



# Sons of Confederate Veterans

## The Hunley Torpedo



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

Number Two

Website: [www.dixon-hunley.org](http://www.dixon-hunley.org)

Second Quarter

### Camp Report

We will begin the new dues year for the SCV on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Currently, there are 65 members in our camp. Our peak was 103. Dues notices will be going out by August.

### Highlights from our May Meeting

In January we hold our Lee / Jackson Dinner as is traditional throughout the South. However, the weather can be really ugly here in the Washoe Valley during that month. This year we were lucky and the bad weather struck on both sides of our event but not during it. And our attendance was a healthy 55 in number.

In April we have our Confederate Memorial Day, the most important event of the year on our calendar. However, this year our attendance was down to 30. But it was a lively 30. Half of us went to the Claim Jumper for lunch afterward.

Considering these facts, at the meeting in May, our men responded positively to a proposal to combine both events and move them into the spring. This means we will forego having a chapel service at mid-day. We will probably add a Roll Call of States to an inclusive dinner in the evening. We may still have a chapel service every few years.

### Reunion

Every July, the SCV has a convention, commonly called Reunion in a different location. This year it will be held in Anderson, SC. Five members of our camp will be in attendance including three from Sparks. We will have much to share with all y'all upon our return.

**Next Meeting:** It will be September; the camp goes dark during the months of July and August.



Above

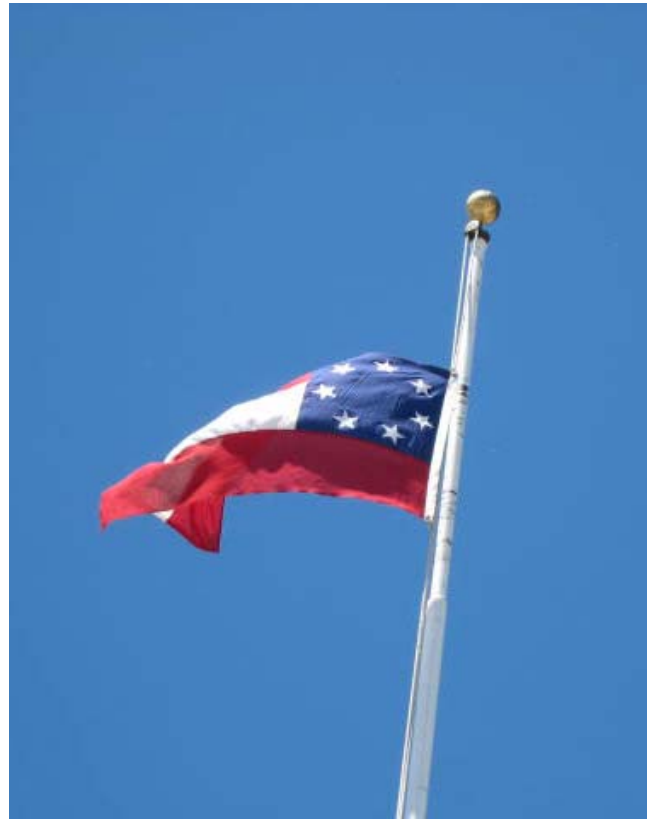
The Stars and Bars being raised over Virginia City, in commemoration of the historical precedent of this event in Virginia City in June of 1862. More photos of this are shown on page two.

### Our New Bank and Financial Report

Recently, our trustees, Cmdr Lee Cross and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mike Cushing transferred our account to Bank of the West—and oh! What a difference. As tax-exempt group, all they require us to do is to maintain a savings account balance in the amount of one Yankee dollar with no restrictions on our checking account. And, our first batch of checks was free. Add to this, the bank rep' and fine lady who helped us, Lisa, made a special trip from the Sparks Branch to Reno, so that Mike could rendezvous with her during his lunch hour and add his name to the account. This level of treatment is so unprecedented that it left Mike and me speechless. Our previous bank, Wells Fargo, started charging us \$5 per month if our account dipped below \$250. We are a working camp; we put our money where our hearts lie and subsequently we don't maintain large balances. Currently our balance is a healthy \$185. Over the past 7 years we have raised and donated over \$10,000.

## Our Annual Flag Raising in Virginia City, Nevada

It was a beautiful day in Virginia City when we proudly ran up the Stars and Bars in the center of town. This is a seven year tradition for us now with the permission and blessing of the Delta Saloon which owns the premises. Our attendance which has reached a high of 30, unfortunately this year was a record low of only six.



## In Tribute of Alan Stang

Compatriots:

Shown on the following pages are two articles written by radio host / author, Alan Stang. He passed away last year and his wife gave me permission to reproduce these in our newsletter. I had the good fortune to speak with him on a couple of occasions. He was an award-winning journalist who long ago worked as a writer for Mike Wallace before Wallace went to 60 Minutes. Mr. Stang began his career as an editor for Prentice-Hall in New York. As a radio host in Los Angeles many years ago, his program drew twice as many listeners as did that of Larry King. He was an avid conservative and anti-communist and the author of 17 books including *It's Very Simple*, a history of the civil rights movement and *Scumbags I Have Known* which featured Mike Wallace's picture on the cover. Alan Stang more recently resided in Texas and hosted a show called *The Sting of Stang* on the Republic Broadcasting System. I should have been including Mr. Stang's material in our newsletter for years; but better now than never. So, enjoy these articles from his website which is still up, should you want to look at more.

Alan Stang



## Sherman: Racist, Terrorist, Monster

In our last piece, we saw that what Union forces conducted in the South was not just a war but a reign of terror. The man who conducted that terror was General William T. Sherman. The only thing most Americans brainwashed in government schools know about Sherman is his comment, “War is hell,” which creates the utterly spurious impression that he hated war.

What do we know about General Sherman? Our source for this discussion is Michael Fellman’s *Citizen Sherman* (New York, Random House, 1995). It is an ideal source for two reasons. First, Fellman is a Canadian, and therefore once removed from the partiality that bedevils Americans. Second, his book is not at all an exposé. Michael Fellman admires Sherman.

Let’s begin with Sherman’s attitude towards slavery and blacks: “Sherman simply was indifferent to any moral dimension of the slavery issue in large part because he did not see Negroes as humans.” Were you taught this in school?

In December, 1859, Sherman wrote, “I would not if I could abolish or modify slavery. . . . Negroes (sic) in the great numbers that exist here must of necessity be slaves.” To his wife, he wrote, “Like Burton in ‘Toodles’ I say, ‘damn the niggers.’ . . .” These were by no means drunken aberrations, but lifelong bedrock beliefs.

In like fashion, Sherman denigrated Jews: Fellman speaks of “his assumptions about the inferiority of the whole race of blacks that fitted them for slavery. This racialism was in large part replicated . . . in Sherman’s opinions of the Jews. He blamed the war on blacks as he blamed it on Jews. . . .”

In a letter to his wife, on August 20, 1862, he wrote, “The cause of the war is not alone in the nigger, but in the mercenary spirit of our countrymen.” Fellman explains: “For Sherman, the personification of this evil mercenary spirit was the speculator, and the speculator was the Jew.”

Drenched in so much racist garbage, you will probably not be surprised to learn that Sherman could have been insane. During the war, friendly biographer Fellman writes, “. . . Sherman could neither run a theater of command nor hold himself together. He fell into what we would now consider a clinical depression, and on November 9 was removed from command in disgrace. This catastrophe and its aftermath were the nadir of Sherman’s career and of his life.”

Like his racism, Sherman’s madness was not an aberration. Later, he spent considerable time with New York journalist William G. Shanks. “. . . Sherman simply never sat still, Shanks wrote. His fingers were always busy, ‘twitching his red whiskers – his coat buttons – playing a tattoo on the table – or running through his hair.’ While sitting he would cross and uncross his legs continuously. And on and on he talked, nervously and obsessively. ‘He must talk quick, sharp . . . making his odd gestures which . . . emphasize his language. He never hesitates at interrupting anyone, but he cannot bear to be interrupted himself.’ . . .”

Mrs. Sherman rushed to his side, “knowing insanity to be in the family.” She was “tortured by fears,” which “have been only in part relieved since I got here.” He had written “that he felt he might be crazy, which was rather more confirmed than refuted by the other evidence she had discovered in Louisville.” He ate and slept rarely. Worse, “he seemed to have lost normal human contact with those around him on his staff.” He was obsessive and delusional.

“. . . She also noted a prior bout of depression in 1856-57, in California, to which she might have added his bitterly unhappy stay in Kansas in 1858-59 . . . . Sherman had at least one later episode of depression, in 1878,

and one of his sons became a deeply depressive adult.” Finally, friendly biographer Fellman calls Sherman a “madman.”

This is the madman who conducted the literal reign of terror described in my companion piece, “Yankee Genocide: Still Here.” Fellman calls him an “enormous terrorist.” Toward the end of the war, he wrote his wife, “. . . I find myself a leader to whom not only my soldiers look to but the President and the People. Not only our own, but foreigners and the South now accord me one of the Great Leaders of armies, endowed with extraordinary qualities.” It was up and down all the way, from the slough of despond to Great Leader.

What kind of war did this lunatic wage? Fellman says it was “a prolonged war of purposeful terror.” The terror was “an intentional policy and not just a lack of control. . . . This madman and his swarming bummers seemed to have no implicit limits . . .” So Sherman destroyed the modern concept of humane war that spares civilians and replaced it with the Communist idea of scorched earth. The thought is not fanciful. Historically terrorism is perpetrated by governments. Soviet dictator Lenin is supposed to have said that, at bottom, “Communism is terror.”

At war’s end, Sherman was still not finished. Now he set out to exterminate the Plains Indians. The word “extermination” is not inapt. He used it himself again and again. “We must act with vindictive earnestness against the Sioux, even to their extermination, men, women and children.”

Here is how Sherman conducted his campaign of extermination. “Although Sherman had not ordered an extermination campaign in so many words, he had given [General Phil] Sheridan prior authorization to slaughter as many women and children as well as men Sheridan or his subordinates felt was necessary when they attacked Indian villages. However many they killed, Sherman would cover the political and media front. They were freed to do anything. At the same time, Sherman maintained personal deniability—he could assert in any public forum that he had not ordered any atrocities that might occur. . . .”

Very clever for a crazy man, right? So we are talking about a homicidal lunatic, who endured uncharacteristic bouts of sanity. What do we know about Sherman’s personal life? No biographical sketch would be complete without some discussion of Sherman’s womanizing. What? Womanizing? In the middle of all that killing?

Your incredulity is logical. The ordinary man couldn’t do it. But, remember, we are not talking about an ordinary man. We are talking about Great Leader, the war chief, “charming, witty, energetic, and aggressive,” swarmed by women wherever he went. Fellman writes:

“. . . One does not know how many women he chased, or the number of his conquests – Victorian codes of seduction were deliberately cloaked with ambiguity, and the archival record is far from complete in such matters – but judging by the available evidence Sherman must have been a very energetic womanizer.”

Here is an example of Great Leader at work: “. . . Marszalek quotes the unpublished memoir of Mildred Hazen Dewey, who when the young wife of General William B. Hazen, one of Sherman’s former division commanders, found Sherman’s advances . . . quite aggressive. At one party the general backed her into a corner until she finally ‘called a halt.’”

Some of you, world weary and cynical, may now be thinking, okay, so he was a womanizer. So what? Eisenhower diddle Kay Sommersby. Jack Kennedy diddle Fiddle and Faddle. Billy Bubba Slime Diddled God knows what. But Ike and Jack at least were old-fashioned gentlemen. Ike didn’t go out of his way to rub Mamie’s face in Kay. Jack didn’t rub Jackie’s face in Fiddle. Here is how Great Leader did it:

“The more he thought of bringing Mary to St. Louis, the more aroused Sherman became. On December 18, 1883, he wrote her in the role of the ancient Greek kidnapper that he was coming to Washington on January 16,

‘ready to carry you bodily (willingly if possible – violently if necessary) to St. Louis, Missouri, where your friends demand your presence.’ . . . ‘You can have the guest room right over my office and though somewhat jealous of my rights, I think I will let you have pretty free range of my sanctum’ – his private dayroom and bedroom. He planned to bring his mistress to his bed right under his despised wife’s nose, passing her off as a friend of his wife and daughters.”

Is that world class panache, or what? Wife Ellen on one floor, Mistress Mary on another; so that unlike your ordinary womanizer, Sherman never had to sneak out, never had to concoct a cover story. Whatever his mood, he would go to the appropriate floor. Of course, only a Great Leader could pull it off.

This is the monster who ran Lincoln’s Communist war to destroy the Union. This is how we got where we are. Indeed, the reason his story is so relevant today is that the men who now control America have the very same mentality – the same lunatic, consuming hubris – and they are doing the same things.

Posted by [Alan Stang](#) on 06/03 at 03:12 PM

## **Yankee Genocide: Still Here**

Our source for the present discussion is *War Crimes Against Southern Civilians*, by Walter Brian Cisco (Pelican, Gretna, Louisiana, 2007). It is important to establish that the spiritual and political inheritors of the war criminals who committed those crimes do not deny them. They ignore them, hoping that if they say nothing those crimes will fade away; and so far they have been successful. Remember, the winner of a war writes the history of the war. They will respond only if their crimes become sufficiently known.

It is important to correct the record. The crimes and the criminals need to be named. More, they must be explained, because the motives that inspired them continue to motivate the men who run our country, regardless of political party. As we shall see, little has changed. Only if we drag this continuing horror into the light do we have a chance of exorcising it.

Let’s begin with a revealing contrast. In 1863, Confederate General Robert E. Lee invaded the North. The South by then had suffered two years of Yankee crimes and some Southerners thought the invasion was their chance to retaliate. Not so, said Lee. In a proclamation he reminded his men that “the duties exacted of us by civilization and Christianity are not less obligatory in the country of the enemy than in our own.”

“The commanding general considers that no greater disgrace could befall the army, and through it our whole people, than the perpetration of the barbarous outrages upon the unarmed and defenseless and the wanton destruction of private property, that have marked the course of the enemy in our own country. . . .”

Remember that at the beginning of the war Lincoln offered Lee command of the Union army. Imagine the humane result had he been able to accept. We make war “only upon armed men,” said Lee. Taking vengeance for the “atrocities of our enemies” would lower ourselves and offend “against Him to whom vengeance belongeth.” What atrocities is he talking about? Our source is divided into the states of the Confederacy. Let’s begin with Missouri.

Union Brigadier General James H. Lane: “We believe in a war of extermination. I want to see every foot of ground . . . burned over – everything laid waste. . . .” Whoa! A war of extermination? Why? Wasn’t the restoration of the Union the goal of all this? Wouldn’t that have been accomplished simply by occupying the offending states? As we shall see, some other motive was at work.

But so it was. Civilians, male and female – yes, female – died by the hundreds in diseased Yankee jails. The Yankees stole everything they could lift. Lane himself stole a carriage, a piano and women’s dresses. My favorite was his chaplain, Rev. Hugh D. Fisher, who stole the altar furnishings from an Osceola church. He needed them for his own church in Kansas. “Brethren, let us worship.”

A long caravan of stolen property wound its way to Kansas. Arson, theft and murder became commonplace. No citizen was allowed to own guns or ammunition. At war’s end, vast sections of Missouri were uninhabited. Lane’s policy of extermination had been imposed.

General William T. Sherman wrote that “rebel” farms should be given to immigrants from the North. “Enemies must be killed or transported to some other country.” Deported Missourians left the state in miles-long wagon trains laden with household effects. Foraging Yankees robbed and killed them on the way. One report speaks of a road “crowded with women and children, women walking with their babies in their arms, packs on their backs and four or five children following after them . . . .”

There is a word for all this. At the time, the word had not yet been coined. It is “genocide.” Indeed, that is what the UN calls forcibly removing one population and replacing it with another. Genocide was settled Yankee policy imposed from the top.

In Tennessee, pastors were told to declare allegiance to the Union. They refused and were jailed. Episcopal rector George Harris was arrested and told to pray for Lincoln or be hanged. Happily, he was able to escape. The Yankees used his church to store munitions. The Communists would later do something similar to churches in Russia. The Yankees closed every church in Murfreesboro and all the schools in Nashville. In that city, there was an election for circuit court judge and the secessionist won. He was arrested, charged with treason and sent to the penitentiary.

How did the Yankees treat blacks? In Athens, Alabama, they raped a slave girl at the home of Charlotte Hine. At the John Malone plantation, they went to the slave quarters and raped again. A black woman charged a soldier with the crime; his commanding officer refused to prosecute: “I would not arrest one of my men on Negro testimony.” Doesn’t your Communist school textbook say the Yankees had come to free the slaves, not to rape them?

In New Orleans, Cpl. William M. Chinock raped Mary Ellen De Riley, a black woman. He was fined \$40 and reduced to private. Captain S. Tyler Reed fired his pistol at William Bird, a black boy, and put out an eye. His sentence? A reprimand. Major General Benjamin Butler, known as the “Beast,” made crooked millions in New Orleans, committed outrageous atrocities and was the only Union commander the Confederacy called a criminal. After the war the people of Massachusetts elected him Governor, proving that, with some noble exceptions, they were already as stupid as they are now.

In occupied Virginia, Union Brig. Gen. Robert H. Milroy wrote his wife that “my will is absolute law – none dare contradict or dispute my slightest word or wish . . . both male and female tremble when they come into my presence . . . I feel a strong disposition to play the tyrant among these traitors.” Wow! They actually trembled, Bob? So then, you must have been something like a god, correct?

In South Carolina, “. . . The free blacks who made up Charleston’s force of firefighters struggled heroically to protect their city and its people.” Free blacks? In South Carolina? Trusted to run the fire department? Hmm!

In Louisiana, Union brigadier general William Dwight wrote: “The scenes of disorder and pillage . . . were disgraceful to civilized war. Houses were entered and all in them destroyed . . . Ladies were frightened into delivering their jewels and valuables into the hands of the soldiers by threats of violence toward their husbands.

Negro women were ravished in the presence of white women and children.” The Union, forever! Hurrah, boys, hurrah.”

“The home, barn, and store of Samuel Schmulen were looted and burned. . . . Benjamin George, a fifty-year-old slave who lived nearby . . . tried to help his neighbor at least try to save the store. The effort was in vain. Then a group of drunken soldiers surrounded George, demanding to know why he, a black man, would try to assist this white Southerner. They demanded his money, and when George pleaded that he did not have any, one of the soldiers shot him in the right thigh. He survived the wound but was crippled for life.”

The forced evacuation of Atlanta saw “aged grandmothers upon the verge of the grave, tender girls in the first bloom of young womanhood, and little babes not three days old in the arms of sick mothers, thrown out upon the cold charity of the world.” A Yankee reported, “The African Methodist Episcopal Church, built by the colored people with their hard earnings, was also demolished by our soldiers.”

Union war criminals even introduced a criminal scheme later perfected by Chicago gangsters. One of them told a lady he had orders to burn her house, but, “I’ll insure it for fifty dollars.” Selling “insurance” against their own depredations was one extortion technique they used. “You buy my insurance or I breaka you head. Capish?”

In Columbia, South Carolina, Union terrorists stole everything. “Purses, watches, hats, boots, overcoats . . . were taken from victims, white or black.” A witness says: “Commissioned officers, of a rank so high as that of a colonel, were frequently among the most active.” They took the rings from the fingers of a dying woman. They urinated on the beds. They opened graves in search of lucre and left the corpses on the ground.

But here is la pièce de résistance. “Countless women had earrings ripped from bleeding ears.” A foreign diplomat wrote: “I have myself seen a lady with the lobes of both ears torn asunder.” Witnesses saw soldiers torching the Catholic convent. “What do you think of God now?” they shouted to the nuns. “Is not Sherman greater? . . .”

In St. Landry Parish alone, in western Louisiana, there were 1,596 free blacks just before the war. Some owned sugar plantations and slaves. What? Yes, blacks owned slaves. Invading Yankees were shocked. One Connecticut officer was indignant because they dared “call themselves Americans.” The Yankees stole from these free blacks as well as from the whites.

In Nashville, in September, 1862, blue bellies couldn’t find seats in a crowded theater. They ejected blacks from the “Negro gallery,” beat them and threw them down the stairs. After enjoying the performance, they attacked every black they found in the streets. In Gallatin, in May, 1864, they torched two new schools for black children, murdered one freedman and swore they would kill every black in town.

In southeast Georgia there were many free blacks who had accumulated substantial property. Indeed, so had hard working slaves. Union goons stole it all, even threatening black wives. In some cases, black husbands had to rescue them. They stole everything from a black nurse and killed her animals. “Honey, I never knowed a Yankee that wasn’t mean as dirt. . . . What can you spec from a hog but a grunt.”

And finally, in Columbia: “One black woman . . . was raped by seven soldiers of the United States Army. She then had her face forced down into a shallow ditch and was held there until she drowned.” William Gilmore Simms reported how “regiments, in successive relays,” committed “gang rape on scores of slave women.” On the Sumter District plantation, the corpses of eighteen black women were found. Each had been stabbed in the chest with a bayonet. Yankee war criminals had done with them.

Remember, these are just a few examples. You really need to read the book. So what are we looking at? Obviously it is considerably different from the mostly mythical war to “free the slaves” your high school

textbook told you about. Notice that it is motivated by an insane, messianic fury. The war criminals are enraged, utterly out of control. About what? Obviously not about slavery. Men outraged by slavery do not rob, rape and murder slaves. And remember that chief war criminal Lincoln was as foul a racist as ever lived, even discomfited other racists, staunchly defended slavery and wanted to ship American blacks “back” to Africa.

No, what drove these Yankee war criminals insane was that the Southerners had dared to come out from under, to say no to the Leviathan state, to total government, to go their own way. They had expressed their freedom through secession. They had invoked their inalienable right to depart.

A debate endures about whether they had the constitutional right to secede. I don’t know why. I can solve the problem for all time. The Founding Fathers seceded from England. In the Declaration of Independence – the nation’s birth certificate – they said that whenever a people find their government oppressive, they have the right to alter or abolish it. To argue that there is no right to secede is to say that only a few years later, these same men, would concoct a document – the Constitution – in which they would deny themselves that blood-bought right.

Indeed, there were a few incipient attempts to secede before Lincoln. No one tried to argue that secession was illegal. One area that seriously considered secession was New England. What? Yes. And all through the Twentieth Century, did not the United States vociferously advance the right to secede for other people? We even fought a couple of wars, and lost thousands of the best of the best, to ensure the independence of South Korea and South Vietnam. Could there possibly be a straight-faced argument that other people deserve independence but we do not?

The Founding Fathers did not create slavery; they inherited 150 years of it. Many Southern slaves were sold to the South by Yankee slavers who no longer had need of them. Slavery was an intolerable stain on the American record. That stain could only be expunged by total abolition. Other countries, including Russia, abolished it without violence. Only ours did so at the cost of some 600,000 men and the destruction of the Union, by men who claimed to revere it and who had owned slaves themselves – and who did all this to keep the South in economic subjection.

But even this is not the core. Remember the strutting Yankee generals who confused themselves with God. Indeed, remember the terrorist assertion that insane mass murderer Sherman actually outranks God. Consider the messianic fury we have mentioned. Something more than mere greed was at work.

It is literally a satanic perversion of Christianity, a perversion pretending to be Christianity, which erupts time and again across the centuries. From time to time people who are smarter than God appear, usurpers who have the temporal power to do the job right. If you disagree with them they burn you at the stake. If you try to get out from under them, they scream you are a rebel. You have betrayed them. They will rob and rape you, they will kill you; they will invade and burn your country to the ground, to persuade you to see it their way. Either do that or die. They are disciples of Satan.

The reason this is so relevant is that this very mentality rules the nation today. That is why the federal juggernaut is so merciless, so confiscatory, so totalitarian. Reconstruction continues, not just of the South; this time of the whole nation, conducted by men consumed by hubris, who believe they can improve upon God.

But Sherman is still dead. God is alive.

Posted by [Alan Stang](#) on 05/25 at 04:39 PM

I thank God Almighty for your courageous and inspiring account of the Truth! Sometimes I feel like John the Baptist, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness". Still, I know that I am not the only one left who loves the Truth and hates the Big Lie! God bless you and God bless the Confederate States of America!



## **A Brief History of Confederate Torpedo Warfare, 1861-1865**

At the war's beginning, the Confederate States was an aggregate of several different states each with its own military units and organizations. Once the Confederate government was formed and a navy formally established, an attempt was made to raise officers, men, and ships, for service. The same was true of the army.

Matthew F. Maury with the approval of the Confederate government began immediately experimenting with torpedoes. His initial attempts were fruitful and his work tended to be primarily with electricity. He drew several Confederate naval officers (mostly former US Navy officers who had served with him) to the torpedo ranks on a full-time or part-time basis. These men included Isaac Newton Brown, Hunter Davidson, and Beverly Kennon. In late 1862, however, Maury was urged to go to England for the purpose of carrying out trials on torpedoes and aiding in purchasing supplies for the Confederacy. He left Virginia and turned his operation over to Hunter Davidson, who commanded it through the rest of the war. Davidson was a hands-on commander, supervising the laying of torpedoes in the James River and captaining the CSS Torpedo, a specially designed torpedo craft. At the war's end, some torpedo personnel assisted Union forces in locating and destroying Confederate torpedoes in commercial waterways.

General Gabriel J. Raines tinkered incessantly with explosive devices. Finally, at Yorktown in 1862, he demonstrated their usefulness as a means of impeding enemy forces and destroying enemy morale. As soon as General James Longstreet discovered Raines' activities, he immediately ordered them halted as unmanly warfare. Raines not to be dissuaded took the argument to the then Secretary of War, George W. Randolph. Randolph, in a moment of political dancing, declared that it was not permissible in warfare to indiscriminately take a life. However, if taking that life served a true military purpose (like killing a general), then it was acceptable. Randolph then offered Raines the opportunity to move away from the tactical infantry matters and go to the riverine areas, where torpedo operations were clearly admissible. Raines left immediately for the rivers.

In October 1862, partially as a result of General Raines' run-in with General Longstreet over the use of sub-terra shells in the war, Confederate Congress passed a law creating a secret service organization, the Navy's Submarine Battery Service and the Army's Torpedo Bureau. The General separation between the navy and the army units was water and land. However, when it came to riverine warfare, the lines were not so distinct. As it worked in practice, there some inter-service rivalry, but for the most part, military units worked together to the common end.

At Charleston, SC, and Mobile, AL, both types of units worked in the defenses. As the fortune of the Confederacy waned, the expertise of the torpedo organizations improved. By late 1863, both torpedo organizations were rapidly mining land and sea locations much to the detriment of Union forces. At the end of the war, a witch hunt by Union forces during the investigation of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln decided that the rebel secret service was responsible for the act. So, arrest warrants were issued and troops sent to round up former torpedo operators and commanders. Few, if any, were found and arrested.

Torpedo unit organization was loose. Usually one or two officers supervised any number of enlisted personnel. In those organizations organized under authorization of the Secretary of War, it was left to the organizer how to structure his group. Torpedo Bureau personnel were regarded as member of the Engineer Bureau assigned to special duty with torpedoes.

And, finally, the contribution of the torpedoes should not be underestimated. They were used in the hundreds of thousands. They prevented the taking of a number of Confederate Ports until the absolute end of the war. They stalled the Union advances on fortified Confederate positions. They had an undoubted morale effect on the Union troops.

## Confederate Torpedo Boats

The best-known Confederate torpedo boat was the CSS David (as in "David and Goliath"), built in Charleston, S.C. The David was a small, cigar-shaped steam launch, very low in the water, which depended on stealth for success. The David attacked the ironclad USS New Ironsides at night on Oct. 5, 1863. The New Ironsides was damaged, but not sunk. The attack, however, instilled a fear of attack by torpedo boats into every Union captain blockading Charleston. Numerous Davids were subsequently built in Charleston and other Southern ports.

It must be pointed out that the CSS Hunley was a true submarine and not one of these torpedo boats. And these torpedo boats were not submarines. Some of them had ballast tanks for the purpose of lowering the bulk of their hull below the water line. But they were steam powered and the stack always remained above water.

The term "torpedo" meant an explosive device consisting of a metal or wooden case filled with gunpowder intended for detonation below an enemy vessel's waterline. There were two types: the static or fixed torpedo, anchored underwater and detonated with a contact fuse or by electric current from an observer ashore (something we would today call a naval mine); and a torpedo attached to a spar (a wooden or iron pole) at the bow of a ship for ramming underneath an enemy vessel's waterline prior to detonation.

The CSS David in 1865



## Confederate Agent Maxwell

Confederate secret agent John Maxwell used a clockwork mechanism to detonate a large "horological torpedo" (time bomb) on August 9, 1864. The bomb was hidden in a box marked "candles" and placed aboard a barge containing Union ammunition (20,000–30,000 artillery shells and 75,000 small arms rounds) moored at City Point, Virginia, on the James River. The explosion caused more than US\$2 million in damage and killed at least 43 people.

The small village of City Point, Virginia, was located where the Appomattox River joined the James River. In 1838, a rail line was constructed connecting Petersburg and City Point. Though Petersburg was on the Appomattox River, the James was far more navigable. City Point, with regular steamboat service to New York City, became a port of entry for goods being shipped to Petersburg. Most of this commerce ended with the start of the American Civil War, and the increasingly effective Federal blockade – particularly of the James River, with the Federals never losing control of Fort Monroe, at the base of the river. What was left of City Point's commerce ended on May 5, 1864. On May 5th, the same day that the Army of the Potomac entered the Wilderness, Benjamin Butler's Army of the James landed at Bermuda Hundred. Some black troops were detached and sent to occupy City Point. On June 15th, General Grant arrived and made City Point his headquarters.

By August 1864, City Point was not just Grant's headquarters but was also the central supply depot and distribution point for supplies for the campaign against Petersburg and Richmond. Sending supplies by ship was more efficient than by land. The sea was also safer, with the near total Federal control of the coastal waters. Land routes ran into danger from Confederate guerillas. The quiet village had become a very busy port and supply distribution center for two armies. And these armies needed huge amounts of supplies. For example, each day army animals alone required 600 tons of grain and oats. The army quartermaster and other supply departments had remembered something about sieges. The attacker, as well as the defender, has supply problems. Federal storage facilities at City Point always kept on hand 20 days supply for forage for the animals and a 30-day supply of rations for the soldiers. The Federals also constructed a railroad, starting at the City Point docks, below a bluff from most of the village, and running in back of the Federal trenches at Petersburg, to carry supplies directly to the armies at the front. City Point was the center of a major war effort. It was one thing more. City Point was a very tempting target.

On July 26, 1864, John Maxwell, a Confederate secret agent, set out from Richmond. Another agent accompanied Maxwell; a man named R. R. Dillard. Maxwell carried what he called a "horological torpedo." This was a time bomb he had invented, and was under orders to use against Federal vessels on the James. The agents' roundabout route brought them to Norfolk, about 50 miles southeast of City Point. At Norfolk, they learned about the massive amounts of Federal supplies at City Point. They decided to go to City Point and blow up one of the Federal supply vessels. August 9th was a Tuesday. The day was also going to be exceedingly hot, noticeable even during a very hot and dry summer. One Federal soldier noted the temperature at 98 degrees, and this was at 6:30 in the morning. Perhaps the heat helped Maxwell and Dillard as they slipped through Federal lines. Everyone would be sweating, not just nervous enemy agents. They passed undetected through the Federal picket line at City Point. Dillard hid at the outskirts of the port, while Maxwell went on with his torpedo – actually a large box, though probably not otherwise noticeable, containing somewhere between 12 and 15 pounds of explosives. After arriving in the dock area, Maxwell noticed the captain of one supply barge leave his vessel on an errand. Maxwell headed towards the vessel. He told a sentry, who stopped him, that the captain had ordered him to put the box on board. There is no indication that the sentry thought of the elementary security move to ask Maxwell the name of the captain, or that the sentry even knew the name of the captain.

Maxwell activated the bomb, and gave it to a man from the barge to put on board. Maxwell and Dillard found a place to hide, in view of the barge but far enough away to be safe from the resultant explosion. Maxwell had chosen well. The supply barge, the J.E. Kendrick, was loaded with ammunition. Ulysses S. Grant had just returned to City Point from a trip north. He was working outside in the morning heat, and heard a report on alleged Rebel infiltration of City Point. The Union officer, from the Provost Marshall's Office handling counterintelligence, promised to catch the infiltrators. The time bomb then exploded. The J.E. Kendrick was totally vaporized. Another nearby barge blew up, as did a building on the wharf. Later estimates were that two million (1864) dollars worth of supplies and property had been destroyed in the explosion. At least 43 people were killed, though the number was probably higher. There was no way of counting the number of black laborers, unregistered, vaporized by the force of the blast. A known total of 126 people were wounded.



### Some What-ifs of the Confederate Navy

The CSS Mississippi, the largest Confederate ironclad ever designed, was conceived by Tift and his brother Asa and was under construction in New Orleans when the Crescent City fell to Union flag officer David G. Farragut's fleet in April 1862. The unfinished ironclad was burned to prevent its capture by the advancing Yankees.

Relocating to Savannah, the brothers Tift were tasked with converting the blockade runner Fingal into the ironclad CSS Atlanta, which they did successfully. After some false starts and the replacement of a timid commander with the brash, young Cmdr. William Webb, the Atlanta finally ventured into Wassaw Sound, near Savannah, where two powerful Union monitors were waiting. Webb intended to attack and sink both Union ships and then retire to Savannah to wait for the completion of the next ironclad under construction there, the CSS Savannah.

For naval officers, the worst fate is to go aground in the face of the enemy. That is exactly what Webb accomplished. The Atlanta was stuck on a sandbar, and this tilted the side of the ship facing the Union vessels in such a way that it could not bring its guns to bear. After some devastating shots from the 15-inch gun on the USS Weehawken, Webb surrendered.

What if the CSS Mississippi had been completed and was present to face Farragut's wooden fleet? What if the CSS Atlanta had not been so badly handled and had broken out of Wassaw Sound?

# The Heritage Page

Y'all Remember This Guy? Sanford?  
(Perhaps he should stick to chasing his little Argentine Sweetie around and leave the business of governing South Carolina to those who care for its heritage)

## URGENT CALL TO ARMS

### TO ALL COLLECTORS, HISTORIANS

SOUTH CAROLINA  
ARCHIVES & HISTORY DE-FUNDED

### FIGHT VETO # 52

GOV. SANFORD (of "Argentina" fame)

has vetoed the entire budget for the

**South Carolina Relic Room & Military Museum**

as well as for the

**South Carolina State Archives**

#### **Veto #52 Would Eliminate the S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum**

Yesterday Governor Sanford vetoed the Board's entire \$25.2 million General Fund appropriation for the Budget and Control Board for next year. This section of the budget includes the entire General Fund operating budget for the S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum. If this veto is not overridden, the museum will have to cease operations.

In his veto message to the General Assembly, the Governor stated that he was taking this action because the "Board has sufficient carry-forward and other funds to maintain its operations in this fiscal year." This is not correct. There are not sufficient funds to make up the \$25.2 General Fund cut to the Board, which includes \$765,000 for the museum.

This veto represents the greatest threat the museum has faced in its 114 years of existence. If this veto is not overridden it will no longer be able to preserve South Carolina's proud military legacy.

The General Fund pays for the museum's entire operating costs such as staff salaries and utilities. It has already endured five budget cuts in recent years and operates frugally. Ticket and gift shop revenues are modest and will not alone sustain the operation. While the museum has just launched a new membership program, these efforts may take many years to bear fruit. It is also a fact that almost every museum and cultural institution in the country relies on public funds to keep its doors open.

If this veto is sustained, the people of South Carolina don't know what would happen to their artifact and archival collection - valued in the tens of millions of dollars. Anyone can see that it would be a grave concern to the thousands of families who entrusted their irreplaceable artifacts to the museum and the State of South Carolina.

It will require a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate to override the Governor's veto. Please share this message with anyone you know who is interested in preserving our state's rich heritage.

Fast facts about the museum:

- 1896 - Founded
- 2004 – Nationally accredited by the Association of American Museums
- 2006 - A national award for *Write from the Front* that collects photographs & emails from SC servicemen and women serving in the War on Terror.
- 2007 - Museum expanded, opening a large, second gallery and major exhibit, *Forgotten Stories: South Carolina Fights the Great War*
- 2008 - Awarded the *South Carolina Council for the Social Studies'* Program of Excellence award.
- 2002 – 2009 Seven straight years of increasing attendance with April 2010 a record month! Attendance has **doubled** since 2004 and will grow again in 2010

## AND

The SC Department of Archives and History needs your help. Yesterday, Governor Sanford announced his vetoes of the state budget. Among them were three cuts to the SC Department of Archives and History budget, totaling \$980,945. (The House and Senate had approved a budget of the \$2,445, 764 in state funds plus \$200,000 in stimulus funds for the agency for FY 2010-2011.) A link to the Governor's veto is below.

<http://www.scgovernor.com/NR/rdonlyres/1F1ECBAF-9D5D-4C9A-9BEF-136EDBC7F128/35706/H4657AppropriationsAct1.pdf>

Veto 29: Administration and Planning – Other Operating Expenses \$635,445

Veto 30: Old Exchange Building -- \$145,500

Veto 104: Stimulus Funds -- \$200,000

These cuts will make it impossible for Archives and History to continue to fulfill its mission.

If the services and programs of Archives and History have been helpful to you, would you consider letting your local legislator know today, as well as Representative Dan Cooper, Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Representative Chip Limehouse, Chair of the House subcommittee dealing with Archives and History. The legislature will be in session on Tuesday (June 15) to consider the Governor's vetoes.

**Our ability to continue to serve you and the citizens of South Carolina depends upon your support.**