

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

The year, 2012, has come and gone. I hope that y'all had a great Christmas and good fellowship with family and friends, had plenty to eat, got the gift you wanted (whether you needed it or not) and that 2013 will be kind to you! As it is said, time flies by when you are busy or having fun. And early this year, hopefully, the first of the pavers will be placed at the Confederate Monument on Broad Street and those who have participated in this project will finally see their ancestors' name on the paver that was ordered. I'm also hopeful that once this begins, more of you will purchase one to honor your Confederate ancestor. More work is needed at Magnolia Cemetery to prepare it for Confederate Memorial Day in April and for visitors during the summer months. Let us continue to push forward on these projects as this is in remembrance of our ancestors, the sacrifices that they made, and *the Cause for which they fought*.

Camp #158 Officers were set for the 2013-2014 at December's meeting, though we still have the position of 1st Lt. Commander and Staff Judge Advocate open at this time which can be filled by our new commander with the Camp's approval. David Moncus will be our new commander and will assume his duties at our Lee/Jackson Banquet January 26th with the oath of office administered to him and the other officers. David will make a good com-

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Left: The snow covered Confederate Monument in Augusta where memorial pavers will soon be placed at its base. **Right:** Alexander Camp compatriots Tommy Miller, Jack Bailie, and Fred Bussey traveled to the Confederate Cemetery in Marietta on December 15th to assist in placing donated Christmas wreaths on the graves of our soldiers. This was the first time Confederate soldiers were honored in the "Wreaths Across America" event.

Events to Honor Gens Lee and Jackson this Month

With the upcoming birthdays of Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson this month, the Georgia Division and the Alexander Camp are planning events to remember these heroes. The Georgia Division will be holding its annual Gen. Lee's Birthday celebration in Milledgeville on January 19th beginning at 10:30 AM at the Old Governor's Mansion. Additionally, a Lee/Jackson Banquet and Ball will be held later that evening at the Milledgeville Country Club at 7:00 PM.

The E. Porter Alexander Camp will be honoring the Generals during the annual Lee/Jackson Banquet to be held at 6:30 PM on January 26th at Burns United Methodist Church fellowship hall. During the event, new camp officers will be installed for the next two years.

The featured speaker will be Rev. C. Ernie Nivens who will speak on the topic, "The Faith of our Confederate Ancestors." Rev. Nivens, a Rock Hill, SC native, entered the ministry with the United Methodist Church in 1970. He has a BA in English from Francis Marion University, a Masters of Divinity from Candler School of Theology from Emory University, and Master of Science in Financial Services from American College. After serving as a church growth consultant, Nivens began a career as a financial service professional. He has published four books.

Last Camp Meeting

Professor Stephen Davis Discusses Sherman's Destruction of Atlanta

During the December meeting of the Alexander Camp, Dr. Stephen Davis, a Mercer University professor and longtime Atlantan, presented a program on his recent book, "What the Yankees Did to Us: Sherman's Bombardment and the Wrecking of Atlanta". Davis began by discussing that Atlanta was an inviting military target for Union armies because of its four railroads and it was an important center for logistical operations. He described how Union Gen. Streight's Raid from northern Alabama in 1863 prompted the city to build 12 miles of earthworks and fifteen artillery forts around the city. Davis then described the Atlanta Campaign in north Georgia pitting Gen. Joseph Johnston against Sherman. Interestingly, Davis stated Johnston had no plans to defend Atlanta and was willing to abandon it to Sherman without a fight, and he commended President Davis for relieving him. On July 20, 1863, Sherman's troops, using rifled Parrott rifles, began firing into the city which prompted 20-22,000 citizens to flee; however, three to four thousand residents never left the city during the bombardment and many built underground shelters. Davis described that fires were a significant problem with the major one occurring on August 23-24th after the Yankees fired "hot shot" into the city. Siege guns were utilized and fifty rounds from every gun were fired deliberately at civilian rather than military targets. He estimated that 25 civilians were casualties as a result and doubted the authenticity of the report that the first one was a little girl. Davis stated that the last shelling occurred on August 25th. Once the city was abandoned by the Confederates, Union forces moved into the city and tore down buildings to build their huts. On September 5th, Sherman ordered the evacuation of all civilians except for fifty families who were Union sympathizers or clergy. His engineers then began demolishing major structures and bridges deemed vital to the war effort. From November 11-15th, the burning of the city occurred which destroyed four to five thousand homes. Davis explained that Sherman was not the creator of "total war", which occurred during World War II, but he was the creator of "hard war".

Following his compelling presentation, Professor Davis was presented a framed photograph of the Confed-

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The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

- 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

Coming Events:

- 10 January: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting**
Topic: Sherman's March Through South Carolina
7:00 PM at Sconyers Barbecue
- 19 January: Gen. Robert E. Lee Celebration**
10:30 AM at Old Governor's Mansion
Lee/Jackson Banquet and Ball
7:00 PM at Country Club
Milledgeville, Ga.
- 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.
- 2 February: Alexander Stephens Birthday Celebration
A.H. Stephens State Park at 11:00 AM

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

- 11 January: BGen Richard Griffith* *Died in CSA Service
- 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
- 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*



Confederate Statue Removed at Dixie State University in Utah

A bronze statue at Dixie State University in St. George, Utah depicting a Confederate soldier on horseback waving a Confederate flag with one hand and reaching out to a wounded soldier with the other was removed on December 7th. University President Stephen Naudauld made the decision after consulting with administrators "to protect the statue" after several students had issues with it. For 25 years, "The Rebels" by local sculptor Jerry Anderson remained untouched and without controversy. For now, the statue will remain in storage.

Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

erate Powder Works chimney by Cmdr. Udell.

During the meeting there were three applications for camp membership: **Robert Sanders**, brother of Compatriot Dale Sanders, who joins on the record of his great great grandfather, John D. Sanders of Stuart's Company, Beaufort Light Artillery; **Charles A. Fletcher** who joins on the record of his great great grandfather, Lt William M. Wright, Co. F, 25th North Carolina Infantry; and **Jordan D. Kirk** who joins on the record of his Confederate ancestor, Pvt. Leonard Estep who served in Co. K, 16th Virginia Cavalry and who died on September 1, 1864.

Commander Udell requested that the Camp approve the current slate of new officers for the coming year; however, the positions for Lt Cmdr and Staff Judge Advocate remain unfilled. He commended Compatriot Tommy Miller's grandson, Compatriot Carl T. Miller III, for having achieved Eagle Scout status. Udell stated that at the C.W. symposium in Augusta on November 10th, Bob Woodhurst spoke on the plans for the Powder Works Plaza. Woodhurst explained there would be four interpretive markers with images of flags, the chimney would be lighted on all sides, and the number of flag poles proposed ranged from one to three with a variety of historic Confederate flags being flown. Udell reported there was a cemetery cleanup on December 1st and a roadside cleanup scheduled for December 22nd. The Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet will be on January 26th with tickets for \$12 each on sale at the January meeting. He requested that the Camp sponsor Ken Kitchens, Jr. for the H.L. Hunley Award sponsored by the SC Division for junior ROTC cadets at a cost of \$30 and it was approved by the Camp.

Adjutant Posey reported there were 111 members on the Camp roster with 98 having paid their dues. With the addition of three new members, camp membership stands at 101.

Quartermaster Joe Winstead reported that volunteers are needed to prepare the area at the Confederate Monument

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mander, and I ask all to give him your support. David is not new to this position as he was commander of Camp #207 in Waynesboro. Those resuming their positions are: 2nd Lt. Commander-Danny Martin; Treasure/Adjutant-Nick Posey; Chaplain-Ben Creech; Quartermaster-Joe Winstead; Surgeon-Dr. John Baxley; Historian and Web Master-Terry Bowers; and Newsletter Editor -Arnold Huskins. Thanks to all those continuing to serve and to our new Sergeant at Arms-Gary Hattaway! Please help these officers when you can: Remember the Charge!

Don't forget Confederate Powder Works fly ash bottles and Powder Works prints are available for purchase at the January meeting and can be bought with any left over *Christmas money*. We still have our ongoing projects to support. Lt. Commander Herron reports he will have the Powder Works Chimney DVD's at the January meeting at \$8.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-camp members with the proceeds going to the camp. *Thanks* to him for the time he has spent "gettin' it done".

Our Lee/Jackson will Banquet will be January 26th. I will have tickets at our January meeting, but please call or e-mail Nick Posey or myself to reserve tickets. No tickets will be sold at the door on banquet night. We must know one week in advance how many will be there in order to let the caterer know how many meals to prepare. Tickets will be \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. The scheduled speaker will be Rev. C. Ernie Nivens who will present a program entitled "The Faith of Our Confederate Ancestors" and whose books will be available for purchase.

And lastly, please support David Moncus as our new commander. Thank you for your support and help as I served as your commander these past two years. I enjoyed serving our Camp and, with that said, I tried to do the best of my ability to lead us in fulfilling "The Charge". Thank you!

Our next meeting will be on January 10th and our speaker will be Compatriot Tom Elmore. His topic will be "A Carnival of Destruction: Sherman's Invasion of South Carolina". Please plan to be at Sconyers Barbeque to remember our Southern heritage and to support our Camp and its activities. We have alot going on and you will miss something if you don't come, so start the new year right by joining in and sharing our Confederate heritage. **Remember the Charge! God bless the South and happy New Year!!**

on Broad Street for pavers and January 2nd was scheduled as a workday.

Chaplain Ben Creech stated there will be a prayer breakfast sponsored by the Wheeler Camp in Aiken on January 5th at 9:00 AM with the featured speaker being Rev. Alan Farley.

Prior to the meeting, prayers were requested for Compatriot Perry Herron and his family.

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

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Editor



Remembering Our Heroes on their Birthdays:

Gen. Robert E. Lee: January 19th

Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson: January 21st

150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Fort Hindman, Arkansas

- 10 January 1863: Battle of Arkansas Post
- 11 January 1863: Battle of Fort Hindman, Ark.: Confederate forces under Churchill surrender to Union troops under McClernand
CSS *Alabama* sinks USS *Hatteras* off Galveston, Texas
- 12 January 1863: President Davis gives his "State of the Confederacy" speech
- 14 January 1863: Gen. E. Kirby-Smith given command of the Army of the Southwest
- 22 January 1863: Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside searching for a crossing over the Rappahannock River begins his "Mud March"
- 25 January 1863: Gen. Joseph Hooker is named Commander of the Union Army of the Potomac replacing Burnside
- 27 January 1863: Naval assault on Fort McAllister, Ga.
- 31 January 1863: Confederate ironclads, *Chicora* and *Palmetto State*, raid the Federal blockade in Charleston. While some Union ships are damaged, the attack fails to disrupt the blockade
- 3 February 1863: France's Prime Minister offers to mediate the War, however, the US rejects his offer
USS *Queen of the West* sails past Vicksburg and is hit 12 times before ramming the CSS *City of Vicksburg*

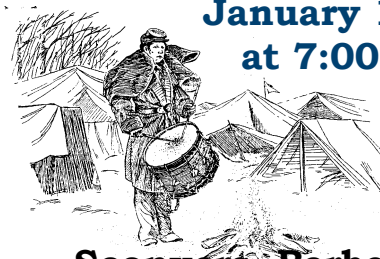
Right: Confederate Cavalry Guidon: This thirteen star guidon was captured by Capt. James Sheehan of the 127th Illinois Infantry at the Battle of Fort Hindman, Arkansas on 11 January 1863 after its surrender. This flag is very similar to the guidon of "Hill's Cavalry" (7th Tennessee Cavalry), captured at Island No. 10 in April 1862.

Next Camp Meeting

Thursday

January 10th

at 7:00 PM



Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

..."Save us O God, our Savior, gather us and deliver us from the nations that we may give thanks to your holy name, that we may glory in your praise."

--I Chronicles 16: 35(NIV)

