

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

October was another busy month for our camp. On October 11th, we participated in the annual Magnolia Cemetery Ghost Tour put on by the Augusta Historical Society. Even though not officially part of the event, Jack Bailie and yours truly stood guard over the Confederate Dead Section in uniform. Several groups came by including a tour bus of Yankees taking pictures and asking questions. Jack had fixed the fountain pump of his own accord and brought several artifacts of the Confederacy. We even had an archaeologist with his metal detectors stop by who had worked on the C.S.S. *Georgia* project and was looking for the Confederate gold. Everyone was amazed at the beauty of the Confederate Section and appreciated our educational reenactments of our boys buried there who never got home.

Joe Winstead held his annual cannon training class this past month which was a big success with close to 20 compatriots in attendance.

Emma Givens is taking orders for those interested in Gen. E.P. Alexander Camp t-shirts. Those interested should call Emma at 706-592-4198.

We have had over 30 compatriots sign up for the December 13th Christmas party at the Aiken County Historical Museum. If there are any others interested in coming, let me know at the next camp meeting or call me at 803-295-3719.

(Continued on page 3)

150 Years Ago:

The Last Sovereign Confederate Flag To be Officially Furled

On November 6th, 1865 the CSS *Shenandoah* steamed into the mouth of the Mersey River off England's west coast. Since learning the news of the War's end on August 3rd, she had traveled almost 9,000 miles from the west coast of Mexico around Cape Horn taking three months and evading US warships to reach her destination.

Her captain, James Waddell, had figured correctly that his men would be hanged as pirates by the US government if he returned to a US port, for they were not eligible for the amnesty given most Confederate soldiers, and he reasoned that it would be best to return to the ship's home port.

The *Shenandoah* entering the river did not appear to be the same ship that had struck fear in the North's Pacific whaling fleet and claimed more than 20 prizes valued at nearly \$1,400,000 (\$21.6 million in today's dollars). Her eight guns were now stored below deck, her hull had been painted to look like a regular merchant vessel, and her Second National Confederate flag had long since been lowered.

Entering the harbor, the ship waited for a pilot boat to guide her up the river into the enclosed docks. The pilot refused to convey the ship to Liverpool unless the *Shenandoah* flew a flag, and her crew raised the Confederate flag. To the astonishment of crowds on the banks, the *Shenandoah* steamed until she came alongside a British warship, the HMS *Donegal* stationed in mid river between Toxteth in Liverpool and Tranmere in Birkenhead at 8:00 AM. Captain Waddell then surrendered his vessel to Captain Paynter on the *Donegal* and lowered the *Shenandoah's* flag—the last sovereign Confederate flag to be officially furled. Later that day, Captain Waddell walked to Liverpool's City Hall where he presented a letter to the Mayor officially surrendering his vessel to the British government—the last surrender of the War Between the States.

Following the surrender, the crew of the *Shenandoah* awaited their fate fearing that they would be charged with piracy. Three of the crew, fearing the worst, braved the cold waters and swam ashore. The British government determined that those crewmen who were not British citizens were to be immediately paroled. When Captain Paynter boarded the ship to ascertain the nationality of the men, the roll books were opened and the names of the men were called out. Each man answered when called and consecutively exclaimed, in distinctly English or Scottish accents, that he was a "Southerner" or an "American". Paynter then informed the men that they were all paroled and could proceed to shore—a report that was met with jubilation by the crew who were content in the fact that they had

(See **Last Flag Furled** on page 2)

Last Camp Meeting by Nick Posey

**Robert Hayes Speaks as
President Jefferson Davis**

During the October 2015 meeting of the Alexander Camp, Mr. Robert Hayes of Abbeville, SC spoke in the character of Confederate President Jefferson Davis discussing his ancestral lineage and the areas of the South where his grandparents and parents settled. He spoke of his early schooling and his time at United States Military Academy at West Point. He told us of his participation in the Mexican War (1846-1848) and his service as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce. He shared information about Brierfield, his plantation in Mississippi, and how he permitted his slaves to handle disciplinary problems amongst themselves by setting up a court and having a jury to decide punishment for the offender. He told us about the tragic loss of his first wife, Sarah Knox Taylor, to malaria within several months after they were married, and mentioned his second wife, Varina Howell. President Davis spoke of his service as president of the Confederacy and the overwhelming and insurmountable challenges he faced.

Commander Baxley stated that 40 people had already signed up for the December 13th Christmas party at the Aiken County Historical Museum. Those having not responded and wish to come to the party can sign up at the November camp meeting or call Dr. Baxley at 803-295-3719. He also reported that Compatriot Emma Givens is taking orders for camp T-shirts. Anyone desiring to place an order should call her at 706-592-4198.

Officers' reports consisted of the finance report and an update on membership status given by Adjutant Nick Posey. He said we currently have 106 camp members on the roster and to date 14 members have not paid their renewal dues. Quartermaster Joe Winstead reported on funds generated from sales at the Redneck Truck Pull he attended on September 12th.

Under new business, a motion was made and passed by the membership to place one-half of the profits generated by the sale of camp merchandise by the Quartermaster into the Camp Projects Fund.

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



The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

11 November: Augusta Veterans' Day Service
11:00 AM
Broad & 4th

**12 November: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp
#158 Meeting
Topic: The Penitent South
7:00 PM at Sconyers Barbecue**

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

**13 December: Alexander Camp Holiday Social
Aiken Museum of History**

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

Last Flag Furled (Continued from page 1)

been able to serve the Confederacy. After packing their personal belongings, the crew gave three cheers to Captain Waddell before departing on the Rock Ferry steamer, *Bee*. Waddell acknowledged their compliment and admonished them to behave themselves as brave sailors ought to do.

After being berthed in the nascent Herculaneum Dock and following the settling of international legalities, the only Confederate warship to navigate the globe was eventually turned over to the US government and sold to the Sultanate of Zanzibar.

Lieutenant Dabney Scales, CSN, gave the *Shenandoah's* battle ensign to a cousin, Eliza Hull Maury, the daughter of Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury, for safekeeping. Eliza's brother, Richard, brought the flag from England in 1873 and donated it to the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond in 1907.



Mississippi Universities Remove the State Flag from their Campuses

The onslaught against Southern heritage continued in October with two of Mississippi's prominent universities removing the state flag with its Confederate battle flag union from their campuses. Ole Miss Interim Chancellor Morris Stocks removed the flag on October 26th after the Student Senate voted 33-15-1 (50% of whom are non-Mississippians) to remove the flag on October 20th. University of Southern Mississippi President Rodney Bennett, an African-American, removed the flag from its campus on October 28th. Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University and Alcorn State University have long since removed the flag from their campuses. The University of Mississippi Medical Center removed the flag on Labor Day.

Academic institutions in Mississippi are not required to fly the state flag. Ed Pittman, the former chief justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, stated "The state statute says that it 'may' be flown. It doesn't say it has to be flown."

Governor Phil Bryant responded to the removal by saying, "It's the people they need to respect, not the governor, but the majority of the people who voted for that to be the state flag. Now we have institutions that say 'we ignore the will of the people.' I think the people are sovereigns of state. They should be respected and their decisions should be respected."

Liberals, invigorated by the Charleston shooting, have criticized the Governor for not calling a special session of the state legislature during the summer, as Gov. Haley did in SC, to change the flag. Bryant recently stated 2016 will be "a good year" to have another vote on the flag.

Ole Miss student, Andrew Soper, has organized a petition which has collected more than 1,800 signatures urging Ole Miss to keep the flag on campus. Those interested in assisting him in his efforts should go to the follow website and make a donation:

<https://www.gofundme.com/8f7h3cju>

On October 31st, a group known as Mississippi Citizens and Taxpayers raised their own state flag temporarily at the University of Southern Mississippi. Their message was "You take our tax money, you fly our flag!"

The movement to remove the flag at Ole Miss was coordinated by liberal student Democratic operatives and the NAACP. Their ultimate goal at Ole Miss is to remove the memorial obelisk honoring the university's "Confederate dead" located in the area of campus known as The Circle, where the state flag flew. The monument has been there since 1906.

Commander's Comments (continued from page 1)

The Cadet Membership Program organized by our Brigade Commander Tom Miller and his wife kicks off this month. Children between the ages of 7 and 11 are eligible. Anyone interested should contact Commander Miller at 912-536-5775 and secure an application from our Georgia Division newspaper.

Our next camp meeting is on November 12th at Sconyer's Barbecue. Ken Temples, past Commander of the Wheeler Camp in Aiken and past S.C. Division Chaplain, will be our guest speaker. He will be giving a talk on "The Penitent South - A Return to the God of Our Forefathers." I have heard this talk previously, and it is uplifting, inspirational and will take you back to the difficult times of the South. It is also timely and will give us all the motivation to carry on during these terrible times in which we are living in at the present.

I hope to see you all at our meeting. *Deo Vindice* and have a great Dixie Day!

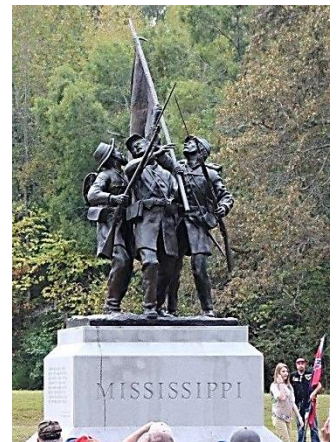
New Mississippi Monument Unveiled at Shiloh Battlefield

A new Mississippi Monument was unveiled at Rhea Field on the Shiloh Battlefield Park on Saturday, October 10th in a ceremony that honored all troops from the Magnolia State who fought in the 1862 battle.

Mississippi was the only state that had a significant number of troops engaged at Shiloh that did not have a monument of any kind to honor its troops on the battlefield. Over 5,800 Mississippians were present at the battle, which was 13% of the Confederate Army. Of these, 1,404 were casualties, which accounted for 24% of the Mississippian soldiers present.

The design features three 8-foot tall bronze soldiers atop a 6 foot, 2 inch granite base going into the battle. As the color bearer is hit by a bullet, his comrades simultaneously reach for the flag and their fallen comrade. The depiction is very appropriate for this site, as seven different color bearers were shot down at Rhea Field. Dr. Kim Sessums, of Brookhaven, Mississippi, sculpted the soldiers.

Both private and public groups were involved in the planning the design, construction and dedication of the monument including the Mississippi Veterans Monument Commission, Mississippi Division SCV, Mississippi Division UDC, Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Governor's office and members of the state legislature, and Shiloh NMP.



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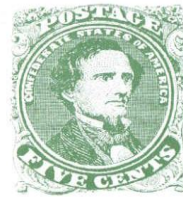
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158

<http://eporteralexander.homestead.com>

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Editor



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

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

Greatest Confederate Regimental Losses of the War

Rank	Regiment	Battle	"Present in Action"	Killed or wounded	Per Cent
1	1st Texas	Sharpsburg	226	186	82
2	21st Georgia	2 nd Manassas	242	184	76
3	8th Tennessee	Murfreesboro	444	306	69
4	7th South Carolina	2 nd Manassas	284	189	67
5	23d South Carolina	2 nd Manassas	225	149	66
6	44th Georgia	Mechanicsville	514	335	65
7	16th Mississippi	Sharpsburg	228	144	63
8	15th Virginia	Sharpsburg	128	75	58
9	18th Georgia	Sharpsburg	176	101	57
10	10th Georgia	Sharpsburg	147	83	56
11	12th Tennessee	Murfreesboro	292	164	56
12	16th Tennessee	Murfreesboro	377	207	55
13	3d Alabama	Malvern Hill	354	200	56
14	7th North Carolina	Seven Days	450	253	56
15	18th North Carolina	Seven Days	396	224	56
16	1st S. C. Rifles	Gaines's Mill	537	306	56
17	4th North Carolina	Fair Oaks	678	369	54
18	12th South Carolina	2 nd Manassas	270	146	54
19	4th Texas	Sharpsburg	200	107	53
20	27th Tennessee	Perryville	210	112	53

Right: The modified "Stars and Bars" flag of the Company A, 14th Georgia Infantry Regiment: The regiment was formed in Monroe County, Georgia and originally named the "Confederate Volunteers." Organized on July 9th, 1861, the company served in E.L Thomas' Brigade, Wilcox's Division under Gen. A.P. Hill with the Army of Northern Virginia throughout its campaigns from Seven Pines until the surrender at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. The flag is presently preserved in the Georgia Archives in Atlanta.

Next Camp Meeting

Thursday, November
12th at
7:00 PM



Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song.

-Psalms 28:7 (NIV)

