



# Sons of Confederate Veterans The Hunley Torpedo



The Lt. Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp # 2016 of Sparks, Nevada

Number One

Website: [www.dixon-hunley.org](http://www.dixon-hunley.org)

First Quarter



## Camp Report

The Lt Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp welcomes its newest members. They are:

Cullin Knight  
Shon Pratt  
Dr. Eric Skinner

Shon's dad, Ted, recently joined our camp. Additionally, at least five former members have expressed some interest in restoring their active membership. The current economic downturn was contributory to reducing our camp's size. We now have 75 members as contrasted with our peak of 103. We are still one of the largest camps outside of the South.

## Next Meeting

To be announced! At our December meeting, we amended our camp Constitution such that we are no longer tied to having our meetings on the second Saturday. The meetings will still be held on Saturdays, but this can be any Saturday of the month. Ample notice will be sent out by either email or telephone in advance.

## Special Thanks

To the Ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy who will be conferring medals on some of our combat veterans in April. The Ladies have always been supportive of our events.

## Our Combined April Event

As you all know, we deferred our Traditional Lee / Jackson Dinner from January to April in order to combine it with our Traditional Observation of Confederate Memorial Day and with the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter. January in Northern Nevada can be mighty rugged. We have been lucky up until now. But this year, we decided to take no chance with the Lee / Jackson Dinner. A snowstorm could have ruined it for everyone. **Details of the dinner are shown on page two!**

At this upcoming April event, we will honor our camp's combat veterans. The Lt Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp has fifteen actual combat veterans. We voted to present each of them with the War Service Medal, to be paid for by private donations to the camp. A few veterans declined the honor; and some cannot attend. For those men who can't be there, we will arrange to confer their medals separately. We have combat veterans from Korea, Vietnam, both Iraq wars and Afghanistan. The Ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will confer three medals at our event also.

**Donations:** Those wishing to help pay for the medals, please send your checks to me. Suggested amounts \$5 to \$20; but only if it's within your comfort zone. No money will be accepted from the medal recipients—you men have already paid your dues to society. Please send your donations to:

**The Lt. Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp # 2016  
1580 Ridgeland Dr. Sparks, NV 89434-1616**

## Our Combined April Event

This will be on the second Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Sands Casino in Reno.

It will take place at the Sands Casino in Reno. We have been there twice before and I have been able to establish an excellent working relationship with Lisa, their event director. She is providing us with the best rates we have ever received. The price of the buffet dinner is a flat \$30 per person and this includes tax and tip. We also have a reserved block of rooms for out-of-towners at a reduced rate. These rooms will cost \$51.08 inclusive of tax. That is an outstanding price.

There will not be a Chapel Service at the Masonic Cemetery this year. We will have our traditional Roll Call of States at the conclusion of our Dinner. The high-lights of this event will include:

1. Traditional music by Mrs. Julie Holloman. She is a music teacher and the wife of Compatriot Mark Holloman.
2. SCV Camp # 2016's presentation of the SCV Medals to our combat veterans.
3. The United Daughter's of the Confederacy's presentation of their medals to three of our selected combat veterans.
4. Our Lee / Jackson Program.
5. A silent auction of memorabilia donated to the camp. This was extremely successful last year!
6. Our Traditional Roll Call of States.

### The Buffet Dinner Menu

Shrimp Scampi with Alfredo Noodles  
Filet Mignon  
Chicken Marsala  
Roasted Red Potatoes in Olive Oil  
Rice Pilaf  
Roasted Seasonal Vegetables  
Green Salad and Dressings  
Marinated Roma Tomato and Cucumber Salad  
House-made Garlic Bread

Coffee and Tea

Assorted Mini-Desserts

Cost per person: \$30.00 which includes of tax and tip. The dinners must be prepaid; please send your checks to me prior to the dinner. My address is:  
1580 Ridgeland Dr. Sparks, NV 89434-1616

### Schedule for Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

- 6:00 Cocktail hour; No-host bar! The bar will remain open until 9:00.
- 7:00 Program begins and presentations made.
- 7:45 Dinner is served.
- 8:45 Time Approximate: Our Roll Call of States.
- 9:00 Time Approximate: Announcement of the results from the silent auction.

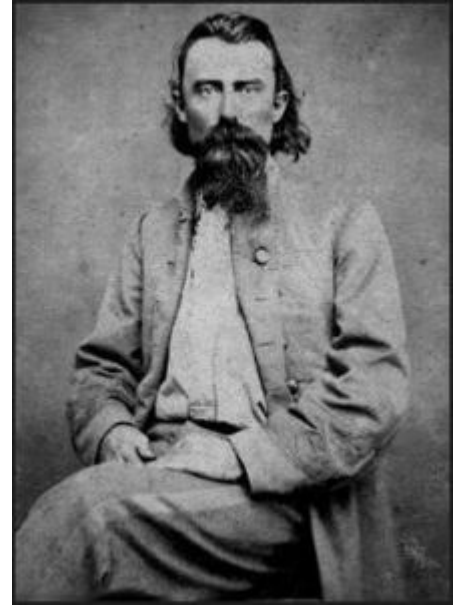
### Rooms

For those planning to spend the night, call the **Sands at 1-800-648-3553**. Ask for one the rooms reserved for the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The room cost is: \$51.08 which includes tax.

## From the TransMississippi: The Undefeated

### Major General Joseph Orville Shelby

He was one of our greatest—which is quite an understatement; we had so many of these types. A native of Kentucky, he lived in Missouri when the war broke out. In 1861, Joe Shelby formed a cavalry company and led it into battle at Wilson's Creek. Later on, he commanded a brigade. And his men were known as the "Iron Brigade." His accomplishments are too extensive to cover here. In June 1865, rather than surrender, Shelby and approximately 1,000 of his remaining troops rode south into Mexico. For their determination not to surrender, they were immortalized as "**the undefeated**". A later verse appended to the angry post-war Confederate anthem, "The Unreconstructed Rebel" commemorates the defiance of Shelby and his men:



"I won't be reconstructed, I'm better now than then.  
And for a Carpetbagger I do not give a damn.  
So it's forward to the frontier, soon as I can go.  
I'll fix me up a weapon and start for Mexico."

Emperor Maximilian declined to accept the Confederates into his army. In 1867, Shelby returned to Missouri. In 1893 he became the U.S. District Marshall for Western Missouri and was a key witness for the defense at the trial of Frank James.

### Joe Shelby Captures the USS Queen City

Our Confederate Cavalry seemed to have had a special talent, that being the ability to capture Yankee gunboats plying over our rivers. General Forrest accomplished this in Tennessee; so did Colonel Dickson in Florida, and also General Joe Shelby in Arkansas.

Shelby began his operations against the Federals on White River on June 24, 1864 with the capture and sinking of the USS Queen City, Federal gunboat No. 26, while anchored in mid-stream in the White River at Clarendon, Arkansas. Supplies for Maj. Gen. Frederick Steele's Federal Army were brought up White River to DeValls Bluff, about 30 miles by river above Clarendon, and were shipped from there to Little Rock by railroad. The Queen City had arrived at Clarendon on May 28, 1864, with orders to guard the town and the river. She was to protect Federal transports in the navigation of White River. The boat was built and commissioned at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1863. Her armament included a battery of nine heavy guns of which four were 32 pound parrot rifles; four were 24 pound howitzers and one a 12 pounder.

Shelby left his camp on the 19th and began a difficult march toward Clarendon. He camped within 2 miles of Clarendon, sending out pickets. On June 23<sup>rd</sup> he moved his whole command into town and took position on the riverbank about 100 yards from the Queen City and waited until daylight. At about 4 a.m. on June 24, he opened fire on the boat with his four artillery pieces and small arms. The first or second round disabled the starboard engine, and another shell passed through the steam pipe of the port engine. Within 20 minutes the boat was riddled with shell and rifle balls. The Yankee commander of the Queen City, had no choice but to surrender. Upon hearing the approach of gunboats from the direction of DeValls Bluff, Shelby set fire to the boat and cut her adrift. When the fire burned down to the magazine, there was an explosion.

## The CSS Arkansas Takes On the Whole Yankee Fleet

The CSS Arkansas is certainly a Confederate warship we can be proud of. Constructed as an ironclad ram in Memphis in the winter of 1861-1862 she was moved to the Yazoo River in Mississippi in April of 1862 while in unfinished condition to prevent capture when Memphis fell to the Yankees. Her sister ship, the CSS Tennessee could not escape and was burned at the docks to prevent capture. She was covered with railroad iron and armed with two eight-inch Columbiads, two nine-inch Dahlgren guns, four six-inch rifles, and two smoothbore thirty-two pounders. The ship was crewed by 60 Missourians, none of which had ever served on gun crews or on ships but they were eager for battle as their skipper – Captain Brown said “the only trouble they ever gave me was to keep them from running the Arkansas into the Union fleet before we were ready for battle.” The ship was completed within five weeks upon the Yazoo River.

It was decided during a consultation between Captain Brown and General Earl Van Dorn to move the CSS Arkansas to Vicksburg about fifty miles away. But before this could happen, the Arkansas had to run the gauntlet of the entire Union fleet composed of six ironclads, seven rams and ten large ships of war. On July 15<sup>th</sup> 1862 Captain Brown headed the CSS Arkansas toward Vicksburg. The Arkansas was initially challenged by three Union warships: the ironclad Carondelet, the gunboat Tyler and the ram Queen of the West upon the Yazoo River. The Arkansas concentrated most of its fire upon the Carondelet, killing and wounding many of the crewmen and driving it upon a shoal. Captain Brown would have captured it but couldn't spare the time to do so. The other two Union vessels tried to make good their escape with the Arkansas in pursuit. The Arkansas' smokestack was so badly riddled that upon turning into the Mississippi she was barely making one knot. From there she relied on the current of the river to go past the Union fleet. Soon the massive Federal fleet of 20 + ships came into view around the bend. Captain Brown steamed directly into the line staying as close to the Federals as possible to prevent being rammed. The Arkansas exchanged gunfire with all of those vessels, and made it through the Union fleet arriving in Vicksburg to the cheers of its citizens. The Arkansas had suffered 25 casualties including Captain Brown himself but had inflicted 111 upon the U. S. Navy.

During the following week the Arkansas underwent repairs. When they were completed the Arkansas was able to menace the Federals. She forced them to keep up steam 24 hours a day. This grew tiresome to the Federals and they resolved destroy her. They sent the USS Essex and USS Queen of the West to ram her. During the engagement the Essex was hit so hard by a broadside that it drifted away helplessly. The Queen of the West was hit so badly that it had to be towed back to the upper Federal fleet. The fighting was at such close quarters that the Arkansas crewmen received powder burns from the Federal guns. Twenty of the Arkansas' forty-one crewmen were casualties. Union losses were much greater. After this defeat the Federals decided to end the blockade of Vicksburg. The upper part of the Federal fleet went to St. Louis and the lower part to New Orleans. The Arkansas had bought Vicksburg a temporary reprieve. The Union Navy would not appear in front of Vicksburg for four welcome months. The greatest naval force ever assembled in one place in the western hemisphere had been dispersed by a hastily built gunboat constructed in a Mississippi swamp and made out of scrap metal.

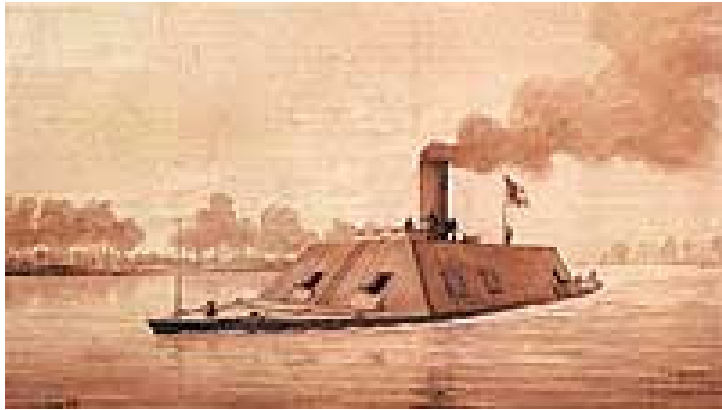
With the siege lifted, General Earl Van Dorn ordered the Arkansas to support a land attack at Baton Rouge under command of her first officer, Lt. Charles Read. This was contrary to the wishes of Captain Brown who was ill and away at Grenada. When he found out that she had been sent out four hours earlier, he rushed angrily by train to Vicksburg. He knew the engines of the Arkansas were in no condition to fight. The Arkansas broke down within sight of the Federal fleet and its crew was unable to repair the engines. Lt. Read, seeing that he could not bring any guns to bear, ordered his crew ashore and personally set fire to her. Within minutes the CSS Arkansas exploded with her colors still flying. Later on, one of the Yankee Captains took credit for sinking her but was later censured by his own superiors for trying to do so.

During its short but proud life, the CSS Arkansas exchanged gunfire with all of the Union ships listed to the right:

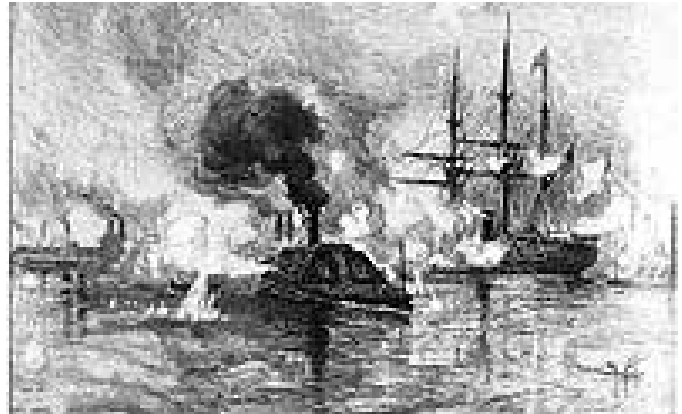
USS Hartford  
USS Iroquois  
USS Sciota  
USS Richmond  
USS Oneida  
USS Winona  
USS Pinola  
USS Wissahickon  
USS Sumter  
USS Kennebec  
USS Kineo

USS Katahdin  
USS Cayuga  
USS Essex  
USS Benton  
USS Carondelet  
USS Louisville  
USS Cincinnati  
USS Lancaster  
USS General Bragg  
USS Queen of the West  
USS Tyler

The CSS Arkansas



The CSS Arkansas Takes On the Yankee Fleet



### The Confederate Le Mat Revolver

This was probably the most ingenious and formidable revolver ever conceived or manufactured. It was developed jointly by Dr. (Colonel) Jean Alexander Francois Le Mat and General P.G.T. Beauregard. It was a favorite of Confederate Naval and Army officers. Generals Beauregard and J.E.B. Stuart carried them also. The first models were made by John Krider, a Philadelphia gunsmith. About 300 were made in New Orleans by Le Mat before production was shifted to Paris France, where these guns were produced for the Confederate States. They were then sent to England where they were proofed and then shipped on to Bermuda where they were run through the blockade. Approximately 3,000 were delivered to the Confederacy.

These were actually produced in various models. The one shown below had 9 cylinders in cal. 40. Underneath the pistol barrel was a second “shotgun” barrel chambered to cal. 63, loaded with buckshot. This weapon gave the bearer a considerable advantage over his adversary. The Yankees had nothing to compare with it. And it would still be considered one of the most devastating pistols even today.



## The So-called “Battle Hymn of the Republic”

This hateful song was written to denigrate the Southern People

The “Battle Hymn of the Republic” was written in the fall of 1861. While in Washington, D.C. with her husband, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe watched troops marching off to war singing “John Brown’s Body.” She determined to write a more inspiring war song to what was a good melody. First published in the Atlantic Monthly, she received five dollars for her literary effort.

Born into a prominent New York City family, Julia Ward was raised in a conservative, Christian home. As a young woman she rebelled against her parents’ strong Calvinism and ultimately married the Boston reformer, Dr. Samuel G. Howe. She adopted the tenants of Transcendentalism, then Unitarianism, and it was in that light that the “Battle Hymn” was written.

The Transcendentalists became the core of the radical abolitionist movement. Dr. Howe, as well as their Boston pastor, the Reverend Theodore Parker were two members of the “Secret Six” who financed and armed the anti-slavery terrorist John Brown. After his murderous rampage in Kansas and at Harper’s Ferry, Mrs. Howe lamented, “John Brown’s death will be holy and glorious. John Brown will glorify the gallows like Jesus glorified the cross.”

The “Battle Hymn of the Republic” can only be understood within the framework of the Transcendentalist-Unitarian creed. The **first verse** reads:

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword.  
His truth is marching on.

Mrs. Howe applied the apocalyptic judgment of the Revelation (14:17-20 & 19:15) to the Confederate nation. She pictured the Union army not only as that instrument which would cause Southern blood to flow out upon the earth, but also the Union army as the very expression of His Word (sword) itself. The Transcendentalist-Unitarians believed that the evil in man could be rooted out by governmental action. The South was evil and was thus deserving of judgment of the most extreme nature—its own Armageddon.

The **second verse** follows the same theme by presenting the Union army as the abode of their vengeful God.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps;  
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;  
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps.  
His day is marching on.

The **third verse** is so contrary of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that many hymnals leave it out altogether.

I have read the fiery gospel writ in burnished rows of steel.  
As ye deal with My contempters, so with you My grace shall deal;  
Let the hero born of woman crush the serpent with his heel.  
Since God is marching on.

Continued:

Mrs. Howe proclaimed a gospel of judgment pictured by rows of affixed bayonets. Taking God's promise of deliverance from Genesis 3:15, she applied it not to Christ, but to the Union soldier who would receive God's grace by killing Southerners. This was certainly a different gospel; the kind of which the Apostle Paul said, "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:8)

**Verse four** returns to the prose of the Apocalypse with trumpet and judgment seat imagery:

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat.  
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant, my feet!  
Our God is marching on.

The problem again is that civil warfare was the instrument being promoted for determining the hearts of men. A man's positive response to the call for enlistment in the Union army was the action which would reveal their standing before God.

The **fifth and final verse** gives the ultimate expression of the warped and anti-biblical theology which possessed the radical abolitionists.

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me.  
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,  
While God is marching on.

To Julia Ward Howe the work of Christ was incomplete. It was up to men through civil government to bring about a utopian society. She was quoted in her biography, "Not until the Civil War did I officially join the Unitarian church and accept the fact the *Christ was merely a great teacher with no higher claim to preeminence in wisdom, goodness, and power than any other man.*"



Happy forthcoming Saint Patrick's Day



## Hey! What About All Those Black Slave-owners?

So I pose the question: In light of the fact that many blacks owned slaves too; which side of the alleged reparations issue should they be placed on: the payee or the payer?

George Dereef, a Wisconsin attorney, was the descendant of a slave-holding free family of color from Charleston, South Carolina whose members had belonged to the Brown Fellowship Society. Originally from South Carolina, Dereef settled in Milwaukee in 1913 and he figured prominently in the local branches of the NAACP and the National Negro Business League.

In the 1820's George's grandfather Joseph Dereef had purchased a troublesome Negro girl named Betsey for \$270 and started on the road to slave ownership. His father Richard E. Dereef inherited Joseph's slaves and added to this number, becoming a wealthy free black Charleston wood factor. His sons were listed in the 1862 Free Negro Tax Book as factors as well, one of which had the title "Doctor." Son John Dereef was listed in his father's household in the 1860 federal census, and paid municipal taxes on real estate worth \$3,700. Like white slaveholders, the Dereef's lost their slaves after the war.

Other free black slaveholders like the Dereef's were Robert Howard, one of the wealthiest free men of color in antebellum Charleston, and William Ellison, the wealthiest free Negro in South Carolina. Howard was a wood dealer like the Dereefs, paying city taxes on five slaves and real estate worth \$33,900. Ellison was born into slavery in 1790, but by the time of the War Between the States owned more slaves than any other free Negro in the entire South except Louisiana. Ellison bought his freedom in 1816, set up a cotton ginning business, and made enough income to buy 63 slaves and ex-Governor Stephen D. Miller's former home and plantation.

Free black slaveholding was not unusual in the antebellum North and South as they utilized the labor of slaves for profit, hiring them out as simple labor or trained artisans. Though much is made of the benevolence of black slaveholders toward their kin, author Larry Koger (*No Chariot Let Down*) dismisses this as improbable as most black slaveholders were mulattoes (83.1%) while nearly all their slaves were dark-skinned (90%). He asked, "Where was the kinship?"

Koger underscores that there were black masters in every State where slavery existed (including the North), many black Americans of the antebellum period believed that slavery was a viable economic system. In Louisiana, Maryland, South Carolina and Virginia, free blacks owned more than 10,000 slaves, according to the Federal census of 1850.

Sources:

*Aristocrats of Color, The Black Elite*, Willard C. Gatewood, University Press of Indiana, 1993

*No Chariot Let Down, Charleston's Free People of Color*, UNC Press, 1984



## What Would Bill O'Reilly Say?

Every time I hear the famous Bill O'Reilly brag about his Yankee ancestor who fought against slavery, I choke down the urge to puke. He needs to be enlightened about Honest Abe! When questioned on this issue, the "Great Emancipator" replied:

*This War is not about slavery—Abraham Lincoln!*

## Comstock Re-enactors Schedule 2011

These are all events the CCWR attends:

1. March 12-13: Civil War in the Southwest at Picacho Peak State Park, Arizona
2. March 19-20: Knight's Ferry, Oakdale, California (ACWA)
3. April 2-3: CCWR Tactical, Dayton, Nevada
4. April 16-17: Mariposa California (ACWA)
5. May 28-30: Roaring Camp, Mt Herman, California (ACWA)
6. June 10-12: Rendezvous, Carson City, Nevada
7. August 24-29: Wild West Fair, Reno, Nevada
8. Aug. 31- Sept. 2: School Days, Virginia City, Nevada
9. September 3-5: Virginia City Civil War Days, Virginia City, Nevada
10. September 10-11: Nevada City, California (ACWA)
11. October TBA: Kearney Park, Fresno Historical Society, California (usually 1<sup>st</sup> weekend)
12. November 12-13: Moorpark Civil War Event, Moorpark, Simi Valley, California
13. Christmas Party: CCWR – To be announced

# Comstock Civil War Reenactors

Invites you to join us for our

## Spring Tactical

Saturday & Sunday, April 2-3, 10am

Hwy 50 East, Just West of Dayton NV

(Where the 45 MPH Zone Ends)



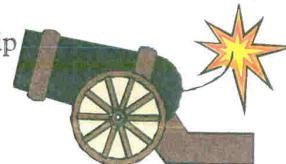
Become A CCWR Member And Learn To

# SHOOT A CANNON!



Or Pay \$5 without Membership

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775-786-9754 for Details



# Preserving Our Heritage

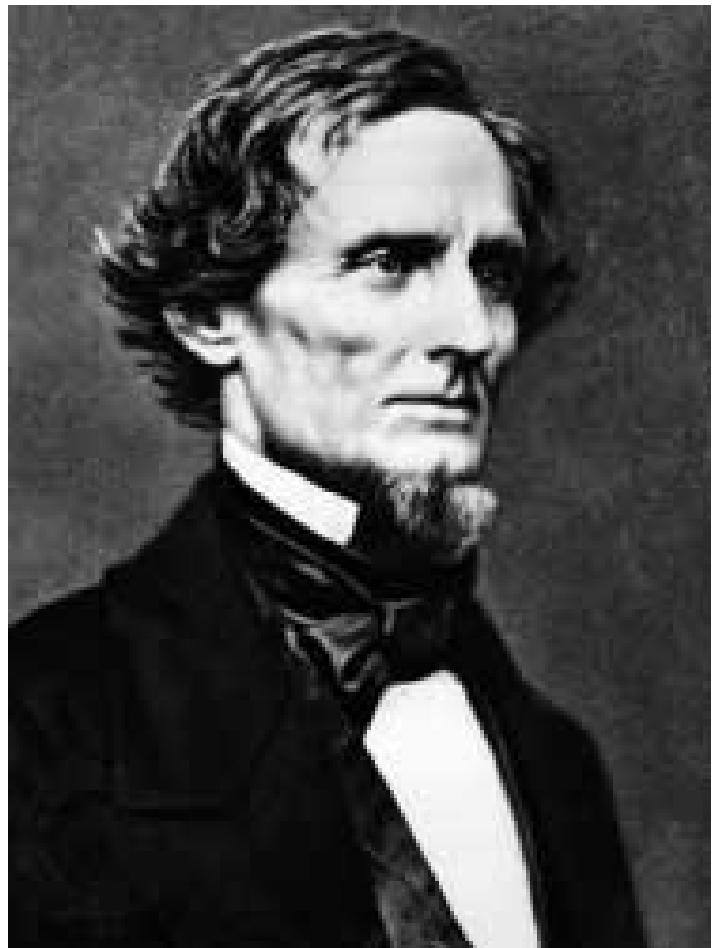
By now, all or most of you may have seen the letter I submitted to the Confederate Veteran Magazine which appeared in its previous issue. As you know, I would like to open up the SCV to any man of good character irregardless of where his ancestors lived in 1861.

Those few men who contacted me were generally supportive of the notion. One, however, wanted to be present when I was tarred and feathered.

Support for my proposal is limited. I suspect that too many of our compatriots think they will be losing something. Yet, if I could make them understand, I would impress upon their minds that *the Glory belongs to their ancestors, not to them*. No one alive today wore the gray. None of us can belong to the United Confederate Veterans.

This proposal would require a Constitutional Change which requires 2 / 3 support; which is an impossibility for now—we couldn't muster 10%.

The opportunity we are losing is incalculable. Our membership could soar into the stratosphere, and our coffers could be overflowing. What would our President, shown at the right say? One thing is for certain, he refused to surrender. How about you?



This change will never, and I mean never take place unless we get some support from higher levels of the SCV.

And among the hierarchy of the SCV, I received no support—except for one shining star, the Reverend Father Alistair Anderson of Frederick, Maryland. Father Alistair was a former Chaplain of the SCV. He graduated from Annapolis and served as a U.S. Navy line officer in World War II. After the war he became an Episcopal Minister; re-entered the military, this time into the Army, and retired as a Colonel. After many years, he withdrew from the Episcopal Church and became a priest in the Eastern Orthodox Church, which position he currently holds. His accomplishments are too numerous to give justice to here.

