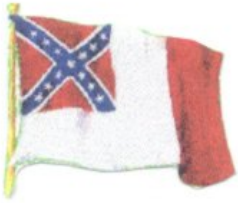


# Sons of Confederate Veterans



## The Hunley Torpedo

Special Gun Show Edition, August 2007  
Presented by the Lt. Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp  
# 2016 of Sparks, Nevada



### Who Are We?

We are descendants of Confederate Soldiers; either direct or of collateral descent (through an uncle or cousin). We are composed of men of all races and religions. The Confederate Army contained over 50,000 Black Confederate Soldiers and Hispanic Confederates outnumbered their Union Hispanic counterparts by a factor of over two to one.

### Our Origins

The Sons of Confederate Veterans was founded in 1896 as the organization to succeed the Original United Confederate Veterans.

### About Us

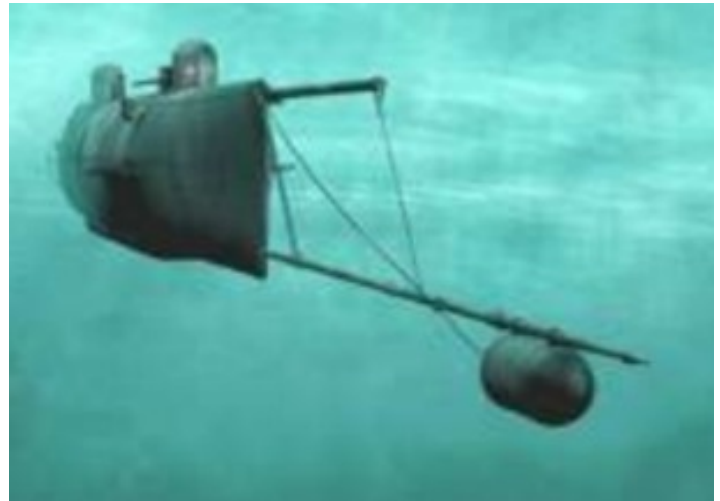
We are a mainstream, non-profit organization. We are tax exempt under IRS Code No. 501(C) 3. There are currently 35,000 of us nationwide; subdivided into over 850 local chapters called camps. Our local group was the first camp of its kind in the State of Nevada; long overdue, as at least 40% of Nevadans can trace some Southern Ancestry. Our local camp numbers 81 full and 5 associate members. Our growth rate is accelerating!

### Our Purpose

To preserve and protect the good name of the Confederate Soldier and tell the true history of the "War Between the States."

### Who Can Join?

Men of good character; either as a full member, having ancestry; or as an associate. See last page!



### Our Activities

We meet once a month in the conference room of the Sparks library; where we conduct our business and give historical presentations. In addition to this we celebrate two scheduled events per year. They are:

- (1) A formal Lee / Jackson dinner in January which is the month in which both men were born.
- (2) Confederate Memorial Day in April on the Sunday closest to April 26<sup>th</sup>.

We also have numerous unscheduled events yearly.

### This Issue

This issue contains some articles from past issues of the Hunley Torpedo. Members receive this newsletter every month; though only 8 pages. In addition to this; they receive the "Confederate Veteran Magazine" six times per year. We hope the following articles please you. **Enjoy!**

## The Battle of Sabine Pass

This was the subject of one of our past presentations during a regular meeting. But most of our current and prospective members are probably not aware of it. And it's worth repeating here.

**The Stage:** The Sabine River in East Texas; easily navigable to shallow draft vessels of the day allowing cotton to run the blockade from eastern Texas and as an artery of supply from foreign sources. Sabine Pass is in Jefferson County and it opened up Northeastern Texas to the sea. The Union plan was to drive a wedge between Texas and Louisiana choking off supply to General Richard Taylor's Army in Northern Louisiana. After the fall of New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Shreveport became the Capitol of Louisiana. Up river in Eastern Texas vital railroads centering in nearby Beaumont contributed to Taylor's supply chain.

**The Union Advance:** On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863 Union Major General William Franklin and U.S. Navy Captain Frederick Crocker led a force of five gunboats, plus transports and auxiliaries totaling 22 vessels up the Sabine with a total of over 5,000 men. To face off against them the Confederates had only forty-seven men (The Davis Guards) commanded by twenty-one year old 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard Dowling with a battery of six guns at Fort Griffin. The Davis Guards were composed of Irishmen.

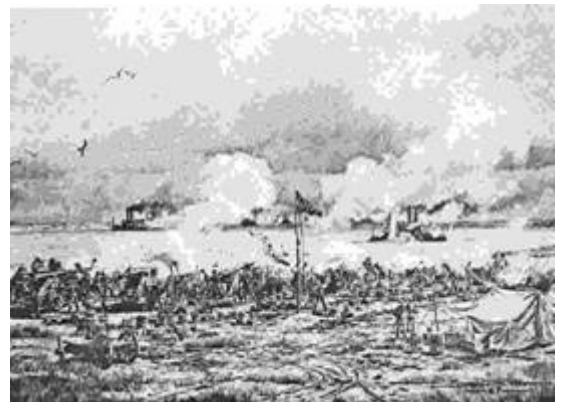
**The Action:** The guns of the Union Warships were far superior to Dowling's guns. They were of larger caliber and greater range and the Federals could stand off and shell the Rebels without any risk to themselves. In light of this Lt. Dowling had his men hold their fire and allowed the Union Gunboats Clifton, Sachem and Arizona to approach to within 1,200 yards of his position before unmasking his guns and returning fire. Lt. Dowling's strategy paid off. Initially concentrating all of his fire upon the Gunboat Sachem; this ship took several hits and ran up the white flag. Then he concentrated his fire upon the Clifton. A Confederate shell broke its steering cable and it grounded. The balance of the Union fleet turned around and sailed back to New Orleans. Fifty Yankees were killed and The Confederates took 350 drenched Yankee prisoners including the Yankee Commander himself without the loss of a single man killed or wounded of their own.

**Aftermath:** The Confederates were able to salvage the two gunboats they had captured which contained a large amount of armament in the form of twenty-four and thirty-two pounder guns. This was perhaps the most remarkable Confederate Victory of the war. For this action, each man of the Davis Guards was awarded a silver medal as authorized by the Congress of the Confederate States of America on February 8<sup>th</sup> 1864. These medals were struck from Mexican silver dollars. This was the only instance they ever did this. When news of this battle reached Europe, the value of Confederate Bonds increased two per cent on the world market. Richard Dowling died of yellow fever in 1867. Two SCV Camps in Texas bear his name.



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard Dowling

Davis Guard Medal



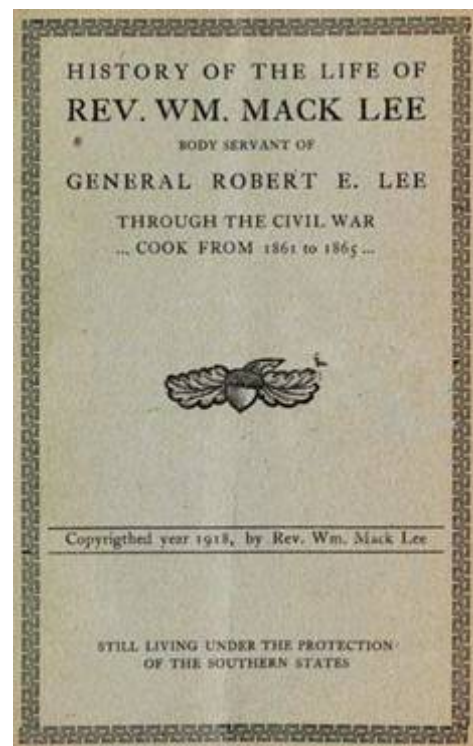
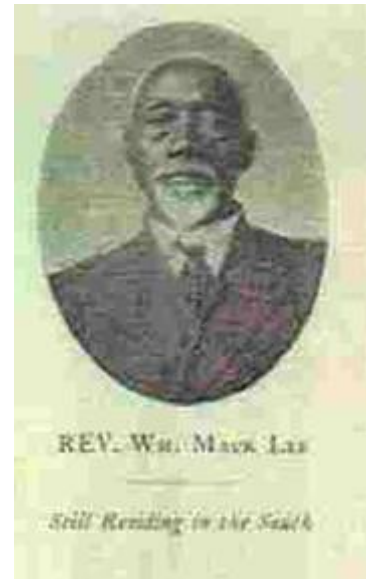
## The Reverend Mack Lee, General Lee's Cook

### Mack Lee

General Lee's cook, body servant and body guard; was born at Arlington Heights, Virginia and was raised in the house of Robert E. Lee. He was not a slave and was with General Lee from the very beginning to Appomattox and until General Lee died in 1870. Shown at right is his picture and that of his autobiography that was published at the turn of the century.

In the capacity as General Lee's Cook, he at one time or another cooked for all of the great Confederate Generals but frequently had to improvise as rations weren't abundant. On July 12<sup>th</sup> 1862 Mack was wounded when a shell struck 35 yards from General Lee's tent and Mack took shrapnel in the head and the hip. Until the end of his life he walked with a limp from his wounds. Yet he never had anything but high praise for General Lee whom he adored until the coffin's lid went down upon himself. Mack said that only one time did General Lee ever scold him and that was during the siege of Petersburg when he had nothing to feed the general; and so he cooked a little black pet hen named Nellie that was kept to lay eggs. Lee's reprimand was this "I'm going to write Miss Mary about you; I'm going to tell her you have killed Nellie." Of Appomattox, Mack records this in his book; Lee to Grant: "Grant, you didn't whip me, you just overpowered me, I surrender this day 8,000 men; I do not surrender them to you, I surrender on conditions, you have 10 men to my one; if Joseph Johnston could have gotten to me 3 days ago I would have cut my way through and gone to the mountains of North Carolina and would have given you a happy time." It must be stated that of Lee's 26,000 men at Appomattox only 8,800 were combat effectives.

After 1870 Mack became an evangelical minister and founded over five Black churches throughout Virginia. He was married, had eight daughters and lived into his eighties. During and after the war there was a great spiritual revival among those men who had "seen the elephant" of war. There are no atheists in combat!





## The Confederate Double-Barrel Cannon

One unique product of Southern ingenuity was the double-barreled cannon, manufactured at Athens, Georgia. It didn't quite work properly and was deemed a failure, though it did help fend off an attack against Athens. Two prototypes of this gun were made. One survives and is by the courthouse at Athens, Georgia. It was designed thus: the two barrels were set at a slight angle to each other; the cannon balls in each barrel were connected by a long chain; and when fired, the cannon balls would stretch out the chain and mow down enemy troops like a scythe. It didn't quite work that way. Firing each barrel simultaneously proved problematical; and when fired the chain broke and the balls shot out erratically. Another test, with a chain shortened to eight feet did work and severed a tree in half. But when handed over to the war department for testing, it was deemed unworkable. This gun did see combat however! Athens lay just beyond the radius of Sherman's march to the sea, and at one point a detachment of Stoneman's Cavalry was approaching the town with the intention of burning it down. This gun occupied one of the fortified positions in defense of the city. It was fired at the Yankees but didn't hit anything. But it did help drive them off and Athens was spared. The gun crew hadn't been told that the barrels were set at an angle and after the engagement they reported that it was wildly inaccurate. It finished the war as a signal cannon in front of the courthouse. Many accounts state this gun was never used in battle; they're wrong. We acquired the full written history at a hotel next to the foundry.

The Double Barrel Cannon



The Athens Foundry, restored, where the Cannon was made



## The Deadly Confederate Le Mat Revolver

This could possible qualify as the deadliest pistol ever produced, even by today's standards; developed jointly by Dr. Jean A. F. Le Mat and General Pierre G. T. Beauregard. Originally 300 were manufactured in New Orleans before production was shifted to Paris France. Over 3,000 were run through the blockade via Nassau. They came in different styles. The one at right had nine 42 Caliber barrels in its cylinder and a 63 caliber shotgun barrel loaded with buckshot underneath. It gave the bearer a great advantage in firepower over his opponent. No Yankee pistol could compare with it.



**General Forrest's Speech to the Jubilee of Pole Bearers**  
**July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1875**  
**Memphis, Tennessee**

Many people have attempted to vilify the great Southern Hero, Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest as being a racist and a hater of black people. On July 4<sup>th</sup> of 1875, General Forrest was invited to speak by the Jubilee of Pole Bearers, a social and political organization in the post-war era comprised of Black Southerners. Miss Lou Lewis was presented to General Forrest and then presented him with a bouquet of flowers and said: "Mr. Forrest – allow me to present you this bouquet as a token, of reconciliation, an offering of peace and good will." General Forrest received the flowers with a bow and gave the following speech:

"Miss Lewis, ladies and gentlemen – I accept these flowers as a token of reconciliation between the white and colored races of the South. I accept them more particularly, since they come from a lady, for if there is any one on God's great earth who loves the ladies, it is myself. This is a proud day for me. Having occupied the position I have for thirteen years, and being misunderstood by the colored race, I take this occasion to say that I am your friend. I am here as a representative of the Southern people – one that has been more maligned than any other. I assure you that every man who was in the Confederate army is your friend. We were born on the same soil, breathe the same air, live on the same land, and why should we not be brothers and sisters."

"When the war broke out I believed it to be my duty to fight for my country, and I did so. I came here with the jeers and sneers of a few white people, who did not think it right. I think it is right and will do all I can to bring harmony, peace and unity. I want to elevate every man, and to see you take your places in your shops, stores and but I want you to do as I do – go to the polls and select the best men to vote for. I feel that you are free men, I am a free man, and we can do as we please. I came here as a friend and whenever I can serve you I will do so. We have one Union, one flag, one country; therefore let us stand together. Although we differ in color, we should not differ in sentiment. Many things have been said in regard to myself, and many reports circulated, which may perhaps be believed by some of you, but there are many around me who can contradict them. I have often in the heat of battle – oftener, perhaps, than any within the sound of my voice. Men have come to me to ask for quarter, both black and white, and I have shielded them. Do your duty as citizens, and if any are oppressed, I will be your friend. I assure you that I am with you in heart and hand."



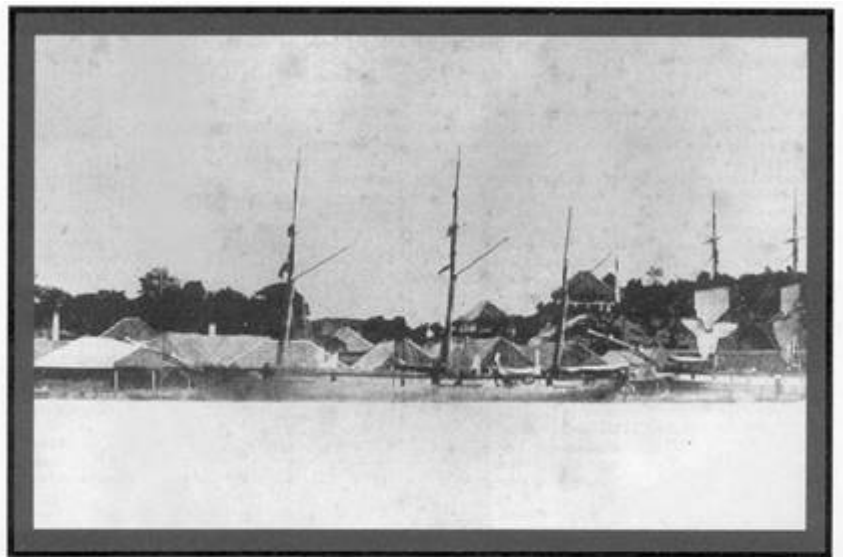
**The Memphis Daily Avalanche reported this event on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1875**

## The Greatest of the Confederate Cruisers – The CSS Alabama

The Alabama is Born:

She was one of the creations of Confederate Agent James D. Bulloch, who while stationed in England created the Confederate High Seas Fleet. For those of you not familiar with Bulloch, his blood nephew went on to become President of the United States of America – Theodore Roosevelt. Built at the Laird shipyard, she was designated # 290; originally christened the “Enrica.” She put out to sea down the Mersey River on July 29, 1862. Charles Francis Adams, the Yankee minister in London insisted that the sale of this ship violated British neutrality. Actually it did not, because it was not until the ship had rendezvoused with supply ships in the Azores and had been formally armed and renamed the CSS Alabama that it became a Confederate warship. The Alabama was commanded by Captain Raphael Semmes and was formally commissioned a Confederate warship on August 24, 1862.

Cruising from the Azores to Newfoundland and then south to the Caribbean, the Alabama sank 27 ships between September and December of 1862. On January 11, 1863, the Alabama encountered the Yankee warship “USS Hatteras” about 20 miles south of Galveston. It was an unlucky day for the Hatteras. The USS Hatteras had made quite a name for itself, destroying Confederate harbor facilities in Florida and capturing several blockade runners. After a short and vicious battle with the Alabama, the Hatteras went to its watery grave.



**The only known photograph of the CSS Alabama**

After putting the crew of the Hatteras off in Jamaica, the Alabama then sailed down the coast of Brazil and overhauled the Philadelphia based merchantman, the “Conrad,” which Semmes armed and commissioned the “CSS Tuscaloosa” and placed it under the command of Lt. John Low. From there the Alabama sailed into the Indian Ocean. The Alabama visited Capetown, South Africa in the autumn of 1863 and again in 1864. One of the Alabama’s Battle Flags was left there and now is now in a museum in Capetown. The Alabama was received by adoring crowds of citizens there. A popular Afrikaner folksong of the day commemorated the memory of the Alabama (Daar kom die Alibama). Photo of this flag is shown on the next page. The Alabama sailed and raided all the way to Singapore, after which time, and in need of an overhaul, Semmes returned the ship to Europe, anchoring at Cherbourg, France on June 11, 1864. During its brilliant career, the Alabama had cruised over 75,000 miles, had taken 66 prizes worth \$6.5 million and had sunk the Yankee warship Hatteras.

The End of the Alabama:

Semmes intended to remain in France for an extensive refit, but the U.S. Government persuaded the French Government to impose a 24 hour limit on any ship flying the Confederate Flag in its ports. In the meantime the USS Kearsarge arrived in Cherbourg from Belgium. The Union Captain, Winslow was told by French - cont.

Continued:

authorities that he was violating neutrality and he took the Kearsarge out to sea just beyond French waters. Rather than be blockaded by the Kearsarge, Semmes chose to take the Alabama out to fight although his ship was not in condition to do so. Semmes told Lt. John Kell:

“Although the Confederate Government has ordered me to avoid engagement with the enemy cruisers, I am tired of running from that flaunting rag.”

On June 19, 1864, the Alabama sailed out of Cherbourg to do battle with the Kearsarge. This took place within sight of land and was widely witnessed. After being so long at sea, the Alabama was no match for the Kearsarge. The quality of gunnery was actually superior on the Alabama, which delivered over twice as many hits against the Kearsarge as it received from the Union ship. The Kearsarge was partially protected by chains draped over the sides. Nevertheless the battle would have been won by the Alabama but for one problem. The Alabama’s gunpowder was defective. A shot from the Alabama lodged in the Kearsarge by its rudder but failed to explode. This would have ended the contest then and there in favor of the Alabama if the shell had been good. The Alabama sank after about an hour in combat. Semmes and about 40 of his men were rescued by the British yacht Deerhound; the rest were either killed in battle or taken prisoner on the Kearsarge.

Shown at right is one of the Battleflags of the CSS Alabama. This was the one left at Capetown, South Africa on its second voyage there. This is a “Stainless Banner” of a CSS Navy design (1863-1865). It is believed to have been made by some British seamen on the Alabama while at sea. Excepting most of the officers, most of the crew were British citizens. One of the gunners however was a Prussian Baron.



The Aftermath:

The devastation caused by the Alabama and her sister raiders caused a severe decline in American shipping in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They precipitated a 900% rise in insurance rates for U.S. ships and resulted in the transfer of over 900 ships to foreign registry. After the war, the U.S. Government attempted to reclaim damages from Britain due to these raiders being made in Britain. This was finally settled under “The Treaty of Washington” in 1871 wherein an international tribunal awarded the U.S. \$15.5 million in damages. This settlement was called “The Alabama Claims.”

Raphael Semmes:

Upon his return to the Confederate States of America, he was promoted to admiral. Lacking sufficient ships to fight the Union Navy, Semmes disbanded his unit and reformed them into the army. He was appointed to the rank of brigadier general by Jefferson Davis and was with the Army of Tennessee at its surrender at Durham Station N.C. in 1865. He is probably the only man to have ever held the ranks of both admiral and general in the history of modern civilization. After the war, the Yankees wanted to persecute him with war crimes, but couldn’t make any of the charges stick. He returned to his home in Mobile, became a successful lawyer, and died there in 1877.



# The Boys Fight

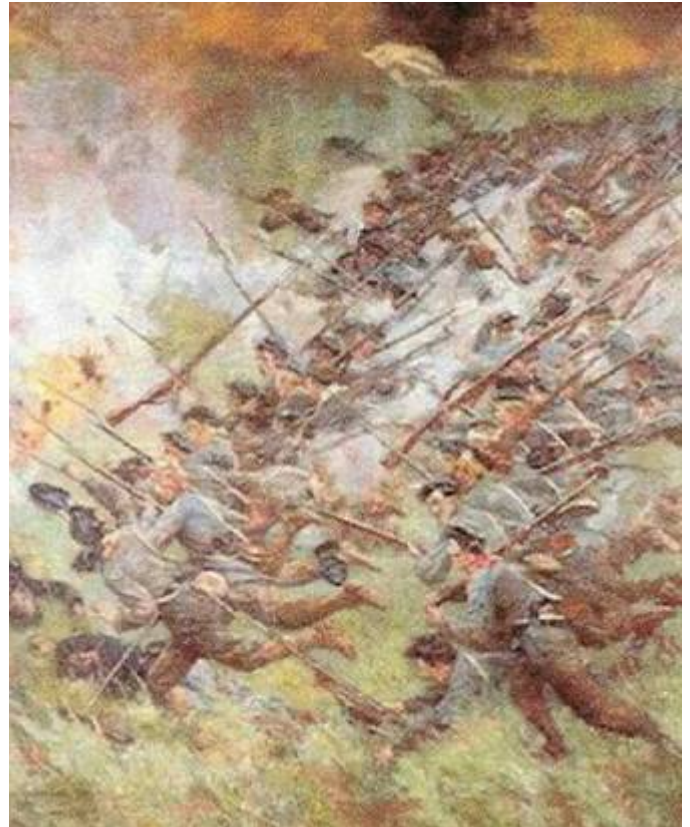
## The Battle of New Market

As a second item of interest presented here is the role played in the Battle of New Market by the boys of the Virginia Military Institute in 1864. Their participation in that battle is an event still celebrated at this prestigious military school to this day.

As part of his spring, 1864 offensive, General Grant ordered General Franz Sigel to advance into the Valley Pike area of the Shenandoah Valley; destroy the railroad at Staunton and then to move against the rail complex at Lynchburg. Sigel commanded 10,000 troops during this campaign.

To oppose Sigel, Confederate Gen. Breckenridge could only muster about 4,500 troops and had to scramble these units from various locations. And this included 247 cadets from the Virginia Military Institute where General Jackson had taught before the war. Most of these cadets were 16; one however was 15.

On the night of May 10<sup>th</sup>, the cadets were awakened by the “long roll,” ordered to get ready and were marching to Staunton by daybreak. For three days they marched and slept in the mud and rain.



The Confederate and Union forces confronted each other on May 15<sup>th</sup> at New Market. The VMI cadets were awakened about 1:00 a.m. on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. The battle underwent several stages when finally at 2:00 p.m. Breckenridge launched an all out assault on Bushong's hill where a federal battery was wreaking heavy casualties upon the Confederates. The 62<sup>nd</sup> Va. suffered 50% casualties. As the attack stalled, the VMI battalion was ordered to fill the gap in the line. The VMI cadets then advanced with the 62<sup>nd</sup> VA. When they had crossed to within about 300 yards of the battery there was a rocky gulch to cross which afforded them some protection. The gulch was filled with thickets, briars, stumps and cedars which the smaller VMI boys were able to get through quicker than the men of the 62<sup>nd</sup>. The boys were able to get out of the ditch 2 or 3 minutes ahead of the other Confederates; they reformed their lines and took serious casualties until the 62<sup>nd</sup> was able to join them. But they would not break under the intense fire. Then the order was given to charge at the “double quick.” When the order was given to charge, they did so with enthusiasm and they moved so fast that it was difficult to reload their old fashion muskets. They overpowered the Yankee guns and captured most of the gunners who refused to abandon them until overpowered. A wild yell went up from the cadets as one of them jumped upon a caisson and waved the VMI flag over it. They paid a heavy price for this; 8 cadets were killed and 46 wounded; but the Yankees were defeated at New Market. The event was immortalized in the old John Ford / John Wayne movie called “the Horse Soldiers.” The setting in the movie was changed to Mississippi.



## A Profile of Hispanic Courage

At least 2,500 Mexican Texans joined the Confederate Army during the War Between the States. The most famous was **Santos Benavides** who rose to become a colonel and commanded the 33<sup>rd</sup> Texas Cavalry. He was the highest ranking Tejano to serve the Confederacy. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Texas Cavalry was ill equipped, undermanned, frequently without food and forced to march across vast expanses of South Texas and Northern Mexico. The Thirty-third under Benavides was never defeated in battle. Later on, it was designated as Benavides' Texas Cavalry. Along with Colonel Benavides, his two brothers, Refugio and Cristobal served as captains in this regiment.

Benavides' Texas Cavalry compiled a brilliant record. In May of 1861 the Benavides Brothers defeated a band of anti-Confederate revolutionaries commanded by Juan Cortina at Carrizo (Zapata). On three separate occasions the Benavides brothers raided into Mexico in retaliation for Union inspired guerilla raids into Texas. In 1863 he secured the passage of Texas cotton to Matamoras, Mexico which was a great contribution to the finances of the Confederacy. In March of 1864 Colonel Benavides' Texas Cavalry with only forty-two men on hand defeated and drove off a Union force of 200 cavalrymen that attacked Laredo. And as briefly mentioned on page two, he also participated in the Confederate Victory at Palmito Ranch. No Hispanic of his stature served the Union cause. In fact Hispanics that served in the Confederate Army (over 5,500) outnumbered those that fought for the Union by a factor of two to one.

Colonel Benavides shown at right actually turned down an offer to be made a general in the Union Army if he would defect. He was a great-great grandson of the founder of Laredo and his uncle was the Alcalde (mayor) there. He worked as a merchant and rancher before and after the war. He also had fought against the Apaches in the 1850s and was used to danger and hardship when the war broke out. Several years after the war, he served three terms in the Texas State Legislature. Colonel Santos Benavides died in 1891.



**Colonel Santos Benavides**  
Commander of the Benavides Regiment in the Confederate Army and defender of Laredo, Texas.  
*Photo courtesy St. Mary's University Library*

## The Following is presented in Recognition of Black History Month

The National Park Service is in the process of creating a new mythology. While visiting the battlefield museum at Chickamauga, I observed a sign which read something like this (reconstructing this from memory) “there were no actual Black soldiers in the Confederate Army though Blacks did serve as cooks, laborers, teamsters and servants.” Please consider these two pages of facts and decide wherein the truth lies!

1. The “Richmond Howitzers” were partially manned by Black militiamen. They saw action where they operated Battery No. 2 at 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas. Many colored people were killed in the action, recorded John Parker, a former slave.
2. James Washington (Black) served in Co. D, 35<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry where he rose to the rank of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant.
3. Dr. Lewis Steiner, Chief Inspector of the United States Sanitary Commission recorded while observing General Stonewall Jackson’s occupation of Frederick, Maryland: “Over 3,000 Negroes must be included in this number. These were clad in all kinds of uniforms, not only in cast-off or captured United States uniforms, but in coats with Southern buttons, State buttons, etc. These were shabby, but not shabbier or seedier than those worn by White Men in the Rebel ranks. Most of the Negroes had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, Bowie-knives, dirks, etc. and were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederate Army.”
4. Frederick Douglas reported: “There are at the present moment many Colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants, and laborers, but as real soldiers.”
5. Black and White militiamen returned heavy fire on Union troops at the Battle of Griswoldville near Macon, Georgia.
6. The Jackson Battalion included two companies of Black soldiers. They saw combat at Petersburg under Colonel Shipp.
7. On April 4<sup>th</sup> 1865 in Amelia County, Virginia, a Confederate supply train was exclusively manned and guarded by Black infantry. They stood their ground and fought off an initial Federal cavalry charge; but they were overwhelmed on the second charge.
8. A Black Confederate named George, when captured by the Federals was bribed to desert to the other side. He defiantly spoke, “Sir, you want me to desert, and I ain’t no deserter. Down South, deserters disgrace their families and I am never going to do that.”
9. Former slave, Horace King, accumulated great wealth as a contractor to the Confederate Navy. He was also an expert engineer and became known as the “Bridge Builder of the Confederacy.” His home was pillaged by Union troops as his wife pleaded for mercy.
10. As of February 1865, 1,150 Black seamen served in the Confederate Navy. One of these was among the last Confederates to surrender, aboard the CSS Shenandoah, six months after the war ended.

The above excerpts are borrowed from Southern Recorder Publications

## More Black Confederates

Louis Napoleon Nelson: Rode with Nathan Bedford Forrest in every major battle. He went on to attend 39 United Confederate Veteran Reunions after the war. He insisted that when he died all of his UCV medals be buried with him.

George Washington Yancey: After being captured while serving in his Georgia Militia unit; escaped, made his way back to his unit; was captured again at Missionary Ridge; he escaped a second time and made his way back to his unit which was at Atlanta where he fought with them; was captured a third time at Macon; and again escaped a third time. He served the Confederacy until the end of the war. His actions were certainly in contravention to modern claims by recidivist historians and the National Park Service. Was this brave Confederate forced to serve the Confederacy?

James Jefferson: Went by the nickname Jim Jeff; he arrived with his master Dr. Samuel Vaughn as the Battle of Manassas was starting. The 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama had suffered heavy casualties (305 men); as Dr. Vaughn picked up the rifle of a wounded soldier, Jim Jeff also picked up another rifle and they both began shooting at the Yankees. The Vaughns made certain that Jim Jeff received a Confederate pension in his latter years.

Polk Arnold: Served as a private in General Forrest's escort. He was killed at the Battle of Harrisburg, Mississippi on July 17<sup>th</sup> 1864.

Preston Roberts: Enlisted at the first call for volunteers in 1861. He was unofficially the Quartermaster under General Nathan Bedford Forrest who had a great deal of confidence in him. He was in charge of all of the funds for food and was in command of 75 cooks. In the post war era, he was awarded the Southern Cross of Honor by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Marshall Thompson: Was ten years old when he joined the Confederate Army where he served as a porter for Colonel Starnes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry.

Robert Bruce Patton: Was a free man of color. He served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry. As a free man, no one compelled him to serve.

John F. Harris: On February 1, 1890, this man was a Black Republican delegate from Washington County, Mississippi. An appropriation bill for a Confederate monument was being considered and another delegate had just finished speaking against it. Mr. Harris then rose and said the following:

“I was sorry to hear the speech of the young gentleman from Marshall County. I am sorry that any son of a soldier should go on record as opposed to the erection of a monument in honor of the brave dead. And, sir I am convinced that had he seen what I saw at Seven Pines, and in the Seven Days fighting around Richmond, the battlefield covered with mangled forms of those who fought for their country and for their country's honor, he would not have made the speech. When the news came that the South had been invaded, those men went forth to fight for what they believed, and they made no requests for monuments. But they died, and their virtues should be remembered.”

“Sir, I went with them. I too, wore the gray, the same color as my master did. We stayed four long years, and if that war had gone on till now I would have been there yet. I want to honor those men who died for their convictions. When my mother died I was a boy. Who, sir, then acted the part of a mother to an orphaned slave boy, but my old Missus!”

## Children of the Undefeated

After the close of The War Between the States, many ex-Confederates and their families refused to live under Yankee domination and misrule. Various estimates between 4,000 and 9,000 are believed to have migrated to Brazil, upon the invitation of the Brazilian Emperor Dom Pedro II. Brazil needed cotton planting skills which they supplied. Few of them however owned slaves. The immigrants bought land at 22 cents an acre. They were called “Confederados” in Brazil and their descendants have spread all over the country. Most of these Confederates were also Masons. There still is a distinct community of them living in the State of Sao Paulo in a place called Americana which along with the mother city, now called Santa Barbara D’ Oeste is the center of gravity of Southern Descendants in Brazil many of whom belong to the Fraternity of American Descendants.

They meet each quarter session of the year at the Campo Cemetery to hold a religious service, have dinner, and discuss topics and business. Campo Cemetery was dedicated as “God’s Acre” as a burial place for the Southern dead. The elderly generation still converses in English with a Southern Accent. The children usually only speak Portuguese. This is not intended as a recap of a previous story about these people but to acquaint everyone with their website where I found some great photos of their events which I have reproduced here. One of the two Sons of Confederate Veteran’s Camps outside of the United States is located there. Their camp is called “Os Confederados,” the Confederates, SCV Camp #1653. The other overseas camp is located in Germany. After the war, many ex-Confederates also went to Europe. To look at their website, do a google search, type in Os Confederados and let cyberspace take you there. These two pages contain photos from their website. Enjoy!

Of interest; there was a Russian colony named New Odessa established only five miles from Americana. During the Cold War, the Brazilians marveled at the lack of friction between the two groups, unaware of the fact that the Confederados were not Yankees and that the Russian immigrants were not Red Russians. In these modern times, these Confederado descendants have become real Brazilians; marrying Portuguese, Italians, Poles, Germans, Dutch and also Russians.



Location



Confederate Monument



Capela (Chapel)





Campo Cemetery



Reunion



Children at Play



A Full Dress Ball



Food and Fun



## Stonewall Jackson Bags a Whole Yankee Army

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1862, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia splashed across the Potomac River into Maryland at White's Ford. With this invasion Lee expected the 14,000 Federal troops garrisoning Harper's Ferry and Martinsburg to withdraw northward. Lee's plans depended upon it. The Confederates needed the Shenandoah Valley as their line of supply and communication while they campaigned north of the Potomac. The Federals refused to withdraw leaving Lee in a quandary. Lee decided to divide his army into four parts. Special Orders #191 contained all of the operational details. Three separate columns totaling 23,000 men would march on Harper's Ferry. Lee selected Major General Thomas Jackson (Stonewall) to lead the assault.

The Union garrison was under the command of Union Colonel Dixon S. Miles. Harper's Ferry was extremely important to the Federals as a base of supply for operations in the Shenandoah Valley; to protect the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; both important Union transportation corridors.

Special Order #191 called for three separate columns, converging from three different directions to ascend three separate ridges divided by two rivers. One might have expected this to be too much for Lee's Army as they appeared ragtag; many of them shoeless.

Brigadier General John Walker commanded one wing of Jackson's three-pronged advance. Walker advanced to the eastern slope of Loudoun Heights; moved a battery of artillery there and began exchanging gunfire with the Union guns at nearby Harper's Ferry.

Major General Lafayette McLaws commanded the second wing of the Confederate advance. He understood that if Maryland Heights at 1,414 feet was occupied by the enemy, then Harper's Ferry could never be taken by force. It was the highest ridge overlooking Harper's Ferry. McLaws ordered two infantry brigades to advance south along the crest of Elk Ridge – the northern extension of Maryland Heights. McLaws' Confederates faced determined resistance but they drove the 4,600 Union soldiers off the mountain. One day later, McLaws opened fire on Harper's Ferry with four guns.

Major General Stonewall Jackson commanded the third wing of Confederates himself. Advancing from Frederick to Boonsboro, Maryland; Jackson swept across western Maryland; crossed the Potomac at Williamsport, captured Martinsburg and came up behind Harper's Ferry; marching 51 miles in less than two days. Jackson's 14,000 men occupied School House Ridge, sealing the trap on the Federal garrison.

From his position near Halltown, Stonewall Jackson methodically and deliberately positioned his cannon to drive the enemy into extinction. Confederate cannon fire was so effective and demoralizing that Colonel Trimble of the 60<sup>th</sup> Ohio wrote that there was "not a place you could lay the palm of your hand and say it was safe."

Then Jackson ordered General A.P. Hill to flank the Federal position on top of Bolivar Heights. Hill moved his forces and they dragged and tugged five batteries up the river's steep cliffs. This sealed the fate of Harper's Ferry. On the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> Union Commanders held a council of war and they unanimously agreed to surrender. As they ran up the white flag at 9:00 a.m. a stray Confederate shell exploded directly behind Colonel Miles mortally wounding him. Stonewall Jackson captured over 12,500 Union Troops; the largest single capture of Federal Forces during the entire war. The Confederates also seized 13,000 small arms and 47 pieces of artillery. Barely 1,500 Yankees managed to escape the previous day over an unguarded pontoon bridge.

# Confederates

## John Sparks

He was the only ex-Confederate Soldier to ever become governor of a non-Confederate State; Nevada.

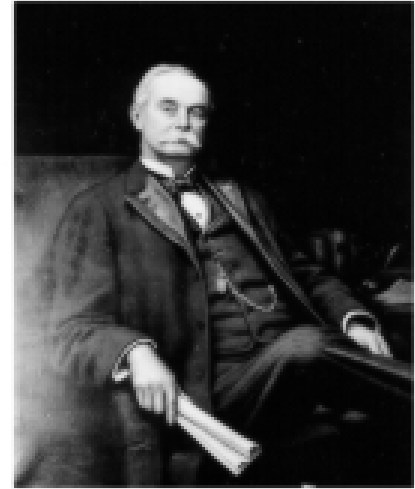
Born in Mississippi in 1843, his father moved the family to Lampasas County, Texas. He was the seventh of ten children. When the War for Southern Independence broke out, John joined the Confederate Army. He served as a private in McCord's Frontier Regiment. This regiment's primary job was to fight against Indians and other organized bands of bandits and deserters on the frontier. Western Texas was severely savaged by bands of Comanches when most of the men were away.

After the war John Sparks and his partner, another ex-Confederate named Tinnan drove a herd of cattle to Montana where he stayed until 1868. While there he served as a militia captain during a range war.

In 1868 he drove a herd of longhorns to Elko County, Nevada which eventually grew to number 75,000 head. His ranch was the largest ever to exist in Nevada; possibly the whole U.S. It covered an area in Elko County larger than the states of Connecticut, Rhode Island and half of New Jersey combined. He also imported the first Hereford cattle into Nevada.

In the 1880s a particularly cold winter decimated half of the cattle herd. In 1890 he moved to Reno and purchased a 2,500 acre ranch by the Virginia and Truckee Railroad which he named "The Alamo" in honor of his Texas roots. After serving as county commissioner of Washoe County, John was nominated by the Democratic party to run for governor in 1902. He ran as a Silver Democrat and won by 1800 votes. His nickname was Honest John Sparks. He died during his second term in office in 1907.

John married Rachel Knight in 1872; they had one daughter. When she died he married her half-sister Nora Knight and had they had three sons. His house from the Alamo Ranch still exists, but it was moved south of Reno along Hwy 395 and is privately owned.



The City of Sparks, Nevada was named in honor of John Sparks. Ironically, the City of Reno which borders Sparks was named after a Union General, one Jesse Reno who had been killed at the Battle of South Mountain, Maryland in 1862. General Reno had never been to Nevada. The difference in size between Sparks and Reno today is comparable to the difference in size between the South and North during the War of 1861-1865.

While serving as governor of Nevada, John Sparks would catch the train on the Virginia and Truckee Railroad right by his house and ride it to work in Carson City and return the same way.

In 1904 he attended the naming of the City of Sparks in his honor by the Southern Pacific Railroad. Sparks was founded by the Southern Pacific as a switching yard which was moved from Wadsworth, miles away.

As a point of interest, Clark County, Nevada which contains Las Vegas was also named after a Confederate Soldier.



## Images from Charleston

Shown below is Lt. George E. Dixon's famous \$20 gold piece that saved his leg and probably his life at Shiloh. It was given to him by his sweetheart "Queen Bennett" in Mobile before he fought as a sergeant at the Battle of Shiloh.

It stopped a Minnie ball; was bent nearly double and he later had the inscription "My Life Preserver" inscribed upon it. It was found on his body when the Hunley was raised.



Shown below is a copy of the Palmetto Flag which was flown immediately over Fort Sumter after its surrender. The original was saved by a soldier whose descendant donated it in the 1990s.



Shown below is the Confederate Submarine Hunley after it was raised. It was actually under army control. Dixon was a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. in the Confederate Army. He reported directly to General Beauregard. The seamen were volunteers from the Confederate Navy.



Shown below is "Big Red." This was the flag flown by the cadets at the Citadel in Charleston. They actually fired the first shot that turned away the "Star of the West" as it attempted to re-supply Fort Sumter. These cadets earned nine battle streamers.





## Confederate Heroes

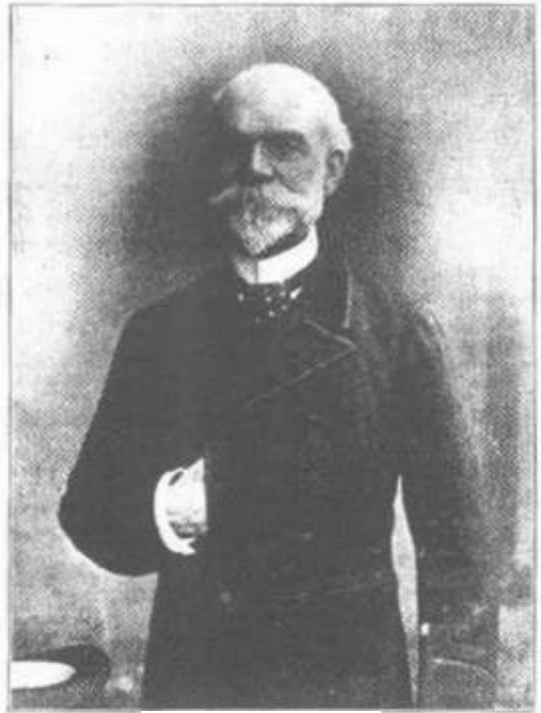
### James Dunwoody Bulloch

He was the chief Confederate Agent in Britain. And what is most remarkable is that he was the blood uncle of future President Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt's mother Mittie Bulloch was his sister.

Born in 1823 of a distinguished line of Scottish pioneers; his father was one of the backers of the first steamship, the Savannah to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Before the war he was a career Navy officer and for a time served under the command of Farragut himself. He joined the Confederacy at the outbreak of the War Between the States.

It was decided to send him to Europe as a Naval Purchasing Agent for the Confederacy. Within 3 days of arriving in England, Bulloch made a contract for building the first of the British built cruisers, the Florida. On August 11<sup>th</sup> 1861 another contract was signed for construction of a ship with the Laird Shipbuilding Firm in Liverpool known as #290. This later became the famous Alabama. He also helped fulfill the South's needs for army supplies. Soon after this he outfitted the Fingal which ran the blockade with the largest shipment of arms during the war, more than 11,000 Enfield Rifles, some cannon and other materiel.

He had to play a constant cat and mouse, cloak and dagger game with U.S. Ambassador Adams in Britain. He had to be careful not to overtly break British neutrality laws. Ships were registered under private names and they departed Britain without armaments only to be rearmed later on at such destinations as the Azores. Some of the sales were thwarted by U.S. agents. From the testimony of a Confederate traitor, Clarence Yonge and with reports from Union spies; the purchase of some ironclads from Lairds were thwarted. The Brits bought them to assuage the Yankee Ambassador but Bulloch was able to divert the money toward the purchase of the CSS Shenandoah. Later he was able to purchase the Ironclad Stonewall; but it arrived in Cuba too late to help the Confederacy.



James Bulloch



Bulloch Hall, Roswell, Georgia



Bulloch's HQ, #6 Rumford Place, Liverpool (Today)

## Atrocity

Our children and grandchildren are being fed a stream of politically correct lies in school, just as we were but to a much greater degree. After all, according to the Department of Education our ancestors fought to preserve slavery; didn't they? Though raised in the west, each year of my childhood my father took the family back South on vacation. I remember many of the older folks there as very bitter and hateful toward the Yankees without understanding why. After all, that war was over before any of them were born. But the memory of the atrocities committed by Yankees was passed down to them. The following information I have paraphrased from an article written by Alan Stang. The best written account can be found on pages 121-124 of "The South Was Right" by James and Walter Kennedy. The information is well documented, irrefutable and disturbing. .

The War for Southern Independence was the first "modern war" in the sense that it was the first of the modern wars deliberately fought against civilians. Lincoln arbitrarily suspended writs of "habeas corpus" which the Constitution only allows the Congress to do and arbitrarily imprisoned over 30,000 people in the north. But this subject isn't about Lincoln; it's about Sherman.

After Sherman's defeat at Kennesaw Mountain he loosened his forces upon the towns surrounding Atlanta where he turned his army against those he knew he could defeat, "civilians." Many of these towns contained factories valuable to the Southern war effort; including Marietta, Roswell, and New Manchester. Anything that could not be taken away was routinely burned; even wedding bands were taken from ladies' fingers. Sherman ordered all who worked in the factories to be gathered up and shipped out of their country. In all, over 2,000 women, children and a few old men were collected. These Southern noncombatants were shipped north in freight trains where they arrived in destitute condition. They were then hired out by the Federal Government as White slaves to Yankees in the north.

In the town of Roswell, over four hundred young women and children were kept in the open town square for a week by the Federals. When the Yankee soldiers found a store of whiskey, their plight was further worsened by an orgy of rape against the women.

The town of New Manchester completely disappeared never to be rebuilt. None of these people were ever returned to the South after the war and they disappeared into the north without a trace. The following comment appeared in a Louisville, Kentucky newspaper concerning the women and children shipped north: "The train which arrived from Nashville last evening brought up from the South 249 women and children, who are sent here by orders of General Sherman to be transferred north of the Ohio River. These people are mostly in destitute condition, having no means to provide for themselves a support." This sparked a cry from many Confederate Commanders to respond in kind; but President Jefferson Davis, to his everlasting credit refused to permit it.

After World War II a great many Germans were hung for these types of war crimes; they were called Nazis. In 1864 they were called Yankees. But they got away with it. One might find it remarkable that the lowest breed of terrorist held at Guantanamo is treated with greater respect and humanity by the Federal Government than Southern women and children were in 1864 in Georgia. But we were fighting for our independence which the Yankees found more disturbing than mere terrorism and mass murder.

Read it here compatriots, or in the sources I mentioned above. You'll never see it in a politically correct textbook promoted by the Department of Education. I thoroughly understand why my 14 year old great-grandfather joined the Confederate Army in October of 1864 after the Yankees rode up to the family farm, took all the horses and anything else they wanted and cussed out all of the womenfolk.

## Terry's Texas Rangers

This was probably the most distinguished cavalry regiment in the Confederate Army. It was organized by Benjamin Franklin Terry, a wealthy sugar planter from Brazoria, Texas. It was mustered into Confederate Service in September of 1861 with just over 1,000 men. Originally bound for Virginia, the regiment was diverted to the Army of Tennessee and placed under the command of General Albert Sidney Johnston. Though they were called Terry's Texas Rangers; technically, they had not been Texas Rangers. During the war they were referred to by a variety of names including "Terry's Texas Rangers, Wharton's Regiment, Harrison's Regiment, The Rangers or simply The Texans."

During their first engagement near Woodsonville, Kentucky, they suffered the loss of Colonel Terry. Lubbock was then elected to command but died of disease. He was succeeded by Wharton, who was later promoted to general and was then finally commanded by Harrison.

The Rangers distinguished themselves by their willingness to fight, their skill with arms and their personal abilities. They were referred to as "The Charging Regiment." At Shilo, they provided the main body of troops for the remarkable charge at "Fallen Timbers." They led the way when General Forrest by sheer audacity took Murfreesboro from a superior Union force. At Bardstown, it was the Rangers who led Wharton's Brigade into the mass of Yankee cavalry to carry the day. They had the reputation of standing up to infantry, something the cavalry could not normally do. They fought on horseback and foot; traveled hundreds of miles behind enemy lines to raid Union supply and communication lines. They were called upon time and time again to provide pickets and scouts for the Army of Tennessee. Alexander Shannon, commander of the notorious Shannon's Scouts, was a Terry Ranger and hand-picked men from Terry's Rangers made up the bulk of his command as he punished Sherman in his march across Georgia and the Carolinas.

The final charge of Terry's Rangers was made at Bentonville, North Carolina, on March 21<sup>st</sup> 1865 when General Hardee urgently called upon them to check the Federal advance. After nearly four years of hard fighting, a shout was raised once again and one hundred and fifty men, all which remained from this gallant regiment, charged into the blue clad infantry and sent them into a panic-stricken retreat.

When Joe Johnston surrendered a month later, many of the Terry Rangers refused to surrender and set off in groups hoping to join General Kirby Smith and continue the fight west of the Mississippi. Only when word reached them that he too had given up did they surrender.

Organizing the Regiment



A Group of Terry's Texans



Col. Benjamin Terry



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

We took our name from the first submarine in history to ever sink another warship in combat – the “Hunley”. All Sons of Confederate Veteran Camps are named in honor of a Confederate Hero or a Confederate Theme. Shown at right is Conrad Wise’ famous painting of the CSS Hunley.

On February 17<sup>th</sup> 1864 the Hunley sank the USS Housatonic off Sullivan’s Island in Charleston, South Carolina. This feat would not be performed by a submarine again for another 51 years until World War I. The Hunley did not return to its base and was lost also.



The submarine was originally built in Mobile, Alabama by Park and Lyons. It was designed by three men: James R. McClintock, Horace L. Hunley and Baxter Watson. It had ballast tanks on each end; forward diving planes and was powered by a hand crank turned by eight men. This venture was the brainchild of Horace L. Hunley who raised the money as a private venture.

Lt. George E. Dixon: His pre-war home was Mobile, Alabama where he is believed to have been a steamboat engineer. It was here he became close to “Queen Bennett” the oldest child of a steamboat captain. The great age difference between them made no difference. In 1861 George Dixon went to war with the 21<sup>st</sup> Alabama Infantry. At this time his romance with Queen Bennett became legendary. Before he left she gave him a \$20 gold piece for luck. He fought as a sergeant at Shiloh where this coin stopped a minie ball which saved his leg and probably his life. He had the inscription “My Life Preserver” engraved upon it. He returned to Mobile to convalesce where he worked on the Hunley. General Beauregard called for the Hunley to help break the siege of Charleston and it was transported there by rail. The Hunley sank twice with loss of life before its destiny with fate on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. It was not a navy ship; it was under Army control. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dixon was placed in charge; the crewmen were navy volunteers. On Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> the Hunley under Dixon’s command rammed a spar torpedo with a 90 lb. explosive charge into the 1,800 ton Housatonic (mounting 23 guns) which sank immediately. The pre-arranged blue signal of return was observed but the Hunley never did return. 131 years later, author Clive Cussler and his team located the Hunley. On August 8<sup>th</sup> 2000 she was raised. Dixon’s famous coin was found with him and can be viewed here on page sixteen.

### Membership

**SCV Membership:** is open to all males age twelve and above. Membership costs \$32 per year and there is a \$8 application fee. Our dues year runs from August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Don’t know if you have Confederate Ancestry? Not a problem!** We offer free genealogical service with the condition that if the work is performed, the beneficiary of that work will join.

**For Ladies:** There are companion organizations; they are: The United Daughters of the Confederacy, of which the Nevada Chapter is headquartered in Fallon. There is also the Order of the Confederate Rose which is open to everyone regardless of ancestry or sex; this last group works closely with us in the SCV.

For Information; contact: Lee Cross; **Telephone No. 775-359-8453**; Our Website: **Under Construction**