

# THE CALCASIEU GREYS



Capt. James W. Bryan  
Camp 1390  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Lake Charles, Louisiana



Lt. Isaac Ryan  
Chapter 205  
Military Order of the  
Stars and Bars



*Winner of the 1992-93 Dr. Paul Jon Miller National Newsletter Award*

*Winner of the 1997 Harvey Hutchinson State Newsletter Award*

<http://www.geocities.com/scv1390>

**May 2003**

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of Captain James W. Bryan Camp 390, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at Montana's Smokehouse Restaurant, 211 W. Pine Street in Lake Charles. The program will be a round-table discussion of the First Battle of Manassas, Virginia, which occurred 21 July 1861. This great Confederate victory was led by Generals Pierre G.T. Beauregard and Joseph E. Johnston. It had many interesting aspects, including the famous stand by the Louisiana Tigers on Matthew's Hill, General Thomas J. Jackson receiving his famous nickname, "Stonewall," Mrs. Rose O'Neil Greenhow's espionage network that contributed to the victory, the first use of railroads to quickly move reinforcements to the battlefield and the remarkable rout of the Federal army back to Washington D.C. Feel free to take part and contribute to the discussion, or just sit back and enjoy the conversation.

## Commander's Comments:

Compatriots:

I have the honor of announcing the resignation of commander Terrance LaVon Lee and 2nd Lt. Commander Franky Gragg. As they are our compatriots and remain dedicated, stalwart members of the SCV, we express our gratitude for their service to the camp and extend best wishes to them in their future personal endeavors and as well as their continued efforts in the safeguarding of our common heritage.

Having now been elevated to the post of commander because of the aforementioned resignation, I take the reins of leadership without reservation or trepidation. Communication with your commander will be open at any time to all of the membership, and on any appropriate issue.

The members may be assured of my punctual and prompt attendance at our monthly meetings. Additionally, I will be accessible at my job during working hours, and at my home in the evenings, either in person, or by any conventional means of communication. My work phone is 433-1683, my cell phone 562-0855. My email address is [tommycurtis@xpedius.net](mailto:tommycurtis@xpedius.net).

Looking forward to leading you will the energy, enthusiasm and alacrity that has so characterized my previous tenures as your commander, I am, without reservation or trepidation,

Your Obedient Servant,

Tommy Curtis  
Commander  
Capt. James W. Bryan Camp, 1390  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

## Next MOSB Meeting

The next meeting of Lt. Isaac Ryan Chapter 205, Military Order of the Stars and Bars, will be from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. at the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Library, 411 Pujot St. in Lake Charles. The program will be a continuation of the round-table discussion of the causes of the War for Southern Independence. Topics already covered in previous meetings include slavery and states rights. This meeting will take up the economic causes of the war. All are welcome to participate.

## MOSB Chapter Endorses Placement of Monument at Port Hudson SCA

Lt. Isaac Ryan Chapter 205, Military Order of the Stars and Bars (MOSB) of Lake Charles endorsed placement of an historic Port Hudson defenders monument at Port Hudson State Commemorative Area in Zachary at its March meeting.

The 11,000-pound monument honors the Confederate soldiers who fought at Port Hudson in 1863. It was dedicated in May 1930 on private land in what is now northwest East Baton Rouge Parish. The monument was on posted property, overgrown by bushes and the property owner wanted it removed.

The monument has been moved to a temporary location while the MOSB, SCV and UDC continue to appeal to state parks through the offices of the lieutenant governor and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

In other business at the meeting, the group continued its ongoing discussion of causes of the War Between the States, taking up "States Rights" as a cause.

It was noted that the "Doctrine of States Rights" was formulated by President Thomas Jefferson, and based on such founding documents as the Declaration of

Independence, the Articles of Confederation, The Treaty of Paris of 1783, and the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions of 1798, among others.

Lt. Isaac Ryan Chapter was founded in 1994 by the late Claudius A. Mayo and is an historical and hereditary association of descendants of the Confederate officer corps and civil officials. For more information about the MOSB, the Web site is [www.mosbihq.org](http://www.mosbihq.org).

## **Memorial Hall Loses Fight for Ownership in Court!**

According to an AP article dated April 16, 2003, Memorial Hall, the Confederate museum, has lost its appeal to the state's appeals court for ownership of its 929 Camp Street home. The 4th Circuit Court of Appeal upheld a lower court ruling that gave ownership of the Confederate Memorial Hall to the University of New Orleans Foundation. The appellate court said Frank Howard never donated the ownership of the building to the museum's original operators, the Louisiana Historical Association (LHA). "He spoke only of putting the LHA into 'possession' of the building and of the building being for the 'use' of the LHA," Judge Joan Bernard Armstrong wrote in the opinion.

Although Memorial Hall has had the support of the general public, including that of Louisiana's Governor Mike Foster, the future of the museum at that site is now in question. Court documents previously filed by the UNO Foundation state that it intends to integrate the building into their Ogden Museum of Southern Art complex being built on either side of the Confederate Museum, despite that organization's past claims that it would not evict the Civil War museum.

## **Editorial: The 'Looting' of Louisiana's Oldest Museum**

The world was shocked at the looting of the Baghdad Museum in Iraq. But other than Confederate heritage groups, there seems to be little in the way of outrage with the ongoing legalized "looting" of Confederate Memorial Hall by the University of New Orleans.

On 16 April 2003, the Memorial Hall, home of the 112 year old Confederate Museum, the oldest museum in the state of Louisiana, lost its appeal of a lower court ruling that handed ownership of the building to the University of New Orleans, in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

UNO is using the legal system to take over the building for use of its Ogden Museum of Southern Art, which is housed in buildings on either side of the Confederate Museum. This is just legal trickery to force the museum to move.

While Louisiana Gov. Mike Foster has attempted to bring the parties to an amicable settlement that would save the Confederate Museum, his efforts have thus far been for naught.

Other Louisiana politicians should be eternally ashamed for doing nothing while this legalized looting of the state's heritage goes forth.

Is this the end of the line or will be museum appeal to the state Supreme Court? That decision is yet to be made.

The people of this state tolerate corrupt politicians, a personal and business unfriendly tax system, a disaster of an educational system and an unhealthy, polluted environment. If the people of Louisiana now allow their oldest, most historic museum to be legally looted, it will be another black mark on the reputation of Louisiana.

Please support the Memorial-Hall-Foundation in its struggle for survival.

## **New Louisiana Camp Formed**

Having served to maintain a camp in good standing for the Governor of Louisiana, and seeking affirmation of their rights and the rights of all members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans under Article XI of the International Constitution of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, former members of the Bernard E. Eble Camp 1849, along with new members, have decided to form a new camp, the Major General Harry T. Hays Camp 2019 of Baton Rouge. The Hays Camp was recognized by International Headquarters March 24, 2003 and has the following Charter Member Officers:

Commander: Frank Bergeron  
Lt. Commander: Darrin Cothren  
Adjutant: Paul Bergeron  
Chaplain: Adam Gaubert  
Color Sergeant: Cullen Saucier

The Hays Camp looks forward to working with all other camps in the fulfillment of the charge of Stephen Dill Lee to preserve the good name of the Confederate soldier.

Paul Bergeron  
Adjutant  
Major General Harry T. Hays Camp 2019

## **Tyrant Statue Unveiled**

The statue of one tyrant, Saddam Hussein, was torn down in Baghdad, Iraq, but the statue of another tyrant, Abraham Lincoln, was unveiled in Richmond, Virginia on 6 April. The tyrant Lincoln's statue is being forced on the people of Richmond by the National Park Service, which controls the Tredegar Iron Works historic site, which is part of the NPS' Richmond Battlefields system. This should give all Southerners pause before turning over more southern battlefield land to the NPS. The NPS has also been mandated to have "slavery" exhibits at all NPS battlefield sites. Does this sound like reconciliation, as the NPS claims, or subjugation and Northern propaganda, as the actions clearly show? (Mike Jones)

Below is a letter from Virginia Division SCV Commander Brag Bowling describing the SCV response:

### **Compatriots,**

A brief word today on one of the greatest heritage events I have been a part of. The Parade which was held in Richmond had over 1500 participants marching down Monument Avenue. It took an hour to march from the

Stonewall Jackson statue into Hollywood Cemetery. People were lined on the streets witnessing the parade. The Parade was twelve blocks in length. Flags were everywhere. Cars honked horns and people cheered. We had everything from Cavalry to funny cars. The Parade was led by motorcycles. In Hollywood Cemetery, among our honored dead, cannon fire and musketry erupted. HK Edgerton gave a stirring speech. Confederate History and Heritage Month in Virginia will be a splendid success.

Our Saturday rally produced its intended result -- a renewed discussion on the historical legacy of Abraham Lincoln. It is so important that Lincoln's legacy be explored. This goes to the essence of the causes of the war and why our ancestors fought the way they fought. We actually have gotten our opposition to have to react to us. The debate over the placement of a Lincoln statue is nearly historical in scope. No longer are we capable of being ignored. Nearly every newspaper in the country has written something on the Lincoln statue. There has been a lot of name calling and finger pointing. But one thing I have noticed is that our opposition never is willing to debate us on the merits. And while the statue has now been dedicated, the Sons of Confederate Veterans still has a few cards to be played. This battle is not finished.

I want to thank our event organizers--Rob Millikin, Mike Kendrick, Grayson Jennings, Jerry Wells, and Scott Wyatt. Their hard work in making this a success is appreciated by everyone. This is a very proud day for me and I am honored to Command the Virginia Division.

Brag Bowling  
Commander  
Virginia Division

## **Time Stands Still on the Hunley**

(Press Release: Friends of the Hunley)

Charleston, SC – For almost 140 years, scholars have wondered how long the H. L. Hunley lasted after she torpedoed the USS Housatonic in 1864. Did the concussion cause the world's first successful military submarine to sink immediately or did she last longer before she disappeared into the sea?

Scientists are now closer to solving that intriguing mystery, thanks to the pocket watch of Hunley captain Lt. George Dixon. The scientific team excavating the submarine opened the watch and were able to observe the position of the hands when the watch stopped. "We are now able to narrow the time frame down to between 6:00 and 9:00, but the question remains, is it a.m. or p.m.?" said Project Director Dr. Robert Neyland. "After further excavation, we may be able to establish a more precise time."

In order to open the watch and to determine the time the watch stopped, Senior Conservator Paul Mardikian had to open the crystal because the glass was opaque in color. The crystal was held in place by a metal ring (bezel) surrounding the crystal which had to be removed to get to the face of the watch. "It's a miracle that the hands are even still here," Mardikian said. "They are quite damaged, but they are still here and fused to the face. There was a pocket of air trapped inside the watch. I believe that's the only reason the hands still exist after all

these years. The other parts of the watch, where there was no air, were not as well preserved."

"The precise time is difficult to determine because the hour hand is broken around the dial where the hands connect and it is premature to designate a time until further cleaning can be done," said Senior Archaeologist, Maria Jacobsen. "The other hands are in better condition. The minute hand is set at 22 after the hour and the second hand is stopped at 20 seconds."

On the night of February 17, 1864, the Hunley and her crew of eight made their historic journey in Charleston's Harbor by becoming the first submarine in history to sink an enemy ship in battle, but then she mysteriously disappeared. According to historical records the Hunley attacked the Housatonic at approximately 8:45 that night. So what does the time of the watch really mean?

Senator Glenn McConnell, Chairman of the Hunley Commission, says the watch supports one longtime theory. "I believe the apparent time suggests the watch outlived the crewmen and continued to tick for many hours past their deaths," McConnell said. "It also raises the supposition that the submarine may have remained less than flooded long after the demise of the crew. If the submarine had flooded shortly after the attack, it seems probable the watch would have stopped at a time closer to, but after 8:45 p.m. when the attack on the Housatonic occurred."

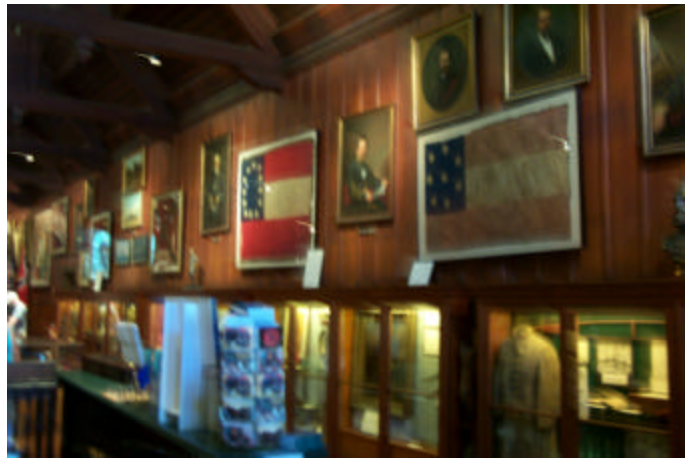
McConnell's theory suggests the crew may have died later from lack of oxygen and not from drowning after the attack. "One thing is certain," McConnell added. "We should not draw any firm conclusions. Instead, now is the time to accent the importance of carefully collecting the scientific data to put together the accurate picture of this fascinating historical puzzle."

Warren Lasch, Chairman of Friends of the Hunley, said he was delighted to hear that the watch appeared to contain so much useful information "What an incredible moment," Lasch said. "When the watch was opened, with the hands in place, it was as if the crew was telling us another part of this amazing story." Scientists believe the watch may yield more information about its owner, Lt. Dixon. This watch is specifically a hunter case pocket watch, made of gold. "The details of the case are exquisite," Lasch said. The watch case was opened first. On the inside, scientists found three stamps and a serial number engraved, which will lead to detailed information about the case manufacturer. "Obviously there is more work to be done," Jacobsen said. "We hope to find an inscription on the inside of the back case." The H. L. Hunley was located in 1995 by Clive Cussler's National Underwater Agency (NUMA), a 501c3 non-profit organization. The hand-cranked submarine was raised in 2000 and delivered to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, where an international team of scientists are at work excavating and conserving the historic vessel and its artifacts.

Hours of operation for public tours and the Hunley gift shop are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p. m. on Saturdays and from noon to 5:00 p. m. on Sundays. All proceeds go to support the Hunley conservation and excavation project. To purchase tickets call toll free 1-877-4HUNLEY (1-877-448-6539) or log onto the Internet at [www.etix.com](http://www.etix.com).

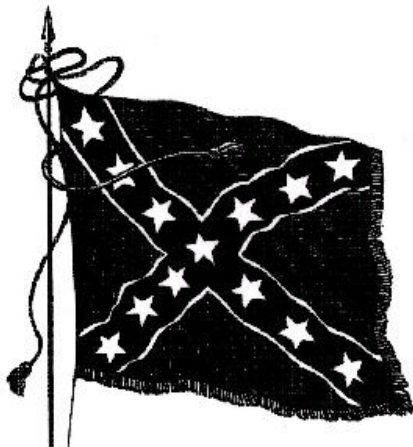


**This photo shows Memorial Hall Confederate Museum in New Orleans, attached to the Ogden Art Museum, with construction in progress. Photo was taken by Keith Coleman on April 18, 2003.**



**Photos aren't allowed inside the museum, but the manager allowed a few taken inside the doorway. This shows some of the right wall.**

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**FLY THE  
FLAG!**