Creech, Joe Winstead, and myself:

pictured at right) were in place with our Camp #158 wreath as usual for



the November 12th Veterans' Day Remembrance on Broad Street. We fired one volley in honor of all veterans. (Tom Smith and Paul Stampley were also in attendance.) Our chaplain, Ben Creech, mentioned at our last meeting a Veterans Day Service that was to be held at Siloam United Methodist Church near Barnwell SC on Sunday November 11th, and he and I represented our Camp at this service. It was a very nice event and the Thanksgiving dinner that was provided afterwards was very good. Five of us participated in the Battle of Congaree Creek reenactment at Sandy Run, SC on December 1st: Bill Storrs, Gary Hattaway, Tommy Chappell, Ben Creech, and myself.

And lastly, if you are looking for a special Christmas gift, don't forget we will have Confederate Powder Works flask bottles and Powder Works prints for sale at the December meeting.

Our Lee/Jackson will Banquet will be held on January 26th. I hope to have tickets at our December meeting. As of this writing I do not have the cost per ticket, but hopefully it will continue to be \$12.00 or close to that amount. Please make a note of this date and plan to be there to honor Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson in remembrance of their birthdays.

Our next upcoming meeting will be December 13th. Our speaker will be announced at the meeting. Please plan to be at Sconyers Barbecue to remember our Southern heritage and to support our Camp and its activities when possible. We have a lot going on and you will miss something if you don't come. **Remember the Charge! God Bless the South! I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! See you in 2013!**

prepare the base upon which the memorial pavers will be placed. A motion was made to do so, seconded, and approved by the camp.

Prior to the meeting, prayers were requested for the family of Becky Lowe and those presently on the prayer list: the Miller Family, Philip Weaver, Ernie Franklin, John Givens, Jules Godin, Jim Kirshner, Roy Stampley, Diane Grigsby, Fred Bussey's son, David, and Stan Scritchfield's grandson.

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

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Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.
Editor



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

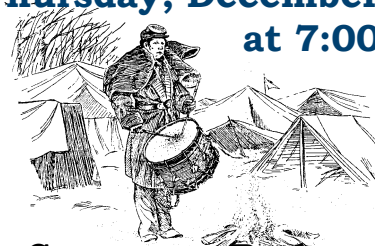
150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Fredericksburg, Va.

- 11 December 1862: Gen. Forrest leaves Columbia, Tenn. on his second raid
Gen. Grant issues orders expelling Jews from his department
- 13 December 1862: Battle of Fredericksburg, Va; Gen. Lee defeats Burnside
- 20 December 1862: Van Dorn strikes the Federal supply depot at Holly Springs, Miss. capturing 1500 prisoners and destroying \$1.5 million in supplies
- 21 December 1862: Forrest captures 700 Yankee troops at Trenton, Tenn.
- 24 December 1862: Federal troops occupy Galveston, Texas
- 28 December 1862: At Baton Rouge, La., the State House burns one week after being reoccupied by Union troops.
- 29 December 1862: Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, Miss. Sherman's second attempt on Vicksburg fails.
- 30 December 1862: Gen. Joe Wheeler cavalry capture 500 Federal troops in their raid around Rosecrans' Army in Tennessee.
- 31 December 1862: Battle of Parker's Crossroads, Tenn.
- 31 Dec-2 January 1863: Battle of Murfreesboro (Stones River) Tenn.: Gen. Bragg attempts to halt Rosecrans' advance, then withdraws
- 1 January 1863: Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation takes effect; however, no slaves are actually freed as it applies only to the Confederacy
- Confederate forces under Magruder capture Galveston, Texas

Right: The battle flag of the 26th Tennessee Infantry: This fifteen star First National pattern flag was captured by the 78th Pennsylvania Infantry while the regiment was resisting the Union counterattack at the Battle of Murfreesboro on January 2, 1863. Also known as the 3rd East Tennessee Infantry Regiment and organized near Knoxville in September 1861, the unit suffered 110 casualties during the battle.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, December 13th
at 7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.

--Isaiah 9: 2 (NIV)

