



Sons of Confederate Veterans The Hunley Torpedo

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



Number Four

Website: www.dixon-hunley.org

Fourth Quarter 2012

Camp Report

Elections:

Our newly elected officers for the coming year 2013 are:

Commander: Harold Roberts II
Adjutant: Mike Tocci
Lt. Commander: Lee Cross
Chaplain: Gerry Dunlap
Historian: Ernie Zebal

It was further moved and voted upon to eliminate the office of 2nd Lt. Commander. Also, the office of 1st Lt. Commander was renamed Lt. Commander.

End of Year Report

Membership Report:

We currently have eighty members on our rolls.

Financial Report:

Cash on hand in our bank account:	\$423.78
Cash receivables due:	<u>42.00</u>
Total Assets:	\$465.78

Donations in Calendar Year 2012:

In typical style, our men directly contributed cash and voted camp funds for the following donations:

Bell Research Center / Cumming, GA:	\$876.00
Flag Fight – Lexington, Virginia:	600.00
Southern Legal Resource Center:	350.00
Memorial Hall, New Orleans:	<u>200.00</u>
Total:	\$2,026.00



Next Meeting

It will be on **Saturday, January 12th at 9:30 a.m.** in the private room of the Alamo Truck Stop / Casino. This of course is subject to change based upon the uncertainty of our northern Nevada winters.

Y'all Come

Here's wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. May peace and prosperity and good health be with you all.

Our Ancestors Page on the Website

Compatriots,

It is recommended that all of you who have computers look at our website, even if you have done so recently. Our commander, Harold, has set up an ancestor data base for us. In order to view this, click on the link: Our Camp; and after it takes you there click on the link: Camp Roll Call. This will list our members along with their ancestors. This is optional, if you don't wish to be listed that will be respected. There are also pictures of some of these men and some personal information about them too. We have forty to fifty photos of our ancestors, but Harold needs you to email him images of your copies so that he can achieve the highest quality. I have displayed most of these pictures in past newsletters. But, he needs better copies than we have in those old newsletters.

This is a colossal project, but upon its completion or near completion it should achieve for us one of the most professionally developed websites within the SCV. Please send Harold any information which you would like to have displayed in connection to your ancestry.

The Virginia Flaggers at the Mechanicsville Christmas Parade Photos by Judy Smith



The Virginia Flaggers at the Mechanicsville Christmas Parade

Photos by Judy Smith



Christmas in the Confederacy

In Richmond, where Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his family lived, it was discovered that the orphans at the Episcopalian home had been previously promised a Christmas tree, toys, and candy. The excerpt below shows how the people of Richmond creatively worked together to bring Christmas to the orphans in spite of the war's shortages.

"The kind-hearted confectioner was interviewed by our committee of managers, and he promised a certain amount of his simpler kinds of candy, which he sold easily a dollar and a half a pound, but he drew the line at cornucopias to hold it, or sugared fruits to hang on the tree, and all the other vestiges of Christmas creations which had lain on his hands for years. The ladies dispersed in anxious squads of toy-hunters, and each one turned over the store of her children's treasures for a contribution to the orphan's tree, my little ones rushed over the great house looking up their treasure eyeless dolls, three-legged horses, tops with the upper peg broken off, rubber tops, monkeys with all the squeak gone silent and all the ruck of children's toys that gather in a nursery closet. Some small feathered chickens and parrots which nodded their heads in obedience to a weight beneath them were furnished with new tail feathers, lambs minus much of their wool were supplied with a cotton wool substitute, rag dolls were plumped out and recovered with clean cloth, and the young ladies painted their fat faces in bright colors and furnished them with beads for eyes."

When the orphans received their gifts, "the different gradations from joy to ecstasy which illuminated their faces was 'worth two years of peaceful life' to see."



Johnny Green, of the 4th Kentucky's Orphan Brigade, expressed this sentiment:

"Peace on Earth, Good will to men should prevail. We certainly would preserve the peace if they would go home and let us alone..."

Green further reports he and his comrades received an unexpected and very welcome holiday:

"Our commissary sends word for each Orderly Sergeant to come to his wagon & he will issue one piece of soap to each man. This is indeed good news. Since the Skirmish began at Stockbridge Nov 15 we have not had a chance to wash any more than our faces occasionally & never our feet or bodies until now..."

Confederate General Gordon, writing from his headquarters near Petersburg, wrote of fighting famine as well as General Grant:

"The one worn-out railroad running to the far South could not bring us half enough necessary supplies: and even if it could have transported Christmas boxes of good things, the people at home were too depleted to send them."

His wife, who was with him at headquarters, presented him with a most precious treat for Christmas 1864 - "real" coffee brought from home 'to celebrate our victories in the first years and to sustain us in defeat at the last.'

Christmas Trees in the Confederacy and Pastor Charles Minnigerode

It is impossible to say when regular use of the Christmas tree began in Dixie. In Virginia however, it probably began with Charles Minnigerode. The Christmas tree is an old German tradition. The first Christmas tree recorded in Williamsburg, Virginia was introduced by Charles Minnigerode in 1842. He was a German political refugee who had been tortured and imprisoned in Germany. Charles took a teaching position at William and Mary in 1842. Initially he was living with the family of Judge Nathaniel Tucker and decided to entertain the judge's children by cutting down a small evergreen and displaying it in the family's parlor. It was decorated with strings made from popcorn.

Minnigerode, originally a Lutheran, converted to the Episcopal Faith and in 1845 entered the priesthood. In 1856 he was appointed rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA. He remained there for thirty-three years. St. Paul's was only four blocks from the Confederate White House. After moving to Richmond President Jefferson Davis became friends with Minnigerode and his family regularly attended St. Paul's. In fact, Pastor Minnigerode baptized President Davis.

Minnigerode maintained a close relationship with Davis, and his support of the Southern cause earned him such titles as Father Confessor of the Secession, Father Confessor of the Confederacy, and the Rebel Pastor. He was so popular that it became impossible to even find standing room at his services. Indeed, St. Paul's became known as the "Cathedral of the Confederacy." In March of 1864 fourteen Confederate Generals sat in its pews. One of Minnigerode's sons served in the Confederate Army, another in the Confederate Navy.

He gave the graveside services for General J.E.B. Stuart; presided at the re-interment of President James Monroe and many years later for President Davis; these men being interred at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. Before the war in 1860 Pastor Minnigerode's service was actually attended by the Prince of Wales.

Pastor Minnigerode was the first civilian permitted to visit President Davis after his confinement. And when President Davis was released on bail at federal court in Richmond, Pastor Minnigerode was at his side. In 1868 General Lee, then President of Washington College in Lexington requested the pastor to conduct the baccalaureate service there. After retiring in 1889 he became the chaplain at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. He died in 1894. His grandson wrote the lyrics to the "Whiffinpoof Song" in 1909.

Shown at left: St. Paul's in Richmond Center: The Pastor's own Words

Right: Father Minnigerode



The secession of the Southern States was in defense of their constitutional rights, which were threatened by the aggressive and unconstitutional policy of the Government. That Government was a union of the separate Colonies as sovereign States, which delegated certain powers to the Central Government as the central agent of the sovereign States. The debate about their mutual relation was long, and the two views of the centralized union and a union of sovereign States existed from the beginning. But there would have been no United States at all if the State's rights had not been established by the Constitution.



Jim Limber's Best Christmas Ever

On the morning of February 15, 1864, Mrs. Varina Davis, wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, had concluded her errands and was driving her carriage down the streets of Richmond on her way home. She heard screams from a distance and quickly went to the scene to see what was happening. Mrs. Davis saw a young mulatto child being abused by an older black man. She learned the child's free black mother was dead. Outraged, she immediately put an end to the beating and shocked the man by forcibly taking the child away. She took the child to her carriage and with her to the Confederate White House.

Arriving home Mrs. Davis and maid 'Ellen' gave the young boy a bath, attended to his cuts and bruises and fed him. The only thing he would tell them is that his name was Jim Limber. He was happy to be rescued and was given some clothes of the Davis' son, Joe, who was the same size and age.

The Davis family was visited the following evening by a friend of Varina's, noted Southern Diarist—Mary Boykin Chesnut—who saw Jim Limber and wrote, "He was eager to show me his cuts and bruises, he was dressed in Joe's clothes and happy as a lord."

Jefferson Davis filed the boy's free papers and he became a beloved playmate for their children and a member of the family. He was an accepted member of the children's "Hill Gang" and enjoyed the same privileges as the Davis children.

Although the fate of the Confederacy looked bleak, Christmas 1864 was memorable for the Davis family and probably the best Christmas Jim Limber would ever have. For once he was surrounded by a family who cared for him. A Christmas tree was set up in Saint Paul's Church, decorated, and gifts placed beneath it for orphan children.

A year later, nine-year-old Margaret Davis wrote to her younger brother, Jeff, who was spending time with the army, relaying that "Jim Limber sends his love to you."

When Varina and her children fled southward from Richmond in April 1865, Varina included Jim Limber in her reports to her husband about the family. On April 19, 1865: "The children are well and very happy; they play all day...Billy & Jim fast friends as ever..."

Varina and the children were by the side of Jefferson Davis at his capture near Irwinville, Georgia, and again the family was separated. Jefferson Davis was taken to Virginia to spend two years in prison. Varina and her children were taken to Macon, Georgia and later to Port Royal outside of Savannah.

At Port Royal, their Union escort, Captain Charles T. Hudson, made good at his earlier threats to take Jim Limber away from the Davis family. Rather than give him over to a Federal officer she judged untrustworthy, Varina placed him in the care of an old army friend, Gen. Rufus Saxton, who was at Hilton Head.

She later wrote, "A note was written to General Saxton and the poor little boy was given to the officers of the tugboat for the General, who kindly took charge of him. Believing that he was going on board to see something and return, Jim quietly went, but as soon as he found he was going to leave us he fought like a little tiger and was thus engaged the last we saw of him." This emotional, painful scene was Varina's last glimpse of Jim.

However, Elizabeth Hyde Botume, a Boston woman who came south to teach the freedmen on the South Carolina sea islands, became acquainted with Jim Limber. She wrote, "President Davis was to him the one great man in the world. Mrs. Davis had given him the kindly care of a mother, and he had for her the loving devotion of a child."

Country Star Trace Adkins Displays the Battleflag

In a show of pride, singer Trace Adkins is shown in the picture below wearing an earpiece covered with the Confederate Battleflag. This took place while performing in the NBC Christmas Lighting Special. Trace is a life member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and belongs to the Louisiana Division. Recently he joined a campaign to urge Congress to preserve Civil War Battlefields.

He has taken quite a bit of heat for this from the “haters” of Southern culture. But somehow I suspect all of his songs may soon be added to my music library.



“When the Yankees charged and the colors fell
Overton Hill was a living hell,” Adkins sings in
his 2005 single “Til the Last Shot’s Fired.”