

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

Another Confederate Heritage and History Month has come to an end, and what a month it was! Camp #158 Honor Guard and camp members attended at least six Confederate Memorial Day services, and the Honor Guard stood guard and fired a black powder salute at the funeral of Mrs. Margaret Black, mother of Marcia Gray, who is the President of the BGen E. Porter Alexander Chapter #2671, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

While we had over 150 people attend our Confederate Memorial Day service, we should have had about 230 people attending. Out of 114 members, we had roughly 30-40 members at the service. I know people have to work, become sick, and things of that nature. My point is, this day was set aside, well in advance, to come and honor the Confederate Soldier, and the majority of the camp was a no show!

I would like to offer a very sincere "Thank You" to the members of camp #158, their wives and their children that helped get the cemetery cleaned and prepared for our service! It was a beautiful day to honor our Confederate heroes! A special thanks goes out to Larry Sconyers for providing meals for all of the re-enactors and ladies in period dress after the service.

This speaker for May will be Mr. James Stallings, and he will talk about his book "Georgia's Confederate Soldiers who died as Prisoners of War 1861-1865." Mr. Stallings will drive

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**Left:** Keynote Speaker Pastor John Weaver makes a point while addressing the crowd. **Right:** The 5<sup>th</sup> Georgia Artillery fires a three cannon salute to Confederate soldiers during the closing ceremonies.

Keynote Speaker States Confederates were "just" in their struggle

### **Alexander Camp Remembers Confederates during Memorial Day Ceremony at Magnolia Cemetery**

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the E. Porter Alexander Camp gathered in Augusta's Magnolia Cemetery to remember those who served in the Confederate armed forces. After a march from the Confederate Monument on Broad Street, camp members and guests were welcomed by Commander Herron. Camp Chaplain Ben Creech then gave the invocation, pledges to the flags were recited, and the SCV Charge read.

Keynote speaker, Pastor John Weaver, spoke on the topic of "Remembering our Heroes" initially quoting Proverbs 10:7 which states that "the memory of the just is blessed but the name of the wicked shall rot." He stated that the Confederate soldiers' efforts were "just" in that they fought for liberty, freedom, independence and in self defense. Weaver continued that our ancestors fought against what our government has become today--bureaucratic, intrusive, and godless--which drew a round of applause. He expounded on how Confederate soldiers were individuals of principle, conviction, courage and character mainly because they were believers in Christ.

Following the speaker, attendees spoke individually in honor of their Confederate ancestors, and Mrs. Jerry Grigsby read the poem "The Old Ranks of Gray." Wreaths were placed respectively at the Generals' and Soldiers' graves followed by musket salutes by the Camp's Honor Guard. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Artillery provided a three gun salute before

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## Last Month's Meeting

### Roy Vandegrift III Speaks on the Federal Prison at Point Lookout, Maryland

During last month's meeting of the Alexander Camp, Charleston native and history teacher, Mr. Roy Vandegrift III, spoke on the Federal prison for captured Confederates at Point Lookout, Maryland. He discussed how the prisoner exchange system was not negotiated by the US and CS armies until July 1862, because Lincoln did not consider the Confederacy as having wartime rights. Difficulties in the system were encountered in 1863 when the Confederate government refused to exchange captured black troops and their white officers whom they regarded as leading a slave insurrection. Vandegrift stated that more Confederate soldiers than Union soldiers died in prison camps during the war, and in most cases, it was intentional. He went on to say that Point Lookout held over 20,000 prisoners at its maximum in June 1864. Though there are presently only 3,384 graves there, 14,000 pro Southern civilians and Confederates perished at the camp. Following the speech, Commander Herron presented Mr. Vandegrift with a photo of the Confederate Powder works.

Three applications for membership were presented to the camp, voted on and unanimously accepted: **Rick and Nathan Salyer** who joined the camp on the service of their ancestor, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant Samuel Salyer, Jr. of Co. H., 50<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry and **Jim Kirchner** who joined the camp on the service of his ancestor, Pvt Abner W. Minton of Co. C., Preston's Battalion, Missouri Cavalry. Membership certificates were presented to Kenneth Kichens II and Mark Rogers.

Commander Herron called the meeting to order and stated that Compatriot Ben Creech had taken on the duties of camp chaplain. He requested prayers for Compatriot Henry Gilmer's wife's sister and for Compatriot John Joiner's wife, Sherry. During his report, Herron discussed his meeting with the Augusta City Council regarding the transfer of the Powder Works Chimney to the Georgia Division. He and

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### *The Wig Wag*

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## Important Dates to Remember:

### Coming Events:

**14 May: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting**  
**Topic: Ga.'s Confederate POW's**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Sconyers Barbecue**

16-17 May: Reenactment, Battle of Resaca

24 May: BGen E. Porter Alexander Chapter  
2671 UDC Memorial Service  
Pierce U.M.C. Cemetery  
3:00 PM

30 May: Clarks Hill Outdoor Festival  
Merchandising/Living History  
Lincolnton, Ga.

**12-14 June: Georgia Division Reunion**  
**Fayetteville, Georgia**

**22-25 July: SCV International Reunion**  
**Hot Springs, Arkansas**

6 May: Arkansas Secession Day

10 May: Confederate Memorial Day (NC, SC)

20 May: North Carolina Secession Day

3 June: Jefferson Davis Day (Miss.)

8 June: Tennessee Secession Day

### Notable Confederate Birthdays:

7 May: Varina Howell Davis, First Lady

9 May: BGen William E. "Grumble" Jones\*

13 May: Zebulon B. Vance, Gov. NC

14 May: BGen. George B. Doles\*

15 May: MGen. Isaac R. Trimble

16 May: Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith

19 May: BGen. Felix K. Zollicoffer\*

21 May: MGen. Dabney H. Maury

BGen Mosby M. Parsons\*

24 May: Charles Clark, Gov. Miss.

**26 May: BGen. Edward Porter Alexander**

28 May: Gen. Pierre G.T. Beauregard

29 May: MGen. Cadmus M. Wilcox

31 May: MGen. William Fitzhugh Lee

MGen. Stephen D. Ramseur

1 June: BGen. John B. Floyd\*

BGen John Hunt Morgan

Gen. John B. Hood

**3 June: President Jefferson F. Davis**

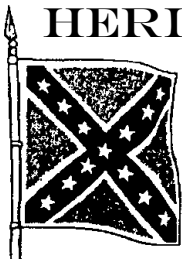
2 June: BGen. Benjamin Hardin Helm

3 June: BGen. Martin E. Green\*

BGen. Otho French Strahl\*

4 June: BGen. Paul J. Semmes\*

\*Died in Confederate Service



# HERITAGE REPORT

On Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Auburn, Alabama City Councilman Arthur Dowdell entered Pine Hill Cemetery in Auburn

and began removing Confederate flags from the graves of Confederate veterans. The flags were placed on the graves in honor of Confederate Memorial Day by the UDC.

Mary Norman, a member of the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, was in the cemetery taking inventory of the graves when she saw Dowdell take the flag off the grave of her great-grandfather and snap it in two.

Dowdell denied snapping the flag in two, but stated, "If it did, so what? If I had my way, I would have broke them all up and stomped on them and burned them. That flag represents another country, another nation."

The Sons of Confederate Veterans has asked the Alabama Attorney General to prosecute Councilman Dowdell for his actions and the Mayor of Auburn to censor him.

Please contact the mayor of Auburn, its City Council, and the Alabama Attorney General and tell them how you feel about Dowdell's criminal act and ask that they hold him responsible.

State of Alabama Attorney General Troy King  
500 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Mayor Bill Ham: [bham@auburnalabama.org](mailto:bham@auburnalabama.org)

Auburn City Council:  
[coagbemail@auburnalabama.org](mailto:coagbemail@auburnalabama.org)

Contact Councilman Dowdell:  
<http://www.auburnalabama.org/cc/dowdell.asp>



## Alexander Camp (Continued from page 1)

Pastor Weaver gave the closing benediction. The ceremony concluded with all participants singing "Dixie".



## Beaming With Pride

Showing off the new Camp trailer, Quartermaster Joe Winstead sells a flag to Compatriot Tommy Miller.

## Commander's Comments

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from Macon, Georgia to give this presentation to the camp, so please attend and help provide him a 70+ member meeting.

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

Compatriot David Powell initially met with opposition to the plan; however, after an impassioned speech by Councilwoman Betty Beard, the Council reversed itself and will discuss the matter with the city attorney. Herron stated that attempts to obtain funding for the chimney will be made during the Georgia Division reunion and through Historic Augusta.

The Commander continued by thanking all those who participated in the Magnolia Cemetery clean up and made special mention of Compatriot Jack Bailey who sandblasted and repainted the fountain. He also thanked the "old men's crew" for their efforts, and announced the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Pine Tree Festival in Swainsboro which will be held on May 7-9<sup>th</sup>.

During new business, Cmdr. Herron discussed two events for potential living history and merchandising: Edge Hill Frolic on June 13<sup>th</sup> and Clarks Hill Outdoor Festival in Lincolnton on May 30<sup>th</sup>. After a unanimous vote, the Camp decided to participate in the latter. The Commander then requested that the Camp purchase 5,000 copies from Post Net for printing the newsletter. A motion was made to that effect, seconded, and approved unanimously.

During the officer reports, Lt. Cmdr. Richard Smith discussed the National Confederate Memorial Day event at Stone Mountain on April 4<sup>th</sup>. He stated nine Alexander Camp compatriots attended the event. Adjutant Perry Herron reported that the Camp now has 113 members. Quartermaster Joe Winstead requested that the camp purchase a cap or flag, and the camp recognized him for his efforts in obtaining the new camp trailer.

Compatriot Tom Smith invited all compatriots to his home on July 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:30 PM for a barbecue. Cost of the meal will be \$5.

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

## 145 Years Ago: Battles of Spotsylvania & Resaca

- 6 May 1864: Gen. Longstreet wounded, Gen. Micah Jenkins killed
- 8 May 1864: Fighting begins at Spotsylvania Court House, Va.
- 9 May 1864: Atlanta Campaign: heavy fighting at Buzzards Roost and Rocky Face Ridge, Ga.
- 10 May 1864: Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Va.
- 11 May 1864: Gen. JEB Stuart mortally wounded at Yellow Tavern, Va.
- 12 May 1864: Gens. Perrin and Daniel killed at the Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania
- 13 May 1864: Red River Campaign: Federal gunboats and infantry continue to retreat and their Spring campaign is a failure
- 14 May 1864: Battle of Resaca, Ga.
- 15 May 1864: Battle of New Market, Va.; VMI cadets help win a Confederate victory
- 19 May 1864: Atlanta Campaign: Fighting at Cassville, Ga.
- 23 May 1864: Battle of North Ana, Va.; first of three days of fighting
- 25 May 1864: Atlanta Campaign: Battle of New Hope Church
  - 1 June 1864: Battle of Cold Harbor, Va.
  - 2 June 1864: Gen. George P. Doles killed near Bethesda Church, Va.
  - 5 June 1864: Battle of Piedmont, WV; Gen. "Grumble" Jones killed

**RIGHT:** The battle flag of the 38<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry Regiment which was captured during the fighting at Resaca, Georgia on May 15, 1864. The regiment was organized in Mobile in May 1862 with troops raised from Clarke, Conecuh, Fayette, Mobile, Washington, and Wilcox counties. At Missionary Ridge, Tennessee, the 38<sup>th</sup> was engaged at close quarters and a large number were captured. It wintered at Dalton, Georgia and then shared in the operations of the Atlanta Campaign, losing severely (12 killed, 88 wounded, 24 missing) particularly at Resaca and Atlanta. The flag was returned to the state of Alabama on March 25, 1925.

## The Wig Wag

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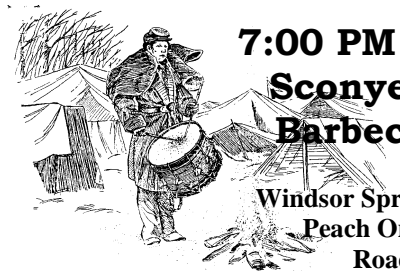
*Editor*



**Happy Jefferson Davis' Birthday**  
**June 3rd**

## Next Camp Meeting

Thursday, May 14th



**7:00 PM at**  
**Sconyers**  
**Barbecue**

**Windsor Springs &**  
**Peach Orchard**  
**Road**

### *Scripture Thought*

He made darkness His canopy around Him—the dark rain clouds of the sky. Out of the brightness of His presence bolts of lightning blazed forth.

--2 Samuel: 22: 12, 13



