



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

Gentlemen, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as Camp #158 Commander for the next two years. Please be patient with me as I move into this role. It will take a couple of months to learn the routine and be smooth with running the meetings. Also I have worked in construction for forty years, and I am used to seeing names on hard hats so I am terrible with remembering names. Please forgive me if I know your face but don't remember your name, I will get it eventually.

We did get 2013 off to a good start with the Lee-Jackson Banquet on January 26. Thanks to everyone who worked to make it successful. The only issue is that the attendance was too low. Go ahead and mark your calendars for January 25, 2014 for our next banquet. We should have a minimum of 200 people in attendance.

Our next big event is the Memorial Service in April. All of our members should make every attempt to be there and bring someone with them. We need a large crowd. We do one of two things at this event and they are totally dependent on the number of people who attend. We either show people that our heritage is important or that it is not that important. Both perceptions are made by outsiders and they strictly look at the numbers to determine the importance. Attendance at this event the last two years has not shown that it is important. Make a commitment right now to be

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Alexander Camp Remembers Generals Lee and Jackson at Banquet

During the Alexander Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet which was held on Saturday, January 24th at Burns United Methodist Church, the Alexander Camp paused to remember these Confederate heroes and their Christian faith. As the featured speaker was unable to attend due to inclement weather, Cmdr Ron Udell spoke on the boyhood of Gen. Robert E. Lee and Dr. John Baxley praised Lee's character and magnanimity toward his foes. Chaplain Ben Creech then spoke of Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson's Christian faith especially his concern during the War for the black children he had taught weekly during a Sunday school.

Cmdr. Udell, in recognition of dedicated service to the Camp, awarded Certificates of Appreciation to Tommy Chappell, Tom and Gail Smith, Ken Kitchens, 2nd Lt Cmdr Lee Herron, Adjutant/Treasure Nick Posey, Quartermaster Joe Winstead and Elliott Walker. Udell awarded the Tony L. Carr Heritage Defense Award to newsletter editor, Arnold Huskins. Adjutant Posey then presented Cmdr. Udell with a commemorative plaque in honor of his service to the Camp as Commander for the past two years.

Following a reading of the Camp's accomplishments for the year, new officers were installed by Cmdr Udell. In a speech following the ceremony, the new commander, David Moncus, urged the Camp to recruit new members and to defend our Confederate heritage.

2013 SCV Heritage Rally to be Held in March

The Sons of Confederate Veterans will be holding their annual Sesquicentennial Confederate Heritage rally on Saturday, March 16th in Biloxi, Mississippi to commemorate the dedication of the new Jefferson Davis Presidential Library at Beauvoir, the last home of the Confederate President. The old Library was significant damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Planners are hoping to have a heritage



parade similar to those of past events from the Mississippi Coliseum through the back entrance of Beauvoir to the new Library. For more information, go to the website: <http://confederate150.com/2013.html>

Last Camp Meeting

Tom Elmore Discusses the Union Army's Destruction of Columbia

During the January meeting of the Alexander Camp, Compatriot Tom Elmore, a graduate of the University of SC and a book reviewer for *Blue and Gray* magazine, spoke on his book, *A Carnival of Destruction: Sherman's Invasion of South Carolina*. Focusing primarily on Sherman's February 17, 1865 occupation of Columbia, Elmore told a sad tale of how Union soldiers wrought vengeance on the Palmetto State capital. Besides destroying military facilities such as the Confederate Printing Plant, the State Armory, and the Saluda Mill, the barbaric Yankees robbed and burned homes including Wade Hampton's home, Millwood, the Ursuline Convent, several churches, the City Hall and the Capitol. Elmore explained how cotton fibers from bales left in the street were whipped up by high winds and contributed to the conflagration. He spoke how the nearby abandoned Confederate prison camp, Camp Sorghum, may have incited the Union soldiers to wreck havoc on Columbia as well as the ample stores of liquor readily available. When it was over, more than thirty-six square blocks of the city were decimated by Sherman's men leaving many citizens destitute and homeless. Following his informative presentation, Cmdr. Udell presented Compatriot Elmore with a framed print of the Confederate Powder Works Chimney.

During the meeting, new compatriots **Dale Sanders**, **Leonard Estep** and **John Sweat** were sworn in by Adjutant Posey and presented Certificates of Memberships. Compatriot Estep's ancestor is Pvt Jordan Kirk who served in Co. K, 16th Virginia Cavalry and who died on September 1, 1864. In the last issue of *The Wig Wag*, the names were reversed.

Cmdr Udell reported that the December Confederate Cemetery clean up was done on December 8th instead of the 1st as reported in the last issue of *The Wig Wag*. He stated nine people assisted with the clean up on January 9th and he commended Tom and Gail Smith for their steadfast commitment to the cemetery. Udell thanked Compatriots Bussey, Miller and Bailie for their participation in the Wreaths Across America project at the Marietta Confederate Cemetery. He discussed the Lee/Jackson Banquet which will be held on January 26th at Burns United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall with

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

22 February: **Confederacy Day**
George Washington's Birthday
4 March: **Confederate Flag Day**—Fly the flag!

Coming Events:

14 February: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting
Topic: Confederate Spies
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue

16 February: Firing on Columbia, SC re-enactment

23-24 February: Battle of Aiken re-enactment

16 March: Confederate Heritage Rally 2013
Biloxi, Mississippi

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

7 February: Leroy P. Walker, Secy. War
8 February: LGen Richard S. Ewell
BGen Barnard E. Bee*
11 February: **Alexander H. Stephens, Vice-Pres.**
12 February: MGen Robert Ransom Jr.
16 February: MGen James P. Anderson
MGen Camille A.J.M. Polignac
18 February: BGen Lewis A. Armistead*
BGen Jean J.A. Mouton*
BGen James Deshler*
20 February: BGen James B. Terrill*
21 February: BGen John H. Winder*
22 February: **President George Washington**
25 February: George A. Trenholm, Secy. Tres
1 March: George Davis, Atty. Gen.
MGen. James F. Fagan.
BGen. Hiram B. Granbury*
4 March: BGen. Elisha F. "Bull" Paxton*
5 March: Bgen John Dunovant*
7 March: MGen. Henry D. Clayton
8 March: MGen. Matthew C. Butler
10 March: George W. Randolph, Secy. War
MGen. Thomas J. Churchill
*Died in CSA Service

Rev. C. Ernie Nivens as the principal speaker for the event. Tickets are \$12 each and must be purchased by January 20th. Udell thanked the Camp for their support during his time as Commander and he was applauded for his efforts.

Adjutant Posey reported that 68 Banquet tickets had been sold with five reserved as of the meeting. There are presently 102 members in the camp with 13 delinquent members.

Quartermaster Winstead encouraged compatriots to participate in the Memorial Paver program and reported that help was needed to remove the stump adjacent to the Confederate Monument.

Compatriot Huskins requested that the Camp authorize him to purchase at least \$225 in forever postage stamps for the

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City of Memphis Removes Marker from Forrest Park; Changes Names of All Confederate Parks

The City of Memphis removed without warning, in early January, a one-half ton marker from the south side of Forrest Park placed by the SCV in conjunction with the Memphis Park Services and the Shelby County Historical Society. The ten foot long marker with the words, "Forrest Park" was installed last May and dedicated in July in the park where a bronze statue of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest stands guard over the graves of Forrest and his wife. The marker cost \$9,000, and \$1,400 was spent to install it.



Memphis Chief Administrative officer, George Little, authorized the removal of the marker stating it had not been "formally approved". He had not received any complaints about the marker; however, Shelby County Commissioner Walter Bailey vehemently opposed it.

SCV spokesman, Lee Millar, stated that the marker was approved by Memphis City Parks services director, Cynthia Buchanan who stated in a letter, "Many of our parks are without proper signage and we appreciate the Commission's offer to provide this important signage for one of the city's historic parks." Moreover, he has a Memphis Parks Service engineer's report which approved the marker.

Millar's calls to Little have gone unanswered.

In a sweeping development, on February 5th the City Council voted overwhelmingly to temporarily change the name of Forrest Park to Health Sciences Park, Confederate Park to Memphis Park and Jefferson Davis Park to Mississippi River Park. Some Council members have even advocated removing the statue and the remains of Forrest and his wife from the Park.

Confederate Memorial Pavers Still Available

Confederate Memorial pavers to be placed adjacent to the Confederate Monument on Broad Street are still being accepted. At present, only one-fourth of the Camp has participated in this project—surely we can improve that number! If any camp member is interested in honoring their Confederate ancestor with a paver, please contact Adjutant/Treasurer Nick Posey to receive an application. The cost per paver is \$50 with a portion of the funds being utilized to finance further improvements to the Confederate cemetery and the Monument.

Commander's Comments (Continued from page 1)

there and bring others with you.

There are a couple of areas of focus that we need to make for 2013 to be a great year and for Camp# 158 to continue to be a great camp. First and foremost; RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT! Secondly, but just as important, attend and participate in camp activities. The third area is to consider presenting a program for one of our monthly meetings or getting someone to make a presentation. This will only improve our opportunity to help the camp due to the rising difficulty in getting out of town guests to present programs. If you have something that you would like to present or know someone that could present, then please talk to me and let's get them lined up. We have openings for programs March through December right now. It doesn't have to be very long--just some good information.

Our Next Camp Meeting

Robert C. Jones, president of the Kennesaw Historical Society, who spoke to the Camp in January 2012 on the topic "Bloody Kansas: The Real Start of the WBTS" will be speaking at our next meeting on February 14th. Mr. Jones will be speaking on the topic, "The Top Ten Confederate Spies and Irregulars". Bring along your Valentine and learn how the Confederate Secret Service operated and about the lives of guerillas like William Quantrill and "Bloody Bill" Anderson.

Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

newsletters to thwart the coming increase in the postage rate. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the Camp.

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

A Confederate Soldier's Love Letter To His Sweetheart

As St. Valentine's Day is this month, below is a portion of a letter written by Lt William Testerman of Company C, 8th Tennessee Cavalry to his sweetheart, Miss Jane Davis, on July 25, 1864:

"you are the girl that I am Depending upon ...if my heart was like yours we would be united in heart you kneed not to Dout Though we are fare apart at present my heart is with you every moment for I often think of you when you are aleep when Travailing the lonesom roads in middle Tenn The thought of your sweet smiles is all the company I have I trust that you are cinsere in what you have wrote to me. Your sparkling blue eys and rosey red cheeks has gaind my whole efections I hope for the time to come when we shall meet again."

The Wig Wag

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Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.
Editor



Happy George Washington's Birthday!

**Remembering our African-American
Confederate Heritage**

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

- 12 February 1863: CSS *Florida* captures and destroys clipper ship, *Jacob Bell* and \$1.5 million in tea off the coast of Puerto Rico
- 13 February 1863: Skirmish at Washington, NC
- 14 February 1863: Under fire from the batteries of Fort DeRussey, the Federal ram, *Queen of the West*, runs aground and is captured on the Red River near Marksville, Louisiana
- 18 February 1863: Pro-Union Cherokees vote to abolish slavery
- 24 February 1863: CSS *Webb* and Confederate manned *Queen of the West* capture the Federal gunboat, *Indianola* near Grand Gulf, Miss.
- 25 February 1863: Major Daniel Harvey Hill assumes command of all NC forces
- 26 February 1863: Confederate guerillas capture and destroy a Federal train of 28 cars near Woodburn, Tenn.
- 3 March 1863: Naval assaults on Ft. McAllister near Savannah continues
- 5 March 1863: Battle of Thompson's Station: Confederate cavalry under Forrest and Van Dorn capture an entire Union infantry brigade; Miss Alice Thompson, age 17, retrieves the flag of the 3rd Arkansas Cavalry following the loss of their color bearer and inspires it to victory

Right: Eleven Star Guidon of the 7th Tennessee Cavalry: Organized on June 10th, 1862 in Abbeville, Mississippi under then Col. W. H. "Red" Jackson and consisting of units from western Tennessee, the 7th Tennessee Cavalry participated in the "Armstrong Raid" at Bolivar, Tenn. in August 1862 and Van Dorn's Holly Springs Raid in December 1862 before fighting at the battle of Thompson's Station under Gen. James Chalmers in March 1863.

Next Camp Meeting

Thursday

February 14th

at 7:00 PM



Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else...

--I Thessalonians 3: 12(NIV)

