



# Sons of Confederate Veterans

## The Hunley Torpedo



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

Number Four

Website: Currently Lacking

April 2007

### Camp Report

With five new members and one re-instatement, our camp currently has 97 members. The Lt. Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp welcomes its newest members. They are:

Rodney Clifton  
Mike Cushing  
Travis Downey  
Adam Heuer  
Dustin Snell

### Our Littlest Rebel

Upon turning twelve, Travis Downey just became one of our newest members. His Dad Steve, and brothers Robert and Matthew are members also. After seeing the movie Gods and Generals a couple years ago, Travis took his Alabama roots seriously. At school the next day during the pledge he yelled at the top of his voice: “I Pledge Allegiance to the Confederate States of America.” This did not go down well with either the teacher or the principal. The Downeys live in the patriotic state of Utah. Compatriot Steve had to go to the school and talk to the principal on behalf of his son Travis. The school might have been upset, but we are proud to have him. Travis is shown in the foreground below.



### Confederate Memorial Day Issue



### Next Meeting

This was originally planned for the first weekend in May in Susanville. I am unable to do that this soon after Confederate Memorial Day. Apologies to all who were looking forward to this. Our next meeting will be at the regular place in the conference room of the Sparks Library on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM.

### Volunteer Wanted!

We need a Webmaster! Due to the demanding nature of his job, our past webmaster is unable to fill this office right now. We need to get our website put back up. I own the **Dixon – Hunley** domain name. Our webmaster does not need to live in the Sparks area or even in Nevada. He will need to communicate with the commander frequently and be able to connect our site with the national network of SCV sites such that it can be found on the SCV Camp Locator. I believe it would be best to build it in the Dreamweaver Program but am flexible on this matter. Please send Lee an email at [rebelcross@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rebelcross@sbcglobal.net).

## Confederate Memorial Day 2007

Special thanks to all of you who helped make this a success. Attendance was slightly over fifty. We had a proper honor guard of ten men under the direction of Captain Rodney Clifton. Colonel Vic Genovese of the Comstock re-enactors was present too. The United Daughters of the Confederacy was represented by Mrs. Kathy Minner. The Sons of Union Veterans were represented by David Davis who has Confederate as well as Union ancestry himself. We are particularly indebted to David. He was instrumental in locating the grave of another Confederate Soldier buried at Mountain View Cemetery. Working with a Union Compatriot within days after our ceremony, they located the grave of Reuben M. Marsh, a Missouri Confederate Veteran. We didn't have this information in time for our service but will have it next year. Again, for the third year in a row, we were unable to get into Hillside Cemetery behind the Knights of Pythias Lodge. One of our Confederates is buried there. Shown on this and the next page are some views of our service. I am unable to include everyone's photo here due to the electronic file size which would make it difficult for some to receive via email. But these images are fairly representative of our group.



Above: Honor Guard flanking the Altar on both sides.



At left: The Stars and Bars being raised over the Masonic Chapel, one of the highest spots in Reno.

Below: The Battleflag was our Altar. Each person would place a rose upon it for each ancestor being honored during the. This was overflowing with roses at the end of the ceremony.

Below: Cmdr. Lee Cross speaking to the Assembly







## Maryland, My Maryland

Experts living now, plus historical personages who lived during the War Between the States generally agree that if the geography had been more favorable that Maryland would have seceded. Secession was by no means an overwhelming sentiment in this state. There were different traditions among its people. The eastern shore was fairly isolated from the west and often talked of uniting with Delaware. The western part of the state, including the Catoctin Mountain Valleys and farmland, had been predominately settled by Germans by way of Pennsylvania and was solidly pro-Union. In the middle was Baltimore which was the fourth largest city in the United States. It was culturally a Southern City which Northern industrial characteristics. In 1860, Lincoln only received 1,200 votes in the whole state. Marylanders had combined Southern sympathy with elements of latent Unionism. After secession, Maryland tried to steer a course of neutrality as did Kentucky and Missouri.

The mayor of Baltimore himself, a staunch Unionist, proclaimed after the war when speaking of Maryland: "Her sympathies were divided between North and South, with a decided preponderance on the Southern side." Geographically, Maryland was part of the North. Though a slave state, slavery was a dying institution there and the secessionists in the state were not die-hard believers in that institution.

Confederate Marylanders organized the Maryland Line which consisted of one infantry regiment, one infantry battalion, two cavalry battalions and four artillery batteries. Thousands more had joined other Southern units, especially those of Virginia. About 60,000 Maryland men served in the Union Army, a high percentage of these were draftees. About 25,000 are believed to have served in the Confederate Army, all volunteers. This was more men than Florida contributed. For these reasons, Maryland is always included in the Roll Call of States at Confederate Memorial Day.

The Unionists often considered their Maryland regiments less than reliable and these regiments were often raised with the intention of keeping them within the state. The Union commander at the prison camp at Annapolis once wrote to the War Department requesting a regiment for guard duty but also expressing his wish that it be one from a free state and not a Maryland regiment.

As of April 19<sup>th</sup> 1861, the bloodiest fight up to that date took place in Baltimore. On that day, 2,000 Union soldiers entered Baltimore by train. They had to change trains there which meant detraining at one station and marching to another. Along the way, the 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts was attacked by a secessionist mob. In the ensuing gunfight, forty-two Massachusetts's troops were either killed or wounded. The Confederate sympathizers lost twelve dead and scores wounded. After reading about this blood shed in the streets of Baltimore in a New Orleans' newspaper, a Maryland native named James Ryder Randal wrote a poem about the subjugation of Maryland. It became one of the most popular songs in the South. It was entitled Maryland, My Maryland and is set to the same music as "Oh Christmas Tree." The first verse is shown as follows:

The despot's heel is on thy shore,  
Maryland, my Maryland!  
His torch is at thy temple door,  
Maryland, my Maryland!  
Avenge the patriotic gore  
That flecked the streets of Baltimore,  
And be the battle queen of yore,  
Maryland, my Maryland

On April 27, 1861, the Federal government issued an order for the arrest and detention of anyone who was suspected of subversive deeds or utterances. The Maryland Legislature early on did not vote to secede but did call for peaceful and immediate recognition of the Confederate States of America.

President Lincoln arbitrarily suspended Habeas Corpus, a power which is only granted to Congress. When Maryland citizens were being arbitrarily arrested, Chief Justice Taney defied him. Lincoln issued orders for Taney's arrest, but they were never served. When Maryland launched a protest with Congress, Seward ordered the arrest of 31 of its legislators. Many of those arrested never were charged with crimes or received trials. Among those arrested was the grandson of Francis Scott Key, a newspaper editor. You all may remember that it was Francis Scott Key who wrote the 'Star Spangled Banner.'

In September of 1861, Lincoln ordered many Maryland Legislators arrested to prevent them from voting on secession. And at the November election, marshals stood guard at the polls and arrested known Democrats and secessionists. A special three-day furlough was granted to Maryland troops in the Union Army so they could go home and vote. This resulted in a solidly pro-Union legislature. The next year, state judges instructed grand jurors to look into those elections. These same judges were then arrested and thrown into military prisons.

John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin, was a Marylander.



### Video: The Battle of Olustee

At our April meeting, the VHS tape detailing the Battle of Olustee was presented by Compatriot John Barber who moved here from Florida. Many of you have contacted me about acquiring a copy of this film. In fact, I highly recommend it to all of you. The Battle of Olustee was the largest battle fought in Florida, and it was a resounding Confederate victory.

Those wanting this film need to call the gift shop at 'The Stephen Foster State Park.' The number there is:  
**386-397-1920.**

The cost of this film is \$10.00 and the shipping and handling cost adds an additional \$3.50. You will need to use your credit card. The attendant there told me there weren't many copies left. Good luck!



### Modern Tales of the Battleflag

During the Korean War, Southerners in the Company H, Third Battalion, Seventh U.S. Marines flew a Confederate Battle on the front lines for months. It was shot down at least four times. When its owner was taken to the hospital, he took it with him. Another marine wrote to the United Daughters of the Confederacy who sent a replacement.

A Marine fighter squadron in World War II named itself 'Conforsols.' This stood for "Confederate Forces of the Solomons."



## The Strangest Story of the War

At the outbreak of the War Between the States, the McLean family lived in Manassas, Virginia. At the great battle of Manassas, the McLean farm was the site of assorted skirmishes and troop movements. Caring for the safety of his family, McLean moved his family to the quiet safety of Appomattox Court House. On April 9<sup>th</sup> 1865, General Robert E. Lee met General U.S. Grant in the parlor of the McLean home and ended the war. This one family was there for the beginning and end of the war.



### Cherokee General Stand Watie Strikes Hard

In June of 1864, the great leader of the Confederate Cherokees, Stand Watie, captured a Federal Steamer loaded with supplies for Fort Gibson. This led to his promotion to Brigadier General. In order to supply Fort Gibson, this act forced the Federals to form up a large supply train at Fort Scott in Kansas. Over 300 wagons of supplies were assembled. The U.S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Kansas Cavalry under the command of Major Hopkins provided its screening force. While camped at Horse Creek, Hopkins received a dispatch informing him that Confederates were advancing north and for him to move the wagon train to Cabin Creek. When he arrived he found a force of Union Cherokees already occupying the place. Shortly after Hopkins arrival, another force of Union Cherokees arrived and augmented his forces which also included 125 men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Colored Infantry.

On the same day that the Federal wagon train left Fort Scott, Confederate General Richard Gano ordered General Stand Watie north to intercept the Federal supply train. Gano's and Watie's forces met up at the Canadian River Crossing. On September 16<sup>th</sup> their combined forces reached the Verdigris River at Sand Town. Here, the Confederates found elements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kansas Cavalry and the colored troops cutting hay and attacked them. The Federals succeeded in repulsing three charges, then they were overwhelmed. Seventy-three Federals lay dead and eighty-five were captured. The Confederates captured over 3,000 tons of hay and a hay-mowing machine.

Within 24 hours, General Gano advanced toward the Federal position at Cabin Creek with 400 men. He then called upon General Watie to bring his forces up also. The two Confederate Generals decided that since they had been detected they should act immediately. Watie was to the left and Gano to the right with Howell's battery of six guns in the center. The full moonlight illuminated the Union position as the Confederate cannons opened fire. This stampeded the Union supply train and numerous wagons went over the 100 foot high cliffs. As dawn broke, the Confederate Cherokees charged. The fighting was the most intense yet seen in the Indian Territory. By 9:00 AM the field belonged to the Confederates. Most of the casualties were Union. The Confederates captured 130 wagons and 640 mules and Federal property worth over \$1,000,000. That was a lot of money in 1864. Most of the Confederate Troops were either Indian or African-American. This last bit of information would really upset Al Sharpton.

Traveling over 400 miles in 14 days, the Confederates had totally deterred the Union advance into the Indian Territory. By September 28<sup>th</sup> the Confederates had delivered the captured supply train to Camp Bragg south of the Canadian River. General Watie and his "Watie's Rifles" would never give the Federals a moment's peace until the end of the war. This was the biggest victory in the Nations and the captured supplies restored Confederate morale in that theatre of war.



# The Heritage Page



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## Flag Desecration in Florida

Many of you will recall the 2004 exhibit at Gettysburg by John Sims' "The Proper Way to Hang a Confederate flag" in which the Battle Flag was hung from a gallows. Well unfortunately, no one as learned how offensive that display is and Sims is now displaying the same exhibit in Tallahassee Florida at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art. The display is part of the Afro-Provocations exhibit.

Robert Hurst, the Division Commander of Florida has sent a letter to the museum executive director Chucha Barber condemning the work and demanding its removal. At first the museum considered offering a counter exhibit documenting the six incarnations of the Battle flag but its board shot down the idea. Ron Sachs a board member stated "I don't know if we are obligated to do anything for Mr. Hurst. I think we are becoming a tool for this guy and his organization." Bill Montford, another board member, said to leave the exhibit as it is and anything else we do now will look "like we folded."

This attitude towards our organization must be met with A STRONG RESPONSE and I hope you will contact the museum, The Afro-Provocations exhibit runs thru June 3rd. The museum has set up a blog on its web site for people to make comments. The site is [www.thebrogan.org](http://www.thebrogan.org) or they list their phone number to call. I would like to take it a step further. You will notice on their web site a link to corporate sponsors. This is a great opportunity to hit them hard. Let their sponsors know we won't buy their products if they support such offensive displays.

The good news is that we are not alone. Chucha Barber has said that since the exhibit began she has received 1000s of emails and hundreds of phone calls complaining about the exhibit. Unfortunately for Ms. Barber, some of the responses have made her feel threatened to the point that the Tallahassee police were notified.

Please contact me if you need any additional information.

John Kindred

Surrender?

Like Hell I Will!

