

★ **Commander's
Comments** ★
by David Moncus

I hope you had a good first month of the new year. Tuesday, January 28th, night's snow and cold weather reminded us that we do have winter in the South. A number of us got the year off to a great start by participating in the Division sponsored Lee/Jackson Birthday memorial event in Milledgeville on January 18th. There were approximately 135 people in attendance. This was a pretty weak showing for a Division with about 3,000 members. I hope you will plan to attend next year.

We celebrated Generals Lee and Jackson's birthdays with our own Camp's banquet on Saturday night, January 25th. We had 45 people in attendance with good fellowship and good food. Camp member Dr. John Baxley presented a great program portraying "Stonewall" Jackson's personal physician, "Dr. Hunter McGuire," and giving us a firsthand account of the tragic friendly fire event that cost the South one of its greatest generals and maybe even the War. Although it was a good event, we need more camp member participation next year.

We are planning our Confederate Memorial Day service for Saturday, April 26th this year. Please mark your calendars now and plan to be in attendance bringing as many people as you can. We will also be supporting Hephzibah with their memorial service

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Editor's Note: Below is the continuation of a series of articles on Confederate units which consisted of men from Richmond County. This is the second installment detailing the history of the 3rd Georgia Infantry Regiment of which Companies G and I were from Richmond County.

The Third Georgia Infantry Regiment Forms in Portsmouth, Virginia

From May 4-9th, 1861, the units that would form the Third Georgia Infantry Regiment were scattered about the city of Portsmouth though most were camped about the Navy Yard. Many military infractions were committed during this time as the troops were still "green" and General Walter Gwynn placed the Navy Yard under the command of a Navy officer, Captain French Forrest. Captain George Doles of the Baldwin Blues, being the senior captain, assumed command of the Georgia units.

The Georgia units had very little ammunition or powder during this time, and the Navy Yard was a chaotic scene of charred or smoldering buildings, sunken vessels, and debris left by the retreating Yankees who feared Southern troops were pouring into the area. Many of the vessels lying in the Elizabeth River were reduced to total wrecks while others like the USS *Merrimack* although sunk and burned; its hull remained intact and would be later used to construct the CSS *Virginia*. The number of abandoned cannon in the Navy Yard was significant though most were antiquated; however they were transported daily by oxen to be placed in forts or be recast in foundries.

The people of Portsmouth and Norfolk were apprehensive that the Yankees would soon return and take possession of the Navy Yard. They doubted whether the South could wage a successful war against the North and were astonished by the confidence of the Georgia troops. Most were reluctant secessionists, and some were Northern-born Federal employees who had worked all their lives in the Navy Yard. Those who wished to do so were transported under a flag of truce to Union held Fortress Monroe while a significant number of these Yankees remained and became patriotic "Southerners".

On May 9th, the units that would become the Third Georgia Infantry held an election and chose Ambrose R. Wright of Augusta as Colonel, Captain James S. Reid of Morgan as Lieutenant Colonel and Captain A.F. Lee of Newton as Major. Colonel Wright appointed Dr. W.S. Meiere of Madison, Surgeon; Dr. Durham of Greene, Assistant Surgeon; William W. Turner of Putnum as Adjutant; A. Philip of Augusta as Quartermaster; H. S. Hughes of Athens as Commissary; Rev. Robert Lester as Chaplain; and William O'Brien of Putnam as Sergeant Major. The Fourth Georgia Infantry was organized as well at this time and departed the area.

(See **Third Georgia Infantry** on page 3)

Last Camp Meeting

Marcia Campbell Speaks on Robert Toombs and His Home during the War

During the January meeting of the Alexander Camp, Ms. Marcia Campbell, an Atlanta native, graduate of the University of Georgia, and curator of the Robert Toombs House State Historical Site in Washington, Georgia for 16 years, spoke on the topic, "The Robert Toombs House During the War".

Ms. Campbell stated the home was purchased by Robert Toombs at the age of 27 in 1837. Robert Toombs at that time was practicing law after studying at the University of Virginia School Of Law and attending Franklin College at the University of Georgia in Athens. Shortly thereafter, Toombs was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives and later to the US House of Representatives as a member of the Whig Party. He opposed the annexation of Texas, the Mexican American War and the Wilmot Proviso. In 1853, Toombs was chosen by the Georgia Legislature to serve in the US Senate where he favored the Kansas-Nebraska act. In January 1860, Toombs made his famous "Door-sill Speech" stating to Southerners, "Defend yourselves...the enemy is at the door; wait not to meet him at the hearthstone...meet him at the door sill..." During the presidential election of 1860, Toombs supported Southern Democratic candidate, John C. Breckenridge, and, in opposition to his friend, Alexander Stephens, supported the secession of Georgia following Lincoln's election. Hoping to become president of the fledgling Southern Confederacy, Toombs was denied the position, which Ms. Campbell explained, was because of his rashness. As Secretary of State, he opposed the firing on Fort Sumter, but left his cabinet position after several months to join the Confederate Army where he served as a Brigadier General until wounded in the hand at the battle of Sharpsburg, Maryland. He returned home where he became a colonel in the state militia and denounced President Davis' policies. Upon the War's end, he barely escaped arrest by Yankee troops and fled to Cuba, then to Paris before returning to his home in 1867 refusing a pardon and never regaining franchise or political office. He did however assist in the framing of the Georgia State Constitution of 1877.

Ms. Campbell explained that the home has maintained the Elizabethan gardens and herringbone walkway

The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

22 February: Confederacy Day

George Washington's Birthday

*** 4 March: Confederate Flag Day—Fly the flag!***

Coming Events:

13 February: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting

**Topic: Escape & Capture of Booth
7:00 PM**

Sconyers Barbecue

14-16 February: Battle of Olustee re-enactment
Lake City, Florida

<http://www.battleofolustee.org/reenactment.html>

22-23 February: Battle of Aiken re-enactment

<http://www.battleofaiken.org/>

1-2 March: Battle for Broxton Bridge re-enactment

<http://broxtonbridge.com/reenactment.htm>

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

7 February: Leroy P. Walker, Secy. War

8 February: LGen Richard S. Ewell
BGen Barnard E. Bee*

11 February: **Alexander H. Stephens, Vice-Pres.**

12 February: MGen Robert Ransom Jr.

16 February: MGen James P. Anderson
MGen Camille A.J.M. Polignac

18 February: BGen Lewis A. Armistead*
BGen Jean J.A. Mouton*
BGen James Deshler*

20 February: BGen James B. Terrill*

21 February: BGen John H. Winder*

22 February: **President George Washington**

25 February: George A. Trenholm, Secy. Tres

1 March: George Davis, Atty. Gen.
MGen. James F. Fagan.

BGen. Hiram B. Granbury*

4 March: BGen. Elisha F. "Bull" Paxton*

5 March: BGen John Dunovant*

7 March: MGen. Henry D. Clayton

8 March: MGen. Matthew C. Butler

10 March: George W. Randolph, Secy. War
MGen. Thomas J. Churchill

*Died in Confederate Service

established by Toombs and the last member of the family to live in the home was in 1973.

Following her excellent presentation, Ms Campbell was presented a Confederate Powder works fly ash bottle by Cmdr. Moncus.

During the meeting Cmdr. Moncus mentioned the Lee/Jackson Birthday celebration in Milledgeville to be held on January 18th and the Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet to be

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California Attorneys Seek Removal of Mississippi Flag from Display

Lawyers may know legal procedures, but they don't know history! On November 30th, the Orange County Bar Association in California passed a resolution seeking the removal of the Mississippi state flag from a 50 state flag display at Santa Ana's downtown civic center, which includes the county's central courthouse.

The resolution stated the Confederate battle flag in the Magnolia State flag's union "is linked to a legacy of racism, exclusion, oppression and violence." Orange County Bar Association President Wayne Gross said the flag "has no place in and around courthouses." Apparently, these lawyers don't realize that they are the ones practicing "exclusion."

In 1997, a Laguna Hills attorney unsuccessfully campaigned to have the Georgia and Mississippi flags removed from the display.

The Mississippi flag was retained in 2001 when voters in the state overwhelmingly approved its design over a banner that would replace the battle flag with a twenty-five star design that resembled a pizza. Georgia legislators removed the battle flag from the state flag in 2001 denying voters in the state the same opportunity.

Events to Mark 150th Anniversary of *H.L. Hunley's Sinking of USS *Houstonic**

Four days of events will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Confederate submarine, *H.L. Hunley*, becoming the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship beginning on Valentine's Day and ending on the anniversary date, February 17th.

An honor guard and re-enactors are scheduled to be present at the lab in North Charleston, SC where the vessel is on display.

On Friday, active and retired military will be able to tour the lab for \$6, half the usual admission price.

On Saturday and Sunday the first 150 visitors will receive a replica of the \$20 gold piece that the Hunley commander, Lt. George Dixon, credited to saving his life at the battle of Shiloh. The coin was carried in his pocket the night of the mission.

On Saturday evening there will be a \$50 a ticket reception where genealogist, Linda Abrams, will speak on the families of the Hunley crew.

On Monday, lab tours will be \$1.50 and re-enactors will gather that evening at Breach Inlet for a memorial service to honor the Hunley crew and the five Yankee sailors that died when the USS *Houstonic* sank.

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on Sunday, April 27th, and we will need your help there as well. Remember, the more people we have at these events the better we send the message to others that we will not forget our Confederate ancestry and the fewer people we have we also send a message that support for our great warriors is waning. Be supportive and attend these events. If you have re-enactor friends, ask them to come spend the day with you and join in the march from the Confederate monument on Broad to the cemetery.

Third Georgia Infantry (continued from page 1)

Following its organization, the Regiment was camped outside the walls of the Navy Yard on the banks of the Elizabeth River at Camp Gwynn. For two hours before noon, each company was drilled by its own officers. In the afternoon, Colonel Wright drilled the Regiment on the extensive parade grounds in front of the camp. The Colonel's wife had a handsome silk flag that was painted by a Norfolk artist presented in her name to the Regiment and was carried during the first year of the war.



Last Camp Meeting (Continued from page 2)

held at 7:00 PM at Burns UMC Fellowship Hall. He requested compatriots arrive earlier in the day to help with setup. He stated that Governor Deal had issued a proclamation designating the month of April as "Confederate History Month" in Georgia and that the 13th Annual National Confederate Memorial Day service at Stone Mountain Memorial Park will be held on April 12th.

Adjutant Posey reported there are 95 camp members on the roster with twelve members that did not renew their SCV membership. The Camp has 22 SCV National Life Members, 15 Georgia Division Life Members, and 13 that are both.

The Confederate Memorial Service in Hephzibah was discussed and it was determined that it will be held on Sunday, April 27th.

Compatriot John Baxley reported he will be doing a first person impression of Dr. Hunter McGuire, "Stonewall" Jackson's physician, at the Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet.

Compatriot Huskins requested permission to buy \$202 in stamps for the newsletters due to the upcoming increase in postage rates on January 26th. His motion was seconded and approved by the Camp.

The meeting was adjourned by Cmdr Moncus. Following the benediction, *Dixie* was sung by the Camp.

The Wig Wag

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Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.
Editor



Happy George Washington's Birthday!

**Remembering our African-American
Confederate Heritage**

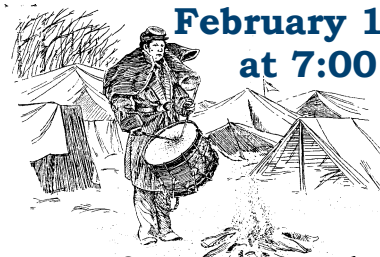
150 YEARS AGO: H.L. Hunley Sinks USS Housatonic

- 11 February 1864: Minor skirmish at Lake City, Fla.
- 13 February 1864: Meridian Campaign: fighting at Chunky Creek and Wyatt, Miss.
- 14 February 1864: The Union Army captures Meridian, Miss.
- 17 February 1864: Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley becomes the first submarine in history to sink an enemy ship in combat when she destroys the USS Housatonic off Charleston
- Confederate conscription is extended to all males aged 17 to 50
- 20 February 1864: Battle of Olustee, Florida: Confederates under Gen. Joseph Finegan rout a Union force under Gen. Truman Seymour
- 22 February 1864: Gen. Forrest's cavalry defeats Federals at Okolona, Miss.
- 23 February 1864: Fighting at Catoosa Station and Tunnel Hill near Dalton, Ga.
- 24 February 1864: Gen. Bragg becomes Pres. Davis' new military advisor
- 27 February 1864: Confederates open a new prisoner of war camp named Camp Sumter near Andersonville, Ga.
- Fighting at Dalton, Ga.
- 1 March 1864: Major Union cavalry raid on Richmond, Va. is repulsed
- 5 March 1864: With only 15 men, Cmdr. John T. Wood, CSN, leads an early morning raid on Cherrystone Point, VA. destroying warehouses and capturing two US steamers
- 10 March 1864: The Confederate steamer, *Helen*, is lost at sea in a gale while running a load of cotton from Charleston to Nassau

Right: The battle flag of the 6th Georgia Infantry Regiment which participated in the Battle of Olustee on February 20, 1864. Organized in Atlanta in 1861, the 6th served in the Army of Northern Virginia before moving to Kingston, NC and then to Charleston, SC after the battle of Chancellorsville. At Olustee where the unit ran low on ammunition, the 6th lost five killed and suffered 56 wounded.

Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday,
February 13th
at 7:00 PM**



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Scripture Thought

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

--1 John 4: 7

