

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

I am saddened to report on the death of one of our faithful members. Compatriot John Givens passed away on October 22nd. John requested a Confederate funeral and the Camp # 158 Honor Guard did a great job. Many folks who were not familiar with the SCV were able to witness a different kind of funeral service than any they had ever seen—all because a man was proud of his Confederate heritage. Thanks to all the camp members who stood honor guard, attended the memorial service, and fired the honorary salute in the cemetery.

Only Compatriot Bill Storrs and I showed up for the October Confederate Cemetery cleanup day, but we were able to get both the Confederate Dead and Live sections done. Our final cleanup day for 2014 will be Saturday, November 15th.

This month's meeting will be a very important one as we will be taking nominations for new camp officers with the election being held during our December meeting. The new commander and Camp officers will be installed at our annual Lee/Jackson Banquet which will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2015. Please make plans now to attend and bring your family and friends with you. Our guest speaker will be the new SCV Commander in Chief, Kelly Barrow.

I hope to see you at our Camp meeting this month. Please bring a guest or two.



Celebrating our Heritage in Harlem: Members of the Alexander Camp Honor Guard, compatriots and supporters wave to an enthusiastic crowd between rifle volleys during the Camp's participation in the Oliver Hardy Festival Parade in Harlem, Georgia on October 4th.

Free WBTS Symposium to be held in Milledgeville

The Georgia "C.W." Commission will be hosting a free all day War Between the States symposium on November 22nd in the old Capitol Building at the Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, Georgia.

The tentative schedule begins at 9:00 AM and features SCV Commander in Chief, Kelly Barrow, who will speak on the topic, "Black Confederates" and the SCV Chief of Heritage Operations, Ben "Cooter" Jones, who will speak on "The Relevance of the Confederate Battle Flag Today". Additionally, the C-I-C's wife, Cassie, will speak on the topic, "The Women Will Howl: Incidents at New Manchester and Roswell, Georgia".

Other topics include "The Civil War in Movies" by Dr. Brian Wills, "Total Warfare on Southern Civilians" by Mauriel Joslyn, "The Confederate Treasury" by Bill Yarbrough, "The Georgia Military Institute" by Rick Joslyn, "The Battle of Chickamauga by John Culpeper, "The Use of Horses and Mules in the Atlanta Campaign" by Dr. David Evans, "The End of the Atlanta Campaign" by Bill Dodd, "Cemetery Preservation and its Importance" by Suzanne Sammons, "The Lost Papers of John Bell Hood by Dr. Sam Hood, "The 57th Georgia Infantry" by Dr. Scott Walker, and "We Must Embrace: Leonidas Polk's Emerging Relevance" by Rev. Archibald Everhart. Additionally, the Confederate Currency Collection will be on display inside the Atrium at the Georgia Military College.

Last Camp Meeting

Compatriot Dewey Hill Speaks on the History of Fort Sumter

During the October 2014 meeting of the Alexander Camp, Compatriot Dewey Hill of the Sgt. Berry Benson Camp in North Augusta spoke on Fort Sumter located in Charleston harbor. Before beginning his discussion, Compatriot Hill stated his presentation was to honor the 250 men who served at the Fort during the WBTS. He also honored two women—Lucy H. Pickens, the “Queen of the Confederacy,” who was the only woman pictured on Confederate currency and Margaret Mitchell, the author of *Gone with the Wind* who helped raise \$65 million in war bonds to build a new USS *Atlanta* when the previous one was sunk by the Japanese at Guadalcanal.

Compatriot Hill stated there were eleven attempts to capture Fort Sumter during War—three major and eight minor—all which failed. He stated the Fort was one of many masonry seacoast forts built in the South after the War of 1812 to protect harbors. Utilizing 70,000 tons of New England granite, the fort was constructed on a sandbar in Charleston harbor and named after the SC Revolutionary War hero, the “Fighting Gamecock” Gen. Thomas Sumter. It was designed to house 650 men and 135 cannon.

After South Carolina’s secession, the commander of US forces in the indefensible Fort Moultrie, Major Robert Anderson, in violation of the agreement between SC and the US government and without orders from superiors, moved his command in secrecy and during the night to the more formidable Fort Sumter despite the fact it housed only half its artillery. Anderson ignored repeated calls by the government of SC and the Confederate government to evacuate the Fort. In the first act of war, the Buchanan government attempted to resupply and reinforce the garrison in January 1861; however, this was prevented when Citadel cadets fired on the steamer, *Star of the West*.

Realizing Anderson’s command would be out of provisions in mid-April, Lincoln, against the advice of his cabinet, ordered a fleet consisting of three warships and five other vessels transporting 200 troops and 300 sailors to resupply and garrison the fort. On April 6th, the first ships set sail with the first one arriving on the evening of April 11th. Earlier on the same day, Gen. Beauregard sent three aides to demand the surrender of the Fort, but again Anderson refused. Realizing there was no other alternative, 47 of the 600 Confederate batteries opened fire on the Fort at 4:30 AM on April 12th. The US forces did not return fire for two hours because they had neither fuses for their explosive shells nor oil for their lamps. The bombardment lasted

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

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

**13 November: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp
#158 Meeting**
Topic: TBA
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue

15 November: **Magnolia Cemetery cleanup**

Heritage Day at Camp Lawton
Magnolia Springs State Park

22 November: Battle of Griswoldville re-enactment
Jarrell Plantation Historic Site
Julliette, Ga.

WBTS Symposium at Old Capitol
Ga. Military College @ 9:00 AM
Milledgeville, Ga.

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

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: BGen. 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 Confederate Service

for 34 hours until the Federal forces finally surrendered and evacuated the Fort.

Hill stated he believed the primary cause of the war was the collection of tariffs in Southern harbors and the reason Lincoln chose to retain the forts. Two attempts to capture Fort Sumter failed--the first on April 7, 1863 by Admiral Dupont when the Fort sustained 154 hits and the second attempt was on September 8, 1863. Utilizing slave labor, the Confederate defenders strengthened the fort, but it was finally abandoned when Sherman’s March forced the Confederates to evacuate Charles-

(Continued on page 3)



State Law Prevents Removal of Third National Flag from “Last Capitol of the Confederacy”

A Virginia State law prohibiting removal of war memorials has prevented the removal of a third national Confederate flag from the grounds of the “last capitol of the Confederacy” in Danville, Virginia. The city manager reported the findings, after legal consultation, on October 22nd.

The request to remove the flag occurred on September 30th, when the New York born executive director of Danville, Virginia’s Fine Arts and History Museum sent a letter to the Danville City Manager requesting the removal of the flag from the grounds of the Sutherlin Mansion where President Jefferson Davis held his last full cabinet meeting and received word of Gen. Lee’s surrender. The removal of the flag was part of the Museum Board’s three year “strategic” plan to “emphasize diversity” and be “more inclusive” by creating an historic flag exhibit inside the Museum.

The SCV’s Chief of Heritage Operations, Ben Jones, called the Board’s request a “canard” and “a gratuitous insult to 70 million people who are descended from very fine people who fought for the South in their time.”

Incidentally it was a local UDC Chapter that was instrumental in establishing the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History when they saved the Sutherlin Mansion from demolition in 1912. At that time, the ladies raised \$20,000--half of the funds required to save the Mansion—with the other half financed by the city.

Since the city owns the Mansion and its grounds, it was thought the city council had jurisdiction over the flag, for it was they who gave permission to the Heritage Preservation Association in 1994 to place a monument and a flag pole on the front lawn of the Mansion.

On October 9th, the City Council met in closed session to discuss the issue with those requesting a denial of the request outnumbering those who desired approval by a 4-to-1 margin. Despite the odds, the City Council decided to schedule another meeting on October 21st to discuss the issue. The next day the decision that the flag was to remain was announced.

Last Month’s Meeting (continued from page 2)

ton. US forces finally took possession of the fort and raised the Stars and Stripes on February 22, 1865. Fifty-two Confederate soldiers and an unrecorded number of slaves were killed at the Fort during the War.

Cmdr. David Moncus thanked all those who participated in the Magnolia cemetery cleanup in September and stated the next one will be on October 11th. He reported that one of the Georgia SCV tag fund projects will be finalized when a new monument is dedicated at the Winterville, Georgia City Cemetery on October 12th at 3:00 PM. Moncus stated there

Compatriot John A. Givens: 1933-2014

Compatriot John A. Givens of the Alexander Camp #158 went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, October 22nd. A native of Tennessee and an Army veteran, Compatriot Givens was a member of the NRA, the Briar Creek Sportsman Club, and the Wrens Church of God. Although he endured poor health for many years, he was a faithful and loyal member of Camp #158 and always attended camp meetings and camp events when he was able, with his wife Emma’s assistance. He was the co-owner of D&G Motorcycles where he built custom racing bikes, and he worked in the motorcycle industry for 30 years, after which he retired from Johnson Control with 15 years of service at Fort Gordon. Besides his beloved wife, he is survived by his seven children and nine grandchildren. His final resting place is the Hephzibah Vance Memorial Cemetery.



will be a memorial service for Major Henry Wirz, the martyred commander of Camp Sumter, in Andersonville on Sunday, November 9th at 3:00 PM. He reported there will be WBTS symposium in Augusta on November 6-8th and reminded all compatriots that dues are still due. The commander made a motion for the Camp to purchase two battle flags to fly on the flagpole on Compatriot Scritchfield’s property. The motion was seconded and approved by the Camp.

Adjutant Nick Posey reported that 16 compatriots have not renewed their SCV and Alexander Camp memberships, and both he and Cmdr Moncus intend to contact these individuals personally. He sadly stated the Camp could possibly lose ten members. He reported there are presently 14 applications for memorial pavers.

Quartermaster Joe Winstead suggested that all compatriots who wished to order memorial pavers should do so quickly, for at least thirty are required before the company can return to engrave them. He stated he needed applications for SCV membership to distribute to interested individuals. Winstead reported those compatriots who attended the Oliver Hardy Festival in Harlem on October 3rd had a “great time” with ten re-enactors and several ladies participating in the parade. He stated the crowd loved their parade entry, and he thanked all those who participated in the event. Winstead discussed the upcoming area Christmas parades which will be held in in Harlem on December 13th, North Augusta on December 14th, and in Grovetown on December 6th. The decision on which event to participate will be finalized at the next meeting.

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

...Now, therefore, I, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, do issue this, my proclamation, setting apart Thursday, the 18th day of September (1862) inst., as a day of prayer and thanksgiving to Almighty God for the great mercies vouchsafed to our people...

The Wig Wag

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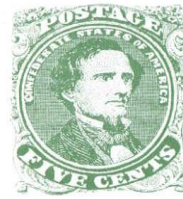
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Honoring Our Veterans...Nothing More... Nothing Less!

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

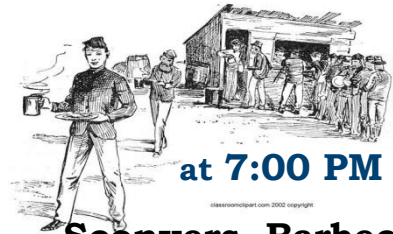
150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Franklin, Tenn.

- 11 November 1864: Sherman's troops burn Rome, Georgia
- 15 November 1864: After burning Atlanta, Gen. Sherman's troops begins their infamous "March to the Sea"
- 17 November 1864: Pres. Davis expresses "strong objections" to a group of Georgia state senators who suggest the possibility of separate state action for peace negotiations
- 19 November 1864: Hood is joined by Forrest's cavalry at Florence, Ala.
- 22 November 1864: Battle of Griswoldville, Georgia: Georgia militia under BGen Pleasant J. Philips unsuccessfully attack a Union brigade
- 23 November 1864: Union troops under Slocum capture Milledgeville and mockingly vote Georgia back into the Union at the Capitol
- 28 November 1864: Battle of Buckhead Creek, Georgia: Gen. Wheeler attacks Union cavalry under Judson Kilpatrick
- 29 November 1864: Battle of Spring Hill, Tenn. Confederate mismanagement and miscommunication allow Federal troops to escape
- 30 November 1864: Battle of Franklin, Tenn. Gen. Hood attacks Schofield's entrenched troops; six Confederate generals are killed
- Battle of Honey Hill, SC: Confederates defeat an attempt to cut the Charleston and Savannah Railroad
- 2 December 1864: Gen. Archibald Gracie is killed in the Petersburg defenses
- 4 December 1864: Battle of Waynesboro, Georgia: Union Gen. Kilpatrick attacks Wheeler's forces

Right: The brigade flag of Gen. John Adams who led a brigade of Mississippians and was one of six Confederate generals who were killed or mortally wounded on November 30, 1864 at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee. Made by an unknown Mississippi woman in 1863, the flag is now housed in the Tennessee State Museum.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday,
November 13th**



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

--Psalm 95:2-3(NIV)

