



Sons of Confederate Veterans The Hunley Torpedo



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

Number Six

Website: Under Construction

June 2007

Camp Report

“103”

We finally broke the 100 member mark. The Lt. Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp welcomes its newest members. They are:

Otto Craig
Bart Lancaster
James Northrop
Bryan Staples

We could possibly recruit two more by the end of this month. If we do reach 105 our camp will have eleven votes at Reunion in July.



No Meeting in July or August

Our camp goes dark these two months. With so many people on vacation, summer meetings are usually poorly attended. The newsletter will continue as usual. Our next meeting is in September.



Reunion

The SCV Convention, called Reunion, will be from July 25th through July 28th in Mobile, Alabama. So far, five of our members plan to attend. All are voting delegates from our camp. If anyone else is interested, go to the host camp’s website. Just type in 2007 SCV Reunion into the Google search engine and it will take you there. These events are always fun. It will be hosted at the “Battle House” hotel, the same location for the United Confederate Veteran’s Reunion in 1910 & for the SCV in 1953.



Confederate Seaman’s Burial

Archaeological work on the Confederate Cruiser “CSS Alabama” uncovered the remains of an unknown Confederate Seaman crushed beneath a cannon. The “Alabama” was the greatest of the Confederate cruisers, taking over 60 merchant ships and destroying one U.S. Warship before meeting its own end off the coast of France.

On Saturday, July 28th at 10:00 AM, his body will be interred at Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile. This will probably be the last burial of a Confederate Seaman. The last Confederate Naval burial before this was for the Hunley’s crew in Charleston.

I personally consider it an honor to be there for this event. Shown above is a painting of the “Alabama.” It was commanded by Captain Raphael Semmes (later Admiral Semmes), shown below.



The SCV Raphael Semmes Camp #11 of Mobile, Alabama will give the seaman a proper Confederate burial. And a wake will be held for him in the Admiral’s home in Mobile.

Our Flag Raising on June 3rd in Virginia City

As announced in last month's issue, in June we raised the **Stars and Bars** over Virginia City to commemorate the anniversary of that event on June 5th 1861. We advanced it to Sunday, June 3rd which was Jefferson Davis' birthday. Many of us had lunch at the Delta Saloon where we drank a toast to Jefferson Davis. This raised some eyelids around the room but there was no hostility from anyone. The Reno Gazette Journal carried an article about our event and it was submitted to the Confederate Veteran Magazine.



Shockoe Confederate Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia

This is the only “military” Jewish Cemetery outside of Israel



General Grant Persecutes the Jews

In 1862, in the heat of the Civil War, General Ulysses S. Grant initiated one of the most blatant official episodes of anti-Semitism in 19th-century American history. In December of that year, Grant issued his infamous [General Order No. 11](#), which expelled all Jews from Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi:

The Jews, as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department and also department orders, are hereby expelled from the department [the "Department of the Tennessee," an administrative district of the Union Army of occupation composed of Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi] within twenty-four hours from the receipt of this order.

Post commanders will see to it that all of this class of people be furnished passes and required to leave, and any one returning after such notification will be arrested and held in confinement until an opportunity occurs of sending them out as prisoners, unless furnished with permit from headquarters. No passes will be given these people to visit headquarters for the purpose of making personal application of trade permits.

In 1942 they were called Nazis. In 1862 they were called Yankees.

General Stonewall Jackson was an extremely pious man. He would never touch alcoholic beverages. Once he was questioned about this. His answer: “Because I like it too much.”

Fact or Fiction, the Massacre at Fort Pillow

Many of you have probably heard of the “so called” massacre of black Union soldiers at Fort Pillow. Let’s peel off the camouflage of misinformation from Yankee mythology and see what really took place. Early accounts were totally from Union sources and a Congressional committee made the “atrocious” story official in a 128 page report. 40,000 extra copies of the atrocity report were printed and used as campaign documents in the election of 1864. Northern newspapers were masters of manufacturing propaganda. One Boston newspaper even accused Robert E. Lee of flogging a slave girl with his own hands and then rubbing salt brine into her wounds.

Fort Pillow lay forty miles north of Memphis by a bluff on an angle of the Mississippi River and Coal Creek. Originally built by the Confederates, in April of 1864 it was manned by 295 white and 262 colored Union soldiers. It was surrounded by parapets eight feet high and four feet wide at the top, above a ditch twelve feet wide and six feet deep and was equipped with six guns. The gunboat “New Era” was stationed in the river to render extra fire support. The Federals believed they could hold this position against any force for 48 hours.

On April 10, 1864, Forrest issued the order and 1,500 Confederates of Tyree Bell’s and McCulloch’s Brigades began converging on the fort. They were all placed under Chalmer’s command. By 5:30 AM on the morning of Monday, April 11th the Confederates had driven the Union pickets into the fort. Chalmers skillfully directed the attack as Confederate sharpshooters protected by fallen logs and high ground took a heavy toll on the Union troops. One Union Lieutenant described it as such: “We suffered pretty severely in the loss of commissioned officers by the unerring aim of the rebel sharpshooters.” The Union gunboat was totally ineffective, only firing into the dense forest and ravine at the occasional sight of a gray uniform. By 1:00 PM it had exhausted its supply of ammunition.

Forrest arrived on the field by 10:00 AM and by 11:00 the Confederates occupied the low ground under the fort. The Federals were unable to depress their artillery inside the fort low enough to have any effect on them. And the tops of the ramparts were too wide for Union riflemen to fire downward. They could no longer shoot at the Confederates while a score of shots were fired at every Yankee head that appeared above the walls.

General Forrest would not sacrifice his men needlessly. So in his usual form, he wanted to get up close and make a personal inspection. His horse was shot out from under him. Refusing to go on foot and saying he was just as likely get hit on foot and from horseback he could see better; he remounted a second horse. It was shot also. He mounted a third horse and it was shot but not killed before he completed his reconnaissance. At 3:30 PM, Forrest sent a note to the Union commander demanding surrender. The Union commander requested a one hour truce in which to consult his officers. Forrest observed Union Steamers and gunboats approaching from both directions on the river laden with fresh troops. Believing this was a ruse to delay until the arrival of reinforcements, Forrest only allowed a twenty minute truce. No effort was made to signal the ships that a truce was in effect and instruct them to hold back on their approach. Forrest believed the Union Commander was stalling for time and ordered 400 men down to the landing point to prevent Union soldiers from coming ashore. Those inside the fort believed Forrest was violating the truce by positioning these men to storm it. In reality, those 400 men, one fourth of his total forces were removed from the assaulting column. Still stalling for time, the Union Commander (actually the second in command, the commander was dead) sent this reply: “negotiations will not obtain the desired objective.” Forrest told the Union negotiators to send him a reply in unmistakable English – will he fight or surrender? His answer was “I will not surrender.”

Forrest ordered a charge as his sharpshooters continued keep the Yankee’s heads down. His men reached the safety of the ditch below the walls, and then helped each other up over the parapets. The first assaulting wave, boosted by their comrades came over the wall and emptied their guns point blank into the garrison.....

Fort Pillow Continued

Before the garrison could reload from firing at the first wave, a second wave of Confederates came over the parapets and emptied 600 guns into the Federals. The Union soldiers had no leadership at this time and they all broke and ran for the supposed safety of the Gunboat "New Era" which was still by the fort. Out of ammunition and fearing that the Confederates would turn the fort's guns on him, the ship's captain closed his portholes and steamed away.

The Union flag still flew over the fort as the Federals tried to run in all directions and were just as quickly shot down. Without leadership, the Union soldiers took the worst possible action. Some would surrender, only to later pick up their weapons and start fighting again. Every combat soldier knows that is the cardinal "no no" of the battlefield. Once you surrender, you are all through fighting. This was the primary reason our own Marines in WWII seldom took Japanese prisoners. The Japanese soldiers would only pretend to surrender and then pull out a grenade or gun. A Union officer who did survive, Barteau, admitted in 1884 that whole squads of prisoners would sometimes seize an opportunity and resume the contest.

The Confederates finally cut the flag down and upon observing this General Forrest ordered a ceasefire. An attempt was made to recall the "New Era" to take up the Yankee wounded. But the captain would not return. Forrest left by nightfall in the direction of Jackson. Union Lt. Leaming reported that at night the Confederates continued shooting and bayoneting the Union prisoners. If indeed this did happen and this is not proven, it was the work of stragglers and not regular Confederate forces.

The next day Union gunboats showed up and shelled the Confederate positions. A truce was later arranged and the Union wounded were transferred to the Union transport "Platte Valley." Details of Confederate soldiers assisted in this movement of the wounded. Another Union observer reported "the Rebels rendered us efficient aid, facilitating as much as possible getting the wounded on the transport."

One of the hearsay statements against the Confederates is that they took one hundred white and forty black Union prisoners out of the fort and shot and hung the negroes until they were rid of all of them. In fact, all of the prisoners both white and black (except for the wounded who were released and loaded on the transport) were removed to Mississippi and arrived in Okolona on the evening of April 20th.

A black Union soldier testified later that the killing ended when someone named Forrest put an end to it. Another testified that a Confederate officer threatened one of his own men with arrest if he shot an unarmed man. In truth, there was a lot of hatred here. The white Union soldiers were Tennesseans. These were called "home made Yankees" or "Tories." The Confederates hated them most. There were 336 survivors out of a total of 557 Union soldiers. Of these 226 were unwounded. This could not by any stretch of the imagination be called a massacre. Union losses were so appalling only because their command structure had totally broken down and for the other reason mentioned above.

Sworn testimonies from Confederate soldiers after the war soundly refuted tales of a massacre. In truth, there were undoubtedly some abuses. But it was not organized and definitely not ordered by General Forrest. He is on record as ordering its end. Does anyone think that if he ordered a massacre, there would have been any survivors? One of his former slaves named Winbush, an armed black Confederate was with him that day. This man's descendant is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He produced a video about that battle which combined with his own family's history of the events and written records totally debunk the massacre myth. A few of us have seen that video. I have featured it at one of our past meetings.

Images of Atlanta

Where did the South lose the war? Gettysburg? No! Vicksburg? No! New Orleans? Again, no! Appomattox? Technically yes! But Lee could have disbanded his army and sent them bushwhacking if he chose too. That is what his men wanted to do. It was lost at Atlanta. Atlanta was the gateway to the west. It was served by five railroads. Hundreds of factories, hospitals and warehouses were there. It had the second largest iron mill in the South – the Shofield and Markham Rolling mill. Its specialty was re-rolling worn out iron rails. The loss of Atlanta truly cut the South in two which opened up Georgia to Sherman's march and devastated the greatest food bowl in the South – Georgia. Before the loss of Atlanta, Lincoln was behind in the polls. His opponent, McClellan wanted to make peace.



Ruins of a Railroad Roundhouse, Atlanta. The engines shown here are Federal.



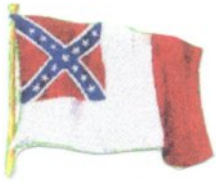
Ruins of the Shofield & Markham Rolling Mill, Atlanta. Destroyed by retreating Confederates detonating 200 tons of ammunition in RR cars.



Confederate Defenses, Atlanta



Potter House, Atlanta



The Heritage Page



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Here is a reprint the 1991 NAACP resolution against our flag, while we have not seen much news lately of any major attacks against us this resolution is a reminder that we must always stand guard to protect our heritage.

At their 1991 national convention, the NAACP passed the following resolution:

VII. INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. Resolution abhorring the Confederate Battle Flag on State Flags Approved WHEREAS, the tyrannical evil symbolized in the Confederate Battle Flag is an abhorrence to all Americans and decent people of this country, and indeed the world and is an odious blight upon the universe; and,

WHEREAS, African-Americans, had no voice, no consultation, no concurrence, no commonality, not in fact nor in philosophy, in the vile conception of the Confederate Battle Flag or State Flags containing the ugly symbol of idiotic white supremacy, racism and denigration; and,

WHEREAS, we adamantly reject the notion that African-Americans should accept this flag for any stretch of the imagination or approve its presence on State Flags;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the national office of the NAACP and all units commit their legal resources to the removal of the Confederate Flag from all public properties."

Since the 80's when most of their civil rights issues were resolved membership started to decline and they were in financial trouble, so how to rally support and stay in business, they came up with the idea of creating more issues like the above resolution. Now 16 years later they seem to be having the same problems as last week I read an article that stated the NAACP membership is declining and because of financial concerns they must lay off 40 of there 119 staff members. Maybe its time they picked an easier target because even though we took some hits we are still here on the line saving our heritage.

Please contact me if you would like any additional information.

Johnny

Confederate Monument in Charleston



A very gentle Southern lady was driving across the Savannah River Bridge in Georgia one day.

As she neared the top of the bridge, she noticed a young man afixin' (ready) to jump.

She stopped her car, rolled down the window and said, "Please don't jump, think of your dear mother and father."

He replied, "Mom and Dad are both dead; I'm going to jump."

She said, "Well, think of your wife and children."

He replied, "I'm not married and I don't have any kids."

She said, "Well, think of Robert E. Lee."

He replied, "Who's Robert E. Lee?"

She replied, "Well bless your heart, just go ahead and jump, you dumb-a\$\$ Yankee."