

★ **Commander's
Comments** ★
by David Moncus

I hope that you had a very good Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. As we move into the last month of 2013, it is time for a little reflection on the past year. As you read this very condensed report think about the opportunity to be a better camp member in the coming year of 2014. Remember that every day that passes is another day of history, and you have either done something or nothing.

We got 2013 started off with the Camp's annual Lee and Jackson Banquet. It was difficult, as the freezing weather moved in and our guest speaker was stranded in North Carolina and could not make the trip. Commander Ron Udell did a good job of making the best of the unfortunate circumstances and pulling off a successful night. Our banquet this year is planned for Saturday, January 25th. Please make an effort to be with us and enjoy the opportunity to celebrate the legacy of these two great Southern heroes. We need your attendance.

We got another opportunity to celebrate and remember our Confederate ancestors with the celebration of April as Confederate History Month. This included our own Confederate Memorial service at the Confederate dead section of Magnolia Cemetery. Our crowd was way down, but the dedicated few enjoyed a good service. If you don't do anything else during the year you should make it a priority to attend our memorial

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Composer was Massachusetts born Georgia transplant

The Christmas Carol Composed by a Future Confederate Soldier

"Jingle Bells," one of the most popular Christmas songs, was written by James S. Pierpont who served in the Lamar Rangers which became Company H. 5th Georgia Cavalry during the War Between the States.

The song was originally performed in a Sunday school concert in Savannah, Georgia, although it has been claimed that he originally wrote it in Medford, Massachusetts in 1850.

The song, entitled "The One Horse Open Sleigh," was published by Oliver Ditson of Boston in 1857 and was sold for 35 cents per copy. The song was re-issued in 1859 as "Jingle Bells or the One Horse Open Sleigh" with a cover decoration of a huge collar of sleigh bells and it was sold for thirty cents. The song was reissued as a result of the popularity of its charming chorus with its jingling bells; however, popular use transformed the original tune of the chorus into the familiar one we know today. The verse, although, remains the same except the original stated "Oh! What joy!" instead of "Oh! What fun!" as it is sung today.

James Pierpont was one of six children whose father was John Pierpont, a well-known published poet, lecturer, reformer and Unitarian minister. An advocated of abolition and temperance, the elder Pierpont was also an enthusiast of phrenology and spiritualism whose views were contradictory to his Boston congregation's, resulting in the loss of his position. James worked as a seaman, served in the Navy, became a photographer, and lost his business in San Francisco due to fire during the Gold Rush. He was married twice, (his second wife was the daughter of the mayor of Savannah), and fathered five children. His abolitionist father eventually saw his relocation to Savannah, Georgia where his brother, Rev. John Pierpont, Jr., accepted a position at the Unitarian Church.

During the secession crisis, James espoused the Confederate cause and composed such patriotic songs for Dixie as "We Conquer or Die" in 1861 and "Strike for the South" in 1863. After the war, he taught music in Valdosta and later moved to Quitman where he taught at the Quitman Academy where he retired as head of the music department. He spent his later years in Winter Haven, Florida where he died at the age of 71. He was buried beside his brother-in-law who was killed at the Battle of First Manassas. Interestingly, his biggest success as a composer during his lifetime was not "Jingle Bells", but a ballad entitled "The Little White Cottage" or "Gentle Nellie Moore" published in 1857. "Jingle Bells" worldwide popularity and familiarity is more a twentieth century occurrence.

(See **Jingle Bells** on page 3)

Last Camp Meeting

Mosie Marlar Speaks on Southern Scarcity and Ersatz during the War

During the November meeting of the Alexander Camp, Mrs. Mosie Marlar, wife of SCV Field Representative, Compatriot Jack Marlar, and a member of the Order of the Confederate Rose, spoke on the topic, "Ersatz: Household Substitutes in the South during the War".

Mrs. Marlar explained that the Southern people, following the first summer of the War, realized that the conflict would last longer than expected and that an "economy of plenty" would soon be one of "scarcity" as the Union blockade tightened its grip on the Confederacy. "Ingenuity" became the password and, with the newspapers assistance, three-fourths of all articles used every day had to be replaced by a substitute. As a result, nothing was ever wasted enabling Richmond, Virginia to be labeled a "clean city" for its lack of refuse.

Recipe books were written to deal with the shortages, and Southerners were encouraged to plant food crops and conserve seeds. Butcher shops often had to close or required long waiting times to purchase items. Fish was a staple of many diets and in many places desperate citizens were forced to consume dogs, cats, squirrels, possum, rats or snails to survive. Desserts disappeared as sugar was replaced by sorghum or honey and flour was replaced by cornmeal or rice flour. The lack of coffee inspired the creation of poor substitutes made of parched corn, okra seed, dried sweet potatoes or chicory.

The shortage of cloth was remedied by turning clothing inside out and placing folded newspapers inside clothing to keep warm. Knitting, carding, and weaving became in vogue as spinning wheels and looms were brought down from attics. Dyes were made of bark and berries, and hats were made of palmetto, pine straw, wheat, oat, rye and bird's nests.

The lack of housing became a problem as homes were destroyed by war or as people fled invading armies. As a result, public buildings, factories, schools, boats, servant cabins, boxcars and even caves were utilized by the dispossessed.

As Lincoln prohibited medicines from reaching the Confederacy, quinine, morphine, chloroform and other pharmaceuticals were scarce. Everyday items such as soap, needles, pins, cologne, perfume, hair oil, tooth-

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Important Dates to Remember:

20 December: South Carolina Secession Day

Coming Events:

**12 December: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp
158 Meeting
Topic: "Common Soldiers in the
War"
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue**

14 December: SCV Leadership Workshop
Holiday Inn Express
Indianapolis, IN

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

7-8 February: Stephen D Lee Institute
Doubletree Hotel Downtown
Chattanooga, Tenn.

<http://stephendleeinstitute.com/events.html>

Notable Confederate Birthdays: *Died in CSA Service

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

brushes were all in short supply. Matches were difficult to find and candles were made of strips of rags dipped in wax or sweet gum balls dipped in animal fat and lighted.

Still the Southern people endured, borrowed or exchanged items when they could, and prayed for victory.

Following her excellent presentation, Mrs. Marlar was presented a Confederate Powder works fly ash bottle by Cmdr. Moncus.

Cmdr. Moncus reported there was a Camp cemetery clean-up on October 12th and he hoped to have another one in December. He thanked all those who participated in last month's cemetery clean up. Moncus reported the Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet will be held on January 25th at Burn's United Methodist Church fellowship hall. He reported four Compatriots participated in the Veterans' Day event on

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American Legion Post Denies SCV Participation in Veterans' Parade

The American Legion Post 2 in Knoxville, Tennessee denied the request of Longstreet-Zollicoffer Camp #87, SCV, to march in their annual Veterans Day parade. American Legion parade committee officials stated their event is to honor the men and women who served in the US Armed Forces and that only U.S., Tennessee, and preapproved flags are allowed in the parade.

Committee members feared the Camp's presence would bring about the appearance of the Confederate battle flag which they deem controversial. During previous parades, the Camp respected the wishes of the committee and did not carry the flag in previous parades; however, spectators independently waved Confederate flags.

Camp Commander Scott Hall stated "We're honoring the veterans; those are the individual soldiers who were called to service, answered the call of their state and the call of their country," Hall said, "and as a result, fought for the Confederacy."

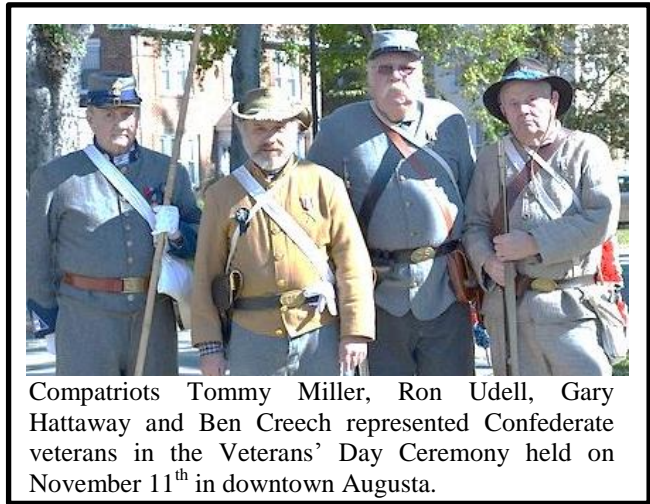
Subsequently, two compatriots protested the actions of the American Legion by attending the parade as spectators and carrying battle flags.

Duval County School Board Votes to Remove General Forrest's Name from High School

Last month the Duval County School Board in Jacksonville, Florida voted 7-0 to change the name of Nathan Bedford Forrest High School and begin the process of renaming the predominately minority school. Utilizing a campaign of lies and historical untruths, community organizers and "civil rights" groups were able to persuade board members to change the name. A previous attempt to change the name in 2008 failed.

Museum of the Confederacy to Merge with Richmond's Civil War Center

The Museum of the Confederacy's Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Waite Rawls, has voted to merge with Richmond's Civil War Center on the site of the Tredegar Iron Works. The merger will come with a new name and a new facility to harbor the Museum's artifacts. Many compatriots believe the merger is a betrayal of the donors' trust and will result in a "politically correct" interpretation of the Confederacy. They have good reason to fear as the Civil War Center's president, Christy Coleman, has called honoring one's Confederate ancestors "foolishness."



Compatriots Tommy Miller, Ron Udell, Gary Hattaway and Ben Creech represented Confederate veterans in the Veterans' Day Ceremony held on November 11th in downtown Augusta.

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service this April. We need to show the community that we still honor and care about the memory of our Confederate ancestors.

The wet summer made it tough to keep our commitment on maintaining the grass cutting at the specific sections of the cemetery that we maintain. I encourage you to commit a few hours each month to helping with this important effort. There are a lot of tourists and visitors who come to the cemetery each year, and I believe that this maintenance effort is one of the best ways to show that we care about remembering our Confederate Soldiers.

A big "thank you" is extended to our Honor Guard and others who have participated in many services and reenactments throughout the year. Your support of these events is much appreciated by those groups you help. Thanks for your efforts!

I especially would like to thank Lt. Commander Nick Posey for all of the great programs that we have had at our monthly meetings. He has pulled in some great speakers with some very interesting topics on our Southern history.

I hope to see you at our next meeting on December 12th.

Jingle Bells (Continued from page 1)

So as we sing this holiday favorite, remember the Yankee composer who served the Confederacy despite his Northern upbringing.

Last Camp Meeting (Continued from page 2)

November 11th in downtown Augusta.

Lt. Commander Posey announced that 13 compatriots did not pay their dues, and the Camp presently has 93 members.

Quartermaster Joe Winstead reported the Confederate memorial paver project is ongoing and that "we are next on the list" for placement of the pavers.

Prior to the meeting, prayers were requested for the Compatriots John Givens and Henry Gilmer.

The meeting was adjourned by Cmdr Moncus.

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Editor



**Have a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!**

150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Bean's Station, Tenn.

- 6 December 1863: Siege of Knoxville, Tenn. formally ends as Union Gen. Sherman enters the city.
- 7 December 1863: Fourth session of Confederate Congress convenes in Richmond
- 8 December 1863: Lincoln issues a Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction offering pardons for Confederates who take a loyalty oath.
- 10 December 1863: Longstreet, abandoning Knoxville, moves northeast reaching Rogersville, Tenn.
- 14 December 1863: Battle of Bean's Station: Longstreet successfully assaults Union Gen. J.M Shackleford's command forcing their retreat.
- 22 December 1863: Gen. Leonidas Polk ordered to take command of the Army of Mississippi.
- 26 December 1863: The CSS *Alabama* takes two prizes, *Sonora* and *Highlander* in the Straits of Malacca in Southeast Asia
- 27 December 1863: Gen. Joseph E. Johnston assumes command of the Army of Tennessee.
- 28 December 1863: Confederate Congress abolishes substitution for military service.
- 2 January 1864: Confederate Congress confirms North Carolinian George Davis' appointment as Attorney-General.
- 4 January 1864: Pres. Jefferson Davis gives Gen. Lee the authority to commander provisions for the Army of Northern Virginia.

Right: The CSS *Alabama*'s Second National Ensign which is presently in storage at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia. The flag, made in England of wool bunting, was the property of James Dunwoody Bulloch, the Confederate agent in Liverpool. It is believed the flag was probably given to him by his half-brother, Irvine, who served as a midshipman on the great ship.

Next Camp Meeting
Thursday,
December 12th



at 7:00 PM

Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to Him. The kings of Sheba and Seba will present Him gifts.

-Psalm 72: 10 (NIV)

