

★ **Commander's  
Comments** ★  
by Ron Udell

We are moving into that special time of the year in which we all look forward. Spring is just around the corner, winter is almost over, and it is getting close to that time of the year that we celebrate our Confederate heritage. (Actually we should be celebrating it all year by supporting the different activities of our camp.)

With that said, the Sesquicentennial is upon us, and several events have already occurred. February 19<sup>th</sup> was a great weekend for several of us who went to Montgomery, Alabama for the Heritage March and Rally at the State Capitol and the reenactment of the inauguration of President Jefferson Davis, which was the highlight of the day-- like going back 150 years. It was a long day with us leaving at 5: 00 AM and taking just under five hours to get there, but it was well worth the trip. The South Carolina Division was well represented, for I heard they had two busloads of people, as well as the Louisiana Division. The Georgia Division only had 40 people in attendance. (I counted 26, but some were in the firing detail.) Several speeches were given after the march,

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**Marching in Montgomery:** Kenny Kitchens, Tom and Gail Smith, and Ken Kitchens prepare for the SCV's Heritage March and re-enactment of the inauguration of the Jefferson Davis as President of the Confederacy on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Present but not pictured were Ben Creech, Ron Udell and Gary and Tina Hattaway.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Light Artillery consisted of men from Richmond County.

### **The 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Battalion Suffers Severe Losses at The Battle of Monocacy**

On July 9, 1864, the 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Battalion, as part of Evans Brigade in Gordon's Division under General Jubal Early, fought the battle of Monocacy, Maryland which proved to be their most devastating battle. All sources state that half the men were casualties. One veteran of Evans Brigade, who had fought with the Army of Northern Virginia in its major encounters, stated that, despite its brief duration, the battle was as bad as any in which he had previously fought. Gen. Clement Evans, the Brigade Commander fell severely wounded. In the 12th Georgia, Major Hanvey was severely wounded and remained incapacitated for the remainder of the war and Capt. Rudisell of Company B and Capt. Talliaferro of Company D were wounded. In its first

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## Last Camp Meeting

### Major Perry Bennett Speaks on the Battle of Utoy Creek

During the February meeting of the Alexander Camp, Major Perry Bennett, a logistics Army officer, Citadel graduate, and Atlanta native spoke on the battle of Utoy Creek, a Confederate victory which occurred in early August 1864 during the battles for Atlanta. Bennett began by relating that, as a boy, he found cannon balls in Utoy Creek which spurred his interest in the War. He described Sherman's command as consisting of three parts: Army of the Tennessee commanded by MacPherson and later Logan, Army of the Cumberland commanded by Thomas, and Army of the Ohio commanded by Schofield. Bennett discussed each of the battles for Atlanta individually (Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, and Ezra Church) where Gen. Hood hoped to isolate and defeat the individual armies. Unfortunately, these battles proved to be costly for the Confederate Army and did not deter Sherman's efforts to encircle the city and cut Hood's supply line.

The battle of Utoy Creek was precipitated by Sherman's efforts to sever the railroad between East Point and the city. He sent Schofield's army, along with the XIV Corps of Thomas' Army, to his right flank to accomplish this task. Taking seven days to attack, the Yankees were repulsed with heavy losses by Confederates under Gens. SD Lee and William Bate who had fortified their position with abatis. After failing to break the railroad, the Union Army withdrew and entrenched.

Following his presentation, Cmdr Herron presented Major Bennett with a framed print of the Confederate Powder Works Chimney.

During the meeting, there was one application for membership: **Roger L. Combs** who joins the camp on the record of his great great grandfather, Pvt. Hiram Combs, who served in Company I, 5<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Infantry. Cmdr. Udell presented a membership certificate was presented to Carl T. Miller III.

Cmdr. Udell reported a tree had fallen in the Confederate section of Magnolia Cemetery and had broken one headstone and pushed two other headstones

### *The Wig Wag*

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## Important Dates to Remember:

### Coming Events:

**10 March: BGen E. Porter Alexander  
Camp #158 Meeting  
Topic: Milledge Luke Bonham,  
Confederate General & SC Governor  
7:00 PM  
Sconyers Barbecue**

20-21 March: River Blast Living History  
National C.W. Naval Museum  
2:00-4:00 PM  
Columbus, Ga.

8-17 April: 150<sup>th</sup> Firing on Fort Sumter  
Charleston, SC

### Notable Confederate Birthdays:

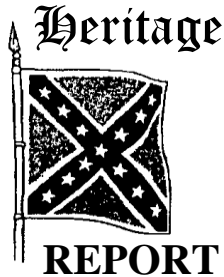
8 March: MGen. Matthew C. Butler  
10 March: George W. Randolph, Secy. War  
MGen. Thomas J. Churchill  
11 March: BGen. Allison Nelson\*  
BGen. Edmund Kirby, Jr.\*  
14 March: MGen. John S. Marmaduke  
17 March: **MGen. Patrick R. Cleburne\***  
19 March: BGen. Lewis H. Little\*  
22 March: Gen. Braxton 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  
5 April: MGen. David R. "Neighbor" Jones\*  
6 April: MGen. William Field  
7 April: Francis W. Pickens, Gov. SC  
\*Died in Confederate Service

further into the ground, but, thankfully, the podium was spared. The city quickly removed the fallen tree. He reported the two stones will be recovered and reset and a replacement headstone will be ordered. Udell admonished all compatriots to attend the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jefferson Davis' inauguration in Montgomery on February 18<sup>th</sup>. He reported that Black Jack Travis will be moving his SCV membership to our camp and having a book signing of his new book on Gen. E. Porter Alexander at the Alexander Home in Washington, Georgia on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Adjutant Herron reported that there were 105 members in the camp. Both Nick Posey and Nathan Salyer were sworn in to their respective camp offices.

Compatriot David Powell discussed plans to restore the Confederate Monument in Augusta utilizing sales of the bottles of fly ash taken from the Confederate Powder works Chimney. A motion was made, accepted, and approved to

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## Oklahoma Freshman Columnist Maligns SCV, Confederate Soldiers

In a column entitled, "Confederate Soldiers Should Not Be Celebrated as Heroes," published on February 23<sup>rd</sup> in *The Oklahoma Daily*, a student publication of the University of Oklahoma, freshman Mariah Najmuddin criticizes the SCV's Heritage Rally and the re-enactment of the inauguration of President Davis in Montgomery. The historically ignorant freshman states that it is "unfortunate" that people are still celebrating "malevolent customs," and it is "outlandish to commemorate Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy." She further writes that the SCV is "applauding the treason and the waging of war on America." Isn't it amazing how individuals like Najmuddin become "super patriots" when they malign our soldier-ancestors, yet they are the first to criticize our armed forces or America's intervention in overseas matters? The intolerant freshman concludes her column by saying that "the South didn't win" and "the triumph went to the true American heroes". Read the full misguided commentary at:

<http://www.oudaily.com/news/2011/feb/23/column-confederate-soldiers-should-not-be-celebrat/>

### Commander's Comments (Continued from page 1)

but Past CIC Chuck McMichael's was the most memorable. He said "As long as there blows a southern breeze, this flag will fly!" as he reached for a Confederate flag. That says it all! Past CIC Christopher Sullivan gave a great introduction for President Davis after he was sworn in. Cannon and rifle salutes followed the inauguration. We had six camp members there, plus two wives: Tom and Gail Smith, Gary Hattaway and his wife Tina (I hope that she will be able come to a meeting soon.) Ben Creech, Ken Kitchens and his son Kenny, and myself. Thanks to all who attended! Our camp was well represented, but I had hoped for at least ten. Other camps in our area were not represented; however, Compatriot Frank Odom from the Benson Camp in North Augusta, SC was there. There may have been other local compatriots in attendance, but I did not see them. The ceremony was over by 1:20 PM, and we departed for barbeque and home.

Some of our members (David and Marie Powell, Phillip Weaver, Roy and Vivian Stampley, Bill and Barbara Storrs) went to the re-enactment of the Battle of Olustee near Lake City, Florida, so our camp was dually occupied. I heard they had a good time.

The Confederate Powder works fly ash bottles that we are selling for our fundraiser to earn 10% or more of

the Confederate monument restoration costs are going slower than we had expected. Tommy Miller, Sr. sold six bottles at the Wright Camp in Evans at their February meeting. Hats off to him! 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Danny Martin will also take a few bottles to the Carter Camp in Waynesboro to sell at their next meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Please take advantage of the chance to buy one of these bottles, and you will be doing your part to assist our efforts.

Some housekeeping from last month's column: I forgot to thank Ben Creech and Joe Winstead for manning the door prize table at our Lee/Jackson Banquet in January. I thought I had everyone covered. Thanks again to all!

Our next meeting will be March 10<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker will be Roy Vandegriff. He will talk on Milledge Luke Bonham; Planter, Soldier and SC Governor. Plan to be there to support our camp. It is your duty! May God bless Dixie!

### 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Battalion (Continued from page 1)

two significant battles, since its arrival in Virginia, in just 45 days, the 12th Georgia Battalion had lost its three top ranking field and staff officers, as well as two of its five company commanders. Augustans killed at Monocacy included Benjamin H. Fuller, William Hallett, WH Cades, Andrew J. Powell, Joseph Dawson, Color bearer Lewellyn Hill, and George E. Stallings.

The men who were not wounded spent the night caring for their wounded and burying the dead. They were in poor condition to march the next day. Gen. Early could not advance toward Washington and carry his wounded, and, as a result, most of the wounded were left in Frederick and taken prisoner the next day. After the war, one old veteran of the 12th Georgia, who had been wounded at Monocacy, answered the question on his pension application, "Why did you leave your command?" He answered, "I did not leave my command, my command left me."

### Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

to do so and a motion was made, accepted and approved to use the funds to restore the Confederate monument. May Gilmer, president of the BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp, UDC has agreed to partner with the camp to sell the bottles and Nick Posey will submit an application to the Georgia Division to procure license plate monies which will fund 90% of the project. Powell reported that he had received a bid from a company in Elberton, Georgia in 2008 of \$9,000 to clean and caulk the monument, and he is working on a bid update. He estimates that the total cost of the project will be between \$9,000 and \$12,000.

Prior to the meeting, Cmdr. Udell asked for prayers for Compatriots Richard Smith, Jerry Grigsby, Jules Godene, Dr. John Baxley, Terry Bower's son, Timothy; Fred Bussey's son, David; and David Amor's father.

The meeting was adjourned by Commander Herron. After the benediction, the camp sang *Dixie*.

# The Wig Wag

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*Editor*



**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

**Remembering our Irish/Celtic  
Confederate Heritage**

## 150 YEARS AGO: Confederate Constitution Adopted

- 9 March 1861: The Coinage Bill is passed by the Confederate Congress authorizing up to 50 million in Confederate currency to be printed.
- 11 March 1861: The CS Constitution, nearly identical to the US Constitution, is unanimously adopted by the Confederate Congress.  
Gen. Braxton Bragg assumes command of Florida forces
- 13 March 1861: Confederate officials attempt a peaceful adjustment of issues arising from secession with the U.S. Secretary of State Seward, under orders from Lincoln, refuses.
- 16 March 1861: Georgia unanimously ratifies the Confederate Constitution.
- 18 March 1861: By a vote of 39 to 35, an Arkansas convention defeats a secession motion.
- 16 March 1861: The Confederate oath of office is administered to Texas state officials. Gov. Sam Houston refuses to take the oath.
- 21 March 1861: Missouri secession convention ends having voted 98-1 against secession.
- 29 March 1861: Lincoln decides to re-enforce Fort Sumter.
- 4 April 1861: Virginia secession convention votes 80-45 against secession.
- 6 April 1861: Lincoln sends a message to SC Gov. Pickens that Sumter will be re-provisioned and that if the effort is resisted, the fort will be reinforced.
- 10 April 1861: Confederate troops virtually surround Ft. Sumter by moving into the various forts, batteries, and earthworks in the area .

**Right:** Mississippi adopted this flag after its secession from the Union and it became its state flag when the Magnolia State ratified the CS Constitution on March 26, 1861. Loosely based on the flag of SC, it features a "Bonnie Blue Flag", a magnolia tree with blossoms on a white field, and a red bar on its fly.

**Next Camp Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 10th**  
**at 7:00 PM**



**Sconyers Barbecue**  
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

### *Scripture Thought*

For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.  
--Isaiah 61: 11 (NIV)

