



Sons of Confederate Veterans

The Hunley Torpedo



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

Number Two

Website: www.dixon-hunley.com

February 2007



Recap of January's Meeting

Important business conducted at our January meeting included these items:

One: The issue was brought up by our Second Lt. Commander Bruce Bowyer to compensate me, the Commander, for my out of pocket expenses related to putting on our Lee / Jackson Dinner in January. I abstained from the vote. Those members present voted to reimburse my out of pocket expenses in the amount of \$400. I immediately donated the money back to the camp upon the provision that it be donated to heritage causes, specifically:

\$200.00 would go to Memorial Hall in New Orleans.

and

\$200.00 would go to The Southern Legal Resource Center.

Two: We are unable to secure a spot at the Big Reno Gun Show for a recruiting table. The men authorized me to check into the possibility of setting up at The Crossroads of the West Gun Show which is at the convention Center. There may be a charge if we do, so I will just direct my attention to learning the details and present them to the camp at our March Meeting. More to follow!

Next Meeting

It will be on **Saturday, March 10th at 12:30 PM** in the conference room of the Sparks library. All are encouraged to come early. Compatriot Larry Heuer will give the principal presentation. He has numerous artifacts from the War Between the States used by both sides that he will share with us including edged weapons, firearms, newspapers and other assorted paraphernalia.

This Issue

The font was changed in this issue from Times New Roman to Arial which may be easier to read. Please give me feedback here and let me know which you prefer.

Black History Month

I doubt if Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, Senator Biden, John Edwards, Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center, or the ACLU for that matter would approve of this issue. Actually, they can all go to someplace that rhymes with bell. After all, in the politically correct Newthink of our era, that war was fought over slavery – right? **Wrong!** For those of you who don't recognize the word Newthink, may I recommend the old book "1984." Newthink involves the rewriting of history to suit government purposes and is synonymous with being politically correct.

May They Not Be Forgotten

It was April 4, 1865. Hurrying back to his unit after delivering an order, Pvt. Doswell's attention was attracted by a novel sight. The young Virginian had just spotted one of the new Confederate companies of black soldiers, "a novel sight to me," he thought. These Black Confederates were guarding a wagon train near Amelia Court House on the retreat from Richmond. Doswell reined in a 100 yards to the rear of the wagon train and watched in fascination as a Union cavalry regiment charged the wagon train. These Black Confederates fired their weapons like veterans and drove back the overconfident Federals. The Yankees re-formed for another charge. This time they broke up the wagon train and scattered the defenders. The Black Confederates were captured and disarmed. Doswell suddenly realized his own danger and rode away without being noticed. Five days later, Lee would surrender his Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House.

An Englishman serving with the South wrote that one "Might as well endeavor to keep ducks from water as to attempt to hold in the cooks of our company, when firing or fighting is on hand." Despite ordering his black cook to remain in the rear during the First Battle of Manassas, the English Confederate found him on the firing line, rifle in hand, shouting "Go in, Massa! give it to 'm, boys! Now you've got 'm, and give 'em Hell!" The soldier wrote, "If the Negro is really so unhappy as Northern orators proclaim, why do our servants go into battle with us? - how comes it that officers *cannot* keep them from the front?"

Slaves serving with the Confederate Army showed little inclination to run away even when they were deep within Union territory. A British observer, Lt. Col. Arthur J. Fremantle of the Coldstream Guards, noted in his diary that he observed an armed black man leading a Union prisoner in Pennsylvania during the Gettysburg campaign. The man explained to Fremantle that the two soldiers assigned to guard the prisoner were drunk, so he had taken charge of the prisoner to keep him from escaping. "This little episode of a Southern slave leading a white Yankee through a Northern village, alone and of his own accord, would not have been gratifying to an abolitionist," wrote Fremantle.



Union Surgeon Steiner Sees Uniformed Confederate Blacks with Weapons

Dr. Lewis Steiner, Union Surgeon, Chief Inspector of the United States Sanitary Commission, observed General Stonewall Jackson's occupation of Frederick, Maryland, in 1862. He wrote:

Over 3,000 Negroes must be included in this number [of 64,000 Confederate troops]. These were clad in all kinds of uniforms, not only in cast-off or captured United States uniforms, but also in coats with Southern buttons, State buttons, etc. Most of the Negroes had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie knives, dirks, etc. ... and were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederate Army (in Barrow, 2001).

If you "force a man to fight," at what point do you turn over all your weapons to him? Where are other examples of men "forced to fight" who carry the "rifles, sabers, knives, etc."? Who would turn over their weapons to someone who is serving against their will? A report from a United States observer, commenting on Confederate soldiers, observing 3000 black soldiers wearing Southern coats with Southern buttons, and carrying all kinds of weapons— this does not sound like a description of men who were "forced to fight."

Treatment of Blacks Serving in the Confederate Army

On February 18, 1865, the Confederate Congress authorized the enlistment of Southern slaves "to provide additional forces to repel invasion, maintain the rightful possession of the Confederate States, secure their independence and preserve their institutions." One institution they would not be preserving was that of slavery. No matter which side won, slavery was now as good as dead. **Surprisingly, the Southern army accepted black soldiers as equals. By order of March 23, 1865, the black Confederates were to "receive the same ration, clothing, and compensation as allowed other troops in the same branch of service."** The enlistment of slaves into the Confederate Army began almost at once. Soon, black soldiers were drilling in the streets of Richmond, and the Confederate War Department was being deluged with requests for the authority to raise more. On March 21, 1865, the Richmond *Sentinel* reported that the battalion from Camps Winder and Jackson, including "the company of colored troops under Captain Grimes," would parade on the square. Three days later, the newspaper informed its readers that "the Negro brigade being raised by Majors Pegram and Turner is being rapidly filled up."

The black companies were provided with new uniforms and marched through the city to encourage more to enlist. Black units were also recruited in the Deep South, and a worried Ulysses S. Grant wrote to Maj. Gen. Edward R.S. Canby at Mobile to "get all the Negro men we can before the enemy puts them into their ranks." However, the Southern leaders had waited far too long. The war would be over before the black Confederates could have any effect on the outcome.



Treatment of Blacks Serving in the Union Army

The Union Army's black troops were formed into segregated units commanded by white officers. The black Federals, however, were also discriminated against in other ways. Until late in the war, they received lower pay than white soldiers. Throughout the war they were regularly cheated of their enlistment bonuses by unscrupulous recruiting agents.

Tens of thousands of black Southerners eventually served in the Northern armies. Many did so clearly against their will. Union officers sometimes rounded up recruits at the point of a bayonet, since collecting the Federal bounty of \$100 dollars for each man made this a highly profitable sideline. **On February 7, 1865, Lincoln personally wrote to the army commander at Henderson, Ky., ordering him to stop torturing black men to force them to enlist.** Six weeks earlier, Brig. Gen. Rufus Saxon had informed the War Department of an even more shocking incident that occurred in South Carolina when slaves were conscripted en masse. "The order spread confusion and terror," wrote Saxon. "The Negroes fled to the woods and swamps, visiting their cabins only by stealth and in darkness. They were hunted to their hiding places by armed parties of their own people, and if found, compelled to enlist." Three young men, one only 14, were seized while working in a field and sent to a distant regiment without their parents even being informed. A black man who refused to enlist was shot dead. Another man who worked for the army quartermaster department was kidnapped and forced to join an infantry regiment.

Salvos

The Big Lie: i.e. the Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves. The highlighted portion following this end of this paragraph comes from this document. It freed no slaves in the North and only freed those slaves in that part of the South under Confederate control [which means it freed no one]. Notice the exceptions below. Excluded were 13 parishes in Louisiana, 48 counties in Western Virginia, and 7 counties in Eastern Virginia under Union control. The slaves were finally freed in 1866 by the second version of the 13th Amendment. In December of 1865, eight months after Lee's surrender, slavery was still legal in Washington D. C.

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth[]), and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

Many Northern soldiers declared that they would stop fighting if the war turned into a crusade for abolition. Before crossing the Ohio River in 1861 into what would become West Virginia, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan had issued a proclamation to reassure the inhabitants, "Not only will we abstain from such interference," he wrote, "but we will on the contrary with an iron hand crush any insurrection on their part."

General Ulysses S. Grant had said that if he "thought this was to abolish slavery, I would resign my commission, and offer my sword to the other side."

Prejudice was far worse against blacks in the North than in the South. **Three Union States enacted laws prior to The War Between the States forbidding free blacks to settle in their states.** These states were New Jersey, Illinois and Oregon. The Illinois law had been supported by Abraham Lincoln himself. Faced with a hostile in the North, the black Southerners had little reason not to be loyal to their home section. The slaves had nothing to gain from a Northern victory, and free black men might actually stand to lose such rights and property as they already had. **The 1860 census counted 240,747 "free Negroes" in the slave states, 15,000 more than lived in the free states to the north.**

For the vast majority of slaves, the war over secession meant little. Quite sensibly, they were basically neutral. Even after the Emancipation Proclamation, most slaves did not automatically support the North. **In 1866, a witness before the Congressional Committee on Reconstruction was asked what percentage of the Southern blacks sympathized with the North during the war. "None of them," he replied.** "There has been this: a disposition on their part to try something new...to be free; and when they came within reach of the Federal army a great many of them ran away to it. But there was no resistance to discipline and authority at home." **In fact, slaves serving with the Confederate Army showed little inclination to run away even when they were deep within Union territory.**

Forgotten Confederates

After the war, the contributions of black soldiers to the Southern war effort were almost completely forgotten. In part, this was the result of the growing misconception that the Civil War had been fought solely to end slavery. The political and economic causes were virtually ignored, as was the question of the legality of secession. The memory of the martyred Abraham Lincoln left little place for the recognition of black men who had fought against his armies. However, one former slave who had been captured with his master spoke for them all. "I had as much right to fight for my native State as you had to fight for yours," he told a Union officer, "and a blame sight more right than your furriners, what's got no homes."

The Confederate veterans did not forget. In 1913, 50 years after the bloody Battle of Gettysburg, thousands of surviving members of the rival armies met once more at the little Pennsylvania town, this time in friendship. The commission in charge of housing had provided accommodations for the black Union veterans. However, they were completely surprised when black Confederates showed up as well. The unexpected black Southerners were given straw pallets in the main tent of the compound. White veterans from Tennessee soon learned of their old comrades' plight. The white Confederates led the black veterans to their own camp, assigned them one of their tents, and saw to their every need. In peace, as in war, all men were equal.

“When you eliminate the Black Confederate Soldier, you have eliminated the history of the South”

General Robert E. Lee [quote 1864]

Comments of H. K. Edgerton

As the presidential elections loom near, I want the Southern people to remember that it was John McCain who led the charge to have the Southern Cross removed from the National Park Service in Missouri.

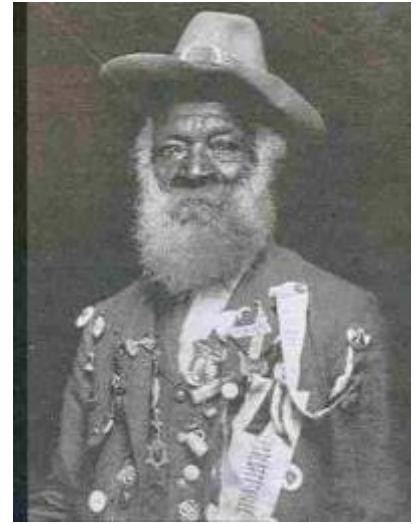
Edgerton with our Chaplain Joe Scamihorn



Please remember Rudy's speech in Yankee Stadium right after 911, when he touted the people of the North for coming to the South to free the slaves from those bad Southern people. It's too bad he didn't speak for the Mayor of New York wanting to secede from the Union, and remain neutral so that his city could continue doing business with the South.

Please remember that it was John Edwards who was so ashamed of our Southern Cross because it was so offensive. I don't believe that he can find ten people in or around the beautiful City of Wallahalla, South Carolina that would vote for him.

Observe How Proudly These Black Confederates Wear Their UCV Medals





The Heritage Page



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Confederate Flag to be removed from Cemetery

RICHARD RUBIN, The Charlotte Observer:

Charlotte will remove the Confederate battle flag flying in Elmwood Cemetery, City Manager Pam Syfert announced Tuesday morning.

In a statement, Syfert said she respected the strong beliefs on both sides of the debate. But, she added, "The essential issue is whether a city-owned property should bear any but the official flags of this country, state and city." The decision ends months of debate over the flag, first sparked last summer by Democratic City Council member Warren Turner.

He argued that the flag suggested to passersby that the city endorsed it. But flag supporters rallied, countering that the flag honors the dead Confederate soldiers resting in the city-owned cemetery in Fourth Ward. The decision will not force the removal of small flags placed at gravesites. "



The above article is from the spring of 2005 but the fight continues, yes the flag has been removed and the flag pole cut up but our brothers in North Carolina are not giving up please sign the petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/ElmConFl/petition.html>

We have all heard it before the politicians say they understand our beliefs or respect our history but they are always quick to vote against our ancestors, I wonder how long it will be before the small flags placed on the graves will be banned. .

(OF INTEREST) The land at Elmwood was purchased in 1864 with 10,000 Confederate dollars and the Confederate section is maintained by the SCV camps in Charlotte.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Johnny



Order a first generation White Oak sapling grown from:



THE LEE TREE

Tradition holds that General Robert E. Lee met with staff officers under a 300-year-old White Oak in June of 1862 during the Seven Days Battle of *Gaines Mill* and that ancient tree is the one that once shaded the destroyed *Fairfield*, a former Gaines family home not far from the old Mill site.

The massive oak, still known as **THE LEE TREE**, remained standing for some 140 years after the war. In 2002, a third of her crown fell and dozens of volunteers harvested and stored her final crop of acorns. On September 18, 2003 Hurricane Isabel toppled what remained of the majestic oak. With the help of the Virginia Division of Forestry, the acorns were sorted, culled and germinated. Nearly 5 years later, we hold some 1,000 **LEE TREE** saplings (in containers ready for planting). We appeal to those who wish to grow a duplicate of the **LEE TREE** so that future generations may honor General Lee as well as remember those who long ago answered the call for the Southern Cause.

The *Douglas Southall Freeman Branch of the Virginia Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (Preservation Virginia)* is offering you this opportunity to purchase as many of these 1st generation saplings as you like (until they are gone). All net profits (approximately 50% of the proceeds) will support the Branch's Civil War Battlefield Preservation Fund. The Fund has already contributed to saving battlefields at Cold Harbor, Beaver Dam Creek, Bethesda Church and Pole Green Church, among others.

Your cost is \$60.00 per tree (*including* packaging and shipping at \$10 per tree). The *Douglas Southall Freeman Branch* is an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and thus a portion of the cost of each tree may be tax-deductible. Consult your own accountant. Planting instructions and a certificate of authenticity will accompany each tree.

(Thanks to: Sheri Millikin & others)

Related tree website: http://getyourwebsitehere.com/lee_oak/index.html

(Copy completed portion below. Remit one copy with order; keep the other copy for your records.)

Order Form

Name: _____

Shipping Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of Trees _____ @ \$60.00 per Tree Total Remittance \$ _____

Make checks payable to *DSF Branch-APVA* and mail to: Capt. Wm. Latane´ Camp # 1690 SCV, c/o Art Taylor, 15548 Tyler Station Rd., BeaverDam VA 23015-1413.

Email Inquiry: tee1776@hotmail.com