

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

October 12th has come and gone, but did you stop and reflect on the significance of the day? General Robert E. Lee died on this day in 1870. One of my favorite quotes from General Lee is, "Duty is the most sublime word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less".

The Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans ends with "...it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations". Let us look at the definition of duty. Duty is defined by Webster's as "An act or a course of action required of one by position, custom, law, or religion". "A service, action, or task assigned to one". Is not The Charge "our duty" as defined by Webster's?

How can we as Sons of Confederate Veterans carry out our "duty" on a day to day basis? Here are a few simple ideas to help:

(1) Put up a flag pole and fly a Confederate flag. Fly the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd National flag, and you will get asked the question, "What flag is that?" This will give you the opportunity to discuss the different flags, what they mean, and to introduce different people to the SCV. For example, most people know what the Confederate Naval Jack looks like, but they think it is actually the only Confederate battle flag or mistakenly refer to it as the "Stars and Bars."

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Editorial:

Thanksgiving's Southern Origins

For most Americans, the subject of the origins of Thanksgiving bring thoughts of the Pilgrims, the Massachusetts Plymouth Colony, feasting, and possibly the Thanksgiving proclamation issued by the Union's President Lincoln. With all these Yankee connotations, how can the patriotic God-fearing Southerner/SCV member celebrate this holiday in good conscience?

Our own President Davis issued several proclamations for observing days of fasting and thanksgiving during the Confederacy's brief life, i.e. November 15, 1861, February 28, 1862, et al. Could we, collectively, perhaps set aside one of those days as our "official" observance of gratitude to our Heavenly Provider for the many blessings we have received? Unfortunately, to observe a "separate" Thanksgiving holiday is impractical, for most employers would not recognize the day as such. Today, the Thanksgiving holiday is primarily a day for feasting rather than fasting, yet, if we adhere to the traditions of our forefathers, we could have an "official" day of Southern thanksgiving where fasting and prayer predominate.

There were several Southern "Thanksgivings" before the Pilgrims celebrated their three days of feasting in 1621. On December 4, 1619, thirty-eight English settlers at Berkeley Plantation on the James River in the Virginia colony stated in a charter that their day of arrival be observed yearly as a day of thanksgiving. Their observance was based on the Harvest Home festivals of England and was entirely religious with fasting mandated. The very first recorded thanksgiving in America occurred in Texas on May 23, 1541 when Spanish explorer, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, and his men held a service of thanksgiving after finding food, water, and pasture for their animals in the Panhandle. Another Southern thanksgiving occurred on June 30, 1564 when a French settlement sang and prayed in thanks near present day Jacksonville, Florida.

Before Lincoln's proclamation in 1863, two Southern presidents observed a day of thanksgiving. President George Washington issued a proclamation of thanksgiving for November 26, 1789 to honor the adoption of the Constitution, and James Madison mandated a similar day in 1815 to celebrate the end of the War of 1812.

Lincoln's Proclamation stated that Thanksgiving would be observed on the last Thursday in November, and it was celebrated on that day for 75 years in most states. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in order to aid Depression-stricken merchants, stated that Thanksgiving would be held, not on the last, but the fourth Thursday in November. That year some states chose to honor the "Democratic" Thanksgiving rather than Lincoln's

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Last Camp Meeting

The SCV and the IRS

During the October meeting of the Alexander Camp, fellow Georgia Compatriot Mike Crane spoke on the SCV's role as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. He stated under that exemption, camps cannot conduct raffles which are considered to be "gaming", but that individual camps could do so if they incorporated, obtained their own 501(c)(3) numbers, and registered the corporate charter with the Secretary of the State. Once that is accomplished, the camp would have to apply for a Federal tax number and file a tax return every year.

As an 501(c)(3) organization, the SCV is unable to support political candidates; however, a camp can invite any candidate to speak if all are treated equally. The SCV is affiliated with an 501(c)(4) organization, The Foundation For Preserving American Culture, which has unlimited ability to lobby for legislation and the ability to participate in political campaigns and elections. Compatriot Crane stated the SCV did not take advantage of this opportunity more often. Crane explained that compatriots have formed a political action committee or a 527 organization, Americans for the Preservation of American Culture, separate from the SCV, which can support political candidates. Following the speech, Commander Herron presented Compatriot Crane with a framed photo of the Confederate Powder Works chimney.

Commander Herron called the meeting to order and requested prayer for the Bradley family, Philip Weaver, and Jules Godean. One application for membership was accepted, that of **Bruce Dowdy**, who joins the camp on the record of his Confederate ancestor, Thomas Hamilton of Co. K, Hamilton Rangers, 48th Georgia Infantry. Adjutant Herron presented a membership certificate to his son, Joshua. Commander Herron thanked all those who helped with the cemetery clean-up on October 10th. He reported that the 2010 Lee-Jackson Banquet will be held on January 23rd at Burns United Methodist Church fellowship hall. Camp participation in three Christmas parades were discussed: Grovetown on

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The Wig Wag

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Important Dates to Remember:

Coming Events:

11 November: Veterans' Day

12 November: **BGen E. Porter Alexander
Camp #158 Meeting**
Topic: COC Primer Test
7:00 PM
Sconyers Barbecue

14-15 November: Secessionville Re-enactment
Mount Pleasant, SC

Confederate Christmas
Wisteria Hall
Waynesboro, Ga.

5 December: **Grovetown Christmas Parade**
Noon

Notable Confederate Birthdays:

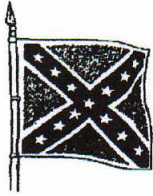
9 Nov. 1825: Lt. Gen. Ambrose Powell Hill*
1823: Maj. Gen. William H. Forney
1810: Thomas Bragg, Atty. Gen.
10 Nov. 1830: Brig. Gen. Albert G. Jenkins*
11 Nov. 1811: Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch*
13 Nov. 1804: Lt. Gen. Theophilus H. Holmes
15 Nov. 1836: Maj. Gen. Pierce Manning B. Young
19 Nov. 1835: Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee
21 Nov. 1817: Brig. Gen. Richard B. Gamett*
22 Nov. 1805: Maj. Gen. Benjamin Huger
1818: Maj. Gen. Samuel G. French
23 Nov. 1820: John W. Ellis, Governor, NC
24 Nov. 1815: Brig. Gen. James H. Trapier*
26 Nov. 1816: Maj. Gen. William H. T. Walker*
28 Nov. 1820: Brig. Gen. Lawrence O'Bryan Branch*
30 Nov. 1830: Maj. Gen. Gustavus W. Smith
1 Dec. 1826: Maj. Gen. William Mahone
1832: Brig. Gen. Archibald Gracie, Jr.*
1835: Brig. Gen. Micah Jenkins*
4 Dec. 1818: Maj. Gen. William W. Loring

*Died in Confederate Service

December 5th at noon, Hepzibah on December 12th at 11:00 AM, and North Augusta on December 6th at 2:00 PM. A motion was made to create a Heritage Defense Award to be presently annually named in honor of deceased Compatriot Tony Carr, Sr. It was seconded and approved by the Camp. The camp also approved a donation of \$50 to be given to the Sons of American Revolution to assist with their grave marker dedication ceremony in Louisville.

During the officer reports, Adjutant Perry reported that 80 members had renewed their membership and that a \$5 late fee will be charged all those renewing

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Heritage REPORT

In a series of recent legal decisions, federal courts have restricted the rights of students who are proud of their Confederate heritage and upheld campus bans of the Confederate battle flag, and its image on clothing and personal items instituted by school districts.

This month, the 5th US Court of Appeals agreed with the lower court decision and upheld the Bursleson, Texas school district's ban after two students were prohibited from bringing their Confederate flag purses on campus. The courts agreed that school officials can punish student expression only if they can reasonably forecast that such student expression will cause a substantial disruption or material interference with school activities.

On October 5th, the US Supreme Court let stand a ruling which allowed school officials at William Blount High School in Maryville, Tennessee to ban students from wearing t-shirts with Confederate battle flag emblems.

In September, a federal district judge ruled that the Latta, SC School District did not violate then sophomore student, Candice Hardwick's rights when they made her change clothes or wear her t-shirt inside out which featured a Confederate battle flag. An appeal by the SLRC is forthcoming in this case.

In August, a federal judge in Knoxville upheld a similar ban on Confederate-themed clothing in the nearby Anderson County school system.

Thanksgiving (Continued from page 1)

"Republican" one. The state of Texas celebrated both! In 1941, Congress passed a joint resolution setting the date of Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday in November. Therefore, as Southerners, we can say we are celebrating Mr. Roosevelt's holiday rather than Mr. Lincoln's!

We can indeed celebrate Thanksgiving in good conscience as Southerners, for we have a rich heritage of thanksgiving that precedes the Pilgrims and Lincoln's proclamation. However, it is imperative that we tell our children, our fellow Southerners, and other Americans the Southern origins of the holiday. More importantly, we must observe the day as more than one of "feasting and football." It is the one "official" day when we should express our indebtedness to the Almighty for the multitude of blessings that we have received.

Commander's Comments (Continued from page 1)

(2) Help Quartermaster Joe Winstead when he goes to the Barnyard Flea Market or at other events. This is an opportunity to help the camp, the Quartermaster, and to talk with the public about the Confederate Soldier. It also gives you an opportunity to tell them what your ancestor and your Southern Heritage means to you. You can help dispel the lies being spread about our ancestors. Remember, it is your duty.

(3) You can get involved with Confederate re-enacting and living histories. You will learn more than you could ever imagine, and this is an avenue to get into the schools to talk with the children and teachers. Most re-enactors can give you some of your greatest history lessons!

Don't be afraid to get involved. Before joining the SCV in 2000, I thought the War was fought primarily over slavery, but I was not correctly informed. As I became involved with the camp, re-enacting, reading, and traveling to hear knowledgeable speakers, I began to educate myself. Now, I enjoy talking about the Confederate soldier, our Southern heritage, and helping friends and strangers understand the true reasons why the War was fought by the Southern people. It is such a good feeling when I begin a conversation with someone who initially believes the Confederate flag is a "racist symbol", and who afterwards states, "Now I know that the Confederate flag is really a flag of honor!" I am not an expert, and you don't have to be one either to get involved. I challenge each and every person to do something every day to help preserve the memory of our beloved ancestors that will bring honor to the Confederate soldiers' good name.

Here is something to think about. We are all proud of our Confederate ancestors and their heroic efforts. When we meet them, will they be as proud of us for our efforts as Sons of Confederate Veterans?

Our next meeting is on November 12th, and this meeting will be a little different. This will be a totally interactive meeting with the speakers being Allison and Summer Herron. They will be asking you questions from the "Catechism on the History of the Confederate States of America". This is a question and answer booklet that is used by the Children of the Confederacy to help children learn about their history. Bring your thinking caps, and study up while you can!

Hope to see all of you there! Remember, it is your duty!

Last Camp Meeting (continued from page 2)

after November 1st. Quartermaster Joe Winstead reported that over \$575 in merchandise was sold at the Oliver Hardy Festival. Treasurer Nick Posey reported that the Augusta Civil War Round Table had donated \$200 to help with the restoration of the Powder works Chimney. Ron Udell stated that the Camp's honor guard participated in the Oliver Hardy Parade and will be participating in a living history event on October 24th at The Market on Reynolds Street.

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

The Wig Wag

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Editor



**Honoring our Veterans—
Nothing More..Nothing Less.**

145 Years Ago: Battle of Franklin, Tennessee

- 8 November 1864: Lincoln re-elected president of the US
- 13 November 1864: Advance of Gen. Hood's Army of Tennessee engages Federals at Bull's Gap, Tenn.
- 15 November 1864: Sherman begins his "March to the Sea" after he burns Atlanta
- 17 November 1864: Skirmishing at Bermuda Hundred, Virginia
- 19 November 1864: Hood, joined by Forrest's command at Florence, Ala, starts toward Nashville
- 25 November 1864: Confederate plot to burn New York City fails
- 29 November 1864: Hood is infuriated as Union forces withdraw unhindered toward Franklin at Spring Hill, Tenn.
- 30 November 1864: Battle of Franklin, Tenn. Six Confederate Generals are casualties and the Army of Tennessee is decimated.
- 2 December 1864: Hood makes a line of defense two miles south of Nashville
Gen. Archibald Gracie killed in Petersburg defenses
- 4 December 1864: Wheeler's cavalry engaged at Waynesborough, Ga.

RIGHT: The Hardee battle flag of the 16th Alabama Infantry Regiment which was captured at the battle of Franklin. The 16th was organized at Courtland in August 1861 and fought at Mill Springs, Ky. and Shiloh where it lost 162 men. Under Gen. Cleburne's command, the unit fought in the battle of Chickamauga losing 168 men and then participated in the Atlanta Campaign losing another 150 at Jonesboro. At Franklin and Nashville, the 16th lost over half of its remaining men and all its commissioned officers. When it surrendered with the rest of the Army of Tennessee, only fifty men were present as it was consolidated with the 1st and 45th Alabama.

Next Camp Meeting
Thursday, November 12th
7:00 PM at



Sconyers Barbecue
Windsor Springs & Peach Orchard Road

Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name;
make known among the nations what He
has done.

--I Chronicles: 16:8

