



Sons of Confederate Veterans The Hunley Torpedo



1st Kentucky Inf.

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

21st Mississippi Inf.

Number Four

Website: www.dixon-hunley.org

April 2008



Camp Report

Good News! Our Chaplain / 1st Lt. Commander, Joe Scamihorn, has successfully come through serious surgery and will be active in camp soon.

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

Lars Hanssen
Mike Tocci

Apologies

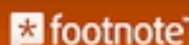
For this newsletter coming out late! I've had many deadlines to meet lately.

Next Meeting

There will be no meeting in May. Other business has compelled me to suspend it. Our next event will be in June when we hold our annual flag raising in Virginia City. This will be a fun event and we will meet for lunch there. Details to follow in May's newsletter.

Those signing up for genealogical services through the link below will generate a donation from Footnote to the SCV.

www.footnote.com/scv.php?kbid=1162&xid=68



Our Confederate Memorial Day

Heartfelt thanks to all who made our memorial service a success. We had the largest turnout ever this year. Selected images from our event are shown on pages 2 & 3. I regret that I am unable to show everyone's individual pictures.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy observed their Confederate Memorial Day in Fallon, one week after us on April 26th. I was in attendance and was honored by the ladies with a plaque. They served all of their attendees a savory lunch at the First Baptist Church after the service.

Compatriot Al Marsh, his wife Gloria and Grandson at the John Sparks Monument on Confederate Memorial Day



Confederate Memorial Day 2008



The Old South

This excerpt is by Lieutenant-General D. H. Hill from Memorial Day, June 6th, 1887, at Baltimore, before the Society of the Army and Navy of the Confederate States in the State of Maryland.

Comrades of the Society of the Army and Navy of the Confederate States in the State of Maryland:

In the name of my countrymen, thus rescued from despair and death, I invoke the blessings of Almighty God upon the heads of their deliverers, whatever be their religious creed or political faith; whatever be the skies of their nativity or their opinion of the righteousness or unrighteousness of the Southern cause.

My subject is the Old South; the Old South of pure women and brave men; the South of Washington and Jefferson; of Carroll and Rutledge; of Marshall and Taney; of the Pinckneys of Maryland and South Carolina (for they were of the same stock); of Andrew Jackson and Winfield Scott; of Decatur, McDonough and Tatnall; the generous Old South which, rich, prosperous and peaceful under British domination, cried, "the cause of Boston is the cause of us all," and had her sons slain and her land desolated in defense of her Northern sister; the magnanimous Old South which, without ships and commerce, hoisted in 1812, in the interest of the carrying trade, the banner inscribed "Free Trade and Sailors' Rights;" the chivalrous Old South, crying out in the person of Randolph Ridgely, when Charley May was about trying the novel experiment of a charge of cavalry upon a battery of Mexican artillery, "hold on, Charley, till I draw their fire upon myself." Ah! My countrymen, that Old South did many unselfish deeds which, in the slang of the day, "didn't pay." But the world was made purer, nobler and better by them, and they should be as ointment poured forth, fragrant through all the ages.

Sample photos of our traditional Roll Call of States are shown below. As the State from which one's ancestor served is named, the descendant lays a red rose and names him upon the altar which is covered with a Battle Flag.



General Tom Green, Texas Hero

He was born in Virginia. His family moved to Tennessee in 1817 when Green was still an infant. He attended Jackson College in Tennessee and Princeton College in Kentucky before he received a degree from the University of Tennessee in 1834. He then studied law with his father, a prominent judge on the Tennessee Supreme Court.

When the Texas Revolution began, Green left Tennessee to join the rebel volunteers. He arrived in Nacogdoches in 1835 and enlisted in Isaac N. Moreland's company on January 14, 1836. During the April 21 Battle of San Jacinto, Green helped operate the famed "Twin Sisters" cannons, the only artillery present in Sam Houston's army. A few days after the decisive victory, Houston rewarded Green with a commission as a lieutenant.



In 1837, Tom Green received a tract of land in Fayette County for his service in the war. Green became a county surveyor and later an engrossing clerk for the Texas House of Representatives. He represented Fayette County in the House of Representatives in the Fourth Texas Congress. After a single term, he chose not to run again and resumed his clerkship. During the Sixth and Eighth Texas Congresses, he served as secretary of the Senate. From 1841 to 1861, he was clerk of the Texas Supreme Court, in both the republic and the subsequent U.S. state.

Between legislative and court sessions, Green served in military campaigns against the Indians and Mexico. In the fall of 1840, he joined John H. Moore in a foray up the Colorado River against the Comanches. After Rafael Vásquez's invasion of San Antonio in March 1842, Green recruited and served as Captain of the Travis County Volunteers.

When the United States went to war with Mexico, Green recruited and commanded a company of Texas Rangers in La Grange as part of the First Texas Regiment of Mounted Riflemen, led by John Coffee Hays. The Texans helped Zachary Taylor capture Monterrey, Nuevo León, in September 1846.

After returning home from the Mexican-American War, Green married Mary Wallace Chalmers, daughter of John G. Chalmers, on January 31, 1847. Five daughters and one son were born to them.

During the War Between the States

After Texas seceded in early 1861, Green was elected colonel of the 5th Texas Cavalry, which, as part of a brigade led by Brig. Gen. Henry H. Sibley, joined the invasion of New Mexico Territory in 1862. There, Green led the Confederate victory at the Battle of Valverde in February. After a difficult retreat into Texas, he led his men, aboard the river steamer *Bayou City*, to assist in the recapture of Galveston on January 1, 1863. He was also involved in the seizure of the Union steamer *Harriet Lane* that same day.

In the spring of 1863, Green commanded the First Cavalry Brigade in Richard Taylor's division in the fighting along Bayou Teche in Louisiana. On May 20, he became a Brigadier General. In June he captured a Union garrison at Brashear City. Green's cavalry routed advancing Union troops under Godfrey Weitzel and Cuvier Grover at Koch's (Cox's) Plantation on July 13.

Tom Green continued...

In September, the First Cavalry Brigade captured another Union detachment at Stirling's Plantation. A similar success followed in November at the Battle of Bayou Bourbeux. In four victories, Green's men inflicted about 3,000 casualties and suffered only 600 losses. Green was subsequently assigned command of the cavalry division of the Trans-Mississippi Department.

During the Red River Campaign, Green commanded a brigade of Texas cavalry in the division of Brig. Gen. John S. Marmaduke. In April 1864, he led successful attacks against Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks at the Battle of Mansfield and against Maj. Gen. William H. Emory at the Battle of Pleasant Hill.

A few days later, on April 12, 1864, Green was mortally wounded by a shell from a Federal gunboat while leading an attack on the gunboats patrolling the Red River at Blair's Landing. He soon died on Blair's Plantation. Upon his death, Union Admiral David Dixon Porter paid tribute to the fallen Confederate cavalryman in saying that Green was "one in whom the rebels place more confidence than anyone else. He led his men to the very edge of the bank, they shouting and yelling like madmen—losing General Green has paralyzed them; he was worth 5,000 men to them." He is buried in the family plot at Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

Blair's Landing, Louisiana April 12, 2008

On the 144th Anniversary of the death of Confederate Brigadier General Tom Green's highway marker was erected very near the site where Tom Green was hit by a Union cannon shot from the USS Osage aimed with a periscope.

The death of Tom Green is mentioned in the OR's and ORN's. Captain Thomas O. Selfridge of the Union warship, USS Osage, actually described aiming at a Confederate officer on horseback who was vigorously leading his men. His shot was off target, but somehow a piece of the shot hit Tom Green while the rest flew high and away.



The Battle of Galveston (1 January 1863)

In the fall of 1862, Union Commodore William B. Renshaw sailed into Galveston harbor and demanded the surrender of the island city by its occupants. With virtually no defense force, the Confederate commander on the island, Colonel Joseph J. Cook, had little choice but to comply.

About the same time in late 1862, Major General John B. Magruder was named Confederate commander of the District of Texas. Upon arriving in Houston, Magruder immediately began making plans to recapture Galveston. To implement his plan, Magruder outfitted the decks of two river steamers, the *Bayou City* and the *Neptune*, with bales of cotton. The compressed cotton would be used to protect an on-board attack force to challenge the Federal fleet in Galveston harbor. A land force would also be used in a joint land-sea attack.

On New Years Eve, the Confederate Cottonclads, as the curious looking vessels were called, threaded their way from Harrisburg, through Galveston Bay, and toward the western entrance to Galveston harbor.

About dawn on New Year's Day, 1863, the Confederate Cottonclads entered the west end of Galveston harbor. Their nearest and first target was the Union's *Harriet Lane*.

After a brief encounter and some maneuvering, the tide of battle foretold an almost certain Union victory. The Confederate ground forces had been outgunned and effectively held in check by the Federal warships. After only a brief contest at sea, one-half of the two-vessel Texas fleet was lying on the bottom of the harbor. Further, the lone surviving Confederate Cottonclad, the *Bayou City*, was outnumbered six-to-one among the armed vessels in the harbor.

After recovering from its first encounter, however, the *Bayou City* circled around and made a second desperate run on the *Lane*. This time, the Confederates hit their target with remarkable precision. In short order, the crew of the *Bayou City* succeeded in storming and overpowering the crew of the *Lane*.

Meanwhile, across the harbor, the Federal Flagship *Westfield*, with Commodore Renshaw on board, had become hopelessly grounded in shallow water. The crew tried furiously to dislodge her, but she would not budge. At that point, a temporary truce was negotiated as both sides considered their positions.

During the truce, Renshaw decided to destroy the still immobilized *Westfield* and attempt a Federal escape from the harbor. Even this plan went terribly awry. As Renshaw and his crew fused the gunpowder on the flagship and quickly rowed away, nothing happened. They returned for another attempt. But as they debarked the second time, the gunpowder prematurely exploded, rocking the entire harbor. The explosion killed Renshaw and thirteen of his crew.

With flags of truce still flying, the remaining Federal vessels stoked their boilers, and quietly began heading for the open sea. In this endeavor they were successful, for the Confederates had little means to pursue.

Thus, the island of Galveston was recaptured. Twenty-six Confederates had been killed and 117 wounded. About twice that many Federals died in the conflict. The Union's showcase vessel and nearly 400 men were captured. More importantly for the Texans, however, was that their victory restored control of Galveston to the Confederacy, where it would remain for the balance of the war.



The Heritage Page

By
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Another Confederate cemetery is being rescued from decay by the N.B. Forrest Camp 3 in Chattanooga. This month I would like to give a brief history of the cemetery with a follow up report next month of the plans for improvement.

The men who died in the Chattanooga Confederate Hospitals were originally buried in a plot of ground beside the river. But the river rose and fell over some of the graves and the wooden headboards were lost for about 141 of them. The ground came to be partly a pasture and partly a ball field. After the war, the veterans sought to move the graves to higher ground and purchased for \$750 the northern portion of the current site from George W. Gardenhire in 1867. A man named Sively was employed to disinter the remains and box up the bones and re-bury them in this new site.

In the 1880's a trustee system was set in place for management of the cemetery in co-operation with the City of Chattanooga, with designated trustees being descendants of Confederate soldiers and the City as a trustee. In the 1890's various Confederate burials were found during work for the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and they were re-interred in the Chattanooga Confederate Cemetery.

In 1901, it was decided by the United Confederate Veterans and the A. P. Stewart Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy that more ground was needed for the remaining veterans and their wives. Mr. Francis M. Gardenhire deeded over the southern end of the plot for one dollar provided that it was only to be used for a Confederate Cemetery. The limestone gate and wrought iron battle flag gate, designed by Lawrence Thompson Dickinson, were erected in 1901 and dedicated the following year.

In the years 1890, 1913, 1921, 1934, 1942, 1945 and 1947, the City of Chattanooga hosted the annual reunion of the United Confederate Veterans with the old cemetery being a prominent feature of each reunion. In the 1950's, the last associate member (son of a veteran) of the Confederate Veterans camp died, leaving the City of Chattanooga as sole trustee.

In the year 2000, the last burial in the cemetery involved the remains of a soldier found during the excavation for a swimming pool on Missionary Ridge around that time. While he was unknown as to being a Northern or Southern soldier, it was felt he most likely was a Confederate and thus was buried in the Confederate Cemetery. This also followed the tradition established when bodies were found during work in the National Park in the 1890's.

The names of some of the veterans interred may be recognized by Chattanoogaans today. Captain S. J. A. Frazier was the developer of a part of town originally called "Hill City" but now known as North Chattanooga. Frazier Avenue is named for him. Colonel J. C. Nisbet wrote a book entitled Four Years on the Firing Line. Benjamin Lloyd Goulding was a member of the "Immortal 600" the human shields used by the Union in Charleston, South Carolina, he weighed only 81 pounds when paroled. He became the founder of the first Weather Bureau in Chattanooga.

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