

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

It was very good to see such a large crowd attending our August meeting, after our summer break in July. Membership renewals are going very strong, as we have had over 50+ members already pay there dues for the coming year, and renewals just came due at the beginning of August! There have been a lot of good comments about the process the Georgia Division is using to collect dues, and I believe that it will help with the retention of members in the long run.

I would like to welcome Elliot Walker back, and I was very happy to see him at the meeting. Please continue to keep him in your prayers for a full recovery from his illness!

Camp 158 was well represented at the Brooklet Peanut Festival on August 15<sup>th</sup> with five members marching as re-enactors, along with two wives and daughters. I am very proud of our camp and how we always show very well at events all across the state of Georgia! There was a total of 39 rifles present, along with flag bearers and commanding officers. The crowd definitely showed their appreciation for our presence as we honored our Confederate ancestors and our Confederate heritage.

The Confederate sections of Magnolia Cemetery continue to be maintained by Camp #158, and are still the best looking sections by far! The cemetery clean-up on August 18<sup>th</sup> was

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Editorial:

## It's Important What You Call "The War"

During the last meeting of the BGeneral E. Porter Alexander Camp, the guest speaker, with his National Park Service indoctrination, referred to the war in which our Confederate ancestors fought as "the war of the rebellion," stating that it was the official government sanctioned name for the conflict. Interestingly enough, I have yet to hear that term used by today's biased media or in commentaries by historians (even by the Yankee biased James McPherson.) Only the "Official Records," created in the late 1800's, refers to the conflict as "The War of the Rebellion".

Principally, the term "Civil War" has been applied to the conflict between the Northern and Southern states during the years 1861-1865 by many Americans. However, those compatriots who call it such at our camp meetings are charged one dollar for their error and rightly so. We may laugh about it, but as members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, we should refrain from referring to this conflict as "the civil war," for that implies that it was an internal conflict within a nation where two parties struggle to control the established government. The "late unpleasantness," as it is sometimes called, was not a civil war. Our Confederate ancestors did not fight to take over the federal government—they fought for their own representative government and to establish the independence of the Confederate States apart from the United States much like the American colonies did from Great Britain during the late 1770's and as Panama did from Columbia in the early 1900's. President Davis reiterated this fact when he stated in his inauguration speech, "All we ask is to be left alone."

Following "the war", Northerners did call the conflict the "war of the rebellion" while Southerners often called it the "War Between the States," "War for Southern Independence", or as many compatriots today prefer, "the War against Northern Aggression". Added weight was given when The Congressional Record of March 2, 1928 included Senate Joint Resolution No. 41 where Congress officially used the term "War Between the States" on March 2, 1928 to describe the conflict. The SCV officially recognizes the conflict as "War Between the States" or in its shortened form, "WBTS".

One may say that such a matter is only one of semantics and trivial, but what we call this conflict bears directly on the intentions of our Confederate ancestors and the Southern people during that time. Was the Confederacy a separate government, nation, and people? If so, despite its brevity, the term "Civil War" must be stricken from our vocabulary and replaced with a term that reflects our Southern pride and a true understanding of "the War."

## BGen. E. Porter Alexander and the Signal Corps

During the August meeting of the Alexander Camp, Mr. Dan Brown, historian and archivist at the Signal Museum on Fort Gordon spoke on the camp's namesake, BGen. E. Porter Alexander. Brown stated on Ft. Gordon there is an Alexander Hall, named in the General's honor featuring two Confederate cannons. He stated that Alexander, prior to the War Between the States, worked with Major Albert J. Myer at Fortress Monroe developing the Army's newest communication system, the "Wig Wag" signal flag. At the battle of First Manassas, Alexander served as a signal officer informing Gen. Beauregard that his left was being turned by Union forces under McDowell which allowed Gen. Evans to adjust his brigade to meet the Yankees. It was the first tactical "real time" communication on a battlefield. Brown stated that the Confederate Army was slow to develop its own Signal Corps beginning only in April 1862 and having no chief signal officer. Signal officers served at corps and division levels, and most commanders were slow to adapt the communication system. During the Penninsular Campaign, Alexander served as an ordinance and engineering officer working on the first "aircraft carrier" when a signal balloon was tethered on the Confederate naval vessel, *CSS Teaser*. Brown stated that Alexander served as a battalion commander of Lee's Reserve artillery and eventually took over Gen. Stephen D. Lee's battalion of twenty-six guns. At Gettysburg, Alexander was given his greatest task--that of suppressing the Federal batteries prior to Pickett's charge. Alexander continued his exemplary service during the battles of the Wilderness and prior to the battle of the Crater during the siege of Petersburg. However, Brown stated that Alexander "missed his calling" and would have better served the Confederacy as a signal corps officer rather than as an artilleryman. Following the speech, Commander Herron presented Mr. Brown with a photo of the Confederate Powder works.

Two applications for membership were submitted  
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### *The Wig Wag*

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## Important Dates to Remember:

### Coming Events:

**10 September: BGen E. Porter Alexander  
Camp #158 Meeting  
Topic: The Confederate Flag  
7:00 PM  
Sconyers Barbecue**

3 October: Oliver Hardy Festival, Harlem, Ga.

### Notable Confederate Birthdays:

7 September: MGen Howell Cobb II  
9 September: MGen Martin Luther Smith  
10 September: MGen Joseph Wheeler II  
13 September: BGen Joseph L. Hogg\*  
14 September: Maj. John Pelham\*  
16 September: MGen G.W.C. Lee  
17 September: Admiral Franklin Buchanan  
MGen Earl Van Dorn  
20 September: MGen Sterling "Old Pap" Price  
21 September: MGen Carter L. Stevenson  
22 September: **LGen Stephen D. Lee**  
27 September: RAdm Raphael Semmes  
28 September: BGen John Gregg\*  
LTC Alexander "Sandie" Pendleton\*  
2 October: Lt. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart

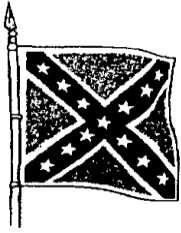
\*Died in Confederate Service

that of **Joshua Herron**, who joins the camp on the record of his Confederate ancestor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Francis J. Wilds of Co. I, 19<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry, and that of **Benjamin Hill** who joins on the record of his Confederate ancestor, Milton A. Brown of Co. E. Cobb's Legion.

Commander Herron called the meeting to order and discussed the cemetery cleanup which will be conducted by the "old men's crew" on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Roadside cleanup was scheduled to be in the morning on August 29<sup>th</sup>. He stated Dayton Sherrouse, executive director of the Augusta Canal, is negotiating contracts and proposals for the chimney repair. The costs have increased from 180K to 187K, as additional repairs are needed. Herron explained that the start date will be mid September while the company waits for the "best people" to become available to do the work. He stated the work should be completed in six to eight weeks. The Commander then thanked all those who attended the flag ceremony along I-16 south of Statesboro. The camp's participation in the Oliver Hardy Festival on October 3rd was discussed with the decision to purchase a 10 x 10 booth. The marker dedication for Captain Whitehead in Blythe was moved to a future date. New camp t-shirts were discussed and a decision was made to determine the best prices available.

Fifth Brigade Commander Mike Mull thanked the camp for their attendance at the Statesboro flag cere-

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## Heritage REPORT

In an article entitled “Get Davis Out of the Rotunda,” Thomas

M. Williams, a board member of the Interfaith Paths to Peace, complains about the presence of Jefferson Davis’ statue in the Rotunda of the Kentucky State Capitol in the Louisville *Courier-Journal* on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Believing the rotunda to be “sacred space” and “a symbol of our democracy”, Williams states that the focus of the rotunda is the statue of Lincoln whom he believes represents Kentuckians “unbridled spirit.” “In Lincoln’s shadow” according to the writer, is the statue of Jefferson Davis who “casts a shadow” on the rotunda and “raises tough questions.” He continues by asking, “When our school children visit, what inspiration does Davis provide? How does the image of Jefferson Davis greet our visitors and represent our commonwealth?”

Williams continues by suggesting “in the spirit of Lincoln, who offered pardon and forgiveness,” that Davis’ statue be removed from its place of honor in the Rotunda to make the capitol “more inclusive and a “more welcoming place” for all visitors.

Please consider emailing or calling Mr. Williams and the editor of the Louisville *Courier Journal* and tell them you oppose the removal of the Davis statue and that the only President of the Confederacy symbolizes more than the limited views espoused by Mr. Williams.

**Email:** Thomas M. Williams:  
[tom.williams@skofirm.com](mailto:tom.williams@skofirm.com) or (502)560-4279

Write your letter to the editor:  
[cjletter@courier-journal.com](mailto:cjletter@courier-journal.com)

Have You Paid Your  
SCV Dues?

## Commander’s Comments

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sparsely attended, but this was mostly likely due to it being on a Tuesday and during the work week. Please support the cemetery cleanup! Also, we had 13 members and one wife (Thanks Mae!) participate in the roadside clean-up on August 29<sup>th</sup>

I encourage every member to commit to helping the camp with at least one activity during the year, instead of expecting the same 15-20 people to do everything. When each one of us took the “New Member Initiation”, we pledged before the camp membership, “Compatriots, I pledge myself to loyally support the activities of Brigadier General E. Porter Alexander Camp #158, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans....”. Now I ask you, where do you stand with the pledge you made?

The restoration work on the Confederate Powder Works Chimney is tentatively scheduled to begin the first of November 2009. There are two factors causing the delay: 1) The personnel they want to do the work are currently tied up on another job, and 2) September and October are very busy months for them as they do a lot of chimney work for power companies gearing up for the coming winter in the Northeast. Dayton Sherrouse explained the need for completion by the end of the year concerning the availability of some of the funds and they said that wouldn’t be a problem.

September’s speaker will be Dr. Edward DeVries, whose topic is entitled “A Symbol of Hate, or an Ensign of the Christian Faith.” Dr. DeVries holds a Doctor of Theology degree from Landmark Baptist University, and will travel from north-central Florida to be with us. He has also found time to author 28 books, so please make plans to be there, and let us have a good showing for which our camp is becoming well known.

### Last Camp Meeting (continued from page 2)

mony and presented a Division Certificate of Appreciation to the Camp for preservation of the Powder works Chimney.

Lt Cmdr Richard Smith discussed the flag ceremony conducted by the Ogeechee Rifles Camp in Statesboro where three flag poles were erected along I-16 flying the US, Real Georgia and Confederate flags. He stated 150 plus people were in attendance (6-7 from the Alexander Camp) and 45 re-enactors. There are plans to place two cannons at the site—one facing Atlanta and the other facing Savannah.

Quartermaster Joe Winstead reported that the Camp store will be at the Barnyard Flea Market on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

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