



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

Genesis 2:2 states that “By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all his work.”

On the seventh day, October 10th we rested as well. The Confederate Powder Works Chimney Rededication Service on October 9th was a day to remember for Camp #158! It was a day that, I, and many others will remember for the rest of our lives. The sky was deep blue, the enthusiasm was overwhelming, the breeze was just right, but it was a little warm. Not a cloud in the sky, but the rumble of “Southern Thunder” was inevitable! It was almost a perfect day.

There were 400+ people in attendance and the ceremony went off almost without a hitch. I would like to thank everyone who helped with the logistics of the day and you know who you are.

I would like to recognize David and Marie Powell for organizing the re-enactors and getting the gifts together for them and our guest. The gift was an apothecary bottle filled with fly ash that we took out of the chimney in 2002. Y’all did a fantastic job! I would also like to thank the ladies of the BGen. E. Porter Alexander Chapter #2671 for lunch and the refreshments.

Tickets will be available for our Lee-Jackson Banquet, which will be held on January 15<sup>th</sup>, at our next meeting. The tickets will be \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. The guest speaker will be the Army of Tennessee

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**Top:** Almost 100 Confederate infantry re-enactors along the Augusta canal prepare to fire a volley following the ceremony. **Left:** In a smoky haze, artillery re-enactors, serving thirteen guns lined rim to rim, prepare to fire another volley. **Right:** Dr. Chip Bragg, author of the premier book on the Augusta Confederate Powder Works, *Never for Want of Powder*, speaks during the event.

### Confederate Powder Works Chimney Rededicated

On a warm October 9<sup>th</sup> afternoon, the E. Porter Alexander Camp along with over 100 re-enactors rededicated the newly refurbished Confederate Powder Works Chimney in Augusta. Almost 400 attendees listened as Commander Lee Herron rededicated the chimney and its attached flag as a “permanent monument and memorial to the Confederate States of America, to honor the military service of the Confederate soldier, to honor the cause for which the Confederate soldier fought, and to the memory of every Confederate soldier whose name is mentally inscribed upon its entire surface.”

The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Chip L. Bragg, author of the book, *Never for Want of Powder*, who spoke of the advanced  
(See **Powder Works Chimney Rededication** on page 3)

*Last Camp Meeting*

**Senior Military Historian of the Atlanta History Center Speaks to Camp**

During the September meeting of the Alexander Camp, Dr. Gordon L. Jones, the senior military historian at the Atlanta History Center, spoke to the camp on the museum’s collections which include over 1200 military artifacts. Dr. Jones, a native of Greenville, SC and a graduate of Furman and Emory Universities, initially thanked the camp for its refurbishment of the Confederate Powder Works Chimney and the rededication ceremony. He discussed the Center’s Du Bose Collection, which detail the experience of the common soldier of the War Between the States. It includes a copy of Lee’s Order 191 which was found by a Union soldier just prior to the battle of Sharpsburg. Jones then went on to display and describe some of the artifacts in the George W. Wray Collection, an entirely Confederate collection of arms, cannons, uniforms and flags. Jones described the various firearms in the collection which include the Richmond Arsenal’s Three band and the Fayetteville Arsenal’s Two Band rifles, the “ugliest” Confederate firearm--the Texas contract rifle, the Morse Conversion Rifle, the Alexander Burton Carbine, the British P-1853 Rifle Musket, and the Whitworth rifle which was “the deadliest weapon” of the War. He also spoke of the collection’s textiles: the blood-stained frock coat of a Confederate teenage private killed at Chickamauga, nine Confederate kepis, and eight Confederate flags. Following his presentation, Cmdr. Herron presented Dr. Jones with a framed photograph of the Confederate Powder works Chimney and a bottle of the Chimney’s fly ash.

During the meeting, the camp welcomed its newest member, **Trey Miller** whose Confederate ancestor Capt. Thomas W. Kent was one of the “Immortal 600” who served initially in Co. F, 14<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry and then as an officer in the 48<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry before being captured at Gettysburg.

Cmdr. Herron thanked all those who assisted with the Chimney rededication ceremony and called it “very memorable” for all those who attended. He estimated

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*The Wig Wag*

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**Important Dates to Remember:**

Coming Events:

**11 November: BGen E. Porter Alexander  
Camp #158 Meeting  
Topic: Christmas: The South vs.  
the North  
7:00 PM  
Sconyers Barbecue**

13-14 November: Secessionville Re-enactment  
Mount Pleasant, SC  
[www.battleofsecessionville.org/](http://www.battleofsecessionville.org/)

19-21 November: Olde South Thanksgiving  
Abbeville, SC

**4 December: Grovetown Christmas Parade  
Noon**

**5 December: North Augusta Christmas Parade  
2:00 PM**

**15 January: Lee-Jackson Banquet  
Burns UMC Fellowship Hall  
7:00 PM**

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

- 9 Nov. 1825: Lt. Gen. Ambrose Powell Hill\*
  - 1823: Maj. Gen. William H. Forney
  - 1810: Thomas Bragg, Atty. Gen.
  - 10 Nov. 1830: Brig. Gen. Albert G. Jenkins\*
  - 11 Nov. 1811: Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch\*
  - 13 Nov. 1804: Lt. Gen. Theophilus H. Holmes
  - 15 Nov. 1836: Maj. Gen. Pierce Manning B. Young
  - 19 Nov. 1835: Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee
  - 21 Nov. 1817: Brig. Gen. Richard B. Garnett\*
  - 22 Nov. 1805: Maj. Gen. Benjamin Huger
  - 1818: Maj. Gen. Samuel G. French
  - 23 Nov. 1820: John W. Ellis, Governor, NC
  - 24 Nov. 1815: Brig. Gen. James H. Trapier\*
  - 26 Nov. 1816: Maj. Gen. William H. T. Walker\*
  - 28 Nov. 1820: Brig. Gen. Lawrence O’ Bryan Branch\*
  - 30 Nov. 1830: Maj. Gen. Gustavus W. Smith
  - 1 Dec. 1826: Maj. Gen. William Mahone
  - 1832: Brig. Gen. Archibald Gracie, Jr.\*
  - 1835: Brig. Gen. Micah Jenkins\*
  - 4 Dec. 1818: Maj. Gen. William W. Loring
- \*Died in Confederate Service

an attendance of around 400 people and 100 re-enactors. He stated Ricky Bragg is creating a DVD of the ceremony which may be available for future purchase. Herron reported that the Lee-Jackson Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at Burns United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall with the guest speaker being Army of Tennessee Commander, Tom Strain. The meal will feature roast beef and ham and will be \$11.00 per person. Participation in the Grovetown and North Augusta Christ-

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## Columnist Refutes Virginia Textbook that States the Truth: Blacks Fought for the Confederacy

In recent article entitled "Did Slaves Fight for the Confederacy", Washington Post columnist, Devon Gray, dismisses the historical fact that patriotic Blacks fought for the Confederacy. Maligning a fourth grade Virginia text book entitled *Our Virginia: Past and Present* by Joy Masoff, Gray ignorantly writes that "most historians refute" the idea that Blacks fought for the Confederacy and, if it were true, "does it change the brutality that is far more associated with the relationship between black slaves and their masters" as if it was related to the subject matter. He continues to state that if he refuses to accept a "warm and fuzzier Confederacy" that Masoff seems to advocate by writing what the SCV knows as truth—that blacks did serve in the Confederate armed forces. Sadly, Gray, with his "politically correct" mindset, states that students should not be learning this historical fact.

Fortunately, noted columnist Walter E. Williams in a column on November 2<sup>nd</sup> systematically refutes Gray assertions and writes that a Petersburg, Virginia newspaper in 1861 proposed "three cheers for the patriotic free Negroes of Lynchburg" after 70 blacks offered "to act in whatever capacity may be assigned to them" in defense of Virginia." Williams goes on to quote Frederick Douglass who observed, "There are at the present moment, many colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants and laborers, but as real soldiers, having muskets on their shoulders and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down ... and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government." Interestingly he includes the statement made by a black historian, Charles A. Wesley that "sixteen companies (1,600) of free men of color marched through Augusta, Georgia on their way to fight in Virginia.

At present, Masoff is fighting the publisher of the text book from placing blank stickers over the references to black Confederates. Hopefully, she and the truth will prevail in this worthwhile endeavor.

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

mas parades was discussed with camp participation suggested for both events. Prior to the meeting, he requested prayers for Dr. John Baxley, Jules Godene, Timothy Bowers, and David Moncus' mother-in-law.

During the officer reports, Adjutant Perry Herron reported there are 23 members who have not paid their dues and will have to pay an additional re-instatement fee of \$5. Treasurer Nick Posey announced that 16 Powder works prints were sold during the rededication ceremony

## Powder Works Chimney Rededication

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technology incorporated in the Augusta Powder works, and the tremendous amount of powder produced by the factory which was used primarily for artillery and small arms. Compatriot Ken Temples read his tribute poem, *Beneath that Chimney in the Sky* and special recognition was given to those who made significant contributions to the restoration of the chimney.

The ceremony culminated in a triple volley, respectively, by thirteen artillery pieces and a rifle salute by Confederate infantry re-enactors lined along the canal in a double column with a color guard featuring the flags of the Confederacy and the Southern states scattered throughout. The thunderous salute startled the residents of Harrisburg and awed the attendees.

Following the ceremony, the camp presented a small bottle of fly ash from the chimney to each re-enactor as a memento of the event.

Noticeably absent from the event was coverage by the local television news crews of WAGT and WRDW. When contacted as to why they did not report the event in the news, they did not respond. WJBF did respond and stated their absence was not due to "political correctness."

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

Commander, Thomas Strain Jr. and his talk will be about "General Lee: Life after Appomattox." Please invite your friends and family.

If you have not paid your SCV dues by now, you are late and will need to pay a \$5 reinstatement fee to be a member in good standing again. The camp will not pay the reinstatement fee! Every year, every attempt has been made to enable members to pay on time, but still members procrastinate paying their dues. Why?

The office of Commander and 1st Lt. Commander are still open at this time. It is time for some new blood to step forward and volunteer to run for some of the offices within the camp. Most of the current camp officers have been officers for the past 6-10 years, and we are starting to get exhausted.

This month's speaker will be none other than our SCV Field Representative, Mr. Jack Marlal. The topic of his talk will be "Christmas in the Confederacy vs. Christmas in the North." I can assure you that this will be a meeting you will not want to miss! Remember, it is your duty to be there!

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and Quartermaster Joe Winstead reported that he attended the Oliver Hardy Festival and sold \$325 in merchandise.

Compatriot Daniel Martin stated he visited Cross Creek High School last month and gave several historical presentations to the students.

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

# The Wig Wag

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*Editor*



**Honoring Our Veterans...  
Nothing More...Nothing Less!**

## 150 YEARS AGO: SC's Senators Resign from Congress

- 9 November 1860: SC calls for a convention on December 17<sup>th</sup> to decide if the state should leave the Union
- 10 November 1860: James Chestnut become the first Southerner to resign from the US Senate, he is quickly followed by Senator James Hammond
- 12 November 1860: Preston County in western Virginia holds its first organization meeting expressing its desire "to adhere to the Union"
- 13 November 1860: In a fiery pro-secession speech, Ga. Senator Robert Toombs announces his resignation from the US Senate at the end of his term
- 14 November 1860: Alexander Stephens gives a response to Toombs' speech and calls for a meeting of the Southern states to discuss secession
- 23 November 1860: Major Robert Anderson reports Ft. Sumter is being threatened as Federal forces make improvements to Ft. Moultrie and Ft. Sumter
- 1 December 1860: Major Robert Anderson makes his third request for re-inforcements at Ft. Moultrie
- 8 December 1860: President Buchanan states that secession is unconstitutional, but the Federal government lacks authority to prevent it.

**Right:** The Stars and Bars pattern flag of the "Sumter Flying Artillery" or "Ross' Battery", Company A, 11th Georgia Artillery Battalion. The unit was organized in Sumter County, Georgia and participated in the major battles fought by the Army of Northern Virginia. The flag was captured at the Battle of Appomattox Station by bugler, Charles Shorn, 1st West Virginia Cavalry on April 8, 1865. It is presently in the Georgia State Capitol Collection.

## Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, November 11th  
at 7:00 PM**



### **Sconyers Barbecue**

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

### *Scripture Thought*

Offer to God thanksgiving and fulfill your vows to the Most High.

--Psalm 50:14

