

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

Cooler weather is on the way; our October meeting is a little over a week away and, as of this writing, a few important events will be occurring this month as well as upcoming reenactments in November and December. The first one will have taken place by the time you read this--the annual Oliver Hardy Festival. I hope all who attended this event had a good time. The important Memorial Service and Funeral for the thirteen officers of the "Immortal 600" at Ft Pulaski near Savannah will be held on October 27th. This is a once in a life time event, and I hope all who are able will attend.

And now for "The Good, The Bad and the Ugly" (if I might borrow that phrase) that have taken place in the last few weeks. "The Good": The afternoon of our last meeting, about 4:00 PM, the cemetery received the marker for **Joseph Westbrook** and, surprisingly, it was right, finally stating, "**34th MISS VOLS**". Thank you Lord! We had no idea they would even send it. Usually an email will inform you that it has been ordered and when to expect it. Thanks to Ben Creech who helped with the setting of this headstone. On another day, David Powell and I removed and replaced one headstone after getting a letter corrected in one soldier's name--an *M* changed to an *L*. Hats off to David for covering the cost. Now....."The Bad and the Ugly": While Ben and I were in the cemetery, we notice that someone had poured something-- gas, gas or oil mix or diesel on a fire ant mound on the

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Memorial Burial Service to be Held for Those Who Died at Fort

Monument to the "Immortal Six Hundred" to be Dedicated at Fort Pulaski



On Saturday, October 27th, the official dedication service for a new monument to a group of 600 Confederate officer POW's known as the "Immortal Six Hundred" will be held at Fort Pulaski near Savannah, Georgia. A memorial funeral service for thirteen of those men who died in captivity and buried on Cockspur Island will also be conducted. The monument will be officially dedicated by Cmdr. Jack Bridwell of the Georgia Division, SCV; the funeral service will be conducted by Pastor John Weaver of Fitzgerald, Georgia; and Margie Mae Blythe-Poland will deliver the biographical oratory of the thirteen men buried beneath the Monument.

The men of the "Immortal Six Hundred" were transferred to Fort Pulaski from Morris Island, SC where they had been positioned as human shields on orders of Federal Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton. On October 23, 1864 the emaciated men arrived on Cockspur Island. For forty-two days, a "retaliation ration" of ten ounces of moldy cornmeal and half a pint of soured onion pickles was the only food issued to the prisoners. To supplement their rations, the men were forced to eating rats and an occasional stray cat. At Fort Pulaski, the men endured despite forced privations including the withholding of food, clothing, and blankets during one of the coldest winters on record in Georgia. To care for the most severely ill among them, the Confederate officer POW's organized the Confederate Relief Association on December 13, 1864. As a result, only thirteen died at Fort Pulaski primarily caused by dehydration from preventable diseases such as scurvy and dysentery. In March 1865, the remainder of the prisoners was transferred via Hilton Head Island, where another five died, to Fort Delaware near Wilmington, Delaware where twenty-five more died.

After the War's end, the 600 Confederate POW's held on Morris Island, Fort Pulaski, and Fort Delaware became known as the "Immortal Six Hundred" because of their steadfast courage, refusal to take an oath of allegiance to the Union, and care for each other in the face of severe suffering. Their story has become one with which veterans and POW's of all of America's wars can relate personally.

The effort to have a monument to the "Immortal Six Hundred" placed at Fort Pulaski has been an ongoing project of the local SCV camp in

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Last Camp Meeting

Tammy Herron Speaks on the SC UDC's Efforts to Conserve the Martin Guards Flag

During the September meeting of the Alexander Camp, Tammy Herron, a member of the SC United Daughters of the Confederacy, an archaeologist, and the wife of Lt Cmdr. Lee Herron, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the South Carolina UDC's efforts to conserve the Martin Guards flag. Mrs. Herron stated that the Martin Guards were a group of 92 men outfitted in 1861 by Major Addison Martin of Martin's Depot, SC who had the flag painted by Giles Newton of Columbia and presented to the unit by the ladies of Laurens. When the unit, which became Company A, 13th SC Infantry, departed for Virginia, the flag was left at the State House in Columbia. The flag remained in obscurity for sixty years after the war until a Georgian returned it to a veteran of the unit. Upon his death, he bequeathed the flag to a UDC Chapter in Clinton, SC. In March 1991, the SC UDC loaned the flag to the Confederate Relic Room in Columbia whose director offered to conserve the flag if gifted to the museum. Herron explained that the CRR program of flag restoration, in partnership with the SC Division SCV, is notable for its conservation of 44 historic flags. However, the SC UDC opted to retain possession of the flag and restore the banner themselves. The Daughters chose a textile preservation company in West Virginia to do the job which is estimated to cost between \$20-23,000 of which over \$12K has been raised. Additionally, the UDC plans to research the unit and compile a roster of its soldiers. Herron also discussed and featured the historic flags of the Lexington Guards, the Richland Guards and the Saluda Guards and compared/contrasted them to the Martin Guards flag.

Following her informative presentation, Mrs. Herron was presented a framed photograph of the Confederate Powder Works chimney by Cmdr. Udell.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the Camp to donate the proceeds of the evening's SLRC and Lee/Jackson Banquet donation to the SC UDC for the restoration of the Martin Guards flag. (However, the usual monthly donation was sent to the SLRC nonetheless.)

Cmdr Udell thanked all those who helped clean the Confederate section of Magnolia Cemetery on September 1st. They included Gail and Tom Smith, David Moncus,

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

**11 October: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp
#158 Meeting**

Topic: Special Program

7:00 PM

Sconyers Barbecue

**13 October: Magnolia Cemetery Clean-up
8:00 PM**

27 October: Dedication of "Immortal 600"
Monument
Fort Pulaski, Ga.

17 November: Battle of Griswoldville, Ga.
Commemoration
10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

11 Oct. 1835: Hunter Holmes McGuire, Med. Director

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 CSA Service

David Powell, Gary Hattaway and himself. Udell reported that if anyone is interested in being in the Honor Guard for the "Immortal 600" Monument dedication ceremony that they need to contact Al Perry via email. He discussed the problems with the VA regarding the supplying of Confederate grave markers and advised the Camp to read the article in the *Georgia Confederate* on the issue.

Under new business, Cmdr Udell suggested using camp funds to correct the wrongly worded Joseph Westbrook marker that was received and having Southside Monument change the two L's to S's for \$50. He received approval from the Camp to do so, though he stated he would wait until October 1st with the hope that the correct marker is received from the VA. Udell also suggested having the previous one's letters expunged and having it inscribed on its reverse side to mark another veteran's grave whose service records could not be found. He advised the Camp that elections for officers will be held in December with nominations to be held in November.

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Point Lookout's Confederate Memorial Park Vandalized

The Confederate Memorial Park near the site of the Union prisoner of war camp at Point Lookout, Maryland was vandalized in mid September.

Vandals spray-painted a swastika on the base of a statue of a Confederate prisoner of war and a noose was placed



around the statue's neck. A racial epithet was also spray painted on another section of the memorial. It is the first time that the memorial has been vandalized.

A security camera at the site was removed; however, another security camera at the site was recording and the video is under review.

Over 52,200 Confederates were imprisoned at Camp Hoffman when it was open from September 1863 to June 1865.

The memorial park honoring Confederate POW's was dedicated on 6 September 2008 at a cost of more than \$250,000 along with \$100,000 worth of materials. It was created in response to the Veterans Administration's refusal to allow the continual flying of the Confederate flag at the Point Lookout Confederate Cemetery.

The Confederate Memorial Park group is putting up at least a \$500 reward for the conviction of whoever vandalized the memorial.

Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

Adjutant Nick Posey reported that the Camp has 108 members, 21 SCV National Life Members and 16 Georgia Division Life Members with 85 members having already paid their dues. He stated there are seven weeks remaining for the 23 members to pay their dues. Posey reported he will not accept the monies given to him by the camp for attending the National Reunion in Murfreesboro stating it was **his** decision to attend.

Quartermaster Joe Winstead stated he attended the Redneck Games on Labor Day weekend at the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam Park and was able to sell over \$400 in merchandise. He stated he plans to be at the Oliver Hardy Festival the first weekend in October.

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 Commander Udell. After the benediction, the camp sang *Dixie*.

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copying or granite border close to the brick side walk--staining it (which we will probably never get it out having dealt with the stains on the Confederate Monument on Broad Street and its granite) and killing the grass. Further investigation revealed that other places in the cemetery had similar acts of desecration committed as well. Though well intentioned, this is totally incorrect. This is a sacred place and not someone's back yard. The Cemetery folks are not pleased with this either. This is also **against the law**. The cemetery has fire ant killer. All you have to do is ask. Those of us who have worked so hard cutting the grass trying to keep the area neat and enabling the grass to grow are also taken aback by this act of desecration. Petroleum products (the old fashioned way to kill ants) are too expensive to be used this way and fire ant killer is inexpensive. As most of you know, fire ant killer is placed carefully around the mound, **not on top**, because the queen will move almost immediately. (Drop a few drops of water on it and see how fast the worker ants move.) In the future, please don't apply anything to the cemetery unless you ask.

Most of you (85 +) have sent in your dues and, if not, please get them to our Treasurer/Adjutant Nick Posey as soon as possible. They will be due before October 31st (Wednesday), so Nick will have time to process your dues. They must be post marked by November 1st. Try to get them in soon and save the late fee money. Thanks to all those who have already done so!

As I stated in last month's column, keep in mind that if you plan to go to the Memorial Service and Funeral for the "Immortal 600" on October 27th, and plan to participate, you will need to be there by 10:00 AM so that your rifle can be inspected by the Park Ranger. Gun crews will also be inspected.

Ken Kitchens has recently created a new (fresh) order of Confederate Powder Works fly ash bottles to sell to supplement our project fund. Also remember that we have pavers for the Confederate Monument available as well.

Our next meeting will be October 11th. Our speaker will be announced. Please plan to be at Sconyers Barbeque 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!**

Monument (continued from page 1)

nearby Richmond Hill, Georgia who received approval for its placement from the Director for the National Park Service in Washington over a year ago. For 150 years, the unmarked graves of these Confederate veterans were tread upon daily by visitors to Fort Pulaski; but now their graves will finally be marked by an inspiring monument and protected by a low brick wall made with brick native to the time and location of the Fort's original creation.

The Wig Wag

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Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.

Editor



Remembering our Native American Confederate Heritage!

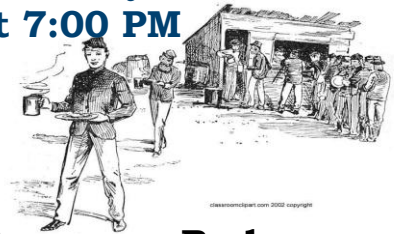
150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Lexington, Kentucky

- 8 October 1862: Battle of Perryville, Kentucky
- 9 October 1862: Gen. JEB Stuart rides around McClellan's Army a second time
- 10 October 1862: Battle of Harrodsburg, Kentucky
- 11 October 1862: CSS *Alabama* captures and sinks the grain ship, *Manchester*
- 12 October 1862: MGen Earl Van Dorn assumes command of all CS troops in the state of Mississippi
- 16 October 1862: Six of Andrews Raiders escape from Fulton County, Ga. jail
- 18 October 1862: Battle of Lexington, Kentucky; John Hunt Morgan's men capture the Federal garrison
- 30 October 1862: Union Gen. William Rosecrans assumes command of the Union Army of the Cumberland
- Emperor Napoleon III of France proposes to England and Russia that they join together in making overtures of mediation in the WBTS
- 2 November 1862: Naval assault on Ft. McAllister, Georgia
- Gen. Grant begins his first Vicksburg campaign
- 6 November 1862: Jefferson Davis and Alexander Stephens are elected President and Vice-President, respectively, of the CSA
- Gen. Longstreet and "Stonewall" Jackson are promoted to Lt. General and assigned, respectively, to First and Second Corps

Right: Battle flag of the First Tennessee (Maney's) Infantry: This Polk Corps flag was supposedly captured by Captain Morris Rice of the 1st Wisconsin Infantry during the fight at Starkweather's Hill during the battle of Perryville, Kentucky which occurred on October 8, 1862. There, the unit suffered 188 casualties which was the second highest casualty rate of any Confederate unit during the battle. The flag remains in custody of the state of Wisconsin.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, October 11th
at 7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left.
--Ecclesiastes 10: 2(NIV)

