

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

Well, it seems the Federal boys are up to their old tricks again. That is, they are trying to get out of a long standing order or commitment since 1906 to treat Confederate veterans the same as Union ones, i.e. providing head stones for ALL American soldiers. I 'm not sure how long the VA has been providing headstones, but it is my understanding that it began in the late 1950's or earlier. Recently, they, the VA's general counsel, have decided to change how to interpret Federal law and this past July halted replacement of Confederate headstones. (They have two reasons for not replacing headstones and it is too lengthy for this column.) They are saying that if the stone was not originally provided by the Federal government, then it will not be provided. This is wrong. I'm sure this is result of the current group of politicians/administrators in Washington and the man who dictates policy via executive orders. (Last year, the VA changed the policy which stated a photo and a service record is required to obtain a headstone--no service record--no stone.) Now they are changing the interpretation again this year. I've had two requests denied because of no available record for the soldiers. A VA spokesman stated we need to lobby Congress for a change in the law or purchase them ourselves. (The bottom line is that we need to take care of the headstones at Magnolia Cemetery as

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**Unwavering Dedication
to The Charge**

Compatriots Tommy Chappell, Ben Creech, and Cmdr. Ron Udell braved the hot sun to give a living history presentation to spectators at the Confederate Powder Works Chimney on August 12th. All three, including Steve Burke, represented the Camp by marching in the Brooklet Peanut Festival Parade on August 18th.

Editorial:

Time to Put Your Money Where "Your Heart Is"

As most of you know by now, it's time to renew our SCV and Camp dues. For most of us it's not difficult to decide whether we want to continue our membership in this organization that defends our Confederate ancestors, their legacy, their battle flags, and their memorials and monuments, and cares for their final resting places. With over 30,000 members, the SCV is the largest organization dedicated to that task and no other entity has the capacity and the fortitude to challenge, confront, and oppose those who would call our ancestors "terrorists" and their flag "racist".

Today's society is a quite different from that of the mid-twentieth century when our Confederate ancestors were considered American heroes. The "always easily offended" and organizations, in an effort to increase their memberships and their coffers, have openly attacked any public display of Confederate symbols knowing full well that spineless politicians, the biased media, and Northern transplants who have no true knowledge of the War, would kowtow to their whims. For the most part, their efforts have been successful as Confederate battle flags have been removed from our own state flag, monuments, and historic flag displays across the South. Having accomplished much in the last 40 years, these organizations are now focusing their efforts on eliminating Confederate monuments and memorials like the one in Reidsville, NC that was intentionally destroyed last year and the plaques on the Supreme Court building in Texas which were removed in 2000. All of us in the SCV knew full well this would be next on their agenda.

(See **Time** on page 2)

Last Camp Meeting

Compatriot Gould B. Hagler Speaks on Georgia's Confederate Monuments

During the August meeting of the Alexander Camp, Mr. Gould B. Hagler, a fellow compatriot, Augusta native, and graduate of Wake Forest and Georgia State University, spoke of and gave a power point presentation on "Georgia's Confederate Monuments". Compatriot Hagler has photographed almost all of Georgia's Confederate monuments and a book on the subject is soon to be published by Mercer University Press. Hagler's presentation featured several unique monuments throughout the state and he stated he is more interested in the inscriptions on the monuments rather than their form. Hagler stated many inscriptions were taken from poems written by Confederate poets such as Fr. Abram Ryan, Henry Timrod, etc., but some also feature Bible verses. He stated most of the monuments were erected by women's organizations after the War. Collectively, the monuments mourn the dead conveying a deep sadness, praise the soldiers for their brave deeds and, more importantly, state the Confederate cause was honorable and their reason for their struggle was for freedom.

Following his informative presentation, Mr. Hagler was presented a framed photograph of the Confederate Powder Works chimney by Cmdr. Udell.

During the meeting, Commander Udell presented Certificates of Memberships to **Lawrence Henderson** and **Randy Allen**.

Cmdr. Udell thanked all those who participated in the cemetery cleanup on July 12th and August 4th. He stated the camp had received cards of appreciation from the Creech family and from last month's speaker, George W. Martin. Udell stated he had SCV Certificates of Appreciation to present to Compatriots Scritchfield and Bargeron for their efforts in flying the Confederate battle flag. He requested that the camp reimburse Compatriot Nick Posey for his travel to the SCV International Reunion in Murfreesboro in July, and the camp voted to approve the measure.

Adjutant Nick Posey stated the Camp has 109 members with nineteen SCV life members. He reminded the camp that they should receive SCV and Camp dues notices in the mail and those dues should be received prior to October 31st to avoid paying a late penalty. Posey also gave an update on the SCV Reunion which was held in

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

11 September: Patriots' Day

Coming Events:

13 September: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting
Topic: Martin Guards Flag of SC
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue

15 September: Lt Gen. Stephen D. Lee Banquet
6:00 PM Acacia Lodge AFM
North Augusta, SC

6 October: Oliver Hardy Festival
Harlem, Georgia

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

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

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.

*Died in CSA Service

Murfreesboro last month.

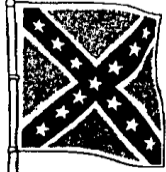
Prior to the meeting, prayers were requested for the Miller Family, Philip Weaver, Ernie Franklin, John Givens, Jules Godin, Jim Kirshner, Roy Stampley, Diane Grigsby, Fred Bussey's son, David, and Stan Scritchfield's grandson.

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

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Given these circumstances, it is imperative for ALL of us to renew our commitment to live The Charge by renewing our SCV and Camp membership even in these tough economic times. The SCV is not a perfect organization—none are—but, collectively, we have made a difference and can continue to do so with your help! Send in your dues!

Heritage



REPORT

Haywood County, NC Removes Compatriots' Flags from Confederate Memorial

For years, David Crook and several other compatriots had been placing small six inch Confederate flags in front of the Confederate memorial at the courthouse square in Waynesville, North Carolina, for others had been placing small US flags in front of the other war memorials located there as well. Unfortunately, as long as Mr. Crook had been placing the flags, someone had begun to remove them on a daily basis. Notwithstanding, the US flags were allowed to remain at the other monuments. Compatriots began to wonder what was occurring until one discovered the county maintenance director removing the flags.

Earlier this year, local attorney Bob Clark, after seeing the flags, wrote the Haywood County commissioners asking them to stop the display of this "divisive symbol". The county manager, Marty Stamey discussed the issue informally with the commissioners and directed that county maintenance workers remove the Confederate flags and to monitor the monument daily to insure they were removed.

Sadly, the lackluster president of the NC Division of the UDC, Aileen Ezell, who has become a thorn in the side of many Tarheel compatriots, advised the compatriots to cease replacing the flags and to "let the matter die a natural death."

Earlier this month, compatriots held a protest at the Haywood County historic courthouse stated their flag is being discriminated against by the county. They even placed a full size Confederate flag on a pole adjacent to the monument.

Following the protest, county leaders allowed the flags to stay until a formal policy could be determined, but reversed their decision after a week and decided to remove all flags in front of all memorials.

Please consider contacting the following individuals and tell them what the flag means to you:

Haywood County Commissioners:

Mark S. Swanger, Chairman
1257 Poplar Cove Road
Clyde, NC 28721
Cell: 828-507-2315
markswanger@bellsouth.net

J.W. "Kirk" Kirkpatrick III, Vice Chairman
600 Laurel Ridge Drive
Waynesville, NC 28786
828-452-0801
kirk@jwklaw.net

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best as possible). The eight stones that were received this year from the VA may be the last unless something changes. Why all of a sudden are they changing this?? Is it the current folks in power or the current folks taking up space at the National Cemetery Division of the VA?? I wonder...enough said! By the way, Pvt. Westbrook's grave marker came in again on August 24th and the inscription is **still wrong**. The only change was dropping one of the L's in **MILL**! It was supposed to read **MISS**. What is so hard about "**34 MISS VOL5**"?



Most of you should have your SCV dues invoice by now, and, if not, please let our Treasurer/ Adjutant Nick Posey know. He will let you know the correct amount to keep your membership current. Dues are due before October 31st to enable Nick to process them. Try to mail them soon to avoid paying the two late fees for National and Georgia Division that are now in force.

Keep in mind that if you plan to go to the memorial service and funeral for the thirteen officers of the "Immortal 600" on October 27th at Ft. Pulaski 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.

The Peanut Festival in Brooklet, Georgia was held on August 18th, and it was not quite as hot as it was last year. Our camp had six re-enactors (compatriots) participate, and it was the first parade for one of our newest re-enactors, Tommy Chappell. Those also in attendance were Steve Burke, Mark Rogers' son Philip, Ben Creech and I. After the parade, we were invited to a great meal at Compatriot Randall Burkhart's house (of the Statesboro Camp I believe).

As usual, Ken Kitchens has Confederate Powder Works fly ash bottles for sale to supplement our project fund. (By the way, after our last meeting, the Canal Authority sent us a check for \$34 for two fly ash bottles that were sold.) Also remember the memorial pavers for the Confederate Monument are available as well.

Our next upcoming meeting will be September 13th. Our speaker will be Tammy F. Herron, wife of our 1st Lt Commander Lee Herron. She will speak on the Martin Guards Flag of Laurens, SC and the flag restoration efforts of the SC Division UDC. Please plan to be at Sconyers' Barbecue 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!

The Wig Wag

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Editor



Remembering our Hispanic Confederate Heritage!

150 YEARS AGO: The Battles of Sharpsburg and Perryville

- 14 September 1862: Battle of South Mountain and Crampton's Gap, Md.
- 15 September 1862: Union garrison at Harper's Ferry surrender to Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson; Gen. Lee gathers his forces at Sharpsburg, Md.
- 16 September 1862: Gen. Bragg's army surrounds 4,000 Federal troops at Munfordville, Kentucky; they surrender the next day
- 17 September 1862: The Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam): Gen. Lee repels five Union assaults during the "bloodiest single day of the war"
- 18 September 1862: Wheeler's cavalry skirmish at Cave City, Kentucky
Lee begins his withdrawal
- 19 September 1862: Battle of Iuka, Miss.; Gen. Sterling Price withdraws
- 23 September 1862: Lincoln issues his so called "Emancipation Proclamation"
- 24 September 1862: Confederate Congress adopts an official seal for the CSA
- 27 September 1862: CS Congress passes its second conscription act, enabling men ages 35-45 for the draft
- 1 October 1862: Gen. John Pemberton assigned command of the newly created Department of Mississippi and Louisiana
- 2-3 October 1862: Battle of Corinth, Miss.; Union Gen. Rosecrans successfully defends against Gens. Price and Van Dorn's attack
- 4 October 1862: Richard Hawes is inaugurated as Confederate governor of Kty.
- 8 October 1862: Battle of Perryville, Kentucky; Bragg's advance halted

Right: The Flag of the 1st Texas Infantry was carried into the Cornfield at Sharpsburg. After 20 minutes of savage fighting, 82.3% of the regiment was dead or wounded, the highest casualty rate suffered by any unit during the war. After seven color bearers were killed carrying the flag, it was found on the field after the battle, surrounded by dead Texans. Returned to Texas by the Federal Government in 1905, it is currently undergoing conservation.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday, September
13th**



at 7:00 PM

Sconyers Barbecue

Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.

--James 5:7 (NIV)

