

Sons of Confederate Veterans
The Hunley Torpedo

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

Number One

Website: www.dixon-hunley.org

January 2008

Camp Report

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

- Art Cline
- Don Curry
- Richard Knigge
- Athan Robinson



Our Lee – Jackson Dinner 2008

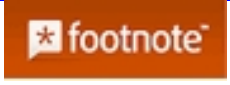
I wish to thank all of you who participated and made this event a great success. Many drove a long way to attend. The Brittons traveled the farthest, all the way from Round Mountain. Others came from as far away as Wellington, Janesville and Fallon.

Pictures of our dinner are shown on pages 2 and 3. Unfortunately, some were missed. This happens every year. It usually occurs when guests leave their seats briefly to get food or drink and even our photographer, Miriam Cavallero, is not shown.

Special Thanks to Larry Heuer, Jim White and Jimmie Britton for contributing extra money, thus taking some financial burden off the camp.

Anyone signing up for Footnote will generate a donation from this company to our heritage causes. If you do, please use the link shown below:

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



Next Meeting

It will be on **Saturday, February 9th at 10:00 a.m.** in the conference room of the Sparks library. For those of you who haven't been to meeting in a while, this will be our new, normal starting time. It leaves the afternoon free for other pursuits.

In Memoriam

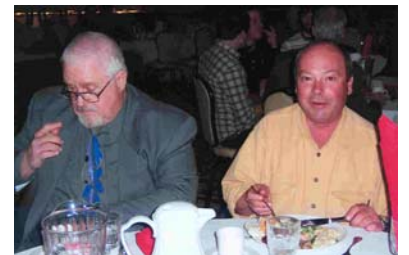
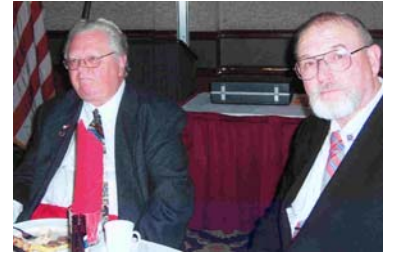
Compatriot Hampton Lee Brady passed away on January 21st 2008. Hampton was a charter member of our camp which we formed in January of 2003. Hampton provided the name for this newsletter.



Hampton is survived by his son, Patrick. He will have a Masonic service in Fernley soon. I will represent us there and I encourage those who wish to attend to contact me for details. In Nov. of 2002, six of us, Hampton and Patrick Brady, Lee Cross, Ernie Zebal, George Martin & Dave Hoffman, met and arranged details to found this camp.

Our 2008 Lee – Jackson Dinner at the Sands

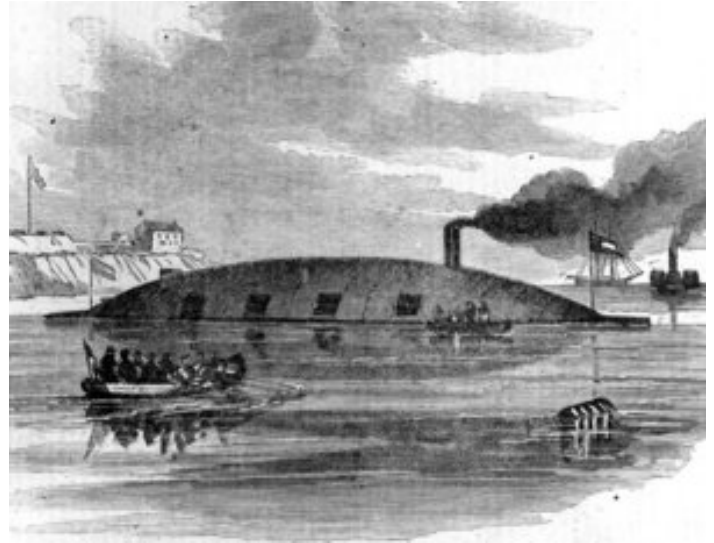




The Defense of Savannah

The were two CSS Savannahs

Shown at right, is a depiction of the “Richmond Class” ironclad ram, CSS Savannah, as appeared in a drawing in Harpers Weekly. This image is probably inaccurate. A more idealized painting of this ship is shown on page one of this newsletter. She was built in Savannah by H. F. Willink and transferred to CSA Naval Forces on the Savannah River on June 30, 1863. She participated in the successful defense of Savannah from the sea until the city was taken from the rear in Sherman’s march to the sea. To prevent capture, the CSS Savannah was burned on December 21, 1864.



During the War Between the States, Fort Jackson became the Confederate headquarters for the Savannah River defenses. Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, and P.G.T. Beauregard all visited this fort. This inner line of defense consisted of Fort Jackson, the Savannah River Squadron, and a network of earthen batteries and signal stations along the marsh and waterways between Savannah and Wilmington rivers, as well as river obstructions and underwater mines.

Despite as many as 40,000 Union troops on nearby Hilton Head and the fall of Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island to Union troops on April 11, 1861, the Savannah River defenses kept Savannah safe from Federal forces attacking from the sea. Savannah was not surrendered until December 21, 1864, when Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, on his famous March to the Sea, captured Fort McAllister on the Ogeechee River and poised his huge army outside the city. However, the 18,000-man Confederate garrison was able to escape from the city unharmed, something that Sherman was much criticized for by his superiors. On the night of December 20, 1864, the garrisons of Causton Bluff, Thunderbolt, and the Savannah River batteries gathered at Fort Jackson and evacuated across the Savannah River by steamer and on makeshift bridges, successfully eluding capture. The army and naval forces joined up with North and South Carolina forces and continued to fight Sherman's army until they surrendered at Durham Station, North Carolina on April 26, 1865—17 days after Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

Three hundred yards away from Fort Jackson, a red buoy in the Savannah River can be seen marking a historic remnant of the Savannah River Squadron. The Savannah-made C.S.S. *Georgia* lies under water, scuttled by her crew the night of Savannah's evacuation to prevent it from falling into Union hands. Built from funds from the Georgia Ladies Gunboat Association, it was Georgia's first ironclad, launched May 19, 1862, and stationed downstream from Fort Jackson as a floating battery with its ten heavy guns. The C.S.S. *Georgia* is an internationally significant naval relic as it was one of the few ironclads that was engineered and built as an ironclad and today remains largely intact under the water with all her armament and stores. (Most of the other ironclads were re-engineered and retro-fitted steamers.) The ship awaits a Herculean and expensive effort to raise it from the river.

When troops under Sherman seized Fort Jackson, they raised the American flag over the fort. A member of the Savannah Squadron, the ironclad C.S.S. *Savannah*, displeased with this display, fired on the Federal troops from the river. This gunboat was commissioned in July 1863 as the flagship of the squadron and was 174 feet long and 45 feet wide and had five rifled guns. The C.S.S. *Savannah* was blown up by rebel troops on December 21, 1864, to prevent it from falling into Union hands. Following the Civil War, Fort Jackson was modified and then abandoned by the Army in 1905.

The Original CSS Savannah

Was a wooden gunboat, formerly the steamer *Everglade*, built in 1856 at New York City. She was purchased early in 1861 by the State of Georgia and converted into a gunboat for coast defense. With Georgia's admission to the Confederacy, *Savannah*, under Lieutenant John Newland Maffitt, CSN, was commissioned by the Confederate States Navy. She was attached to the squadron of Flag Officer Josiah Tattnall, CSN, charged with the naval defense of South Carolina and Georgia.

On November 5-6, 1861, *Savannah*, flying Tattnall's flag, in company with CSS *Resolute*, CSS *Sampson*, and CSS *Lady Davis*, offered harassing resistance to a much larger Union fleet, under Flag Officer Samuel Francis Du Pont, USN, preparing to attack Confederate strongholds at Port Royal Sound, S.C. On November 7, *Savannah* fired on the heavy Union ships as they bombarded Fort Walker and Fort Beauregard. Driven finally by the Federal gunboats into Skull Creek, Ga., Tattnall disembarked with a landing party in an abortive attempt to support the fort's garrison, and *Savannah* returned to Savannah, Georgia to repair damages.

On November 26, 1861, *Savannah*, in company with *Resolute* and *Sampson*, all under Flag Officer Tattnall, weighed anchor from under the guns of Fort Pulaski, S.C., and made a brave but brief attack on Union vessels at the mouth of the Savannah River. On January 28, 1862 the same three vessels delivered supplies to the fort despite the spirited opposition of Federal ships. *Savannah* later assisted in the unsuccessful defense of Fort Pulaski on April 10-11, 1862, and for the remainder of the year served as a receiving ship at Savannah.

Her name was changed to *Oconee* on April 28, 1863, and in June she was loaded with cotton and dispatched to England to pay for much-needed supplies. After some delay she escaped to sea only to founder on August 18 during bad weather. A boat with four officers and 11 men was captured 2 days later; the remainder of her crew escaped.

There were also two CSS Georgias

Shown at right is the ironclad ram, CSS *Georgia*. There was also a cruiser of the same name, not to be confused with this one.

The ram, CSS *Georgia*, was also referred to as the "Ladies Ram" because it was built with funds donated by the ladies of the City of Savannah.





During the War Between the States, Masons played pivotal roles in this Nation's history. Over two hundred generals from both sides were Masons during that war. The first shots of the war were fired between Masons. Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard was a Mason and a Knight Templar from New Orleans. He fired on Major Robert Anderson's forces inside of Fort Sumter. Anderson was a Mason from Trenton, New Jersey.

At Gettysburg, Union Lt. Marcellus Jones, a Mason from Wheaton, Illinois, fired the first shot of the battle. The Sharps rifle he used was invented and manufactured by another Mason, Christian Sharps, of Philadelphia. The shot that Jones fired was directed at Confederate Troops led by Brigadier General Henry Heth, a Mason from Rocky Mountain Lodge in the Utah Territory. One of Heth's lodge brothers from Rocky Mountain was a Union Brigadier General John Robinson who was also at Gettysburg. Union General Robinson had been Master of that Lodge when Confederate General Heth was the Senior Warden.

Also at Gettysburg, Union Brigadier General, Solomon Meredith, a Mason from Illinois and Commander of the Iron Brigade along with Colonel Lucius Fairchild, a Mason from Wisconsin commanding the 2nd Wisconsin held the Confederates for eight hours at Herr's Ridge and Seminary. Assaulting their position was Colonel James Connor, a Past master of Landmark Lodge in Charleston, South Carolina. Colonel Henry Morrow of the Iron Brigade was shot in the head and taken prisoner. He was treated by a Confederate surgeon identifying himself as a Mason. The surgeon determined that the Union Colonel's wound was too serious for him to be moved as a prisoner of war. This act of Masonic compassion probably saved Morrow's life.

The Hunley Torpedo Heritage Page



The Confederate Battle Flag:

A Symbol of Racism?

by Charles Davidson

(Condensed)



Our South, our Confederate history, and by extension, our Confederate battle flag, have suffered for many years from the relentless hatchet job of false propaganda heaped upon them by the news media, the education system, and, of course, Hollywood and television.

It appears that they wish to drive a wedge between Southern Blacks and Whites, much as the carpetbaggers did after the War for Southern Independence and much as the Northern news media drove a wedge between the North and South before the War. It is important to remember that movies such as *Roots* and *North and South* are make-believe, fiction. In other words, they are not true, just like *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, written before the War, was not true. One must wonder if the only reason such false propaganda is produced and promoted by the movie and television industry, is to make Blacks hate Whites, especially Southern Whites.

For example, the Confederate Battle Flag has no more to do with the Ku Klux Klan than the



The Ku Klux Klan marched down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. in 1952 carrying the U.S. flag.

Christian cross which the Klan carries and burns or the flag of the United States that the Klan says the Pledge of Allegiance to, yet the news media and Hollywood constantly try to connect our Confederate flag to the Klan in their propaganda. However, the news media never ask preachers if they are Klan members, because they wear a cross around their necks or link the American Legion to the Klan because they carry the U.S. flag. It is time to put an end to this anti-Confederate bigotry. It is past time that the truth was told. Hitler's tactic of "tell a big enough lie often enough and people will believe it" has been utilized to the fullest extent, to smear the Confederate States of America and her symbols such as the battle flag.

Fortunately, most people have not been deceived by such hate-mongering tactics, as is evidenced in a recent Louis Harris poll which shows that 92% of the Southern people, of all races, are not offended by our Confederate battle flag, and that 68% of Blacks nationwide are not offended. Unfortunately, a few too many have believed the lies about our Confederate battle flag, which has resulted in unjustified and horrible intolerance, bigotry, hatred, violence, and even murder. Today, I come before you to set the record straight, to refute the myths and false propaganda, and to remind you of the truth concerning our Confederate ancestors and history. It is my hope and fervent prayer that truth will replace fiction, that tolerance will replace intolerance, that peace will replace violence, that love will replace hate, and that unity will replace division. Our Lord Jesus said, "**Know the truth and the truth will set you free.**"

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