

Patriotic & Progressive™

THE WEBFOOT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION IN THE INTEREST OF
CONFEDERATE VETERAN DESCENDANTS AND KINDRED TOPICS

Official Organ Of The
Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29
Sons of Confederate Veterans



General R.E. Lee

Jan 19th 1807—Oct 12th 1870

The Commander's Corner

Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

Columbia, TENN.

Wednesday, January 07, 2009

The Webfoot
An Official Publication
of the Samuel R. Wat-
kins Camp #29

Mailing Address:

Sam Watkins Camp #29
c/o PO BOX 309
Mount Pleasant, TENN
38474

Officers:

Commander: Jason Boshers
Lt. Commander: J. Taylor
Adjutant: J. Smith
Chaplain: M. Bullock
Camp Surgeon: R. Shelton
Sgt. at Arms: Josh Boshers
Judge Advocate: C. Bates



Quartermaster: D. Walker
Ways and Means: K. Lovett

Compatriots,

Gentlemen of the camp, thank you for electing me as your Commander for 2009. I am truly honored that the members of this great camp have trusted me with this prestigious position. I will do my best to serve the camp both humbly and honorably. I wish to thank all the men who have stepped up and assumed positions within the camp. A tip of the hat goes out to each of you.

2009 is shaping up to be another busy year for the camp. The immediate duty before us is the pancake breakfast at Applebee's. It warms my heart that some have stepped up to answer Lt. Commander Taylor request to purchase tickets. We have two problems before us. One, we still have a great number of tickets left. Two, We will be in dire need of workers on the morning of January 17th. The breakfast will go from 7:30 AM until 9:30 AM. As workers, we need to be there 30 minutes early to prepare and 30 minutes late to clean up. However, if you cannot work please sell tickets or buy the tickets and give them away. This is our main fundraiser for the year. I will be there in uniform and I look forward to see all of you the morning of January 17th.

Throughout this year, many of the SCV and Army of Tennessee (AOT) meetings will be about the Sesquicentennial. I will be attending the Army of Tennessee meetings on February 21st in Birmingham Alabama and March 14th in Lexington Kentucky. After the meetings I will address the camp about the plans set forth by the planning committee and what role our camp will be involved. The initial plans have us heavily involved 3 of the 4 years.

The Tennessee Division Reunion will be the first weekend in April at Travelers Rest in Nashville, which is also Mule Day weekend. Our camp will have a heavy involvement in the placement and dedication on the Southern Cross and Headstone for Confederate Lt. Andrew Gould, the young officer killed by General Forrest in downtown Columbia. I have his Southern Cross in my possession. Our camp has been asked to clean and paint the Southern Cross and serve as Color Guard and fire the salute during the ceremony, which will take place during the reunion.

The remainder of April is going to be a whirlwind as it looks like we will have an event every weekend. Besides the reunion, we have Rose Hill and Murfreesboro. We will talk more about these as plans and details emerge.

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The Webfoot: December 16—January 20, 2008 issue. Copyright 2008 Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29. All Rights Reserved.

Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29 - PO BOX 309, Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474

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COMMANDER’S CORNER—CONTINUED

Our speaker will truly honor us this month. John Bridges is an accomplished musician who specializes in Southern Music. The is one third of the trio, all are members of the Sam Davis Camp, who form the band called the Coleman Scouts and they have a new CD called “Are You From Dixie”. He is an established inventor with over 100 patents worldwide. He is also a very established author having written four books. The fourth book is called “Three Cousins From Mechanicsville”. Which is the book he will be teaching a class on this April at David Lipscomb. It is with much anticipation that I look forward to hearing Mr. Bridges speak.

Do not forget about the pancake breakfast. It is our major camp fundraiser and will be held on January 17th from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM and will be held at Applebee’s. We need at least 15 people to work as servers and they will need to be there from 7 AM to 10 AM. How much money the camp raises depend on how many tickets we sell. The tickets are \$5 and you can get them from Jack, Jay or myself. ALL of the money goes to the camp. All we have to do is sell tickets and wait tables (pour milk, coffee, pass out butter and syrup, etc....). All we are asking for is 3 hours of work and in return you will get to experience fellowship with camp members and the good hearted warm feeling to do something good by helping to raise money for the camp.

See you at Applebee’s and see you at the meeting.

In Holy Bonds of the South,
Jason Boshers
Camp Commander

ROBERT E. LEE DAY RECOGNIZED BY TENNESSEE GOV.

January 19th will be a special day of observance and anniversary of the birth of Robert E. Lee.

Governor Phil Bredesen has signed the proclamation designation January 19th, 2009 as “Robert E. Lee Day”

The Tennessee Code states the following:

Tennessee Code Annotated, 15-2-101

Pursuant to the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated §15-2-101, each year it shall be the duty of the governor to proclaim the following as days of special observance:

- Robert E. Lee Day January 19*
- Abraham Lincoln Day February 12*
- Andrew Jackson Day March 15*
- Memorial or Confederate Decoration Day June 3*
- Nathan Bedford Forrest Day July 13*
- Mother’s Day Second Sunday in May (TCA §15-2-102)*

Headquarters of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29

Columbia, TENN.

Wednesday, January 07, 2009

RE: APPLEBEE'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Dear Camp and to all interested:

In reference to our Pancake Breakfast fundraiser to be held this Saturday the 17th, I have an urgent message for anyone and everyone! We have a LOT of Applebee's Pancake breakfast tickets left. We estimate over 150 tickets.

Folks we MUST get these tickets sold, so I am asking you, our camp members, associates and other readers to step up as real men and women and donate money to purchase the rest of these tickets. They are only 5 dollars each and will be for an ALL YOU CAN EAT breakfast. You can then in turn give them away or re-sell them to someone else. The event is on Saturday the 17th and will run from 7:30am to 9:30am.

WE CAN DO THIS!!!!

Please use every moment of your free time to help promote this event. This is a good fundraiser for our camp and it behooves us to get this done. I have set a goal of raising 10,000 dollars by September of 2009. I will do my best to get this completed come hail or high water. We need the money to help in the preservation in the local community and stop the natural and sometimes un-natural destruction of our Confederate monuments.

I know there are a many of you with the monetary means to help out with this greatly. You can use this as a tax deduction, and who knows what the 2009 tax season will be like - this might be a good means to chop off at least a portion of Uncle Sam's take..

Respectfully Yours,

Jack Taylor

Lt. Commander

TICKETS —

only 5 dollars each

Phone: 931-505-1889 (for Jack Taylor)

Alternate:

931-379-0426 (Jason Boshers)

And lastly, by postal mail:

SCV Camp 29

C/o PO BOX 309

Mt. Pleasant, TENN 38474

PLEASE HURRY! WE NEED YOU!

December 16 Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 7:00p.m. by Commander, Jason Boshers. Chaplain Bullock gave the invocation. Following the prayer, Lt. Commander Taylor led the pledge to the U.S. flag and salute to the Confederate flag.

Commander Boshers introduced Chaplain Bullock's grandson, Thomas Shannon. Thomas has been a member of Sam Watkins camp for three years and will be formally inducted into the camp tonight. Also present was Bryan Sharp with Elm Springs. Bryan is Commander of the Captain W.H. McCauley, Camp #260 in Dickson.

No speaker was scheduled for December. Lt. Commander Taylor stated that the camp has cycled through the majority of local speakers. Do we want a speaker to drive a long distance to speak to a handful of people? If anyone knows of someone that might be interest, please let me know. The discussion followed regarding the low attendance of members. Hatten suggested doing a survey. It was decided that a survey consisting of questions would be put in the next newsletter.

The General Camp Meeting followed:

Reading and acceptance of the minutes from last meeting as posted in the camp newsletter.

Adjutant Smith gave the treasurer's report of \$1,519.76. It was reported that 45 members have paid dues in full.

Special Communications – n/a**Standing Committees Reports –**

Color and Honor Guard going well.

Applebee's fundraiser – Taylor stated we need members to sell tickets, and need volunteers for 7:00a.m. – 10:00a.m.

Other fundraiser suggested was selling belt buckles, fish fry, and silent auctions.

Old Business –

Adoption of event/marker/cemetery. Decision to made first of the year.

Army of Tennessee Christmas Supper was a great success. A good time was had for all.

Dedication for Judge Advocate Charles Bates ancestors will be in the spring.

Elections –

Kenny Lovett made a motion for Adjutant Smith to cast a vote for the election of officers. Adjutant Smith did so with the following officers for 2009. All were in favor; no objections. .

Commander – Jason Boshers

Lt. Commander – Jack Taylor

Adjutant – Jay Smith

Judge Advocate – Charles Bates

Continued Next Page:

December 16 Minutes—Continued from previous page

Camp Appointments made by the Camp Commander:

Sergeant at Arms – Josh Boshers

Chaplain – Mike Bullock declined; Mike Hatten accepted

Surgeon – Ron Shelton

Quartermaster – After review of bylaws, it was determined that this position should be an elected position. Steve Wyatt was nominated and all were in favor; no objections.

The election is duly appointed and recorded in the minutes.

After the elections, general discussions followed:

Quartermaster Wyatt will inventory and store all the equipment and property of the camp.

April is Confederate month. The camp has been asked to participate in the TN division meeting first weekend of April in Nashville. Rose Hill dedication is 3rd Saturday of April. A calendar will be in the next newsletter.

Camp Gues Bryan Sharp told us that headquarters had sent our letters to delinquent members to encourage re-joining SCV. The camp may want to try this to encourage past members to get involved.

Commander Boshers officially inducted Thomas Shannon and Keith Hatten to the Sam Watkins Camp.

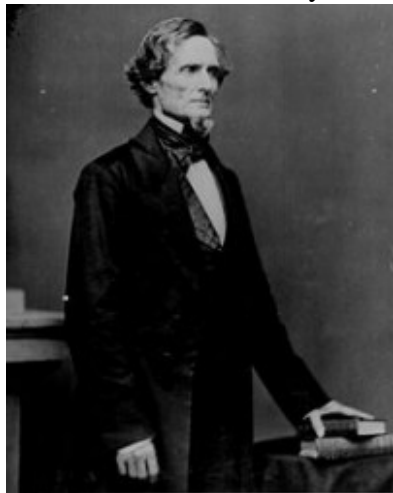
A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 7:50p.m.

Benediction by Past Chaplain Bullock.

JEFFERSON DAVIS: DEATH OF AMERICAN PATRIOT AND SOUTHERN HERO

By Calvin E. Johnson Jr. Sunday, December 7, 2008

What will Historians say about the Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan ?



We should never forget the hateful treatment some people showed our brave Servicemen and women as they returned home from Vietnam in the 1970s. And, now, some people would malign the honorable name of the Confederate soldier and his 'blood stained' battle flag.

Isn't it about time we to speak-out for our American Veterans, living and dead, and to proclaim that disrespecting some Veterans is dishonoring all Veterans?

There was a time when Union and Confederate Veterans were honored by the American people and the world. Before the invention of radio and television, parents told their children stories about their American ancestors. The history of those men and women, who fought under the United States and

Confederate flags, was also taught in public schools.

Saturday, December 6th, 2008, is the 119th anniversary of the death of Jefferson Davis.

In 2008, the mainstream media reported a renewed interest among the American people in the War Between the States as the 200th birthday of Jefferson Davis was celebrated. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, <http://www.scv.org>, proclaimed 2008 as the "Year of Davis." And the Virginia Division SCV is also planning a dedication of a statue depicting Davis and two of his sons-Joseph and black adopted son Jim Limber.

The New York Times reported the death of Jefferson Davis;

New Orleans, December 8, 1889 – "A careful tally of the visitors shows that about 40,000 persons, mostly women and children, viewed the remains today. This crowd included, in solemn and respectful attendance, all conditions of Whites, Blacks, ex-Confederates, ex-Federals, and even Indians and Chinamen."

Davis ' death was also the lead story in Southern newspapers:

December 1889, The Atlanta Journal and Constitution – "The Great Chieftain passes over the river...and rests with Jackson under the shade of the trees. The hearts of a great and loving people, crushed by the death of a great leader. The Hero of hard-fought fields in Mexico . The peerless Statesman in Federal Councils. Jefferson Davis is no more!"

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6—JEFFERSON DAVIS: DEATH OF AMERICAN PATRIOT AND SOUTHERN HERO BY CALVIN JOHNSON JR.

Who was Jefferson Davis?

Jefferson Davis graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, served valiantly during the War with Mexico, served as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce, served as United States Senator from Mississippi and was President of the Confederate States of America.

Jefferson Davis was a Christian father and husband. He and wife Varina were blessed with seven children who were; Margaret, Jeff Jr., Varina Anne, Bill, Joseph, Samuel and their adopted African-American son---Jim Limber.

The Christmas of 1889 was a sad time for the people of the South.

During November, 1889, Jefferson Davis left his home to attend to family business at Brierfield Plantation. On his way through New Orleans the weather turned colder and he was exposed to the rain and cold. He came down with a severe cold and bronchitis that was further complicated by Malaria.

Milo Cooper, a former servant of the Davis family, traveled a great distance to be by Davis' side. It has been written that when Cooper entered Davis' sick room in New Orleans, he fell on his knees in tears and prayed God would spare the life of Jefferson Davis and bless his family.

Varina was by her husband's side when Jefferson Davis died at a friend's home on the morning of December 6, 1889.

All New Orleans's newspapers led with praises and tributes that echoed through-

out the South; quote

“Throughout the South there are lamentations and tears; in every country on the globe where there are lovers of liberty there is mourning; wherever there are men who admire heroic patriotism, dauntless resolution, fortitude, or intellectual power and supremacy, there is sincere sorrowing. The beloved of our land, the unfaltering upholder of constitutional liberty, the typical hero and sage, is no more; the fearless heart that beats with sympathy for all mankind is stilled forever, a great light is gone---Jefferson Davis is Dead!” unquote

The mortal body of Jefferson Davis lay in state at the City Hall of New Orleans from midnight on December 6th to the 11th, 1889. The US and Confederate flags hung from the walls.

It is written that two hundred thousand people lined the streets of New Orleans when the funeral procession carried Davis' body to Metairie Cemetery for temporary burial.

On December 13, 1889, the New York Times reported the Davis Funeral being the grandest ever seen in the South. The Sermon at Metairie Cemetery was delivered by Bishop Thompson of Mississippi. Bishop Gallaber delivered a brief sketch of Jefferson Davis' life...And a Church Choir sang an old time favorite “Rock of Ages” to end the service.

Let's Not Forget Our American Heroes!!



1902 Maury County Confederate Veterans Reunion. Dave Watkins (Brother of Sam Watkins) is seated far right, middle row.

Photo courtesy of Joe Shannon

CANNONS FROM CSS ALABAMA PRESERVED

AP—1/02/09

After more than eight years of work, scientists say two cannons from the Confederate raider CSS Alabama have been preserved at the same lab conserving another Civil War artifact, the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley.

Workers scraped away hardened sediment on the 32-pound, smooth bore cannons each weighing about 5 tons. The cannons were also soaked in chemicals to leech out sea salts.

In appreciation for the work, the Navy, which owns the cannons, may allow one to be displayed at a museum which will one day display the hand-cranked Hunley, The Post and Courier of Charleston reported Friday.

"It will be a great addition to the Hunley museum because we want it to be a full Southern Maritime museum," said Randy Burbage, a member of the South Carolina Hunley Commission.

The Alabama was built in Liverpool, England, for the Confederacy. During the 22 months it sailed, its crew boarded 447 vessels including 65 Union merchant vessels and took 2,000 prisoners, according to the CSS Alabama Association.

The Alabama was finally caught by the USS Kearsage and sank on June 11, 1864, following a battle in the English Channel off Cherbourg, France, where the Alabama was awaiting repairs.

The wreck of the Alabama was found in 1984 and the two cannons were raised in 2000. On one cannon scientists found fragments of human jawbone, thought to be from a crewman.

The sinking of the Alabama came a few months after the Hunley sank off Charleston. The Hunley became the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship when it sank the USS blockade ship Housatonic in February, 1864.

The Hunley and its eight-man crew never returned from the mission. It was raised in 2000 and is being conserved in the same North Charleston lab where scientists worked on the Alabama guns.

President Elect, Barrack Hussein Obama is to swear in on Abraham Lincoln's Bible on Inauguration day.

Tuesday, January 06, 2009

THE WEBFOOT

It has been reported through the Associated Press and numerous news stories that President Elect, Obama is to swear in office using the bible of Abraham Lincoln. Unless someone protests the usage of it, Obama will be the first President since Lincoln to use this bible.

Many in the preservation community are speaking out against using the bible saying that it takes away from the posterity and history of the Bible.

It is widely known that Obama is fond of the life and times of President Abraham Lincoln and enjoys reading his writings and speeches.

Oddly enough, Obama claims collateral kinship to President Jefferson Davis in his memoir, *Dreams Of My Father*.

In a reference to his maternal ancestry, Obama writes, "while one of my great-great-grandfathers, Christopher Columbus Clark, had been a decorated Union soldier, his wife's mother was rumored to have been a second cousin of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy."

CSI Hunley: Fate of historic sub a cold case file

(AP) -Tuesday, January 06, 2009

It could be one of the nation's oldest cold case files: What happened to eight Confederate sailors aboard the H.L. Hunley after it became the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship?

Their hand-cranked sub rammed a spar with black powder into the Union blockade ship Housatonic off Charleston on a chilly winter night in 1864 but never returned.

Its fate has been the subject of almost 150 years of conjecture and almost a decade of scientific research since the Hunley was raised back in 2000. But the submarine has been agonizingly slow surrendering her secrets.

"She was a mystery when she was built. She was a mystery as to how she looked and how she was constructed for many years and she is still a mystery as to why she didn't come home," said state Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston and chairman of the South Carolina Hunley Commission, which raised the sub and is charged with conserving and displaying it.

Scientists hope the next phase of the conservation, removing the hardened sediment coating the outside of the hull, will provide clues to the mystery.

McConnell, who watched the sub being raised more than eight years ago, thought at the time the mystery would be easily solved.

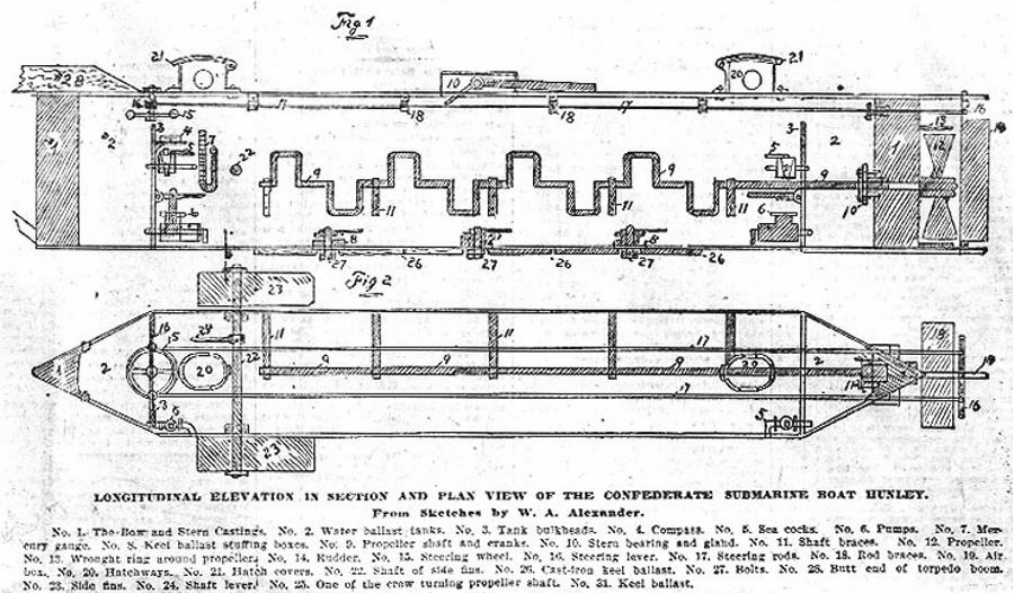
"We thought it would be very simple ... something must have happened at the time of the attack," he said. "We would just put those pieces together and know everything about it."

But what seemed so clear then seems as murky now as the sandy bottom where the Hunley rested for 136 years. When the Hunley was raised, the design was different from what scientists expected and there were only eight, not nine, crewmen, as originally thought.

The first phase of work on the Hunley consisted of photographing and studying the outside of the hull. Then several iron hull plates were removed allowing scientists to enter the crew compartment to remove sediment, human remains and a cache of artifacts.

Thousands of people, many re-enactors in period dress, turned out in April 2004 when the crew was buried in what has been called the last Confederate funeral.

With the inside excavated, the outside of the hull will now be cleaned before the sub is put in a chemical bath to remove salts left by years on the ocean floor. The Hunley will eventually be displayed in a new museum in North Charleston.

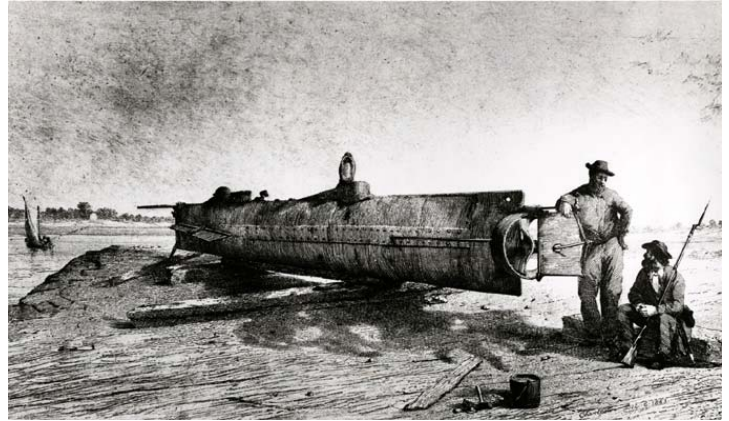


CSI Hunley—Continued from previous page

Archaeologist Maria Jacobsen said the Hunley is like a crime scene except that, unlike on television shows, there is no smoking gun.

"If we compare this crime site investigation with, say, a tragic plane crash in the mountains, that investigation would be a lot easier," she said. "You can go to the crash you can see the metal pieces and they have the fingerprints of the crash site."

In the case of the Hunley, some of those fingerprints may be covered with the encrusted sediment on the hull that scientists refer to as concretion.



When the sub was found there was no window in the front conning tower, suggesting it had been shot out, perhaps by Union sharpshooters.

But no glass was found inside the sub and the remains of the captain, Lt. George Dixon, showed no injuries to his skull or body consistent with being shot while looking through the window, McConnell said.

The crew's bodies were found at their duty stations, suggesting there was no emergency resulting in a scramble to get out of the sub. And the controls on the bilge pump were not set to pump water from the crew compartment, suggesting there was no water flooding in.

After the attack both Confederates on shore and Union ships reported seeing a blue light, believed to be the Hunley signaling it had completed its mission.

A lantern with a thick lens that would have shifted the light spectrum and appeared blue from a distance was found in the wreck.

But after the attack, the USS Canandaigua rushed to the aid of the Housatonic and there is speculation that the light could have come from that ship instead.

Could the Canandaigua have grazed the Hunley, disabling her so the sub couldn't surface? A good look at the hull in the coming months may provide the answer.

Historians also know the Hunley needed to wait for the incoming tide to return to shore.

"Were they waiting down there and miscalculated their oxygen and blacked out?" said McConnell.

He said a grappling hook, believed to serve as an anchor of the Hunley, was found near the wreck. Cleaning the hull may produce evidence of a rope showing the sub was anchored, perhaps waiting for the tide to change.

Then there is the mystery of Dixon's watch, which stopped at 8:23 p.m. Although times were far from uniform in the Civil War era, the Housatonic was attacked about 20 minutes later, according to federal time, McConnell said.

One theory is the concussion of the attack stopped the watch and knocked out the sailors on the sub. Or the watch simply might have run down and was not noticed in the excitement of the attack. That could have led to a miscalculation of the time they were under water.

Union troops reported seeing the Hunley approaching and the light through the tower window "like dinosaur eyes or a giant porpoise in the water," McConnell said.

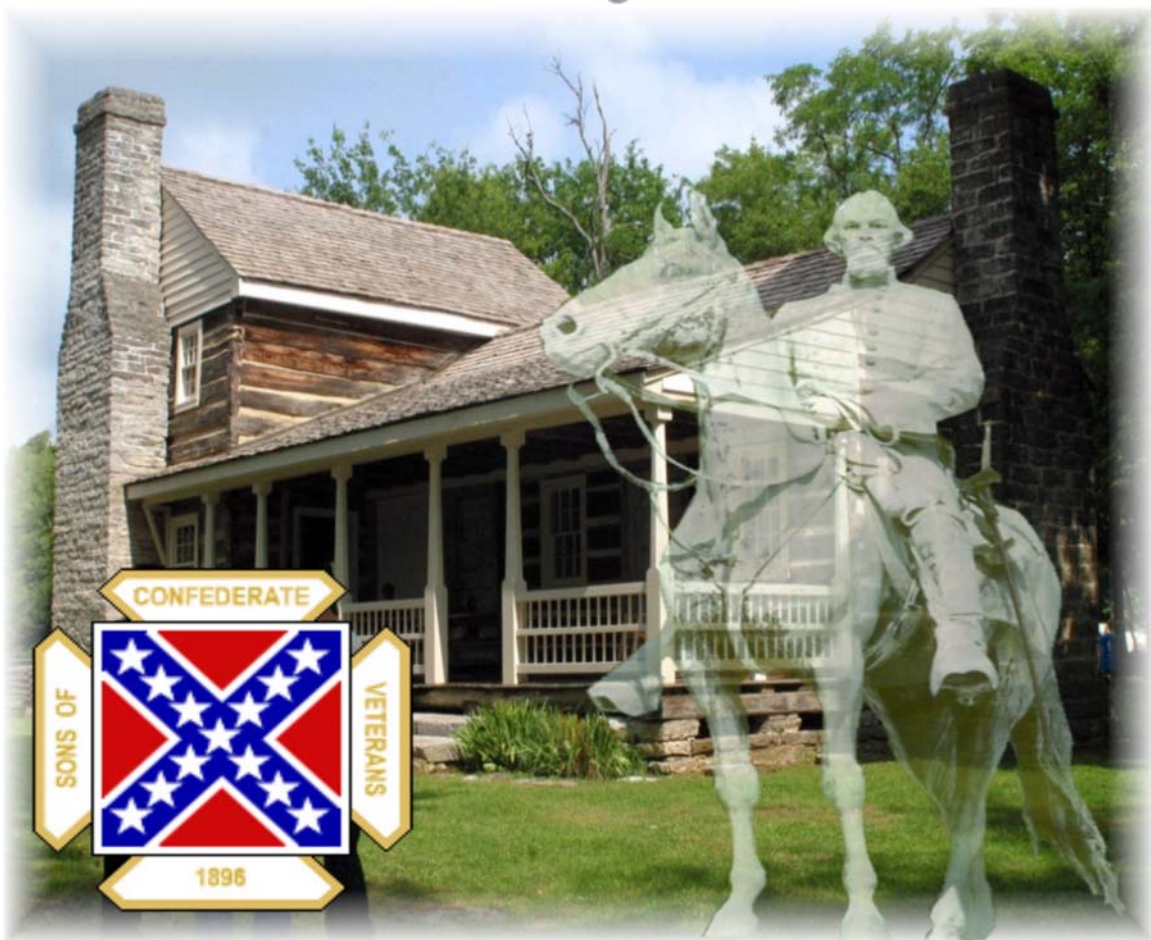
If the Hunley crew miscalculated and surfaced too close to the Housatonic on their final approach they would not have had enough time to replenish their oxygen before the attack, he said.

The clues now seem to indicate the crew died of anoxia, a lack of oxygen, and didn't drown. "Whatever happened, happened unexpectedly, with no warning," McConnell said.

Running out of oxygen can quickly cause unconsciousness.

"One you reach that critical stage, it's like you flick a switch," he said. "It's that fast, like on an airplane."

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General Robert E. Lee's Parole and Citizenship

On a spring day 140 years ago, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee met face to face in the parlor of Wilmer McLean's house in Appomattox Court House, Virginia. On that historic occasion, April 9, 1865, the two generals formalized the surrender of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, thus bringing an end to four years of fighting between North and South.

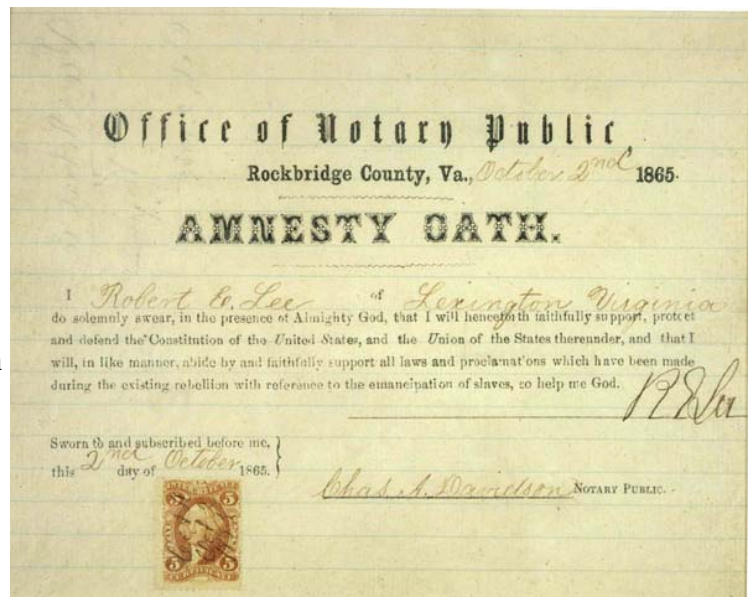
After agreeing upon terms of the surrender, the generals each selected three officers to oversee the surrender and parole of Lee's army. Later that day, Lee and six of his staff signed a document granting their parole.

On May 29, 1865, President Andrew Johnson issued a Proclamation of Amnesty and Pardon to persons who had participated in the rebellion against the United States. There were fourteen excepted classes, though, and members of those classes had to make special application to the President.

Lee sent an application to Grant and wrote to President Johnson on June 13, 1865:

Being excluded from the provisions of amnesty & pardon contained in the proclamation of the 29th Ulto; I hereby apply for the benefits, & full restoration of all rights & privileges extended to those included in its terms. I graduated at the Mil. Academy at West Point in June 1829. Resigned from the U.S. Army April '61. Was a General in the Confederate Army, & included in the surrender of the Army of N. Va. 9 April '65.

On October 2, 1865, the same day that Lee was inaugurated as president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, he signed his Amnesty Oath, thereby complying fully with the provision of Johnson's proclamation. But Lee was not pardoned, nor was his citizenship restored. And the fact that he had submitted an amnesty oath at all was soon lost to history.



More than a hundred years later, in 1970, an archivist at the National Archives discovered Lee's Amnesty Oath among State Department records (reported in *Prologue*, Winter 1970). Apparently Secretary of State William H. Seward had given Lee's application to a friend as a souvenir, and the State Department had pigeonholed the oath.

In 1975, Lee's full rights of citizenship were posthumously restored by a joint congressional resolution effective June 13, 1865

At the August 5, 1975, signing ceremony, President Gerald R. Ford acknowledged the discovery of Lee's Oath of Allegiance in the National Archives and remarked: "General Lee's character has been an example to succeeding generations, making the restoration of his citizenship an event in which every American can take pride."

(Source: National Archives and Records Administration)