

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

Happy New Year for 2014! I hope that you and yours have a great year. It is amazing, as one get older, how really fast each twelve month period speeds into history. I would invite each compatriot to look back on 2013 (Remember, it is now history.) and recognize the opportunities that you missed in supporting your duty in following "The Charge" given us by our Confederate Veterans in 1906. Remember the "politically correct" times in which we live and the efforts by many to obliterate the Confederate soldiers' good name. When we hold events and draw small crowds, we encourage our enemies to step up the fight. Our Confederate ancestors were only defeated because of superior numbers and resources, and when you don't support the SCV organization at every level, you aid the enemy. I encourage you to make a resolution of commitment to better support your camp, your division and your national SCV organization in 2014. A special THANK YOU to everyone who did support and participate in 2013! Keep up the good work in 2014!

Our Lee/Jackson Banquet is coming up on January 25th at Burns UMC Fellowship Hall, and we need you to be there. Please call Lt. Commander Posey at (706)294-7813 or see him at the meeting on January 9th to reserve your seats and to purchase tickets.

I want to emphasize a few key dates  
(Continued on page 3)

*"I can give my life for my country but I cannot betray a friend."*

**David O. Dodd: "The Boy Martyr of the Confederacy"**

January 8th marks the 150th anniversary of the execution of 17 year old David O. Dodd, known as the "Boy Hero of Arkansas" or the "Boy Martyr of the Confederacy." When he was hung on the grounds of his former school, St. John's Masonic College, in Little Rock, onlookers became ill as he strangled to death for five minutes. Reports say two Yankee soldiers had to hold his legs to add weight to his body and another stated a soldier grabbed the noose and twisted the rope to raise Dodd off the ground to hasten his death which was caused by a "disrupted spine".

Dodd was born in Victoria, Texas to Andrew Dodd and Lydia Owen Dodd who had moved there from Arkansas. The family later settled near Benton, Arkansas to be near his sister who was attending school in Little Rock. While there, David attended St. John's College but had to discontinue his studies due to illness. He later became a clerk and learned to be a telegraph operator.



When the War began, Dodd's father became a sutler for the 3rd Arkansas Cavalry and his family moved to Camden, Arkansas when Little Rock became occupied by Union forces. His father devised a plan to buy tobacco and store it to sell later at higher prices. He sent David, a minor and an assumed neutral, to Little Rock to deliver letters to his business associates to obtain much needed funds. Obtaining a pass from Confederate Gen. James Fagan and carrying his birth certificate, Dodd took a mule to Little Rock on December 24th where he stayed with his aunt, Susan Dodd.

While he was in Little Rock, Dodd was popular with the teenage girls of the city and attended holiday dances with two ladies. He spent time with 15 year old Mary Dodge whose Vermont native, but Southern sympathizer, father was on friendly terms with the Yankees.

On December 28th, after performing his father's task, Dodd visited the provost marshal's office and received a pass from Union authorities to return to Confederate lines. He left the city the next day, and as he left Union held territory, his pass was destroyed by a Union guard. Dodd spent the night with his uncle in west Little Rock, but accidentally wandered back into Union held territory the next day. He was stopped by a Union sentry and discovered to be without a pass. Dodd showed him his small leather notebook which contained his birth certificate and a page with dots and dashes. A Union officer, who was able to read Morse Code, discovered that the code revealed US troop strength and positions in Little

(See **David O. Dodd** on page 3)

## *Last Camp Meeting*

### **Dr. Richard McMurry Speaks on the Common Soldier of the War**

During the December meeting of the Alexander Camp, Dr. Richard M. McMurry, a respected historian, humorist, author and historian of the War Between the States spoke on the topic, "The Common Soldier of the War Between the States". A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. McMurry is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and received his Ph.D. in history from Emory University. He has written four books on the War.

Dr. McMurry explained that prior to the WBTS, the accounts of battles and important events were written primarily by statesmen, court officials, and kings. Therefore, the experience of the common people was often ignored. However, with the increased emphasis on public education in America during the antebellum years, a large majority of the men who joined the military during the 1860's could read and write English. Often times the spelling and diction was imperfect, but it was understandable. With many of them being away from their loved ones, they began to write letters home detailing camp life, battles, and their "once in a lifetime" experience. As these letters were often preserved, they have provided modern day scholars and Americans an opportunity to delve into the lives of the common soldier or sailor.

Dr. McMurry stated that the average soldier was about 5'8" tall, weighed 143 pounds, professed the Christian religion, and held an agricultural occupation or was a skilled laborer. The common soldier tended to be religious, interested in music and politics, and maintained a good sense of humor. McMurry admonished the camp not to elevate these men "on a pedestal" and stated they were not unlike many young men today being susceptible to the vices of drinking, gambling, profanity, and lust. Utilizing excerpts from soldiers' letters, he gave colorful and, sometimes profane, examples of all these traits often provoking chuckles and laughter from the Camp.

Following his excellent presentation, Dr. McMurry was presented a Confederate Powder works fly ash bottle by Cmdr. Moncus.

During the meeting there was one application for membership, **William Posey**, the brother of Lt Cmdr. Posey, who joins the Camp on the record of his Confederate ancestor, Pvt Martin F. Posey, who served

### *The Wig Wag*

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## **Important Dates to Remember:**

- 9 January: Mississippi Secession Day
- 10 January: Florida Secession Day
- 11 January: Alabama Secession Day
- 19 January: Georgia Secession Day
- 26 January: Louisiana Secession Day
- 1 February: Texas Secession Day

### **Coming Events:**

**9 January: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp #158 Meeting**  
**Topic: Senator Robert Toombs**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Sconyers Barbecue**

**18 January: Georgia Division Lee/Jackson Birthday Celebration**  
**10:00 AM in Milledgeville, Ga.**

**25 January: Alexander Camp's Lee/Jackson Banquet**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Burns UMC Fellowship Hall**

7-8 February: Stephen D Lee Institute  
Doubletree Hotel Downtown  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

<http://stephendleeinstitute.com/events.html>

### **Notable Confederate Birthdays:**

- 11 January: BGen Richard Griffith\* \*Died in CSA Service
- 12 January: MGen Jones M. Withers
- 14 January: Cmdr Matthew F. Maury
- 15 January: MGen John C. Breckinridge  
MGen Lafayette McLaws
- 18 January: BGen James Chestnut, Jr.
- 19 January: Gen Robert E. Lee**
- 21 January: LGen T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson\***
- 23 January: BGen John R. Chambliss, Jr.\*
- 24 January: BGen John Pegram\*
- 26 January: BGen Lloyd Tilghman\*
- 27 January: LGen Richard Taylor**
- 28 January: MGen George E. Pickett  
MGen Thomas C. Hindman
- 29 January: MGen Franklin Gardner
- 31 January: Capt John R. Tucker, CSN  
Clement C. Clay, MC
- 2 February: Gen Albert Sidney Johnston\***  
BGen Abner M. Perrin\*
- 3 February: Gen. Joseph E. Johnston**
- 6 February: MGen John B. Gordon**  
MGen James E. B. "Jeb" Stuart\*  
MGen William D. Pender\*

in Rump's Regiment, South Carolina Infantry.

Commander Moncus thanked all those who participated in the Magnolia Springs Heritage Festival in Millen on December 7<sup>th</sup>. They included Steve Burke, Tommy Chap-

(Continued on page 3)



## US Army War College Debates Removal of Lee/Jackson Portraits

The US Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania is debating whether to remove portraits which honor Gens. Robert E.

Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

The *Washington Times* reported on December 17th that the War College had taken an inventory of all its portraits and painting with the hope of rearranging them in order to convey the historical message of "service, valor, sacrifice, and courageous leadership". During the process, one Army official questioned why the college would honor two generals "who fought against the United States". As a result, one faculty member removed the portraits and placed them on the floor as part of the inventory process.

Attempting to clarify the situation, the Commandant, Major Gen. Tony Cucolo, refuted the claims the War College is seeking to remove the portraits stating there are no large stand alone portraits of the Confederate generals at the college nor is there a directive seeking to remove all traces of the Confederate States of America.

Nonetheless, given the "politically correct" nature of the military, compatriots are advised to contact their elected representatives and let them know your feelings on the matter.

### David O. Dodd (Continued from page 1)

Rock. Dodd was subsequently arrested and sent before BGen. John Davidson where a telegraph operator translated the message and verified the information. David was charged with being a spy for the Confederacy and taken to a military prison on the site of the present Arkansas State Capitol. He was interrogated for two days and his trial began on December 31st and lasted for six days conducted by a military tribunal of six Union officers. He was asked several times to name the "Union traitor" who gave him the troop information and offered leniency, but he remained silent. He stated "I can give my life for my country, but I cannot betray a friend." By a vote of 4-2, Dodd was convicted of spying and sentenced to be hanged.

Dodd's execution renewed divisions between Union and Confederate factions in the state and refueled Confederate dissension. Because of this and the fear of a Confederate raid, Union authorities prohibited no spoken words or songs at his memorial service and only his relatives in Union-held territory were allowed to attend. The teenager was buried in a donated grave in Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock.

A eight foot marble obelisk marks Dodd's grave and each year, in January, the Arkansas Division SCV conducts a ceremony to honor his memory.

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

for the coming year. I hope you make plans to attend as many as possible. The Georgia Division sponsored Lee/Jackson Birthday Celebration will be in Milledgeville on January 18th. If you have a uniform, please wear it and bring your musket and march in the parade. Participants do not have to be in uniform to attend or march. Our Lee/Jackson Banquet will be on January 25th. The statewide Confederate memorial service at Stone Mountain will be on April 12th and our Camp's will be at Magnolia Cemetery on April 26th. The Georgia Division Reunion will be held in Columbus in June and the National SCV Reunion will be held in North Charleston, South Carolina in July.

Remember, we need to continue recruiting new members at all times. We must grow our organization to be a viable part of ensuring the "true history of the South" is told. I hope to see you at our first meeting in 2014 on January 9th at Sconyers Barbecue. Come and enjoy good fellowship with the people who believe as you do.

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

pell, Ben Creech, and Ron Udell. He announced that the "Wreaths Across America" program will be placing wreaths at the Marietta Confederate Cemetery this year on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Moncus discussed the recent controversy regarding the placement of a Union monument on the Olustee battlefield and the possible closure of the Jefferson Davis Historic Site in Irwinville, Georgia which was remedied by a monetary donation from the Georgia Division SCV. He announced the Camp's annual Lee/Jackson Banquet will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Burns United Methodist Church fellowship hall with the cost of \$12 per individual and \$6.00 for children 12 years old and under with the principal speaker being Compatriot Dr. John Baxley who will speak on a topic relating to Generals Lee and Jackson.

Lt. Commander Posey announced that 13 compatriots who did not pay their dues will be removed from the camp roster at the end of the month. He urged compatriots to recruit new members. He proposed that the Camp give a gift to Larry Sconyers for his past generosity and for allowing the camp to meet in his restaurant without charge. The motion was seconded and approved by the Camp

Quartermaster Winstead continued to report that the Camp's memorial paver project is forthcoming delayed by the company's schedule. He stated that six uniformed compatriots participated in the North Augusta Christmas parade recently utilizing a float on a trailer. They were featured in a video on Channel 12 and in a news report.

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

## David O. Dodd's Last Letter

*Military Prison, Little Rock*

*January 8th, 10 o'clock am 1864*

*My Dear Parents and Sister,*

*I was arrested as a spy and tried and sentenced to be hung to day at 3 o'clock. The time is fast approaching. But thank God I am prepared to die. I expect to meet you all in heaven. I will soon be out of this world of sorrow and trouble. I would like to see you all before I die but God's will be done, not ours. I pray to God to give you strength to bear your troubles while in this world. I hope God will receive you in Heaven. There I will meet you. Mother, I know it will be hard for you to give up your only son. But you must remember that is is God's will.*

*Good bye. God bless you all*

*Your son and brother*

*David O. Dodd.*

### Author Seeks Information

Our Camp Webmaster, Compatriot Terry Bowers, writes the Camp has received the following letter:

*To All Sons of Confederate Veteran Camps in Northeast Georgia,*

*Hello to all! I'm currently under contract to write a book on the last months of the Civil War in Northeast Georgia for publication by History Press of Charleston, S.C. I'm in the last stages of the first stage research and wish to reach out to your members. A major theme of the book I envisioned was telling the story of how the coming of the war (aside from the internecine partisan war) to the doorsteps of this area in the last months and weeks, after having been spared the worst of Sherman's March, affected the people whose names don't usually appear in the history books. Davis' flight through the area will frame much of the narrative, but that story has been told and retold. This book, I intend, will be different. I've sought out every anecdote and memory that's ever been committed to print in memoirs and letters (some unpublished) or newspaper from the time, but I'm keen to assemble all available.*

*If your members have family letters or oral tradition memories that can be documented they would like to share, I would be extremely grateful and they would get full credit for the source. Some of your members I have met through my writing often on Civil*



**Christmas Confederates:** The BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp Honor Guard and compatriots participated in the North Augusta Christmas parade on December 8th and were featured in a news report.

### First Black Georgian Joins UDC

Georgia Benton was recently inducted into the United Daughters of the Confederacy becoming the first African-American in the state of Georgia to become a member of the organization. She was inducted into the Savannah Chapter on the record of her great-grandfather and Confederate ancestor, George W. Washington, a slave in Sumter County, SC who served as a body servant to his master, Lt. Alex McQueen. The two comrades fought in numerous battles including the battles of Sharpsburg and Gettysburg.

"Very little is known about black Confederate soldiers, so if I can be a starting point in letting the world know the history and making them aware that African-Americans have fought in every war in history, then I'm proud to stand up for my great-grandfather," Benton stated.

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*War topics in Georgia Backroads. I look forward to meeting many more.*

*Thanks,*

*Ray Chandler*

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# The Wig Wag

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Arnold M. Huskins, O.D.  
*Editor*



## Remembering Our Heroes on their Birthdays:

**Gen. Robert E. Lee: January 19th**

**Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson: January 21st**

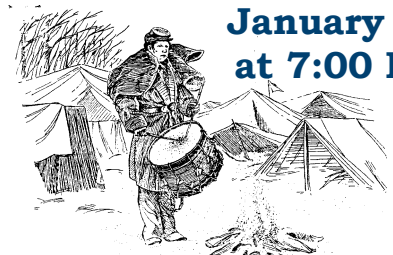
## 150 YEARS AGO: The Battle of Dandridge, Tenn.

- 6 January 1864: Teenager David O. Dodd is convicted of spying for the Confederacy in Little Rock, Arkansas and sentenced by a military court to be executed
- 8 January 1864: David O. Dodd is hung by Union forces in Little Rock, Ark.
- 17 January 1864: At Dandridge, Tenn., Gen. Longstreet's Confederates repel Union cavalry under Gen. Samuel Sturgis
- 20 January 1864: Lincoln permits the Arkansas US Commander to permit elections in the state following the adoption of an anti-slavery constitution; only Unionists are to be allowed on the ballot
- 25 January 1864: Confederates in Louisiana establish a state capital in Shreveport
- 26 January 1864: Battle of Athens, Ala. Union forces repel a Confederate cavalry raid on the city
- 26 January 1864: Gen. Joseph Johnston issues new rectangular battle flags made at the Augusta Depot to his Kentucky troops in the Orphan Brigade
- 27 January 1864: Battle of Fair Garden, Tenn.
- 3 February 1864: Union Gen. Sherman begins the Meridian, Miss. Campaign
- 5 February 1864: Sherman's forces enter Jackson, Miss.
- 6 February 1864: Skirmish at Morton's Ford on the Rapidan River, Virginia.
- 7 February 1864: Union forces enter Jacksonville, Florida

**Right: The battle flag of the Sixth Kentucky Infantry Regiment** which was issued to the troops at Dalton Ga., along with a staff, on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1864. Featuring the battle honors of Murfreesboro, Baton Rouge, Shiloh, Chickamauga and "Vicksburgh", the flag was captured by the 10<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry at the Battle of Jonesboro, Ga. on September 1st 1864. The flag was returned to Kentucky on March 25, 1905.

## Next Camp Meeting

**Thursday,  
January 9th  
at 7:00 PM**



**Sconyers Barbecue**  
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

### *Scripture Thought*

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come to His people and redeemed them.

-Luke 1: 68 (NIV)

