

★ **Commander's
Comments** ★
by Lee Herron

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year as we kick off 2010 in the "Confederate States of America."

Our Lee/Jackson Banquet will be held on the January 23, 2010, at the Burns Memorial United Methodist Church fellowship hall at 2372 Lumpkin Road in Augusta, Georgia. We will start promptly at 7:00 P.M. The guest speaker for the night will be Dr. Terry L. Rude, Past Chaplain of the Army of Northern Virginia, and he will speak to us about "Our Duty to Lee and Jackson". If you have not purchased or reserved your ticket, please do so soon as the last day to get one will be the 18th of January. This is the drop dead date where I need to let our caterer know how many people will be attending. Please remember that if you reserve a ticket, you will be responsible to pay for that ticket, whether you attend or not. By reserving the ticket, you are in the head count for the number of meals that are being prepared and paid for. Also, tickets will not be sold at the door.

Progress is being made on the restoration of the chimney, with about 40% of the masonry restoration completed. Most of this work has involved the cap of the chimney. The 40% number is skewed in relation to the whole chimney, due to the amount of time and effort needed to restore the cap

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Dr. Terry Rude to Speak at Lee- Jackson Banquet

The BGen. E. Porter Alexander Camp will be observing its annual Lee-Jackson Banquet on Saturday, January 23rd at 7:00 PM at the Burns Memorial United Methodist Church fellowship hall. Featured speaker for the event will be Dr. Terry L. Rude, Past Chaplain of the Army of Northern Virginia and the South Carolina Division.

Dr. Rude is considered by many to be one of the most powerful and moving speakers in South Carolina. A former faculty member at Bob Jones University where he taught ancient languages, theology, and the Bible, Dr. Rude received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from California Polytechnical College and his Master of Divinity and Doctorate from Bob Jones University. He has taught extensively in seminars, Bible conferences, and Bible camps, and given numerous lectures on Confederate heritage. Past topics have included "Confederate Manhood," "The South was Right," and "The Cause of the South." His topic on this special occasion will be "Our Duty to Lee and Jackson."

Tickets for the banquet are \$12 and must be purchased by January 18th. Contact Compatriot Ron Udell at 706.738.1190 for more information.

12th Georgia Light Artillery at Fort Sumter

On October 18, 1863, the four companies were transferred from James Island to Fort Sumter where they stayed until November 2nd. The fort was under constant heavy bombardment during that time, and the 12th suffered several casualties each day. One such casualty was Lt. A.P. Brown who was killed on the 27th when a bomb hit the wall and dislodged some bricks—one of which hit Brown on the head. On the 31st of October, under some of the most severe bombing, the National flag was hit several times. Each time it was replaced by Sgt. W.M. Hitt and Pvt. Bob Swain of Company F. Finally, when the flag was com-

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The Highest Flying Flag in Augusta
The Stars and Bars flies high above the Confederate Powder Works Chimney during its restoration by International Chimney in December.

Last Camp Meeting

**International Chimney Foreman
Speaks to Camp**

During the December meeting of the Alexander Camp, Steve Scyoc of Washingtonland, West Virginia, general foreman with International Chimney, spoke of his present work on the Confederate Powderworks Chimney. Mr. Scyoc, who has been with the firm for 35 years, has worked on the restoration of 22 lighthouses and even moved one by rail. He stated he will not complete the work on the chimney until it is totally restored. So far rigging has been installed, the chimney sealed, and the "Stars and Bars" flag flown from the top. Some of the work will be installing a stainless tell cap on the chimney to prevent moisture from entering the structure, restore the memorial stone slab, and to even out the bricks. So far, several minie balls and a glass blue bottle have been found inside the chimney. Mr. Scyoc stated the chimney should be inspected every five years after completion of the work. Following a question and answer session, Cmdr. Herron presented him with a photograph of his latest project.

One certificate of Membership was presented, that to **Michael B. Leonard** who joined the camp on the record of his Confederate ancestor, Pvt. Thomas Lauder of Co. B Cobb's Legion Cavalry "Richmond Hussars." Adjutant Perry Herron stated the camp presently has 117 members and reported that 12 members participated in the North Augusta Christmas Parade and nine in the Grovetown event. Quartermaster Joe Winstead said he plans to participate in a parade on December 13th in Jackson, SC. Treasurer Nick Posey gave a detail report of the funds available for the Lee-Jackson Banquet and recent donations to the Powderworks Chimney fund. Honor Guard Commander "Major" Ron Udell reported that 12 camp members participated in a marker dedication ceremony sponsored by the Hartwell Camp. He stated Lee-Jackson Banquet tickets were available for purchase and if one is reserved, payment is required. Deadline for purchasing tickets will be during the Camp's January meeting.

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The Wig Wag

is the official publication of the BGen. E. Porter Alexander Camp #158, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Augusta, Georgia. The newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of camp members and those camps participating in a newsletter exchange. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official views of the SCV or the E. Porter Alexander Camp. Send all articles and comments to the editor at the address on the last page or email: Rebel eye@aol.com.

Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

14 January: **BGen E. Porter Alexander
Camp #158 Meeting
Topic: Origin of the Confederate
Flag
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue**

23 January: **Ga. Division Lee- Jackson
Parade
Assemble at 10:00 AM at
Old Governor's Mansion
Milledgeville, Ga.**

**Lee-Jackson Banquet
Burns U.M.C. Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM
Augusta, Georgia**

9 January: Mississippi Secession Day
10 January: Florida Secession Day
11 January: Alabama Secession Day
19 January: Georgia Secession Day
26 January: Louisiana Secession Day
1 February: Texas Secession Day

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

11 January: BGen Richard Griffith*
12 January: MGen Jones M. Withers
14 January: Cmdr Matthew F. Maury
15 January: MGen John C. Breckinridge
MGen Lafayette McLaws
18 January: BGen James Chestnut, Jr.
19 January: **Gen Robert E. Lee**
21 January: **LGen T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson***
23 January: BGen John R. Chambliss, Jr.*
24 January: BGen John Pegram*
26 January: BGen Lloyd Tilghman*
27 January: **LGen Richard Taylor**
28 January: MGen George E. Pickett
MGen Thomas C. Hindman
29 January: MGen Franklin Gardner
31 January: Capt John R. Tucker, CSN
Clement C. Clay, MC
2 February: **Gen Albert Sidney Johnston***
BGen Abner M. Perrin*
3 February: **Gen. Joseph E. Johnston**
6 February: **MGen John B. Gordon**
MGen James E. B. "Jeb" Stuart*
MGen William D. Pender*
7 February: Leroy P. Walker, Secy. War

*Died in Confederate Service



In a column in the *St. Petersburg Times* on December 11, 2009, long time anti-Southern heritage columnist, Daniel Ruth maligned

the Florida Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and their efforts to obtain a "Confederate Heritage" license plate in a column entitled "A License to Promote Ignorance". His tirade was in response to a Federal judge's recent approval of the Sons' lawsuit against the Florida Department and Highway Safety which denied them the ability to obtain a specialty plate. Last year, the Florida legislature refused to consider the license plate after the Florida Division submitted the required fee of \$60,000 and, not only the required 30,000 signatures, but 45,000 signatures.

Maliciously calling the SCV, the Sons of "Parallel Universe" "Deliverance", "Foghorn Leghorn", "Ashley Wilkes" "Dueling Banjos" "Gomer Pyle", and "faux patriots," the sophomoric columnist refers to their proposed license plate as "Slavery, It's a Pip!", "Slavery! Yes!" and "Slavery! Zippity Do Dah." He continues by spewing that the heritage plate features a "patently repellent symbol of bigotry" and that the state should neither "formally aid and abet in the promotion of ignorance" nor "support grotesquely perverted revisionist history." He viciously inquires "What's next? A "Springtime for Hitler" plate?"

The historically ignorant Ruth dredges up the same worn out obscure quote, employed by most Confederate heritage haters, supposedly made in March 1861 by Vice-President Alexander Stephens in which the Georgian stated, "The cornerstone of the Confederacy is slavery." Ruth does not mention the fact that Stephens later refuted this extemporaneous comment. Ruth's rant is typical of those who believe slavery originated and died with the Confederacy, and, apparently, he has no comprehension that Confederate soldiers fought to defend their homeland from invasion rather than to preserve slavery.

Please consider writing a letter to the *St. Petersburg Times* and politely refute Ruth's column or contact him directly at: druth@sptimes.com.

The newspaper's address is:

The St. Petersburg Times

490 First Avenue South

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Telephone: 727-893-8111

Or email your letter to the editor:

<http://www.sptimes.com/letters>

Read the complete column at:

<http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/columns/a-license-to-promote-ignorance/1057909/>

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of the chimney. I will be glad to explain this in more detail during our next meeting.

We received our first invoice from International Chimney Corporation for \$73,300 on December 28th. Dayton Sherrouse, Executive Director of the Augusta Canal Authority, wrote a check for the full amount of the invoice and sent it to International Chimney Corporation. Treasurer Nick Posey has written a check from the Chimney Restoration Fund checking account for \$23,300 and it has been given to the Augusta Canal Authority as reimbursement. \$10,000 of this money was the money that the Georgia C.W. Commission gave us and which had to be used before the end of the year. Talk about cutting it close!

The program speaker for the January 14th meeting will be none other than our very own Newsletter Editor, Dr. Arnold Huskins. He will talk about "The Origin of the Confederate Flag". I would like to encourage everyone to attend this meeting, not only to support one of our own, but to learn about the origin of the Confederate Flag.

Remember, it is your duty to be there!!!

12th Georgia Light Artillery (continued from page 1)

pletely gone, they put up the 12th's Battalion Colors. Later, near the end of the day, while still under heavy fire, the 12th Georgia Band mounted the parapet and played "The Bonnie Blue Flag". In answer to this, the enemy stopped the bombing, and formed their band at Cummings Point and played the "Star Spangled Banner". The 12th Georgia lost 17 men during their stay on Fort Sumter. As they were being relieved, they were rejoined by Company E of Washington County.

(To be continued...)

Last Camp Meeting (continued from page 2)

Commander Herron stated that Powder works prints, UCV prints, camp t-shirts, and one 2XL golf shirt were available for purchase. He requested a motion to utilize camp funds to repair one of the sound speakers. The motion was seconded and approved by the camp. Also approved was the purchase of additional paper to print the newsletter and meeting agendas. He discussed the recent vandalism of the Richmond County Confederate Monument and the increase in the reward amount courtesy of the Berry Benson Camp of North Augusta. Compatriot David Powell made a motion to purchase bricks for the Confederate Powderworks Chimney. The motion was seconded and approved by the Camp.

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

The Wig Wag

Official Publication of the

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158

January 2010 Issue
1316 High Woods Pass
Grovetown, Ga. 30813

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Editor



Remembering our Heroes on their Birthdays Gens. Robert E. Lee and “Stonewall” Jackson

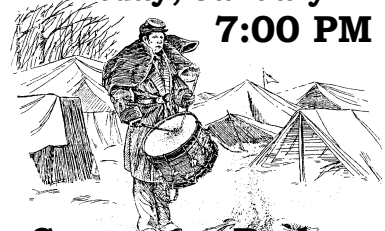
45 Years Ago: Fort Fisher Captured

- 12 January 1865: The ironclad ram, CSS *Columbia* grounds on a sunken wreck while coming out of her dock at Charleston
- 13 January 1865: With a combined Army-Navy force of 59 ships and 10,000 men, the Yankees attack 1500 Confederate defenders of Ft. Fisher, NC
- 15 January 1865: Losing twice the casualties as the Confederates, the Yankees capture Fort Fisher
- 23 January 1865: Gen. Richard Taylor assumes command of the Army of Tennessee after Hood is relieved
- 24 January 1865: Repeated Confederate offer to exchange prisoners is accepted.
- 25 January 1865: CSS *Shenandoah* arrives at Melbourne, Australia
- 31 January 1865: Gen. Robert E. Lee is named General in Chief of all Armies of the Confederate States
- 3 February 1865: Hampton Roads Conference: Vice President Alexander Stephens and Lincoln meet to discuss peace. Lincoln refuses to consider Confederate demands for autonomy.

RIGHT: When Fort Fisher was captured in January 1865, a number of neighboring forts defending the port of Wilmington, NC were abandoned or destroyed by Confederates. When Lt. William Cushing, who had led a number of commando raids during the war, entered Fort Caswell, he found it deserted and recovered this flag. The flag, a second national pattern, is 5' 4" x 10' 3 1/2".

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, January 14th
7:00 PM at**



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

Out of the south comes the storm, and out of the north the cold. From the breath of God, ice is made, and the expanse of the waters is frozen.

—Job 37:9-10 (NASB)

