



Sons of Confederate Veterans

The Hunley Torpedo



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

Number Six

Website: crossmicro.com/csshunley

June 2006

Camp Report

Our current numbers are the same as last month with a total camp membership of 100. We have about a half dozen prospective members.

Report from the June Meeting

Donations: We voted a donation in the amount of \$50 to the SCV Heritage Defense Fund. This goes directly to the Sons of Confederate Veterans and our leaders determine who will receive it.

Resolved: It was motioned and voted in favor of holding all future meetings in the month of June in Virginia City on June 5th. This date corresponds to the raising of the Stars and Bars in Virginia City on this date in 1861. The flag flew for about an hour in front of Newman's Saloon until the incident erupted into a big street brawl which lasted several hours.

In 2003 our camp reenacted the event by raising the Stars and Bars on the big flagpole in the center of town across from the Delta Queen. We had the casino's permission to fly it there for one hour. We plan to make this event part of our annual observances. This will be more of a social and media event than a regular meeting. Since we will hold it on an exact date, it will likely take place at noon on whatever day of the week the 5th falls upon.

Our Website

It is temporarily down. It needs desperately to be updated. The plan is to have it back up soon. Our webmaster, Lowell Cross, has just completed relocating in this area from Southern California and has been preoccupied with that.



Next Meeting

It will be on **Saturday, July 8th at 12:30 PM** in the conference room of the Sparks Library. All yall are encouraged to attend.

More of yall should try to attend our luncheon meetings in the private room of the Black Bear Diner in Reno. About every third meeting from now on will take place there. The food and fellowship are good. Ladies and children are welcome. Photos from our meeting there in May appear on the last page of this newsletter.

Next Year's Dues

The inevitable is almost here. Our dues year runs from August 1st to August 1st. Some of our newest members have paid through to August of 2007. For them, this doesn't apply. But most of the rest need to send the camp a check soon. The breakdown is:

Life Members owe: \$12.00 each

Regular Members owe: \$32.00 each

There is a two-month grace period beyond Aug. 1st

The Sons of Confederate Veteran's Reunion 2006

So far, three of our camp members have made arrangements to attend this annual event. This will take place during the first week of August. I (Lee Cross), Joe Scamihorn and Fred Holt will be there for our camp. This will take place in New Orleans. The French Quarter in the old part of town was undamaged by Hurricane Katrina. There are important issues at this convention that will be voted on. These events are always well attended and include women and children. The attendance is usually around a thousand combined.

One of our trademarks at these conventions is to tape a Confederate Battleflag in the room windows for all people outside to see. It is always an impressive and heart-warming sight to see dozens [we hope this year hundreds] of these flags visible from the streets below the hotel. Indeed a tourist from abroad might wonder who really won the war. There are always tours, luncheons, dinners and the Grand Ball at these events. The second largest Confederate Museum in the world of which we are a sponsor, 'Memorial Hall,' is within easy walking distance from the hotel.

It is possible to register for this convention at the last minute should anyone wish to attend. However the convention hotel which this year is the 'Sheraton' will likely be sold out. There are others within easy walking distance of it though.

If anyone wishes more details of this event, please contact me at 775-359-8453.



General Pickett and the Pennsylvania Girl

It was 1863; the Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee was advancing toward its destiny at Gettysburg. George Pickett's Division of Longstreet's Corps was wending through the Pennsylvania countryside. As it passed a Pennsylvania-Dutch household in a small village, a girl rushed out of her house and gamely waved the 'Stars and Stripes' in front of the passing Confederates.

Observing this; General George Pickett, as chivalrous as any Southerner could ever be, turned his horse away from the column and approached the girl. He took off his cap, bowed to the girl and respectfully saluted the flag of his foes.

As his column passed by her, the general lifted his hand and each man in it doffed his cap and saluted the young American patriot.

The delighted maiden received the homage of Pickett's whole division. She cried out in gratitude, "I wish I had a Confederate Flag; I would wave that too!"

The general was asked afterward how he could do such a thing. His answer: I did not salute the enemy's flag; I saluted the heroic womanhood in the heart of the brave little girl, and the glorious old banner under which I won my first laurels." [Note: General Pickett was a hero of the Mexican-American War].

This story was all the more remarkable because so many of the Confederate Soldiers in Pickett's Division were from the district of Suffolk, Virginia which had been heavily ravaged by the Union Army under the Stars and Stripes.

Battle of Chickamauga, Great Victory and Great Opportunity Lost

The Confederacy had some of the best military leaders the world has ever seen. Unfortunately it also had some of the worst, namely General Bragg. Bragg was universally despised by his men and subordinates. He was a martinet, who dealt out severe punishment for the most trivial offenses, real or perceived. He was known before the war as being cruel to the slaves on his own plantation in Louisiana. He had one thing in his favor; he had the confidence of Jefferson Davis.

By September 1863 Rosecrans' Yankees crossed the Tennessee River below Chattanooga and forced the Army of Tennessee to withdraw from there. Bragg drew his forces south into LaFayette, Georgia only 26 miles away. Here the Army of Tennessee received re-enforcements from Mississippi and Longstreet's Division in East Tennessee. Longstreet had been sent from Virginia.

On Sept. 18th with 66,000 men Bragg's Army, after heavy fighting crossed to the west of Chickamauga Creek at Reed's and Alexander's bridges. On September 19th Union Cavalry encountered dismounted Confederate Cavalry at Jay's Mill. A general battle ensued which stretched along four miles of front in a heavily wooded terrain.

On September 20th Union General Rosecrans, not realizing the true position of his command pulled Thomas Woods' Division out of line creating a gap. General James Longstreet smashed through this hole routing a third of Rosecrans' army. The remaining Union troops under General George H. Thomas were able to buy time for the Union army to retreat. Thomas' men were all armed with repeating Spencer rifles.

Bragg was timid about pursuing the retreating Yankees and lost his chance to destroy their army. The Confederate Army did not arrive before Chattanooga until two days later. To date, this had been the biggest Confederate Victory in the west inflicting more than 16,000 casualties upon the Union. During this time Bragg was in unending conflict with his subordinate generals. After this battle, twelve of Bragg's General's, including General Longstreet petitioned Jefferson Davis to have Bragg removed from command.

The greatest of the Confederate Generals, Forrest himself said the following to his immediate superior, General Joe Wheeler, "You can have my sword if you demand it; but there is one thing I do want you to put in your report to General Bragg – tell him that I will be in my coffin before I will fight again under your (Bragg's) command."

Face to face Forrest made the following statement to Bragg, "I have stood your meanness as long as I intend to. You have played the part of a damned scoundrel, and are a coward, and if you were any part of a man I would slap your jaws and force you to resent it. You may as well not issue any more orders to me, for I will not obey them, and I will hold you personally responsible for any further indignities you endeavor to inflict upon me. You have threatened to arrest me for not obeying your orders promptly. I dare you to do it, and I say to you that if you ever again try to interfere with me or cross my path it will be at the peril of your life."

Forrest's insubordination was unheard of in the history of war. Ordinarily it would have ended in his court martial and possible death. But by now, Forrest had established his worth and everyone knew it. The government in Richmond chose to ignore Forrest's remarks. Their final action in this matter was to 'promote him to Lieutenant General.'

Ultimately Bragg was relieved on command and became a staff officer in Richmond. Credit for winning the Battle of Chickamauga belongs to his subordinate officers and men. Credit for losing the opportunity to win the war in the west belongs to Bragg himself.

“The Denbigh” Most Successful Blockade Runner of the Gulf Ports



Advertised in a Liverpool newspaper on September 10th 1863 as being fitted out “to go to China,” she sailed one month later for Havana. Over the next year and a half, the Denbigh made twelve successful passages through the blockade into the gulf ports of Mobile and Galveston. On her outbound return trip during the thirteenth voyage, she ran aground and was shelled and burned by the U.S. Navy. This happened one month after General Lee surrendered.

Havana Destination of the Gulf Runners

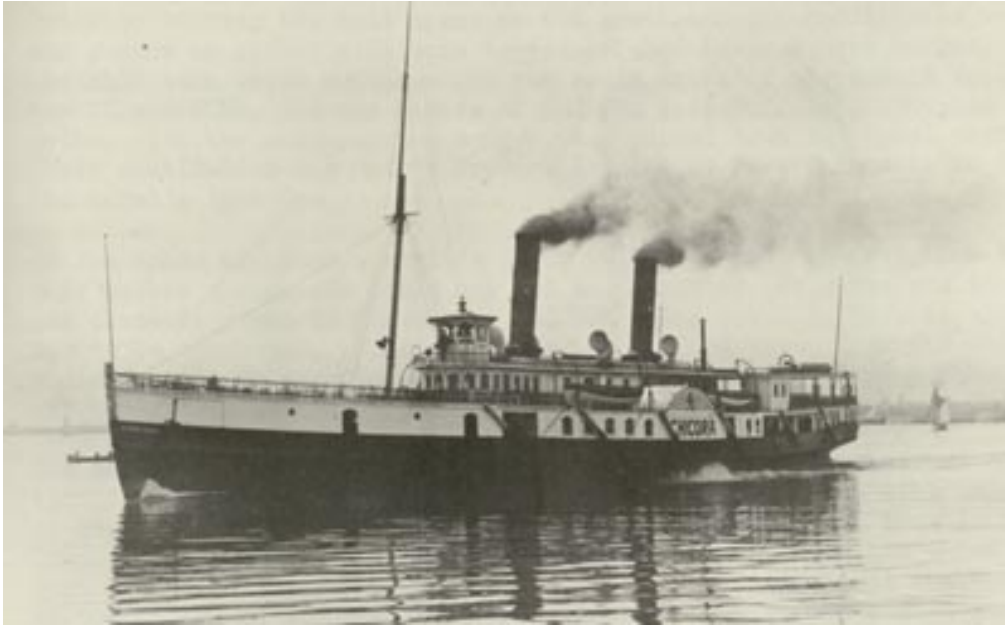
Cuba was one of the three principal destinations for blockade runners shipping cotton out of the Confederacy during the Civil War. Once reaching Havana, the main blockade-running port, the runners would load their ships with the valuable supplies so desperately needed in the Southern states. Because of Cuba's southern location, ships running to and from the island primarily utilized the Confederate Gulf of Mexico ports that stretched from Brownsville, TX, 750 miles from Havana, to St. Marks, FL, only 450 miles away. Unlike Bermuda and the Bahamas, the other two principal blockade-runner destinations, many of the ships running in and out of Cuba were not sleek steam-powered ships, but sailing vessels of little draft that were suitable for navigating the shallow ports of the Confederacy's Gulf Coast.

Havana was a bustling and rowdy port crowded with speculators, businessmen, and gamblers who were making their fortunes with the blockade runners or entertaining the free-spending crews. Havana warehouses bulged with merchandise that the owners claimed to be "expressly for the Confederate market... all available at low price because we wish the Confederate States to get the benefit of them." As soon as a ship that appeared to be a runner was spotted approaching the harbor, the news was signaled from Havana's Moro Castle, and a flotilla of small boats would head out to sea. Greeting the incoming ship with eager smiles, the speculators offered a wide variety of goods for sale before the runner even entered the harbor.

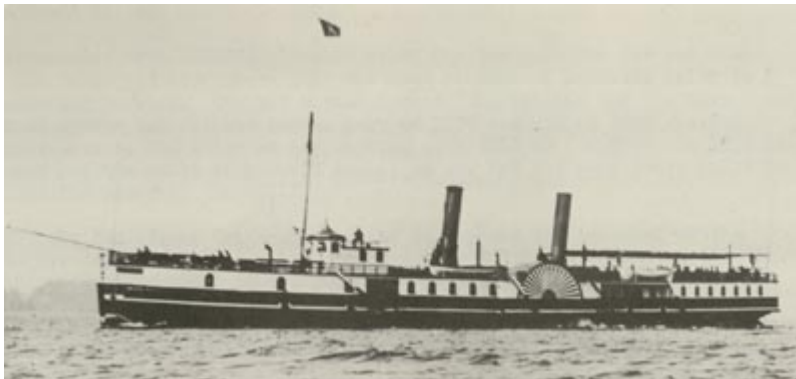
Just outside the walls of the old city was a large cafe called the Louvre that was a favorite haunt of the blockade-running fraternity. The Louvre was neutral ground where the runners as well as Union sailors and officers would meet, drink many glasses of Cuban rum, exchange friendly banter, and gather useful information. While socializing, Union crews might be able to ascertain when a runner would attempt to re-cross the Gulf, and runners might learn the disposition of blockading ships and which Southern ports would be the safest destinations.

Last of the Blockade Runners

Shown below - "The Chicora." She was the last blockade runner to escape Charleston before the Yankees took the city. She is not to be confused with the Confederate Ironclad "Chicora" which also was in Charleston. The blockade runner Chicora was sold in Canada after the war and became a cruise and mail ship on the Great Lakes. In 1920 she was modified to become a coal barge and lasted in this capacity until 1938 when she was accidentally rammed and sank.



Shown below - "The Southern Belle." She was also a blockade runner that later served on the Great Lakes under Canadian Registry after the 'War Between the States.' She was modified and lasted until 1891.



The Blockade and Bermuda

The blockade brought so much prosperity to the British Colony of Bermuda that a toast commonly heard in St. George went like this: "Here's to the Confederates that produce the cotton; to the Yankees that maintain the Blockade and keep up the price of cotton; and to the Britishers who buy the cotton and pay the high price for it. So three cheers to a long continuance of the war, and success to blockade runners.

Confederate Heroes

Captain Clifton Holtzclaw


This Missouri guerrilla fighter and his brothers were ancestors of compatriots Jeff and Braxton Holtzclaw. Much information exists on this man. I have reproduced here a passage about him from John Newman Edward's Book "Noted Guerrillas" pages 303-304 which was written in the late 1800s.

"Captain Clifton Holtzclaw led the first guerrillas Howard County produced. [His brother] Capt. William Holtzclaw of the first companies that was raised in the state...Clifton was a lieutenant in the company, and his brothers, James, Benjamin, and John were privates. William was killed at Corinth, John and Benjamin at Vicksburg while James and Clifton survived the war. Here were five brothers who were brave alike, who fought side by side, who were renowned for personal prowess and personal courage, and who sacrificed everything they possessed for the cause and the Confederacy. A tragic circumstance called Capt. Clifton Holtzclaw back to Missouri. His aged father and mother, together with three sisters, had been robbed of everything they possessed, horses, household effects, clothing, even bread. Yet the old patriarch's spirit remained unsubdued and undaunted. As far advanced as he was in life, and as little fitted for warlike operations, he nevertheless secreted several kegs of powder against a day when they might be worth their weight in gold. Some of this powder became damp [and] old Mr. Holtzclaw attempted to dry it before a fire. There was a terrible explosion, one sister was killed and the two others dreadfully burnt. To care and protect these, and his two aged parents, Capt. Cliff Holtzclaw hurried home after the Corinth battle, where a gallant brother had been killed, and sought to be at peace and to rest in quiet. Such things in those savage days were impossible things. Several efforts were made to capture and kill him. Four or five scouting parties went to his house, insulted his parents, abused his sisters, and made all sorts and kinds of terrible threats against his own life. In self-defense he organized speedily a splendid company and fought a desperate guerrilla fight all through the summer of 1863 and 1864.

"But did he not have terrible provocation? In the summer of 1863, Lieutenant Jo Streff [sic] of Guitar's regiment went to Capt. Holtzclaw's house, took the aged father from the arms of his aged wife and remorselessly killed him. The son avenged him. He fought thereafter as some savage wild beast. He killed by day and night. He never took a prisoner. As desperate as Anderson, as unforgiving as Todd, as untiring as Taylor or Jesse James, the timber sent him forth as a scourge and received him back again as though he was a part of its solitude." (Edwards, pp. 303-304)

Carolyn Bartels, in her book "Civil War Stories in Missouri," pp. 133-134, expands on the above story, though she wrongly attributed the incident to the year 1862. She wrote:

"In 1862 the militia, led by Lieutenant Street killed his [Clifton Holtzclaw's] father in the latter's barnyard. Then with no feeling at all, left the body for the hogs to devour. Mr. Holtzclaw's young daughters finally discovered his body and rescued their lifeless father. The charge against the elder Holtzclaw was that he fed and harbored bushwhackers and guerillas. By Union rules all Missouri State Guard men were considered bushwhackers and guerillas. Clifton set about making his father's life one that was not lived in vain for naught."



After the war, Cuba was a favorite destination for escaping Confederates seeking a safe haven for temporary or permanent exile.

The Heritage Page

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Virginia Division Takes the High Ground

Oakwood Cemetery in Richmond. The 2nd
Largest Confederate Cemetery

The care of the Oakwood Cemetery has been under the control of several groups, most notably the Oakwood Trust. Over the last several years all efforts by the SCV Virginia Div. to get approval for the maintenance and erection of headstones there have been blocked.

In an effort to show a commitment to the cemetery, the Virginia Div. raised its dues by \$6 per member (4,000 members) with all proceeds going to Oakwood. This money along with the \$50,000 approved by SCV-HQ has created a solid fundamental base. Once a financial commitment was established, the division was then able to take its plans for Oakwood to the Virginia Senate and I am happy to say, the passage of State Senate Bill 401 has made the VA Div. the designated legal recipients for the care of Oakwood and all Confederate cemeteries and graves within the state. This means the VA Div. will receive additional funding from the state and will work closely with the Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources for all improvements to the cemetery.

The next hurdle is to coordinate efforts with the local governments. With Senate backing and excellent relations with the VA Dept. of Historic Resources, our brothers in Virginia will now be able to start the task of making Oakwood "The Arlington of the South."

Senate Bill No. 401

A Bill to amend and reenact ~10.1-2211 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Department of Historic Resources; care of Confederate Cemeteries and Graves; Sons of Confederate Veterans – Virginia Division.

Please contact me if you would like additional information on Oakwood.

John Kindred

Settlement Reached In Prom Dress Case

Lexington, KY – Nearly two years after she was barred from her high school prom for wearing an evening dress patterned after a Confederate Flag, **Southern Legal Resource Center** client Jacqueline Duty was vindicated as her former school board agreed to settle her lawsuit against it out of court.

The SLRC's local counsel in the case, Kentucky Attorney Earl Ray Neal, confirmed the settlement. The amount of damages awarded will not be disclosed under mutual agreement by attorneys for both sides. The case had been scheduled for trial in August, 2006.

"We know this comes as a tremendous boost for Jacqueline, especially at this time," said SLRC Executor Director Roger McCredie, who noted that Ms. Duty, now a college student, faces surgery tomorrow. "She couldn't ask for a better get-well card," he said.

Ms. Duty's case stemmed from events of May 1, 2004, when she was prevented from entering the senior dance at Russell High School wearing the red sequined ball gown she and her mother had worked on for two years. School officials termed the dress "too controversial." Following the incident, the Duty Family contracted the SLRC, whose chief legal trial counsel, Kirk D. Lyons, together with attorney Neal, had formed the winning legal team.

Ms. Duty's case attracted international media attention and the school board's withdrawal is already being hailed as a highly significant and far reaching Southern Heritage victory.

Update on the last article regarding the vandalism to the Confederate Statue in Brunswick, GA.

The members of the Thomas Marsh Forman Camp #485 and I would like to thank each and every one of the brothers in the Sparks NV. Camp for your donation toward the restoration of our monument. A member of our camp is contacting an individual who can build the letters back up and repair the marble rifle and its trigger guard.

Our May Meeting at the Black Bear Diner

