

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

It is with a heavy heart and deep regret that I have to report that Compatriot and esteemed SCV Life Member, David Powell, has "passed over the river and rests under the shade of the trees." David passed away to God's glory on February 25th. He will be sorely missed. As an active member for over 20 years, he was always there to help with The Cause when needed. Brother David mentored many of us through the years showing the way of service as a Confederate compatriot.

Brother Powell helped organize the Honor Guard for the H.L. Hunley project in Charleston, SC. He was the driving force and major financial contributor to the Augusta Powder Works chimney project. He was always there to help with the Magnolia Cemetery cleanup on a regular basis. He was one of the driving forces working to repair the Broad Street Confederate monument. He was a supportive member of the Camp's Honor Guard. He was a true friend to the end, and he will be missed by all who passed his way. We pray for his wife, Marie, who has also been supportive of our Cause. It is a difficult time of grief for all of us.

February has been a busy month for our Camp. On February 8th, the Camp's Honor Guard participated in the Sgt. Berry Benson birthday celebration in North Augusta. Ron Udell, Ben Creech, Gary Hattaway, and Joe Winstead parti-

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Remembering a Confederate hero: Camp Cmdr. John Baxley speaks on the life of Sgt. Berry Benson, while the Alexander Camp's honor guard stands at parade rest during Benson's birthday celebration held on February 8th in North Augusta.



**Compatriot David M. Powell
1939-2015**

Longtime Alexander Camp member, David Powell, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, February 25th. David had been a member of the Alexander Camp for 22 years and both an SCV and Georgia Division Life Member. A member of the Camp's Honor Guard, Compatriot Powell was a re-enactor with the 1st Georgia Infantry, the 5th Georgia Infantry and the 32nd Georgia Artillery. He assisted in the organization of the Honor Guard for the crew of the *H.L. Hunley* submarine in North Charleston and the Confederate re-enactors for the rededication of the Confederate Powder Works Chimney in 2010. As a camp member, Powell was involved in a number of projects namely the refurbishment of the Confederate Monument on Broad and the Confederate platform at Magnolia Cemetery. His greatest goal, however, was the completion of the refurbishment of the Chimney, of which he was a major benefactor.

An Air Force and Navy veteran, David was a member of the Augusta Genealogical Society, past president of the Powell Family Reunion, and a member of numerous business and trade organizations. Knowledgeable in many subjects, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, golf, and traveling.

Prior to retiring, he was the owner and CEO of several businesses: Pleasant Heating and Air Conditioning, Columbia Custom Marble, Petersburg Learning Center and DMP Builders, Inc.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Marie, his daughter, Pamela P. Rudder, two grandsons and two great grandsons. He truly will be missed.

Last Camp Meeting

Frances Cutting & Daphne Hopson Speaks on "The Day the War Stopped"

During the February 2015 meeting of the Alexander Camp, Ms. Frances Cutting and Ms. Daphne Hopson spoke on the topic, "The Day the War Stopped," when Confederate and Union combatants laid down their arms in St. Francisville, Louisiana to conduct a funeral service for a Yankee officer.

Ms. Cutting and Ms. Hopson are members of Gen. W.H.T. Walker UDC Chapter #2253 in Augusta, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the National Society of Colonial Dames

They began their presentation by showing a video; however, audio problems caused the women to discuss the events that led to a truce and the burial of the Union officer.

In March 1863, only two ships were able to pass the Confederate bastion of Port Hudson on the Mississippi: the USS *Hartford*, Admiral Farragut's flagship, and the USS *Albatross*. During the siege of Port Hudson, the two ships conducted raids and shelled several Confederate positions along the river including St. Francisville.

In June, the Union commander of the USS *Albatross*, Lt. Cmdr. John Hart of Schenectady, NY, suffering from delirium related to high fever, committed suicide. Knowing Hart was a Mason, his shipmates sent an ensign ashore to find the local Lodge and to request a Masonic burial for him. The ensign discovered that the senior Warden of the Lodge in St. Francisville was one of the Confederates that had been harassing the Yankee ships, Captain W. W. Leake, of Company C, 1st Louisiana Cavalry. Understanding Hart was a fellow Mason, Leake met with the Union officers and agreed to the funeral service at Grace Episcopal Church with burial in the church cemetery. Ironically, Grace Church was often a target for Union shelling.

On June 12th, a contingent of US Marines and Navy officers and sailors bore Hart's coffin up the steep bluff to the church where, in the presence of Confederate Masons, he was buried with full Masonic honors. It was a brief moment of peace and fellowship in a time of war.

Throughout his life, Capt. Leake continued to care for Hart's grave which received a headstone in 1956. Today, Hart's burial ceremony is re-enacted each June in St. Francisville.

Following their interesting presentation, Cmdr. Baxley gave each of the ladies a copy of a book on the Lee Chapel.

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The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

12 March: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp # 158 Meeting

Topic: The Guns of Semple's Battery
7:00 PM at Sconyers Barbecue

17 March: St. Patrick's Day Parade at 2:00 PM
Meet by 1:00 PM James Brown Arena

21-22 March: Reenactment of the Battle of Bentonville, NC
www.150thbentonville.com
Reenactment of the Battle at Manassas Reidsville, Georgia

28 March: Georgia Division Executive Council Mtg.
11:00 AM at Ole Times Buffet
Macon, Georgia

28 March: Confederate Memorial Service
Statesboro, Georgia

11 April: National Confederate Memorial Day Service @ 12 Noon
Stone Mountain, Georgia

19 April: Confederate Memorial Day Service
Hephzibah, Georgia

25 April: Confederate Memorial Day Service
Magnolia Cemetery, Augusta

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

10 March: George W. Randolph, Secy. War
MGen. Thomas J. Churchill

11 March: BGen. Allison Nelson*
BGen. Edmund Kirby, Jr.*

14 March: MGen. John S. Marmaduke

17 March: MGen. Patrick R. Cleburne*

19 March: BGen. Lewis H. Little*

22 March: Gen. Braxton Bragg
MGen. William H.C. Whiting*

25 March: MGen. William T. Martin

28 March: LGen. Wade Hampton

29 March: John Letcher, Gov. Va.
MGen. Robert E. Rodes*

31 March: BGen. John H. Kelley*

1 April: LGen. Simon B. Buckner

2 April: BGen. Henry L. "Old Rock" Benning

5 April: MGen. David R. "Neighbor" Jones*

* Died in Confederate Service

During the meeting, Cmdr. Baxley thanked the Camp's Honor Guard for their service at the Sgt. Berry Benson Birthday service which was held on February 8th in North Augusta at his grave

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Florida's Department of Veterans Affairs Omits Confederates from State's Veterans' Hall of Fame

The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) have omitted three Confederate veterans for consideration for the state's Veterans Hall of Fame stating they "did not meet the criteria set forth by the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Council, and by applicable federal and state laws defining veteran status."

The names of Confederate veterans, David Lang, Samuel Pasco and Edward A. Perry were omitted. Lang is known as the "father of the Florida National Guard", Pasco became a US Senator from Florida, and Perry became a Florida governor.

The program, which began in 2013, recognizes and honors military veterans who, through their works and lives, during and after their military service, have made significant contributions to the state. The Florida DVA must submit the names to the Florida Cabinet for inclusion into the Hall of Fame.

The SCV is calling for an investigation by the Florida Attorney General of the Florida DVA headed by Mike Pendergast for the delay in submitting the names and the omission of the Confederate veterans.

David McCallister, commander of the Judah P. Benjamin Camp, SCV, in Tampa, said he is ready to take legal action if necessary to insure the three Confederate veterans are included. The nominations were made last year and the names were to have been placed on a plaque in November. As a result, the delay has caused the entire 2014 class from entering the Hall of Fame for over three months thwarting attempts to honor aging World War II veterans while they still are alive.

Meanwhile the Florida NAACP and longtime Confederate heritage hater and columnist, Daniel Ruth, have expressed their opposition to the inclusion of the Confederate veterans in the Veterans Hall of Fame.

Compatriots are asked to contact the following individuals with the title of your correspondence being "Leave No Veteran Behind". VFW and American Legion members are requested to notify your fellow veterans of this situation.

Florida Governor Rick Scott

<http://www.flgov.com/contact-gov-scott/email-the-governor/>
Attorney General Pam Bondi

http://myfloridalegal.com/contact.nsf/contact?Open&Section=Attorney_General

Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnum

<http://app2.freshfromflorida.com/contact/?ID=1>

Florida Veterans Hall of Fame E-mail:

FVHOF@FDVA.state.fl.us

With Special Thanks

A special thanks to all those compatriots and supporters who participated in Compatriot David Powell's graveside service on February 28th at Bellevue Cemetery. They were Nick Posey, Tommy Miller Sr., Kenny Kitchens, and Gail Smith (as a widower in period dress). Honor Guard members present were Ron Udell and Tom Smith with Jack Bailey, Tommy Chappell, Mark Cook, Ben Creech (who led the service), Gary Hattaway, Lee Herron, and Ken Kitchens presenting rifle salutes.

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icipated in the 150th anniversary of the firing on Columbia on the 14th. Several compatriots to include Joe Winstead and David Armour went to the re-enactment of the Battle of Broxton Bridge in Erhart, SC. "Major" Ron Udell did an outstanding job in organizing the Confederate memorial service for our beloved David Powell on February 28th.

We hope to participate in the Augusta St. Patrick's Day parade on March 17th. We will have our first big Magnolia cemetery cleanup in March preparing for our annual Confederate Memorial Day service on April 25th. More details on those events and other upcoming activities will be finalized at our next camp meeting at Sconyers Barbecue on March 12th. I hope to see you there and bring a friend. Have a great Dixie Day. Deo Vindice!

Last Month's Meeting (continued from page 2)

site. Cmdr. Baxley was the keynote speaker for the event. Baxley announced the upcoming officers meeting which will be held at Bobby's Barbecue on February 26 at 6:30 PM. All compatriots are invited to attend.

Adjutant Posey stated the Camp now has 86 members and announced that Compatriot John Sweat had renewed his camp membership. He stated that 15% of SCV members had failed to renew their membership by the October due date. Posey stated he hoped many of those have already paid their dues and restored their membership.

Quartermaster Winstead encouraged all members to consider purchasing a memorial paver soon as the company will soon return to engrave more of them.

Chaplain Ben Creech asked for prayers for Compatriots David Powell and Curtis Carter. Compatriot Arnold Huskins announced that the Thomson-McDuffie County Museum in Thomson has on display the second largest Confederate belt buckle collection, a carbine rifle collection, two Battle of Atlanta maps, and original flags until May. Emma Givens inquired as to the date of the upcoming Hephzibah Confederate memorial service. It was decided that it will be held on April 19th at 2:00 PM. Compatriot Bill Berry announced that the Augusta St. Patrick's Day parade will be on Tuesday, March 17th and encouraged the camp to participate.

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

The Wig Wag

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Editor



**Remembering Our Irish-Celtic
Confederate Heritage!**

Happy Easter!

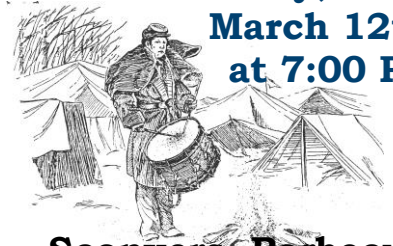
150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Bentonville, NC

- 13 March 1865: After much discussion, the Confederate Congress authorizes the enlistment of black soldiers
- 16 March 1865: Battle of Averasboro, NC: Hardee attempts to halt Union advance
- 18 March 1865: Confederate Congress adjourns for what will be its last session
- 19-21 March 1865: Battle of Bentonville, NC: Johnston's Army of Tennessee attempts to stop Sherman
- 22 March 1865: Union Gen. James Wilson raid on Selma, Ala. begins
- 25 March 1865: Petersburg Campaign: Gen. Gordon's troops capture Union Fort Stedman but a Federal counterattack recaptures the fort
- 26 March 1865: Federal siege of Mobile, Ala. begins
- 27 March 1865: Battle of Spanish Fort, Ala.
- 1 April 1865: Battle of Five Forks, Va.: Lee's line is outflanked southeast of Petersburg; Federals seized Southside Railroad
- 2 April 1865: Lee's line at Petersburg is broken, Gen. A.P. Hill is killed
Battle of Fort Blakely, Ala.
- 3 April 1865: Richmond and Petersburg falls to Union forces, Lee retreats west
- 4 April 1865: Lee's starving army arrives at Amelia Courthouse and discover expected supplies have not arrived; the delay is fatal
- 5 April 1865: Lee's route south from Amelia C.H. is blocked by Union cavalry

Right: The battle flag of the 40th Alabama Infantry: At the Battle of Bentonville, NC, in March 1865, three color bearers were shot down carrying this flag which was issued to the unit in Dalton, Ga. in May 1864. Following the battle, a small group of men including the flag bearer, Hilliard O'Neal, became separated from the rest of the regiment for several days narrowly avoiding capture on a number of occasions. To avoid losing the colors, he removed the flag from its staff and wrapped it around his leg, wearing it underneath his clothing.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday,
March 12th
at 7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

...By taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness...He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

-- Philippians 2: 7b-8 (NIV)

