



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

I hope my column finds everyone doing well and enjoying the cooler weather. At this time, we are less than a week away from the Powder Works Chimney rededication service, and it has been very hectic! By the time you read this the service will have already happened, so I will talk more about it in next month's column.

Renewals are going very strong, and we have about 35 compatriots who have not paid their dues as of October 2nd. If you are one of these, PLEASE mail them in ASAP or bring them to the October 14th meeting. We need to get this closed out soon. The drop dead date for renewals is October 31st. The 31st is on a Sunday, so the final checks need to be in the mail by the 29th and no later to be post marked by the 31st. Anyone who does not submit their dues by the 29th will have to pay an additional \$5 reinstatement fee. Again, PLEASE pay your dues ASAP!!!!

I have all but finished the planning for the chimney rededication service and have turned my attention to our Lee-Jackson Banquet in January. The tentative dates are the 15th or the 22nd and that is based on the availability of the speaker I have chosen for this year. The guest speaker will be Army of Tennessee Commander Thomas Strain Jr.

The guest speaker this month will be Gordon L. Jones Ph.D., Senior Military Historian and Curator of the Atlanta

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Historic Augusta Inc. to present 2010 Award in November

Alexander Camp to be Given Historic Preservation Award for Chimney Refurbishment

The BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp has been chosen to receive the 2010 Historic Preservation Award, given by the Historic Augusta Inc., for its efforts in the rehabilitation of the Confederate Powder works Chimney.

On October 1st, Commander Herron was notified of the award in a letter signed by the Executive Director of the organization, Erick Montgomery. The letter states the "rehabilitation of the chimney preserves a significant historic resource in Augusta and enhances the unique visual character of not only the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area but nearby Harrisburg-West End Historic District and the Augusta Downtown Historic District." It continues by stating that the organization hopes that "the award will express our appreciation for your commitment to this wonderful architectural treasure."

Historic Augusta, Inc. is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the preservation of historically or architecturally significant sites in Augusta and Richmond County. The organization identifies significant historic resources in the community, educates the general public about their importance, and assists others in preserving historic properties. Chartered in 1965, the organization has approximately 1,500 members.

Commander Herron will be presented the award at the Historic Augusta's Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony on November 4th in the Wallace House at the Augusta Country Club.

WANTED: Compatriot and Confederate Ancestor Birthdays for Camp Newsletter

For the past year, *The Wig Wag* has printed the birthdays of famous Confederates on its second page which is most appropriate. However, both the editor and the Camp Commander think it's time to remember the birthdays of our fellow compatriots and their Confederate ancestors as well.

Please send your name and birthday and the name of your Confederate ancestor and his birthday to the editor at rebeleye@aol.com or mail it to his home address on the last page of *The Wig Wag*. Your special day will be remembered by your fellow compatriots and your Confederate ancestor will not be forgotten.

Last Camp Meeting

**Compatriot Neil Dickey Speaks on
Lincoln’s Duplicity and Ft. Sumter**

During the August meeting of the Alexander Camp, Compatriot Neil Dickey, Commander of the Buckhead/Fort Lawton Camp #2102 in Millen, Georgia spoke to the camp on the topic, “Lincoln and Fort Sumter.” Compatriot Dickey is a Vietnam veteran having served in the US Army and the Georgia National Guard who joined the SCV in 2006. He began by discussing the little known deceptive actions of the US government prior to the first shots of the War at Fort Sumter in April 1861 designed to provoke the conflict.

Dickey related to the camp that, after the initial Southern states seceded from the Union, US President James Buchanan assured the Southern peace commissioners that he would not attack or send reinforcements to Fort Pickens in Florida or Fort Sumter in SC. Nonetheless, he secretly ordered a civilian steamship, the “Star of the West,” in January 1861 to resupply Fort Sumter keeping 200 soldiers below deck. The ship was fired upon when it tried to enter Charleston Harbor, and its mission was abandoned. He also sent the USS Brooklyn to resupply Fort Pickens.

Dickey stated when Lincoln assumed the US presidency, he ordered troops to Fort Pickens and stated “we will use the power of the government to collect the tariffs” and retake the forts in the seceded states. All of his cabinet, except Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, advised against this action and supported abandoning the forts. Nonetheless, Lincoln began preparing to resupply the forts while assuring the Southern peace commissioners he would not. Unbeknownst to the Secretary of the Navy, he secretly ordered four steamers to be made ready with 500 men in March 1861. On the morning of April 4th, Lincoln promised a Virginia Unionist that if the Virginia would not secede he would evacuate Fort Sumter. Later that day he ordered the steamers to proceed with their mission. Two days later Lincoln sent a duplicitous message to Gov. Pickens stating that if the relief mission is not attacked he will not supply Fort Sumter

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The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

**14 October: BGen E. Porter Alexander
Camp #158 Meeting
Topic: WBTS Artifacts presentation
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue**

23-24 October: Brattonsville, SC re-enactment

29-30 October: Honor Guard
Sandy Oaks Pro Rodeo
Edgefield, SC

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

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

- 12 Oct. 1815: Lt. Gen. William J. Hardee
- 15 Oct. 1836: Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Rosser
- 18 Oct. 1829: Brig. Gen. Lucius M. Walker*
Brig. Gen. Charles S. Winder*
- 20 Oct. 1820: Maj. Gen. B. Franklin Cheatham
1822: Maj. Gen. Mansfield Lovell
- 23 Oct. 1828: Brig. Gen. Turner Ashby*
- 28 Oct. 1810: Brig. Gen. Adley H. Gladden*
- 30 Oct. 1830: Maj. Gen. John S. Bowen*
- 2 Nov. 1828: Maj. Gen. Bryan Grimes
Brig. Gen. James B. Gordon*
- 3 Nov. 1816: Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early
Brig. Gen. Edward D. Tracy*
- 4 Nov. 1835: Maj. Gen. Lunsford L. Lomax

*Died in Confederate Service

with arms ammunition or men. On April 10th, the fully armed steamers left New York harbor to invade the South. However, Lincoln knew he would be unable to supply the forts and only wanted to provoke the Confederacy in firing the first shots of the War. In doing so, he would galvanize Northern support for his war against the South. Following his presentation, Herron presented Compatriot Dickey with a framed photograph of the Confederate Powder works Chimney.

During the meeting, Cmdr. Herron stated he had one application for membership submitted by **David W. McCullough** whose great grandfather, Pvt. Perry O. McCullough served in the 42nd Georgia Infantry Regiment. Mr. McCullough’s application was accepted, and his membership was approved by the camp.

Commander Herron discussed the artifacts found at the Confederate prison camp in Millen and why the discovery was so unique. He stated workers are needed to perform various tasks during the Confederate Powder works Chimney rededication ceremony and he distributed a list

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Virginia Governor Rules Out Future Confederate History Month Proclamations

Typical of today's spineless politician, Bob McDonnell, the governor of Virginia, announced on September 24th, that he will not declare next April "Confederate History Month" succumbing to the whims of individuals who would not cast a vote for him if he was the only person on the ballot.

McDonnell irritated many cultural bigots last April when he bravely proclaimed Confederate History Month, something that had been a tradition in the past, but some of his Democratic predecessors had ignored.

Confederate heritage haters accused the Republican governor of making no mention of slavery in the proclamation as if it needed mentioning. Would an apology for the Irish potato famine be necessary if British History Month was observed? Slavery was as legal in the Northern states as it was in the Confederacy and abolition was only used as a tool by the North to weaken the Southern war effort. Nonetheless, McDonnell eventually gave into their petty demands and apologized.

Last month, while speaking at Norfolk State University, a historically black institution, during a commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the War, McDonnell announced that he would, instead, declare next April "Civil War Month in Virginia" month.

"My major and unacceptable omission of slavery disappointed and hurt a lot of people--myself included," he said.

"One hundred and fifty years is long enough for Virginia to fight the Civil War," he said.

Brag Bowling, the commander of the Virginia division, is not pleased with McDonnell's decision.

"Our organization is terribly disappointed by this action," said Bowling. "He succumbed to his critics...and the vast majority of citizens of Virginia support Confederate History Month."

"Nobody's ever been able to reason with me and tell me why we're honoring Yankees in Virginia," Bowling said in reference to the proposed Civil War History Month. "The only Northerners in Virginia were the ones that came to Virginia and killed thousands of Virginia citizens when they invaded."

"There was nothing racist about Confederate History Month. It was honoring Confederate soldiers who fought and died for their state," he said, adding that the Sons will continue celebrating the month privately.

Contact Governor McDonnell via the following information and tell him you are unhappy with his decision to cancel Confederate History Month:

Web site:

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/AboutTheGovernor/contactGovernor.cfm>

Phone: (804) 786-2211

Source:

http://tpmmuckraker.talkingpointsmemo.com/2010/09/mcdonnell_cancels_confederate_history_month.php

Commander's Comments (Continued from page 1)

Center. Gordon will give a power point presentation on one of the best collections of WBTS artifacts ever, The George W. Wray Jr. Civil War Collection. In 1948 George W. Wray Jr. began assembling a remarkable collection of rare Confederate enlisted men's uniforms, previously unknown flags, and many of the few surviving examples of Southern made firearms, bayonets, and artillery pieces. Along the way, he meticulously researched the original owners and makers of some 1,000 individual artifacts. The Atlanta History Center is home to the important Beverly M. Du Bose and Thomas S. Dickey Collections of Union and Confederate artifacts. Uniting these collections with the Wray collection would give Atlanta the largest and most comprehensive War Between the States type-example collection in the world. You do not want to miss this, so please plan to attend the meeting on October 14th and show your support for Gordon Jones and the camp. An SCV meeting or function is more important than any football game or anti-Southern NASCAR race. Remember, it is your duty!!!

Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

and asked compatriots to volunteer. He requested prayer for Timothy Bowers, David Moncus' mother in law, Ben and Belinda Creech, Diane Grisby, Arlene and Jim Kirschner, Jules Godene, and Philip Weaver.

Adjutant Perry Herron reported there are 109 camp members, of which only 68 have paid their camp dues. The remaining members will be required to pay a penalty in November to retain their membership.

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

Camp Officer Candidates Sought

Commander Herron reports candidates for Commander, 1st Lt. Commander and the Treasurer are still needed. He states now is the time to "do your duty as our Confederate ancestors stepped forward and did their duty." He is concerned that the camp "will be in limbo" if no one chooses to assume camp leadership by January. He believes there are a number of men who are capable of performing these duties, and he is willing to assist any volunteers in the effort. Contact him at (H) 803-637-3534 or (C) 706-831-6600 if interested.

The Wig Wag

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Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158

<http://eportalexander.homestead.com>

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Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.

Editor



Remembering our Native American Confederate Heritage!

150 YEARS AGO: Sectional Candidate Lincoln Elected President

- 5 November 1860: SC Governor Gist sends a message to the Legislature that "...our institutions are in danger from the fixed majorities of the North."
- 6 November 1860: Northern sectional candidate, Abraham Lincoln, wins the Presidential election with 39.7% of the vote

Top Turning Points of the War

1. Gen. Ulysses Grant commissioned as Lt General and appointed Commander in Chief of all Union Armies
2. Gen. Robert E. Lee replaces Gen. Joseph Johnston as Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia
3. Battle of Gettysburg
4. Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run)
5. Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam)
6. Surrender of Vicksburg, Mississippi
7. Death of Major Gen. Stonewall Jackson after battle of Chancellorsville

Right: The Army of Northern Virginia pattern flag of the 5th Georgia Cavalry. On January 20, 1863 the 5th Georgia Cavalry was officially organized by consolidation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of Georgia Cavalry by Special Order #20, issued by the Confederate War Department. The regimental flag is dated 1862, and at least some troopers in the 2nd Battalion were referring to the unit as the 5th Georgia in early 1862. The 5th Georgia Cavalry saw action from Florida to Virginia, ending service in North Carolina, on April 26, 1865. The flag was captured on 11 May 1865 in Washington, Georgia with part of the Jefferson Davis escort.

Next Camp Meeting

Thursday, October 14th
at 7:00 PM



Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

The Lord will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.

--Psalm 85:12

