

★ **Commander's Comments** ★
by Dr. John Baxley

April was the busiest month for our camp to date. The biggest event was our annual CSA Memorial Day Service at the Magnolia Cemetery. Despite the dire weather report, our prayers were answered and the rain stopped at 11:00 a.m. allowing us to prepare for and have the service on schedule. The honor guard had a great time swapping jokes and stories for two hours under Joe Winstead's tarp as we waited for the rain to stop. The fountain repaired by Bobby Kirkland of the Evans camp and David Moncus looked the best ever with the flags waving in the post-storm breeze and over forty people in attendance. Jack Marlar, past Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, drove from Greenville, S.C. to give us a moving speech on why we remember the Confederate dead. His educational talk gave us plenty of ammunition when talking with P.C. or "politically confused" people. Betty Jane Miller of the S.C. UDC drove from Ehrhart, S.C. with her friend Ms. Black and gave a moving talk on five Georgia veterans who died as POW's at Point Lookout, Md. Lee Herron's cannon and Joe Winstead's mortar blasted downtown Augusta and the honor guard led by Ron Udell did an outstanding job with their black powder salutes. Barbara Stohrr added solemnity to the event laying wreaths for the generals and the Confederate dead. Afterwards, we all enjoyed a meal at Sconyer's BBQ hosted by Larry Sconyer. I wish to thank everyone involved in the preparation for the event and for the participation in the service. For those that could not come, you missed a moving and outstanding event.

Besides our own event, the camp helped with at least seven or eight other events

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April Events

Remembering, Restoring, and Recognizing: Upper left: The Alexander Camp Honor Guard fires a ceremonial volley during Confederate Memorial Day services held at Magnolia Cemetery on April 25th. Upper Right: Bobby Kirkland and crew refurbish the memorial fountain in the Confederate Dead section of the Cemetery. Above: During last month's meeting, Gail Smith, Marie Powell, Diann Grigsby, Emma Givens, and Mae Gilmer receive Alexander Camp honorary memberships in recognition of their service and dedication to the Camp.

118th Georgia Division Reunion to be Held at Nash Farm Battlefield in June

On June 12-13th, Georgia Division compatriots will gather at the Nash Farm Battlefield in Hampton, Georgia to hold their annual reunion hosted by the Col. Charles T. Zachry Camp #108 in McDonough. A new Division Commander and a new Lt. Commander South will be elected and several amendments will be considered. The cost of registration is \$17 for Georgia Division members before May 15th and \$27 after that date. Friday's events include a guided walking tour of the Nash Farm battlefield (\$10) and a supper with live entertainment (\$20). On Saturday, the convention will begin at 9:30 AM with the cost of lunch being \$15. Please contact Cmdr. Baxley or Lt. Cmdr Posey if you plan to attend.

Last Camp Meeting

Fifth Brigade Commander Thomas Miller Speaks on the Topic, "Unity in Defeat"

During the April 2015 meeting of the Alexander Camp, Fifth Brigade Commander, Thomas Miller, a Georgia Southern graduate and teacher from Reidsville, spoke on the topic, "Unity in Defeat" describing the poignant final days of the Army of Northern Virginia and the heart wrenching decision made by Gen. Robert E. Lee at Appomattox which led to its surrender 150 years ago.

Miller began by discussing the Army of Northern Virginia and its battles under Lee beginning with the Peninsular Campaign in 1862 until the battle of Spotsylvania. He discussed the Petersburg Campaign, the battle of Five Forks, the heroic struggle at Fort Gregg, and the retreat to Amelia Court House where expected rations were not delivered. Miller spoke of the battles of Amelia Springs and Saylor's Creek where Lee lost a fourth of his army leading Lee to exclaim, "Has the Army been dissolved?" The Army of Northern Virginia then moved to Appomattox Court House to obtain supplies, but these had been burned previously by Union cavalry under Custer. Seeking to move to Lynchburg where more supplies waited, Lee hoped to push aside Sheridan's Union cavalry blocking the route with the 2nd Corps under Gen. John B. Gordon; however, the Confederates found their way blocked by the Union Army's XXIV Corps and V Corps. Gordon stated he could not continue the fight without assistance from Gen. Longstreet's Corp, but it was occupied by the Union Army's II Corps. At this point, Lee knew continued resistance would be futile, and told his staff member, "Then there is nothing left for me to do but to go and see General Grant and I would rather die a thousand deaths."

Lee then met with his officers to discuss their options, and all but Gen. E. Porter Alexander recommended surrender. He suggested the Army dissolve into guerilla bands and continue the struggle; however, Lee stated the country would suffer immensely as a result, and Alexander quickly agreed. Cmdr. Miller then spoke of the details of the surrender of Gen. Lee to Grant at the McLean House and the subsequent surrender of the cavalry, artillery and infantry on consecutive days. The Confederates were paroled to their homes and officers were allowed to keep their side arms and mounts. Miller then read Lee's final address to his men--General Order Number 9--bidding them farewell.

Following Miller's emotional presentation, Cmdr. Baxley presented him with a framed photograph of the Powder Works

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

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

Coming Events:

14 May: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting
Topic: The Life of Lucinda Horne
7:00 PM at Sconyers Barbecue

18-19 May: Battle of Resaca reenactment

25 May: US Memorial Day Service
11:00 AM at All Wars' Monument
Augusta

12-13 June: Georgia Division Reunion at Nash Farm Battlefield
<http://gascv.org/2015-georgia-division-reunion/>

15-19 July: SCV International Reunion
Richmond, Virginia
<http://www.jebstuartcamp.org/jebstuartcamp.org/2015-reunion/>

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

- 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
- 2 June: BGen. Benjamin Hardin Helm*
- 3 June: **President Jefferson F. Davis**
- 3 June: BGen. Martin E. Green*
BGen. Otho French Strahl*
- 4 June: BGen. Paul J. Semmes*

*Died in Confederate Service

Chimney in appreciation.

During the meeting, Cmdr. Baxley presented honorary Alexander Camp memberships to five ladies: **Mae Gilmer**,

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St. Louis Mayor Contemplates Removal of Confederate Memorial

On April 21st, in a blatant act of political correctness, St. Louis, Missouri Mayor Francis Slay announced the formation of a task force to consider the disposition of a Confederate memorial which sits on Confederate Drive in the city's Forest Park. Questioning the memorial's placement in one of the city's most popular attractions, the mayor has asked the Missouri History Museum, Forest Park Forever, and the Incarnate Word Foundation, to determine the monument's future, including a possible relocation. He has also proposed that the name of Confederate Drive be changed to "Freedom" or "Justice" Drive.

The UDC raised \$23,000 to construct the 32 foot monument which was dedicated in December 1914. Under the agreement for its placement, the monument does not depict a soldier in uniform or with weapons, but features a bronze sculpture of a young man as he prepares to leave home for war.

All compatriots are asked to contact Mayor Slay and politely ask him to preserve and protect this memorial to our fallen soldiers and sailors:

Mayor Francis G. Slay
1200 Market, Room 200
St. Louis, Missouri 63103
Phone: (314) 622-3201
Email: mayorslay@mayorslay.com

Last Month's Meeting (continued from page 2)

Emma Givens, Diann Grigsby, Marie Powell, and Gail Smith for their outstanding service and contributions to the Camp.

Two new camp members were inducted during the meeting: **David A. Givens** (cadet) and **Jack D. Phelps** who join the camp on the record of their Confederate ancestor, John A. Givens of Co. C, 6th Tennessee Infantry.

Three Camp members were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Camp and presented a Certificate of Appreciation: **Terry Bowers**, who has meticulously maintained the Camp's website, and **Billy Belger** and **Carol Nettles** both of whom have worked with Quartermaster Winstead at the Cemetery and at the Confederate Monument.

Cmdr. Baxley announced that there will be a Memorial service in Hephzibah on April 19th at 2:00 PM and Confederate Cemetery maintenance on Friday, April 24th and in the morning prior to the memorial service on the 25th.


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throughout Georgia and South Carolina in April. Ben Creech and Ron Udell did a living history event in Washington, Ga. the first of the month. Ron Udell, Tommy Chappell, Ben Creech, Roger Combs, Tommy Miller Sr. and Jr. helped with the honor guard at the annual Stone Mountain Memorial Service. Lee Herron and David Moncus helped with the Waynesboro dedication service on the 26th. Ben Creech, Tommy Chappell, Gary Hattaway, Joe Winstead and Ron Udell acted as honor guard for the Westview Cemetery service on April 26th while Jack Bailie and Tommy Miller Sr. and grandson helped with the Evans Camp CSA Memorial Day service the same day. Ron Udell, Gary Hattaway, Ben Creech and Tommy Miller Sr. manned the powder works exhibit the morning of the 26th. On May 2nd, Ben Creech (aka "The Road Runner") drove Ron Udell and Tommy Chappell to Columbia, S.C. to participate in South Carolina's annual CSA Memorial Day event.


I wish to thank all of our camp members for working so hard to represent our camp during April. You have truly honored your ancestors. See you at the next meeting on May 14th at Sconyer's.

Have a great Dixie Day and Deo Vindice!



Dixieland Currency
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Adjutant Nick Posey announced the reinstatement of Compatriot David Duckett raising the Camp membership to 92. He announced 19 memorial pavers have been sold.

Quartermaster Joe Winstead reported he attended the Manassas re-enactment and will attend the Redneck Olymp"Hicks" at Savannah Lock and Dam on May 2nd. He announced the need to purchase more memorial pavers and that the UDC will hold a Confederate Memorial service at Westview Cemetery on April 26th at 2:00 PM.

Past Commander David Moncus introduced Bobby Kirkland to the Camp and stated Mr. Kirkland will be repairing the fountain in the Confederate Cemetery. Mr. Kirkland announced he was making a donation to the future refurbishment of the fountain.

Emma Givens announced she had Powder Works fly ash bottles for purchase.

Lee Herron reported he still has CD's of the Confederate Powder works Rededication ceremony for purchase.

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

The Wig Wag

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Editor



Remembering Jefferson Davis' Birthday June 3rd

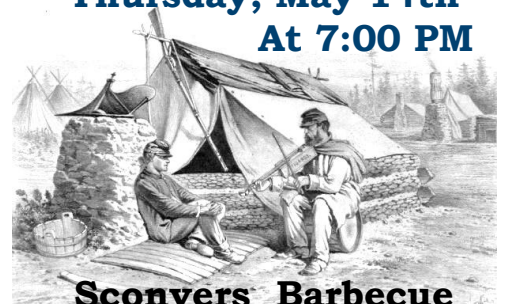
150 YEARS AGO: Battle of Palmito Ranch, Texas

- 11 May 1865: Alexander Stephens is arrested at Liberty Hall in Crawfordville, Ga. by members of the 4th Iowa Cavalry
- Confederate partisan M. Jeff Thompson surrenders at Chalk Bluff, Arkansas
- 12-13 May 1865: The Battle of Palmito Ranch, Texas: considered to be the last land action of the War and a Confederate victory
- 14 May 1865: President Johnson issues a conditional amnesty to all Confederates
- 17 May 1865: Jefferson Davis arrives in Augusta, Ga. as a prisoner where he boards a steamer for Savannah
- 22 May 1865: Jefferson Davis is imprisoned at Fort Monroe, Va.
- 24 May 1865: Skirmish at Monticello, Arkansas
- 25 May 1865: In Mobile, Ala. 20 tons of captured powder explodes causing 300 casualties and five million dollars in damage
- 26 May 1865: Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner surrenders the Confederate Army of the Trans-Mississippi in New Orleans for Gen. E. Kirby Smith
- 28 May 1865: The CSS *Shenandoah* burns the US whaling bark, *Abigail*, in the Sea of Okhotsk off the coast of Russia
- 29 May 1865: Johnson grants a Presidential pardon to those who directly or indirectly aided the Southern war effort and restores property rights to the South except for slaves
- 2 June 1865: Gen. E. Kirby Smith surrenders the Confederate Department of the Trans-Mississippi in Galveston, Texas
- 6 June 1865: Guerilla Colonel William Clarke Quantrill dies in Louisville, Kentucky of wounds received one month earlier

Right: The Army of Northern Virginia pattern battle flag of the First Georgia Reserve Regiment which was surrendered to the 17th Indiana Mounted Infantry in Macon, Ga. in May 1865. The flag is presently in the Museum of the Confederacy collection.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, May 14th
At 7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

...Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you... Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you."

--2 Chronicles 20:17 (NIV)

