



**Official Newsletter of the BG Micah Jenkins
SCV Camp 1569**

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Honoring the Gray

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Honoring the Gray

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Commander's Comments

"Lest We Forget, May 10th is Confederate Memorial Day in South Carolina"

Some years ago, my church was planning their annual Memorial Day Service. There had been much debate on whether or not to place the American Flag on three Confederates that are buried in the church cemetery. There were a few church members who wanted to place Confederate Battle Flags on the graves of the soldiers who served in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Some argued that only one flag the Stars & Stripes should be placed on "all" veterans graves no matter the conflict. Needless to say it caused tension amongst the congregations. My pastor's solution at the time was a sermon that I still remember to this very day.

He spoke about a Memorial Day service that took place in 1868. Back then it was known as Decoration Day, a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. As the story goes, shortly after the war, according to a popular tale surviving Confederate widows and veterans took great pains to honor their war dead.

In May of 1868 a group of Southern women asked to place flowers at the Confederate graves at Arlington, where "they were curtly refused". For friends of the "Rebellion" were not allowed within the gates of Arlington Cemetery and were turned away.

General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic ordered that "rebels" be specifically ignored by the volunteers who decorated the Union graves that day. He stated that no flowers were to be placed on the graves of Arlington's 300 Confederate troops, who were buried in a segregated area. On the night of May 30th 1868, an unusually high wind arose and blew virtually all of the flowers from the Union graves onto the Confederate graves.

Thus ended my pastor's sermon whose closing remarks were "GOD WILL ALWAYS HAVE HIS SAY", which by the way was the title of his sermon. I don't know how well his sermon went over with the rest of our congregation, but it struck a chord with me. Ever since then we have honored all of our military veterans no matter the conflict with both the Stars & Stripes as well as the Confederate Battle Flag each Memorial Day.

So please take time this year and remember our Confederate Heroes on May 10th.

*Your Humble and obedient servant,
Brad Blackmon, Commander*

Camp Meeting

Tuesday, May 10th 2011

Regularly scheduled meeting at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant @ 7:00 PM.

Come early join the fellowship and eat.

The Speaker for May 10 is Dr. Bill Reid. The subject is "Confederate Music".

Dr. Reid has taken an especial interest in the music our ancestors sang as they prepared for the War. He has an extensive collection and is quite good at presenting the music to SCV Camps.

1st Lt Commander's Comments

Seven Fighting Sons

His name was Clement Allen Dees, a wealthy man even by today's standards. His grandfather, Daniel Dees, had fought in the Revolutionary War, and had been given a massive land grant in Johnston County, North Carolina, in payment for his service. Clement inherited a large part of the land, and farmed it as most people did in those days.

In 1822 he married the enticing Elizabeth Rushing and soon sold the Johnston County land and moved to Union County, North Carolina. It was there that they started a family. From 1822 until 1852, Clement and Elizabeth had sixteen children. In the 19th century, it wasn't unusual to have a large family, but sixteen would be considered large even by those standards.

The family was healthy, industrious, close knit, Godly and patriotic. When the War Between the States began, the family gathered together, brothers, sisters, wives, mother and dad, and discussed the causes, the needs, and their duties to their new country.

Bryant at age 36 was the first to enlist. He agonized over the decision for weeks. He discussed his duty with his brothers, his father, his wife Louisa Jane, and looked over his five children wondering what would happen to them while he was gone. But on that Monday morning, bright and early, March 17, 1862, he rode his horse over to Monroe and enlisted. Little did he know that soon his brother, Hartwell Spain would also enlist and they would fight side-by-

side. How could he know that he would be wounded at Wilderness in Virginia, and suffer the inhumanities of prison at Elmira, New York. He could not know that he would ultimately survive but his brother would die of disease in November of the first year of the War at Fredericksburg.

Before the war was over, seven of the nine brothers enlisted and fought for the Confederacy.

Clement Allen, Jr., was wounded in the right knee in Gettysburg, captured, and died in the Yankee prison called Camp Letterman. In 1870, his body was removed and reburied in Raleigh, North Carolina, in a graveyard with all the appearances of Arlington Cemetery.

Kenneth Mert, James and William fought together in the North Carolina 37th, but William died early in the War of unknown causes. John was the youngest to enlist at age 17. He was also imprisoned at Elmira and died there.

Three of the brothers returned home, to family, friends and the devastation in the homeland. While none of them had owned slaves to help on the farm, the records show that by 1870 they hired freed slaves. Slowly, the wounds of war healed.

The mother in our story, Elizabeth, died in 1871 followed by the father, Clement, in 1874. He never forgot his sons, and on occasion the family would reunite, call each of them by name, and smile at some story about their childhood.

Bucky Sutton



Confederate Memorial Day Celebrations

May 7th - SC Confederate Memorial Day in Columbia, SC. The United Daughters of the Confederacy will have a ceremony starting at 10:00am at the Elmwood Cemetery. Upon the conclusion of the UDC ceremony, those that wish will march from Elmwood to the State House where the Sons of Confederate Veterans will begin their ceremony at 12 noon.

May 22nd - Micah Jenkins Confederate Memorial Day at Laurelwood ceremony in Rock Hill. The ceremony will start at 3:00pm. The Laurelwood Cemetery is located at 143 Laurel Street across from the old Rock Hill Printing and Finishing Plant. It is bordered by Laurel Street, White Street, Stewart Street, and Main Street.

Honoring the Gray

Needs your input each month.

Do you have an article you would like to see in the the newsletter?

If so, please send to Jerry Brown at jenkinsscv@yahoo.com or call Jerry at 803-327-2834. Articles may be funny or serious as long as it reflects the ideals and purpose of the SCV. Please limit the size of articles for mailing purposes.

Web Site Update:

If you haven't checked out the web site lately, please do soon. Our web master, Chris Brown, has done a lot of work and made several additions.

The web site now contains all the past newsletters from January 2009 to present and a list with all the articles has been added. The list gives the titles of each of the articles and what month and year the article appeared in.

A page has been added for our Chaplain and another page "Join Us" has been added with information on joining the Micah Jenkins Camp.

www.bgmicahjenkins.org

Time Line May 1861

May 1st - Robert E. Lee orders Stonewall Jackson to remove the weapons and equipment from the arsenal at Harpers Ferry.

May 3rd - General Winfield Scott orders troops to seize Arlington Heights, overlooking Washington.

May 6th - Arkansas secedes from the Union the ninth state to secede. Tennessee votes to put the question of secession before the people in a popular referendum.

May 10th - Missouri State Legislature passes military bill to recruit Missouri State Guard and to use all State resources to “suppress rebellion and repel invasion”. Missouri Volunteer Militia is captured by Capt. Lyon at Camp Jackson; Federal troops fire upon men women and children in St. Louis.

May 12th - Benjamin Butler takes control of Federal Hill and threatens to fire on downtown Baltimore if Southern sympathizers protest.

May 13th - North Carolina elects delegates to the Secession Convention. Union troops occupy Baltimore. Great Britain declares its neutrality in the War between the Confederate States of America and the United States of America. George McClellan appointed Commander, Department of Ohio. The following day he is promoted major general.

May 15th - Robert Anderson promoted to Brigadier General. Nathaniel Lyons [US] occupies Jefferson City, capital of Missouri.

May 16th - Tennessee officially admitted to the Confederacy. The Confederate government offered a \$10 bonus for volunteers.

May 18th - Arkansas admitted to the Confederate States of America.

May 20th - North Carolina secedes from the Union. Kentucky declares its neutrality.

May 21st - Missouri declares its neutrality. Confederate Congress votes to move its capital from Montgomery to Richmond. Sterling Price signs an agreement with William Harney, essentially handing Missouri over to federal forces.

May 23rd - Virginia ratifies the Secessionist Convention referendum by a vote of 132,201 to 37,451. John Floyd commissioned a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army. Thomas Jackson strikes the B&O Railroad, capturing 56 locomotives

May 24th - Federal forces occupy Alexandria. Sterling Price refuses to disband his troops. Col. Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth of the 11th New York Fire Zouaves is killed in the Marshall House Inn in Alexandria, Virginia, after he and his men removed a Confederate flag. He is generally regarded as the first officer killed while on duty in the American Civil War. Benjamin Butler uses the term “contraband” to describe slaves who have crossed into the Northern camps

Timeline continued at right



Prayer Closet

- Continue to pray for our those effected by the economy; especially those unemployed.
- Please continue to keep Laddie's mother (Clara Parrish) on your prayer list.
- Please keep 5 month old, Ansley Grace. Ansley continues to have serious heart problems. She has been discharged from the hospital as there is nothing more they can do for her.
- Please keep Anthony Gonzalez (a member of the 6th SCVI). He has not been doing well.
- Please add Frankie Wade (Dean Wade's wife) to your prayers. Frankie recently had back surgery
- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. The SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Pray for our service men and women and for their families.

From the Chaplain

Please send your Prayer Requests to our Camp Chaplain, Lindsay Waldrop. Lindsay can be contacted by phone (803-329-5921) or by email (lindsayw@comporium.net).

May 28th - Robert Anderson assumes command of the Department of Kentucky. Irvin McDowell assumes command of the Department of Northeastern Virginia. Confederates seize the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from Point of Rocks to Cumberland Maryland

May 30th - At a convention in Knoxville, a group of Unionists denounce Tennessee's secessionist actions.

May 31st - P. G. T. Beauregard ordered to assume command of the Army of Northern Virginia

The Typical Confederate Soldier

Nearly thirty-three years have passed since the alarm of war called from their peaceful pursuits the citizens who were to make name and fame as Confederate soldiers. The stirring scenes and the dreadful carnage of a memorable conflict have been removed by the lapse of time into the hazy past, and a new generation, however ready it may be to honor those who fought the battles of the South, is likely to form its idea of their appearance from the conventional military type. The Confederate soldier was not an ordinary soldier, either in appearance or character. With your permission I will undertake to draw a portrait of him as he really appeared in the hard service of privation and danger.

A face browned by exposure and heavily bearded, or for some weeks unshaven, begrimed with dust and sweat, and marked here and there by the darker stains of powder - a face whose stolid and even melancholy composure is easily broken into ripples of good humor or quickly flushed in the fervor and abandon of the charge; a frame tough and sinewy, and trained by hardship to surprising powers of endurance; a form, the shapeliness of which is hidden by its encumberments, suggesting in its careless and unaffected pose a languorous indisposition to exertion, yet a latent, lion-like strength and a terrible energy of action when aroused. Around the upper part of the face is a fringe of unkempt hair, and above this an old wool hat, worn and weather-beaten, the flaccid brim of which falls limp upon the shoulders behind, and is folded back in front against the elongated and crumpled crown. Over a soiled, which is unbuttoned and button less at the collar, is a ragged grey jacket that does not reach to the hips, with sleeves some inches too short. Below this, trousers of a nondescript color, without form and almost void, are held in place by a leather belt, to which is attached the cartridge box that rests behind the right hip, and the bayonet scabbard which dangles on the left. Just above the ankles each trouser leg is tied closely to the limb - a la Zouave - and beneath reaches of dirty socks disappear in a pair of badly used and curiously contorted shoes. Between the jacket and the waistband of the trousers, or the supporting belt, there appears a puffy display of cotton shirt which works out further with every hitch made by Johnny in his effort to keep his pantaloons in place. Across his body from his left shoulder there is a roll of threadbare blanket, the ends tied together resting on or falling below the right hip. This blanket is Johnny's bed. Whenever he arises he takes up his bed and walks. Within this roll is a shirt, his only extra article of clothing. In action the blanket roll is thrown further back, and the cartridge is drawn forward, frequently in front of the body. From the right shoulder, across the body pass

two straps, one cloth the other leather, making a cross with blanket roll on breast and back. These straps support respectively a greasy cloth haversack and a flannel-covered canteen, captured from the Yankees. Attached to the haversack strap is a tin cup, while in addition to some odds and ends of camp trumpery, there hangs over his back a frying pan, an invaluable utensil with which the soldier would be loth to part.

With his trusty gun in hand - an Enfield rifle, also captured from the enemy and substituted for the old flint-lock musket or the shotgun with which he was originally armed - Johnny reb, thus imperfectly sketched, stands in his shreds and patches a marvelous ensemble - picturesque, grotesque, unique - the model citizen soldier, the military hero of the nineteenth century. There is none of the tinsel or trappings of the professional about him. From an esthetic military point of view he must appear a sorry looking soldier. But Johnny is not one of your dress parade soldiers. He doesn't care a copper whether anybody likes his looks or not. He is the most independent soldier that ever belonged to an organized army. He has respect for authority, and he cheerfully submits to discipline, because he sees the necessity of organization to affect the best results, but he maintains his individual autonomy, as it were, and never surrenders his sense of personal pride and responsibility. He is thoroughly tractable, if properly officered, and is always ready to obey necessary orders, but he is quick to resent any official incivility, and is a high private who feels, and is, every inch as good as a general. He may appear ludicrous enough on a display occasion of the holiday pomp and splendor of war, but place him where duty calls, in the imminent deadly breach or the perilous charge, and none in all the armies of the earth can claim a higher rank or prouder record. He may be outre and ill-fashioned in dress, but he has sublimated his poverty and rags. The worn and faded grey jacket, glorified by valor and stained with the life blood of its wearer, becomes, in its immortality of association, a more splendid vestment than mail of medieval knight or the rarest robe of royalty. That old, weather-beaten slouch hat, seen as the ages will see it, with its halo of fire, through the smoke of battle, is a kinglier covering than a crown. Half clad, half armed, often half fed, without money and without price, the Confederate soldier fought against the resources of the world. When at last his flag was furled and his arms were grounded in defeat, the cause for which he had struggled was lost, but he had won the faceless victory of soldiership.

Source: Written by G.H. Baskett, Nashville, Tenn., published in the Confederate Veteran, Vol. I, No. 12, Nashville, Tenn., December 1893.



From left to right: Andrea Wolfe, Bucky Sutton, Linda Sutton, Jerry Brown, Glenna Hubbell and Sara Ruth Connelly

The Caroline Jamison Jenkins OCR Chapter # 7 was officially Chartered April 9th at the SCSCCV Convention held at the Rifle Club in Charleston. This is good in getting the member's wives and family involved to help YOUR SCV Camp grow and keeping YOUR Southern Heritage alive. Anyone interested can submit an application at any time for membership. Membership in the United Daughters of the Confederacy is NOT required. There are no restrictions for membership until the Chapter sets up it's own restrictions.

Information on the Order of Confederate Rose can be found at the South Carolina Order of Confederate Rose web site: <http://www.scocr.org/>.

For further information of if interested in submitting an application, please contact Linda Sutton at linda.sutton23@yahoo.com.



Jerry Brown helping to raise the Stars and Bars over Fort Sumter April 15th 1861 (2011)

April 8th - 18th marked a living history celebration of the 150th anniversary of the bombing of Fort Sumter. Members of the Palmetto Battalion along with other living historians from North Carolina and others from all over the US and other countries participated in the activities at Forts Moultrie, Sumter and Patriots Point in Charleston to relive the celebration to those who were there 150 years ago. Each person there strived to be as accurate as possible to honor our ancestors and portray the events as they actually happened.

Edward Porter Alexander **May 26, 1835 – April 28, 1910**

Edward Porter Alexander was an engineer, an officer in the U.S. Army, a Confederate general in the American Civil War, and later a railroad executive, planter, and author. Alexander is best known as the officer in charge of the massive artillery bombardment preceding Pickett's Charge on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, but he is also noted for his early use of signal and observation balloon intelligence in combat and is well regarded for his postwar memoirs and analyses of the war.

Alexander, known to his friends as Porter, was born in Washington, Georgia, the sixth of eight children of Adam Leopold Alexander and Sarah Hillhouse Gilbert Alexander. He became the brother-in-law of Alexander R. Lawton and Jeremy F. Gilmer. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1857, third in his class of 38 cadets, and was brevetted a second lieutenant of Engineers. He briefly taught engineering and fencing at the academy before he was ordered to report to Brig. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston for the Utah War expedition. The mission was terminated before he reached Johnston and Alexander returned to West Point, where he participated in a number of weapons' experiments and worked as an assistant to Major Albert J. Myer, the first U.S. Army Signal Officer and the inventor of the "wig-wag" signal flag, or "aerial telegraphy", code. He was promoted to second lieutenant on October 10, 1858.

Alexander met Bettie Mason of Virginia in 1859 and married her on April 3, 1860. They would eventually have six children: Bessie Mason (born 1861), Edward Porter II and Lucy Roy (twins, born 1863), an unnamed girl (1865, died in infancy prior to naming), Adam Leopold (1867), and William Mason (1868).

Alexander's final assignment for the U.S. Army was in the Washington Territory at Fort Steilacoom and at Alcatraz Island near San Francisco, California. After learning of the secession of his home state of Georgia, Alexander resigned his U.S. Army commission on May 1, 1861, to join the Confederate Army as a captain of engineers. While organizing and training new recruits to form a Confederate signal service, he was ordered to report to Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard at Manassas Junction, Virginia. He became the Chief Engineer and Signal Officer of the (Confederate) Army of the Potomac on June 3. At the battle of First Manassas, he made history by transmitting the first message in combat using signal flags over a long distance. Stationed atop "Signal Hill" in Manassas, Alexander saw Union troop movements and signaled to the brigade under Col. Nathan "Shanks" Evans, "Look out for your left, your position is turned", which meant that they were in danger of being attacked on their left flank. Upon receiving a similar message, Gens.

Beauregard and Joseph E. Johnston sent timely reinforcements that turned the tide of battle in the Confederates' favor.

Alexander was promoted to major on July 1 and lieutenant colonel on December 31, 1861. During much of this period he was chief of ordnance in (what would eventually be called) the Army of Northern Virginia under Johnston, and was also active in signal work and intelligence gathering, dealing extensively with spies operating around Washington, D.C.

During the early days of the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, Alexander continued as chief of ordnance under Johnston, although he managed to participate in combat at the Battle of Williamsburg and was commended by Maj. Gen. James Longstreet for his actions there. When Gen. Robert E. Lee assumed command of the army, Alexander prepositioned ordnance for Lee's offensive in the Seven Days Battles. He continued his intelligence gathering by volunteering to go up in a hot air balloon at Gaines' Mill on June 27, ascending several times and returning with valuable intelligence regarding the position of the Union Army. Alexander continued in ordnance for the Northern Virginia Campaign (Second Manassas) and the Maryland Campaign (Sharpsburg). Alexander barely missed capture by Federal cavalry under Col. Benjamin F. "Grimes" Davis that had escaped from Harpers Ferry during the Maryland Campaign; over 40 of Longstreet's 80 ammunition wagons were captured.

Porter Alexander is best known as an artilleryman who played a prominent role in many of the important battles of the war. He served in different artillery capacities for Longstreet's First Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia and he started this role on November 7, 1862, leaving Lee's staff to command the battalion that was the corps' artillery reserve. He was promoted to colonel on December 5. He was instrumental in arranging the artillery in defense of Marye's Heights at the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, which proved to be the decisive factor in the Confederate victory. While the rest of Longstreet's corps was located around Suffolk, Virginia, Alexander accompanied Stonewall Jackson on his flanking march at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863, and his artillery placements in Hazel Grove at Chancellorsville proved decisive.

Alexander's most famous engagement was on July 3, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg, during which he was in command of the artillery for Longstreet's corps. On that day, he was effectively in control of the artillery for the full army (despite Brig. Gen. William N. Pendleton's formal role as chief of artillery under Lee). He conducted a massive two-

continued on next page

Edward Porter Alexander (continued)

hour bombardment, arguably the largest in the war, using between 150 and 170 guns against the Union position on Cemetery Ridge. Unfortunately, the poor quality of the Confederate fuses delayed the planned detonation of many of the shells, and a number of the guns were not properly ranged, so that the rear areas sustained more damage than the front lines. General Longstreet effectively put Alexander in charge of launching Maj. Gen. George Pickett on his famous charge, putting the young colonel under enormous pressure to determine whether the Union artillery defenses had been effectively suppressed. Alexander would blame Lee for the defeat at Gettysburg, writing in 1901: "Never, never, never did Gen. Lee himself bollox [sic] a fight as he did this."

Alexander accompanied the First Corps to northern Georgia in the fall of 1863 to reinforce Gen. Braxton Bragg for the Battle of Chickamauga. He personally arrived too late to participate in the battle, but served as Longstreet's chief of artillery in the subsequent Knoxville Campaign and in the Department of East Tennessee in early 1864. He returned with the corps to Virginia for the remainder of the war, now with the rank of brigadier general (as of February 26, 1864). He served in all the battles of the Overland Campaign and when Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant slipped around Lee's army to cross the James River and assault Petersburg, Alexander was able to move his guns quickly through the lines and had them in place to repel the main attack.

During the Siege of Petersburg, Alexander had to adapt his artillery tactics to trench warfare, including experimentation with various types of mortars. He became convinced that the Union forces were attempting to tunnel under the Confederate lines, but before he was able to act on this, he was wounded in the shoulder by a sharpshooter. As he departed on medical leave to Georgia, he informed Gen. Lee of his suspicion and unsuccessful attempts were made to locate the tunneling activity. The resulting Battle of the Crater caught the Confederates by surprise, although it ended in a significant Union defeat. Alexander returned to the Army in February 1865 and supervised the defenses of Richmond along the James River. He retreated along with Lee's army in the Appomattox Campaign.

At Appomattox Court House, it was Alexander who made the famous proposal to Robert E. Lee that the army disperse, rather than surrendering. Lee rebuked him, and Alexander later wrote about regretting his suggestion. Although this incident is sometimes described as a proposal for "guerrilla war," Alexander describes in his memoir, *Fighting for the Confederacy*, the proposed alternative to surrender as "the army may be ordered to scatter in the woods & bushes & either to rally upon Gen. Johnston in

North Carolina, or to make their way, each man to his own state, with his arms, & to report to his governor."

After the surrender, Alexander briefly toyed with joining the Brazilian Army. Finding that he no longer desired the Georgia plantation life of his youth, he taught mathematics at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, and then served in executive positions with the Charlotte, Columbia, and Augusta Railroad (executive superintendent), the Savannah and Memphis Railroad (president), and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad (president). He became friends with Grover Cleveland and spent many hours duck hunting. In May 1897, President Cleveland sent Alexander to be the arbiter of a boundary dispute between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, in preparation for a possible canal to be dug across Central America. He spent two years surveying and supervising the boundary, completed the work to the great acclaim of the two governments, and returned to the U.S. in October 1899. His wife Bettie became ill while he was in Nicaragua and she died on November 20, 1899. In October 1901, Alexander married Mary Mason, his first wife's niece.

Alexander was a respected author following the war. He wrote many magazine articles and two major books: *Military Memoirs of a Confederate: A Critical Narrative* (published in 1907) and *Fighting for the Confederacy: The Personal Recollections of General Edward Porter Alexander* (posthumous, 1989). Unlike such Confederate officers as Jubal Early and William Pendleton, he eschewed the bitter Lost Cause theories of why the South was doomed to fail, given the overwhelming superiority of the North. Most historians consider Alexander's memoirs to be one of the most objective and sharpest resources written by a person involved in the Civil War. Historian David Eicher called *Fighting for the Confederacy* "a superb personal narrative with a good deal of analysis of Lee's operations ... Dramatic and revealing, an important source on the general, his fellow officers, and the Army of Northern Virginia." His other books include *Railway Practice* (1887) and *Catterel, Ratterel (Doggerel)* (1888).

Alexander died in Savannah, Georgia, and is buried in Magnolia Cemetery, Augusta, Georgia.

Alexander plays an important role in the description of Pickett's Charge in Michael Shaara's 1974 Pulitzer prize-winning novel, *The Killer Angels*. In the 1993 film adaptation of the novel, *Gettysburg*, he is portrayed by actor James Patrick Stuart, who reprised the role in the prequel *Gods and Generals*.

Alexander also appears in Harry Turtledove's alternate history novel *How Few Remain* and is portrayed in Ann Rinaldi's 1993 book *In My Father's House* as "Alex."



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Edward Porter Alexander May 26, 1835 – April 28, 1910