



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

I'm sure by now that everyone has heard what was found at Camp Lawton in Magnolia Springs. Although the artifacts that were found were common, except for the handmade pipe, the real jewel is how pristine the site itself is. There were only three stockade type prisons; Andersonville, Florence, and Camp Lawton. Archaeologically, Andersonville and Florence are not able to be studied due to various factors, namely that Florence has a National Cemetery on top of it. Camp Lawton is the only chance of getting an in-depth look into prison life in 1864. Philip Weaver, Terry Shockey, Bill Storrs, and myself were there for the announcement. The artifacts will go on public display starting October 10th at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia

The chimney rededication service is progressing nicely, but there continues to be many details to complete. We will need every available camp member, and I do mean **every** available camp member to be available on Saturday morning, October, 9th. I will need members to help park vehicles and direct traffic, to man the sign-in table, to help assemble and set up the stage, to set up chairs, to sell Powder works prints, and to distribute programs, etc. There is absolutely no excuse for not being at the rededication service!!!

The guest speaker for this month will be Compatriot Neil Dickey. Neil is the

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**Editor's Note:** Below is the continuation of a series of articles on Georgia military units in which Richmond County men served during the War Between the States. Companies D and F of the 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Light Artillery consisted of men from Richmond County.

### The 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Battalion Joins the Georgia Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia

On May 18, 1864, five of the six companies of the 12th Georgia Battalion left Charleston, SC by train with orders to join the Army of Northern Virginia. Company C did not follow as it continued to guard the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad on the Georgia coast.

The 12th arrived at Hanover Junction on May 24th and were attached to Gen. C.A. Evans' Georgia Brigade, which was part of Gen. John B. Gordon's Division of the 2nd Corps under the command of Gen. Jubal Early. This change had an adverse impact on the 12th Georgia as the unit began taking casualties the first day during the fight at the North Anna River. On June 2nd, Evans' Brigade was heavily engaged at Cold Harbor, attacking the enemy near Mechanicsville. In that assault, the 12th Georgia lost many men including several officers. One Richmond newspaper reported that the 12th had lost 56 men killed and wounded. Lt. Col. Capers was wounded and lost for the remainder of the war, and Adjutant Frank Baker was killed.

Prior to that fight, the old veterans of Evans brigade did not trust the men of the 12th Georgia with their clean, newly issued uniforms. These were men who had fought together in many desperate battles and were concerned that these newcomers would prove unreliable; however, after Cold Harbor, their anxieties dissipated, for they knew that the 12th Georgia had proven to be dependable and trustworthy soldiers.

After Cold Harbor, Gen. Lee transferred Early's Corps to the Shenandoah Valley where Union General Hunter was moving almost unopposed. Lee hoped that if Early could advance into the northern part of the valley, Grant would be forced to send some of his troops to protect Washington, thus relieving Lee. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, Early's Corp marched to Charlottesville and then boarded trains for Lynchburg, arriving on the 17th just in time to oppose Gen. Hunter's Army, which was just reaching the outskirts of the city. The 18th was spent skirmishing and enabling the remainder of Early's troops to reach Lynchburg. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Hunter fled, and Early pursued the Yankee troops to Salem where the Union Army retreated into Tennessee. This allowed Early the opportunity to fulfill the second part of Lee's plan and head north into the Shenandoah Valley.

## Last Camp Meeting

### Compatriot Don Gordon Speaks on Naval Actions in the Carolinas

During the August meeting of the Alexander Camp, Past Lt. CIC of the South Carolina Division, Don Gordon spoke to the camp on the topic, "Water Wars of the Carolinas." Compatriot Gordon primarily discussed the naval actions that occurred in the Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds of North Carolina during the War. He described the capture and destruction of the USS *Underwriter*, a formidable vessel at New Bern by Confederate soldiers and Marines in February 1864. Led by John Taylor Wood, the Confederates attacked the ship in five rowboats and gained control of it in five minutes. They were hoping to seize the vessel for the South, but nearby Union Fort Stevens fired on the ship causing it to explode and burn.

Gordon enthusiastically discussed the construction of two Confederate gunboats in North Carolina: the CSS *Neuse* and the CSS *Albemarle*, which was built in a cornfield. Gordon related to the Camp that once the CSS *Albemarle* was completed in April 1864, its purpose was to clear the Roanoke River of Union forces. As a result, the *Albemarle* fought two Union gunboats, the USS *Miami* and the USS *Southfield* which were tethered together. After ramming and sinking the *Southfield* and causing the *Miami* to retreat, the *Albemarle* enabled Gen. Robert Hoke to capture Plymouth, NC and two Union forts. In May, while escorting two Confederate boats, the *Albemarle*, with its two Brooke pivot rifles, fought four Union warships with a combined armament of 60 cannons to a standstill.

Compatriot Gordon then turned his attention to the Palmetto State where he spoke of the sinking of two Union vessels: the USS *Paptapsco* in Charleston harbor in January 1865 and the USS *Harvest Moon*, the flagship of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, in March 1865 near Georgetown, SC—both by Confederate mines. Gordon explained that, even in the closing months of the War, our Confederate ancestors were resilient in their efforts to obtain independence. After his interesting and informative speech, Cmdr. Lee  
(Continued on next column)

### *The Wig Wag*

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## Important Dates to Remember:

### Coming Events:

**9 September: BGen E. Porter Alexander  
Camp #158 Meeting  
Topic: "Lincoln and Ft. Sumter"  
7:00 PM  
Sconyers Barbecue**

18 September: Lt Gen. Stephen D. Lee Banquet  
Acacia Lodge  
North Augusta, SC

**2 October: Oliver Hardy Festival  
Harlem, Ga.**

**9 October: Confederate Powder Works  
Rededication Ceremony  
2:00 PM**

### Notable Confederate Birthdays:

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  
7 October: Maj. Gen. Bushrod Rust Johnson  
7 October: Lt. Gen. Richard H. Anderson  
7 October: Maj. Gen. William B. Bate  
8 October: John H. Reagan, Postmaster Gen.  
9 October: John J. Pettus, Governor, Miss.  
11 October: Hunter Holmes McGuire, Med. Director

\*Died in Confederate Service

Herron presented Compatriot Gordon with a framed photograph of the Confederate Powder works Chimney.

During the meeting, Cmdr. Herron stated he had Certificates of Membership for Compatriots Bruce Dowdy and George Wiles.

During the commander's report, Cmdr. Herron gave a follow-up on the unburied remains of the Confederate veteran discovered in Burke County. He stated the veteran, Benjamin Mobley, was buried only 18 inches from the surface. At the present time, they are awaiting an exhumation permit and hope to rebury the veteran's remains more fittingly in a wooden coffin. Herron announced the Sandy Oaks Pro Rodeo in Edgefield, SC has once again requested the Camp's honor guard to present the flags during the weekend of Octo-

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## **Southern Baptist Minister Judges Lee; Condemns the Flag**

On August 3th, Rev. Russell Moore, Dean of the School of Theology and Senior Vice President for Academic Administration at the Southern

Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, published a response to the question, "Is it wrong to display a picture of Robert E. Lee" on the Crosswalk website ([www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com)).

A native Mississippian, Moore sounds more like a Northern Unitarian minister than a Southern Baptist pastor believing the War to be a total defense of slavery by the South. Self righteously utilizing 21<sup>st</sup> Century values and social mores, he easily sits in judgment of Lee calling him a "sinful rebel" who "could not see past his blind spot" of defending the Southern nation, which in his view, "was constitutionally committed to the continuation, with protections in law, of a great evil." Moore does not mention that Lee, in an 1856 letter, wrote that slavery is "a moral and political evil," nor does he write that the United States was committed to the same institution for over 80 years before emancipation was employed in hopes of being detrimental to their wartime enemy.

The historically myopic Moore states that Lee was "gifted in commendable ways," but used his gifts "that ought to horrify." Moreover, he writes, although Lee and his army believed they were fighting for home and not slavery, they were not "right" as if Moore knew their true intentions. Missing are Lee's consideration of himself as "a poor sinner trusting in Christ alone for salvation" and the General's reliance on the Scriptures which "has never failed to give me light and strength."

The misguided minister is quick to say the Confederate battle flag makes him "wince" and that he voted to change the Mississippi state flag during its referendum in 2001. Moreover he continues by stating that "I wince at the symbol that was used to enslave the little brothers and sisters of Jesus, to bomb little girls in church buildings, to terrorize preachers of the gospel and their families with burning crosses on front lawns by night." I wonder if he has the same reaction when he views the Stars and Stripes, under which many atrocities were committed.

The self-righteous pastor, with his 21<sup>st</sup> century hindsight, continues by stating that he would have helped slaves escape had he been born in 1841, and that he would have participated in the 1963 March on Washington singing "We Shall Overcome," had he been born in 1941. What intellectual dishonesty!

What this Southern Baptist pastor does not seem to realize that many of those "sinful" Confederate soldiers committed their lives to Christ during the War, and propagated the Christian faith when they returned home. As a result, evangelical Christianity and the church flourished in the South and thus led, indirectly, to his present employment and avocation.

Read the entire article at:

<http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/russellmoore/11635879/>

Respond to this article on his website:

[www.russellmoore.com](http://www.russellmoore.com)

### **Commander's Comments** (Continued from page 1)

Commander of the Buckhead/Fort Lawton Camp #2102 in Millen, Georgia and he will speak on "Lincoln and Fort Sumter." Neil comes to our meetings 3-4 times throughout the year, so let's have a good showing for Neil and give him our support. Remember, it is your duty!!!

### **Last Month's Meeting** (Continued from page 2)

ber 29<sup>th</sup>. He reported that the Powder works Chimney had been vandalized with thieves taking six feet of copper wire from the ground lead. He stated it had been repaired, however; upon inspection, the work was not sufficient should the Chimney be struck by lightning. He stated he would contact Mr. Sherrouse to remedy the problem.

Cmdr. Herron thanked all those who participated in the Cemetery clean up on August 7<sup>th</sup>, and he announced a roadside cleanup on Augusta West Parkway at 8:00 AM on August 14th.

He advised all camp compatriots to call Historic Augusta at 706.724.0436 to nominate the restoration of the Powder works Chimney for the 2010 Historic Preservation Award.

Cmdr. Herron discussed the upcoming Powder works Chimney rededication ceremony and requested and received camp approval for various named expenditures.

Prior to the meeting, Herron requested prayers for Philip Weaver, Patrick Price, Ben Creech, Dr. John Baxley, David Moncus' mother in law, and Jules Godene.

During officer reports, David Moncus updated the Camp on the recent SCV Reunion in Anderson, SC. He stated it was one of the most organized reunions he had attended in recent years, but that he was disappointed by the lack of Georgia attendees. He stated that it is now possible to purchase SCV life memberships for children which retain cadet membership up until the age of twelve. Quartermaster Joe Winstead stated flag lapel pins were given to pallbearers for the recent funeral of a young man who was a re-enactor. He stated he plans to be at the Farm Fest in Waynesboro on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

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# The Wig Wag

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*Editor*



## Remembering our Hispanic Confederate Heritage!

### 150 YEARS AGO: South Carolina Considers Secession

5 October 1860: South Carolina Governor William Henry Gist notifies other Deep South states that the Palmetto State is considering secession as an option if Lincoln is elected President.

#### The Costliest Battles of the War

1) Gettysburg	51,112	CS: 28,063	US: 23,049
2) Chickamauga	34,624	CS: 18,554	US: 16,170
3) Chancellorsville	30,099	CS: 12,821	US: 17,278
4) Spotsylvania	27,399	CS: 9,000	US: 18,399
5) Sharpsburg (Antietam)	26,134	CS: 13,724	US: 12,410
6) Wilderness	25,416	CS: 7,750	US: 17,666
7) Second Manassas	25,251	CS: 9,197	US: 16,054

**Right:** The Stars and Bars pattern flag of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Infantry was hand sewn by eight ladies from Burke County: Sallie Jones, Sallie Blount, Vic Warner, Julia Blount, Lattie Carter, Annie Mandell, Florence Lyne and Sarah Whitehead. When they presented the flag to the regiment, in May 1861, Captain William R. Holmes remarked, "This flag shall be our rallying point around which every sharpshooter will claim no greater honor than to protect and defend." Owned by the Whitehead Family, whose Confederate ancestor was killed at Malvern Hill in 1862, the flag was kept in a strong box before being offered up for auction in 2008.

## Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 PM**



### **Scõnyers Barbecue**

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

#### *Scripture Thought*

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing and your vats will brim over with new wine.

-- Proverbs 3:9(NIV)

