

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

Our Confederate Memorial Day Service was held on April 23rd at Magnolia Cemetery, and I was happy for the numbers that we had. (The only ones missing were **you!**) We had 43+ members present, and most had family members there as well. Attendance was better than it had been in the past. I hope next year's membership attendance will be at least fifty plus, for there is no reason why we should not have at least half of our camp there. It was good to see Jerry Grigsby there and Diane as well. I hope that next year he will be back on the big gun as usual. Tommy Miller, Sr. was there--part of three generations of Sons of Confederate Veterans. (And I'm glad that I saw **you** there too.) We had several visitors including Ms. Betty Jane Miller, Ex-District Dir. UDC, Edisto SC; Ms. Karen Black, President of the Paul McMichael Chapter 427 UDC, and her daughter Kelly; Tammy Herron, General UDC Chairman of Monuments & Memorial Markers Committee and wife of our 1st Lt. Commander Lee Herron. We also had in attendance Mrs. Henry Gilmer, President of the B/G E. Porter Alexander Chapter 2671 UDC, who helped with the program (thanks!). Neal Dickey, Commander of the Buckhead-Ft. Lawton Camp 2102 was in attendance and took part in the black powder salutes. Thanks again for all who came and gave up a few hours of

(Continued on page 3)

Confederate Memorial Service 2011



Remembering our honored dead: Left: Confederate re-enactors fire a rifle salute over the graves of Confederate soldiers on April 23rd in Magnolia Cemetery. Right: Compatriot P. Charles Lunsford, the principal speaker for the event, speaks in defense of the Confederate soldier during the ceremony.

Alexander Camp Holds Confederate Memorial Service at Magnolia Cemetery

On April 23rd, the BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp remembered their Confederate ancestors and Confederate dead "throughout the South and beyond" at Magnolia Cemetery. After a memorial march from the Confederate Monument through Augusta to the cemetery, Cmdr. Ron Udell welcomed attendees and Chaplain Ben Creech gave the invitation. Following the reading of the SCV Charge, pledge to the flags, and recognition of special guests, Udell honored Compatriots P. Charles Lunsford and Arnold Huskins with the 25 year SCV membership medal. Compatriot Lunsford then spoke on the topic, "The Relevance of Confederate Principles Today" in which he equated the Confederate efforts for independence to the Celtic struggle for freedom in the British Isles. Following the speech, Mrs. Mae Gilmer read the names of ten Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery and compatriots, individually, vocally honored their Confederate ancestors. Wreaths were placed in the Generals' and soldiers' section in the cemetery with Confederate re-enactors rendering a triple rifle salute, respectively. This was followed by a thunderous salute given by the 32nd Georgia Artillery, the benediction by Chaplain Creech, and the singing of *Dixie*.

Last Camp Meeting

Elizabeth Laney Speaks on Redcliffe Plantation and the Hammond Family

During the April meeting, Ms. Elizabeth Laney, Appalachian State University alumni and genealogist, who is presently employed at Redcliffe Plantation State Park in Beech Island, SC discussed the plantation and its owner, James H. Hammond. Initially Laney began by discussing the various names for the War which included "The War to Suppress Yankee Arrogance" and "The War for Southern Freedom." She then stated that Hammond was a self made man who married into money and who served as SC Governor, Congressman, and Senator. Redcliffe was one of four plantations owned by Hammond who was an advocate of states' rights and slavery. The house was built in 1857 and completed in 1859 on almost 400 acres. Laney stated 50 slaves are documented to have lived at Redcliffe consisting of three to four families. She then shared letters from Hammond's family discussing the War and detailing their lives. Although Hammond died in 1864, his three sons survived the War. Following her presentation, Cmdr Udell presented Ms. Laney with a framed print of the Confederate Powder Works Chimney.

During the Commander's Report, Cmdr. Ron Udell thanked all those who attended memorial services in Norway, SC and Hephzibah, the rededication of the Confederate Monument in Johnston, SC on April 3rd, and the national Confederate memorial service at Stone Mountain on April 9th. He discussed the Georgia Division Confederate History Month posters and his efforts to place them in Richmond County schools successfully.

First Lt. Cmdr Herron announced the Beech Island Historic Tour of Homes on April 30th and the plans to present living history demonstration at the Haskell House on that date. He discussed the planned monument to mark the graves of the "Immortal 600" to be placed at Fort Pulaski and suggested the camp donate monies to help with the cost of the \$40 to \$50 K monument. After discussing the matter, the Camp decided to table the matter in hopes the planners would be more fiscally prudent in its design.

Herron also reminded the camp of the book signing to

(Continue on next column)

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

- 10 May: Confederate Memorial Day (NC, SC)
- 20 May: North Carolina Secession Day
- 30 May: US Memorial Day
- 3 June: Jefferson Davis' Birthday
- 3 June: Confederate Memorial Day (Ky., La., Tenn.)

Coming Events:

12 May: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting

**Topic: Archaeology at Camp Lawton
7:00 PM**

Sconyers Barbecue

14 May: Book signing for Col. "Black Jack" Travis

**2:00 PM, Gen. E. Porter Alexander Home
Washington, Ga.**

**10-12 June: Georgia Division Reunion
Dalton, Georgia**

<http://www.scvcamp469-nbf.com/reunionhomepage.htm>

**13-16 July: SCV International Reunion
Montgomery, Alabama**

<http://www.2011scvreunion.com>

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

- 9 May: BGen William E. "Grumble" Jones*
- 13 May: Zebulon B. Vance, Gov. NC
- 14 May: BGen George P. 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 P. Alexander**
- 27 May: MGen Robert F. Hoke
- 28 May: Gen. Pierre G. T. Beauregard
- 29 May: MGen Cadmus M. Wilcox
- 31 May: MGen W.H. Fitzhugh Lee
MGen Stephen D. Ramseur*
- 1 June: BGen John B. Floyd*
BGen John Hunt Morgan*
Gen. John Bell Hood
- 2 June: BGen Benjamin Hardin Helm*
- 3 June: **President Jefferson Davis**
BGen Martin E. Green*
BGen Otho French Strahl*
- 4 June: BGen Paul J. Semmes*

*Died in Confederate Service

be held on May 14th in Washington, Ga. for Col. "Black Jack" Travis' new biography of E. Porter Alexander.

(Continued on page 3)



Confederate Statues in Richmond, Virginia Vandalized

On April 7th, the large statues of Gen. Robert E. Lee and President Jefferson Davis on Monument Avenue in Richmond, Virginia were vandalized. The words, "No Hero," were spray painted in black at the base of both statues. The statues were last vandalized in 2004.

Memphis VA Medical Center Removes Paralyzed Veteran's Flag

A paralyzed Korean War veteran hospitalized at the VA Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee was forced to remove a small Confederate flag from his wall and place it in a drawer. He was told to do so because historically ignorant nurses and patients were "offended" by it. Perry Thrasher, whose grandfather fought and died in the War, was saddened and almost cried when he was told to remove the flag. His family has since contacted the Southern Legal Resource Center and may pursue legal means to have the flag restored. Please consider dropping Mr. Thrasher, who is now a Life Member of the SCV, a note or a flag at the following address:

PERRY A. THRASHER 111-2
Spinal Cord Unit 1-West
c/o VA Medical Center
1030 Jefferson Ave
Memphis, TN 38104

Commander's Comments (Continued from page 1)

of their Saturday to honor their ancestors. It was truly a beautiful day and I know that you could have gone to a sporting event, fishing or just slept in, but you did your duty, you were there to honor you great, great or great grandfather. You lived the Charge!

The Confederate section of Magnolia Cemetery looked very good. Thanks to all those who worked hard cutting grass, cleaning headstones, and raking. You did a great job to prepare for our service and did much before the rain came on Friday morning. Some of the visitors said the cemetery looked well kept. Also thanks to all those who remained after the ceremony to stack chairs and collect the flags.

On April 27th, about 5:15pm, Past Commander Richard L. Smith lost his battle with brain cancer. Most of you by now have heard of his passing, and some of you were at his funeral. I wish that we could have had a more of our Camp members there. Richard was good father, friend, and compatriot. He loved the South and the Con-

federacy and was buried in his Confederate uniform. He requested a Confederate service, and we did as much as we could—by standing guard by the casket at the funeral home, rendering a black powder salute at his gravesite, a widow in period dress present, and a Confederate flag on his casket. Our Honor Guard did a great job and his family extends their gratitude for being there for Richard and for all our efforts. I think Richard would have been pleased. He was unable to come to our Confederate Memorial service but, if he had, I would have presented him with a 25 year pin from the Camp. Let us remember his sons in prayer in their time of grief, and Richard as a faithful compatriot and the good times we had "flagging" on Bobby Jones Expressway and in other locations in 2001-3 defending the Real Georgia Flag and Southern heritage issues. Those were good times, and I hope that I will remember them for a long time. I sure some of you will too. May he rest in peace.

We still have a few Confederate Powder works fly ash bottles available for purchase for our Camp 158 fund raiser. When they are gone, that's it! Be sure to contact David Powell to order yours before they are gone, and you will have a little piece of history. And speaking of Powder works, we have a limited number of Powder works prints available for purchase.

Our next meeting will be May 12th and our speakers will be Dr. Sue Moore and Amanda Morrow who will speak on the topic, **Sacred Ground: Archeology at Camp Lawton**. Plan to be there for a great evening and to learn more about our Southern heritage and to support our Camp. **Remember the Charge. God Bless the South!**

Compatriot Richard L. Smith: 1949-2011

Compatriot Richard L. Smith joined the ranks of those in gray resting "beneath the shade of the trees" on Wednesday, April 27, 2011. A native of Dalton, Georgia, Compatriot Smith was a Navy veteran and Past Commander and Lt. Commander of the Alexander Camp. He also served as Color Bearer for the SCV's Mechanized Cavalry. Compatriot Smith and his efforts on behalf of our heritage will truly be missed. Please consider going to his online guestbook and conveying your sympathies to his family: <http://www.legacy.com/guestbook/augustachronicle/guestbook.aspx?n=richard-smith&pid=150636941&cid=full>

Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

Compatriot David Powell stated that 17% of the monies had been raised through donations and fly ash bottle sales to begin the process of obtaining additional Divisional funds through the license plate project to refurbish the Confederate monument. Prior to the meeting, Cmdr. Udell requested prayers for Compatriots Richard Smith, Jules Godene, Jerry Grisby, and Fred Bussey's son.

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

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Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.
Editor



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

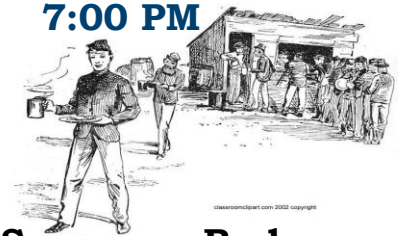
150 YEARS AGO: North Carolina Secedes from the Union

- 15 May 1861: US troops under Nathaniel Lyons enters Jefferson City, the capital of Missouri
- 20 May 1861: North Carolina secedes from the Union
Kentucky proclaims its neutrality
- 21 May 1861: Confederate Congress votes to move the capitol from Montgomery to Richmond
Missouri proclaims its neutrality
- 23 May 1861: Virginia citizens vote 3 to 1 in favor of secession
T. J. Jackson attacks B&O Railroad, capturing 56 locomotives
- 24 May 1861: Southern civilian and inn keeper, James Jackson is killed by Union troops occupying Alexandria after he kills Union Col. Elmer Ellsworth for removing the Confederate flag atop the Marshall House Inn. Ellsworth is the first Union officer killed in the War.
In Missouri, Gen. Sterling Price refuses to disband his troops
- 29 May 1861: President Davis arrives in the new capitol of Richmond
- 30 May 1861: Tennessee Unionists in Knoxville denounce secession
- 1 June 1861: Confederate Postal System inaugurated
Capt. John Quincy Marr becomes the first Confederate officer killed in the War during an engagement at Fairfax Court House, Va.
- 3 June 1861: During the first land engagement of the War, Union forces under Gen. George McClellan overcome Confederates at the battle of Philippi in western Virginia

Right: Flag of the 25th Virginia Infantry. This First National pattern flag with its single star surrounded by the word "Virginia" was captured at the battle of Philippi in western Virginia, on June 3, 1861 by Lieutenant William B. McCartney of the 16th Ohio Infantry.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, May 12th at
7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you;
He rises to show you compassion. For the
Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all
who wait for him!

--Isaiah 30:18(NIV)

