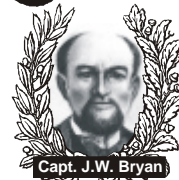


# THE CALCASIEU GREYS



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



**July 2005**

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of Captain James W. Bryan Camp 1390 will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, at Wayne Harper's Restaurant, 316th Iris St. in Lake Charles. The program will be on the Abbeville Institute being held at the Young-Sanders Center in Franklin, La., the topic of which is "*Re-thinking Lincoln: The Man, The Myth, The Symbol, The Legacy.*"

## Confederate Flag Raised In Italy

Captain James W. Bryan Camp member Pete Rossi reports a ceremony was held in May in Civitella del Tronto, a small town in central Italy, to honor former Bourbon soldiers who enlisted in Louisiana military units in 1861, and fought for the Confederacy. Located there is the last fortress to surrender at the fall of the Bourbon Kingdom.

On May 7 and 8, among those present, were a representation of the Carlist movement from Spain, Bourbons from France and the heir to the Crown Prince Charles.

There was a procession to the monument to fallen soldiers of 1860, blessing of the wreath, procession to the fortress and raising of the Confederate battle flag and Confederate First National (Stars and Bars) flag on top of the fortress. Also raised was the Bourbon flag beside the Confederate flags. In addition, there was a ceremony at the town hall.



## R. E. Lee Statue And The National Park Service

The Sons of Confederate Veterans will monitor closely the actions of the National Park Service and in particular Antietam Superintendent John Howard to be certain that he does not become a participant in the re-writing of American history which has become the credo of the Park Service. The purchase of 45 acres last week to be added to the Antietam National Battlefield includes a recently placed statue of Robert E. Lee, Commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia at the colossal battle which cost the lives of thousands of Americans on September 17, 1862.

The huge 10-1 disparity in the number of monuments at Antietam was the central reason why William Chaney placed the Lee statue on private land several years ago. Against much opposition, Mr. Chaney realized that the National Park Service would never put a Lee statue on the battlefield they controlled so he knew he had to put it on private property. With last weeks purchase, the statue has fallen into the hands of the National Park Service. The National Park Service has for the past few years changed their focus on the war and now promote social causation as the reason for the war.

In particular, the Park Service emphasizes slavery and has broken a century old tradition of treating the soldiers of the North and South as equals fighting courageously for causes each side believed in. Today the Park Service has taken sides and the bad guy is the Confederate soldier who does not deserve that designation.

Thomas Clemens, long-time President of Save Historic Antietam, has vowed to remove the statue of Lee now that it is in the hands of the National Park Service. His claim that the statue is on the Union line and that Lee wasn't there should not ring true to the Park Service who ignored the same argument in Richmond by allowing a statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Tredegar Ironworks on a spot Lincoln never visited. This was done despite a huge outcry at a state and national level. Southern opposition was totally ignored by the Park Service. Should Superintendent Howard remove the statue, it will go a long way in proving the anti-Southern bias, which pervades the Park Service from top to bottom. There were two sides that fateful day in 1862 and Robert E. Lee, one of the most admired of all Americans, commanded the Army of the South. He deserves a spot at Antietam because of his historic stature.

Brag Bowling  
National Press Officer  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

## **Trans-Mississippi Happenings**

I want to give you an update on some items that have occurred in the last month and notice of some upcoming items of interest.

First lets extend a welcome to our newest camp - the 2nd Lt. James Wesley Merritt Camp No. 2081 in Blanding, Utah. This is the second camp in Utah and on this basis Commander In Chief Sweeney has declared Utah to be a new provisional division. The Provisional Division Commander is Compatriot James Phillips who is also serving as the commander of the Soldier Summit Grays Camp in Salt Lake City, Utah. Welcome!

I would also like to announce the appointment of Compatriot Brent Jacobs as provisional division commander of the Oregon Division. Compatriot Jacobs has served in this capacity before and will bring his experience back to this office.

In the past our ATM lapel pins have been available at the annual reunion and I am glad to announce this year will be no different. Compatriot Kevin Easterling will be at the Nashville reunion - set for July 21-23 - with the pins for any which wish to purchase one. The cost of each pin is five dollars.

There is also a "new" project we have begun - the reinstatement of the ATM newsletter. Division Commanders in the ATM are invited to send in an article about the accomplishments of and the events and programs in their respective divisions. The article should be about 3/4 page in length. Others wishing to submit an announcement or article can do so and they will be published as space permits.

Compatriot Gary Ayres of the Missouri Division will serve as newsletter editor and has set a deadline of JUNE 13 for all submissions. Articles should be sent to [garyayres@centurytel.net](mailto:garyayres@centurytel.net). We expect the newsletter to be delivered by early July. The newsletter will be sent to the commander of each camp in the Army of the Trans-Mississippi to be shared with their camps.

I look forward to working with you to make the SCV a better and more successful organization. If anyone needs to contact me I can be reached by phone at 318-387-3791 or by email at the following address I have set-up for ATM Business [atmcmd@yahoo.com](mailto:atmcmd@yahoo.com). Please feel free to contact me.

Yours in the Service of the ATM,  
Chuck Rand

## **UDC Dedicates Military Markers In Four Cemeteries**

United Daughters of the Confederacy members of Robert E. Lee Chapter 305 and Nancy Hart Chapter 2645 dedicated military service headstones for 17 Confederate veterans at four cemeteries Saturday, June 18.

Chapter 305 was chartered May 1, 1899 and Chapter 2645 Dec. 15, 2004.

Mrs. Shirley Smith, president of Robert E. Lee Chapter compiled a book of Confederate veterans who received the Southern Cross of Honor bestowed by the chapter.

Mrs. Tammy Hill, president of Nancy Hart Chapter and Mrs. Margaret A. Bass, vice president, compiled a book listing the final resting place of 398 Confederate veterans buried in Calcasieu Parish.

Markers dedicated at graves in Graceland-Orange Grove cemetery were for William C. Bowman, Stephen H. Clement, Lemuel C. Dees, Patrick Fitzgerald, Pierre F. Goudeau, William Knapp, M.E. Shaddock, and Francis M. Singleton, all of whom were recipients of the Southern Cross of Honor bestowed by Robert E. Lee chapter.

Also dedicated were markers for Hardy Gill, Daniel B. Gorham, Augustus Lyons, John L. Lyons, Abram Hugh Moss and William Schwing, all members of the United Confederate Veterans Camp 62. Other markers dedicated were: Reese W. Perkins, Big Woods Cemetery; Belonie Granger, Sallier Cemetery; and Michel Ellender, Farquar Cemetery. Ellender was also a recipient of the Southern Cross of Honor bestowed by Robert E. Lee chapter.

Other markers will be dedicated at a future date.

## **Skirmish At Sabine Pass Lighthouse**

By Michael Dan Jones

The old Sabine Pass lighthouse in Southwest Louisiana was the scene of a deadly skirmish between Confederate and Union forces on 18 April 1863.

In the bloody confrontation, four Union sailors were killed outright, another received a mortal wound, two others received non-fatal wounds and six were captured. One Confederate was killed.

The stage was set for the showdown by Commander Abner Read of the U.S. Navy blockading gunboat "New London." Read was planning to launch a surprise attack on a Confederate fort under construction on the Texas side of the pass. He also wanted to capture two enemy gunboats, "Uncle Ben" and "Josiah Bell" which were anchored there.

The Union naval commander sent daily scouting parties by whaleboat to the lighthouse to make contact with a Union spy who was using the 80-foot-tall structure as an observation platform. The spy, whose identity never was revealed, had been keeping track of the progress of construction on the Confederate fort.

The commander of Confederate forces in the area was Lt. Col. William H. Griffin of the 21st Texas Infantry Battalion. Griffin was a West Point graduate and an aggressive and experienced military officer. He first discovered that his activities were being spied upon on April 10, 1863, when Captain Charles Fowler, commander of the Confederate gunboats, and three other men disappeared while scouting Lighthouse Bayou.

They had been taken by surprise by a Union patrol. The Confederates then started noticing light reflections coming from the supposedly abandoned lighthouse. Then on 17 April, they spotted a Union whaleboat rowing inland.

The next morning, Griffin dispatched a detachment under Captain Samuel Evans across the pass to the Louisiana side. Upon arriving, the gray clad soldiers deployed underneath the lighthouse keeper's residence and waited for their chance to attack.

According to the usual routine established by the Union blockader, two whaleboats, one from "New London" and the other from "Cayuga," also a blockading gunboat, were soon seen rowing to shore. Commander Read and Captain D.A. McDermot of the "Cayuga" were leading the patrol.

Three unsuspecting Federal bluejackets approached the lighthouse and the hidden Confederates demanded their surrender. These three were taken captive but the rest of the landing party began a fighting retreat back to their boats.

The Confederates opened fire.

Four of the sailors were killed by the musketry. A fifth, McDermot, was mortally wounded and captured. Commander Read was among the wounded. He lost an eye during the fusillade, but escaped capture. One of the boats escaped, but the Confederates took the other, along with six prisoners.

Read and two others made their way back to the "New London," but the plan to capture the pass was abandoned. The only Confederate death was Lt. E.T. Wright, who was killed instantly during the skirmish.

Lt. Col. Griffin filed a dry, concise report of the action: "Last night I placed 30 men, in the lighthouse under Lieutenant Jones, of Griffin's battalion. Today at 11 o'clock, 13 Federals came up to the lighthouse in two small boats. We captured six men, including Captain McDermot, of the 'Cayuga,' who was mortally wounded, and the captain's gig. The other boat escaped with three men. Four were killed in the water. Second Lieutenant Wright, of Company D, Griffin's battalion, was killed, gallantly leading the men. No other casualties."

## **Scientists Discover New Stealth Feature on H.L. Hunley**

By Raegan Quinn, Naval Historical Center Public Affairs  
CHARLESTON, S.C. (NNS) -- Conservators of the Civil War submarine H. L. Hunley, working with the Naval Historical Center (NHC), discovered a previously unknown stealth feature called a deadlight while removing the concretion on one of the 10 glass ports, June 15.

The deadlight, which served like skylights that run along the top of the submarine, served as both a stealth and safety feature on Hunley, by stopping light from getting out and water from getting into the submarine.

"The Hunley truly is a technological marvel. Every aspect of the submarine's design is thought out to maximize her ability as a stealth and functional weapon," said Sen. Glenn McConnell, chairman of the Hunley Commission. "She is literally 50 years ahead of her time."

The skylight is covered by a hinged iron plate, or deadlight. A pin could be removed from one hinge, allowing the iron plate to drop down and let light in to the otherwise dark vessel. To cover the skylight, a crew member would push the iron plate up and re-insert the pin. When the deadlight was closed, it would block light from exiting the submarine through the skylight, increasing the Hunley's ability to approach her target unnoticed.

The deadlights also served as an important safety feature of the sub's construction. During combat, if the glass of the skylight was broken, it could cause a dangerous flow of water into the submarine. Scientists think the two hinges holding the iron plate in place may have been fitted with rubber gaskets, which would make the skylight watertight when the iron plate was closed. If the glass on the skylight was damaged, the crew could lock the iron plates in place and stop water from overtaking the sub.

Hunley scientists discovered the deadlight was in the shut position and the skylight remained covered.

"Every discovery is a clue that we will ultimately use to solve the mystery of the Hunley's disappearance. In the crew's last moments, they chose to leave this skylight closed, perhaps because they believed they would be returning home and wanted to remain undetected," McConnell said. "This is another piece of the puzzle that will lead us to the ultimate answer."

Scientists will continue work on de-concreting the remaining deadlights as they prepare the submarine for its conservation treatment.

On the evening of Feb. 17, 1864, H.L. Hunley became the world's first successful combat submarine by sinking USS Housatonic. After signaling to shore that the mission had been accomplished, the submarine and her crew of eight vanished.

Lost at sea for more than a century, Hunley was located in 1995 by author Clive Cussler's National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA). The hand-crank-propelled vessel was raised in 2000 and delivered to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, where an international team of scientists under the Naval Historical Center are at work conserving the vessel and piecing together clues to solve the mystery of her disappearance.

For related news, visit the Naval Historical Center Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/navhist/](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/navhist/).

## **Civil War Preservation Trust Condemns Plan To Build Casino At Gettysburg**

Gettysburg, Pa. - The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) condemned plans to build a casino adjacent to Gettysburg National Military Park. According to press reports, a group of investors is seeking a license to open a casino at the intersection of U.S. routes 15 and 30, east of Gettysburg. CWPT President James Lighthizer

made the following statement in response to the proposal:

“Gettysburg is America’s most sacred shrine to our nation’s Civil War dead. It was here that Lincoln first talked about a ‘new birth of freedom’ during ceremonies honoring those who fell in that tragic battle. Gettysburg is such an inappropriate location for a casino it is hard to believe that the proposal is receiving serious consideration. Casinos can be built anywhere; land where thousands of Americans ‘gave the last full measure of devotion’ cannot be moved.

“Unfortunately, the proposed casino is the symptom of a much larger problem – the avalanche of development that is overwhelming the area along the York Pike near the Route 15 interchange. If steps are not taken quickly to insure this area doesn’t further succumb to sprawl, it is likely that unchecked development will eventually overwhelm the battlefield park.

“In addition to being hallowed ground, the Gettysburg Battlefield is a gold mine for the regional economy. According to a study CWPT released last year, non-local visitors to the battlefield spent more than \$121 million in the area, supporting more than 2,650 local jobs and generating more than \$17 million in state and local tax revenue. It would be folly to flood that gold mine with a wave of inappropriate development.

“While we have documented proof of the economic benefits provided to the community by preserving the

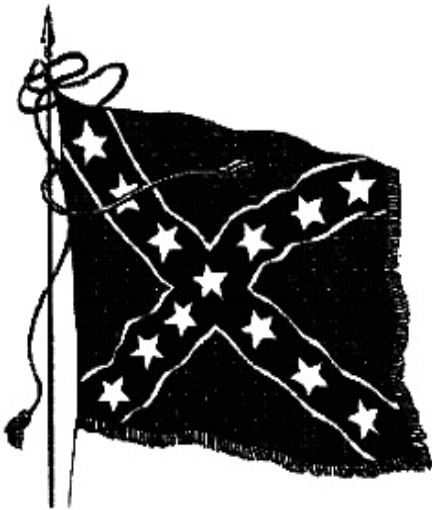
battlefield, the proposed casino is a shot in the dark.”

CWPT is a 70,000-member nonprofit battlefield preservation organization. Its mission is to preserve our nation’s endangered Civil War sites. CWPT has saved 21,300 acres of hallowed ground, including 342 acres on the Gettysburg Battlefield. CWPT’s website is located at [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org).



Confederate skirmishers at the Pleasant Hill reenactment.

Michael D. Jones, Editor  
Calcasieu Greys  
P.O. Box 1318  
Iowa, LA 70647



**FLY THE  
FLAG!**



The South’s Defenders