

# 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. Byran Camp 1390 will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, at Montana's Smokehouse Restaurant, 212 W. Pine St. in Lake Charles. The program will be a round-table discussion of the even Days Campaign in 1862. This important campaign witnessed the emergence of Robert E Lee as the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. On June 26 Lee's Army of Northern Virginia attacked the Union right flank at Mechanicsville, thus began the Seven Days' Battles, a series of sidestepping withdrawals and holding actions that climaxed the Peninsular Campaign at Malvern Hill. When the Seven Days ended, some 35,000 soldiers, north and south, were casualties, and many on both sides probably shared the view of a young Georgian who wrote home: "I have seen, heard and felt many things in the last week that I never want to see, hear nor feel again...."

## Commander's Comments

Compatriots:

As our national Memorial Day has recently passed, so approaches Confederate Memorial Day on June 3. This is a day of special meaning and remembrance for us, the descendants of the last Americans to fight on their native soil in defense of their own firesides, families and freedoms.

Appropriately, and as has been our custom, we shall have a brief ceremony at the South's Defenders monument on the parish courthouse front lawn on Ryan St in Lake Charles. I encourage all who can, to attend this annual observance. I have ever found this to be a time of inspiration and special reflection when we have the opportunity to gather together at this monument around which stood confederate veterans at the time of its unveiling on June 3, 1915.

I encourage all of our compatriots, members, and like minded friends who are able, to fly or otherwise display any confederate flag of their choosing, whether any of the national confederate flags, or, the battle flag, on Tuesday, June 3, from their homes.

Looking forward to this annual special event and the fellowship to follow, I remain,

Yours in Bonds of the Old South,

Tommy Curtis  
Commander

## Hunley Funeral Date Announced

(May 16, 2003 - CHARLESTON, SC)

"We will soon witness one of the great historical events of our lifetime." That's how one South Carolina State official described the forthcoming burial of the eight-member crew of the Hunley, the first successful combat submarine in world history.

The burial date for the members of the crew, who perished at sea nearly 140 years ago, has now been set for April 17, 2004 at Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, South Carolina. The Hunley Commission and Friends of the Hunley announced today that the burial, with full military honors, will be preceded by a memorial period, during which personal information and facial reconstructions of the crew will be released.

"A team of scientists are now at work on facial reconstructions and genealogical research," said S.C. Senator Glenn McConnell, Chairman of the Hunley Commission. "During the days leading up to the burial, we will release a visual of each crewmember's face along with all the information we have on his life and legacy," McConnell said.

Warren Lasch, Chairman of Friends of the Hunley, the private group Raising funds for the scientific study and conservation of the Confederate submarine, said the crew will now be able "to rest in peace, at last." The crew will be buried next to other men who lost their lives on two previous Hunley missions. "These were men of great courage and achievement.

Our plan is to honor them and tell their stories to the world," Lasch said.

Hunley officials expect tens of thousands of people will come to Charleston to witness the historic event, which has been called the last Confederate burial. "Bravely they sacrificed. Gratefully we remember. Finally, they will be back in port together. Their long, long voyage home is over, and peace is theirs on American soil," McConnell said.

Nearly 140 years ago, on February 17th, 1864, a volunteer crew of eight men entered the experimental vessel with the mission of sinking the USS Housatonic. After ramming a spar torpedo into the hull of Housatonic,

exploding it and sinking the vessel in a matter of minutes, the Hunley began her journey home.

Lt. Dixon, the Hunley's commander, opened the forward hatch and displayed a blue light to their compatriots on shore, the signal of a successful mission. Soon after, for reasons that are still unknown, the submarine and all hands onboard disappeared without a trace. The fate and location of the Hunley and her crew remained a mystery for over 130 years.

In 1995, Clive Cussler and his organization, NUMA, located the Hunley, and on August 8, 2000 she was raised from the ocean floor. The Hunley was essentially a time capsule, holding the remains and personal belongings of the crewmen, as well as many valuable artifacts. Since the Hunley was raised, a major goal has been to give the eight crewmembers what McConnell and Lasch have called "a proper burial." That goal will be realized on April 17th, 2004.

"Our goal is to have as much information as possible about the crewmen available to the public before they are laid to rest. They will not be strangers, but men whose faces we recognize and whose personal histories we can honor," Lasch said.

The funeral procession will start with a ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on April 17 at White Point Gardens, along the battery in downtown Charleston. The ceremony will be approximately an hour long, and will honor those who lost their lives on both the USS Housatonic and the Hunley. Immediately following the ceremony, the procession will start its 4.5-mile journey, as the crew is walked through downtown Charleston to Magnolia Cemetery. During the service, the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion's 1861 prayer book will be used, as it was during the burial of the first crew. This prayer book belonged to Father Toomer Porter who was the chaplain to the Confederate troops in Charleston during the War and most likely would have been used in 1864 if the funeral had been held then.

Surrounding Saturday's funeral, a series of speaking events will take place so that the public can learn more about the crew and their personal histories as well as the history of the Hunley. There will also be Hunley Lantern Walks at Magnolia Cemetery. Though the burial procession will be open to the public, other events and Lantern Walks will require tickets.

During the last two years, scientists have been excavating the submarine and her contents at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in North Charleston. The discoveries included the remains of all eight crewmembers, including their Captain, Lt. George E. Dixon. The crewmembers will be laid to rest in the same plot next to their comrades who also lost their lives on two earlier efforts to launch the submarine.

Historians discovered the remains of the Hunley's first crew in June of 1999, during an archaeological dig beneath the stands in The Citadel's football stadium. On March 25, 2000, thousands of visitors came to Magnolia Cemetery to bury the five crewmembers with full military honors. They were buried alongside the Hunley's second crew.

The second crew, manned by Captain Horace L. Hunley, also faced a Tragic end. On October 15, 1863, the Hunley again sank while performing a routine diving

exercise. All eight crewmembers, including Hunley, were killed.

On November 8, 1863 the Captain and namesake of the history-making submarine, Horace L. Hunley, was buried at Magnolia Cemetery. The next day, November 9, the other seven crewmembers were also buried at Magnolia, all with full military honors.

Hunley Commission member Randy Burbage predicted even greater interest in the burial of the final crew. "The Hunley crewmembers are the last who served the Confederacy to come home to be laid to rest. This is our final opportunity to show them the honor, respect and admiration war heroes of all generations deserve."

If you are interested in participating in the burial contact Kay Long at (843) 556-1805 or [crsladyk@comcast.net](mailto:crsladyk@comcast.net).

Further details about the burial will be made available as the date gets closer and will be posted on the Official Website of Friends of the Hunley, [www.hunley.org](http://www.hunley.org), or you can call Friends of the Hunley at (843) 722-2333.

## **Poll Indicates Some Wanted Rebel Flag on Ballot**

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgians are split on whether the Confederate battle cross belongs on a ballot for a new state flag, according to a newspaper poll.

About 48 percent of likely voters said the St. Andrews Cross should have been an option in a referendum on the flag issue next year, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported recently.

But 46 percent indicated legislators were right to delete it from Gov. Sonny Perdue's proposal for a statewide vote. Another 6 percent were undecided.

The survey has a margin of error of 4.5 percentage points.

A new state flag without the Confederate emblem was raised over the Capitol this month, following a redesign aimed at ending a dispute that inflamed race relations and roiled Georgia politics.

The statewide newspaper poll was based on telephone interviews with 501 likely voters conducted May 7.

The poll also indicated 34 percent would choose the 2001 flag, a blue banner that contained a small Confederate emblem. It was raised under former Gov. Roy Barnes to replace the flag adopted in 1956, that was dominated by the Confederate emblem. Thirty-five percent polled said they support the design selected by the Legislature this year.

Georgia voters will chose between the new flag and the 2001 flag in a referendum next March.

## **Gods and Generals DVD, Video to be released July 15**

On July 15, Warner Home Video releases Gods & Generals, a rousing and profoundly touching epic about the early years of America's fierce Civil War, based on Jeff Shaara's New York Times' best-seller. Gods & Generals is available for the first time on DVD with a two-sided DVD 18 disc in wide screen format.

DVD special features include:

\* Introduction by Ted Turner.

- \* Journey to the Past (BET special).
- \* The Authenticities of the Film.
- \* The Life of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.
- \* Commentary by director Ron Maxwell; Colonel Keith E. Gibson, Executive Director of the Virginia Military Institute Museum; and James I. Robertson Jr., Alumni Distinguished Professor of History at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Note: Viewers can either play all of the scenes that have commentary or play individual scenes with commentary.

- \* Bob Dylan's "Cross the Green Mountain" music video.
  - \* Mary Fahl's "Going Home" music video.
  - \* Trailer.
  - \* DVD-ROM enabled.
  - \* Feature film available in English and French; subtitles available in English, French and Spanish.
- The DVD will be available for \$27.98 and the double cassette VHS edition will cost you \$22.99.

## **SCV-MOS&B May Part**

At the 24 May General Executive Council meeting in Elm Springs, Columbia, Tenn., a motion was passed to require the CiC or his designates to meet with the Commander Genl. of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars or his designates to reach an accord on certain aspects of the SCV's relationship with the MOSB, and vice-versa. If agreements which solve current actual and perceived difficulties cannot be reached, the CiC is authorized to negotiate a "buy out" of MOSB assets at Elm Springs and elsewhere, and effect a separation of the two organizations.

It should be explained that, historically, the organizations have always been separate since the founding of the (M)OSB in 1938. It was only in the mid - 1950's, when both organizations were very small, that records for both began being kept in the same place by Genl. McCain. Any separation of the two organizations would merely be a reversion to the original administrative separation.

It is presumed that reunions and activities would still be held simultaneously, unless one organization or the other eventually determines it to be beneficial not to do so.

## **Sullivan Appointed ANV Commander**

CiC Ron Wilsom appointed Christopher M. Sullivan of South Carolina to be the new ANV Commander until a special election can be held at this year's national reunion in Asheville, when delegates from ANV camps will elect a new commander. Any member from an ANV camp can seek the office in that election.

## **Hunley Crewmen Were Tough and Brave**

BATON ROUGE -- "Bones, if you know how to read them, are like a book," said Dr. Douglas Owsley, a curator for the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

A specialist in physical anthropology, Owsley recently spoke at the Baton Rouge Civil War Roundtable about his forensic work on the skeletal remains of the crew of the

C.S.S. Hunley, the first successful submarine in military history. The long lost submarine, which sank off Charleston, S.C. harbor shortly after sinking the U.S.S. Housatonic on Feb. 17, 1864, was discovered buried in silt 30 feet underwater in 1995. It was raised in August, 2000 and found to still be in remarkably good shape, along with the eight crewmen inside.

Owsley said by studying the bones of the crew, they can tell age, sex, lifestyle, and, along with other clues, even identify them. He said one of the crewmen had an old broken nose injury, and another an old broken cheek bone injury. "They must have been a tough group of men," he said. He said the commander of the submarine, Lt. George Dixon, has been identified and others may soon be identified.

"This was the stealth bomber of its time," Owsley said. He added that Louisiana had a great deal to do with the development of the first successful submarine. The namesake, Horace L. Hunley, with a team of engineers and mechanics, started the project at the beginning of the war in New Orleans. They had to abandon a prototype and moved to Mobile, Alabama when Union forces captured the city April 28, 1862.

The Hunley was built in Mobile and moved to Charleston in August, 1863 to try to break the Union blockade. Horace Hunley was killed in a training accident that October. Dixon persuaded Confederate commander Gen. Pierre Beauregard to recover the vessel and give him one more chance to use it. Dixon recruited an all volunteer crew made up of both navy and army personnel.

Owsley said it took him six weeks to sort all the bones and make sure they were all with the right person. He said remains were so well preserved by the silt, brain tissue was still present in the skulls.

He said the men ranged in age from 19 to 40, and they were larger than expected for such a small, cramped vessel. The submarine is only about 40 feet long, four feet high and three feet wide. They would stay in that cramped environment, all jammed together, for hours while on a mission.

It was propelled by a hand crank and Lt. Dixon stirred it with a joy stick, while he also worked diving planes and depth controls. He also looked out a small port hole in a tiny conning tower to see where they were going. There was no periscope.

He said the 19-year-old was the number three crewman back from the commander, and besides operating a cranking station, also operated a bellows to draw in air while they were on the surface. The submarine also had a snorkel that was supposed to bring in air while they were submerged. He said two of the crewmen had strange red stains on their bones. While they are still waiting final tests, he said the red stains may have been from the red trimming on the two artillerymen uniforms, who were part of the crew.

Another clue that helps identify the naval personnel, he said, were nicks in the teeth of some of the men. Owsley said it was common for sailors of that era to clinch needles in their teeth to repair the canvas on the sailing ships of the time. Owsley said he was also surprised that no firearms have been found yet, although there are areas of the interior that have yet to be

explored. Besides remnants of uniforms, he said they found such common items as canteens, pencils, pipes, combs, and wallets.

The richest finds were on Dixon. They found a \$20 gold piece in his pocket that was bent from having stopped a bullet and saved his life at the battle of Shiloh, Tenn. They also found a very fine Masonic pocket watch on him and very expensive gold and diamond jewelry. He was wearing a very fine tailored uniform. Dixon was even found to have elastic suspenders on, and it was previously thought that elastic suspenders weren't developed until after the war. They also found the ID tag of a Union soldier on one of the crewmen, apparently a souvenir picked up on an earlier battlefield.

Owsley said he also found very fine dental work in Dixon's teeth. He said Confederate soldiers were more likely to have gold fillings than Union soldiers because the Confederates had a Dental Corps, the first in history, and the Union Army had none. He said some of the crew had curved wear marks on their teeth from smoking pipes for many years. "It's quite a time capsule," he said. He noted wool, leather and wood items were particularly well preserved. He said life-size busts of each man's head will be made using the measurements of the skulls, so we'll know what each of them looked like. He said they will use every detail discovered, such as the pipe smokers, but will include nothing that cannot absolutely documented. "We'll merge all the tests later this summer," he said. "I think we'll be able to get a number of these guys identified." The funeral for the crew is scheduled to be held in Charleston next April 17.

## **Johanna Pate Recipient of Varina Howell Davis Award**

Mrs. Johanna Rice Pate was presented the Varina Howell Davis Award from the Military Order of the Stars and Bars at the recent Louisiana Society convention.

The presentation was made by Edward O. Cailleateau, former commander general of the MOS&B, in behalf of Jeffery Wayne Massey, commander general of the General Society of the MOS&B.

Mrs. Pate is the president of the Louisiana Society Order of Confederate Rose. The award is in recognition of her tireless work and travels to further the cause of Southern heritage.

Varina Howell Davis was the wife of President Jefferson Davis. Her constancy and devotion which characterized her life is recognized and honored by the MOS&B through the Varina Howell Davis Award.

## **La. Society OCR Raises Funds for SCV Heritage Defense**

At the recent convention of the Louisiana Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Louisiana Society Order of Confederate Rose raised \$415.01 with a silent auction for the Louisiana Division heritage defense.

A society spokesman said the potential is there for this to be a great annual fund raiser. The society thanked all of the SCV camps and individuals members who donated items.

## **Burr's Ferry Flag Raising**

Compatriots,

The Anacoco Rangers wish to invite all SCV members and their families to attend a flag raising ceremony. The ceremony will occur at 12:00 noon on June 14, 2003, at the Burr Ferry Confederate breastworks site. Three flagpoles (one 40' and two 20') have been erected upon a concrete walkway. A 6'x10' battle flag will fly atop the 40 footer and 3'x5' flags will be on top of the 20 footers. Color guard, fired artillery salutes, musket fire, and a barbeque dinner are planned for this event. There is no charge for the dinner, but donations will be accepted for future upgrades to the site. Members of the UDC, OCR, and the Texas Division SCV will be present. The Anacoco Rangers would be honored with your attendance at this ceremony. For any who want to camp at the Burr Ferry site water, firewood, and toilets will be provided. Please contact Dale James (adjutant) if you plan to camp so he can know how much wood to chop.

Directions to this location are: take La. 8 west out of Leesville 17.5 miles and it will be on the right side of the highway. 300 to 400 yards further is the Sabine river bridge and if you get to the bridge you just passed it. Hope to see you there.

Confederately,  
Jodie Dowden, Cmdr.  
Anacoco Rangers #1999