



*The Dispatch*

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

**Volume 3, 6th Edition  
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## Commander's Comments

I would like to start my comments by encouraging everyone to read a book. In college this Semester, I have been given an assignment to read The Children of Pride by Robert Myers. This book is a compilation of letters written to each other by members of the C.C. Jones Family of Liberty County, Georgia from 1860-1868. I don't want to go into detail because I don't want to spoil it for anyone who reads it, but I will say this. We can all learn from this family's Patriotism, Commitment to Family and desire to serve the Lord. We would be hard pressed to find examples of this type of lifestyle in today's world. This is a great book and if you are interested in learning first hand knowledge of how our Ancestors saw things and some of the things they endured, you should read this book.

Congratulations go out to Jay Clifton. By the time you read this, he and Compatriot Steve Burke will have again done their part to make sure Metter's school kids get a good understanding of history. Jay and Steve, again this year did programs for the Metter Intermediate School. Folks we must at every opportunity take advantage of any chance to get involved in our schools. In many cases, that will be the only way that our kids learn anything in a public forum about our past, our ancestors and our cause. As a matter of fact, the teachers, with only a few exceptions know our history, so they can't teach it correctly.

I believe we should begin now to work towards Confederate History being a major part of our local school topics for the month of April. We should definitely have that on our long term goals list, but why not in 2004. I know that teachers have lesson plans, etc. But, why can't we begin to try to persuade them to take a look at Confederate History during next April. I think that we should contact our local school leaders and ask. This goes for Metter Schools, DEA, and the other schools that our members have connection with. We have members from Bulloch County, Tattnall County, Emanuel County – I would also encourage our members who might not be local to do the same in their hometowns. I want you all to know, you're not just on our rolls, and you are members too! You are always welcome here; you're in our Camp too! Most importantly, your responsibility to your ancestors is as equally important as any other members. Do your part to be able to look your ancestor directly in his eyes when you meet him in the next life. Will you be able to look him in his eyes? I hope so!

Invite everyone you can and make sure you come to this month's meeting. Brother Steve Burke will be with us and he will be sharing the story of Reconstruction with us. It would do well for anyone to hear just what our ancestors endured after the war. Often times we get so caught up with the War that we forget how awful it truly was in the years following it. Though I don't quite understand it, I have seen folks that appeared to be sort of ashamed or timid about their Confederate Ancestors become very connected and unashamed after they learned about Reconstruction. Make sure you come. Bring a Friend. Bring a Neighbor. Bring a Potential Member. Bring a Classmate. Bring your Teacher. Bring your Wife or Girlfriend. Everyone is Welcome!

With that, I'll mention the Membership Goal – The goal for retention is 100%. The goal for membership is 100 members by New Year's Day. The Slogan for next year is: 4 in 2004. (Recruit 4 in 2004). This should be easy and it should be expected by everyone. We should renew our commitment to our kinfolk by reenlisting our membership. We should further our Cause by recruiting everyone we can. Think back on the commitment levels of our forefathers and follow their lead. You'll renew and you'll recruit. It is your calling and your responsibility. General Lee called it DUTY and he believed that everyone should live life with a distinct call to DUTY – DUTY rules in everything. Duty to God. Duty to Country. Duty to Family. To him, there was no greater calling.

I hope to see you all Thursday. Rumor has it that if we consistently overfill the room, the Steer will tear out the wall and make our meeting room larger. Let's be the reason, they tear down the wall. I'm not knocking the Rotary, the Kiwanis or the rest, but Our's is a Greater Calling. Let's do it. I'll see you Thursday. Until then....

*God Bless You and Your Families,*

*Randy*

## Adjutant's Report

Treasury Report: \$2153.76

**Old Business:** 1. Adopt-A-Highway Chairman – Comdr. Crooms named Jay Clifton chairman. The Camp needs to set a date in September for cleanup. 2. 2004 General's Banquet – The Camp discussed possible dates for the banquet and will decide on a date next meeting. 3. Georgia Flags for the County – Comdr. Crooms reported that the County did accept our offer for new Georgia Flags for the County. Comdr. Crooms stated that he made sure that the County Leadership knew that this was not a Political Statement or an Approval of the new flag, just a donation to make City & County Gov't match. The Camp will supply 6 new flags. 4. Comdr. Crooms advised the Camp on what issues he knew of from the International Reunion in Asheville.

**New Business:** 1. Mike Mull of the Ogeechee Rifles presented a check to the Camp for \$1190.41. This was our Camp's remaining portion from hosting the Reunion. 2. Comdr. Crooms announced that our Camp was hosting the 2007 Division Reunion. He said that effort was worth it, considering the money that the immediate past Reunion generated. He announced that a committee would be formed and plans would begin soon. 3 years until Georgia returns to visit. He announced that next year's Division and International Reunion would be in Dalton.

## Membership Goal

**Retention & Recruiting - 100% Retention - 100 Members by New Year's**

**“Recruit 4 in 2004”**

### New Members

*L.C. Waller* in honor of *Pvt. Reuben Cartee, Co. D, 61<sup>st</sup> Georgia Volunteers*

*David Allen Bledsoe* in honor of *Pvt. Hector McSwain, Co. E, 61<sup>st</sup> Georgia Volunteers*

### Camp Calendar

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

**September – Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup: Date- TBA at September's Meeting.**

**October 2 – Regular Meeting - 7:00 PM Meal / 7:30 Meeting – Speaker: TBA**

**November 6 - Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM Meal / 7:30 Meeting**  
**Speaker: Ted Dannemiller on West Point Military Academy**

**December 4 - Regular Meeting - 7:00 PM Meal / 7:30 Meeting – Speaker: TBA**

*Do you have someone you would like to speak to our Camp?  
Would you like to give a presentation to our Camp?  
If so, let us know!*

# ***"Fortress Savannah"***

Taken & printed from the Savannah Morning News website - [www.savannahnow.com](http://www.savannahnow.com)

## **Lee's tours of duty in Savannah**

Savannah's defenses held strong until December of 1864. No less a military expert than Robert E. Lee played a role in their formation. From late-1861 to mid-1862, Lee was the commander of the Confederate military department charged with the defense of the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia and eastern Florida. Lee was already familiar with Savannah – he was stationed here in 1829 as a 22-year old lieutenant just out of West Point. He worked on the construction of Fort Pulaski from November 1829 until April 1831. When he returned 30 years later, the Mackay family offered him the same quarters he had lived in as a young lieutenant. Lee was instrumental in the preparation of Fort Pulaski for Union attack.

## **Surrounding Savannah**

A half-moon of rifle pits and small redoubts fronted the city, running from the Savannah River on the east to Laurel Grove Cemetery on the west. Fortifications such as Fort Bartow and Fort Thunderbolt protected the city from invasion along Chatham's many rivers.

## **Some of the fortifications:**

1. Fort Lee, earthworks just to the east of Fort Jackson.
2. Fort Thunderbolt, earthworks on the Wilmington River, in an area now occupied by a marina.
3. Fort Jackson, brick fort originally constructed for the War of 1812.
4. Fort Pulaski, brick fort on Cockspur Island in the Savannah River, thought to be impregnable but it quickly fell to the Union rifled cannons in April of 1862.
5. Fort Bartow, named of course, for Confederate hero Francis Bartow. Located at Causton's Bluff, covering some 17 acres, it was the largest earthworks for in the Confederacy. It took two years to construct and contained heavy walls, ditches, magazines and a large bombproof (shelter). In 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee nearly met an untimely (for the South at least) death there when a gun exploded during a test-firing, sending a fragment of the barrel whizzing past his head.
6. Batteries Cheves and Lawton, built across the Savannah River from Fort Jackson. Other strongpoints were constructed at the Rose Dhu and Beaulieu.
7. Fort Boggs, this earthworks fortification was a cornerstone of the Confederate defenses on the eastside, located in what is now the Savannah Golf Club.