

★ **Commander's
Comments** ★
by Lee Herron

The work continues on the Confederate Powder Works Chimney Restoration Project. I spoke with project foreman, Steve Scyoc, on March 1st and this is where the project stands: They should complete the tuck and pointing of the chimney by the afternoon of March 1st, which will include the upper four feet of the chimney where the scaffolding anchoring system was attached. The stainless steel cap has been installed on the top and the lightening suppression system has also been repaired. The grounding down leads will be installed after the stucco and complete washing of the chimney is completed. The last task will be to paint the original ladder that is attached to the chimney. The restoration of the chimney should be completed by the middle of March.

The Battle of Aiken and Broxton Bridge re-enactments were held during the month of February, and as always, we had a great time shootin' Yankees! I would like to thank everyone that supported these events, both re-enactors and spectators. It is important that we attend these events, not only to keep them reoccurring, but to learn more about how our Confederate ancestors lived during those four years of hell. I would encourage members to get involved with re-enacting and with our Camp Honor Guard. You will never regret it! If anyone is interested, please talk with me or one of the other re-en-

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Camp #158's Honor Guard stands ready at the ceremony honoring local Confederate hero, Sgt. Berry Benson's birthday in North Augusta's Sunset Cemetery on February 14th. Pictured (left to right) are Compatriots Joe Winstead, David Powell, Ben Creech, Jack Bailey, Gary Hattaway, Tommy Miller and "Major" Ron Udell. Fred Bussey, Perry Herron and Josh Herron also participated in the event.

Editor's Note: Below is the continuation of a series of articles on Georgia military units in which Richmond County men served during the War Between the States. Companies D and F of the 12th Georgia Light Artillery consisted of men from Richmond County.

The 12th Georgia Light Artillery: Winter 1863-64

After their service at Fort Sumter, the five companies of the 12th Georgia Light Artillery were sent to James Island, SC near Fort Johnson. James Island was well within range of the enemy guns on Morris Island, which had fallen to the enemy, and they slept on the beach with their rifles until Christmas Day 1863. They were then sent to guard the rail line from Savannah to Charleston which was susceptible to enemy attack from the Atlantic by way of the rivers. The 12th was dispersed along the line, some at Coosawhatchie, some at Pocotaligo, and some at Combahee. On February 22nd, after spending two months along the coast, the 12th was ordered back to Savannah to protect the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad.

On March 5th, Lt. Col. Capers rejoined the command, and the 12th was ordered to Tallahassee, Florida following the Battle of Olustee. One report states that a detachment from Company E escorted prisoners from that battle to Camp Sumter at Andersonville. However, most of the men spent the next month rounding up deserters and Yankee escapees throughout the north Florida swamps where they often waded through chest deep water.

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Last Camp Meeting

**Rev. Jim Cabaniss Discusses the
“Common Soldier of the Confederacy”**

During the January meeting of the Alexander Camp, Compatriot Rev. Jim Cabaniss, a Florence, Alabama native, Methodist pastor, and a member of the Confederate Memorial Camp in Stone Mountain spoke on the topic, “The Common Soldier of the Confederacy”. Rev. Cabaniss has been fascinated with the War since he was a small boy and has at least 32 Confederate ancestors. He has documented the letters of one of them, Sgt. Washington Ives, of the 4th Florida Infantry, in a book which has been quoted many times. Cabaniss exhibited numerous weapons used by the soldiers primarily the Mississippi rifle, which was the first US rifled musket, and the official uniform designation for chaplains by the Confederate government—a black square on each collar with the letter “C” surrounded by oak leaves embroidered in gold thread. In addition, he described many of the exploits of his Confederate ancestors during the War. Following a question and answer session, Cmdr. Herron presented Rev. Cabaniss with a photograph of the Confederate Powder works Chimney.

During the commander’s report, Cmdr. Herron thanked all those who attended the Lee-Jackson Banquet and stated he was disappointed in the number of camp members who did not attend. He discussed the various awards and certificates that were given at the Banquet. He stated payment was not received on six tickets.

Herron reported that the Camp would observe Confederate Memorial Day on April 17th in Magnolia Cemetery with the guest speaker being Col. “Black Jack” Travis, who has written a book on BGen. E. Porter Alexander and will speak on that topic. The Commander stated that compatriots need to start thinking about future leadership opportunities in the Camp especially in regard to the Commander’s position. He mentioned the Sgt. Berry Benson Birthday celebration to be held on February 14th in North Augusta and that there will be a Confederate marker

(Continued on next column)

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

**11 March: BGen E. Porter Alexander
Camp #158 Meeting
Topic: “The Battle of Gettysburg”
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue**

20-21 March: Bentonville, NC re-enactment

**17 April: Confederate Memorial Day Services
Magnolia Cemetery, Augusta**

**11-12 June: Georgia Division Reunion
Milledgeville, Georgia**

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

- 7 March: MGen. Henry D. Clayton
- 8 March: MGen. Matthew C. Butler
- 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

*Died in Confederate Service

dedication on March 14th in Barnwell, SC.

Commander Herron reported that the work on the east and west wall of the Powder works chimney has been completed and that over 50% of the work has been done. He stated that the company was presently removing loose mortar and replacing it, and, hopefully, the job will be totally completed by March 1st.

The Commander presented SCV resolutions honoring recently deceased Compatriots Wilbert Posey and Tom Stafford, respectively, to their sons, Nick Posey and Barrett Stafford.

Fifth Brigade Commander, Mike Mull, spoke of the upcoming Georgia Division Reunion to be held in Milledgeville on June 11-12th. He stated that his health has improved and that he would once again seek re-election as Fifth Brigade Commander. The meeting was adjourned by Commander Herron. After the benediction, the camp sang Dixie.



In a letter to the editor to the editor to the Fredericksburg, Va. *Lance-Star* newspaper, published on February 12th, Sons of Union Veterans Camp Commander, Robert Roser infers that if you love America, then you

must honor Abraham Lincoln. Roser regurgitates the many myths perpetrated by Northern historians and teachers concerning the 16th US President. He states that February 12th marks “the birthday of our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln” and erroneously states that without him there “would be no United States of America.” Interestingly, history informs us that the Confederacy only wanted, in the words of President Davis, “to be left alone” and had no intention of destroying the government of the Northern states.

Roser continues by stating that “African-Americans would have remained in slavery for generations to come”; however, slavery was abolished in the Western Hemisphere less than twenty-five years after the War Between the States. Surely, slavery would have eventually been abolished in the Confederate States, had it achieved its independence, within that time period, peacefully, and with consent of the people—not forced by armies! Furthermore, Lincoln only issued the Emancipation Proclamation as a war measure to prevent foreign recognition of the Confederacy. However, it had no effect on slavery in loyal Union states or in those areas of the Confederacy presently occupied by Union troops.

Roser espouses the theory that permanent statehood in the Union is implied by the Constitution, that secession was illegal, and without Lincoln’s triumph, “the country would have fragmented even more.” It’s quite apparent Roser does not know his history, for most Americans prior to Lincoln’s War considered themselves to be, respectively, Virginians, Georgians, Pennsylvanians, etc. primarily and Americans secondly. Even Lincoln stated that “any people anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up and shake off the existing government and to form one that suits them better.”

Roser ends by spouting that “nearly all serious historians and students...place Mr. Lincoln as our greatest...leader and savior of the republic”. Fortunately, as Sons of Confederate Veterans we know better, and those compatriots, who retain membership in both organizations, need to seriously consider what they honestly believe to be true. Saint Paul stated it best when he said “a double minded man is unstable in all things.”

Read the letter at:

<http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2010/022010/02122010/526870>

Commander’s Comments (Continued from page 1)

actors in our camp.

Our Confederate Memorial Day Service is just around the corner, and will be held on April 17th. Philip Weaver and Ben Creech will be calling on members to help with the cemetery clean-up. Remember, it is OUR DUTY (OUR=everyone in the camp who is physically able) to help preserve the final resting place of these heroic veterans in Magnolia Cemetery, to attend the service to pay your respects to these veterans, and to the cause for which they fought. Every Confederate veteran will be looking down to see if you are there. Don’t disappoint them! It is your duty! Everyone has had enough advanced notice that there is no excuse for not being there; unless you are ill or really just don’t care!! Colonel Black Jack Travis will be the keynote speaker and he will talk about “The Life and Times of Edward Porter Alexander”.

Next month’s meeting will be on Thursday, March 11th and Retired LTC Charles L. Schuman will speak on the Battle of Gettysburg. I hope we have another large turnout like we did last month. Remember, it is your duty to be there!

12th Georgia Light Artillery (continued from page 1)

The 12th Georgia was then ordered back to their home state arriving in Savannah the last week of April 1864. On May 7th, the unit was sent back to the Palmetto State to James Island where the men would spend less than two weeks defending Charleston. However, the fate of the 12th was soon to take an ominous turn, due to events in Virginia.

Georgia Confederate Irishmen at the Battle of Fredericksburg

Many individuals who have studied the War Between the States are familiar with the Union’s Irish Brigade that made the famous charge at Fredericksburg, Virginia during that cold day in December 1862. However, even many of those amateur historians are unfamiliar with the Irish Confederates who opposed them that day behind the stone wall at Marye’s Heights.

The Confederate brigade of Gen. Thomas Cobb consisted of two predominately Irish Confederate regiments: the 24th Georgia and Phillips Legion. The 24th was commanded by Antrim born Col. Robert McMillan who took command of the brigade when Cobb was mortally wounded later that day. In 1861, McMillan had organized a military unit in Habersham County which became known as the McMillan Guards which later became part of the 24th Georgia.

Phillips Legion included an Irish company from Macon known as the Lochrane Guards. Joseph Hamilton of County Tyrone commanded a company in Phillips Legion and would take command of the Legion when its higher ranking officers fell during the battle.

The Wig Wag

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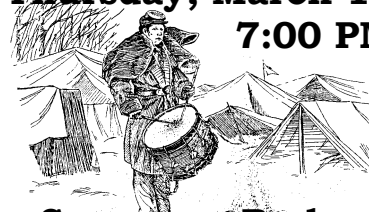
Happy Easter!

145 Years Ago: Battle of Bentonville, NC

- 6 March 1865: Battle of Natural Bridge, Fla. saves Tallahassee
- 12 March 1865: Near Mobile, *USS Althea* is the first of seven Union vessels to be sunk by Confederate torpedoes.
- 13 March 1865: Confederate Congress authorizes the use of Black soldiers
- 16 March 1865: Battle of Averasboro, NC
- 18 March 1865: Confederate Congress adjourns for what is to be its last session after leaving many war measures unpassed
- 19-21 March 1865: Battle of Bentonville, NC, last major Confederate effort to stop Sherman
- 24 March 1865: The heavily armed ironclad *CSS Stonewall* sails from Ferrol Spain; two nearby US warships refuse to engage her
- 25 March 1865: Gen. John B. Gordon leads successful assault on Ft. Stedman at Petersburg, Va.
Federal siege of Mobile begins
- 1 April 1865: Battle of Five Forks, Va. Lee's line is outflanked southwest of Petersburg
- 2 April 1865: Gen. A.P. Hill is killed, Lee retreats from Petersburg, Confederate government flees Richmond

RIGHT: The battle flag of the 40th North Carolina Infantry Regiment was captured during the Battle of Bentonville by Cpl. George Clute of the 14th Michigan Infantry on March 19, 1865. During the hand to hand fighting at the "Bull Pen", Clute dragged the color bearer and the flag 100 feet before the Lieutenant released the staff and fled. The flag was returned to North Carolina by the state of Michigan in 1899.

Next Camp Meeting
Thursday, March 11th
7:00 PM at



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my
beard; I did not hide my face from
mocking and spitting.

--Isaiah 50:6 (NIV)

