

THE WEBFOOT

NOVEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 4 ISSUE

Official Newsletter of the Samuel R. Watkins Camp #29
Sons of Confederate Veterans



CAMP REPORT

Friends, Compatriots and to all concerned,

Our last camp meeting held on November 16th was marked as the last for the year. Our speaker for the evening, Mr. Thomas Forehand Jr., did a superb job of portraying General Robert E. Lee. It was a large turnout and the meeting was marked with great camaraderie.

As many of you know, November 1st marked the end of the SCV 2004 fiscal year. I want to personally thank you all for sending in your dues faithfully. We have grown a lot this past year and more are coming in. Our growth is a good sign and I am proud to be a part of the Sam Watkins Camp. We now have the opportunity to do some really great work!

Take note! Saturday December 4th at 5:30PM we will hold our annual "Army of Tennessee" supper. This year it will be held at Elm Springs! We are hoping on a great turnout and I do hope that you all will mark your calendar for this. Of course there is no cost to Sam Watkins Camp members or their families. We do however need you to RSVP by December 1st so that we know how much food to prepare. Friends of camp members will be a five (\$5.00) dollar charge.

This annual event is a way for us to get together and enjoy the season. It also opens up the opportunity for you to socialize with other camp members when work schedules keep you from attending the monthly meeting.

The annual Christmas "Army of Tennessee" supper is something we all should strive to attend. You can't beat the deal and much hard work and effort goes into this. Most importantly your attendance is what will make this event great.

Please RSVP at the latest by Thursday December 2nd. We need to know how much food to prepare!

RSVP quickly and call any of the following numbers:

Greg Atwell—931-381-9444

Jack Taylor— 931-381-4835 or 931-505-1889

Tim Westbrook—931-486-2345

See you all December 4th!

Jack Taylor

Camp Adjutant

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Man With Metal Detector Finds Cache Of Confederate Cannonballs Near Richmond Virginia

AP- 11/14/04

Robert Compton struck Civil War gold when he unearthed 36 Confederate cannonballs.

"It's very rare to find a case of them," said the Lynchburg man, who has turned a metal-detecting hobby into a science.

Compton meticulously researches the location of Civil War campsites with the aid of maps from the Library of Congress, war accounts on CD-ROM, Global Positioning System technology and topographic maps.

He goes in search of whatever the soldiers may have left behind. He has buckets of bullets, cases of buttons and even a bayonet.

But the cannonball find is the big one.

The 12-pound iron cannonballs are being cleaned and defused by a professional - the fuses could still set off the balls under the right conditions, Compton said. They're loaded with lead shot and gunpowder - designed to inflict damage on people.

Compton doesn't want to reveal the location of the find, saying only that it was in a county near Richmond. He said he always gets permission from the property owner to hunt. Public property is off limits.

Compton and his hunting partner, Tony Wilborn of South Boston, will be featured in *Western & Eastern Treasures Magazine*, a major publication of metal-detector aficionados.

Van Naisawald, Lynchburg's resident

expert on Civil War artillery, said such a find is rare.

"What he probably found was a battery position," Naisawald said. "They probably skedaddled out of there in a hurry," taking the artillery and leaving the ammunition.

Metal detecting has been Compton's hobby since 1985, but in the last three years he has become an expert on the Civil War. He spent two years at Appomattox but figures too many people already have been there.



He is currently following Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's retreat. He has found two virgin sites this year - cavalry camps that are well off the beaten trail because horses could take to more remote terrain.

With his state-of-the-art metal detector, Compton also finds relics others have passed over. The cannonballs, for example, were buried under 3½ feet of dirt.

Compton said the reading from his detector was muddled, but he still suspected the site was worth digging. After finding the first cannonball he thought that was it, but further effort revealed another 35 balls in an area of about 5 square feet.

While a dealer has already offered \$275 per ball, Compton isn't eager to sell. In fact, he said, he has never sold any of his artifacts. They keep appreciating in value, and may become his retirement package.

His pastime, he admits, is a form of

addiction.

"It's like opening a Christmas gift up," said the 41-year-old Compton. "It's fun. When you hear a signal [from the metal detector], you don't know what it is."

Compton said he can tell the difference between iron, lead and copper by the tone of the signal.

He goes hunting every weekend, and estimates that he does six to seven hours of research a week.

Although his couch is draped with a Confederate flag, and Civil War memorabilia dominate his house, Compton said he's not really a Civil War buff. He has no interest in reenactments, or even in battlegrounds. He prefers contemplating camp life for the average soldier.

Though life was pretty miserable, he finds signs of leisure - bullets carved into chess pieces and the remains of pipes.

Compton, who works for the Lynchburg utilities department, got the collector's bug early in life with football and baseball cards. His favorite find, however, remains one he made in 1996 - not with a metal detector but with a backhoe.

While helping to install a waterline, he found a 1925 Lynchburg High School ring. His research skills enabled him to track down 88-year-old Virginia Baldwin FitzSimons of Baltimore, who was thrilled to get her ring back.

Her gratitude meant more than the prestige the cannonball find has brought him in the relic-hunting community, Compton said.

"It's just a bunch of cruddy balls to me."

TEXAS SCV PROTEST STATUE REMOVAL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

AP—11/13/04

A group representing descendants of Confederate soldiers is defending statues that may be moved on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans took up the cause Thursday after marching in Austin's Veterans Day parade, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

They gathered at the grave of Confederate General Albert

Sidney Johnston in the Texas State Cemetery to ask the university not to relocate the statues

of Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis now located within the

shadow of the UT tower.

"Each of these guys were leaders in their own right and lived a life worthy of emulation," said

Steven von Roeder, commander of the organization's 3,300-member Texas division.

Von Roeder said if the statues must be moved, then they should be moved to a more prominent location.

UT President Larry Faulkner announced in May that he would appoint a committee to study possible relocations. He said they evoke "a kind of institutional nostalgia for the Confederacy and its values," adding, "Most who receive that message are repelled."



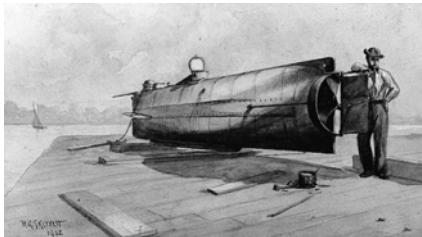
PRESERVATION OF C.S.S. HUNLEY MOVES FORWARD

AP- 11/14/04

Scientists say months of testing have shown that technology using supercritical fluids could be used for preserving the Confederate submarine HL Hunley.

The submarine sat encased in sand beneath the ocean for almost 140 years. But months of more tests and studies must be done before scientists settle on the best way to remove the corrosive salts from the hand-cranked sub.

Michael Drews is the materials scientist heading the Clemson University research team helping with the Hunley conservation.



Drews says the goal is to find a way to use the process on the whole sub without having to take it apart.

The 40-foot Hunley became the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship when it rammed a spar with a black powder charge into the Union blockade ship Housatonic on February 17th, 1864.

The Hunley never returned from its mission and was located off Sullivan's Island nine years ago. It was raised in 2000 and brought to a conservation lab at the old Charleston Naval Base where it sits in a tank of chilled water.



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S & G Custom Cycles is a licensed and bonded dealer with over 35 years of experience in customizing, repairing, and restoring motorcycles.

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Except from Chapter 1, Camp Cheatham, "Co. Ayitch, Maury Grays..." by Samuel Rush Watkins

Secession may have been wrong in the abstract, and has been tried and settled by the arbitrament of the sword and bayonet, but I am as firm in my convictions today of the right of secession as I was in 1861. The South is our country; the North is the country of those who live there.

We are an agricultural people;

they are a manufacturing people. They are the descendants of the good old Puritan Plymouth Rock stock, and we of the South from the proud and aristocratic stock of Cavaliers. We believe in the doctrine of State rights, they in the doctrine of centralization.

John C. Calhoun, Patrick Henry, and Randolph, of Roanoke, saw the venom under their wings, and

warned the North of the consequences, but they laughed at them. We only fought for our State rights, they for Union and power. The South fell battling under the banner of State rights, but yet grand and glorious even in death. Now, reader, please pardon the digression. It is every word that we will say in behalf of the rights of secession in the following pages. The question has been long ago settled and is buried forever, never in this age or generation to be resurrected.



HIGH SCHOOL BANS LAST OF CONFEDERATE SYMBOLS

AP- 11/17/04



Officials at a high school south of Chicago say they've got plans to finally remove all Confederate images, ten years after they were banned. Until 1993, the Confederate flag was the symbol of Thornton Fractional South High School in Lansing. Parents of black students

successfully lobbied the school to drop the image.

However, minority students recently complained the image still exists at the school called the "Home of the Rebels."

A display case inside the school entrance contained a Stars-and-Bars-decorated vest once

worn by a former principal. And a mural on the gymnasium wall has a background suggestive of the Confederate flag.

School officials say they've removed the vest. And they also have the money to paint over the 1982 mural.

NOVEMBER 16TH MINUTES

November 16th marked the 10th meeting of the year for the Sam Watkins Camp #29. Guest speaker was Thomas Forehand Jr., who is a living history portrayer of General Robert Edward Lee. Meeting was noted with a generous turnout of membership.

7:00PM Meeting begins with prayer led by Compatriot Timothy Westbrook. After prayer the pledge to the United States flag was recited and honorary salute to the Confederate Camp Flag was given.

From 7:05PM until 7:36PM, Forehand gave an in-depth portrayal of General Robert E. Lee. In his presentation he portrayed General Lee in a setting after the war and some of his role as President of Washington College (now Washington and Lee College).

The beginning of the presentation started with Lee's farewell address to his troops when the surrender was signed at Appomattox Courthouse. Forehand then went from the time of the surrender and gave to the audience a sense of the personal-

ity of Lee.

Numerous quotes were given by Forehand regarding questions given to Lee in that time era such as his view on General Ulysses S. Grant. He made note that Lee never spoke disrespectful of Grant and ordered no one to ever speak in offensive manner to his former adversary

The majority of the presentation was marked with numerous quotes of Lee that were carefully studied. Forehand gave the impression of a better understanding of why Lee served and why he surrendered in 1865.

7:36PM Forehand completes his presentation and opens for questions and discussion.

From 7:36PM-8:05PM Forehand answered questions for the camp and gave examples and quotes of what he thought about Lee and his research of the General.

Many questions regarding Lee's temperament, views on secession and the comparison of Lee and other Generals of the Confederacy were asked by camp members. One such question asked by

compatriot Bill Thrasher was Lee's temperament and where Forehand learned of his emotions. Thrasher also noted that the motion picture "Gods and Generals" portrayed Lee in the same manner that Forehand had. Forehand replied that he found that numerous witnesses have recorded down on paper and in history concerning Lee's demeanor and this is his main source of the character of Lee.

8:05PM Commander Greg Atwell goes over with the camp the upcoming "Army of Tennessee Supper" which is slated for December 4th. The time was tentatively set for 5PM of the given day but due to work schedules the time of the event was moved forward to 5:30PM.

Atwell took a head count of all who would attend and took down a list of what members and their family would bring.

After all camp members present gave mention of their participation, Atwell confirmed that the event would officially move forward to Saturday December 4th at 5:30PM.

8:35PM Camp meeting adjourns.

THE WESTFOOT

SAMUEL R. WATKINS CAMP #29 -
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

All dues, notices and correspondence:
C/o

1500 Rosewood Drive
G-33
Columbia, Tennessee 38401

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.TENNESSEE-SCV.ORG/CAMP29

Sam Watkins Brigade Directory

John C. Brown Camp # 112
1180 Cut-off Rd
Pulaski, TN 38478

Ft. Donelson Camp # 249
730 Leatherwood Rd
Dover, TN 37058

Col. Alonzo Napier Camp # 2040
4965 Bold Springs Rd
McEwen, TN 37101

Capt. W. H. McCauley Camp # 260
205 Old Spencer Mill Rd
Burns, TN 37029

Col. George H. Nixon Camp # 214
Office Box 602
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464-0602

Col. Jack Moore Camp # 559
Route 3, Box 110
Linden, TN 37096

Sam Watkins Camp #29
1500 Rosewood Drive # G-33
Columbia, Tenn. 38401-6400



RE-ENACTORS MARCH FOR THE CARTER HOUSE

On Saturday, November 27, 2004, several Civil War re-enactors will be marching north up Highway 31, from Spring Hill to the Carter House, in Franklin.

These re-enactors are soliciting mile-by-mile pledges from the public to fund a new cannon and two interpretive signs for the Carter House, which was the epicenter of the bloody Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864.

The goal of this march is to raise \$10,000.00. Those wishing to support this tax-deductible endeavor, are asked to send a check to:

Carter House March
1140 Columbia Ave.
Franklin, Tennessee
37064

On the same day (Saturday, November 27, 2004), at 3:00 PM, the re-enactors will pause at historic Winstead Hill, where they will be joined by members of the Sam Davis Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, of Brentwood. The Sam Davis Camp owns and cares for the Confederate Memorial Park at Winstead Hill, and has agreed to merge their annual Battle of Franklin Memorial Service with the fund-raising effort. SCV members from across the state are expected to participate. The general public also is invited to march the final leg of this journey with the re-enactors, from Winstead Hill to the Carter House (a two mile distance) along Columbia Avenue

(Highway31). Anyone wishing to march is asked to bring 2 -3 canned goods to donate to "Graceworks", a pantry for the homeless. Upon arriving at the Carter House, all marchers will be given a free tour of the Carter House by nationally renowned military historian Thomas Cartwright.

Contact: David Fraley or Thomas Cartwright at 615-791-1861

One the Web:
<http://www.carter-house.org/>