



Sons of Confederate Veterans The Hunley Torpedo



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

Number Two

Website: www.dixon-hunley.org

February 2008

Camp Report

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

William Hawkins

So continues our steady growth throughout the year. The camp again numbers 95 which gives us ten votes at Reunion.

Our Next Lee / Jackson Dinner

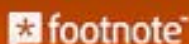
At our February meeting, it was resolved to hold our next Lee / Jackson dinner at the Red Hawk Golf Club. All present reacted favorably to this idea. This is part of our continuing effort make every event classy and memorable. Larry Heuer, George Martin and Lee Cross are on the planning committee.

When Compatriots Dick Knigge and Nick Dolphay go on vacation, they show their colors with pride!



Anyone signing up for Footnote and using the link below will generate a donation to the SCV.

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Next Meeting

It will be on **Saturday, March 8th at 10:00 a.m.** in the conference room of the Sparks library. This earlier start is working out really well. It leaves the afternoon free for other pursuits. **Y'all Come!**

February is Black History Month

Q: What was the last slave state to be admitted to the United States? **A:** West Virginia in 1863 with the approval of Abraham Lincoln.

Jefferson Shields



Stonewall Jackson's cook. He is proudly wearing his numerous UCV Medals.

1908 United Confederate Veterans Reunion

In Memory of Black Confederate Soldiers



Treatment of Blacks Serving in the Confederate Army

On February 18, 1865, the Confederate Congress authorized the enlistment of Southern slaves "to provide additional forces to repel invasion, maintain the rightful possession of the Confederate States, secure their independence and preserve their institutions." One institution they would not be preserving was that of slavery. No matter which side won, slavery was now as good as dead. **Surprisingly, the Southern army accepted black soldiers as equals. By order of March 23, 1865, the black Confederates were to "receive the same ration, clothing, and compensation as allowed other troops in the same branch of service."** The enlistment of slaves into the Confederate Army began almost at once. Soon, black soldiers were drilling in the streets of Richmond, and the Confederate War Department was being deluged with requests for the authority to raise more. On March 21, 1865, the Richmond *Sentinel* reported that the battalion from Camps Winder and Jackson, including "the company of colored troops under Captain Grimes," would parade on the square. Three days later, the newspaper informed its readers that "the Negro brigade being raised by Majors Pegram and Turner is being rapidly filled up."

The black companies were provided with new uniforms and marched through the city to encourage more to enlist. Black units were also recruited in the Deep South, and a worried Ulysses S. Grant wrote to Maj. Gen. Edward R.S. Canby at Mobile to "get all the Negro men we can before the enemy puts them into their ranks." However, the Southern leaders had waited far too long. The war would be over before the black Confederates could have any effect on the outcome.



Treatment of Blacks Serving in the Union Army

The Union Army's black troops were formed into segregated units commanded by white officers. The black Federals, however, were also discriminated against in other ways. Until late in the war, they received lower pay than white soldiers. Throughout the war they were regularly cheated of their enlistment bonuses by unscrupulous recruiting agents.

Tens of thousands of black Southerners eventually served in the Northern armies. Many did so clearly against their will. Union officers sometimes rounded up recruits at the point of a bayonet, since collecting the Federal bounty of \$100 dollars for each man made this a highly profitable sideline. **On February 7, 1865, Lincoln personally wrote to the army commander at Henderson, Ky., ordering him to stop torturing black men to force them to enlist.** Six weeks earlier, Brig. Gen. Rufus Saxon had informed the War Department of an even more shocking incident that occurred in South Carolina when slaves were conscripted en masse. "The order spread confusion and terror," wrote Saxon. "The Negroes fled to the woods and swamps, visiting their cabins only by stealth and in darkness. They were hunted to their hiding places by armed parties of their own people, and if found, compelled to enlist." Three young men, one only 14, were seized while working in a field and sent to a distant regiment without their parents even being informed. A black man who refused to enlist was shot dead. Another man who worked for the army quartermaster department was kidnapped and forced to join an infantry regiment.

Blacks Serving in the Confederate States Navy

In previous February newsletters, details of Black Confederate soldiers have been presented. This issue focuses upon their service in the CS Navy and Marine Corps.

Skilled pilots on Confederate gunboats were well paid (\$80 to \$100 per month) and held an officers rank, albeit without the authority. One such pilot was Moses Dallas, who served with the Savannah Squadron from 1862 to 1864. A letter from the Savannah Squadron Commander to the Secretary of the Navy gives us a small glimpse: "I have also been compelled to increase the pay of Moses Dallas from \$80 to \$100 per month in order to retain him. He is a colored pilot and is considered the best inland pilot on the coast."

Moses Dallas was on the expedition that captured the Federal gunboat USS Water Witch on the rainy night of June 3-4, 1864. He was among six Confederates killed in action during the firefight that erupted as they boarded the ship. Another black man identified as "Ben" (Newell?) piloted the captured vessel.

While the Confederate government purchased a casket for Moses Dallas and paid his funeral expenses, his story refused to die. A rumor has persisted that Dallas didn't die – that the foregoing was a cover-up story to hide the fact that he faked his death, then defected to the Union Navy. Truth may very well be stranger than fiction: There were actually two men in that part of the country with the name, Moses Dallas. The Confederate Pilot, Moses Dallas was from St. Marys, Georgia. The Moses Dallas who joined the Federal Navy was from Jacksonville, Florida.

Edward W. Walden was enlisted (shipped) by Moses Dallas (see above) and served as a Landsman aboard the CSS Savannah.

Randall Polk was a Landsman aboard the ironclad ram, CSS Georgia (used as a floating battery). He served aboard her from September, 1861 until December 21, 1864, when she was destroyed to avoid capture by Sherman's army.

James Duncan Moore enlisted in the C.S. Navy on September 1, 1864. He served with Randall Polk aboard the floating battery, CSS Georgia.

Aboard the CSS Macon, Charles B. Stiles served as a Landsman and George Snowden, served as a 1st Class Cabin Boy.

Robert Cole was assigned to the CSS Patrick Henry. He was a slave owned by Confederate President, Jefferson Davis.

James Price served with the James River Squadron.

David Green and Henry Leonard also served with the James River Squadron. They were transferred from Drewry's Bluff (a C.S. Marine and Navy base located approximately eight miles down river from Richmond, Virginia) to the ironclad, CSS Virginia II at Richmond. Green and Leonard served as Landsmen aboard this vessel.

Benjamin H. Gray was a twelve-year-old youth who enlisted in the C.S. Navy at Wilmington, North Carolina. He saw combat as a Powder Boy on the famous ironclad, CSS Albemarle. As a Powder Boy, his job was to carry bags of gunpowder from the magazine below to the gun deck.

In June 1917, while a resident of Bertie County NC, Gray applied for a Confederate Pension from North Carolina. It was approved the following month. After his death in 1924, his widow, Margaret was granted a pension based upon his service.

There were three black seamen who served on the raider, CSS Shenandoah, one of whom was named Edward Weeks.

In addition to Marine, W.S. Lewis (described above), Sailor David White served on the famous raider, CSS Alabama. White went down with his ship after doing battle with the USS Kearsarge off the coast of Cherbourg, France on June 19, 1864. A photo exists of several crewmen aboard the Alabama that includes an unidentified black sailor. This man may, or may not be David White. So there is a possibility of a third black crewman serving aboard this ship.

Johnny Robinson enlisted in the C.S. Navy in early 1863 and served aboard the ironclad warship, CSS Chicora.

There were three other blacks regularly enlisted on the Chicora. These men were free before the war and enlisted early on. They were: Charles Cleaper, James Hicks and Joe Johnson.

When Charleston was evacuated towards the end of the war, navy and marine personnel withdrew to Drewry's Bluff, Virginia (described above). Drewry's was also the site of the Confederate States Naval Academy.

At Drewry's Bluff, Cleaper, Hicks, Johnson and the other men of the Charleston Squadron joined with remnants of the Wilmington (NC) Squadron and Virginia based personnel to form a combat unit that has come to be known as "Tucker's Brigade" after its commander, Commodore John R. Tucker. The terms "Marine Brigade" and "Naval Brigade" are also used interchangeably in identifying this unit.

Tucker's Brigade was assigned to the rear guard of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia during their withdrawal from the Richmond/Petersburg line which began April 2, 1865. Four days later, the Federal army intercepted and cut off the rear of Lee's army. This resulted in the Battle of Saylor's Creek.

During the battle, Tucker's Brigade was the only Confederate unit that didn't break under the first Federal charge. After repulsing the charge, the Brigade – numbering 300 to 400 men, was then surrounded by six Union divisions. Rather than surrender, Tucker counterattacked, smashing the 37th Massachusetts Infantry into fragments and tearing into the 2nd Rhode Island in hand to hand combat.

Withdrawing to a wooded pocket, the unit repulsed several more Federal attacks. The performance of Tucker's Brigade was so intense and the damage they inflicted so devastating, that the Federal generals estimated the "Marine Brigade" to number some 2,000 men.

Tucker was ultimately talked into surrendering towards the end of the day, but many of his men escaped to rejoin the Army of Northern Virginia. Saylor's Creek occurred three days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Cleaper, Hicks and Johnson were among those who managed to escape and were with the remnants of Tucker's Brigade when Lee surrendered. The surrender roll lists their ranks as "Private." Sailors captured during land-based operations were often listed as "private."

Blacks Serving in the Confederate States Marine Corps

W.S. Lewis, of Charleston County, South Carolina served aboard the CSS Atlanta and later, the famous raider, CSS Alabama. Lewis was granted a soldier's pension from the South Carolina government on April 14, 1923.

Lawrence Graves was a body servant of Lieutenant Henry Graves, C.S. Marine Corps. He used a rifle in the trenches of Savannah in December 1864. Iverson Graves, brother of the Marine Lieutenant, wrote home "Lawrence was much elated with the idea of having shot at some Yankees before evacuation, and thinks he hit one."



They Said What?

Direct Quotes:

Abraham Lincoln: "This war is not about slavery."

Jefferson Davis: "This war is not about slavery."

General Ulysses S. Grant: Said that if he ".....thought this was to abolish slavery, I would resign my commission, and offer my sword to the other side."



[A student stumped me today -- why were civil war uniforms made of wool when cotton cloth was available \(and presumably more comfortable to wear\)?](#)

Myers Brown, Curator of history and extension projects here at the museum, knows a lot about this subject. He tells me that wool has been favored for military uniforms for ages because it is much more durable than bast fibers (cotton/linen/hemp) and also insulates much better. Myers says that even when it is hot during the day, at night the temperature could go down to the 50s or lower and wet, sweated uniforms that didn't insulate would be very cold. Troops would be in danger of hypothermia. During the Civil War, Myers says, the earliest uniforms are pure wool, but the questioner is right, cotton was more plentiful and less expensive, so during 1862, the uniforms change to a mixture of wool and cotton or sometimes linen to save money and use available resources. Various weaves, from jean (twill) to tabby were used for these mixed fabrics. Then, in the last couple of months of the war, some Irish-made uniforms in pure wool were smuggled through the blockade and issued to troops.

Candace J. Adelson, Ph.D.
Senior Curator of Fashion & Textiles
Tennessee State Museum



The Heritage Page



The Capitol

Atrocity in the Capitol of the Confederacy Richmond, Virginia

This message is to all brothers and sisters of the South, I bring you disturbing news from Richmond. Like the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, managers of Richmond acted in a premeditated dastardly way and drove a dagger into our back. Their act will live in infamy and will be remembered by moral Christian men and women forever.


Richmond's Oakwood cemetery contains 17,000 sleeping Confederate soldiers who gave their all for their families, their land and country. I do not know the dignity of their birth, but I do know the glory of their death. They died unquestioning, uncomplaining, with faith in their hearts, and on their lips the hope that we would go on to victory. Always, for them: Duty, Honor, Country; always their blood and sweat and tears, as they sought the way and the light and the truth.

Recently a family in South Carolina could not communicate a response from the Mayor of Richmond, Virginia, Doug Wilder or his administration regarding the grave of their family member buried in city controlled Oakwood Cemetery. Accordingly, they transported their Federal Government military burial head stone to Oakwood Cemetery and placed it on their family member's grave.


Last week the city of Richmond elected officials and managers sent a crew to that Confederate soldier's grave and with shovels dug and removed the soldier's head stone. The City of Richmond stole the head stone and transported it to an unknown place. Their act can only be characterized as the most vile and despicable racist act imaginable.

Harry Black, a ranking administrator close to Mayor Douglas Wilder said he did not want to "disrespect" the other 125,000 people buried in the cemetery with a Confederate emblem.

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