

# The Gray Line News



High Bridge



**High Bridge Camp # 1581**

**February 10th, 2023**

**Sons of Confederate Veterans**

**Camp Commander: Whit Morris**

**1<sup>st</sup> LT. Commander: Chris Burks**

**2<sup>nd</sup> LT Commander: Don Reynolds**

**3<sup>rd</sup> LT. Commander: Zach Morris**

**Treasurer: Shane Newcombe**

**Adjutant: Russell Easter**

**Chaplain: David Easter**

**Quartermaster: Tom Haake**



***“DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR SOUTHERN HERITAGE”***



## **COMMANDERS COMMENTS:**

Dear compatriots,

I was recently cleaning out the closet in my home office and came across some things from college. It is amazing how the mindset of our nation’s universities has changed over the years (and I won’t tell you how many decades it has been since I was in college). Imagine a college extolling the virtues of prayer and a Confederate soldier now days. This was on Virginia Tech (VPI at the time) letterhead and sent to students as an inspirational message:

Prayer found on the body of a Confederate soldier killed near Richmond, VA

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve. I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things. I was given infirmity, that might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy. I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men. I was given weakness, that might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life. I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for.

Almost, despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

The world would be a better place if we could come to the realizations our ancestors figured out so many years ago.

Deo Vin dice

Whit Morris

## **Battles in February 1862**

Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>.....TN.....Battle of Fort Henry

Feb. 20-21<sup>st</sup> .....NM.....Battle of Valverde

Feb. 7-8<sup>th</sup> .....NC.....Battle of Roanoke Island

Feb. 28-Apr 8<sup>th</sup>...MI.....Battle of New Madrid

Feb. 11-15.....TN.....Battle of Fort Donelson



## LEXINGTON LEE/JACKSON DAY January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023



This year, our camp again was a sponsor of the festivities in Lexington for the Stonewall Brigade Lee Jackson Day Service. We had nine members report for duty and that made the trek west for the event. The crowd on hand for the services at Stonewall Jackson Cemetery were the largest in years!



The weather, while chilly, cooperated and it was a beautiful day for the events. The parade occurred right after the service and a wonderful thorough presentation was given at the Luncheon. All enjoyed a great meal and that concluded the event! This was a FUN Day with “Like Minded People” and everyone should consider adding it to your “To Do” list for next year!!!!!!





## 2023 CAMP OFFICERS SELECTED



During our meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>, the following slate of officers were nominated, elected and/or appointed for 2023 and then sworn in by Chris Burks:

Camp Commander:	WHIT MORRIS	1 <sup>st</sup> LT. Commander:	CHRIS BURKS
2 <sup>nd</sup> LT. Commander:	DONNIE REYNOLDS	3 <sup>rd</sup> LT. Commander:	ZACH MORRIS
Adjutant:	RUSSELL EASTER	Chaplain:	NED MAY
Treasurer:	SHANE NEWCOMBE	Judge Advocate:	KENNY BARNARD
Quartermaster/Historian:	TOM HAAKE	Surgeon:	GENE KIRKMAN
Sergeant at Arms:	TREY CAPPS	Honorary Sutler:	GREGG FINN

We thank all our past officers for their service and wish this staff Great Success in guiding and growing our camp!

## The Re-interment of General A. P. Hill



The Article below is from the Culpeper Star written by Cathy Dison of the Freelance Star.

The final resting place of Civil War Gen. A.P. Hill has been anything but that, as his remains were put in the ground, dug up and moved, three times in the 19th century.

Then, when the City of Richmond decided to do away with its Confederate monuments in the wake of George Floyd's murder and the Black Lives Matter movement, the general's remains were moved once more. A statue of Hill with his bones in the base was taken down last month from the intersection of Laburnum Avenue and Hermitage Road in the state capital.

Neither the first burial or the reinterment services that followed came with military honors, said Patrick Falci, a New York actor and historian who's portrayed Hill for 30 years.

Those who gathered at a cemetery in Hill's hometown of Culpeper made up for all that on Saturday with a ceremony for the ages.

A large crowd of people, including Confederate reenactors wearing gray and butternut uniforms, gathered to pay their respects to the general at what they hope will be his permanent resting place at Fairview Cemetery.

A mule-drawn wagon brought the coffin, draped in an old Virginia flag, into the cemetery as hundreds of soldiers stood at attention. Next came a rider-less horse as a drummer provided a steady beat.

After Falci's eulogy, songs and prayers, Longstreet's Corps loaded muskets and fired a 21-gun salute while those with Knibb's Battery let off three rounds from a spit-polished shine cannon named "Jeb."

The VA Scots Guards played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes; Susan and Scott Carraway played a mandolin and acoustic guitar and led the crowd in "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny;" and a solitary bugler played "Taps."

"Gen. Hill has been known as Lee's forgotten general," said a theatrical Falci, as he took microphone in hand and walked among the gravesites. "But not today. Not here in Culpeper. Not here in Virginia."

After a court battle, the skeletal fragments of Confederate Gen. Ambrose Powell Hill were removed from the statue in mid-December and collected by morticians from Bennett Funeral Home in Richmond. Funeral officials eventually contacted Keith Price, a former member of the Culpeper Town Council, about relocating Hill's remains at Fairview.

The cemetery is owned by the same town, where Hill was born and raised.

"He would have known this cemetery," Price said, adding that it was formally established in the 1850s. "He grew up here and he's finally back home after almost 160 years."

Price is proud of the way the town helped with the service, noting officials "could have just refused to do anything to facilitate any part of it." Instead, town employees made sure muddy roads within the cemetery were passable, and eight police officers from the town, along with seven from Virginia State Police, provided traffic control and security.

The town was prepared for problems, but didn't encounter the first peep of trouble, said Mayor Frank Reaves Jr., who said everyone worked together like a family.

"This is a nice quiet town and that's how we want to keep it," he said.

The result was a ceremony that hearkened back to another time — except for a few modern touches, like a guitar plugged into a PA system, a drone flying overhead and a woman with turquoise hair leading the mule wagon.

Clusters of women wore full-length black dresses and veils, garb called “widows’ weeds” for the way the material creased after time, and the occasional man sported a stovepipe hat.

Members of the crowd wore hoodies, jackets and scarves, all bearing the image of the Confederate flag. When the Carraways led the crowd in “Dixie,” people shouted whoops, hoorahs and other versions of the Rebel yell throughout the cemetery.

Dave Singleton, a member of Knibb’s Battery in Richmond, said he heard about the burial online — and that word of mouth about the event spread to other re-enacting groups as well as motorcyclists, who also showed up en masse.

While he noted that “people don’t like the fact our monuments and the people who are buried under them are being moved,” he said Saturday’s turnout was more about honoring Hill.

“They fought for what they believed in and we want to celebrate their history, not if you agree with it or don’t agree with it,” he said. “The man needs to be buried and needs to be buried peacefully.”

Angel McCreery of Lexington agreed, noting the honor was needed for “a man who’s been uprooted too many times.”

Leonard Cowherd, who lives outside the Town of Culpeper, was among about 15 Hill descendants at the event. He said the ceremony was “fantastic” and especially liked that Hill, who went by “Powell,” was coming back to his hometown.

“That’s one of the best things about it,” Cowherd said.

Falci described Hill as knightly and chivalrous, a daring leader who wore a red cape and a red sash into battle so his men could see him. Hill grew up reading stories about Alexander the Great and Julius Cesar and he wanted to mimic them in battle.

Hill also had a keen sense of timing, Falci said.

“He always arrived at the battlefield right in the nick of time to save the day,” said Falci, whose business card reads “Actor/Performing Historian,” the same initials as A.P. Hill.

Cowherd did agree with Falci that Hill is finally where he belongs. Falci ended his eulogy, saying “Gen. A.P. Hill has come home, he is now at rest.”

And with that, Rebel yells went out throughout the crowd. May the General finally Rest In Peace.....

## **THE H. L. HUNLEY**

The CSS Hunley was a submarine of the Confederate States of America that played a part in the American Civil War. *Hunley* demonstrated the advantages and the dangers of undersea warfare. She was the first combat submarine to sink a warship (USS *Housatonic*), although *Hunley* was not completely submerged and, following her successful attack, was lost along with her crew before she could return to base. The Confederacy lost 21 crewmen in three sinkings of *Hunley* during her short career. She was named for her inventor, Horace Lawson Hunley, shortly after she was taken into government service under the control of the Confederate States Army at Charleston, South Carolina.

## Early History

Construction of *Hunley* began soon after the loss of *American Diver* which was the first sub constructed. At this stage, *Hunley* was variously referred to as the "fish boat", the "fish torpedo boat", or the "porpoise". Legend held that *Hunley* was made from a cast-off steam boiler—perhaps because a cutaway drawing by William Alexander, who had seen her, showed a short and stubby machine. In fact, *Hunley* was designed and built for her role, and the sleek, modern-looking craft shown in R.G. Skerrett's 1902 drawing is an accurate representation. *Hunley* was designed for a crew of eight, seven to turn the hand-cranked propeller, which created about 3 ½ horsepower, and one to steer and direct the boat. Each end was equipped with ballast tanks that could be flooded by valves or pumped dry by hand pumps. Extra ballast was added through the use of iron weights bolted to the underside of the hull. In the event the submarine needed additional buoyancy to rise in an emergency, the iron weights could be removed by unscrewing the heads of the bolts from inside the vessel.



*Hunley* was equipped with two watertight hatches, one forward and one aft, atop two short conning towers equipped with small portholes and slender, triangular cutwaters. The hatches, bigger than original estimates, measure about 16.5 in (420 mm) wide and nearly 21 in (530 mm) long), making entrance to and egress from the hull difficult. **The height of the ship's hull was about 4 feet 3 inches (1.30 m).**

By July 1863, *Hunley* was ready for a demonstration. Supervised by Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan, *Hunley* successfully attacked a coal flatboat in Mobile Bay. Following this, the submarine was shipped by rail to Charleston, South Carolina, arriving on 12 August 1863.

However, the Confederate military seized the submarine from her private builders and owners shortly after arriving, turning her over to the Confederate Army. *Hunley* would operate as a Confederate Army vessel from then on, although Horace Hunley and his partners would remain involved in her further testing and operation. While sometimes referred to as CSS *Hunley*, she was never officially commissioned into service.

Confederate Navy Lieutenant John A. Payne of CSS *Chicora* volunteered to be *Hunley*'s captain, and seven men from *Chicora* and CSS *Palmetto State* volunteered to operate her. On 29 August 1863, *Hunley*'s new crew was preparing to make a test dive, when Lieutenant Payne accidentally stepped on the lever controlling the sub's diving planes as she was running on the surface. This caused *Hunley* to dive with one of her hatches still open. Payne and two others escaped, but the other five crewmen drowned.

*H. L. Hunley* crew lost 29 August 1863

- Michael Cane
- Nicholas Davis
- Frank Doyle
- John Kelly
- Absolum Williams



On October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1863 *Hunley* failed to surface after a mock attack, killing all eight crew members. Among these was Horace Hunley himself, who had joined the crew for the exercise and possibly had taken over command from Dixon, for the attack maneuver. The Confederate Navy once more salvaged the submarine and returned her to service. This sinking occurred during a test before launch, where a crew member became tangled with controls and caused the sub to submerge with its hatches open.

- Horace Hunley
- Thomas S. Parks
- Henry Beard.
- R. Brookbanks
- John Marshall
- Charles McHugh
- Joseph Patterson
- Charles L. Sprague

Two tragedies had befallen the *H. L. Hunley*. The sinkings and visible recovery efforts that followed had created quite a stir in Charleston. It was not long before Rear Admiral John Dahlgren, the head of the Union blockading fleet, learned of the diving submarine from Confederate deserters. In response, Dahlgren ordered his blockading squadron to anchor in shallow water, hang ropes and chains over their sides as defensive measures, and deploy picket craft to keep torpedo-bearing boats away. These clever tactics were also the genesis of anti-submarine countermeasures.

Confederate General Beauregard was reluctant to put the *Hunley* back in service, writing: “It is more dangerous to those who use it than to the enemy.” Still, the submarine had persuasive backers including Lieutenants George Dixon and William Alexander, both of whom passionately believed she could be successful in breaking the blockade. Even they knew the *Hunley* had to be modified if she were to be successful. The Union’s anti-submarine moves coupled with the difficulty of controlling the *Hunley*’s depth and pitch while submerged led them to completely rethink the mode of attack.

Towing an explosive device was abandoned for a more direct approach. A spar with a torpedo attached to its tip was mounted to the lower bow of the submarine. In this design, the plan was to ram the spar into the hull of an enemy ship, detonating the torpedo either on contact or by a trigger-pulled device. It was perhaps efficient, but, with a sixteen-foot spar, it left the crew dangerously close to the explosion.

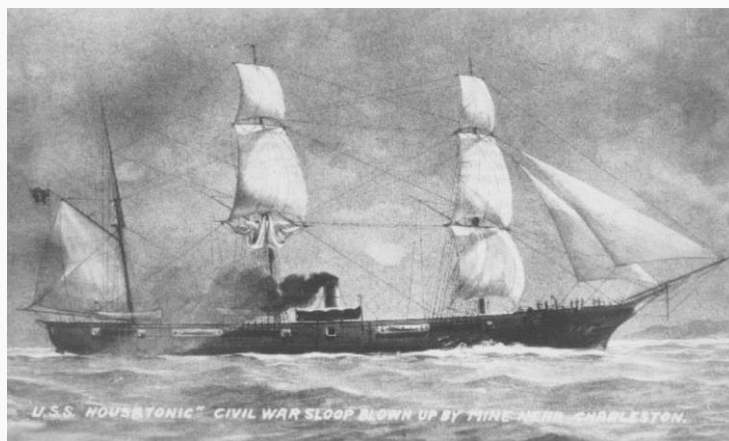
There was little time, if any, to test the new attack strategy. Even though General Beauregard was reluctant, he finally agreed to let the *Hunley* try again, but only if the submarine did not dive and operated at the surface. With the dangers of the submarine well-known, a new, courageous volunteer crew was selected and put under the command of Lieutenant Dixon. Soon the vessel would be ready to carry out its mission.



The final crew was composed of Lieutenant George E. Dixon (Commander) (of Alabama or Ohio), Frank Collins (of Virginia), Joseph F. Ridgaway (of Maryland), James A. Wicks (North Carolina native living in Florida), Arnold Becker (of Germany), Corporal Johan Frederik Carlsen (of Denmark), C. Lumpkin (probably of the British Isles), and Augustus Miller (probably a former member of the German Artillery)

## Preparing for the Mission

Captain George Dixon and his volunteer crew worked aboard the *H. L. Hunley* an average of four nights a week between mid-December 1863 and the end of January 1864, when the weather became too rough to venture into the ocean. On many of those trips, the submarine got close enough to blockade ships to hear Union soldiers singing on the picket boats, but they never got the chance to attack. Dixon wrote to a friend expressing frustration with the conditions that stopped them from making an attack on the Blockade, "...to catch the Atlantic Ocean smooth during the winter months is considerable of an undertaking and one that I never wish to undertake again."



On a moonlit night in February 1864, the crew of the *Hunley* was given the calm sea they had waited for and embarked on their ambitious attack. The target was the USS *Housatonic*, one of the Union's mightiest and newest sloops-of-war.

## The Attack

The *Hunley*'s approach was stealth and by the time they were spotted, it was too late. At about 8:45pm, several sailors on the deck of the *USS Housatonic* reported seeing something on the water just a few hundred feet away. The officer on the deck thought it might be a porpoise, coming up to blow. As the object approached the ship, the crew realized it was no porpoise. The alarm sounded and the sailors fired their guns, the bullets pinging off the metal hull of the *Hunley*. Below the surface, the spar torpedo detonated, and the explosion blew a hole in the ship. The *Housatonic* sank in less than five minutes, causing the death of 5 of its 155 crewmen. The spar is said to have contained a charge of 43kg of black powder which is just over 130 pounds.





## The *Hunley* Mysteriously Disappears

Nearly 45 minutes later, a Union sailor claimed he saw a blue light on the water. Some speculate this was the last reported sighting of the *Hunley* for more than a century. One record indicates Dixon had promised the troops at Battery Marshall, if successful, he would signal to shore by showing two blue lights. The Confederates on Sullivan's Island also say they saw the agreed upon signal and lit a fire to guide the *Hunley* home, but she never returned. Instead, the submarine and crew disappeared into the darkness of the sea.

Their fate became a mystery and their accomplishment a legend. The submarine would not see the light of day again for over 136 years.

The *Hunley* was discovered in 1995 and raised in 2000 and now resides at The Warren Lasch Conservation Center in Charleston, South Carolina being studied. The remains of the crew, once studied and identified, were laid to rest in Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, in 2004 with full Confederate honors.

Editor's Note..... I have visited the Museum of The *Hunley* in Charleston and have seen the raised ship. The photo above of the crew comes from the museum and was constructed using modern methods on the recovered remains. Found in the sunken sub was a \$10 Gold piece with the engraving "SHILOH 1862 My Life Preserver." It was speculation that George Dixon, was given this as a good luck charm by his sweetheart, and he carried it with him. When he fought at Shiloh, he was wounded in the leg. The bullet struck this gold piece (which is on display in the Museum) which saved his leg and perhaps his life. As a good luck charm he had it engraved and carried it on his person. During the research and recovery, the remains showed a break in one man's remains and the bend of the coin fit perfectly over the bone in this exact spot. The coin saved his life, or his leg that day so that he could go on to become part of history.

### Robert E. Lee Quote of the Month

Man's nature is so selfish so weak. Every feeling, every passion urging him to Jolly, excess & sin that I am sometimes disgusted with myself & sometimes with all the world.

— Robert E. Lee, 1849 in a Letter to his wife, Mary Custis Lee

### Upcoming Meetings and Events:

**Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> - 7:00 pm Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting: Travis Toombs giving a presentation on the Confederate flag.....**NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE, WEDNESDAY, NOT THURSDAY!!!!!!!!!!**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 pm Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting with Tracy Clary speaking about the Sam Davis Christian Youth camp

**April 27<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm @ Charley's Café:** Camp Meeting

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