



The Dispatch

**The Official Publication of The Dixie Guards Camp # 1942
Sons of Confederate Veterans**

**Volume 3, 5th Edition
August 2003**

Commander's Comments

Well, August has arrived. School will take back in; summer is basically about over. As school does begin, we should all be mindful of what our kids are being taught and remember that for the most part, History is certainly not always being correctly taught to our kids. For our fathers, it will fall to you to pass along the message of your ancestors to your children. To our young members, remember that what you hear in class, may not be a fact and it most certainly probably has a Yankee bias to it. Our textbooks are no friend to the South or the Confederate Soldier.

August also brings the new fiscal year for the SCV. How does this affect us? I hate to bring it up, but this begins the dues renewal time. The dues are actually due now, but they are late on February 1st. We need to remember that and get them in as soon as possible. Remember, that the Georgia Division raised everyone's dues by \$3 this year. So, that means instead of \$31 our dues are now \$34.

Our 2nd Annual Family Picnic was nice. It was poorly attended, but I think that those who came enjoyed it. There was plenty to eat and the cannon really rumbled the ground. We had more visitors than members. That part was disappointing. There were some comments from those who were there. Comments like, "I wonder where everyone is?" "Maybe we should do this sort of thing in the fall of the year." I don't have the answers, but I do notice that participation is about the same everywhere. For example, isn't it a shame that our organization with 4000 members nearly lost our State Tag and all we had to do was sell 1000 tags. It should never have been an issue and it certainly shouldn't have drug out to the final days. Rest assured this sort of thing doesn't go unnoticed. As for our Picnic, I guess we could move it to the fall. Then, it would be football or hunting. There is always something to choose from.

I don't mean to preach, but to me it all boils down to family and commitment. To some we're a club, nothing more. To others, this organization is more than that; it is a way to pay homage to family members. I guess I fall into the latter group. I've been told we have done a wonderful job here in Metter by reaching nearly 100 members in just 3 years. True, we are one of the larger Camps in our area and in our Brigade and even our Division, but in the 1860's it wasn't nothing for a whole Company of men to volunteer in a day to go and serve the Confederacy. Now, I've been told that I should consider War Time Feelings vs. Peace Time. I'm sorry, but I think we have it far easier and frankly, the Southern Man's Commitment level is shameful these days. In Bulloch County nearly every able-bodied man served the Confederacy and the neighboring areas were the same. Yet, we only have 90 members in a modern day club. The largest Camp in the entire Division only has 200. Again, that is good, but in the War of the 1860's that same area sent several Companies of men off to War.

Were they committed? Many dropped everything, left everything and walked off to serve and protect. Who did they serve and protect? You can say the Confederacy, but really it was their families and homes. Today, we don't have it nearly as bad and certainly not nearly as tough. We aren't called upon to leave everything behind and take the chance of dying in some far-off battlefield only to be dumped a hole like some folks would put away a dog.

Well, I think by now you are either angry at what I've said or you may be you're reminded of what your family members have went through. Either way is okay, but I won't say that I'm sorry or admit that I'm wrong for being the way that I am. I believe that we owe our family members before us. I believe that we are commanded to do so. I know with all my heart that if I don't remind people of my Confederate Ancestors, then they'll be labeled thugs, thieves and cutthroats. They'll be inhuman Slave-owners and who risk it all to rebel against freedom. They'll be anti-American. I won't allow it. My ancestors, from my daddy to his daddy before him will be remembered in my house.

How can you help? Renew your membership of course, but there is more. Many of our members can't regularly attend meetings or other outings. That is okay, but do what you can, when you can. Most importantly share the SCV with your other family members. If we only recruited other members of our own families, then we would be easily more than twice the size we already are. I know that I have family members who could join under the same ancestor I joined under or ancestors that I've researched. I'm sure you do to. Remember and remind everyone that our membership numbers are the only thing our enemies recognize. Membership counts and it really counts when Politicians discuss things that affect us.

By now you think that I'm rambling and babbling, that is okay too! But, how much have we lost over the years and how did we get there. If you had to look your ancestor in the face, could you explain to him the answers to many of his questions? Questions like - "What is your opinion of me?" "What happened to our Flag?" "What happened to our reputation?" "Why did you let folks forget me?" "Don't you even care?" By now you get the point.....We are the only voice of the Thin Gray Line, we need to remember it.

God Bless You and Your Families,

Randy

Adjutant's Report

Treasury Report: \$1324.32

Old Business: 1. Camp T-Shirts / Camp Shirts – The Camp still has quite a few shirts that were ordered that haven't been picked up or have not paid for your shirts that you've received. Please take care of this. Pockets are available on our Golf Shirts, but will be slightly more expensive. The cost for the golf shirts with pockets will be available by July's meeting. The members who have not received their shirts yet, your shirts have been ordered and will arrive soon. 2. The Camp decided to postpone / cancel the BBQ. 3. Division Reunion – All Amendments passed, along with a Resolution to create a Mercy Brigade for disaster relief type response.

4. New Adopt-A-Highway Chairman – The Camp needs to nominate a new Adopt-A-Highway Chairman. Mrs. June Crooms has volunteered to make all the notifications to the State DOT with all the facts surrounding each of our pickups, but we'll need a chairman to schedule our quarterly dates, keep up with the supplies, etc. 5. Camp Caps – Finally, the Camp has gotten the design for the Camp Baseball Caps. The design called for The SCV Logo on the front. It has the National Website Address on the Backstrap. It will have Dixie Guards Camp # 1942 across the back and will have Heritage of Honor sewn on the brim. Our Camp has the exclusive rights to this design of cap and will offer them as a fund-raising item to the entire SCV. When the money becomes available, we will advertise the Caps in the *Confederate Veteran Magazine* for all members to see. We'll also put them on our website for Camps and members to order. Metter Graphics is putting up the money for our 1st order and will order the 1st 250 Caps to have in stock. We'll take orders. If they become out of stock, it will take 8 weeks to replenish them. They are attempting to get the order split between two colors – Gray & Khaki. If they can't split the order, they'll get all khaki for the 1st order.

New Business: 1. Division Reunion – Mike Mull of the Ogeechee Rifles presented the Camp with a check for \$1000 as our initial part of the profits from the Reunion, with more to follow.

Membership Goal

Retention & Recruiting – 100% Retention – 100 Members by New Year's

“Recruit 4 in 2004”

Camp Calendar

**August 7 – Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM Meal / 7:30 Meeting –
Speaker: S.E. Brigade Commander Don Newman**

**September 4 - Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM Meal / 7:30 Meeting –
Speaker: Steve Burke on Surviving Reconstruction**



Alexander H. Stephens, Vice President C.S.A.

Alexander Hamilton Stephens was born in Crawfordville, Georgia, on 11th February, 1812. After graduating from the University of Georgia he taught in a local school. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1834.

Stephens joined the Whig Party and in 1838 he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives. He served for five years before being elected to the 28th Congress and took his seat in October, 1843. He later joined the Democratic Party and was chairman of the Committee on Territories (1848-50). Stephens was a strong opponent of the Mexican War and was highly critical of President James Polk during this conflict.

Stephens campaigned for the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He opposed the election of Abraham Lincoln but argued against immediate secession after the Republican Party victory. Lincoln wrote a letter to Stephens pointing out: "You think slavery is right and ought to be extended; while we think it is wrong and ought to be restricted. That I suppose is the rub. It certainly is the only substantial difference between us."

Over the next couple of months seven states seceded from the Union: South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas. Representatives from these seven states quickly established a new political organization, the Confederate States of America. On 8th February the Confederacy adopted a constitution and within ten days had elected Jefferson Davis as its president and Stephens as vice-president.

During the American Civil War Stephens did not enjoy a good relationship with Davis and later described him as "a weak timid aspirant for military domination". Stephens favored peace negotiations whereas the president wanted to fight until the bitter end. Stephens made several attempts to talk with Abraham Lincoln about bringing the war to an end. Horace Greeley, editor of the *New York Tribune*, accused him of prolonging the war to satisfy his personal ambition. Others on the right, such as Clement Vallandigham, claimed that Lincoln was waging a "wicked war in order to free the slaves".

After the war Stephens was imprisoned in Fort Warren, Boston, for five months but was eventually pardoned by President Andrew Johnson. After the war Stephens wrote a two-volume book on the conflict: *Constitutional View of the Late War Between the States* (1868).

Alexander Hamilton Stephens was elected to the 43rd Congress and served from December, 1873 until his resignation in November, 1882. Elected as governor of Georgia in 1882, he served until his death in Atlanta, Georgia, on 4th March, 1883.

An interesting thing about Stephens was a quote that he made in response to the thoughts of a quick defeat of a "Southern Rebellion". Stephens' quote in 1850 was prophetic: "You may think that the suppression of an outbreak in the southern States would be a holiday job for a few of your northern regiments, but you may find to your cost, in the end, that seven millions of people fighting for their rights, their homes and their hearth-stones cannot be easily conquered."