

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

I want to thank everyone who helped prepare for our Confederate Memorial Day Service and thank all of those who participated and attended. If you had guest who attended or know some of our visitors who attended, please thank them for their support as well. It was a good service, the weather was great, we had a great speaker and it was well coordinated. Also, thanks very much to any and everyone who has been able to participate in other memorial services during April. A great big thanks also goes to Larry Sconyers for providing lunch for all the re-enactors (at his expense) after the service. There will be a number of memorial events coming up in South Carolina in May, and it will be good if you can support any of those events as well.

Our next big opportunity will be the Division Reunion coming up in Statesboro on the weekend of June 7th, 8th and 9th. Friday night will be a social event topped off with the oratory contest to determine the Division representative at the national oratory contest. This is a very enjoyable event that also offers audience participation through positive (claps, cheers and whistles) and negative reactions (moans, groans, hisses and boos). On Saturday, the business session will be conducted, along with tours for the ladies, a luncheon and topped off that night with a banquet & ball. Our camp will be eligible for at least 10 votes and maybe even 11 votes which is dependent on membership numbers.

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Remembering our Honored Dead: The BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp Honor Guard fires a rifle salute at the culmination of the Confederate Memorial Day service which was held at Magnolia Cemetery on April 20th.

Eight New Grave Markers Dedicated

Alexander Camp Holds Confederate Memorial Day Service at Magnolia Cemetery

The BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp held its annual Confederate Memorial Day service on Saturday, April 20th at Magnolia Cemetery under pristine skies. Following a march from the Confederate Monument on Broad, where a ceremonial volley was given by the Honor Guard, compatriots and guests remembered those who gave their lives for their beloved Southland during the War Between the States.

The principal speaker for the event, Past Lt Commander of the SC Division, Don Gordon, quoted, from memory, excerpts from speeches given by Generals Nathan Bedford Forrest and Wade Hampton which described the bravery and heroism of their Confederate soldiers.

During the ceremony, headstones for the graves of eight Confederate soldiers were dedicated. Marie Powell of the BGen E Porter Alexander Chapter 2671, UDC, read the names that were inscribed on the headstones: Pvt. Noah Lee Co. D, Brooks Guard, 10th SC Infantry; Pvt.

(See **Memorial Service** on page 3)

Last Camp Meeting

Ms. Raven Palmer Discusses Alexander Stephens and Liberty Hall

During the April meeting of the Alexander Camp, Ms. Raven Palmer, an interpretative Park Ranger at the A. H. Stephens Park and Gibson, Georgia native gave a PowerPoint presentation on the A. H. Stephens Park and the Vice-President of the Confederacy, Alexander Stephens, and his home, Liberty Hall. She stated that Stephens was orphaned at the age of 14, was frail-- only 100 pounds at 5'9" tall--and graduated from Franklin College in Athens in 1832 through the efforts of several benefactors. Following graduation, he unhappily taught school for several years while beginning his legal studies. Stephens passed the bar in 1834 and became a successful lawyer in Crawfordville where he gained a reputation as a defender of the wrongly accused and, though his clients were charged with capital crimes, none were ever executed. He successfully ran for the Georgia House in 1836 and served until 1841. He was then elected to the Georgia Senate in 1842 and to the US House in 1843 as a member of the Whig Party. He was a moderate defender of slavery during the sectional debates and a steadfast Unionist during the Secession crisis. During the formation of the Confederate Government, he was chosen as Vice-President; however, he disagreed with the policies of the Davis Administration during the War. After the War, he was arrested and imprisoned at Ft. Warren, Massachusetts for five months. Stephens was elected as a US Senator in 1866 but was prohibited from taking his seat by the Radical Republicans. In 1873, he was once again elected as a Democrat to the US House and served there until 1882 when he became Governor of Georgia. He died after serving only four months in office and was initially buried in Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta. "Little Aleck" was later re-interred on his estate, Liberty Hall in Crawfordville. Palmer spoke of Stephens' beloved dog, Rio, his friendship with Robert Toombs and gave a brief explanation of each room in Liberty Hall.

Following her excellent presentation, Ms. Palmer was presented a Confederate Powder Works fly ash bottle by Cmdr. Moncus.

Cmdr. Moncus spoke of the desecration of the graves of Confederate and Revolutionary soldiers which occurred at Old Church Cemetery in Waynesboro. Lt. Cmdr Posey made a motion to commit \$200 to the reward

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

- 10 May: Confederate Memorial Day (NC, SC)
- 20 May: North Carolina Secession Day
- 3 June: Confederate Memorial Day (La., Kty., Tenn.)
- 8 June: Tennessee Secession Day

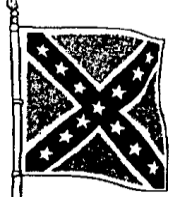
Coming Events:

- 9 May: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting**
Topic: Georgia's Confederate Counties
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue
- 11 May: Confederate Memorial Day Service
St. Matthews, SC
- 18 May: Old South Camp Meeting @ 2:00 PM
- 27 May: US Memorial Day Service
11:00 AM at All Wars' Monument at
4th and Broad Street, Augusta
- 7-9 June: Georgia Division Reunion**
Statesboro, Georgia
<http://ogeecheerifles.com>
- 17-20 July: National SCV Reunion**
Vicksburg, Mississippi
<http://2013scvreunion.homestead.com/>

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

- 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 CSA Service

leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for
(Continued on page 3)



REPORT

Confederate Flags in Historic Flag Display Under Scrutiny at South Dakota VA Hospital

Two Confederate flags—a rectangular battle flag and a Second National Confederate flag—are under scrutiny in a Hot Springs, South Dakota Veterans Administration Hospital historic flag display after two African-American patients complained about their presence. The flags were removed from the display on April 18th but were restored on April 24th after the “offended” veterans called for their removal. The flags have



been a part of a “Historic Freedom Shrine” for decades which includes eight historical flags of which three are Confederate. The other Confederate flag displayed is a “Stars and Bars”.

VA Black Hills Health System Director Stephen DiStasio has defended the display describing it as “a reflection of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice of America”. However, politicians, Democratic Senator Tim Johnson and Republican US Congresswoman Kristi Noem of South Dakota and the Mitchell, SD newspaper, *The Daily Republic* editorial board have called for the removal of the Confederate flags stating a VA Hospital is a place where “all veterans should feel comfortable.” Not surprisingly, their statements imply that the feelings of veterans of Confederate ancestry do not matter.

Last Camp Meeting (Continued from page 2)

the desecration. The motion was seconded, and approved by the Camp. Cmdr. Moncus discussed the upcoming Confederate Memorial service and the National Guardian Program which was developed by the SC Division. He thanked all those who participated in the Cemetery cleanup earlier this month.

Lt Cmdr Posey discussed the “Wreaths Across America” program for the Confederate Dead Section at Magnolia Cemetery at Christmastime. He stated the wreaths are \$15 each with a \$5 rebate. He stated the cost may make it prohibitive; however, the Camp may want to consider one wreath for every two or three graves.

Quartermaster Joe Winstead discussed the memorial pavers to be placed adjacent to the Confederate Monument and stated the first work order will be placed within 10-15 days. It will take 10 to 14 days after the pavers are set for the engraving to begin. He also discussed the upcoming

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However, we must have a member present in order for that vote to be cast. If you are going to attend, please get your registration submitted as soon as possible. We can have as many members present as will register, but we will have to submit the names of those who will be casting a vote. Please let me or Nick Posey know by the May 9th meeting date if you are going to attend.

The National Reunion is scheduled for Vicksburg the week of July 17– 20th. I am planning to attend that event this year. Unlike the division reunion, one member can cast all the eligible votes for each camp. If you are considering attending 118th National Reunion, please let me know. As of this writing, I am not aware of anyone else from our camp who will be attending.

I would like to encourage each and every one of you to contact your Congressmen and let them know how you feel about the gun control legislation that the administration is trying to get passed. There are already too many gun laws on the books now because they only affect law abiding citizens as criminals who have already decided to break the law have no concern about breaking a gun control law. Every nation that has been taken over by a dictator has imposed weapons control and then in each and every case murdered innocent people that they thought were a threat whether real or perceived. A disarmed populace allows a country to become a prime target for dictatorial control.

Remember to recruit at least one new member this year. You can double the size of a camp in a year if everyone recruits one new member each during that year.

Memorial Service (Continued from page 1)

J.J. Ross, Co. D, 20th Battalion Georgia Cavalry; Pvt. John Willis Co. K, 37th Georgia Infantry; Pvt. William Scales Co. I, 2nd Georgia Reserves; Joseph Westbrook Co. K, 34th Mississippi Volunteers; David Clancey Co. H, 60th Alabama Infantry; Hezekiah Tomlin Co. I, 4th Georgia Reserves; and Pvt. Frances Marion Ivey, Co. G, 1st Georgia Militia. All headstones were placed after last year’s memorial service except for Pvt. Ivey’s which was installed in 2004.

artillery class to held in Beech Island, SC.

Honor Guard Cmdr. Ron Udell stated nine Alexander Camp compatriots participated in the Stone Mountain Memorial service on the 14th and three at the Statesboro Memorial service.

Compatriot John Sweat announced the dates for the Camp’s roadside cleanup as being July 27th, September 28th and November 23rd.

Lt Cmdr Posey made the nomination of Ron Udell for Camp Judge Advocate which was approved by the Camp.

The meeting was adjourned by Lt Cmdr Posey. Following the benediction, *Dixie* was sung by the Camp.

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Editor



Remembering Jefferson Davis' Birthday June 3rd

150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Champion Hill, Miss.

- 7 May 1863: Gen. Earl Van Dorn murdered by a jealous husband
- 10 May 1863: Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson dies from pneumonia
- 12 May 1863: Battle of Raymond, Miss.: Confederates fail to prevent Union forces from capturing the Southern Railroad and isolating Vicksburg
- 14 May 1863: Battle of Jackson, Miss.: Union Army under McPherson and Sherman defeat Gen. Johnston, capture the city
- 15 May 1863: Gen. Johnston orders Gen. Pemberton to break out of Vicksburg; Pemberton refuses
- 16 May 1863: Battle of Champion Hill, Miss., the bloodiest battle of the Vicksburg Campaign, Pemberton retreats towards Vicksburg
- 17 May 1863: Battle of Black River, Miss.
- 18 May 1863: Siege of Vicksburg begins
 - Gen. Lee meets with Pres. Davis and his cabinet to discuss strategy
- 19-22 May 1863: Massive Union assaults against Vicksburg fail
- 22 May 1863: Siege of Port Hudson, Miss. begins
- 25 May 1863: Northern Confederate sympathizer, Clement Vallandigham, is banished to the Confederacy
 - 5 June 1863: CSS *Alabama* captures the ship *Talisman* in mid Atlantic
 - 7 June 1863: Battle of Milliken's Bend, La.
 - 10 June 1863: Battle of Brandy Station, Va. the largest cavalry battle of the War

Right: The "Stars and Bars" battle flag of the 31st Alabama Infantry was captured during ferocious fighting during the Battle of Champion Hill by the 17th Iowa Infantry. Owned by the State Historical Association of Iowa, the flag is on loan to the state of Alabama until 2015.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday
May 9th**



at 7:00 PM

Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

--Isaiah 40: 31(NIV)

