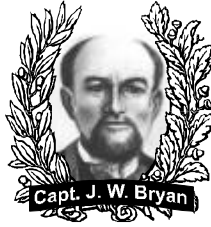


# THE CALCASIEU GREYS



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>

**December 2003**

## Next Meeting/Christmas Party

The next meeting and annual Christmas Party will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 9, at the home of Camp Commander Tommy Curtis, 1928 21st St. in Lake Charles. Commander Curtis will provide the meat (Turkey & ham) and some of the trimmings. Please call him to RSVP and let him know how many will be coming with you and what dish you would like to bring. Call him at 433-1683 or his cell phone, 526-0855. Please come and enjoy some wonderful Christmas holiday Confederate fellowship.

## Dues Renewal

It is time to renew camp dues for 2004. Please make checks out for \$32 to the Sons of Confederate Veterans and send them to Adjutant Donald Tarver, P.O. Box 12097, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70612. Please act promptly. In these times when our Southern Heritage is under such relentless assault, we need every good Southern man we can get. Even if you are unable to take part in camp activities, just maintaining your membership helps more than you'll ever know. We thank and appreciate all our compatriots. (Of course our lifetime members can disregard this dues renewal notice.)

## Commander Comments

Compatriots:

This is a very busy time of year on the domestic scene for all of us. Thanksgiving, which has already passed at the time of your reading this, always gives cause for reunion with loved ones and, hopefully, an examination of all that we have to be thankful for.

One of those things for which to be thankful and peculiar to us as sons of Confederate veterans, is our heritage of honor, tempered as steel with the fire of sacrifice and suffering even unto death and bequeathed to us even in the tragedy of defeat, by our ancestors who served valiantly, faithfully and tenaciously in defense of a regulated order of life that preserved individuality and spurned the collectivism of the mass state. The sons and daughters of the South strained every nerve, endured unspeakable hardships, unprovoked depredations, and

shameful indignations, never before paralleled in the scales of the history in warfare between civilized nations.

Ironically, at least, for us, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as the date for Thanksgiving, and congress proclaimed it as a national holiday after the war. At the time, Southerners saw this as an attempt by the North to impose their customs on them (why would we have thought something like that?)

Even as a Yankee invention, this is a holiday that we can put to good purpose in the spirit of thankfulness for all we have and for those that sacrificed for us in the past, whether in victory or defeat. Remembering our heroes, I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,  
Tommy Curtis  
Commander

## Sons of Confederate Veterans Decry Recent Remarks by Dean, Other Candidate

The Sons of Confederate Veterans objects strenuously to insensitive remarks made by several Democratic presidential candidates in the wake of Gov. Howard Dean's comment that he wants to "also be the candidate for guys with Confederate flags in their pickup trucks." Among these insensitive and offensive remarks are:

Al Sharpton calling the Confederate Battle Flag "America's swastika". Confederate soldiers are American Veterans and there could be no more hateful and bigoted statement about the flag they fought and died under. The irony of the erroneous "swastika" comparison becomes even greater when Sharpton's past association with anti-Semitic actions in Crown Heights and Harlem are taken into consideration. The Sons of Confederate Veterans demands an apology for Sharpton's insensitivity towards Southerners.

Rep. Dick Gephardt's statement "I don't want to be the candidate for guys with Confederate flags in their pickup trucks...I will be the candidate for the guys with American flags (sic) in their pickup trucks." insinuates that Southerners are unpatriotic, or not good Americans. The truth is that no region of our country has given more blood in defense of America and the U.S. flag than the South

including in the current war in Iraq. Like all heritages and minorities, Southerners can be and are proud Americans but without having to give up their culture, heritage and symbols. The SCV demands Gephardt apologize for his insensitivity towards, and ignorance of, Southerners.

Several other candidates made equally offensive remarks, including Gen. Wesley Clarke, Sen. John Kerry, Sen. John Edwards, Sen. Joe Lieberman and Dean himself in his clumsy backpedaling - and likewise all need to apologize; especially when taken in light of Dean's original statement which dealt with health and education issues for Southerners: "folks in the South who drive pickup trucks with Confederate flag decals on the back ought to be voting with us ...because their kids don't have health insurance either, and their kids need better schools too."

"When I heard what Dean initially said, my first reaction was, 'OK, how long before he backpedals and even apologizes?'" said Ron Casteel, Chief of Staff for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, whose international headquarters is in Columbia, Tenn. "Sure enough, within two or three days after" the other candidates "jumped his case real good, he was calling the Battle Flag a loathsome symbol."

While engaging in South-bashing in order to pander for votes has become popular with some politicians, the Sons of Confederate Veterans objects to honest, law-abiding and patriotic citizens of any region or heritage (not just in the South) being characterized as ignorant, deprived, or de- facto racists merely because they have an innate understanding of the historic nature of Confederate symbolism or respect the contributions of the South to America, both in the past and the present. Furthermore, the SCV condemns the actions of any group, be they the Ku Klux Klan or candidates for national political office, who seek to gain advantage by misusing Confederate symbols in divisive and derogatory ways.

## **Excavation of Civil War Sub Ends**

(November 21, 2003 - CHARLESTON, SC)

This week, Hunley staff scientists completed the excavation of the H. L. Hunley's two ballast tanks. During excavation of this area, over 1.5 tons of sediment were removed and volunteers assisted in the screening and recording of the sediment. The excavation, which began in early October, yielded more 19th-century artifacts as well as valuable analytical data.

A wooden barrel was uncovered earlier in the excavation on the bottom port side of the forward ballast tank and appears to have been modified for use as a bucket. "It contained a relatively heavy and radio-dense substance that we believe may be a lead-based caulking material. Right next to the bucket lay an iron tool with the shape of a chisel that could be a caulking iron, used to caulk or repair leaks in the submarine," said Maria Jacobsen, Senior Archaeologist for the Hunley project. A sample of the bucket's contents has been sent to Clemson University for material analysis.

During the excavation of the aft ballast tank, scientists were slowed down due to the discovery of a coil of rope. The fragile, waterlogged rope was carefully removed for conservation and documentation.

Also during this time, archaeologists took the opportunity to revisit the central crew compartment and remove some of the heavier concreted artifacts from the area where Lt. Dixon, the Hunley's commander, was stationed. The objects excavated were not easily recognizable and had to be x-rayed to be identified. Some of the objects recovered included a wrench, a hammer, and three bolts. An artillery button was also uncovered in the center of the crew compartment. "These tools raise questions as to whether Lt. Dixon was working on the submarine on the final night making repairs or adjustments. With the condensation in the submarine and the iron clad plates that are on the floor of the sub apparently to raise the crew's feet above the water which would accumulate, it seems Dixon would not have carelessly kept these tools in the water on a regular basis where they would corrode. Thus, it would suggest he was possibly using the tools that night adding another clue to the operation of the submarine and the cause of it not returning home. The evidential jigsaw puzzle gets another piece of evidence as we put together the detailed story of the H. L. Hunley and its proud crew," said Senator Glenn McConnell, Chairman of the Hunley Commission. Scientists hope this phase of excavation will also provide valuable data that could help solve the mystery on why the Hunley never returned after becoming the first successful combat submarine in world history. The forward and aft ballast tanks both had damage to them and over time, the sediment that filled those areas formed layers, or strata. Studying how these strata formed could eventually provide clues to the mystery of why the Hunley vanished.

Warren Lasch, Chairman of Friends of the Hunley, said, "The Hunley's disappearance will not remain an unsolved mystery. Through interdisciplinary scientific research and forensic analysis, we will ultimately be able to accurately tell the Hunley's chapter in world history." In December, the Hunley project team will have the submarine mapped. Pacific Survey will use new 3D Digital equipment to scan the emptied ballast tanks and the fully excavated crew compartment.

## **No Matter What Flag They Saluted, All Were American Veterans**

By Jack Anderson

The Confederate flag controversy is not going away, and both sides are wrong. Coded political appeals to cowardly voters who once hid behind white sheets and burned crosses while waving the Confederate flag have long been a sordid side of American campaigns. Similarly, the use of the flag as a trumped-up symbol to pander to African American voters is equally unbecoming.

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, running for the Democratic presidential nomination, almost got it right,

but phrased it wrong, explained it incorrectly and finally caved in altogether. He said the Democratic Party could not ignore “guys with Confederate flags on their pickup trucks.” He should have said that his party cannot ignore millions of people whose ancestors fought and died under the banner – people who do not necessarily display or wave the flag, but who honor it, unlike the bigoted cowards who misuse it.

Then Dean explained that he was referring to the poor white Southerner, a stereotype that competing Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., appropriately refuted. This is the “Bubba” image of poor white Southerners as flag-waving, beer drinking, pot-bellied bigots. As Edwards noted, the reference is an insult to hardworking Southern Americans.

Finally, Dean blurted, “I understand that the Confederate flag is a loathsome symbol,” and in one fell swoop insulted millions of people.

It is time to get some facts right about the history most of us never learned.

1. Abraham Lincoln was elected with 39 percent of the popular vote – the smallest percentage in American history – and, for the first time since the founding of the nation, an administration failed to form a geographically diverse cabinet.

2. The seven Deep South states viewed the Lincoln administration as hostile to their interests, including the issue of slavery, and they seceded in the winter of 1860 – 61.

3. The Upper South states of North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Arkansas held secession conventions and voted overwhelmingly to remain in the union.

4. The seceding states formed the Confederacy and fired on Fort Sumter (no one was killed in the barrage) in South Carolina’s Charleston harbor. This was a political mistake, followed by an even worse mistake on Lincoln’s part. His response could have been to negotiate or even to blockade the Southern ports. Instead, he called for an invasion of the South, a decision that forced the Upper South states to choose sides. They chose the South, and eventually provided more than 50 percent of the Confederate Army’s manpower.

5. More than 90 percent of white Southerners did not have slaves. They fought because they were invaded, not because they wanted to protect the rights of their slave-holding officers. Despite this fact, Princeton Professor James McPherson has argued that the war was still about slavery because the vast non-slave-owning majority wanted to own slaves. This is, of course, a spurious argument, unless he would have us believe that Southerners were willing to die for the right to own slaves in the future. In fact, Lincoln said the war was fought to preserve the union, not to end slavery.

6. The Emancipation Proclamation became effective Jan. 1, 1863, but only applied to slaves in those areas in rebellion. It did not apply to Northern and Border States or even to Tennessee and parts of Louisiana and Virginia. Slavery was not ended until the 13th Amendment was ratified on Dec. 18, 1865, eight months after Gen. Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox. According to the 1860 Census, there were 432,650 slaves in Union states, and most of them remained enslaved throughout the war.

7. The Civil War was a Northern tragedy and a Southern holocaust. Of the able-bodied members of the generation that fought the war, 10 percent of Northerners and 25 percent of Southerners died. In total, more than 623,000 soldiers perished along with uncounted thousands of civilians, which probably brought the number to more than 700,000 – the rough equivalent of 7 million deaths relative to today’s U.S. population.

The Civil War was the saddest and costliest period in American history, when casualties of war touched almost every family, North and South. It was a period when the miscalculations of political leaders were paid in blood by the people they led. These people carried different flags, but they were all American veterans, and they should neither be forgotten nor denigrated. For this, too, would be a political miscalculation.

## **CiC Wilson to Run for Senate in South Carolina**

Compatriots:

In the last few years we have seen some important changes in the SCV and the way we go about fulfilling the Charge. These changes have come about largely because of similarly important changes in the culture of the South and in America.

As those who want to destroy our precious Southern heritage have become ever more hateful in their attacks, it has fallen to us, the men of the SCV, to defend these attacks and to present the true history of the South to the world.

While we work hard as SCV members to defend our heritage, it is important that we work equally hard as individuals to do the same. There are many things that we, in an official capacity, cannot do. Most prominent among these things is political action.

As Commander-in-Chief, I have tried to continue the work begun by Ed Deason, Rick Griffin, and other Commanders-in-Chief to strengthen our ability to do what needs to be done when we are dragged onto the political arena. We now have a political action committee and the new magazine Southern Mercury, among other things.

In my travels as your CIC I have constantly called upon our Compatriots to be vigilant in engaging the enemy on questions of our history and our precious Southern symbols. I have also urged our Compatriots, as individuals, to be active in the life of their community and

in local political affairs. Recently, my words were turned against me when a group of Compatriots of ours came to me and urged me to offer myself as a candidate for South Carolina State Senate. My Senator is retiring after many years in office.

After careful consideration and discussions with my family, I agreed to run for this office. This decision was not made lightly or without carefully considering how it might affect my ability to make a living and to do the job of Commander-in-Chief.

As a result of these discussions, I was brought to the conclusion that all these areas could be accommodated. But more importantly, it was impressed upon me the significance of taking advantage of the opportunity which has been laid before us.

I believe that it is crucial that as many of our people as possible be encouraged to seek elective office, at all levels, so that when the heritage battles arise (as they always do) we will have a seat at the table and will not just be standing on the curb.

Should I win this race, my duties will not begin until the next session of the South Carolina General Assembly that begins in January 2005. By then, I will have been a past Commander-in-Chief for almost six months. As to why I'm running for public office, I can only say that I've always

taken on challenges where I could fight for what I thought was right. This is one of those occasions.

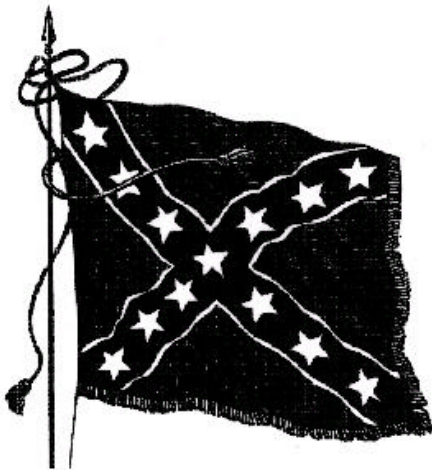
And there's one other specific reason. Many of you reading this can easily and proudly recall that wonderful day in January 2000 when 10,000 or more of our brave men, women, and children marched in the streets of Columbia, SC, and then assembled at the Statehouse in support of South Carolina's valiant but ultimately unsuccessful effort to keep the Battle Flag flying over the Capitol dome.

It is in the spirit of that day that I run for public office. I want to be in the Senate of this state because that heritage war is not over. One day it will again raise its hideous head. I want to be here when that happens.

I ask those of you who have been supportive of me in the past, for your continued support and prayers.

Sincerely,  
R.G. "Ron" Wilson  
Commander in Chief,  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Captain J.W. Bryan Camp 1390, SCV  
Lt. Isaac Ryan Chapter 205, MOSB  
<http://www.geocities.com/scv1390>



**FLY THE  
FLAG!**



**The South's Defenders**