



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

Another month has come and gone. We only have two more months left in this year so let's make the best of that time. The last two months also offer an opportunity to celebrate two great American holidays with your family and friends. I encourage you to take a few minutes during Thanksgiving and Christmas when you are enjoying your family and think about the sacrifices made by our Confederate ancestors in defending their homeland. Even those who were able to survive the war still had to suffer many months and years in isolation from their families and friends while enduring hunger, thirst, the winter cold and the summer heat. These were great men who had great families that also persevered through hardships at home. A great heroic effort by all and we should put that foremost in our reasons for being a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and working to ensure that the Confederate soldiers' true history and "good name" is not forgotten.

November 1st was the deadline for 2013/14 dues. If you did not get yours submitted, you can still maintain your membership by submitting your dues payment plus \$8.00. That is a \$5 reinstatement fee for National and a \$3 fee for the Division. We need every member to renew, and we need every member to continue recruiting new members to help us grow our organization.

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"I would rather die a thousand deaths than betray a friend."

Sam Davis: The South's "Nathan Hale"



November 27th will mark the 150th anniversary of the death of the "Boy Hero of the Confederacy" and it's "Nathan Hale", Sam Davis of Smyrna, Tennessee. Despite having youth camps and SCV camps named in his honor, many compatriots have heard his name, but know very little about this young man who died a martyr for his beloved Southland.

Sam Davis was born in 1842 and grew up in a middle class family in middle Tennessee where he attended local schools before attending the Western Military Institute. One of his instructors was Ohio native Bushrod Johnson who would eventually become a Confederate General.

When the War began, Davis joined Company I of the First Tennessee Infantry and served in the Cheat Mountain and Shenandoah campaigns. He was wounded at Shiloh and Perryville, and it was while he was recovering from the latter that he joined Coleman Scouts serving as a courier. The Scouts worked behind Union lines gathering information, disrupting communications and reporting troop movements. They wore regular Confederate uniforms and were given passes by Gen. Braxton Bragg; however, the Union Army considered them spies.

On November 20, 1863 when most of middle Tennessee was occupied by Union forces, Davis was captured near Minor Hill, Tennessee by Union troops of the 7th Kansas Cavalry dressed as Confederates. They told him they were conscripting for the Confederate Army and Davis told them he was already a soldier and showed them his pass. The Yankees took Sam to their commanding officer, BGen. Grenville Dodge, where Davis' gun was confiscated and his personal effects searched. They found papers in his saddle and boots that contained critical information on troop movements near Nashville and Pulaski, as well as eleven newspapers and various personal items for General Bragg. Some of the information was of such a sensitive nature that Dodge was convinced one of his own officers was supplying information to the Scouts.

Dodge knew that Davis was one of Coleman's Scouts and told him that he would be offered leniency if he would only reveal his source, Coleman's identity and location. Davis spoke very little and refused to reveal any information. Dodge, who began to lose his cordiality, informed Sam that he would be court-martialed as a spy and incarcerated the young man in the county jail with other Confederate prisoners. Dodge had the Provost Marshall place an informant near Davis in hopes of acquiring the

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Last Camp Meeting

Compatriot Charles Lunsford Speaks on the topic, "Liberty"

During the October meeting of the Alexander Camp, Compatriot P. Charles Lunsford gave an excellent dissertation on the topic of "Liberty". He stated Lincoln, who was often wrong, was correct in that he stated that this nation was "conceived in liberty". Lunsford said, according to John Locke, liberty means "I am to be left alone." He stated, contrary to popular belief, that our country is a republic--not a democracy, for democracy is "mob rule." Lunsford then described political systems such as socialism, fascism, communism, and progressivism stating these forms of government permitted a select hierarchy to have the most power, best food, better homes etc. He said the word, "liberal," actually means "lover of liberty" and was absconded by leftist leaders in their evolving way to appeal to the masses. Lunsford stated Southerners are the greatest libertarians in regards to their struggle for independence and limited government. In closing, he recommended his fellow compatriots read the book, *The System of Liberty* by George H. Smith.

During the meeting, **Scotty R. Campbell** received his SCV certificate and was sworn in by Adjutant Posey. Compatriot Campbell joins on the record of his 4th great grandfather, Cpl. Ezekiel Parrish who served in Company I, 9th Georgia Infantry Regiment.

Cmdr. Moncus reported there will be a Camp cemetery clean-up on October 12th. He thanked all those who participated in last month's cemetery clean up. Moncus stated he attended the Georgia Division Executive Council meeting on September 28th. He reported the Division donated \$300 to the Wreaths Across America fund which places evergreen wreaths on fallen servicemen's graves during Christmastime and \$500 to the Southern Legal Resource Center. Moncus displayed the proposed new Georgia SCV license plate which features an image of the Stone Mountain Memorial carving. He stated only one-fourth of Georgia Division members have the license plate and he encouraged all compatriots to purchase one. Moncus announced that there will be a SCV National Leadership workshop in Lake City, Florida on November 2nd beginning at 8:30 AM. He said arrangements for the Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet in January are presently ongoing and the details will be announced soon.

Lt. Commander Posey announced that 22 compatriots have not paid their dues and there was only three more weeks before the November 1st deadline. Compatriots hoping to renew their membership afterwards will incur both National and Division late fees.

The Wig Wag

is the official publication of the BGen. E. Porter Alexander Camp #158, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Augusta, Georgia. It is published monthly (except July) for the benefit of camp members. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official views of the SCV or the E. Porter Alexander Camp. Send all articles and comments to the editor at the address on the last page or email: Rebeleye@aol.com.

Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

11 November: Veterans Day Ceremony
4th and Broad Streets @ 11:00 AM
Augusta

**14 November: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp
158 Meeting**

Topic: "Ersatz - Making Do With
Shortages" in the South

7:00 PM

Sconyers Barbecue

23 November: Griswoldville Battle Commemoration
12: 00 Noon
Jarrell Plantation Historic Site

7 December: Heritage Festival
Magnolia Springs State Park
Millen, Ga.

<http://gastateparks.org/event/163554?c=4579609>

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

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

Quartermaster Joe Winstead stated the Camp Store attended the Sassafras Festival in Burnetown, SC on October 5th having five participants in the parade and raising \$220. He reported that 75 pavers are now being engraved and will be placed adjacent to the Confederate Monument on Broad Street. However, the next 25 pavers purchased will be engraved on site. Winstead discussed the upcoming artillery class which will be held on October 19th.

Prior to the meeting, prayers were requested for the Robert Smith Family, Compatriot John Givens, and the family of Irving Long.

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





“Stars and Bars” Flags Stolen from East Tennessee Cemetery

Two eleven star “Stars and Bars” were stolen within two weeks in October from a flagpole at Oak Hill Cemetery in Johnson City, Tennessee. The local chapter of the UDC installed the pole adjacent to a 40 plot Confederate soldiers graves' section several years ago where nine Confederate veterans are buried. Sixty Confederate soldiers are buried throughout the cemetery. The UDC has no plans to replace the flags for now.

SLRC Victory in Bee County, Texas

On September 23rd, the Bee County, Texas Commissioners voted to ban the Army of Tennessee battle flag from being displayed during the annual Western Week Festival held later in October at the Bee County Expo Center.

On October 14th, the Southern Legal Resource Center prepared a letter for the Bee County Attorney, Michael Knight, stating the ban was a prima facie violation of the 1st Amendment and that they rescind the ban or face a lawsuit. The SLRC also drafted a complaint and temporary restraining order against the ban and insured a federal judge in Corpus Christi would be available for a hearing.

A sympathetic reporter informed the SLRC later that day to inform them that the County Commissioners had rescinded the ban stating that they didn't intend to ban the Confederate flag from the Expo--just from the county flagpole--and the Confederate flag was welcome at Western Week! The Texas Division SCV took advantage of the opportunity and set up a successful recruiting booth at the festival.

Florida NAACP Dropping Effort to Remove Portrait of Gen. Lee

The Lee County, Florida chapter of the NAACP is dropping its fight to have a portrait of Gen. Robert E. Lee removed from the Lee County Commissioners' chamber after losing support from state leaders who, unbelievably, want the chapter to focus on crime and other issues.

Crestview, Florida Tables Discussion to Remove Flag from Confederate Memorial

The City Council of Crestview, Florida has tabled a request by the NAACP to remove a Confederate battle flag from a local memorial that honors Florida's last Confederate veteran, William "Uncle Bill" Lundy, who died at the age of 109 in 1957. The Council plans to meet on November 14th to hold a workshop to discuss the issue and make a decision.

Commander's Comment (Continued from page 1)

Thank you for all that you have done this year to serve the SCV organization and to honor your Confederate ancestors. We need more participation from our camp members in our monthly meetings and other special events. Please rededicate yourself to your committed duty as stated in your pledge when joining and in The Charge given us by the United Confederate Veterans.

SCV Camp Honors Confederate Corn Husker

A new SCV camp has been formed in Fremont, Nebraska marking for the first time the establishment of a camp in the Corn Husker State. The Thomas C. Sexton Camp #2232 recently held a graveside ceremony which recognized their namesake who served as a private in Company D, 4th Virginia Infantry, and, after the War, received a medical degree and moved to Dodge County.

Compatriot Gale Red, who is affiliated with the Belleville, Illinois Camp and officiated at the ceremony, has been instrumental in the formation of the Fremont Camp. Red has identified 358 Confederate veterans who are buried in Nebraska.

Sam Davis (Continued from page 1)

critical information; however, Davis remained adamant. After several days, Davis was brought before Dodge who offered him his life, a horse and safe passage through the lines if only if would identify his source. Davis refused.

The saddest appeal came from Sam's personal servant, Coleman Davis Smith, who had grown up with Davis and joined him in the War. Captured with Sam and locked in the same jail, he begged his friend to tell the Yankees "what they wanted him to tell." Again Sam refused. Surprisingly, Capt. H.B. Shaw, alias "Coleman", was confined in a nearby cell.

During a drumhead trial, Davis was convicted of being a spy and sentenced to death by hanging.

The day before his execution, Davis penned this to his mother:

Dear mother. O how painful it is to write you! I have got to die to-morrow --- to be hanged by the Federals. Mother, do not grieve for me. I must bid you good-bye forevermore. Mother, I do not fear to die. Give my love to all.

At 10:00 the next day, Davis, with hands tied behind his back and feet shackled, was placed in a wagon sitting next his coffin and taken to the gallows. He asked the Provost Marshall about the War and was told of Bragg's loss at Missionary Ridge. Saddened, he stated "the boys will have to fight the rest of the battles without me." Just before his execution, the 21 year old Davis was once again asked to divulge his source; however, he remained steadfast stating, "Do you suppose that I would betray a friend? No, sir: I would die a thousand times first!"

The Wig Wag

Official Publication of the

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158

<http://eporteralexander.homestead.com>

November 2013 Issue
1316 High Woods Pass
Grovetown, Ga. 30813

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Editor



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

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tenn.

- 9 November 1863: One of the most successful blockade runners, CSS *Robert E. Lee*, is captured near Cape Lookout Shoals, NC.
- 12 November 1863: Federal shelling of Ft. Sumter resumes
- 14 November 1863: Confederate government threatens to use force and confiscate property to collect taxes from reluctant farmers in NC
- 16 November 1863: Battle of Campbell Station, Tenn.: Longstreet attacks Union Gen. Burnside
- 17 November 1863: Confederate siege of Knoxville, Tenn. begins
- 23 November 1863: Chattanooga Campaign: The Battle of Orchard Knob
- 24 November 1863: The Battle of Lookout Mountain and Billy Goat Hill
- 25 November 1863: Battle of Tunnel Hill and Missionary Ridge, Tenn.: Gen. Cleburne's success is marred by Gen. Thomas' assault
- 26 November 1863: Battle of Ringold Gap: Cleburne delays Hooker's assaults allowing Bragg to establish line near Dalton, Ga.
Mine Run Campaign begins: Meade attempts to turn Lee's right flank
- 27 November 1863: The Confederacy's "Nathan Hale", Sam Davis, is executed by Union troops in Pulaski, Tenn.
Gen. John Hunt Morgan escapes from Ohio penitentiary
- 29 November 1863: Knoxville Campaign: Longstreet launches unsuccessful attacks against Fort Sanders
- 2 December 1863: Gen. Bragg relinquishes command of the Army of Tennessee to LGen William Hardee
- 3 December 1863: Longstreet halts his siege of Knoxville and moves toward winter quarters near Greeneville

Right: The Hardee Corps battle flag of the 34th Mississippi Infantry which was captured by Pvt. Peter Kappesser of Co. B, 149th New York Infantry at the Battle of Lookout Mountain, Tenn. on November 24, 1863.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday,
November 14th**



at 7:00 PM

Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

...We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

--Revelation 11:17(NIV)

