



Sons of Confederate Veterans The Hunley Torpedo

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



Number Three

Website: www.dixon-hunley.org

May / June 2009

Camp Report

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

Jim C. Estill
Jesse James Estill

Jim is transferring in from SCV Camp #1804 in Tulare, CA where he was a long-time member. Now he is a rancher near Lovelock here in Nevada. Jesse is his twelve-year old son.

Recently, through the efforts of our own John Kindred and his contacts in Virginia, Jim was able to have Confederate grave headstones placed on two of his ancestor's graves at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. These were for his direct Estill ancestor and for an uncle. These men did not die in the war, but finished their days in a home for old Confederate Soldiers and were both buried there among their comrades in the 1920s. These new stones are shown as follows:



Goodbye Johnny

John Kindred, formerly of our camp, is a life member of the SCV. He moved to Georgia and transferred from our camp into SCV Camp # 670 in Cartersville, GA. Those Georgia boys probably don't realize what a big one they just acquired!



Next Meeting

It will be on Saturday, May 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Sparks library.

Y'all Come!

Shown Above

Top Left: 1st Lt. George E. Dixon, CS Army

Top Right: The CSA Navy Seal

Directly Above: Painting of the Hunley. Confederate Soldier—Conrad Wise made an original pencil sketch of the submarine on the dock in Charleston in December of 1863 which he later used as a model for this famous painting.

The Hunley was built by private enterprise under the direction of H. L. Hunley. It was captained by an army officer and had a navy crew.

John Kindred's Accomplishments

Alone, he catalogued over 11,000 Confederate graves at Oakwood Cemetery in Richmond, enabling headstones to be placed over many. He has raised and donated \$1,000s to SCV heritage causes at the local level, and is an active speaker.

Commander's Message

Compatriots,

As I write this message today on the 2nd of May, I marvel how time has flown by during my watch as your camp commander. I have several things to bring before you here, so I'll get straight to them.

On June 20th, we will be holding our annual flag-raising of the Stars and Bars in Virginia City. This will be on the third Saturday. In addition, Army of Trans-Mississippi Field Representative Curt Tipton will visit us on the day of this event. I have arranged a room upstairs in the Delta Saloon, which is across the street from the flag pole. There we will have a luncheon meeting. Drinks (tea, coffee, sodas and water) will be provided, but you will have to pay individually for your food. I would really like to see a large turnout for this event and for the meeting afterwards. It is a great expense for this Representative of The Army of the TransMississippi to be with us. It's also an honor. Let's join together in welcoming him as we should.

Several former members have indicated their intention to rejoin our camp. Some still have access to this newsletter through email. For these men, I ask that they take a look at their ability to pay and get your selves back on the roster. I know that times are financially difficult for many and I too have experienced these same hard times within the last year. I do understand but numbers are everything in an organization like ours. When we push an issue with a legislative body, the first thing they ask is: "How many people do you represent?" I urge you to catch up your dues if you can.

We had a good showing at our Confederate Memorial Day Service. Although we had a few hiccups with the music, I feel that overall it went very well. I would like to say *Thank You* to Jim White, Joe Scamihorn and Lee Cross for all of their hard work and help in arranging the Service.

I've had to make a hard decision concerning the camp newsletter. Due to the cost of postage and printing as well as time constraints caused by mailing the newsletter manually, we've had to scale back on some aspects of producing them. I request those of you who have an email address but are still receiving the newsletter via U.S. Mail to contact Lee Cross or me to arrange switching to email delivery. Those who have been receiving the newsletter via U.S. Mail have noticed that it now comes in black and white. That is because the cost of printing a color newsletter is around 50 cents per page compared with about 15 cents a page for b/w. Also, the cost of postage goes up 2 cents on May 11th to 44 cents. I do hope you all understand that our camp must do this to remain fiscally responsible and viable.

We are making gains in our membership; but we are losing a Life Member due to his transfer to a camp in Georgia. John Kindred recently moved from San Diego, California to Dallas, GA. I have approved his transfer request. I wish him the very best with his move. Currently there are 95 members in our camp.

Last, we will not have any meetings or events in July and August, nor will we have a newsletter during those months. I decided to send this edition out sufficiently early so we can get the word out about the flag-raising and the visit by Curt Tipton in June. Our first meeting after the summer break will be on September 12th at the Black Bear Diner on Virginia Street at 9:00 a.m.

With all of that said, I wish you all a safe and fun-filled summer.

Respectively,
Rodney L. Clifton
Camp Commander, Lt Dixon-CSS Hunley

A Matter of Serious Concern:

The SLRC is considering legal action against Auburn City, AL. Councilman Dowdell for desecrating Confederate graves. The actual suit will have to be filed by descendants of those interred in the cemetery.

April 28, 2009

Mayor Bill Ham, Jr.
City of Auburn
1846 Hayden Avenue
Auburn, Alabama 36830



RE: Incident at Pine Hill Cemetery

Dear Mayor Ham:

The Southern Legal Resource Center is a federally registered nonprofit organization that advocates in matters involving Southern heritage and culture. As such we have been contacted by several Alabamans who have asked us to investigate Auburn City Councilman Arthur Dowdell's removal of miniature Confederate flags from the graves of Confederate soldiers at Pine Hill Cemetery.

We have read your published statement and understand that Mr. Dowdell was not acting in any official capacity. However, though he may not have compromised the City of Auburn legally, he has most certainly compromised Auburn's well-deserved progressive image, as evidenced by the public outcry his vandalism has prompted. This negative public relations situation has been further exacerbated by Mr. Dowdell's arrogant and defiant reaction to this same outcry. According to at least one news report (www.oanow.com) he stated, "If I had my way, I would have broke them [the flags] all up and stomped on them and burned them " If Mr. Dowdell is allowed to get away with his lawless behavior and his inflammatory defense of it, the City's credibility can only suffer more.

Mr. Dowdell has a right to his opinion. He does not have the right to express that opinion through trespass, theft and destruction of property. No doubt the City of Auburn has rules in place governing the public conduct of Council members and surely Mr. Dowdell has violated those rules. Accordingly, we join the Alabamans who have contacted us in suggesting that justice and ordinary decency would be served by the City's demanding his resignation.

Sincerely yours,

Roger W. McCredie
Executive Director

Shown At Right:

Auburn, Alabama: City councilman, Arthur L. Dowdell, poses with flags he took from the graves of Confederate Soldiers. Dowdell is a "nut case," a self-styled bishop of his own church, of which he may be the only member. These flags are placed every year at this time by the United Daughters of the Confederacy on their ancestor's graves. One of these ladies saw this man remove the flag from her ancestor's grave and break it. Later, when this matter became public, Dowdell reported to the FBI that he had been threatened.



The Confederate Battle Flag—symbol of manly courage

By
Ira Hansen

Ira Hansen was until recently a conservative radio talk show host on KKFT in Reno, Nevada; and before that on KKOH also in Reno. He also writes articles for the Sparks Tribune. He has been writing newspaper articles for many years in addition to owning and operating Hansen and Sons Plumbing. His most recent article, appearing in both the Sparks Tribune and Elko Daily Free Press is shown as follows. He is well aware that the Stars and Bars is not the Battle Flag. The general public here in Nevada to whom this article was directed is not aware of that distinction and he is trying to connect with them.

“On they come with the old swing route step and swaying Battle Flags. In the van, the proud Confederate Ensign! Before us in proud humiliation stood the embodiment of manhood; men whom neither the toils and sufferings, nor the fact of death could bend from their resolve; standing before us now, thin, worn and famished, but erect and with eyes looking level into ours, waking memories that bound us together as no other bond; was not such manhood to be welcomed back into our Union so tested and assured? On our part not a sound of trumpet more, nor roll of drum; not a cheer, nor word, nor whisper or vain-glorious, nor motion of man but an awed stillness rather; and breath-holding, as if it were the passing of the dead!”

The above is a description of the formal surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia in 1865 as described by General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, wounded six times defending the Union. Leading the surrendering Confederates was General John B. Gordon, wounded five times, including being shot in the face, in the valiant but futile effort to create the Confederate States of America.

Today of course, all of the brave soldiers both North and South are long gone, but the symbols of their almost unbelievable devotion to duty live on in the flags of their causes. For the sons of the South, the “Stars and Bars,” the Confederate Battle Flag, the “proud Confederate ensign” as described by Chamberlain, is their tie to their valiant ancestors.

Like a lot of Americans, I have a healthy dose of both Yankee and Rebel blood in me and am extremely proud of the “lost cause” and the attempts to preserve the original States Rights position of the U.S. Constitution. In spite of what most believe, the War Between the States was not about slavery per se, but about whether or not a State had the right to leave the Union. Eleven southern states attempted to leave and were by force of arms, coerced back into the Union.

Slavery was a serious dispute between the two sides, as was tariffs, but not the major issue of the war, as so many are taught today. Five of the northern states were slave states and one of those, West Virginia, was created during the Civil War and allowed to enter the Union with slavery fully intact. Lincoln himself was afraid to issue his so-called “Emancipation Proclamation” for fear of losing a large portion of his armies to desertion. They were fighting to preserve the Union, not eliminate slavery.

In point of fact, Lincoln freed the slaves where he did not have the power to do so, while maintaining slavery in all the territory—including sections of the Union-occupied South—where he could have freed them. As he at the time pointed out, the Emancipation Proclamation was aimed at harming the Southern economy much more than at striking a moral blow against slavery.

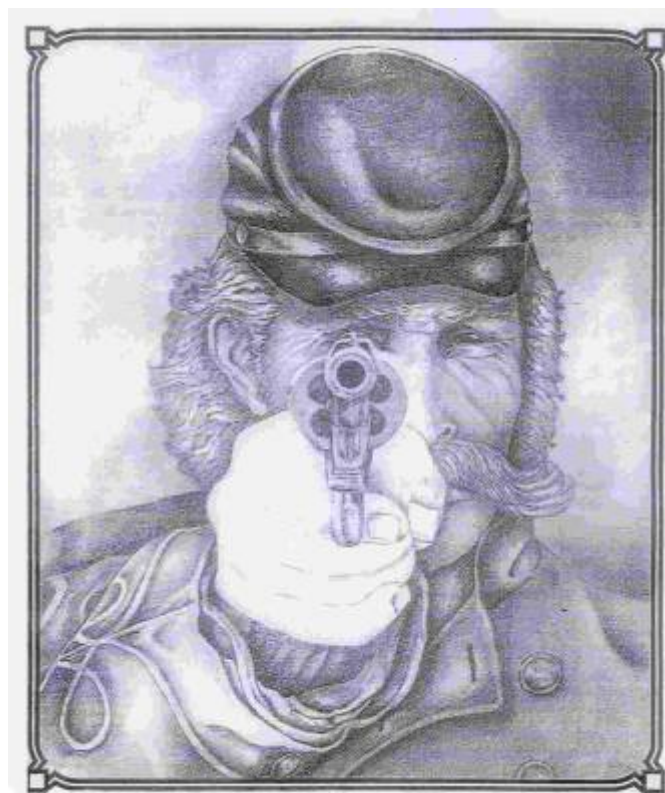
The issue today, that the Confederate Battle Flag is a symbol of slavery, etc. is a classic example of how ignorant most Americans are about our nation’s history. Anyone who has read the Confederate Constitution,

studied the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, read Calhoun's arguments on nullification and delved into the ideology behind the attempts at seceding knows the Southern position represents the original intent of the majority of our founding fathers. The death of the Confederacy was in fact the death of Federalism, the division of power between the equal States with a common, intentionally weak central government handling primarily the foreign affairs and general needs of this union of states known as the United States of America. By way of contrast, today, as Nevadans know oh so well, the central "Federal" government is an almost unbridled and an increasingly dangerous power, while states have become practically impotent.

But the Confederate Flag is to me not so much about ideology, but about manly courage, bravery, struggle against great odds, heroic battlefield actions. It represents many of my heroes: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Nathan Bedford Forrest, Jefferson Davis and yes, my Rebel ancestors. To dishonor this flag, their symbol, is to dishonor their memory and the great cause for which they gave their all. I would rather die a thousand deaths than do something so disgraceful. Sacrifice their honor to the cowardly political correctness of today? The thought makes me ashamed.

The Confederate Flag also represents a way of life now gone but still largely influential in our thinking. The greatest statesmen in American history have been Southern; in fact, all our great documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Monroe Doctrine were written by Southerners. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Patrick Henry, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, John Randolph and George Mason were all Southerners. Their brilliant minds and powerful pens created the blueprints from which our nation was built and their warrior hearts and actions won us our liberty from England.

Above my desk where I write this column every week, tacked on the wall, is a Confederate Battle Flag. I fly it proudly in honor and in memory of a great cause and my brave ancestors who fought for that cause. Give it up? Take it down? Never!



SMILE...when you say DIXIE!