

★ **Commander's
Comments** ★
by David Moncus

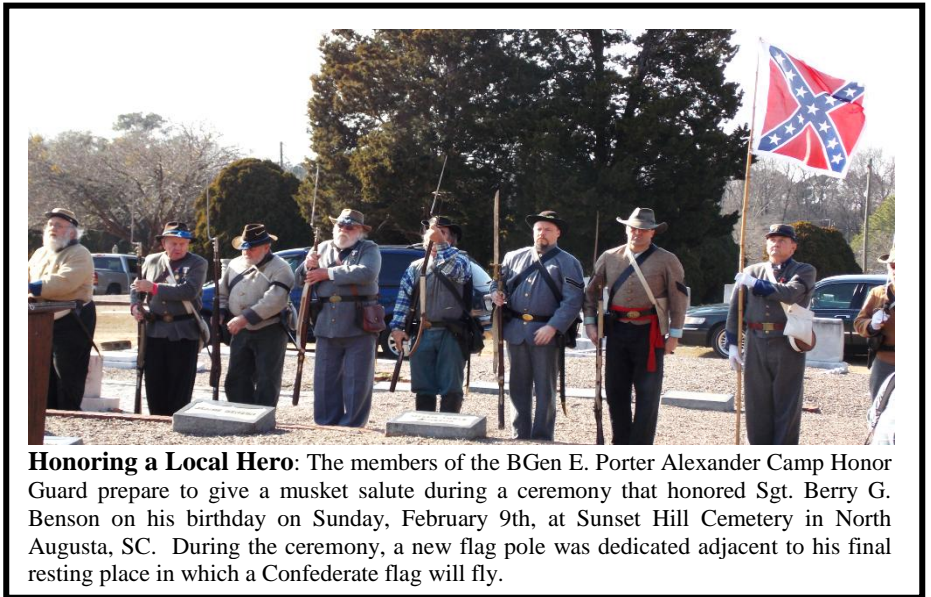
I hope that you did not get hit too hard by the ice storm last month. I really hated to cancel our February meeting, but I thought that it was for the best considering the circumstances. The biggest concern was people being out on the road unnecessarily and then the other was how long Sconyers would be affected by the loss of power. With that behind us I hope that you will be able to make the meeting on March 13th.

One other subject to cover in regard to the ice storm is Magnolia Cemetery. It got hit real hard. Limbs are down from every tree in the cemetery and some graves were damaged. Fortunately, the Confederate graves fared well. There is a lot of cleanup to be done, and we will address that at the meeting. Ron Udell and I have done some minor work, but much more will be needed.

I am sure that you are aware of the news media trying to make a big issue out of our new Georgia SCV tag design. Commander Ray McBerry did a good job of defending our heritage on CNN and other liberal news media who are trying to fan the flames of racial divide on this issue. As pointed out by McBerry, this is a heritage issue and not a race issue. Anyway, I encourage you to get the SCV specialty plate for your vehicles.

Gentlemen, I will once again encourage you to recruit new members for our organization. We need to keep

(Continued on page 3)



Honoring a Local Hero: The members of the BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp Honor Guard prepare to give a musket salute during a ceremony that honored Sgt. Berry G. Benson on his birthday on Sunday, February 9th, at Sunset Hill Cemetery in North Augusta, SC. During the ceremony, a new flag pole was dedicated adjacent to his final resting place in which a Confederate flag will fly.

Editor's Note: The following, compliments of Cmdr. Ray McBerry, is a press release issued by the Georgia Division on February 28th.

**Georgia Division SCV Announces
"Flags Across Georgia" Campaign**

Following up the redesign of their specialty license plate in Georgia which now prominently features the Confederate battle flag, the Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans announced today the launch of a bold "Flags Across Georgia" campaign which will raise Confederate battle flags and 1956 Georgia flags in prominent places throughout the state of Georgia as part of the ongoing effort to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the War and to promote Southern Heritage.

A 60 foot flagpole flying a 180 square foot Confederate battle flag on US Highway 19 in south Georgia's Mitchell County is the newest addition to a rapidly growing number of highly visible flags being erected by the SCV all over Georgia. More than a dozen huge flagpoles have quietly gone up awaiting the announcement of the beginning of the "Flags Across Georgia" campaign. These flags include 50 foot flag poles in both Augusta and Ringgold, both on major highways in heavily commercialized areas. The pole in Augusta is located on Wheeler Road, a busy four lane highway just off I-20. The flagpole in Ringgold is located on Battlefield Parkway at I-75 exit 350. Each of the poles is located in a highly visible location and flies a large 10 x 15 foot battle flag which is visible for miles around to those travelling Georgia's roads and interstates.

(See **Flags Across Georgia** on page 2)



Pulling the Lanyard and Swabbing the Barrel: Alexander Camp compatriots and attendees attending the artillery/cannon class of instruction, which was held on October 19, 2013, take a break from their labors. The class was conducted under the direction of Compatriot/Quartermaster Joe Winstead.

Flags Across Georgia (Continued from page 1)

The largest flag erected so far is a Confederate battle flag just north of Tifton, Georgia right beside I-75. The huge flag is 30' x 50' atop a pole that stands a towering 120' above the landscape and has attracted a huge amount of attention, especially since it is positioned on the main route travelled by millions of tourists heading to and from Florida from all over America.

The sites selected for the existing flagpoles in the "Flags Across Georgia" campaign include parcels of land which have been sold, deeded, leased, and loaned to the SCV by the original owners. A list of land owners offering their properties as potential sites for additional flagpoles in prominent locations has been growing as word of the bold new campaign has leaked out around the state in recent weeks.

As part of the "Flags Across Georgia" campaign, homeowners around the state are also being encouraged to fly the Confederate flag and 1956 Georgia Memorial Flag bearing the St. Andrews Cross on smaller flagpoles at their homes and in their communities as a demonstration of their love for Southern Heritage and to commemorate the War during its 150th anniversary.

The "Stars and Bars" - or First National flag of the Confederacy - after which Georgia Rep. Bobby Franklin designed Georgia's current state flag is not the Confederate battle flag which bears the more recognizable "St. Andrew's

The Wig Wag

is the official publication of the BGen. E. Porter Alexander Camp #158, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Augusta, Georgia. It is published monthly (except July) for the benefit of camp members. 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: Rebeleye@aol.com.

Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

13 March: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting
Topic: Stonewall Jackson's Map
Maker: Jedidiah Hotchkiss
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue

22-23 March: Battle of Charleston re-enactment
 Legare Farms, John's Island, SC

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

26 April: Confederate Memorial Day Service
Magnolia Cemetery, Augusta

27 April: Confederate Memorial Day Service
Hephzibah, Georgia

13-14 June: Georgia Division SCV Reunion
Columbus, Georgia

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

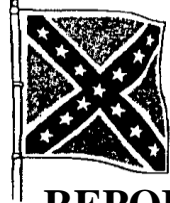
- 11 March: BGen. Allison Nelson*
 - BGen. Edmund Kirby, Jr.*
 - 14 March: MGen. John S. Marmaduke
 - 17 March: **MGen. Patrick R. Cleburne***
 - 19 March: BGen. Lewis H. Little*
 - 22 March: Gen. Braxton Bragg
 - MGen. William H.C. Whiting*
 - 25 March: MGen. William T. Martin
 - 28 March: LGen. Wade Hampton
 - 29 March: John Letcher, Gov. Va.
 - MGen. Robert E. Rhodes*
 - 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

Cross," despite mistakes by some in the media confusing the two.

The St. Andrews Cross of the battle flag is a Christian symbol which has historically stood for freedom from tyranny and oppression dating back nearly a thousand years to its origins during Scotland's wars for independence.

While the raising of the flags in the "Flags Across Georgia" campaign is a part of the sesquicentennial commemoration of the War, the SCV plans on continuing the project after the commemoration draws to an end in 2015 according to Georgia Division officers.

Heritage



REPORT

California Bill Would Prohibit Sale of Confederate Flags on State Property

In an effort to deter freedom of choice and historical learning, an historically ignorant California legislator has introduced a bill in the California House that would ban the sale of Confederate flags on California state property.

Isadore Hall, an African-American assemblyman from Compton, states Confederate flag memorabilia is being sold at the Capitol gift shop and was on sale during last summer's state fair on the Cal Expo Fairgrounds. The issue came to his attention after his mother saw replica Confederate money on sale in the Capitol gift shop.

The ban would apply only to property owned by the state.

Sherman Selected as Museum of the Confederacy's "Person of the Year"

In a move that angered many Confederate heritage advocates, attendees at The Museum of the Confederacy's Speakers' Symposium, which was held on February 22nd at the Library of Virginia, voted Union General William T. Sherman as their "Person of the Year" for the year 1864.

History professor John Marszalek of Mississippi State University stated Sherman changed the way wars were fought (by terrorizing civilians and burning homes) and was most responsible for the outcome of the War. Sherman received 38 votes compared to Gen. Patrick Cleburne who garnered 29 votes. Third place went to the Union President, Abraham Lincoln.

The vote, according to many Confederate heritage advocates, was reflective of the changes affecting the Museum of the Confederacy which recently combined with the historical revisionist American Civil War Center--a move that the SCV feared last year. The Center, located on the site of the Confederacy's Tredegar Iron Works, is known for its controversial statue of Lincoln. The new museum will be known as "The American Civil War Museum" with a subtitle of "Confederacy, Union, Freedom".

Many compatriots believe the Museum of the Confederacy's actions constitute a betrayal of the donors' trust in that priceless artifacts were donated to the Museum with the understanding that the items would be interpreted from a Confederate or Southern perspective.

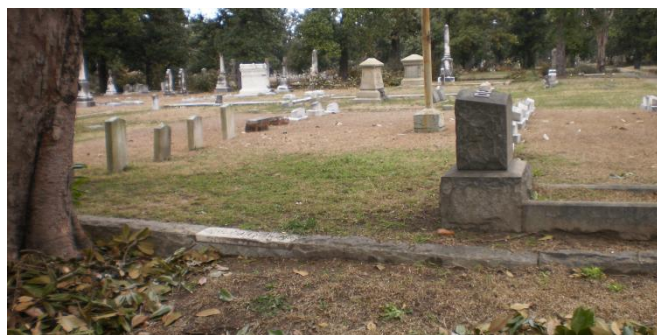
Commander's Comments (Continued from page 1)

adding to our ranks every year. If you don't do anything else this year, work on recruiting at least one new member before the end of the year. We all know people who have the ancestry and, in many cases, it is just a matter of recruiting them. Remember also that we have a cadet program for boys under the age of 12. For \$10 a year they can become a Cadet member of the SCV and then join as a full time member when they reach the age of 12.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our meeting on Thursday, March 13th.

With Deepest Sympathy

The compatriots of the Alexander Camp extends its deepest sympathy to Compatriot Roger Lee Combs, Jr. and his family as his father, Compatriot Roger Lee Combs, Sr., went home to be with the Lord on February 5th. The late Compatriot Combs is pictured to the right in his 10th Georgia Infantry re-enactment uniform. May he rest in peace!



Magnolia Cemetery Restoration: The photographs above, courtesy of Compatriot Ron Udell, show the debris in the Confederate Survivors' section of Magnolia Cemetery caused by the February ice storm and the same view after several days of cleanup conducted by Compatriot Udell and Cmdr. Moncus. Thankfully, no headstones were damaged by the fallen limbs, and one can only imagine the damage the two trees in the Confederate dead section might have caused had they not been removed.

The Wig Wag

Official Publication of the

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158

<http://eporteralexander.homestead.com>

March 2014 Issue
1316 High Woods Pass
Grovetown, Ga. 30813

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Editor



Remembering our Irish/Celtic Confederate Heritage

150 YEARS AGO: Red River Campaign Begins

- 12 March 1864: Federals begin Red River Campaign in Louisiana
Lt. Gen. Grant assumes command of all US Armies
- 13 March 1864: Skirmish at San Patricio, Texas
- 14 March 1864: Red River Campaign: Federals capture Ft. De Russy, La.
- 15 March 1864: Red River Campaign: Federal gunboats reach Alexandria, La.
- 16 March 1864: Gen. Sterling Price assumes command of the Confederate District of Arkansas
- 21 March 1864: Red River Campaign: Skirmish at Henderson Hill, Louisiana
Lincoln signs legislation allowing the states of Nevada and Colorado into the Union although they do not meet population requirements
- 22 March 1864: Skirmish at Corpus Christi, Texas
Great Confederate snowball fight at Dalton, Georgia
- 24 March 1864: Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest captures Union City, Tenn.
- 25 March 1864: Gen. Forrest is victorious at Paducah, Ky.
- 26 March 1864: Skirmish near Quitman, Arkansas
- 31 March 1864: Red River Campaign: Skirmish at Natchitoches, La.
- 3 April 1864: Battle of Elkin's Ferry, Arkansas
- 6 April 1864: Skirmish at Quicksand Creek, Kentucky

Right: **The Gen. Richard Taylor reverse color battle flag of the Second Louisiana Cavalry** which was captured along with 100 Pelican State troopers during an engagement at Henderson Hill, Louisiana during the Red River Campaign on March 21, 1864. The unit, enduring an unusually cold night of sleet and freezing rain, was surprised by Union troops and its Colonel barely escaped. Captured by 2nd Sgt. William Ayers of the 35th Iowa Volunteers, the flag was auctioned in Oregon to the highest bidder in 2010.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday,
March 13th
at 7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

God made Him, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

--2 Corinthians 5: 21

