



Sons of Confederate Veterans

The Hunley Torpedo



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

Number Twelve

Website: www.dixon-hunley.org

December 2007

End of Year Camp Report

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| New members added this year: | <u>18</u> |
| Less: | |
| Died | 2 |
| Transferred | 1 |
| Withdrew | <u>11</u> |
| Total Loss: | 14 |
| Net membership change: | <u>+4</u> |

Finances:

Cash on hand, checking acct: \$399.71

Camp Donations in 2007:

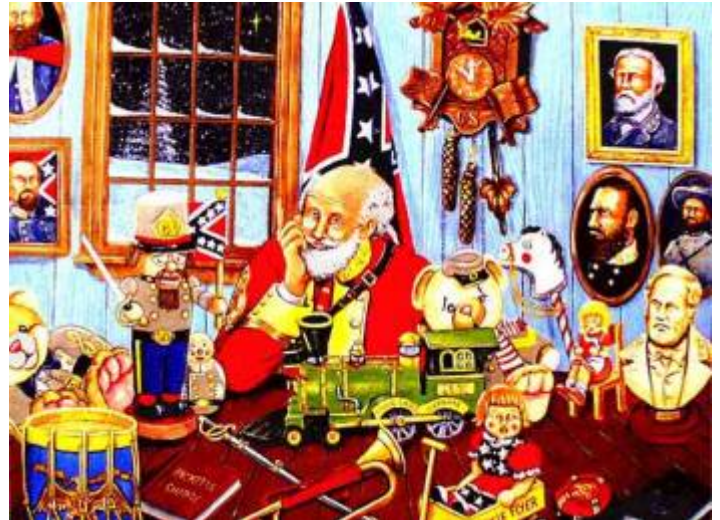
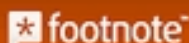
| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Southern Legal Resource Ctr: | \$700.00 |
| Memorial Hall, New Orleans: | 550.00 |
| Confederate Scouts: | 330.00 |
| Confederate Memorial Park: | 250.00 |
| Beauvoir: | <u>100.00</u> |
| Total: | \$1,930.00 |

The above donations do not include individual contributions which total at least \$800 to \$1,000 more to Memorial Hall. Hundreds more are known to have been contributed to the SLRC. One of our members sends them money each month. Other private money has been contributed to Confederate Memorial Park, some of it in our name.

I wish to personally thank all of you who have supported our camp in so many ways. Space doesn't permit me to individually acknowledge each of you. Let's make 2008 even better! Lee.

Anyone signing up for Footnote will generate a donation from this company for our heritage causes. If you do, please use this link.

www.footnote.com/scv.php?kbid=1162&xid=68



Election of Officers for 2008

The following men were elected to office for the coming year 2008 at the December 2007 meeting:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Lee Cross: | Commander |
| Jim White: | Adjutant |
| Joe Scamihorn: | 1 st Lt. Cmdr. |
| Joe Scamihorn: | Chaplain |
| Bruce Bowyer: | 2 nd Lt. Cmdr. |
| Ernie Zebal: | Historian |
| John Kindred: | Heritage Officer |

Next Meeting

January's meeting is canceled because it would fall on the day after our Lee / Jackson dinner. We will meet in February, details to be announced later.

Our Lee / Jackson Dinner

All of the details of this event are shown on page two including the menu. Out-of-towners will receive a special room rate from the Sands Casino. The Army of the TransMississippi Commander – Chuck Norred and his wife Marcia will attend again this year.

Our Lee Jackson Dinner 2008

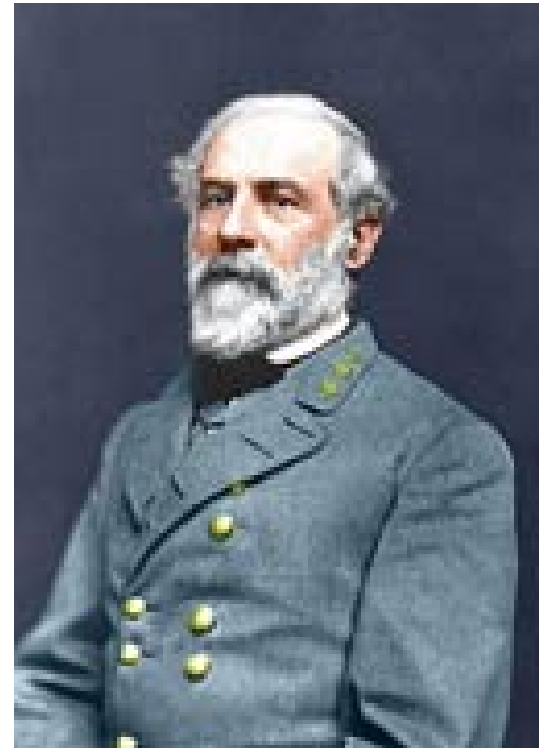
Date: January 11th 2008
Day: Friday
Location: Sands Casino
Room: Regency ABC
Cocktail Bar Opens: 6:00 PM, no host bar
Dinner Time: 7:15 PM
Cost: \$31.50 inclusive

Special Room Deal for Our-of-Towners

Those wishing to spend the night will receive a \$49 + tax room rate if they call in advance. Call:

Lisa Miolini at: 775-348-2273 or
775-544-3958

Piano Music: Courtesy of Dr. Steven Frye

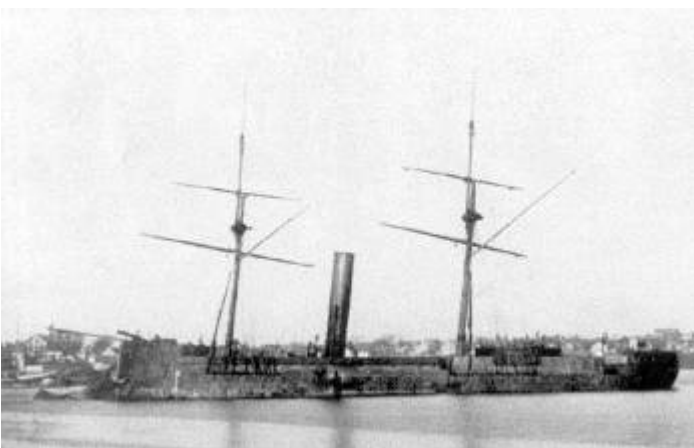


Dinner Menu

Shrimp Scampi
Parmesan Garlic Chicken Breast
Baron of Beef
Caesar Salad
Rice Pilaf
Fresh Seasonable Vegetable
Roasted Red Potatoes with Olive Oil
Rolls and Butter
Coffee or Tea
Assorted Mini Desserts

Grave of Captain T. J. Page

The photo on the right was sent to me by Compatriot John Collier in England. It is the grave of Commander T. J. Page of the CSS Stonewall (shown on the left). Page was buried in the Protestant Cemetery in Rome, Italy. In Mr. Collier's words, no Confederate grave will go unmarked. Some of you may recall a previous article on the CSS Stonewall. It arrived in Havana in May of 1865, too late for the war. It was the size of a WWII Fletcher Class destroyer. The Yankees had nothing that could match it. It was sold to Japan and saw combat years later in their Navy.



The seal was designed by Joseph S. Wyon in 1864. He arrived in Richmond just before its fall. He was the predecessor of J. S. & A. B. Wyon who later became chief engravers of Her Majesty's Seal in England.

It shows George Washington riding on horseback in the same position as the statue of him in Richmond, Virginia. He is surrounded by a wreath composed of the four principal agricultural products of the South, including wheat, corn, tobacco and cotton. The motto *Deo Vindice* means "God will vindicate." The date shown on it "22 February 1862" was the date Jefferson Davis was sworn in as President of the Confederacy which was also the birth date of George Washington.

The original was made of silver about four inches in diameter. It was left behind at the fall of Richmond and later was given to Colonel Earle who donated it to the State of South Carolina on December 27th 1888.



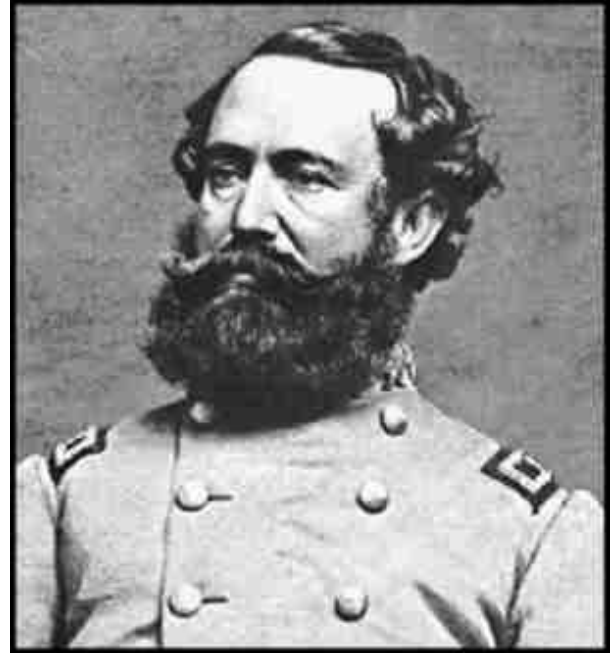
Great Seal
Of the
Confederate States of America

Profile of Confederate Courage

General Wade Hampton III

He was born in Charleston, SC on March 28, 1818, the eldest son of a wealthy and prominent cotton plantation owner. In 1836, at the age of eighteen, Hampton graduated from South Carolina College, now the University of South Carolina. In 1852 he was elected a Representative to the South Carolina General Assembly, then as a Senator from 1858 to 1861. At the outbreak of the War, Hampton resigned both his seat and his comfortable life to enlist as a private in the southern army. However, the South Carolina governor insisted on a colonel's commission, which Hampton accepted.

Although he had no military training whatsoever, the new Colonel began organizing what would soon be known as "Hampton's Legion" of South Carolina infantry (six companies), cavalry (four companies), and artillery (one battery), the formation of which he partially financed.



In spite of his lack of martial training, Hampton's skill as a horseman, natural grasp for mounted tactics, leadership abilities, and bravery under fire, would prove him to be a superior cavalry officer; one of the very best the South, even the nation as a whole, would produce during the war. This richest of southern planters was physically strong, highly intelligent, and a thorough outdoorsman, and would be one of only two southern cavalry officers to achieve the rank of Lieutenant General in the Confederacy, the other being Nathan Bedford Forrest. Hampton is, today, undisputedly one of the most underrated commanders of the Civil War, north or south. His performance and record of success live in the shadow of the dashing, vainglorious JEB Stuart.

Hampton would take command of the Confederate Cavalry Corps in the East upon Stuart's death at Yellow Tavern in May 1864, but Hampton's name would never rise to the revered heights gained by some of his mounted contemporaries, such as Stuart, Sheridan, or even Custer. Hampton was not the resplendent dandy that made for headlines and idealized admiration. But his victories, especially when outnumbered and out-resourced, would be unparalleled and earn the admiration of his fellow southerners and the guarded respect of his foes.

During the war, Hampton was wounded five times, the first at Manassas in July 1861. Never having been in action before, Hampton threw his Legion, 600 infantrymen strong, into this first major battle of the war at a decisive moment and provided an opportunity for Confederate corps commander Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson to bring his men onto the field. Although surrounded and his horse shot from under him, Hampton stubbornly held his ground until urged to retire by superiors. Hampton suffered a wound to the head when he later led a charge which overran a Federal artillery position and captured two cannon.

On May 23, 1862, he was promoted to Brigadier General and given command of a brigade of infantry. Hampton distinguished himself as a leader of foot soldiers, but he gladly accepted Confederate army Commander Robert E. Lee's offer to command a brigade in Stuart's Cavalry Division. On the third day of the battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, Hampton led his troopers into the massive cavalry clash east of the main field of battle. Although suffering from a saber wound to the head from the previous day, Hampton's fighting this day would be no less than exemplary. At the peak of the fighting, Hampton shot three Federal troopers from their horses and ran a fourth through with his sword. Seeing one of his own horsemen surrounded and battling several assailants alone, Hampton charged to the trooper's aid and knocked one Federal from his saddle. Receiving another saber wound to the head, with his own blood clouding his eyes, Hampton killed several more

blue troopers while defending himself and his man. He cleaved the skull of one down to the chin with a solitary blow from his massive blade. Before leaving the field, Hampton would also receive a severe shrapnel wound in his side.

On September 3, 1863, he was promoted to Major General. It would take until the spring of 1864 for Hampton to recover from his wounds to resume command of his veteran division. With Stuart's death on May 12, Lee turned to Hampton for command of his Cavalry Corps. He set out to engage the enemy immediately. Hampton's performance in the June battle of Trevilian Station justified Lee's decision to place the big man in charge of a big task. In this, the Civil War's largest all-cavalry battle, Hampton's determination, tenacity, and brilliant tactics enabled the gray clad troopers to route the Federal horsemen led by Philip Sheridan, who not only outnumbered him, but were also armed with the new repeating rifles. The fierce clash, which had erupted in dense woods, forced the troopers to fight dismounted. In the heat of the struggle, Hampton saw the opportunity to mount an assault against the Federals in a dusty clearing near the Virginia Central Railroad. "*Charge them, my brave boys, charge them!*" Hampton yelled, and led the attack himself atop his favorite horse, a burly bay named "Butler." The battle continued into the next day, when a bold Confederate counterattack broke the Federal line. On the 13th, the defeated Sheridan retreated without destroying the railroad, the object of his expedition. The battle of Trevilian Station was the War's truly decisive cavalry fight and the thrashing that Hampton gave Sheridan might quite possibly have extended the war another six months. As Thomas L. Rosser wrote of the event: "*...Hampton whipped him (Sheridan) - defeated his purposes and turned him back.*"

While Hampton was in command of the Confederate Cavalry Corps through to the end of the war, he never lost a single fight.

On September 16, 1864, Hampton took to saddle to mount his own raid behind Union lines. In what would become known as the "Beefsteak Raid," his troopers captured over 2,400 head of cattle and 304 prisoners, suffering a loss of only ten of his own men. For the inadequately-provisioned southern army, the nearly two million pounds of meat would be a windfall. Characterizing Hampton's legend among the Federals, one Union officer admitted, "*With his wonderful powers of physical endurance, his alert, vigilant mind, his matchless horsemanship, no obstacles seemed to baffle his audacity or thwart his purpose.*"

At no time was this more true than on March 10, 1865, when Hampton (now a Lt. General since February 15) charged into a force of 70 Federal cavalrymen with only five of his own. Personally killing no less than three of the 13 northerners killed, he also captured 12 more as the others ran off, thereby demonstrating the veracity of the northern view that "*he would hunt his antagonist as he would hunt big game in the forest. The celerity and audacity of his movements against the front, sometimes on the flank, then again in the rear, kept his enemies in a constant state of uncertainty and anxiety as to where and when they might expect him.*" The southern loss in the engagement was listed as "one horse."

Upon Lee's capitulation in April 1865, Hampton was reluctant to surrender. He would, however, muster the courage that had served him and his men so well on the battlefield and decided that the best way to serve his southern soil after the war was to help rebuild it. He supported President Johnson's plan for Reconstruction and sought reconciliation between the North and South while attempting to restore his lost fortune. In 1865, Hampton ran for Governor of South Carolina but was defeated by James Lawrence Orr. When radical Reconstruction policies against the South were imposed, Hampton took the lead in South Carolina in the fight against widespread Republican corruption. In 1876, after a successful bid for Governorship, Hampton would become the first Southern Governor to be inaugurated in opposition to Northern policies. Hampton was reelected Governor without opposition in 1878, but resigned in February of the following year when he was elected to the U.S. Senate and served two terms.

In the spring of 1899, his home on Camden Road in Columbia was accidentally destroyed in a fire. Eighty-two years old and with very little money, Hampton had limited means to find a new home. Without his knowledge, a group of friends raised enough funds to build him a new home and presented it to him "*over his strenuous protest.*" He died in Columbia on April 11, 1902, and is buried in Trinity Cathedral Churchyard.

General Thomas Lafayette Rosser

He was born in Virginia in 1836. In 1849 his family moved to Panola Co., Tex. His father stayed behind on business and Tom Rosser, aged 13, led the wagon train bearing his mother to Texas. He entered West Point in 1856, but resigned only two weeks before graduation when Texas seceded. His classmate was George A. Custer. These men would later face each other at Trevilian Station.

Rosser was commissioned as a First Lt. in the Confederate States Army. He commanded a company of the New Orleans Washington Artillery at the first battle of Manassas and was wounded at the battle of Mechanicsville.

He recovered and was appointed Colonel and Cmdr. of the 5th VA Cav. Rosser was promoted to Brigadier General in 1863, and given command of one of Stuart's divisions. In a raid near Chancellorsville, Rosser seized a Federal wagon train containing the reserve ammunition of I Corp and V Corp of the Federal Army. He was given command of the Confederate cavalry in the Shenandoah Valley in Oct. 1864 and gallantly fought against Sheridan, being dubbed by the Southern press as 'Savior of the Valley.' He was promoted to Major General in November.

He commanded the advance of Stuart's expedition to Catlett's Station, and was notable in the Second Battle of Manassas. During the fighting at Crampton's Gap at the Battle of South Mountain, his cavalry delayed the advance of Franklin's VI Corps. He was distinguished again in 1864, driving back a large force of Union cavalry and artillery at the Battle of the Wilderness.

In Jan. 1865, he took 300 men with him, crossed the mountains in deep snow and bitter cold, and surprised and captured two infantry regiments in their works at Beverly, West Virginia, taking 580 prisoners. In 1865 he rejoined Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Petersburg and was in the Appomattox campaign.

Refusing to surrender, he cut his way out of the federal lines and attempted to lead his division to a junction with the army of Gen. Johnston in N.C. He was captured, and paroled in May.



Thomas Rosser was wounded nine times during the war.

At Trevilian Station

When Hampton learned that Custer had gained his rear, he acted decisively, ordering General Thomas Rosser's brigade to attack Custer. Rosser's swift and powerful charge sent the Union horsemen reeling. Other Confederate brigades joined the attack, compelling Custer to relinquish his spoils and take up a defensive position around Trevilian Station. To the young general, it seemed as though the forces of Hampton and Lee had surrounded him, which indeed they had. **Custer wrote that: "From the nature of the ground and the character of the attacks that were made upon me our lines very nearly resembled a circle." This later came to be known as 'Custer's First Last Stand'.**

After the war he became chief engineer of the Northern Pacific and then Canadian Pacific railroads. In 1886, he bought a plantation in Charlottesville, VA. President McKinley appointed Rosser a Brigadier General of Volunteers in the Spanish-American War. He died in Charlottesville, VA. in 1910.

The Heritage Page



Confederate Statue Vandalized

Last month the Confederate monument on the north grounds of the Alabama Capitol was vandalized, someone jumped over the wrought iron fence surrounding the monument and painted the statues' faces and hands black.

The letters and numbers "N.T. 11 11 31" were also written in black paint on the monument's base and is believed to be a reference to slave Nat Turner who was hanged on November 11th, 1831 for starting a rebellion. Sunday was November 11th and the 176th anniversary of Turner's death. It was also Veterans Day. Leonard Wilson, division commander of the Alabama Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, said they are offering a \$1,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

Below is an update that was issued this week by the SCV regarding the Monument:

State troopers arrested three white teenagers in the defacement of the Confederate Monument at the Alabama Capitol after receiving a tip from a Confederate veterans' group.

The 17-year-olds are all white males from Montgomery, said Sgt. Anthony Frost, a state trooper investigator. Information he received from Leonard Wilson, state commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, led to the arrests, he said.

"We are thankful for the information Mr. Wilson gave us from a tip he received, which helped us make these three arrests," Frost said.

The three were charged with first-degree criminal mischief, a felony that carries a sentence of one to 10 years in prison if they are tried and convicted as adults. If tried and convicted as juveniles, the sentences would be less harsh, Wilson said Friday that the person who called him with information about the case will receive a \$1,000 reward posted by the group if the suspects are found guilty.

"I had a call from a confidential informant on Nov. 28, and I forwarded the information to investigators at the Department of Public Safety in Montgomery," said Wilson, whose group has 2,000 members in Alabama.

A state official said the monument on the north grounds of the Capitol is undergoing a successful restoration.

Christy Carl, the Capitol's site director, said the restoration process has cost the state \$3,500 so far and still isn't complete.

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John Kindred

johnk1861@yahoo.com

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Lee Cross, General Manager - Author

Telephone: 775-359-8453
Fax: 775-359-8445
Email: vcpubco@yahoo.com
Address: P.O. Box 51389
Sparks, NV 89435

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