



*Sons of Confederate Veterans*  
**The Hunley Torpedo**  
 The Lt. Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp # 2016



Number Three                      Website: [crossmicro.com/csshunley](http://crossmicro.com/csshunley)                      March 2006



**Camp Report**

There were two re-instatements this month in addition to our new members. We currently have 97 men on our rolls. The Lt. Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp welcomes its newest members. They are:

- Richard Hampton
- William Hampton
- Dave Lubliner

**Special Thanks**

Ralph Covington: To augment Miriam Cavallero's lotto prize of the one week stay in Hawaii, Ralph is donating the air travel for two persons toward this fund raising lottery. **"How Sweet It Is!"**

Johnnie Scamihorn: She donated \$200 on our behalf to the Confederate War Memorial Chapel in Richmond, Virginia.

Miriam Cavallero: She also donated \$100 to the same chapel on behalf of her father.

Rick Farmer: He donated \$100 to our camp to use any way we choose. We'll vote on this in April.

John Kindred: He made two donations on our behalf. One was toward a Confederate scholarship fund in Alabama, sent to the Camp administering it. The second was to Arizona Camp #1710 to assist in their project of donating books to schools.

**Next Meeting**

It will be on **Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. in the conference room** of the Sparks library.  
**Y'all Come!**

**Our New Camp Constitution**

On the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, I presented our new proposed Camp Constitution to the men present. The men voted unanimously to accept it. This document streamlines our practical operations.

**All Donations Acknowledged**

The SLRC, Memorial Hall in New Orleans and the Brunswick Camp, greatly appreciated our gifts.

**Victory in Kentucky**



For those of you not familiar with this situation, shown at left is Miss Jacqueline Duty. In 2003 she was barred from her high school prom because she tried to wear her Confederate themed dress to it. Our Camp donated \$200 to the Kentucky Division of the SCV for this fight. Details of this struggle are given on the Heritage page.

## The Irish Confederates

At Appomatox, one Confederate Soldier remarked to his Union counterpart, “The only reason you beat us is because you had more Irish.”

Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 13<sup>th</sup> 1862

For those of you who were fortunate enough to see the movie ‘Gods and Generals’, you will remember the scene where Union soldiers of their Irish Brigade charged the Confederate Irish returning fire from Marye’s Heights. Well, this was historically accurate; that’s just the way it happened.

The Georgia Brigade commanded by General Thomas Cobb, included the 24<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry and Phillip’s legion. The 24<sup>th</sup> was commanded by Antrim-born Colonel Robert McMillan and included many Irishmen. At the beginning of the war, McMillan organized a company in Habersham County that included many Irish. It adopted his name, becoming the McMillan Guards and became part of the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Phillip’s Legion included an Irish company known as the ‘Lochrane Guards’, from Macon, Georgia. The 19<sup>th</sup> Georgia also had an Irish Company, the ‘Jackson Guards’.

At Fredericksburg, General Cobb was mortally wounded by a bullet which shattered his thigh fifteen minutes after the first union assault. Colonel McMillan replaced him. As the green flag of the Union Irish approached, McMillan observed that it was Meagher’s Brigade (Meagher is pronounced ‘Marr’). Shortly afterward he gave the command, “Give it to them now boys! Now’s the time! Give it to them!” All through the afternoon McMillan strode up and down his line exposing himself to fire and exhorting his men to hold the line. After the repulse of the Union Irish, an additional fifteen Union brigades attempted to take Marye’s Heights, only to be repulsed by McMillan’s men. In his post battle report, describing his troop’s performance, McMillan stated, “The heaps of slain in our front tell best how well they acted their part.”

In a letter to a Charleston, S. C. newspaper, a Georgian Soldier wrote that McMillan was “Waving his sword and encouraging his men, they seemed to catch the spirit of their leader and redouble their efforts.” Another Confederate Commander named Kershaw said of the soldiers of McMillan’s Brigade, “Their Fire was the most rapid and continuous I have ever witnessed.” At one point McMillan was hit in the neck by a spent ball. It didn’t have enough force left to penetrate and bounced off. One of his sons was watching, horrified; then McMillan assured him he was fine, calmly reached down, picked the ball up and put it in his pocket.

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“Surrender means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by northern school teachers; will learn from northern school books their version of the war; will be impressed by all the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit subjects for derision.”

He said at Franklin: “If this cause which is dear to my heart, is doomed to fail, I pray heaven may let me fall with it, while my face is toward the enemy and my arm battling for that which I know is right.”

**Major General Patrick Cleburne, CSA**



## Major General Patrick Cleburne The Greatest of the Confederate Irish

Patrick Ronayne Cleburne was born in County Cork, Ireland in 1828. He was the second son of a physician. He enlisted in the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot in the British Army in 1846 and rose to the rank of corporal. Three and a half years later he bought his discharge and came to America with two brothers and an older sister. They arrived in New Orleans on Christmas Day, 1848. He went to Helena, Arkansas where he worked as a druggist in 1850. Cleburne studied law in his spare time and opened his own practice in 1856. America was very good to him, he became a wealthy man. Cleburne was a religious man, a non-drinker and he never owned slaves.

With the outbreak of the war, Patrick Cleburne joined the Yell Rifles of Phillip's County, Arkansas, as a private. He was elected to the position of captain. Election was the manner in which most ranks were established in those early days of the Confederate Army. When General Hardee was placed in command of all Arkansas Troops, he quickly recognized 'what a jewel' he had in Cleburne. Cleburne was promoted to Brigadier General on March 4<sup>th</sup> 1862. He fought at Shiloh. At the Confederate Victory of the Battle of Lexington, Kentucky, he was severely wounded in the mouth; but, he returned to duty in time for the Battle of Perryville. He led the Confederate charge which brought victory in that battle. After the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee (also called Stone's River), Cleburne was promoted to Major General in January 1863.

Cleburne along with Hardee and Forrest were outspoken critics of General Bragg's incompetence. After the disaster at Lookout Mountain, Cleburne's Brigade provided the rearguard which saved the Confederate supply train and the Army of Tennessee. He directed his small force in a brilliant rearguard defense at Ringgold Gap in North Georgia which stalled the yankees and won him special thanks from the Confederate Congress.

Cleburne believed he had a solution to winning the South's Independence. On January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1864 he met with General Johnston and other high ranking Confederates at Dalton, Georgia. He proposed emancipating the slaves and enlisting them into the Confederate Army. His idea was embraced by some and rejected by others. Ultimate rejection came from President Jefferson Davis at the urging of the incompetent Braxton Bragg who had been transferred to Richmond as a staff officer. From here on Cleburne received no more promotions, although he was touted as 'The Stonewall Jackson of the West'. At Hardee's wedding in Demopolis, Alabama, Cleburne met 24-year old Susan Tarleton. They became engaged before his ten day furlough was up. During the Atlanta Campaign, Cleburne fought valiantly at every battle from Rocky Face Gap until the end at Jonesboro. He was horribly distressed by the appointment of Hood as Commander of the Army of Tennessee. This was the death knell of the Confederacy; Hood would wreck the Army of Tennessee. Hood used laudanum to deal with the pain from his wounds. Laudanum contained Opium.

Hood undertook the most bizarre behavior. He abandoned Georgia to Sherman's tender mercy and took the Army of Tennessee into Tennessee with the purpose of recapturing Nashville. At the Battle of Franklin, Hood would complete the destruction of his army. Cleburne and other commanders tried to talk Hood out of making a frontal assault against the powerful union breastworks there. Cleburne's men respected him with a love that bordered on worship. At Franklin, he knew his men were being sent on a suicide charge. He knew it was his duty to lead and die with them. With bands playing 'Dixie' and 'The Bonnie Blue Flag' Cleburne's men under his 'Silver Moon Flag' led the 15,000 man Confederate charge. Cleburne had two horses shot out from under him. The Confederates took the position after numerous charges. The yankees retreated after inflicting horrendous casualties on the Army of Tennessee. General Cleburne and five other Confederate Generals were among the 6,252 Confederates killed in the battle that was called 'The Gettysburg of the West'. In 1870 Cleburne's body was returned to Helena, Arkansas and re-interred there.

## Major Henry Wirtz and the Myth of Andersonville

Few of the lies perpetrated against our Confederate Heroes are more ludicrous than the yankee myth regarding Major Henry Wirtz. He was the first official war criminal in history. I'll lay out the facts of his case and the reader can decide for himself.

A little background is in order about Henry Wirtz. He was a German speaking Swiss who practiced medicine in both Kentucky and Louisiana prior to the war. He enlisted as a sergeant in the 4<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry. Wirtz fought at Manassas. He served in this unit until he was seriously wounded in his right wrist at the Battle of Seven Pines. The wound was considered incurable and was a severe source of pain for him until he died. Wirtz was promoted to Captain and assigned to the staff of General Winder. He commanded several different prison facilities in the Richmond area until he was sent as a plenipotentiary of the Confederate Government to Paris and Berlin in 1864. This was also to help facilitate his medical treatment.

Upon returning, he was assigned as Commandant of the Andersonville Prison in Georgia on March 27<sup>th</sup> 1864.

To begin with Wirtz came under the same general amnesty guaranteed to all Confederates by General Grant at Appomattox. Robert E. Lee referred to his trial as a 'judicial lynching'. If he had received a fair trial by an impartial jury, he would have been acquitted. The real war criminals were conducting the trial.

Wirtz was tried on two charges. The first charge accused him of "combining, confederating, and conspiring together with Jefferson Davis, Howell Cobb, John H., Richard B., and W. S. Winder, Isaiah White, R. Randolph Stevenson, and other to impair and injure the health and destroy the lives of large numbers of Federal prisoners at Andersonville." No reasonable evidence could be provided for this charge. There were no memos, telegraph messages, diaries, and witnesses testifying to a conspiracy or official messages to this effect. Wirtz was found guilty of this conspiracy. The testimony used to convict him merely described the horrible conditions in the camp.

Before I go further with this article, I feel the facts of all prisons, both Union and Confederate should be aired. 26,436 Confederates died in northern prisons; 22,576 yankees died in Southern Prisons. The South held 50,000 more prisoners than the north did. 29 % of the union prisoners held at Andersonville died there. At Rock Island, Illinois, the death rate of Confederates was 77.4 %. The yankee commandant there, cut their rations and forced them to sleep outside of the barracks in winter. The chief surgeon at Elmira Prison in New York bragged that he had killed more Confederates than any soldier at the front. Where were these 'guardians of the glorious good' who tried Henry Wirtz in light of these yankee atrocities. It came out at Henry Wirtz' trial, that the prisoners at Andersonville received the same rations as the Confederates. And the Confederate Guards had the same death rate. The South was starving. The problem at Andersonville was sanitation. It was designed for 10,000 men but swelled to over 35,000. General Grant stopped all prisoner exchanges.

The victor not only writes history but gets to judge who committed the atrocities.



## Wirtz Continued

The second charge against Major Wirtz was composed of a total of thirteen specifications. 150 union soldiers testified against him at his trial. There would certainly have been a vendetta against him; that is understandable. Andersonville was no resort. But for the record it should be noted that dozens of union soldiers volunteered to testify in his behalf but were denied the right to do so.

The first four charges: Specified that Wirtz had personally shot and killed or beat four different prisoners. What is most remarkable here is that none of the witnesses to these brutal events could name any of these men. One of them is alleged to have died the following day. Maybe Wirtz was careful just to shoot the ones that nobody else knew. That must be it!

Specification 5: That Wirtz placed a prisoner in the stocks for punishment on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1864. Remarkable! Wirtz was on sick leave in the month of August and not at Andersonville. Again, no one could name this prisoner. By the way, the use of stocks for punishment was allowed in the union army against its own men.

Specification 6: That Wirtz caused a man to be placed in the stocks on February 1<sup>st</sup> 1864 which resulted in his death. This is rich! The first prisoners that are recorded to have arrived in Andersonville did so on February 17<sup>th</sup> 1864. Wirtz did not arrive there until April 12<sup>th</sup> 1864.

Specification 7: That Wirtz on July 20<sup>th</sup> 1864 chained several prisoners together and made them carry around large iron balls fastened to their feet which caused one to die. Again, none of the witnesses could remember any of their names.

Specification 8: That Wirtz on May 15<sup>th</sup> 1864 ordered a guard to shoot a prisoner who had crossed the deadline. First let me explain what a deadline is. These extended 18 feet beyond the inside of the interior wall. Both armies used deadlines in their prisons. Anyone crossing the deadline was automatically shot. All prisoners knew what deadlines were for. Sometimes prisoners crossed them as a means of committing suicide. Again, no one could name the union soldier who got shot. This would not have been a war crime in anybody's army.

Specification 9: Tied in with specification 8, identical.

Specification 10: That Wirtz on August 20<sup>th</sup> 1864 ordered a guard to shoot a prisoner. Wirtz was on sick leave in August and not at Andersonville.

Specification 11: That Wirtz, on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1864 allowed bloodhounds to attack and wound a prisoner which resulted in his death six days later. Despite the fact that the man was allegedly cared for by his fellow prisoners for those six days, no one could name this man. I can only conclude from these acts that Wirtz must have been enormously clever at choosing victims that no one could identify.

Specification 12: Again, tied in with specification 8, identical.

Specification 13: That Wirtz pistol whipped a prisoner to death. Again, no one could remember his name.

The main prosecution witness was a man named Felix de la Baume. Allegedly he witnessed every atrocity Wirtz committed. The trouble with this witness, he never was at Andersonville. He had been rewarded for his testimony with an appointment to the Department of the Interior before the trial began. Eleven days after Wirtz was hanged, this man was identified as Felix Oeser, a deserter from the 7<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers.

Continued on next page,

## Wirtz Continued

Another witness at the trial was Dr. Joseph Jones, Confederate Medical Director who made an inspection tour of Andersonville. He had written an account of the appalling conditions of the camp. The union boys cherry picked his report for damaging evidence. Nothing positive out of his report, alluding to Wirtz' efforts to improve the lot of the prisoners, was admitted into evidence.

No Confederate Soldiers were allowed to testify in his behalf. General Richard Taylor later recounted when he passed through Andersonville on an inspection tour by train: Wirtz, with great determination but little tact confronted Taylor and complained about the difficulties he was having in taking care of the prisoners. He complained about supplies, that he didn't have blankets to give to the prisoners and that he did not have wagons to haul firewood to them. He presented Taylor with copies of requisitions and appeals for help. Taylor's comment of Wirtz' trial was "I know nothing of this Wirtz, who I then met for the first and last time, but he appeared earnest in his desire to mitigate the conditions of his prisoners. There can be little doubt that his execution was a 'sop' to the many-headed."

Wirtz did allow for the destruction of a renegade group among the prisoners. There was a group called the 'Raiders'. They attacked, beat, murdered, and robbed other union prisoners. Union prisoners complained to him about this. Wirtz wired to higher authorities for permission to allow the prisoners to conduct trials against these men. Authority was granted. The union prisoners tried six of their fellow yankees and these were hung.

In July 1864 Wirtz paroled five union soldiers who carried a petition signed by most of the prisoners at Andersonville to Washington. This petition asked Lincoln to reinstitute prisoner exchanges. Lincoln refused to see them. In Grant's own words, "It is hard on our men held in Southern prisons not to exchange them, but it is humanity to those left in the ranks to fight our battles. Every man released on parole or otherwise becomes an active soldier against us once, either directly or indirectly. If we commence a system of exchange which liberates all prisoners taken, we will have to fight on until the whole South is exterminated."

Things were so bad in the Confederacy, that in the last part of the summer of 1864, the Confederacy offered to unconditionally release prisoners if the Union would send ships to retrieve them. The yankees did not accept this offer until December. They knew these prisoners were a burden to the Confederacy. Sherman's march further reduced the supplies to Andersonville and later in 1864 Confederates were transferring prisoners out.

At his trial a Catholic Priest, Peter Whelan testified that he had visited the prison daily for several months and found Major Wirtz was sincerely concerned with the welfare of the prisoners. Father Whelan also testified that, although he talked with a multitude of prisoners every day, he never heard a single complaint of a prisoner being mistreated by Major Wirtz.

Well, the yankees found Major Henry Wirtz guilty as charged and sentenced him to hang. They offered him a carrot though, if he would testify against Jefferson Davis, they would spare his life. This, he declined to do. Major Henry Wirtz had honor, the yankees who tried him didn't!

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*"But Quantrill and his men were no more bandits than the men on the other side. I've been to reunions of Quantrill's men two or three times. All they were trying to do was protect the property on the Missouri side of the line..."*

--- President Harry S. Truman





# The Heritage Page



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## Virginia Division Taking the High Ground

Oakwood Cemetery in Richmond  
The Second 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 Division to get approval for the maintenance, and to erect headstones for the 17,000 men buried there have been blocked.

In an effort to show a commitment to the cemetery, the Virginia Division raised its dues by \$6.00 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 financial 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 Division the designated legal recipients for the care of Oakwood and all Confederate Cemeteries and graves in their state. This means that the VA Division 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. But 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.

## 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 the 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 council in the case, Kentucky Attorney Earl Ray Neal, confirmed the settlement Tuesday, adding that the precise terms of the settlement, including 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 Executive 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 contacted the SLRC, whose chief 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.

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**Please contact John Kindred if you would like additional information on Oakwood.**

# Happy Saint Patrick's Day

## Erin Go Bragh (Ireland Forever)

