

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

This is the last newsletter for 2014. I hope that you have enjoyed this past year as much as I have. Ours is a good camp, and we really have had some good opportunities for fellowship. Thanks to Nick, our programs have been very good, and we have had an opportunity to learn some good history lessons. If you have not been participating in the meetings, then I hope that one of your New Year's resolutions will be to attend the camp's monthly meetings as often as possible.

We will be holding our officer elections at this month's meeting. We still have three important positions without nominations or volunteers: Commander, 1st Lt Commander and 2nd Lt Commander. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions to allow the camp to move forward. Even though we have volunteers for the other officer positions, all officer positions will be open for nominations or volunteers at the December meeting. Any position with more than one nominee will be voted by secret ballot at this meeting. New officers will assume their roles in January 2015.

Our annual Lee and Jackson Banquet will be held on January 24, 2015. Please plan to attend and bring others with you. Please let myself or Nick Posey know if you will plan to attend the banquet so that reservations can be made. The cost will be \$12.00 per person. We will need to have a good

(Continued on page 3)

Confederate Christmas 150 Years Ago

Editor's Note: *The last Christmas celebrated in the Confederacy was one of the toughest and poignant our ancestors endured during their struggle for independence. Below are some quotes and anecdotes that reflect that sentiment:*

Johnny Green, of the 4th Kentucky's Orphan Brigade in the Army of Tennessee, expressed this sentiment:

"Peace on Earth, Good will to men should prevail. We certainly would preserve the peace if they would go home and let us alone..."

Green further reports he and his comrades received an unexpected and very welcome holiday:

"Our commissary sends word for each Orderly Sergeant to come to his wagon & he will issue one piece of soap to each man. This is indeed good news. Since the Skirmish began at Stockbridge Nov 15 we have not had a chance to wash any more than our faces occasionall & never our feet or bodies until now...."



Confederate General John B. Gordon, writing from his headquarters near Petersburg, wrote:

"The one worn-out railroad running to the far South could not bring us half enough necessary supplies: and even if it could have transported Christmas boxes of good things, the people at home were too depleted to send them."

His wife, who was with him at headquarters, presented him with a most precious treat for Christmas 1864--"real" coffee brought from home 'to celebrate our victories in the first years and to sustain us in defeat at the last.'



Kentuckian Edward O. Guerrant in southwest Virginia wrote:

"This used to be Christmas Day. At "home" in the "olden time". But now! O me! Nothing to eat, nothing to wear, nowhere to go, nobody to go with, & no...no...no...no...no nothing but hunger, cold, nakedness, poverty & war, war, war!"

This day used to come with booming guns, and booming lasses, with jingle bells & merry faces, with candy kisses and smoking turkeys with Kris Kringle & Santa Claus. But now! O me! Kris and Santa are both dead, "killed in the war."



A General's Decision:

In 1864 while at Petersburg, Virginia the Army of Northern Virginia received its final holiday dinner—a meal which hundreds had contributed.

(See **Confederate Christmas** on page 3)

Last Camp Meeting

Dr. Russell Brown Speaks on Augusta Native, Gen. William H.T. Walker

During the November 2014 meeting of the Alexander Camp, Dr. Russell K. Brown spoke on the life of Augusta native, Gen. William H.T. Walker, who was killed at the Battle of Atlanta. Dr. Brown is a retired army officer who writes and speaks on military and local history and genealogy. He has written four books of history, most notably, *To the Manner Born: The Life of Gen. William H. T. Walker*.

Commander Moncus read a letter from Derek Barlow who is researching the 12th Georgia Light Artillery Battalion and specifically a battle flag that they carried called the "Pinkie Evans" flag named after the Augusta native and woman who first designed and made it for the unit. Based on information from Volume XVI, 1908 edition of the *Confederate Veteran* magazine, he knows the flag may have been destroyed when the Yankees re-captured Fort Sumter, but he is seeking anyone who may have sketches or other information on the flag, the unit or Pinkie Evans herself. Commander Moncus announced that the Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet is set for Saturday, January 24th at Burns United Methodist Church fellowship hall, and the cost will be the same as last year--\$12 per person. CIC Kelly Barrow will be the guest speaker. He encouraged everyone to attend and bring guest.

Adjutant Nick Posey reported that dues are now past due and any renewal will incur a penalty. Eighty-five of ninety five compatriots have renewed their dues for the coming year.

Quartermaster Joe Winstead discussed the camp's participation in the upcoming area Christmas parades.

During new business, officer nominations were taken for the camp elections with the following results:

- Commander—**no** nominations accepted; several nominations made but all nominees refused to accept
- 1st Lt. Commander--**no** nominations accepted
- 2nd Lt. Commander--**no** nominations accepted
- Adjutant/Treasurer--Nick Posey nominated and he accepted
- Quartermaster-- Joe Winstead nominated and he accepted
- Editor—Dr. Arnold Huskins nominated and he accepted
- Surgeon--Dr. John Baxley nominated and he accepted

The final vote will be conducted at the December 11th meeting. Additional nominations and volunteers will be accepted from the floor at that time.

Commander Mike Mull gave an update on the suspension of Ray McBerry as Division Commander. The SCV's General

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

20 December: South Carolina Secession Day

Coming Events:

**11 December: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp
#158 Meeting
Topic: The Typical Georgia
Confederate Soldier
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue**

13 December: Winter Muster at Ft. McAllister near Savannah

**17 January: Gen. Robert E. Lee Birthday
Celebration
Milledgeville, Ga.**

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

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

* Died in Confederate Service

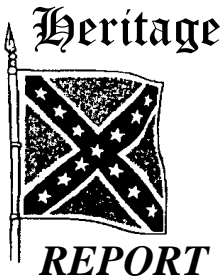
Executive Council held a meeting with McBerry where his suspension was reviewed. They asked for additional information from McBerry and plan to reconvene on November 17th.

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



With Deepest Sympathy

The compatriots of the Alexander Camp extends its sincerest condolences to Compatriots Ken and Kenny Kitchens and their family upon the loss of their beloved daughter/sister, Kimberly Ivey, who went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, November 25th. Our prayers and thoughts are with the Kitchens family during this difficult time.



Former Kentucky State Treasurer Seeks to Remove Statue of Jefferson Davis from State Capitol Rotunda

Calling the statue of Jefferson Davis in the Kentucky State Capitol Rotunda, “an abomination”, former Kentucky State Treasurer Jonathan

Miller has recently started a petition to replace it with a tribute to Louisville native and boxing legend Muhammad Ali.

Only five Kentuckians are honored in marble and granite in the Capitol’s rotunda: US Secretary of War, US Senator and Confederate President Jefferson Davis, US President Abraham Lincoln, US Senator Henry Clay, pioneering surgeon Ephraim McDowell, and Vice President Alben Barkley.

Miller, a political commentator and columnist, stated, “Having the Davis statue is insult to injury. It really is rubbing salt in an old wound.”

Believing Ali to be the most influential Kentuckian of the 20th century, the historically ignorant Miller said the Davis statue should be replaced by a portrait, picture or memorial of Ali. Recently he learned from the Ali family that Islamic law prohibits three-dimensional representations of living Muslims.

Miller plans to turn over the petition to Kentucky's top elected officials. Fortunately, his efforts are probably futile as some have never forgiven Ali for refusing to serve in the military in Vietnam and for converting to Islam.

VA Considers Easing Restrictions on Those Applying for Markers and Headstones for Deceased Veterans

Those who have long sought to mark the graves of Confederate veterans, but were unable to do so were pleased when the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) of the Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced they are considering amending its regulations regarding applications for headstones or markers.

In 2009, the VA implemented the existing definition of applicant to include the decedent’s next of kin (NOK), a person authorized in writing by NOK, or a personal representative authorized in writing by the decedent. Only such an individual who met the definition was authorized to apply for a government headstone or marker.

Since 2009, VA has received a number of requests from individuals who did not meet that definition and has acknowledged concerns that the current regulatory definition of applicant was too restrictive and resulted in identified veteran gravesites going unmarked.

Commander’s Comments (continued from page 1)

count of people attending to make arrangements with our caterer. Our guest speaker will be SCV Commander in Chief, Kelly Barrow.

I hope to see you at our meeting this month. Bring a guest or two!

Confederate Christmas (continued from page 1)

Provisions became available for an estimated 35,000 men. The food was cooked and placed in barrels and sent to the front. A special barrel had gone to Gen. Robert E. Lee and his staff. It contained about a dozen turkeys. They were placed on a board with the largest in the center. The Confederate Commander looked at the fine display and, with his sword, touched the biggest bird and asked, “This then is my turkey? I don’t know gentleman what you are going to do with your turkeys, but I wish mine sent to the hospital in Petersburg.” The other officers looked at one another and then without a word replaced the turkeys in the barrel and sent them all to the hospital!

A soldier in a North Carolina regiment recalled that word was received to “send to the commissary for our Christmas dinner, and when it came, we got for Company G, one drumstick of a turkey, one rib of a mutton, one slice of roast beef, two biscuits and a slice of light bread.

The hunger, the hope, the exhaustion of supplies and the spirit of the men, strong and weak, in the lines around Richmond were exhibited in the “Christmas Feast”, the women of Richmond undertook to provide. Appeals were directed to farmers and merchants. The soldiers in the trenches were told to expect food on New Year’s Day, 1865.

A soldier in the 18th Georgia Infantry stated, “Our mouths watered till January 1, 1865. On that day all who were able to do so got up very early. The Army was to do nothing. The ladies were to do all. They would provide all vehicles, and the “goodies” would be taken right along the lines and distributed to the half-famished men by dainty hands.

And we waited. What a long day that seemed to be! We whiled away the tedious hours by telling stories and cracking jokes! Noon came, then two, four, eight, ten and twelve o’clock, and still no “goody” wagon. Being still a little weak, I became tired and lay down and went to sleep with the understanding that those on watch would call me when our dinner arrived.

It was 3:00 AM when a comrade called and told me that a detail had just gone out to meet the precious wagon and bring in our feast. But oh, what a disappointment when the squad returned and issued to each man only one small sandwich made up of two tiny slices of bread and thin piece of ham! A few men ventured to inquire, “Is this all?” But I think they were ashamed of themselves the next moment. After the “meal” was finished, a middle-aged corporal lit his pipe and said, “God bless our noble women! It was all they could do; it was all they had!” Then every man in the old tent indulged in a good cry. We couldn’t help it!”

The Wig Wag

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Editor



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

150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Nashville, Tenn.

- 8 December 1864: Hundreds of blacks following Sherman's Army drown in Ebenezer Creek in Effingham County, Ga. after engineers dismantle the pontoon bridge to prevent their crossing
- 10 December 1864: Sherman completes his infamous "March to the Sea"
- 13 December 1864: Over 3,000 Union troops overwhelm the 250 defenders at Fort McAllister, Georgia
Authorities in Montreal, Canada release the St. Albans raiders
- 15 December 1864: Battle of Nashville: Outnumbered Confederates are driven from their main defensive line
- 16 December 1864: Battle of Nashville: The Confederate Army of Tennessee is shattered by overwhelming Union forces.
- 18 December 1864: Gen. William Hardee in Savannah refuses Sherman's demand to surrender.
- 20 December 1864: Stoneman's Yankees destroy the salt works in Saltville, Va.
- 21 December 1864: Sherman's troops occupy Savannah, Ga.
- 25 December 1864: Federal forces withdraw after a failed assault on Ft. Fisher, NC
- 26 December 1864: Remnants of Hood's Army cross the Tennessee River
- 30 December 1864: Francis P. Blair appeals to President Davis to discuss peace terms

Right: The battle flag of the Emmett Rifles which was one of five battle flags surrendered by Major George Anderson, commander of Fort McAllister, Georgia when the fort surrendered on December 13, 1864. Originally formed in Savannah, the men of the Emmett Rifle initially believed they would become infantry; however, they became Co. F, 22nd Battalion, Georgia Heavy Artillery. Their flag was captured by Major William Z. Clayton of First Battery, Minnesota Light Artillery whose descendants kept it in Illinois and Maine until his great grandson returned the flag to Georgia in 2012 to fulfill his ancestor's wishes.

Next Camp Meeting
Thursday,
December 11th
at 7:00 PM



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come to His people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us...

-- Luke 1:68-69(NIV)

