

BRIGADIER GENERAL E. PORTER ALEXANDER CAMP NO. 158, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

NOVEMBER 2012

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

With threatening weather including strong winds, the memorial service and funeral service for the 13 officers of the "Immortal 600" who were thrown in a hole and not given a proper funeral, took place on October 27th as was planned at Fort Pulaski. The monument, which was seen in last month's newsletter, was also dedicated. This memorial service, thanks to the efforts of the Immortal Six Hundred Camp #2600 Commander Al Perry, the Camp Adjutant, the Sixth Brigade, and other Camps, was done very well even though they overcame many problems to even have this special service.

The US Park Service officials were the constant problem. After agreements were made, they were constantly changing what could be done or agreed upon. The last BIG change was that they made it next to impossible for the artillery to be able to participate. They required one **certified historic weapons supervisor** for every two artillery pieces. With the number of guns that planned to participate, it would require the hiring of five or six **black powder supervisors** at \$50 an hour for a minimum of 20 hours or a total cost of \$1000 to the Camp. The Park Service also required a ten minute wait before reloading after firing each gun. At that point, the Camp had no other choice than to cancel the artillery salute. Apparently, the Park Service just didn't want the guns there. They also required that one **black powder supervisor** for every 40 re-enactors participating in the

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Honoring the "Immortal 600" at Fort Pulaski: Alexander Camp compatriots and friends braved the windy weather on October 27th to attend a memorial service and dedication of the memorial marker for the officers of the "Immortal 600". Pictured (left to right) are David Moncus, David Armour, Roger Combs, Ken Kitchens, Tommy Chappel, Cmdr Ron Udell, Tommy Miller, Sr., Tommy Miller, Jr. and Ben Creech (kneeling). Those not pictured but in attendance included Steve Burke, Gary Hattaway and his wife, Past Cmdr. Woody Highsmith, Tom and Gail Smith, and the Miller Family.

Editor's Note: Below is the continuation of a series of articles on the 12th Georgia Battalion of which Companies D and F consisted of men from Richmond County.

12th Georgia Fights the Battle of Hatcher's Run

By the end of October 1864, following the Battle of Cedar Creek, Capt. George W. Johnson commanded the 12th Georgia Battalion. He may have actually taken command when he arrived with Company C on about September 20th, as Capt. Anderson was lost at Winchester on September 19th and he was the ranking officer.

Gen. Early's decimated army continued to harass the enemy in the Shenandoah Valley, but they were unable to mount a serious offensive against Sheridan's superior numerical forces. On December 7th, Gen. Lee ordered most of Early's Army to Petersburg, sans Gen. Early. There, the Georgia Brigade including the 12th Georgia Battalion set up winter quarters and joined the remainder of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in the trenches. On February 5-6th, 1865 Gen. Grant attempted to sever Lee's link with the Weldon Railroad and the Boydton Plank Road. Gen. Gordon's II Corps and Heth's Division was sent to prevent the Union advance, and the two-day battle at Hatcher's Run resulted. The Union Army was halted, but the 12th Georgia again suffered considerable casualties, including, Capt. George W. Johnson, who was killed.

Last Camp Meeting

Lee Herron Shows Video of Powder Works Chimney Rededication Ceremony

During the October meeting of the Alexander Camp, Lt. Cmdr. Lee Herron presented to the camp the recently released video of the Camp's rededication ceremony of the Confederate Powder Works Chimney which occurred on October 9, 2010. Since its dedication as a Confederate memorial in the early part of the 20th Century, the chimney, which was the last remaining structure of Augusta's Confederate Powder Works, was falling into disrepair and in danger of toppling. The Camp, under the leadership of then Commander Nick Posey determined to insure the chimney would remain a permanent monument to the Confederacy and its defenders. The refurbished chimney was a significant project taken on by the camp requiring much effort and the raising of funds, requests for donations, and assistance from various individuals, namely Compatriot and Mrs. David Powell, and historic and civic organizations including the Georgia Division. Herron stated DVD's of the ceremony could be purchased for \$8 by camp members and \$10 for non-members with the proceeds going to the camp.

There was an application for membership: **Dale Sanders** petitioned the camp for membership based on the record of his Confederate ancestor, his great-great grandfather, Pvt. John D. Sanders of Beaufort, SC who served in Stuart's Company, Beaufort Volunteer Artillery. Compatriot Posey thanked Lt Cmdr Herron for assisting Mr. Sanders in discovering his genealogy.

Cmdr Udell thanked David Powell and Jack Bailey for their assistance in mowing the Confederate section of Magnolia Cemetery. He stated he had received several compliments from visitors to the cemetery regarding its appearance. Udell reported the Westbrook marker had finally arrived with correct wording and asked that the camp applaud the VA for its efforts.

Lt Cmdr Herron reported that Volumes 2-9 of the series, *Recollections and Reminiscences*, published by the SC UDC, featuring a collection of stories, memoirs, and correspondences of veterans and their families during the War, was available for purchase for \$40 and to contact him if anyone is interested in doing so. He said Volumes 1 and 10 are no longer available. Herron also stated 12" x 18" prints of the Confederate Survivors Association of Augusta are available for sale for \$2 with \$1 of the pro-

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

- 8 November: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting**
Topic: South Carolina's Battle Flags
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue
- 9-10 November: Augusta and the C.W. Symposium
1862: "Making War: Southern Industrialization"
- 12 November: Veterans Day Ceremony
4th and Broad Streets @ 11:00 AM
Augusta
- 17 November: Battle of Griswoldville, Ga.
Commemoration
10:00 AM-1:00 PM
- 7 December: Buckhead/Fort Lawton's Camp
#2102 Education/Heritage Day
Magnolia Springs State Park
- 8-9 December: Reenactment of the Battle of Pocotaligo
Frampton Plantation
Ridgeland, SC

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
- 6 Dec. 1833: Col. John Singleton Mosby
*Died in CSA Service

ceeds going to the Camp. Prints in the size, 18" x 24", are also available for \$15.

Adjutant Nick Posey reported that 85 of the 109 camp members have paid their dues with three more paying during

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Union County NC to Honor Black Confederates

Union County, North Carolina Commissioners are making plans to proclaim December 8th, "Confederate Pensioners of Color Day." The decision coincides with the unveiling of a privately funded marker to be placed at the 1886 Old County Courthouse to honor ten black men from Union County who served in the Confederate Army. Nine of the men were slaves who chose to join their master's sons when they went to war and were listed as "bodyguards" or "body servants". When the war ended these men received small state pensions for their service in the Confederate Army. Two of the men were wounded while serving.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Earl Ijames who is curator of community history and African-American history at the NC Museum of History.

The monument, which will be adjacent to the existing Confederate monument, will be unveiled by Archdale, NC resident Mattie Rice, the 90 year old "real daughter" of Wary Clyburn, one of the men being honored. The descendants of the other 10 men are expected to attend including Aaron Perry and Greg Perry, the great grandson and great great grandson of Aaron Perry, one of the honored men. Both will be inducted into the SCV at the ceremony. Confederate re-enactors, national and state leaders of the SCV and a color guard will be present.

The cost of the marker is \$2,450 with private fundraising less than \$200 short of the goal. Another \$500 to \$600 is estimated to fund the event program which will include a commemorative ribbon to be distributed.

Those wishing to help fund the marker and the dedication ceremony may send a donation to the "Union County Pensioners Monument Fund" and mail it to UCPMF, PO Box 1755 Indian Trail, NC 28079.

Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

the meeting. He reported there are two and one-half weeks remaining to pay dues before renewal fees are accessed.

Quartermaster Joe Winstead reported that \$392 in merchandise was sold at the Oliver Hardy Festival in Harlem the first weekend in October. However, with the \$100 vendor fee, Winstead explained that it may be more profitable to attend the Sassafras Festival in Burnettsville, SC next year rather than the Oliver Hardy Festival.

Prior to the meeting, prayers were requested for the Miller Family, Philip Weaver, Ernie Franklin, John Givens, Jules Godin, Jim Kirshner, Roy Stampley, Diane Grigsby, Fred Bussey's son, David, and Stan Scritchfield's grandson.

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

Commander's Comments (Continued from page 1)

black powder musket salute. Those of us who participated in the musket salute were required to be there shortly before 10 AM to have our weapons inspected by the Park Rangers, (aka "The Black Powder Supervisors").

Once this was done, little stickers were placed on our weapons. I think the safety checks prior to reenactments are better than their efforts which were a waste of time. Our powder was also checked just before the service was to take place. That was an insult. Moreover, they would not allow us to fire over vehicles, in the direction of the fort, over the berms, above the crowd or the graves. That left only the distant woods where a golf cart was patrolling, and I guess it just took its chances. At that firing angle, most people had trouble seeing the salute. After the service was over, the Park Service insulted us again by inspecting our weapons after we had just fired a percussion cap. Then they made us wait when one rifle did not meet their "standards".

Whenever there is a memorial program at a US National Park, be ready for massive restrictions and bless those that are trying to plan the program. Commander Al and his SCV Camp 2600 members, as well as those from other camps that helped, deserve a well-deserved hand. Many thanks to them for hanging in there to get this project complete.

Elections for Camp #158 officers will be in December and nominations for camp officers will take place at our meeting on November 8th. I encourage all that would like to seek a position to do so. Let it be known at the meeting or have someone nominate you. I would like to see some *new blood* in the mix.

I hope that all of you have sent in your dues before the deadline of October 31st and saved the \$8.00 late fees. Nick Posey, our Camp Adjutant, will mail all the collected dues by the November 1st post mark date. If you have not paid your dues by now, you will be required to pay the reinstatement charges to remain current to continue receiving the *Confederate Veteran* magazine and the *Georgia Confederate* newspaper. Thanks to all those who have mailed their dues in on time! You continue to honor your Confederate ancestor by staying current with Camp # 158 and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. You have lived "The Charge!"

Our next upcoming meeting will be November 8th. Our speaker will be Mr. Dennis Todd from Cayce, SC and is a member of SC Division SCV. He will speak on "South Carolina Confederate Flags" and show photos of flags that are not on display due to their condition. Please plan to be at Sconyers Barbecue and to remember our Southern heritage and to support our Camp and its activities when possible. We have a lot going on and you will miss something if you don't come. **Remember the Charge. God Bless the South!**

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Editor



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

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

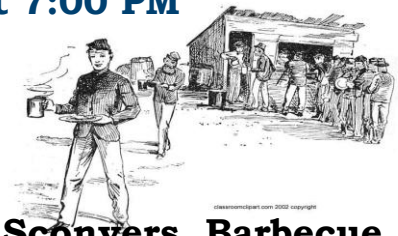
150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas

- 8 November 1862: Gen. Benjamin "Beast" Butler is relieved of duty in New Orleans because of his disregard for the civilian populace
- 15 November 1862: George Randolph resigns as CS Secretary of War
Union naval assault on Fort McAllister, Ga.
- 20 November 1862: The Confederate Army of Tennessee is officially organized under Gen. Braxton Bragg
- 21 November 1862: James A. Seddon is named CS Secretary of War
- 24 November 1862: Gen. Joseph Johnston is assigned a command embracing western NC, Tenn., northern Ga., Ala. Miss., and eastern La.
- 28 November 1862: Engagement at Cane Hill, Ark.; Blunt defeats Marmaduke
- 29 November 1862: Gen. John B. Magruder assumes command of the district of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona territory
Belle Boyd, Confederate spy, is captured near Warrenton, Va.
- 7 December 1862: Battle of Prairie Grove, Ark.; Confederate Gen. Hindman attacks Gen. Herron, then withdraws
CSS *Alabama* captures California steamer, *Ariel*, off the coast of Cuba with 700 passengers including 150 US Marines
Gen. John Hunt Morgan captures Federal garrison in Hartsville, Tenn.

Right: Battle flag of the 29th Arkansas Infantry Regiment: This Stars and Bars pattern flag with its twelve eight pointed stars and motto "In God We Trust" was carried by the unit during the Battle of Prairie Grove where the unit's casualties included its colonel, major, color-bearer, half of the first sergeants, and a third of the company commanders. After the battle, the unit was designated the 37th Arkansas Infantry and the flag captured at the Battle of Helena in 1863.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, November 8th
at 7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

I will praise God's name in song and glorify Him with thanksgiving.

--Psalm 69: 30(NIV)

