



Sons of Confederate Veterans

The Hunley Torpedo



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

Number Five

Web Site: Currently Lacking

May 2007

Camp Report

The Lt. Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp welcomes its newest members. They are:

Jack Eaves
Jerry Parker

In Memoriam

Compatriot **Richard Farmer** passed away on May 12th after a battle with cancer. He was known as Rick to his family and friends. This was the same day as our May meeting and all present had signed a get well card for him. I heard later that day from his wife Dee about his passing. The card was never sent.

Richard was always a gentleman and a good supporter of the camp. He was an Air Force Veteran of the Korean War. In the early 1960s, he was the top ranked motorcycle racer in Northern California for a while. He considered his wife Dee the light of his life. Their son died while in military service many years ago. Rick's funeral in Gardnerville was well attended with an honor guard from the American Legion. I represented the SCV. Flowers were donated on behalf of our camp. His wife displayed his SCV membership card next to his casket along with other personal items such as his pilot's license. Rick was proud of his membership in our organization and this was mentioned in his testimonial.

He was fond of bird hunting and fishing and he collected and restored World War II vehicles. His wife will be selling some of his WWII jeeps soon. Anyone interested in pursuing this should contact me for information.

Rick, farewell! You will be missed.



Next Meeting

Compatriots, this will not be a regular meeting. This will be the flag raising of the **Stars and Bars** on the tall flagpole across the street in the parking lot of the Delta Queen Casino. It will take place on:

Sunday, June 3rd in Virginia City at and across the street in the parking lot of the Delta Queen Casino at about 11:00 AM.

Please note that this is the first weekend in June. We usually meet on the second one. The meeting date will be on Sunday instead of Saturday because June 3rd is the birthday of Jefferson Davis.

The significance of this dates back to June 5th 1861 when the Stars and Bars was raised in Virginia City over Johnny Newman's Saloon. This caused a big eruption in town which may have resulted in a street fight. It flew for at least an hour and that's as long as we will leave it up. We have permission from the manager of the Delta Queen to fly in from 11:00 AM until noon.

This is just a social event. Please come up and see us. No formal arrangements have been made but we will undoubtedly have lunch there and drink a toast to Jeff Davis and the Stars and Bars.

June 5th 1861 Virginia City, Nevada

During the War Between the States, Nevada was under tight Federal Control. The silver mines of the Comstock helped bankroll the Union war effort. But there was a strong secession element in Nevada; at the very least one third of Nevada's residents were of Southern stock (maybe more). Virginia City itself was named after an early prospector's home state of Virginia.

On June 5th Johnny Newman raised the Stars and Bars over his saloon in Virginia City. This much is certain. That which is questionable is for long it remained there. I've located two different histories of the event. One version states that this erupted in a street fight in which it was violently removed. The other version seems a little more credible. Apparently Johnny Newman patrolled his front porch with a rifle preventing anyone from forcibly taking it down; while his partner ran up the Stars and Stripes on the other end of the salon and protected it with a pistol. An angry crowd assembled, and Johnny Newman was persuaded to remove the Confederate Flag. But one history states that it flew there most of the day.

One thing is for certain. The event severely shook up Union authorities in the West. Troops were sent from Fort Churchill.



Numerous arrests were made and Southern sympathizers were incarcerated at Fort Churchill. This also led to the recruitment of many Unionists who served in regiments guarding bullion shipments in the West. Many persons of Southern sympathy were disarmed throughout the state. The Knights of the Golden Circle, a clandestine Confederate Group, was quite active in Nevada.

Elsewhere in Nevada, at the town of Aurora in July of 1862 at 11:00 PM, an even more disturbing demonstration to Federal authority took place. A large band of Confederate sympathizers turned the town of Aurora into pandemonium as they roamed about the town cheering for Jeff Davis, Stonewall Jackson and the Southern Confederacy. They ripped down the Union Flag. The Union officer in charge was afraid to leave his house. This riot took place all night and into late Sunday on the next morning. Again, this later led to a massive Union clampdown and an arrest. Federal authorities brought in troops and distributed rifles and ammunition to Unionists in Aurora.

In sentiment, Nevada was about on par with Kentucky, Missouri and Maryland with divided loyalties. Fortunately for the Union, it was too isolated to be a significant factor to the Confederacy.



Our Proposed Website

Our previous webmaster, Lowell Cross, has asked for the job back, now that he has time to work on it. I have restored him to that position because of his experience. Jerry Parker also volunteered to do this at our last meeting. Lowell has the experience and computer background as well as the previous website templates.

A Matter of Gravest Concern

Compatriots, I recently received a disturbing letter from the Sons of the American Revolution of which I am a life member. While the letter doesn't directly relate to us, in a larger historical sense – it does! Those forces of evil and misunderstanding which seek to destroy our history, denigrate our heroes, remove our sacred symbols and make the very word Confederate loathsome to our children, are not just after us. They seek to do the same to all of American history. In order to attain the type of country, and the type of world that they want us to live in, they must rewrite all of American history. To these forces of evil, the history of America is White, male dominated, and racist. This is important for us to understand so we know how to protect our youth. Because as America goes, with its freedoms and history eroded, so does ours. When I was growing up in the 50s and early 60s and attending school, by and large, the South and the history of the war got a fair break in the classrooms where I attended. From what I hear now, this is not always the case. Below I have listed some of the information that came in the letter from the S.A.R. I hope it alarms you as much as it did me.

Legendary Americans such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams are given only the briefest mention in modern textbooks – if they are mentioned at all.

The idea is pushed that America is not a place to be admired. This belief, called “multiculturalism,” holds that all cultures are morally equal and all systems of government are legitimate.

The National History Standards released in 1996 included the following:

1. Although only minimal attention was given to our founding fathers, the Ku Klux Klan was mentioned 17 times. Senator Joe McCarthy and McCarthyism were cited 19 times and the Great Depression 25 times.
2. Figures that were not discussed at all included: Alexander Graham Bell, the Wright Brothers, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Jonas Salk and Neil Armstrong.
3. The Cold War is presented – not as a struggle between freedom and tyranny – but as a competition between two equally-culpable superpowers, each bent on world domination.

A school board in Lake County, Florida attempted to amend these standards by including an appreciation of American culture such as: our republican form of government, capitalism, a free enterprise system, patriotism, strong family values, freedom of religion and other basic values.

This local school board was denounced and derided for its action. Their amendment to the standards was even called “racism.”

More horror stories:

- 1 - Nearly 1 in 5 high school seniors think Germany was an ally of the U.S. in WWII.
- 2 - More than half of college seniors don't know the correct century in which Jamestown was founded.
- 3 - Not half knew that “We hold these truths to be self-evident” is from the Declaration of Independence.
- 4 - More than half did not know that this same Declaration prohibits the establishment of an official religion.
- 5 - Nearly half had no clue why the “Federalist Papers” were written.

If ever there was a time to educate our young, that time is now! Lee

Salute to the President

It is a matter of record that he once said, "This war is not about slavery." If anyone chooses to doubt his belief in his own statement, then it must also be revealed that his chief rival, Abraham Lincoln, said the same thing, "This War is not about slavery." If the presidents of both the USA and the CSA see it that way, then why is there so much controversy over the issue.

As the war progressed, he is also on record as saying, "No matter which side wins this war, slavery is dead."

There is too much information about this man to cover on these two pages. Some of the high lights of his life, and career as well as lesser known facts about him are included here.

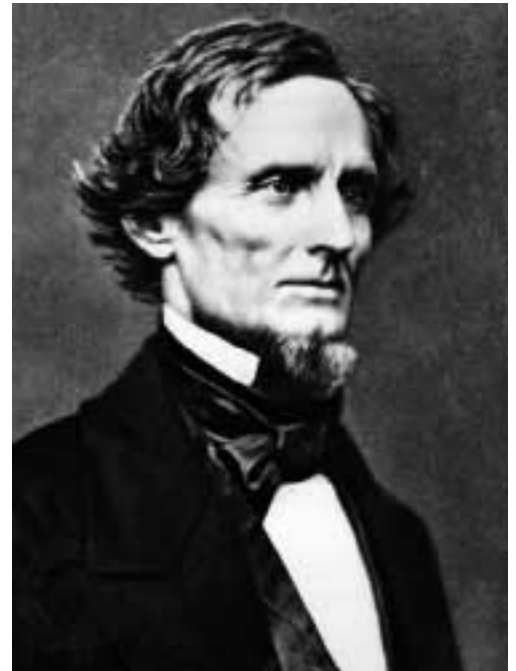
He was born in Christian County, KY (now Todd Co.) in 1808. He was the youngest of ten children. His grandfather came from Wales and fought in the Continental Army during the Revolution.

His father and three older brothers fought in the War of 1812. Two brothers received commendation for their bravery at the Battle of New Orleans. In 1811 the family moved to Louisiana and then in 1812 to Wilkinson County, Mississippi. Davis attended Jefferson College at Washington, Mississippi in 1818 and then attended Transylvania University at Lexington, KY in 1821. In 1824 he entered West Point and graduated in 1828. He married President (then Colonel) Zachary Taylor's daughter, Sarah. Three months later she died in Louisiana after both came down with malaria. Davis spent his next unmarried eight years building up his plantation, Brierfield, in Warren County, Mississippi. His management style was unusual. He was extremely cordial with his slaves. They were permitted to run their own affairs in a Democratic style. When discipline needed to be meted out, the offender was tried by other slaves. The only time he changed a sentence was to lessen it.

In 1844 he was elected to the House of Representatives. In 1845 he married Varina Howell. With the coming of the Mexican-American War in 1846 he resigned his House seat and raised a volunteer regiment, the Mississippi Rifles. Davis personally armed the regiment with percussion rifles and trained them in their use, making the regiment particularly effective in battle. He participated in the siege of Monterey. At the Battle of Buena Vista, he demonstrated his bravery and competence. He was also wounded here. His ex-father-in-law, General Zachary Taylor commented, "My daughter, sir, was a better judge of men than I was."

President James K. Polk offered Davis a Federal commission as a brigadier general and command of a brigade of militia. Ever an ardent believer in states rights, Davis declined this appointment. He argued that the Constitution gives the power of appointing militia officers to the states, not to the Federal government.

Upon his return to Mississippi, Davis was appointed in December of 1847 to fill the seat of a deceased Senator. The Smithsonian Institution appointed him as a regent at the same time. He was re-elected but then resigned after one year to run for Governor of Mississippi. He lost. In 1853 President Franklin Pierce made Davis his Secretary of War. He is reputed to be the best man who ever filled that post. He helped strengthen the army, built up forts and arsenals and imported camels from the Middle East to be used as land transport in the Southwest. This idea was on just on the verge of becoming successful when the war came along. He also submitted an elaborate report on several various routes of the proposed Transcontinental Railroad. In 1857 after Buchanan was elected, Davis ran successfully and again became a Senator from Mississippi.



In principle, Davis was an opponent to secession. He spent the summer of 1858 recovering from an illness in Portland, Maine. On the 4th of July that year he gave an anti-secessionist speech on board a ship in Boston harbor. In October he gave a similar speech at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

When Mississippi seceded, Davis put his whole support behind her. On January 21st 1861, Davis delivered his farewell address to the Senate and resigned. Four days after his resignation, he was commissioned a Major General of Mississippi Troops. On February 9th, the Constitutional Convention in Montgomery, Alabama appointed him as Provisional President of the new Confederate States of America, a position he did not want. Davis immediately appointed a Peace Commission to resolve the Confederacy's differences with the Union. This commission was to travel to Washington in March where they would offer to pay for Federal property on Southern soil, and the Southern portion of the national debt.

It was Davis who approved the cabinet decision for General Beauregard to bombard Fort Sumter. This was undoubtedly a mistake, because it was the act of firing upon the U.S. flag that gave Lincoln the political momentum he needed to raise troops and invade the South. On November 6th 1861 he was elected to a six year term as president. The Confederate Constitution only allowed for a single six-year term.

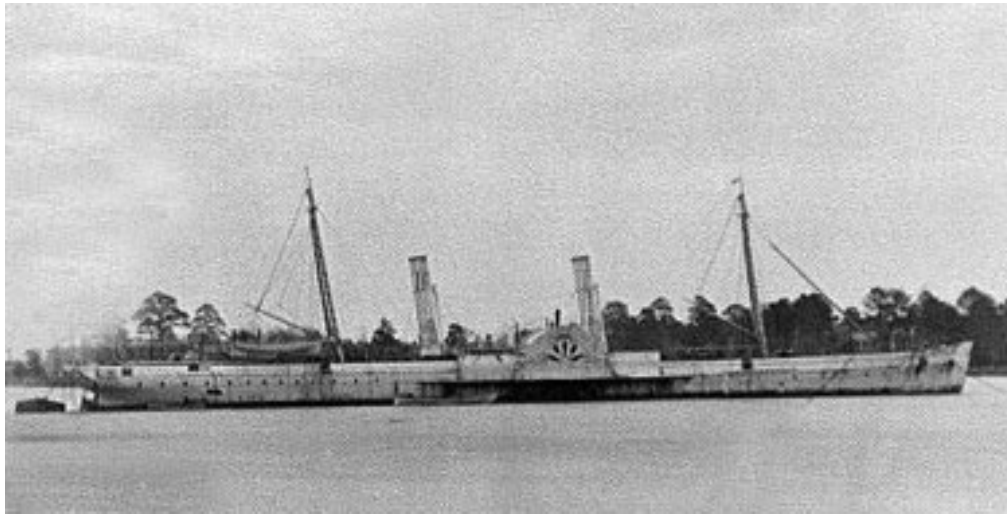
Davis' conduct of the war has brought much criticism. Taking in all of the pros and cons about him, one thing was for sure; he was incorruptible. Davis spent too much time trying to micro-manage the war. He tended to get involved in details that would have been best left to subordinates. One of his shortcomings was that he tended to give undue favor to West Point graduates. In fact, he may have had contempt for those who rose through the ranks. This prevented his proper utilization of two of his very best generals: Patrick Cleburne and Nathan Bedford Forrest. It was General Lee himself who said the Forrest was the best of the Confederate Generals.

Another serious mistake was not listening to the man known as "The brains of the Confederacy," Judah Benjamin. Benjamin wanted to export as much cotton as possible before the blockade tightened, in order to build up a base of credit for the Confederacy in Europe. The mal-adjusted thinking in the cabinet was that with-holding cotton from the European market would force Britain and France to support the Confederacy. All this really did aside from depriving the South of needed funds was to promote the expansion of cotton growing to Egypt and India.

More often than not, Davis showed keen insight, such as refusing the resignation of Robert E. Lee after Gettysburg. But he also supported his friends too much. This was the case with General Bragg who he should have sacked early in the war. When Bragg's subordinates complained about him after he demonstrated so much incompetence at Chickamauga and Chattanooga, Davis moved him to Richmond. The worst decision Davis made was to replace General Johnston at Atlanta with General Hood. Johnston had stalled the Yankees, beaten them badly at Kennesaw Mountain and created a feeling in the North that the war was going unsuccessfully. Lincoln's election was an unsure thing at this point. This is the reason Nevada became a state. It was in order to help insure Lincoln's re-election. Davis wanted a general who would fight. With Hood, that's what he got. Hood lost more men in two weeks than Johnston had all summer. After losing Atlanta, he left Georgia to Sherman's tender mercies as he proceeded to fight "The Gettysburg of the West" at the Battle of Franklin, and then almost lost his whole army at Nashville. After the fall of Atlanta, the North smelled blood. Lincoln was re-elected and the fate of the South was sealed.

Davis was imprisoned for two years after the war. The Yankees wanted to try him for treason but were afraid to. A Supreme Court Justice had already stated that secession was not rebellion. If a jury had found him not guilty, it wouldn't look good for the Yankee justification of their war. In 1875 he was denied a Senate seat after being re-elected from Mississippi under the provisions of the 14th Amendment. When Davis died in New Orleans in 1889, his funeral was the largest ever held in the South. Six Southern Governors were pall bearers. His body was later interred at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia.

The Blockade Runner, Robert E. Lee



She was one of the most successful of the blockade runners. Built in 1862 on the river Clyde in Scotland, she a schooner-rigged, iron hulled side-wheeler with two stacks built to be a fast packet ship. Originally named the Giraffe, she was purchased by Alexander Collie and Company of Manchester to be used as one of their blockade runners. One of our most famous blockade running captains, Lt. John Wilkinson, CSN, persuaded them to sell her to the Confederate Navy for the same amount, 32,000 pounds as she had originally cost them.

On her first voyage, she ran the blockade at Wilmington, bringing in 26 Scottish lithographers who went to work in Richmond designing and printing money for the Confederae government. Union intelligence reported that she could easily be captured. But while running out of Wilmington she established her legendary reputation by leaving behind the pursuing USS Iroquois in her wake.

Over the next ten months after twenty successful voyages she took out 7,000 bales of Southern cotton, returning with valuable munitions each time. She was captured on her 21st voyage after leaving Bermuda.



The British Blockade Runner Connection

Many blockade runner captains were British naval officers “temporarily retired from service.” Three of these men went on to have stellar naval careers after the War Between the States. They were:

Captain Hewett - He later became a vice admiral in the Royal Navy.

Captain Murray - He later became Admiral Murray– Aynsley of the Royal Navy.

Captain Roberts - His real name was Augustus Charles Hobart – Hampden, the third son of the Earl of Buckinghamshire. He went on to serve in the Turkish navy and was given the title of Pasha by the Sultan. He is known in history as Hobart Pasha, one of the heroes of British naval tradition.



The Heritage Page



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On April 21st the SCV Virginia Division held its annual Heritage parade down Monument Avenue in Richmond to the Hollywood cemetery. This year for the 2nd time I was able to join with our brothers from across the confederation in celebrating our heritage. When I saw the chartered busses arriving from North Carolina, Tennessee and Maryland I knew a great time was going to be had by all. I am going to make this short to make room for some photos, but anyone planning a battlefield tour of Virginia may want to consider timing it to make the parade every April.

Please contact me if you would like any additional information



Charlotte NC
Saturday, May 26, 2007

Today members of the North Carolina Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, as well as some from other divisions, began their protest of NASCAR's current policies and deeds regarding their Southern roots. NASCAR has completely turned its back on all things southern and particular the Confederacy.

The SCV General Executive Council denied heritage defense funding for the North Carolina Division while freely providing the same funding to other SCV divisions protesting other NASCAR races. The race at Charlotte NC was singled out by the GEC because of the planned participation of four NC Division members. At one point they (GEC) agreed to fund North Carolina's efforts if these members were excluded and not allowed to participate. North Carolina Division Commander [Bruce Tyson](#) rejected this notion and the four members in question attended today's event. All are expected to attend tomorrow's event as well.

