



# Sons of Confederate Veterans

## The Hunley Torpedo



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

Number Three

Website: Under Construction [Again]

March 2007

### Camp Report

The Lt. Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp welcomes its newest member. He is:

Ron Leasure

### David Morris Enlists

Most of you who live locally know David Morris. He was our 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander in 2005 and 2006. David is a Deputy Sheriff in nearby Lassen County, CA. He lives in Reno with his wife Courtney and their two young children. David has been an active re-enactor and the Colonel of the Confederate portion of the Comstock Brigade. He joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, Co. L of the 221<sup>st</sup> Cavalry which is stationed at Fallon, NV. It is an armor unit of the National Guard equipped with Abrams tanks. His specialty is cavalry scout. He ships out on April 3<sup>rd</sup> for training at Fort Knox, KY, and won't return until August. Combat in a certain part of the world may be in his future. Good luck, David! We'll keep you in our prayers.



### Next Meeting

It will be in the conference room of the Sparks library at **12:30 PM on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**. John Barber who just returned from Florida where he witnessed a re-enactment of the Battle of Olustee brought back a video of that event. We will show this at the meeting. For those of you who never heard of this battle, it was the largest battle fought in the State of Florida and was an overwhelming Confederate victory. This was a large battle by anyone's standards. As many Americans were casualties at Olustee as were at Khe Sanh, the largest battle fought in Vietnam. **Yall Come!**

### Confederate Memorial Day

Time has rolled around again! This is the biggest event of the year. It will be held as usual at the Masonic Chapel in the Masonic Cemetery in Reno. This year's event will be on Saturday at 11:00 AM on April 21st. All potential attendees can expect an invitation in the mail. A map is always included within it. As a reminder, bring a red rose for each ancestor you wish to honor at the ceremony. Those who have never attended this event need to come at least once.

## Scary Stuff! Churchill Speculates About Lee Losing at Gettysburg!

The following was written by Winston Churchill, himself. Can you imagine what the world would be like if Lee lost at Gettysburg? This is entertaining. On another occasion, in his own words, Churchill described the Confederate Soldier as the finest example of the Anglo-Saxon fighting man who ever lived. He was half right, the part about the finest example of fighting man. He should have known that the Southern Army was composed of many races and that the South was predominantly Celtic in character. Anyway, this is great reading and worth displaying upon three pages. However, this speculation about the South not winning that war really gives me the shivers.

### If Lee Had Not Won the Battle of Gettysburg

## Churchill and...War

**IF LEE HAD NOT WON THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG**  
Winston Churchill Journal: Finest Hour 103

**"If Lee after his triumphal entry into Washington had merely been the soldier, his achievements would have ended on the battlefield. It was his august declaration... that opened the high roads along which we are now marching so prosperously."**

by Winston S. Churchill

THE quaint conceit of imagining what would have happened if some important or unimportant event had settled itself differently has become so fashionable that I am encouraged to enter upon an absurd speculation. What would have happened if Lee had not won the Battle of Gettysburg?

Once a great victory is won it dominates not only the future but the past. All the chains of consequence clink out as if they never could stop. The hopes that were shattered, the passions that were quelled, the sacrifices that were ineffectual are all swept out of the land of reality. Still it may amuse an idle hour, and perhaps serve as a corrective to undue complacency, if at this moment in the twentieth century—so rich in assurance and prosperity, so calm and buoyant—we meditate for a spell upon the debt we owe to those Confederate soldiers who by a deathless feat of arms broke the Union front at Gettysburg and laid open a fair future to the world.

It always amuses historians and philosophers to pick out the tiny things, the sharp agate points, on which the ponderous balance of destiny turns; and certainly the details of the famous Confederate victory of Gettysburg furnish a fertile theme. There can be at this date no conceivable doubt that Pickett's charge would have been defeated if Stuart with his encircling cavalry had not arrived in the rear of the Union position at the supreme moment. Stuart might have been arrested in his decisive swoop if any one of twenty commonplace incidents had occurred. If, for instance, General Meade had organized his lines of communication with posts for defence against raids, or if he had used his cavalry to scout upon his flanks, he would have received a timely warning. If General Warren had only thought of sending a battalion to hold Little Round Top the rapid advance of the masses of Confederate cavalry must have been detected. If only President Davis's letter to General Lee, captured by Captain Dahlgren, revealing the Confederacy plans had reached Meade a few hours earlier, he might have escaped Lee's clutches.

Anything, we repeat, might have prevented Lee's magnificent combinations from synchronizing and, if so, Pickett's repulse was sure. Gettysburg would have been a great Northern victory. It might have well been a final victory. Lee might, indeed, have made a successful retreat from the field. The Confederacy, with its skilful generals and fierce armies, might have another year, or even two, but once defeated decisively at Gettysburg, its doom was inevitable. The fall of Vicksburg, which happened only two days after Lee's immortal triumph, would in itself by opening the Mississippi to the river fleets of the Union, have cut the Secessionist States almost in half. Without wishing to dogmatize, we feel we are on solid ground in saying that the Southern States could not have survived the loss of a great battle in Pennsylvania and the almost simultaneous bursting open of the Mississippi.

However, all went well. Once again by the narrowest of margins the compulsive pinch of military genius and soldierly

valor produced a perfect result. The panic which engulfed the whole left of Meade's massive army has never been made a reproach against the Yankee troops. Everyone knows they were stout fellows. But defeat is defeat, and rout is ruin. Three days only were required after the cannon at Gettysburg had ceased to thunder before General Lee fixed his headquarters in Washington. We need not here dwell upon the ludicrous features of the hurried flight to New York of all the politicians, place hunters, contractors, sentimentalists and their retinues, which was so successfully accomplished. It is more agreeable to remember how Lincoln, 'greatly falling with a falling State,' preserved the poise and dignity of a nation. Never did his rugged yet sublime common sense render a finer service to his countrymen. He was never greater than in the hour of fatal defeat.

But, of course, there is no doubt whatever that the mere military victory which Lee gained at Gettysburg would not by itself have altered the history of the world. The loss of Washington would not have affected the immense numerical preponderance of the Union States. The advanced situation of their capital and its fall would have exposed them to a grave injury, would no doubt have considerably prolonged the war; but standing by itself this military episode, dazzling though it may be, could not have prevented the ultimate victory of the North. It is in the political sphere that we have to look to find the explanation of the triumphs begun upon the battlefield.

Curiously enough, Lee furnishes an almost unique example of a regular and professional soldier who achieved the highest excellence both as a general and as a statesman. His ascendancy throughout the Confederate States on the morrow of his Gettysburg victory threw Jefferson Davis and his civil government irresistibly, indeed almost unconsciously, into the shade. The beloved and victorious commander, arriving in the capital of his mighty antagonists, found there the title deeds which enabled him to pronounce the grand decrees of peace. Thus it happened that the guns of Gettysburg fired virtually the last shots in the American Civil War.

The movement of events then shifted to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. England - the name by which the British Empire was then commonly described - had been riven morally in twain by the drama of the American struggle. We have always admired the steadfastness with which the Lancashire cotton operatives, though starved of cotton by the Northern blockade, our most prosperous county reduced to penury, almost become dependent upon the charity of the rest of England, nevertheless adhered to the Northern cause. The British working classes on the whole judged the quarrel through the eyes of Disraeli and rested solidly upon the side of the abolition of slavery. Indeed, all Mr. Gladstone's democratic flair and noble eloquence would have failed, even upon the then restricted franchise, to carry England into the Confederate camp as a measure of policy. If Lee after his triumphal entry into Washington had merely been the soldier, his achievements would have ended on the battlefield. It was his august declaration that the victorious Confederacy would pursue no policy towards the African negroes, which was not in harmony with the moral conceptions of Western Europe, that opened the high roads along which we are now marching so prosperously.

But even this famous gesture might have failed if it had not been caught up and implemented by the practical genius and trained parliamentary aptitudes of Gladstone. There is practically no doubt at this stage that the basic principle upon which the colour question in the Southern States of America has been so happily settled owed its origin mainly to Gladstonian ingenuity and to the long statecraft of Britain in dealing with alien and more primitive populations. There was not only the need to declare the new fundamental relationship between master and servant, but the creation for the liberated slaves of institutions suited to their own cultural development and capable of affording them a different yet honourable status in a commonwealth, destined eventually to become almost world-wide.

Let us only think what would have happened supposing the liberation of the slaves had been followed by some idiotic assertion of racial equality, and even by attempts to graft white democratic institutions upon the simple, docile, gifted African race belonging to a much earlier chapter in human history. We might have seen the whole of the Southern States invaded by gangs of carpet-bagging politicians exploiting the ignorant and untutored coloured vote against the white inhabitants and bringing the time-honoured forms of parliamentary government into unmerited disrepute. We might have seen the sorry farce of black legislatures attempting to govern their former masters. Upon the rebound from this there must inevitably have been a strong reassertion of local white supremacy. By one device or another the franchises accorded to the negroes would have been taken from them. The constitutional principles of the Republic would have been proclaimed, only to be evaded or subverted; and many a warm-hearted philanthropist would have found his sojourn in the South no better than 'A Fool's Errand'.

But we must return to our main theme and to the procession of tremendous events which followed the Northern defeat at Gettysburg and the surrender of Washington. Lee's declaration abolishing slavery coupled as it was with inflexible resolve to secede from the American Union, opened the way for British intervention.

Within a month the formal treaty of alliance between the British Empire and the Confederacy had been signed. The terms of this alliance, being both offensive and defensive, revolutionized the military and naval situation. The

Northern blockade could not be maintained even for a day in the face of the immense naval power of Britain. The opening of the Southern ports released the pent-up cotton, restored the finances and replenished the arsenals of the Confederacy. The Northern forces at New Orleans were themselves immediately cut off and forced to capitulate. There could be no doubt of the power of the new allies to clear the Mississippi of Northern vessels throughout the whole of its course through the Confederate States. The prospect of a considerable British army embarking for Canada threatened the Union with a new military front.

But none of these formidable events in the sphere of arms and material force would have daunted the resolution of President Lincoln, or weakened the fidelity of the Northern States and armies. It was Lee's declaration abolishing slavery which by a single master-stroke gained the Confederacy an all-powerful ally and spread a moral paralysis far and wide through the ranks of their enemies. The North were waging war against Secession, but as the struggle had proceeded, the moral issue of slavery had first sustained and then dominated the political quarrel. Now that the moral issue was withdrawn, now that the noble cause which inspired the Union armies and the Governments behind them was gained, there was nothing left but a war of reconquest to be waged under circumstances infinitely more difficult and anxious than those which had already led to so much disappointment defeat. Here was the South victorious, reinvigorated, reinforced, offering of her own free will to make a more complete abolition of the servile status the American continent than even Lincoln had himself seen fit to demand. Was the war to continue against what soon must be heavy odds merely to assert the domination of one set of English-speaking people over another; was blood to flow indefinitely in an ever-broadening stream to gratify national pride or martial revenge ?

It was this deprivation of the moral issue which undermined the obduracy of the Northern States. Lincoln no longer rejected the Southern appeal for independence. "If," he declared in his famous speech in Madison Square Gardens in New York, "our brothers in the South are willing faithfully to cleanse this continent of negro slavery, and if they will dwell beside us in neighbourly goodwill as an independent but friendly nation, it would not be right to prolong the slaughter on the question of sovereignty alone."

Thus peace came more swiftly than war had come. The Treaty of Harper's Ferry, which was signed between the Union and Confederate States on 6 September 1863, embodied the two, fundamental propositions: that the South was independent, and the slaves were free. If the spirit of old John Brown had revisited the battle-scarred township which had been the scene of his life and death, it would have seen his cause victorious, but at a cost to the United States terrible indeed.

Apart from the loss of blood and treasure, the American Union was riven in twain. Henceforth there would be two Americas in the same northern continent. One of them would have renewed in a modern and embattled form its old ties of kinship and affiliation with the Mother Country across the ocean. It was evident, though peace might be signed and soldiers furl their flags, profound antagonisms, social, economic and military, underlay the life of the English-speaking world. Still slavery was abolished. As John Bright said, "At last after the smoke of the battlefield has cleared away, the horrid shape which had cast its shadow over the whole continent, had vanished and was gone for ever."

At this date when all seems so simple and clear, one has hardly the patience to chronicle the bitter and lamentable developments which occupied the two succeeding generations. But we may turn aside in our speculation to note how strangely the careers of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli would have been altered if Lee had not won the Battle of Gettysburg.....



### George Petrovich

He was one of numerous Croatians who served in the Confederate Army. Prior to the War Between the States, virtually all Croatian immigrants went into the Deep South, principally into Louisiana. Some Louisiana Companies were primarily made up of Croatians. He entered Confederate Service on July 22, 1861 at Camp Moore, Louisiana and served in Co. D, 10<sup>th</sup> LA Inf. He fought at Second Manassas, Williamsburg, Savage Station, Malvern, Cedar Run, Chantilly, Harper's Ferry, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Winchester and Gettysburg. Corporal Petrovich was wounded at Williamsburg and later paid his highest respect to his adopted country when he lay down his life for it at Gettysburg.

## Bryce's Crossroads General Forrest's Greatest Victory

After the cessation of hostilities of the War Between the States, two reporters from New York City went to Virginia and interviewed General Lee at his home. One of them asked him which of the Confederate Generals had been the best. Without hesitation he replied, "A man I have never met sir, General Forrest."



**The Stage:** It was summer in 1864. General Joe Johnston had slowed Sherman's advance on Atlanta to pathetic crawl. Sherman's greatest fear was that Forrest would be turned loose on his supply lines and disrupt his campaign. In fact, that's what should have happened. But Jeff Davis wanted Forrest to operate in the west where he could tie up large numbers of Yankee troops. To counter the threat, Sherman sent General Sturgis out of Memphis to destroy Forrest once and for all.

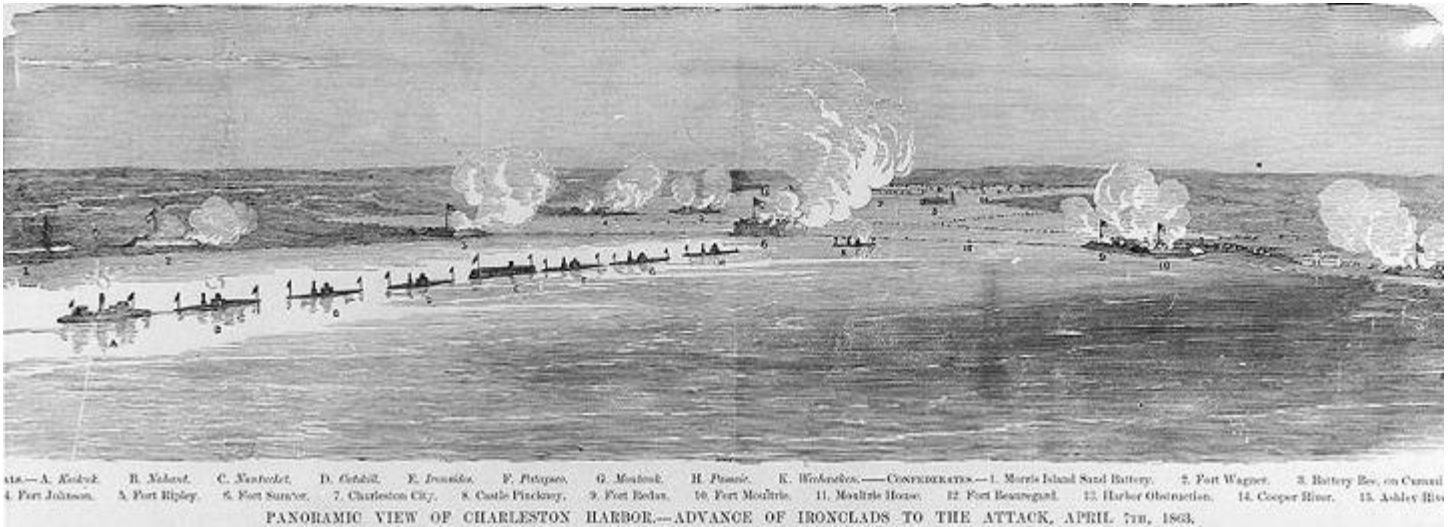
**The Cast:** **Confederate:** 4,700 Confederate Cavalry under the overall command of General Nathan Bedford Forrest. This included 800 Kentuckians under Lyon. As every fourth man had to be a horse holder, this whittled his effective force down to about 3,200 effectives. **Union:** Over 8,500 men under the overall command of General Samuel D. Sturgis, including 3,200 cavalry under General Grierson, 5,000 infantry, 26 guns and 250 supply wagons. Captured Union roles at the battle actually indicated a force of about 10,000.

**The Objective:** Sturgis' immediate objective was Tupelo. Forrest chose to hit him at Bryce's Crossroads which is about 15 miles north of there. He carefully chose this area which consisted of four muddy roads, one bridge over Tishomingo Creek and heavy woods all around. The Union cavalry was three hours ahead of the infantry. Forrest knew if he hit the cavalry first, that the Union infantry would be summoned on the double with full packs and be exhausted by the summer sun in Mississippi before reaching the battle. Forrest called for the various units under his command to meet him there. They did not all arrive at the same time. Forrest told General Buford, "They outnumber me, but I can whip them."

**The Battle:** The battle started at 10:30 AM on June 10<sup>th</sup> 1864. The Kentuckians under Lyon arrived first. His men stalled the Union cavalry temporarily at the bridge, then fell back to his defensive position 1 ½ miles south of it. There, Forrest and his men were outnumbered 3 ½ to 1. But he didn't let the 3,200 Federals know that. He pretended to have greater numbers and attacked them from three sides. After the arrival of Rucker's men, Forrest was only outnumbered 2 to 1. Though the Yankees were armed with repeating rifles, the Confederate attack pushed them back. With the arrival of the infantry, the Yankee cavalry went to rear, glad to escape the engagement. The exhausted Union infantry arrived, and launched an attack on the Confederate left flank. But by the grace of God, Tyree Bell arrived by then with his brigade of 2,000 men after a 7 hour forced ride. Forrest immediately attacked them from both the right and the left flanks. Normally, cavalry cannot stand up to infantry. But these were Forrest's men, each equipped with up to six revolvers each. At close range, the overwhelming firepower of the revolver proved superior. Infantry rifles and bayonets were no match for pistols at close range in those thick woods. Forrest's artillery then arrived, which he ordered unlimbered at point blank range. It poured grapeshot into the Federal line. Then the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tenn. Cavalry assaulted the bridge over Tishomingo Creek which caused severe confusion. Sturgis ordered a general retreat which became bottlenecked at the bridge. A general panic and rout spread among the Union soldiers. Forrest's other men [the horse holders] chased them across six counties before stopping. At a loss of 140 dead and 300 wounded, Forrest's army killed 1,200 Federals and took over 2,000 prisoners which included most of the Yankee wounded. He captured their supply train and 19 of their 26 guns.

# The Battle of the Ironclads

## The largest Naval Battle of the War



This has been described as the largest naval engagement of the war, even surpassing those of New Orleans and Mobile. Lincoln was hungry to capture Charleston, the jewel of the Confederacy and the cradle of secession. Charleston and South Carolina were the most hated Confederate symbols in the North. And Charleston was the second most important destination for blockade runners, ranking just behind Wilmington. Lincoln pressured his officers to complete the task.

As usual, the Confederate Forces in Charleston were outnumbered. But they were under the command of one of our ablest Generals – Pierre Beauregard. Beauregard had fallen out of favor with Jeff Davis and was relegated to a lesser role as the commander of those forces charged with defending the southeast.

The Union Naval force was under the Command of Admiral Samuel F. DuPont. He planned to use his new state of the art ironclads, nine in number, to bulldoze their way past the forts and pummel Charleston into submission. They were equipped with 32 of the heaviest cannon of the war, in addition to their other guns.

Beauregard and the Confederates knew the attack was coming and had plenty of time to prepare. Mines, called torpedoes, along with other obstructions were strategically placed in the narrow channel which restricted the pathway available to the Union ships. The Confederates placed marker buoys throughout by means of which the ranges of the 77 guns at Sumter and other locations within the harbor were preset.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM, these nine Union ironclads steamed into Charleston harbor. The band inside Fort Sumter struck up “Dixie” while others of the garrison raised all of their flags and fired a thirteen gun salute. Soon, the air was full of shot, which could be plainly seen streaking toward their targets. The Union ships only managed to get off 139 shots compared to the more than 2,200 fired by the Confederates. During the 40 minute battle, the USS Keokuk received 90 direct hits and looked like a colander afterward. The USS Weehawken was hit 53 times, the USS Passaic 35, the USS Montauk 47, the USS Nantucket 51 and the USS Patapsco 47. Their guns were disabled, turrets jammed, smokestacks shredded and armor ripped up. DuPont withdrew his badly battered fleet, and the Yankees never tried this again. Actual casualties on both sides were relatively light, but the entire ironclad force was effectively disabled.

The USS Keokuk sunk the following day. Working clandestinely at night for two weeks within range of the Federal guns, the Confederates were able to salvage the two eight-ton, 11 inch guns from her and mounted them in the defense of Charleston. Shortly after that, Admiral DuPont resigned his command.



# The Heritage Page



John Kindred (858) 484-3851

[johnk1861@yahoo.com](mailto:johnk1861@yahoo.com)

## FACT SHEET ON MORRIS DEES and the SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

Full name: **Morris Seligman Dees, Jr.**

Dees and Millard Fuller formed the law firm of Dees & Fuller in Montgomery, Alabama in 1960. Millard Fuller has this to say about his 8 year association with Dees:

"Morris Dees and I, from the first day of our partnership, shared one overriding purpose: to make a pile of money. We were not particular about how we did it; we just wanted to be independently rich. During the eight years we worked together we never wavered in that resolve."

In 1961 when Freedom Riders were beaten by a white mob at a Montgomery bus station, Dees (and Fuller) expressed openly his sympathies and support for what had happened at the bus station. When one of the men charged with beating the Freedom Riders came to their office for legal representation, Dees and Fuller took the case. The legal fee was paid by the Ku Klux Klan and the White Citizen's Council. (New Century Press: 1980 and The Progressive, July 1988)

Dees founded the Southern Poverty Law Center in 1971 with Joseph Levin (who left the SPLC in 1976) and Julian Bond.

Arrested and removed from court in 1975 for attempting to suborn perjury (bribing a witness) in the Joan Little murder trial in North Carolina. Little, a black convict, was accused of killing a prison guard with an ice-pick. The felony charge against Dees was subsequently dropped, but the presiding judge, Hamilton Hobgood, refused to re-admit Dees to the case.

Acted as a fundraiser for both Ted Kennedy's 1980 and Gary Hart's 1984 presidential campaigns and received their mailing lists as reward. (Ibid.)

Dees was cited in 1979 by his ex-wife with a homosexual encounter during their marriage. She also cited numerous affairs with women including his daughter-in-law and underage stepdaughter. (Alabama Court of Civil Appeals CIV 2114, 1979)

-The SPLC's fundraising practices have provoked the disapproval of watchdog groups that monitor charities: Philanthropy, the American Institute of Philanthropy ....



assigned the SPLC an "F" grade on a scale of A to F. (American Institute of AIP Charity Rating Guide and Watchdog Report, Spring 1998 and subsequent issues).

In 1994 the Montgomery Advertiser won a journalism award for a series of incisive and penetrating investigative articles exposing the unethical fundraising practices of Dees and the Southern Poverty Law Center including:

Since August 1, 1984, the Law Center has taken in about \$62 million in contributions and yet only spent about \$21 million on actual programs, according to federal tax records.

Dees is well known for putting "Hate on Trial" in the 1990 Portland, Oregon, civil trial of extremist Tom Metzger. One of the witnesses in that trial, Greg Withrow, now accuses Dees of suborning perjury by paying witnesses (and then hush money for another 5 years) for their testimony. (San Diego Times – Union, August 25, 2002).

In 2000 the SPLC counted assets of well over \$120 million (Harper's Magazine, Silverstein, Ken. "The Church of Morris Dees," November 2000 p.56.

**Morris Dees has attacked our people for years and now I read the truth about him on the Southern Legal Resource Center, Inc web site which our camp supports.** Due to space limitations I will only be able to post some highlights but please contact me for the full report or go to [www.slrc-csa.org](http://www.slrc-csa.org)

# The Flag Tour



The Bonnie Blue Flag: Raised over the Capital in Jackson, Mississippi, on January 9<sup>th</sup> 1861. From this came the National Anthem – Bonnie Blue Flag. No original example to show.



The Stars and Bars: **First official flag of the Confederacy**, from March 1861 until May of 1863. At right: The original which flew over Atlanta during the Battle of Atlanta.



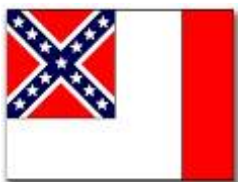
The Battle Flag: This is the Battle Flag in its original ANV Configuration. It was never was the official flag of the CSA and it is not the Stars and Bars. At right: Virginia Regimental Flag.



The Naval Jack & The Battle Flag of the Army of Tennessee: They are virtually identical. This is commonly called the Confederate Flag today. At right: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tenn. Inf.



The Stainless Banner: **Second official flag of the Confederacy**. Adopted on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1863, it was the official flag until March of 1865. At right: The 33<sup>rd</sup> Texas Cavalry.



The Blood Dipped Banner: **Third and last official flag of the Confederacy**. Adopted on March 4<sup>th</sup> 1865. Few examples of it flew over the Confederate States of America.



The Taylor Battle Flag: This variation of the Battle Flag was commonly flown west of the Mississippi River. It derives its name from Gen. Richard Taylor. At right: Unknown Texas Unit.



The Hardee Battle Flag: Used by Hardee and Cleburne's men in the Army of Tennessee. They resisted switching over to the Battle Flag. At right: Granbury's heavily bloodied 6<sup>th</sup> TX Inf.

