



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

February was another busy month for the camp. On February 7th our Honor Guard performed excellently at the annual Sgt. Berry Benson birthday celebration at his grave site in North Augusta. Ron Udell did an excellent job organizing the Honor Guard which included Tommy Miller, Sr., Gary Hattaway, Wade Fulmer, Ben Creech, Joe Winstead and Tobin Burnette. Tobin's wife Joyce did a wonderful job taking pictures.

The reenactment of the Battle of Aiken was well attended by our camp with Ron Udell, Ben Creech, Tommy Chappell, Emma Givens, Marie Powell, and Diane Grigsby participating as re-enactors. Roy Stampely and wife, Tommy Miller and family, Richard Saylor and son, and Roger Combs and his family also pitched in. The three day event was a huge success with over 10,000 spectators attending and over 600 re-enactors from all over the world participating. The press coverage in local newspapers was excellent and the educational result superb. Thanks to all that helped the Bee Camp and the Palmetto Battalion with the event!

On February 25th the camp honored the one year anniversary of the death of our beloved compatriot, David Powell. Ron Udell organized the camp's Honor Guard with Gary Hattaway, Tommy Chappelle, Ben Creech, Emma Givens, Marie Powell, and Jack Bailie participating in the memorial service. We certainly do miss our dearly departed brothers, David Powell and John Givens.

Our next camp meeting at Sconyer's will be on March 10th. The speaker will be Augusta University professor, Dr. Debra van Tuyl, who will speak on how the War impacted Confederate newspapers. At the

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Augusta. Pictured (left to right) are "Major" Ron Udell, Tommy Miller, Sr., Gary Hattaway, Wade Fulmer, Ben Creech, Joe Winstead and Tobin Burnette. (Not pictured: Cmdr. John Baxley, Joyce Burnett, and Bobby Snider)

**"Who Cares
about the
Super Bowl?"**

The Alexander Camp's Honor Guard gathered on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th to remember the birthday of local hero, Sgt. Berry Benson at his gravesite in North

Editorial:

It's Time to Take an Economic Stand for Our Heritage!

Recently, the Georgia Division announced a boycott of the city of New Orleans and urged all compatriots to avoid patronizing restaurants and hotels in the Crescent City due to the Mayor and the City Council's efforts to remove three Confederate monuments in the city. More locally, during the last Alexander Camp meeting, compatriots voted almost unanimously to boycott Maurice's Barbeque after Past Cmdr. Ron Udell's reported that the present owner of the restaurant told a group of South Carolina compatriots that the battle flag is no longer welcome in his establishment.

As heritage violations have occurred more rapidly over the past year, it is apparent that we who love our Southern heritage and cherish our Confederate ancestry are facing a dilemma as to whether we will participate in these boycotts and avoid visiting cities, patronizing businesses or supporting organizations that discriminate against that heritage.

If we are to boycott New Orleans, we should also boycott Memphis, Baltimore, San Antonio, St. Louis and Gainesville, Fla. —all of which have removed or sought removal of Confederate memorials. Pensacola, Florida; Mobile, Alabama; Winchester, Virginia; Crestview, Florida; Lake City Florida and a host of Mississippi towns which have changed their city seals, removed Confederate flags or removed the state flag should also be included on the list.

Compatriots should consider limiting or cease patronizing companies that consider your ancestor's flag a banner of "hate and discrimination". Both Amazon and eBay have pulled battle flag sales from their web sites, and Annin and Valley Forge flag companies have stopped making and marketing it. Wal-Mart, Target and Sears have stopped selling any merchandise featuring a battle flag including *Dukes of Hazzard* toys—even to the detriment of customers.

(See **Economic Stand** on page 3)

Last Camp Meeting:

Compatriot Neil Dickey Speaks on Lincoln and Secession

During the February 2016 meeting of the Alexander Camp, Compatriot Neil Dickey, past Fifth Brigade commander and presently Lt. Commander of the Buckhead-Fort Lawton Brigade Camp # 2102 in Millen, Georgia, spoke about Lincoln's views of the US government and secession. He initially quoted Lincoln, who said in 1848, that "Any people anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up, and shake off the existing government, and form a new one that suits them better." Despite having said this, Lincoln did exactly the opposite when he opposed Southern secession during the War Between the States. Dickey went on to discuss how Lincoln's view of the American Union was totally contrary to the ideas expressed by the Founding Fathers and wording of the US Constitution. He further stated the British government, when it signed the treaty which ended the Revolutionary War, did so naming each individual state rather than one governmental entity. Dickey declared that each individual state was sovereign prior to its ratification of the US Constitution. He then discussed various secession events in America namely the New England states' efforts during the War of 1812. Dickey stated Lincoln's philosophy of a perpetual union was based on a trade agreement, known as the Articles of Association, rather than on actual government documents. As a result, his erroneous views prevailed leading to the loss of sovereignty by the states and the centralization of power in the Federal government in Washington after the War—both of which our Confederate forefathers fought to prevent.

Following his thoughtful presentation, Compatriot Dickey was presented with a bottle of fly ash from the Powder Works chimney by Cmdr. Baxley.

During the meeting, there was one application for Camp membership: **James D. Donehoo** who joins the Camp on the record of his Confederate ancestor, his great grandfather, **Pvt. Barnett D. Donehoo** who served in Georgia's Phillips' Legion.

Commander Baxley reported there were several bills filed recently in the Georgia General Assembly that are detrimental to our heritage, and he urged the Camp to contact their state legislators. He stated one bill; HB 50 submitted by Rep. Tommy Benton, will protect our memorials and monuments. Baxley reported that the speaker for the March meeting will be Dr. Deborah Van Tuyl of Augusta University who will speak

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Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

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

Topic: "The Confederate Press"

7:00 PM at Sconyers Barbecue

12-13 March: "Skirmish at Gamble's Hotel"

Re-enactment

The Columns, Florence, SC

19-20 March: "Battles at Manassas" re-enactment

Fort Wallace-Wood

Claxton, Ga.

2 April: National Confederate Memorial Day Service

Stone Mountain, Ga. at 1: 00 PM

17 April: Hephzibah Confederate Memorial Day Service

**30 April: Alexander Camp's Confederate Memorial Day Service at 11:45 AM
Magnolia Cemetery**

**10-11 June: Georgia Division Reunion
Conyers, Ga.**

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

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

11 March: BGen. Allison Nelson*

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*

6 April: MGen. William Field

7 April: Francis W. Pickens, Gov. SC

*Died in Confederate Service

on how the War impacted the newspapers. He made a motion to install Compatriot Tobin Burnett as Third Lt. Commander, which was seconded and approved by voice vote. Baxley discussed the Christmas Social in December, which will be held on Saturday, December 16th, and the Hephzibah Confederate Memorial Day service which was scheduled on Sunday, April 17th. The Honor Guard's participation in the Augusta St. Patrick's Day parade this year was discussed with apprehension as to whether we would be

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Florida Legislature Votes to Remove Confederate General's Statue from US Capitol

The statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby-Smith is one of two individuals that represent Florida in Statuary Hall in the US Capitol. However, the fate of the statue is in jeopardy as both the Florida House and Senate recently voted to remove it. SB 310 now goes to Governor Scott who will decide whether to sign or veto the bill. If he approves the bill, Scott will set up a commission to replace the statue and honor another Floridian.

Gen. Kirby-Smith, who was born in St. Augustine, is the state's highest ranking veteran and commanded the Confederate Army of the Trans-Mississippi during the War Between the States. His statue has been in Statuary Hall since 1922.

Supporters of the bill state that Kirby-Smith was born in Florida before it became a state, that he spent most of his life in the military and in Tennessee and it is not about erasing Southern heritage. Southern heritage supporters know it is another effort to eradicate their history in the Sunshine State.

All compatriots are asked to contact Governor Scott immediately as it is believed he will act on this bill soon and politely ask him to veto this bill:

Governor Rick Scott
Call: 850-488-7146

Email: Rick.Scott@EOG.MyFlorida.com
<http://www.flgov.com/contact-gov-scott/>

Economic Stand (Continued from page 1)

Although most Southerners love their state universities and are avid supporters of their sports teams, we must consider whether it is worth it to continue to support universities and their sports programs and wear their logos when most of their coaches and professors have been totally adversarial to our Confederate heritage. The NCAA was one of the first to call for a removal of our memorial soldiers' flag at the SC State House and boycotted the state as a result.

Perhaps we should reconsider which television programs we watch. Networks such as ESPN, CMT and TV Land have condemned any display of the battle flag and removed programs such as the *Dukes of Hazzard* from their lineup.

A Puerto Rican friend recently expressed his frustration regarding my refusal to patronize an anti-Confederate business and stated I was "limiting myself." I asked him if they were discriminating against Puerto Ricans and its flag how would he feel. He finally understood my position.

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meeting I would like to discuss the care of the Confederate Dead and Survivor sections at Magnolia Cemetery. The "old man crew" is doing a wonderful job, but I am concerned about "burn out" amongst the crew. I would like to organize a second "weekend warrior" crew of younger members who could relieve the senior crew about once every two months to give them a break. If anyone wishes to volunteer for the weekend crew, let me know at 803-295-3719. Through our efforts at the cemetery we honor our ancestors and keep the flag flying over the honored dead at Magnolia!

Hope to see you at Sconyer's Barbecue for the next meeting!
Have a great Dixie Day and Deo Vindice!

Your humble servant, Commander Baxley

Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

allowed to attend given the present circumstances. Cmdr. Baxley presented an award to Compatriot Tommy Chappelle for his outstanding service to the Camp.

Lt. Cmdr. Posey reported on the cost of the Lee/Jackson Banquet stating it cost the Camp \$13.50 per plate (with the camp absorbing the \$3.50 extra cost), \$88 for security, \$160 for use of the facility and \$28 for printing. Presently the Camp has \$404 in the Lee/Jackson Banquet Fund.

Past Cmdr. Ron Udell informed the Camp that the present owner of Maurice's Barbecue, Maurice Bessinger's son, informed a South Carolina Division camp that Confederate battle flags are no longer welcomed in his restaurants. After discussion of the matter, the majority of the compatriots present decided they would no longer patronize Maurice's Barbecue and the Camp would consider sending a letter notifying the owner of such.

Second Lt. Cmdr. David Armour reminded the Camp of the National Confederate Memorial Day Service to be held at Stone Mountain on April 2nd. Emma Givens stated she is continuing to take orders for Camp T-shirts. Compatriot Huskins made a motion that the Camp donate to the legal team trying to prevent the Confederate monuments from removal in New Orleans. The motion to donate \$100 was seconded and approved by voice vote.

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

Compatriots, are we really serious about what we say or believe? Does our heritage really mean something and are we willing to sacrifice convenience, funds, leisure, etc. to defend the good name of our Confederate ancestors? If a city, company or organization no longer respects your heritage, will they respect you as an individual? While such decisions are personal, if we are to make an impact it behooves each of us to stand firm for our convictions and to take action whenever necessary to let those who discriminate against our heritage know that there is a price to pay for their intolerance and anti-Southern bigotry. We may be just one person but one person united with many others can make a difference. The choice is yours.

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Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.
Editor



Happy Easter!

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

Irish Born Confederate Generals

1. MGen. Patrick R. Cleburne, born near Ovens, County Cork
2. BGen. William M. Brown, born in Dublin
3. BGen. Joseph Finegan, born in Clones, County Monaghan
4. BGen. James Hagan, born in County Tyrone
5. BG Walter P. Lane, born in County Cork
6. BG Patrick T. Moore, born in Galway

Irish Catholic Priests Who Served as Confederate Chaplains

1. Fr. John Bannon, St. Louis; First Missouri Brigade
2. Fr. C.J. Croghan, Hospital, Montgomery, White Sulphur Springs, Va.
3. Fr. James T. Cunningham, 3rd Mississippi Regiment Infantry
4. Fr. William H. Jordan, 18th North Carolina Infantry
5. Fr. Lawrence P. O'Connell, Hospital, White Sulphur Springs, Va.
6. Fr. M. O'Keefe, Virginia. Assigned to General Blanchard.
7. Fr. Thomas O'Reilly; Kinston, LaGrange, Marietta, Newman and Griffin, Ga.
8. Fr. Patrick Ryan, Post Chaplain, Charleston
9. Fr. James C. Sheeran, 14th Louisiana Infantry
10. Fr Peter Whelan, Savannah, "Montgomery Guards", 1st Georgia Volunteers.

Right: The Irish battle flag of the Montgomery Guards (Co E, 22th Georgia Artillery Battalion). Organized on August 20, 1861 in Savannah, the Montgomery Guards was without its own colors while at Fort Pulaski. Aware of their plight, the Sisters of Mercy constructed "a handsome banner", and, on St. Patrick's Day, 1862, after Mass, Major John Foley of the garrison formally presented the flag to Private Bernard O'Neill, the appointed standard bearer. Fr. Peter Whelan then called down God's blessing on the banner and the company.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday,
March 10th
at 7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove His people's disgrace from all the earth.

-- Isaiah 25:8(NIV)

