

★ **Commander's
Comments** ★
by Dr. John Baxley

Well, "Bless your hearts!" as my grandmother Pearle used to say who grew up on her father's plantation in the Low Country of South Carolina. He was veteran of the 24th S.C. Infantry and she used to tell me tales of the War she had heard first hand from him.

As usual the Alexander Camp outdid themselves again during the month of May (Confederate History Month in S.C.). The Camp's Honor Guard was busy in both states. Ron Udell, Gary Hattaway, Ben Creech, and Tommy Miller, Sr. did a long one day road trip through the Low Country the first part of the month firing black powder salutes at three different memorial services. They started in St. Mathews, S.C. They then went on to Orangeburg and eventually Barnwell, S.C. before stopping at Duke's Barbecue in Aiken. I received notes on thanks from all over the Palmetto State concerning our Honor Guard. Later in the month, Ron Udell, Billy Belger, Tommy Chappell, Ben Creech, and Tommy Miller, Sr. were part of the honor guard for the first Secession Hill Cemetery ceremony in Abbeville, S.C. The service featured the grave site of the "Unknown Confederate Soldier" buried there near the end of the War from Alabama.

On May 17th, the honor guard consisting of Ron Udell, Tommy Chappell, Jack Bailie, Bobby Snider, Ben Creech, and Tommy Miller, Sr. did an outstanding job at our annual Hephzibah Confederate Memorial Day service. After firing their black powder salutes, the honor guard marched over to our beloved compatriot's grave, John Givens, and fired another volley and drank from a canteen in John's honor. Emma Givens did a great job organizing the event. Her crew

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Remembering our Fallen Heroes: The Alexander Camp's Honor Guard, led by "Major" Ron Udell, participated in the US Memorial Day services held on May 25th at the All Wars' Monument in Augusta and in Confederate Memorial Day services held earlier in May in Barnwell and Orangeburg, SC.



Editor's Note: Below is the continuation of a series of articles on Confederate units which consisted of men from Richmond County. This is the fifth installment detailing the history of the 3rd Georgia Infantry Regiment of which Companies G and I were from Richmond County.

The Third Georgia Infantry's Summer of '61

After the uneventful episode at Suffolk, Va. in late May 1861, the men of the 3rd Georgia Infantry remained camped outside the walls of the Norfolk Navy Yard enduring a cheap market, abundant rations, and the boredom of performing routine camp duties until early August. As a result, many grew restless and dissatisfied of their "huge, protracted picnic" and muttered complaints which they, as seasoned veterans, would soon live to regret.

On May 23rd, an election was held to determine if the citizens of Virginia would ratify its secession from the Union. As letter writers to Northern newspapers proclaimed lower South troops stationed in the Old Dominion would unduly influence the election, the 3rd Georgia was prohibited from visiting the city unless on official business.

(See **Third Georgia Infantry** on page 3)

Last Camp Meeting

Edgefield Magistrate Belinda Carpenter Speaks on Southern Heroine, Lucinda Horn

During the May 2015 meeting of the Alexander Camp, Mrs. Belinda Carpenter, an Edgefield County magistrate, UDC member, and re-enactor with the 19th SC Infantry spoke to the Camp on the Southern heroine, Lucinda Horn. Mrs. Horn, or "Aunt Cindy" as she was called, was the wife of Cornelius "Neil" Horn. They lived in a rented home near Kirksey in Edgefield County prior to the War and made pipes. When Neil and their son, William joined Company K, 14th SC Infantry in November 1861, Lucinda decided to accompany them to the front. While traveling with the Army of Northern Virginia in McGowan's Brigade, Lucinda prepared meals, mended and washed clothes, worked in the hospitals and earned her own money. She nursed her husband when he was wounded at the Battle of Frayser's Farm in 1862 and her son when he was wounded at the Battle of Jones' Farm near Petersburg, Va. in 1864. When "Billy" was given a pass to go home, she returned to the Palmetto State. Neil served until the surrender at Appomattox. After the war, Lucinda attended reunions of Confederate veterans, whom she called "her boys" and was made an honorary member of the 14th SC. When she died in 1896, Confederate veterans placed a memorial marker on her grave in Chestnut Hill Cemetery in Saluda.

Following her interesting presentation, Mrs. Carpenter gladly received a flask of Powder Works chimney ash and a Christmas ornament of the chimney presented by Emma Givens.

During the meeting, two compatriots were formally inducted into the Alexander Camp: **Rusty and Trent Givens** who were sworn in by Cmdr Baxley and Lt. Cmdr. Posey. Last month, **David Eidson** (not *David A. Givens* as originally stated) was inducted as a cadet member.

Cmdr. Baxley announced that the rescheduled Hephzibah Confederate Memorial service for 27 Confederate veterans will be held on May 17th at 2:00 PM and a service for the unknown Confederate soldier will be held in Abbeville, SC on May 16th. He announced a Confederate cemetery cleanup day for Friday, May 22nd at 8:30 AM. Baxley reported that Past Cmdr. Ron Udell is appointed to the position of Camp Judge Advocate.

Quartermaster Joe Winstead reported that he attended the Redneck Olymp "hicks" at Savannah Lock and Dam on May 2nd and raised the battle flag. He stated he intends to attend a tractor pull to be held in Columbia County.

Past Commander David Moncus discussed in detail the pro-

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Important Dates to Remember:

8 June: Tennessee Secession Day

Coming Events:

11 June: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp

#158 Meeting

Topic: Sherman's March Through SC

7:00 PM at Sconyers Barbecue

12-13 June: Georgia Division Reunion at Nash Farm Battlefield

<http://gascv.org/2015-georgia-division-reunion/>

15-19 July: SCV International Reunion Richmond, Virginia

<http://www.jebstuartcamp.org/jebstuartcamp.org/2015-reunion/>

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

11 June: MGen James L. Kemper

12 June: Gen. Samuel Cooper

23 June: MGen Daniel S. Donelson*

24 June: John A. Cambell, Asst. Sec. War

25 June: Capt James D. Bulloch, CSN

26 June: **BGen Victor Jean B. Girardey***

27 June: BGen Junius Daniel*

2 July: Robert A. Toombs, Sec. State
BGen John B. Villepigue*

3 July: MGen John A. Wharton*

4 July: BGen James J. Pettigrew*

12 July: Lt Gen Daniel H. Hill

13 July: James A. Seddon, Sec. War

Lt Gen Nathan Bedford Forrest

26 July: BGen John M. Jones*

28 July: BGen William D. Smith*

1 August: BGen Maxcy Gregg*

5 August: BGen Carnot Posey*

6 August: Judah B. Benjamin, Sec. State

*Died in Confederate Service

posed amendments to the Georgia Division constitution and whether they should be rejected or approved. He announced that Past Division Cmdr. Jack Bridwell has announced his candidacy as Commander for the remaining one year term and Al Perry has announced his candidacy as Lt. Cmdr. South. Alexander Camp compatriots interested in attending the reunion were asked to add their names to the list of official delegates. The camp has a total of nine votes, and seven compatriots indicating their intention of attending the reunion.

Second Lt. Cmdr. David Amour reported that there will be an upcoming ceremony honoring three Confederate soldiers in Washington, Georgia.

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



SCV Returns Stolen Flags to Veterans' Graves in Alabama Confederate Cemetery

The Alabama Division SCV recently returned Confederate battle flags that were illegally removed from the graves of Confederate veterans in Union Springs, Alabama.

In a flagrant violation of Alabama state law which states that it's illegal to "willfully and wrongfully or maliciously destroy, remove, cut, break, or injure any tree, shrub, plant, flower, decoration, or other real or personal property within any cemetery or graveyard," African-American attorney and former state senator, Myron Penn and his family removed the flags from the graves of Confederate veterans on May 10th calling their presence, "divisive". Penn then took the flags to city hall for pickup.

After receiving calls for Penn's arrest and national negative publicity, the city reversed a previous decision which prohibited the flags from returning to the cemetery.

On May 23rd, the Alabama Division SCV announced an agreement had been reached with the city and that the flags had been replaced on the graves that morning. The flags remained on the graves until 10:00 AM on May 30th.

Unhappy with the decision which limits flags on the graves to one week, several heritage groups plan to rally at the cemetery in mid-June.

Third Georgia Infantry (continued from page 2)

During that summer, distinguished Georgians made an effort to visit Norfolk to inspire or encourage the troops. If they did not visit the camp, the regiment formed ranks and marched into the city where they were formed in front of the Ocean House Hotel to pay their respects. The first of these was former Governor, Howell Cobb, who thrilled the men with his eloquence and Joseph Henry Lumpkin, the first Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, who offered timely advice.

Col. Ambrose Wright's wife, by the hands of Major Gen. Huger, presented a flag to the regiment which was received by Major Lee. At that time, Gen. Huger addressed the troops and humorously stated, "Georgians! At the request of Mrs. Wright, I present you with this flag. Never desert it—never run away from it! If you do, you will be forever disgraced and when you get home, the girls will not dance with you anymore." Major Lee's response was remembered as being "full of fire and enthusiasm."

On July 3rd, the regiment was marched to Pig Point and celebrated the Fourth of July with the 4th Georgia Infantry, Grimes' Virginia Artillery, 1st Louisiana Infantry Regiment and some Virginia cavalry. The unit was drilled by Colonel Blanchard and reviewed by Gen. Huger. After an artillery salute at noon, the unit enjoyed the hospitality of the 4th Georgia and 1st Louisiana Infantry regiments.

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provided the programs, set up party tents, set out grave site flags and brought the refreshments - moon pies and RC colas (John Given's favorite). Our Brigade Commander Tom Miller was present with his family and strangers from off the street showed up out of curiosity. Everyone present was impressed with the service and even the Hephzibah Fire Dept. had their vehicles out with emergency lights running in respect for the Confederate dead.

The final big event of the month was the US Memorial Day service at the Soldiers' Monument on May 25th on 4th and Broad Street in Augusta, Ga. Our Confederate veterans were well represented by Ron Udell and the Honor Guard which included Jack Bailie, Billy Belger, William Belger, Tommy Chappell, Ben Creech, Gary Hattaway, Tommy Miller, Sr. and Commander Bobby Snider from the Benson Camp in S.C. A black powder salute was fired which was much louder and more impressive than that fired by the Ft. Gordon Honor Guard.


I wish to thank all those who worked in Magnolia Cemetery during the month. Joe Winstead was a big help mowing the grass at a last moment's notice with his riding lawn mower. One armed Ron Udell seems to be down there every week mowing grass and raking leaves. Tommy Chappell was a big help and David Moncus as well as Gary Hattaway sneaked down and helped with the effort. I was down there the other day checking on the Confederate Dead when I came upon someone from *Southern Living* doing research on old southern cemeteries. They could not believe how well kept the graves for our Confederate boys were!

Finally, I wish to thank the ladies of the camp who have been so supportive. Marie Powell continues to show up at many of our functions, and Emma Givens has been busy supporting the cause putting out over 200 flags on grave sites during the month of May. We surely have a wonderful camp, and as my grandmother used to say, "Bless your hearts"!


Our speaker for the June 11th camp meeting will be Compatriot Dean Hunt from S.C. He will talk on Gen. Sherman's march of destruction through South Carolina. Hope to see you all there. We will have no meeting in July as Sconyer's is closed.

Have a great Dixie Day and Deo Vindice.


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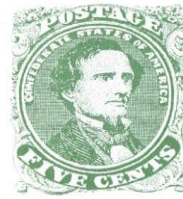
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<http://eporteralexander.homestead.com>

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Editor



Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

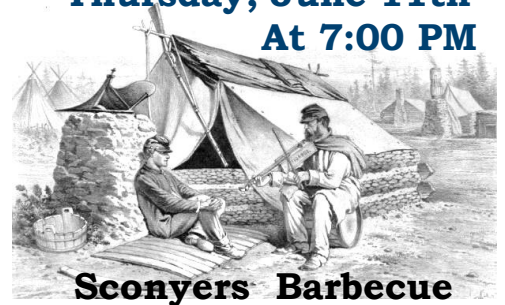
150 YEARS AGO: Gen. Stand Watie Surrenders

- 13 June 1865: Pres. Johnson appoints James Johnston, a pro-Unionist from Columbus, as provisional governor of Georgia
- 17 June 1865: Virginia Fire-eater Edmund Ruffin, desiring to no longer live under Yankee rule, commits suicide
- 20 June 1865: Orders for the release of former Georgia Gov. Joe Brown from Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC are issued
- 22 June 1865: CSS *Shenandoah* captures two whalers in the Bering Sea
- 23 June 1865: Cherokee General Stand Watie surrenders the last sizable body of Confederate troops at Doaksville, Indian Territory
- 26 June 1865: CSS *Shenandoah* captures six whalers in the Bering Sea
- 27 June 1865: Captain Waddell of the CSS *Shenandoah* learns that Lee has surrendered, but also reads in the same newspaper a proclamation from Pres. Davis that the “war would be carried on with full vigor”
- 28 June 1865: CSS *Shenandoah* captures eleven whalers in Bering Sea
- 30 June 1865: Johnson names Benjamin F. Perry provisional governor of SC
- 7 July 1865: After being found guilty in the conspiracy to murder Lincoln, four conspirators, including Mr. Mary Surratt, are hanged from the gallows in Washington, DC
- 2 August 1865: While enroute from the Arctic to San Francisco, the crew of the CSS *Shenandoah* learn from a passing British ship, *Barracouta*, that the war is over.

Right: The “Stars and Bars” pattern flag of Co. E, “Washington Rifles” Ramsey’s First Georgia Infantry Regiment which features a painted Georgia State seal in the union and proclaims that it was organized on May 1st, 1858. The flag is presently in the Georgia Capitol Collection.

Next Camp Meeting

Thursday, June 11th
At 7:00 PM



Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

Let all creation rejoice before the LORD,
for... He comes to judge the earth. He will
judge the world in righteousness and the
peoples in His faithfulness.

--Psalms 96:13 (NIV)

