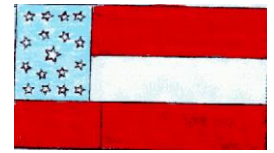




The Vidette

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag



1 October 2002 Newsletter Issue 7 Published by Division Adjutant Vernon R. Padgett vp09@earthlink.net

Memories of Gettysburg

--- By Sandra Ashdown-Turner, Chaplain, UDC Sidney Lanier Chapter 2141

After the film *Gettysburg*, I wanted to see the battlefields where so many heroic men lay hurt and dying for causes for which they were willing to give their lives. Nothing compared to walking the cemetery grounds and being able to read the names of men who bravely defended their nations.



Our reading group, led by Dr. Richard Rollins, studied Gettysburg for a full year. I tried my best to understand what might have happened with the Rebel and Federal lines. It is hard to visualize what they did, and why, since it was during a time I had no familiarity with.

The Rebels took the wheat field and orchard as well as Devil's Den. They almost took Little Round Top. Pickett's men reached the clump of trees, but

were outnumbered by the Yankees.

I could feel my hands shake as I held my camera, looking at this scene.



The North Carolina Monument

To help understand the past, we drove to Harpers Ferry. The excitement of seeing the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers was only second to seeing the sign "Mason-Dixon Line." It was breathtaking.

The history of Harpers Ferry is multi-layered. On October 16, 1859, John Brown began a raid with his 21 man "army of liberation," believing he could free the slaves and seize the weapons at the arsenal.

Most of his men were killed or wounded, and the U.S. Marines captured Brown. He went to trial and was found guilty of treason against the Common-

wealth of Virginia. He was hanged on December 2, 1859.

Brown's execution brought the nation's attention to slavery. By the time of John Brown's raid, 10 percent of the town's residents were black. Harpers Ferry became one Union garrison towns where runaway slaves, or contraband, could seek refuge.

Harpers Ferry was a strategic location during the War between the States because of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley.

Stonewall Jackson captured 12,500 men where the Union garrison was stationed on September 15, 1862. The largest number of Federal troops surrendered here. The War had a disastrous effect on Harpers Ferry economy. Lee alerted Jackson to the need to join other units at Sharpsburg, a town midway between Hagerstown and Harpers Ferry.



Our next stop was "Antietam" National Battlefield, as the Yankees like to call it. I will refer to it as Sharpsburg. It is one of the battlefields set aside to preserve the memory of what occurred there.

September 17, 1862, the Battle of Sharpsburg had the bloodiest day in American history-- with approximately 25,000 casualties on both sides. Lee's decision to fight at Sharpsburg, with the exception of Gettysburg, has been one of the most controversial decisions he made during the War between the States.

It was a bold decision-- since he had fewer soldiers than the enemy. With the Confederate left on the Potomac itself, the right could concentrate on Antietam Creek. Jackson's troops arrived in Sharpsburg on September 16th-- Harpers Ferry had surrendered. Jackson's brigades formed Lee's left; Harvey Hill held the center, and James Longstreet

commanded the right.

The two armies sat and waited through a night of drizzling rain for the battle that would start at dawn. Movements late on the 16th gave an indication that the battle would begin in Jackson's front, a mile north of Sharpsburg.

The battle consisted of three phases, morning, midday, and afternoon. Around 6 a.m. Major General Joseph Hooker led the first attack down the Hagerstown Turnpike. Around 7:30, fresh troops under Generals Harvey Hill and John B. Hood rushed on the scene.



At 9 a.m., after three hours of killing, McClellan resumed the offensive with a third major attack. Jackson, meanwhile, had readjusted his lines. A lull in the fighting then gave Jackson a chance to launch an attack of his own.

Around 10 a.m. the battle shifted southward to the Confederate center. At 1 p.m., part of Major General Israel B. Richardson's division captured the high ground near the sunken country road that became known as Bloody Lane.

As I stood on Bloody Lane, an overwhelming sadness came over me. Imagining the bodies strewn in the lane was more than I could stand.

Near the end of the battle, near 4 p.m, Sharpsburg was in flames, and wounded Confederates filled the streets. A disappointed General Lee found pride in his men. Antietam Creek was not the decisive Union victory that Lincoln had hoped for.

It was the most moving vacation I have ever experienced.

It took me countless hours at night in my room, once a Confederate hospital, trying to recover from the depression wishing these soldiers didn't have to die.

But I cherish their dreams of liberty and their loyalty to their country. Confederates over the years

have joined in a drive to preserve the memory of what they had tried to achieve, and, to memorialize their dead.

CONFEDERATE COIN CORNER



"A fellow gave me this about two years ago. He said it was probably worthless. He said he got it around 20 years previously. Confederate currency expert Dave Schnorr said it was probably a fake from the early 1940s, as the Confederates didn't mint cents.

Mr. Schnorr's talk at the San Gabriel Valley Roundtable in Pasadena on Confederate currency sure opened my eyes to many different aspects of collecting."

-- Floyd Farrar, Camp Cameron E. Thom, Long Beach

California SCV Web Site

Check www.scvcalifornia.net for the revised California SCV website.

Gary Waltrip, Commander Camp 1440, The Stainless Banner, San Jose, continues to expand and add to the web site.

See Gary's own site at www.RebelGray.com.

SCV Life Membership

Apply for Life Membership by completing the application, available on the SCV.org national website.

Fee is \$300 if you are 59 or younger; \$200 for those aged 60 to 69, and \$100 for those aged 70 and older. Mail the check and form to HQ.

Life Members are assigned to Camp 2, and are also listed on local Camp rosters with "LM" instead of an expiration date.

Scientists Work To Save Contaminated Hunley

ANALYSIS OF RIVETS MAY HELP
CONSERVE CONFEDERATE SUB

September 22, 2002 ASSOCIATED PRESS,
CHARLESTON, South Carolina

Rivets from the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley analyzed in a lab in the South Carolina foothills could provide a road map for conserving the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship, scientists say.



Still from *Gods and Generals*

Scientists at Clemson University are analyzing rivets from the sub raised off the coast of Charleston two years ago and brought to a nearby conservation lab.

The analysis will help determine the best method for conserving the hand-cranked sub, which sank with its crew of eight after sending the Union blockade ship Housatonic to the bottom in February 1864.

Researchers also are analyzing metal from other ships recovered from the same period.



Much conservation of maritime artifacts is now based on tests of modern metals corroded in labs.

"What we do in those kinds of cases is age the metal," said Richard Gregory, the director of Clemson's School of Materials Science and Engineering. "But you would have to build your aging

chambers for modern metals with the same constraints. You would have to account for the changes in the environment."

Gregory said that the challenge in aging modern metals is similar to trying to age textiles in a lab to see how they might hold up to wear and tear.



Still from *Gods and Generals*

Although textiles for car upholstery might be aged in a lab under certain conditions, the same upholstery might hold up differently in Arizona than in Alaska.

Researchers are able to look at the Hunley rivets micron by micron to see how they aged over time.

That way, scientists can tell whether the Hunley was exposed to a constant environment or one that changed.

Scientists say they think that the Hunley may have been covered with silt soon after it went down, and that helped preserve it for the 135 years it rested on the ocean floor.

"We're charting new ground. It's not like there is a textbook out there that we can follow," said Mike Drews, the materials scientist who heads the Clemson research team. "There has been very, very precious little scientific research done on marine artifacts of this kind."

The Hunley is kept in a tank of cold water at the conservation lab. The sub's iron hull is contaminated with iron chlorides. If exposed to the air and left untreated, the sub eventually would collapse or disintegrate into iron dust, said Paul Mardikian, the senior conservator on the Hunley project.

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IF YOU ARE IN NORTH CAROLINA  
IN JANUARY--- SEE THE FILM

# Gods and Generals

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From: lcaudell@easley.net

The North Carolina Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, E.A. Ross Camp 1423 of Charlotte, has

arranged for a private showing of the new feature film "Gods and Generals" in Charlotte at the Regal Theater. The date for this private screening will be set in January.

"Gods and Generals" has been called the "Southern Braveheart." The hero of the movie is Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. Robert E. Lee is portrayed by acclaimed actor Robert Duvall. Viewing this film in a theater full of fellow Confederates will be akin to the Atlanta opening of "Gone With The Wind."

Tickets are \$10 each. To reserve a ticket, contact Ross Camp Commander Terry Crayton at crayton@bellsouth.net and let him know how many tickets you want.

He will provide the address where to send your check. In the event that you purchase a ticket and then cannot go, the Ross Camp will try to sell it to someone else for you.



Still from *Gods and Generals*

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MORE MEMORIES OF GETTYSBURG:  
**THE MAKING OF  
GETTYSBURG, 1992**  
~~~~~

By Secesh: Gary Waltrip, Commander, Camp 1440, San Jose.

It's been ten years this month since my brother Ted and I trekked off to Pennsylvania to be Confederate soldiers in the Turner Network Television film *Gettysburg*.

The film starred Martin Sheen as Robert E. Lee, and Tom Berringer, as General Longstreet, with Jeff Williams as Union General Joshua Chamberlain.

Remember the dorky guy who played Jim Carrey's sidekick in *Dumb and Dumber*? That was Jeff Williams, a versatile actor to say the least. In *Gettysburg* he was gallant and believable, whereas in "Dumber" he was simply hilarious.

We spent a week in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, filming the “Pickett’s Charge” scene. It was rough – we slept in Civil War tents, showered in cold water, sweated in our wool uniforms in the humid August days, and marched, and marched, and marched.



Commander Waltrip, Camp 1440, San Jose, as he appears in the film *Gettysburg*.

The film crew ladies sprayed gunky stuff in our hair, rubbed charcoal on our faces, and dusted our jackets so they would look realistically dirty.

The best day was when a couple thousand Confederate reenactors marched in quiet reverence past the statue of Robert E. Lee on Seminary Ridge and onto the “Hallowed Ground” of the actual battlefield of Pickett’s Charge.

We formed our ranks and tried to keep our lines straight as we unfurled our battle flags to the Pennsylvania breeze. We were marching where real Confederate soldiers marched, bled, and died, and it was a religious experience. Many of the men in the ranks wept.

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**See Commander Gary Waltrip’s web site at [www.rebelgray.com](http://www.rebelgray.com)**

**E-mail him at [secesh@rebelgray.com](mailto:secesh@rebelgray.com)**

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The filming was dangerous. Rockets streamed overhead, while “shells” exploded around us – actually, theatrical charges set off by remote control.

Being the soldier that wouldn’t die, I was blown up in route to the Stone Wall, was shot off the wooden fence (actually, I slipped and fell, very realistically on my face, bending my bayonet sideways). Then I was shot down at the wall. You just can’t keep a good Rebel down.

We fixed bayonets, and were required to plunge our ramrods down our rifle barrels when loading our blank cartridges. The danger in this is that someone

could forget to pull the ramrod out and then fire it, harpoon like, towards the opposing line.

Fortunately, no one was hurt. Not by the acting itself, in any case.

Two men did die that day, of heart attacks, both in our regiment. Not right away – one was hospitalized that night, and died a few days later. The other died after the filming. Actor Sam Donaldson later led a memorial service for our real casualties.

It was great rubbing elbows with the real actors. Martin Sheen was very cordial, as was Richard Jordan, who played General Armistead, and who died one year later of a brain tumor.

The actors treated us reenactors with great respect. They considered us real “experts” on the Civil War.



Still photo from film “Gettysburg”

The filming had some very sobering moments as well. Right after we charged across the actual site of Pickett’s Charge, while forming ranks for further instruction from the director, one of our men felt his rifle butt clink on something in the grass.

He reached down and put his hand on a shell fragment – put there by a Yankee cannon 129 years before. I held it in my hand. It looked just like the ones in the Gettysburg museum. I felt the hair raising on my neck.

One night we went into downtown Gettysburg and had drinks at a bar right next to the Wills House, where Abe Lincoln slept the night before he gave the Gettysburg address. We didn’t know it until we wandered outside and staggered over to the house to read the sign.

Gettysburg is said to be full of ghosts, and there are many stories and legends to entertain and frighten the credulous. Personally, I never felt afraid, even while walking through fog-shrouded fields at night,

where real Confederates once had a field hospital – and where many of them died. I felt I was among friends.

Before we returned home, we drove to Richmond to visit Hollywood Cemetery where Jefferson Davis, Jeb Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee are buried, along with several thousand other Confederates.

We had just made a realistic filming of Pickett's Charge, and while wandering among the tombstones, found that of a Confederate Captain who was a member of the same regiment we portrayed as reenactors— the First Virginia Infantry.

His inscription read, "Fell at Pickett's Charge, July 3, 1863."



—H. L. MENCKEN ON THE

Gettysburg Address

The Gettysburg speech was at once the shortest and the most famous oration in American history... the highest emotion reduced to a few poetical phrases.

Lincoln himself never even remotely approached it. It is genuinely stupendous.

But let us not forget that it is poetry, not logic; beauty, not sense.

Think of the argument in it. Put it into the cold words of everyday. The doctrine is simply this: that the Union soldiers who died at Gettysburg sacrificed their lives to the cause of self-determination – that government of the people, by the people, for the people, should not perish from the earth.

It is difficult to imagine anything more untrue. The Union soldiers in the battle actually fought against self-determination; it was the Confederates who fought for the right of their people to govern themselves.

-- H.L. Mencken (collection gathered by Alistair Cooke), *The Vintage Mencken*, Vintage Books, 1990. Thanks to Gary Waltrip's site www.rebelgray.com.

Camp 1208 Supports Defense of New Orleans Confederate Memorial Hall and Port Hudson Memorial

I had the pleasure of sending this letter today to Commander Robert Crook of SCV Camp 133:

**Port Hudson Memorial Fund
C/o Commander Robert Crook
10520 Tanwood Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809**

Dear Commander Crook:

Please accept the enclosed check for \$200 for the Port Hudson Monument Fund. We hope our small contribution will aid in defending Confederate heritage. We wish we could give more.

This donation was raised by our Camp, and includes a \$100 donation from Compatriot John C. Roberts, \$40 from Richard Wagner of General Tyree Harris Bell Camp 1804 in Fresno, California, and other donations from camp members and from Sidney Lanier UDC Chapter 2141 Chaplain Ms. Sandra Ashdown-Turner.

Our Heritage Officer and Lieutenant Commander Farrell Cooley helped with soliciting donations. It is our pleasure to assist with this important defense of Confederate Heritage.

Deo Vindice,
Vernon R. Padgett, Adjutant

Cc: Commander-in-Chief R. G. "Ron" Wilson
Chief of Heritage Defense Allen Sullivant
Department Commander John C. Perry
Camp 1208 Commander Ro King
Heritage Officer Farrell Cooley

We sent a similar letter, with a check for \$444, to

**Keith Cangelosi, President
New Orleans Confederate Memorial Hall
929 Camp Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

We sent these funds in support of the defense of the defense of this repository of Confederate artifacts.

Please send your own donations to both these funds-- at the addresses shown above.

New Sacramento Member George Martin brings Extensive Heritage Background to Camp 1627

George Martin of Sparks, Nevada, is transferring from HQ Camp 584 to Camp 1627 in Sacramento. Compatriot Martin brings a rich background of heritage work into California. He reports:

Four years ago, I helped the Vicksburg camp in placing 77 tombstones for East Tennessee soldiers. Of those, 43 were of my g-grandfather's 43rd Tenn., including my great grand uncle, Pvt. Isaac Martin.

I was instrumental in authenticating proper names, and service record data for these men who showed up in a list recently found at the Old Court House and Museum at Vicksburg.



Graves in Oakwood Cemetery, April 1865. Photograph taken by James F. Gibson [Alexander Gardner Catalog No. 931]

I've also been able to have a tombstone placed for the 43rd's Captain Cawood at the Point Clear, Mobile Bay, Confederate Hospital-- where he died during transport with the sick and wounded from Vicksburg.

This was quite a find, as his records show he died at Pt. Clorr-- a transcriptional error in compiling the service records from worn paper sheets. Out of nowhere, on the web, I got wind of this hospital named Pt. Clear. Voila!-- A mystery solved.

Historical research, which I am doing, is like pulling teeth.

Next Issue:

The full story from Compatriot George Martin.



Hunley exhibit to feature pieces of submarine, medallion artifact

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

**BY BRIAN HICKS
Of The Post and Courier Staff**

This weekend, there will be a little bit more of the Hunley to see.

A new exhibit featuring the Confederate sub's rudder, snorkel tubes and aft cutwater will go on public display for the first time Saturday, alongside one of the more significant artifacts found among the crew's belongings.

Scientists at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center said the Union identification tag stamped with the name of Ezra Chamberlain will be on display.

The coin-sized medallion will be housed in an argon-filled display case designed to halt corrosion.

"It has not been treated yet, so we will use the argon gas so it won't corrode," said Paul Mardikian conservator on the Hunley project. "Because argon gas is heavier than air, it pushes the oxygen away."

The medallion, about the size of a Sacagawea dollar coin, is stamped with Chamberlin's name and his Connecticut infantry group. The identification tag was privately printed - the U.S. military didn't issue official dog tags until the 20th century.

When the tag was found around the neck of a Hunley crewman in April 2001, some people believed the remains belonged to Chamberlin, who had either defected or was taken prisoner.

But scientists and historians say that, most likely, the medallion was just a battlefield souvenir. History records that Chamberlin died on Morris Island in July 1863, a month before the Hunley arrived in Charleston.

Forensic tests show that the man found wearing the tag was in his mid- to late-30s, while Chamberlin was only 24 at the time he supposedly died.

Only George Dixon's gold coin good-luck piece is considered a more important artifact on this project.

Mardikian said that displaying Chamberlin's medallion is basically a trial run to finally putting the gold coin on exhibit.

The pieces of the sub going on display vary in significance.

The aft cutwater is basically a triangular piece of metal that was mounted in front of the rear conning tower to divert water around the hatch.

The snorkel tubes, pipes about four feet long, were sometimes used to draw air into the crew compartment.

More important is the sub's square rudder, which was found lying in the sand beneath the sub.

Some scientists say the detached rudder could play a role in why the Hunley sank after downing the USS Housatonic on Feb. 17, 1864.

Learn more at the [Friends of the Hunley](#) web site



Click [here](#) to send feedback.

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To Vanderbilt University

FROM MICHAEL KELLEY

Col. Kelley wrote, in part, the following, with respect to Vanderbilt University's decision to change the name of Confederate Memorial Hall [Ed.]:

The United States flag flew over a slave nation from 1776 until December, 1865, some eight months *after* the Confederacy and slavery in the South had ceased to exist. During the four years of the War and afterwards, the states of Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, Maryland, West Virginia, and Delaware were Union slaveholding states, and slavery was legal under Federal law.

In 1863, after the "Emancipation Proclamation," Free Men of Color were arrested, fined, and sold into slavery in Illinois for the "high misdemeanor" of staying in the state longer than ten days.

Since the "Civil War," the United States flag has flown over a country that has continued attempted genocide against its Native Peoples with the able help of Black "Buffalo Soldiers," condoned the slavery of Orientals in California well into the 1880s, fought wars to maintain dominance over countries whose people were not white, and imprisoned its own

citizens because of the color of their skin: The Japanese-Americans, in California, 1942 to 1945.

Morehouse College, a traditionally Black college in Atlanta, has a residence hall named "Graves Hall," which their web site traces as stemming from the fact that it was constructed over the graves of Black Confederate soldiers.

Perhaps you would like to insist that they change that name, also.



My recommendation to all parties is that they undertake to educate themselves about the reality of history, and discover that the facts of history are far afield from the "politically correct" pap, which is spoon-fed to the mindless nowadays.

Perhaps you would find your prejudices eroded in the light of learning.

My half-Filipino son is a rising high school soccer star (Mississippi Olympic Development Team) and outstanding scholar. But there is no way I would allow him to consider attending Vanderbilt, or playing for its soccer team, under such an atmosphere of mindless prejudice, and with the knowledge that education, at least in history, is sorely lacking.

You may freely publish this as a guest editorial and include my name, address, and telephone number. There is no need to seek anonymity when dealing in the truth.

"The first law of the historian is that he shall never dare utter an untruth. The second is that he shall suppress nothing that is true. Moreover, there shall be no suspicion of partiality in his writing, or of malice." - Cicero (106-43 B.C.)

We simply ask that all act upon the facts of history.

Your Obedient Servant,
Colonel Michael Kelley, CSA
Commanding, 37th Texas Cavalry (Terrell's)
<http://www.37thtexas.org>
