

 *Sons of Confederate Veterans* 
The Hunley Torpedo

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

Number Three

Website: www.dixon-hunley.org

March 2008

Camp Report

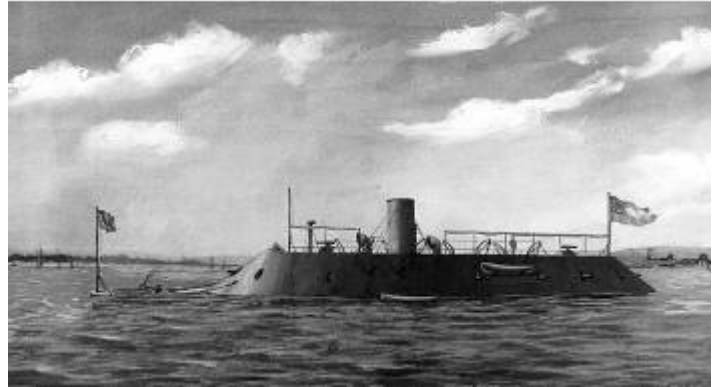
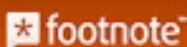
In March of 1862, the ironclad Confederate warship, CSS Virginia (shown at right), marked a new era in naval warfare when it destroyed the USS Congress and USS Cumberland at Hampton Roads in Virginia.

Confederate Memorial Day 2008

This will take place at **11:00 a.m. on April 19th**, in the Masonic Chapel at the Masonic Cemetery in Reno. This will be our sixth year in a row to observe Confederate Memorial Day at this location. As many of you already know, the Masonic Cemetery is adjacent to Mountain View Cemetery. There are three known Confederate Veterans buried in these two cemeteries. Previously we had marked the graves of two men buried in these locations. In 2007, a third Confederate Veteran – Pvt. Reuben Wash, was located at Mountain View. His information was provided by David Davis, of the SUV. Following our chapel service, we will lay the altar roses upon these veteran's graves. In addition to Pvt. Wash, we will mark the graves of Pvt. John Sparks (Nev. Gov.) and Pvt. Dennis Lafayette Hunt.

On the following Saturday, the ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will have their service in Fallon. Several of us have committed to attend and support the ladies, including myself, Joe and Johnnie Scamihorn, Miriam Cavallero, Jim White and Ernie Zebal. All are invited, if need be, contact me for details.

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



Next Meeting

It will be at **9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 12th**, in the private room at the Black Bear Diner at 2323 South Virginia St. in Reno. The meeting will end by 11:15 a.m. as we must vacate the room at that time. Compatriots, please take notice of the earlier starting time. We will have breakfast and go over details of our coming Confederate Memorial Day observance taking place one week later.

Results of Our March Meeting

Compatriots, our turnout was comparatively small but it came with great success. As I am accustomed to do, I requested a donation from camp funds to support a worthy cause. This time it was for Memorial Hall in New Orleans. As we had about \$550 in our bank account, I thought a donation of \$200 would be acceptable. It was not, which was good in this particular case. The men did not want to touch the camp's money. We all reached deep into our pockets and pulled out \$350 in cash. Two present, Joe Scamihorn and Ernie Zebal, each kicked in a \$100 bill. Our general membership is extremely generous and all I can say, men, is thanks! Men like these rode out to resist the invader in 1861. And like their ancestors, they support their heritage now.

“Wild Rose”

Rose O’Neal Greenhow

She was our guardian angel at the Battle of Manassas. A widow with four daughters, she lived in Washington, D.C. In her role as a spy, she is credited with supplying the necessary information which made possible the Confederate victory at Manassas.

On July 9, 1861 and July 16, 1861, she passed messages to General P.G.T. Beauregard regarding Union General McDowell’s invasion plan. She was assisted in this by pro-Confederate members of Congress, Union officers and her dentist, Aaron Van Camp. President Davis himself gave her credit for our victory.

Her olive skin and rosy complexion earned her the nickname “Wild Rose.” She was a protégé of John C. Calhoun and Dolly Madison. A loyal and devoted Southerner, she made use of her extensive contacts in Washington D.C. This came with a price. Her sympathies were generally known throughout the U.S. Capitol.

Realizing that she and her family were in danger if she remained in Washington, Rose sent her daughter Leila to France. On August 23rd 1861, she was arrested by Allan Pinkerton. Upon searching her home, he found maps of Washington fortifications and notes on military movements.

On January 18, 1862, she was transferred to the Old Capitol Prison. The photo of her at the upper right was taken while she was incarcerated here. Her eight-year old daughter, Little Rose, lived there with her. In May of 1862 she was deported to Richmond where Jefferson Davis and the entire South welcomed her as a heroine.

Jefferson Davis enlisted her into diplomatic service and she was dispatched to Europe where from 1863 to 1864 she served as a courier.



Rose Greenhow traveled extensively throughout Britain and France. There was much sympathy for the South among European aristocrats. She was received in the court of Napoleon III of France. In Britain she had an audience with Queen Victoria. While there she became engaged to Leveson-Gower, the 2nd Earl Granville. She also wrote her memoirs and sold them to raise money for the Confederate cause.

In September of 1864, Rose left Europe, returning to the South carrying diplomatic dispatches on the British blockade runner *Condor*. On October 1st 1864, the *Condor* ran aground at the mouth of the Cape Fear River near Wilmington while being pursued by a Union gunboat. While attempting to evade capture, her lifeboat capsized by a wave, and weighted down with \$2,000 in gold for the Confederate treasury, she drowned.

Rose Greenhow was given a full military burial in Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Joseph "Fightin' Joe" Wheeler



Lieutenant-General Joseph Wheeler, soldier and statesman, was beloved by his soldiers, and claimed with pride by the two great States of his birth and adoption. He was characterized by President Davis as "one of the ablest, bravest and most skillful of cavalry commanders," an opinion fully concurred in by the great military leaders of the South, and since confirmed by the verdict of critical history. He was born at Augusta, Ga., September 10, 1836, and was graduated at the United States military academy in 1859, with promotion to 2nd Lt of dragoons. On February 21, 1861, he resigned his Federal commission, and reaching Augusta in March, he was appointed 1st Lt. of artillery. In this service he was stationed at Pensacola, and in September was promoted to Colonel of the Nineteenth Alabama infantry regiment, and to Brigadier General of cavalry in July, 1862. In the cavalry service, he won promotion to the rank of Major General and corps commander early in 1863; on May 11, 1864, at the age of twenty-seven years, he was the senior cavalry general of the Confederate States; was promoted to Lt. General, February 28, 1865.

Wheeler Continued

From early in 1862 until the war closed he was almost constantly engaged in battle. He was wounded three times. Thirty-six of his staff officers fell by his side, six killed and thirty wounded, and sixteen horses were shot under him. Going into the battle of Shiloh in command of his regiment, he led his brigade in the vigorous attack which resulted in the capture of General Prentiss and over 2,000 men. Wheeler, taking the prisoners in charge, was highly complimented by General Bragg, and ordered to convey the captured division to the rear. But desiring to continue in the fight, he detailed Colonel Shorter for this duty, and with the balance of the brigade remained at the front, winning praise in the official reports of his superior officers. This first great battle in the West, one of the bloodiest of the war, was a severe test of the mettle of officers and men, and it is to be noted as a premonition of Wheeler's future career, that at the close of the first day he was in command at the front of the greater part of his division, under the general orders of the gallant Withers. Of his work on the second day, amid disorganization, a glimpse is given in the report of General Chalmers: "Colonel Wheeler, of the Nineteenth Alabama, was, with a small remnant of his regiment, fighting with the Mississippians, on foot himself, and bearing the colors of his command," in the last charge against the enemy. Subsequently he commanded the rear guard in the retreat to Corinth, during the siege of which he was distinguished in a fight on the Monterey road, in command of two brigades of Withers' division. After guarding the rear in the retreat to Tupelo, he was sent on a raid in West Tennessee in command of a cavalry brigade, as preliminary to the advance into Kentucky. His battles during Bragg's Kentucky campaign; his resistance to Buell's advance upon Munfordsville, which enabled Bragg to capture the fort and garrison with over 4,000 prisoners; his skillful fighting and gallant charges at Perryville, driving the enemy and capturing a battery, won for him at once an enduring reputation as a cavalry leader. On July 13th Bragg appointed this young Colonel, chief of cavalry of the army of Mississippi, with authority to give orders in the name of the commanding general, and the duty of covering the rear of the army and holding the enemy in check. During the retreat he fought his men in mounted charge, dismounted behind stone fences or rail breastworks, displaying wonderful fertility of resource and as the result of his efforts, instead of the disaster which seemed inevitable, the army reached Middle Tennessee without losing any of its immense and slow moving trains. From August 27th to October 22d his cavalry was in almost daily fighting. After this "Wheeler's cavalry" were household words, and "Little Joe" Wheeler, as his men affectionately called him, was the pride of the Central South. At Murfreesboro, a Brigadier General in division command of all the Confederate cavalry brigades, he made a raid around the Federal army, and, in the fierce attack upon Rosecrans' left, led his men in a resistless charge over cavalry, infantry and artillery. Two weeks later, he made another raid in the enemy's rear, capturing four large transports and four hundred prisoners on the Cumberland River, and also capturing and destroying a gunboat which pursued him. General Bragg immediately asked "his promotion as a just reward to distinguished merit," and the rank of Major General was conferred. He ably covered Bragg's retreat to Chattanooga, and after distinguished service in command of the cavalry at Chickamauga, and the cooping-up of Rosecrans at Chattanooga, he arranged with Bragg for operations against the enemy's communications with Bridgeport. Burnside's army was on the south side of the Tennessee and Crook's division of cavalry at the only fordable point. Even Forrest thought the conditions too hazardous for the contemplated movement, but Wheeler contended that a bold dash would win. With appointment to chief command of the cavalry of the army of Tennessee Wheeler was ordered upon the raid to the rear of Rosecrans, which his genius made one of the most brilliant on record. Starting with rear and flanks harassed by Burnside's cavalry, Wheeler with 3,780 men boldly forded the wide and deep river in the face of General Crook, a gallant enemy, defeated him, gained the Federal rear, brushed aside two brigades which guarded the immense trains, destroyed 1,200 loaded wagons, killed 4,000 mules, and burned and blew up three hundred ammunition wagons, while fighting both in rear and front with the Federal cavalry. Slipping off at night, he crossed Walden Ridge, and captured the fortified town of McMinnville, with 600 prisoners and the stores of the Federal left wing, which he destroyed together with several railroad trains and a wagon train, still in constant fight with his pursuers. Not yet content, on the next day he captured the forts at Stone's river, destroyed bridges and railroads for many miles, captured Shelbyville and Columbia, and then, closely followed

Wheeler Continued

by a Federal force of 7,500 reached the Tennessee at Mussel Shoals. To gain time to cross he led in person a fierce charge upon the enemy, and successful in this, was the last man to cross the river, under the terrific fire of the Federal advance.

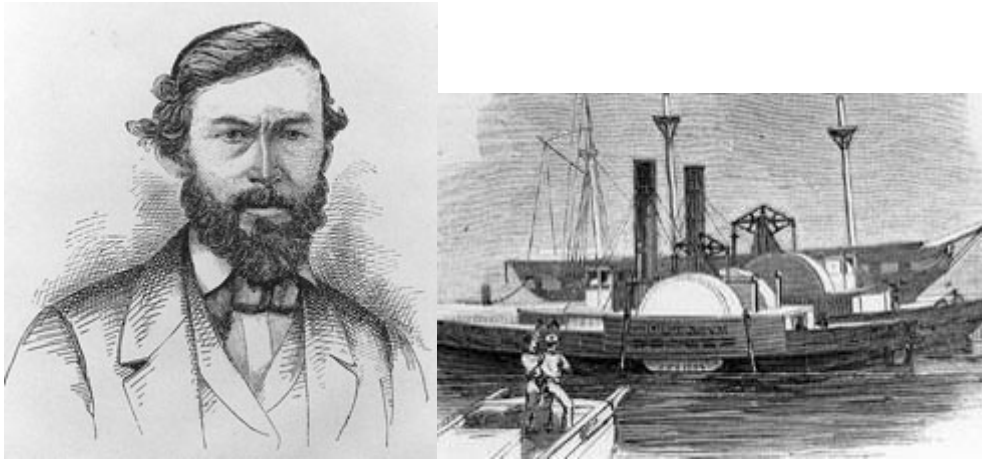
General Wheeler with his cavalry led the advance of Longstreet against Knoxville, defeating Burnside's cavalry, and capturing trains, batteries and nearly a thousand prisoners, and then being recalled to Bragg's assistance, gallantly defended the rear of the Confederate army on November 26th, and cooperating with General Cleburne on the next day at Ringgold Gap, put a final check to Grant's pursuit. During 1864, throughout the operations of J. E. Johnston and Hood, he performed the duties of a Lt. General, in command of the cavalry corps of the army of Tennessee, and was distinguished for activity and skill. Every effort of Sherman's great army to turn the Confederate flank was met and successfully baffled by Wheeler, and every change of position was made without loss under his watchful protection. Late in July, with a force of less than 5,000, he defeated 9,000 Federal cavalry under Generals Stoneman, McCook and Garrard, capturing their batteries and trains and 3,200 prisoners, including one Major General and five brigade commanders. Sherman's cavalry having been crippled, General Wheeler proceeded to attack his lines of communication, recapturing Dalton and Resaca, destroying railroad bridges, diverting to Hood the Federal supplies and capturing many prisoners, while to his rear a hundred thousand Federals formed a line of fire about the doomed city of Atlanta. In October he co-operated with Hood in the advance against Sherman's communications, and after Hood had entered Tennessee, Wheeler put his little cavalry command before Sherman's 65,000 en route through Georgia. He successfully defended Macon and Augusta, and before Savannah held open the only avenue of escape for Hardee's army. As has been written by President Davis, "The report of his operations from Nov. 14th to Dec. 20th displays a dash, activity, vigilance and consummate skill, which justly entitle him to a prominent place on the roll of great cavalry leaders. By his indomitable energy, operating on all sides of Sherman's columns, he was able to keep the government and commanders of our troops advised of the enemy's movements, and by preventing foraging parties from leaving the main body, he saved from spoliation all but a narrow tract of country, and from the torch millions worth of property which would otherwise have been certainly destroyed." In 1865 he stubbornly contested Sherman's advance through the Carolinas, receiving the thanks of the State of South Carolina; on Mar. 10th, inflicted severe punishment upon Kilpatrick's command; fought with Hardee at Averysboro, and at Bentonville, under Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton, and after a desperate struggle drove back Sherman's right wing which had seized Johnston's only line of retreat. He fought his last fight Apr. 15th and the 29th. After the surrender, he issued his farewell address to the cavalry with the eloquent words: "You are the sole victors of more than two hundred severely contested fields; you have participated in more than a thousand conflicts of arms; you are heroes, veterans, patriots; the bones of your comrades mark the battlefields upon the soil of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi; you have done all that human exertion could accomplish."

During three years following the war, Wheeler was in business at New Orleans, leaving there in 1869 for his plantation in Lawrence County, Alabama, where he practiced law. In 1880 he was elected the representative of his district to Congress.

When the United States found it necessary to call a volunteer army into the field for the war with Spain, General Wheeler was commissioned Major General. In command of the cavalry division of the army under General Shafter he went to Santiago, Cuba, and was in command of the center of the line of the United States forces in the battle of July 1, 1898, when the dismounted cavalry carried the heights of San Juan. Though already attacked with fever, he went to the front, shared the dangers of his men.

General Joseph (Fightin' Joe) Wheeler is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Successful Land Based Attacks on Union Gunboats



Windmill Point - August 22, 1862

Captain John Taylor Wood, Confederate States Navy, is shown above on the left, and the gunboats U.S.S. Puttman and U.S.S. Satellite on the right: One of these, the U.S.S. Satellite was captured by Captain Wood and his men. They also captured the Union gunboat USS Reliance (not shown), both off of Windmill Point. Over the next few days Wood's raiders captured three Union supply vessels and took their goods to Port Royal, where the much-needed supplies were off-loaded and sent to Richmond. The captured gunboats were destroyed.



Confederate Cavalry Destroys Union Gunboat

USS *Columbine* is believed to have originally been the *A.H. Schultz*, which was built in New York in 1850. *A.H. Schultz* was purchased by the Navy Department December 12, 1862, and renamed USS *Columbine*. She was outfitted by Howe & Copeland, New York. Commissioned in late 1862 or early 1863, *Columbine* was used in the Atlantic Blockading Squadron off South Carolina. In May 1864, *Columbine* was sent to Jacksonville, Florida, in support of the Union expeditionary force which was operating along the St. John's River against Confederate forces. On May 23, 1864, while returning from a trip to Palatka, near Horse Landing, *Columbine* was attacked by land-based Confederate forces equipped with an artillery piece. She ran aground, and was subsequently captured and burned. More than half of *Columbine*'s crew were killed or wounded in the fighting. Many men also drowned while trying to escape the carnage by swimming. During the spring of 1864, the Confederates managed to sink four other Union ships in the St. John's River with the use of a new weapon, the floating torpedo, or mine.





The Heritage Page



TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008

[H.K. Edgerton to visit Ringgold Depot](#)

H. K. Edgerton, noted Southern heritage activist, will visit the historic Ringgold, Georgia, and its historic railway depot on Wednesday, March 12, officials at Southern Heritage 411 announced.

Edgerton, who is black, is the President of Southern Heritage 411, a Southern heritage watchdog organization, and is the former President of the Asheville, NC, chapter of the NAACP. His purpose in coming to Ringgold is to focus public awareness on the refusal of Ringgold City Council to replace a Confederate Battle Flag that was removed from the depot's Confederate memorial area in 2005, after members of the NAACP complained about its being flown there.

Three other flags fly on separate poles at the depot memorial site: the present-day U.S. and Georgia flags and an 1863-pattern U.S. flag. The Confederate battle flag was removed from its pole shortly after the city put it up, and was replaced by a so-called Cleburne pattern unit flag, a blue flag with a white circle that is virtually unknown to all except Civil War scholars. The city said the Cleburne flag was historically accurate because Cleburne's division fought at the Battle of Ringgold Gap on Nov. 27, 1863. The national and local Sons of Confederate Veterans countered that evidence shows other Confederate flags were present at the battle, and that at any rate the depot display is a memorial and that the Battle Flag is the correct flag to fly in that context. The Southern Legal Resource Center, acting on behalf of the SCV, demanded that the city replace the battle flag or face legal action.

“This is just another example of the politics of appeasement,” Edgerton said Tuesday. “The city put that flag [the battle flag] up in the first place and they were correct. “Then the NAACP said ‘Boo!’ and they took it down. I will bet you that most if not all these city officials had ancestors in the Confederate army. I’d be ashamed.”

End of Press Release

Ringgold Georgia
Confederate Flag Rally
County Courthouse Sidewalk
Downtown Ringgold, Georgia.
April 26th, 08 12-4pm.
Rain or Shine

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30 Years Service in the U.S. Navy [WWII, Korea and Vietnam]; Joe has assisted hundreds of veterans to obtain their benefits. Contact him for any service connected injury.

Virginia City Publishing Company LLC

Lee Cross, General Manager - Author



Telephone: 775-359-8453
Fax: 775-359-8445
Email: vcpubco@yahoo.com
Address: P.O. Box 51389
Sparks, NV 89435

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