

# The Sentinel

Next Meeting: December 15  
Knights of Pythias Building



Christmas Party  
Everyone Invited

Secession Camp # 4 Charleston, SC

DECEMBER 2009

Winner of the 2005, 2006, and 2007 Ambrose Gonzales Newsletter

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 12

## CONFEDERATE CHRISTMAS

A living history event called "Confederate Christmas" will be held December 12 at the Old Santee Canal Park in Moncks Corner.

Its scheduled events include, among others, Sen. Glenn McConnell speaking about the CSS *David* torpedo boat, Black Confederate stories by James Adams, and a performance by musician Stan Clardy. The full-scale replica of the submarine *Hunley* will also be there.

There will be ongoing demonstrations by reenactors about spinning and sewing, medical techniques, infantry drills, artillery drill (yes - with the cannon firing!), candle making, etc.

There will also be tours of the Stony Landing Plantation house.

## NEW OFFICERS

In case you weren't at the November Meeting and no one has told you, these will be your new officers for the coming year:

**Commander**  
Ed Moon

**1st Lieutenant Commander**  
Benny Slay

**Adjutant**  
Elmore Marlow

**Treasurer**  
Buck Perry

**Color Sergeant**  
Jimmy Wheeler

2nd Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Chaplain, and the Editor are appointed by the Commander.

*The Charge*  
*To you Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the cause for which we fought; to your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate Soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.*

*Lieutenant General Stephen D. Lee  
Commander General United Confederate Veterans  
New Orleans 1906*



## CHRISTMAS AT FORT LAMAR

The South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust will present "Christmas 1862" at Fort Lamar Heritage Preserve on James Island, S.C., 5 December from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Living History demonstrations include Confederate and Union camps, artillery demonstrations, period Christmas tree decorating, quilting, candle-making, butter churning, children's toys, and readings of Christmas letters from home and field.

Guided tours of Fort Lamar will be conducted on the hour from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. by Dr. Stephen Wise and historian W. J. Keith.

Bagpipers will be playing period Christmas music throughout the day.

## NOVEMBER SPEAKER

**Jack Hunter** gave an informative talk on his radio beginnings as the Southern Avenger. His speech was on the subject of the respect for the Southern Cause. He illustrated this with examples of how the media and other groups define Confederate Flag issues and how we have let them, and how hypocritical the media is. He gave good examples of this. Mr. Hunter also illustrated how he counters the liberal media bias when he is challenged by them.



*The Southern Avenger*

## CAMP OFFICERS

**Commander**  
Bill Norris 843-849-9924  
**1st Lieutenant Commander**  
John Genes 843-747-4439  
**2nd Lieutenant Commander**  
John Waring  
**Adjutant**  
Elmore Marlow  
843-762-2430  
**Treasurer**  
Buck Perry

**Chaplain**  
Gene Patrick  
**Color Sergeant**  
Loren O'Donnell  
**Judge Advocate**  
Fred Tetor  
**CHT Representatives**  
Randy Burbage  
David Rentz  
Charlie Hiers  
Gene Patrick

## CAMP GUARDIANS

Randy Burbage  
Walter Carr  
John Evans  
Charlie Hiers  
Clarence Kuykendall  
Andy Langdale  
Elmore Marlow  
Philip Ramsey  
Michael Ratledge  
Clyde Rogers  
Louie Warmouth  
Jimmy Wheeler  
Lee Wilson

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

**Awards**  
Clay Martin  
**Education / Historical**  
John Whatley  
**Graves, Monuments  
and Guardian**  
John Evans  
**Highway Clean-up**  
Michael Dixon  
**Heritage Ride**  
Bryan Riddle

**Media / Public Relations**  
Bill Norris  
**Recruiting / Retention**  
Andy Langdale  
**Genealogy**  
Andy Langdale  
**Convention**  
Open  
**Lee-Jackson**  
John Genes  
**Building Committee**  
Louie Warmoth

## VOLUNTEERS

**Mess Corporal**  
Don Pace  
**Mickey Davis Fund**  
Woody Weatherford  
**Webmaster**  
David Rentz  
**Engraving Engineer**  
Benny Slay  
**Quartermaster**  
David Rentz



### *The Sentinel*

is the official newsletter of Secession Camp # 4, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Charleston, SC. It is published monthly and is distributed to the members of Secession Camp at no charge to them. An individual not having membership, and organizations not associated with Secession Camp, may receive the newsletter for the annual subscription price of \$10.00 to cover printing and mailing. Bylined articles are the responsibility of the author and not of Secession Camp # 4.

**Website:** <http://www.scv4.org>

## NEXT MEETING

Secession Camp will hold its Christmas Party on  
**Tuesday, December 15**  
**Knights of Pythias Building**  
1968 Belgrade Avenue  
(near Sam Rittenburg Boulevard (Hwy. 7))  
**Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM**  
**Everyone is invited to the party.**



### *The Sentinel*

Commander ..... Bill Norris  
Adjutant ..... Elmore Marlow  
Editor ..... John Whatley

Unless noted otherwise, all bylined articles in this newsletter are the responsibility of the author. Address all correspondence concerning the newsletter to:

***athryiot@hotmail.com***

## FROM THE COMMANDER

My Fellow Compatriots,

Another year is at end and my term as your Commander is drawing to a close.

**Elections.** As many of you know, we had our elections at the November meeting. Compatriot **Ed Moon** will be your new Commander and Compatriot **Benny Slay** will be your new Lt. Commander. Compatriot **Jimmy Wheeler** will be the new Color Sergeant with Compatriots **Elmore Marlow** and **Buck Perry** remaining as Adjutant and Treasurer. The offices of 2nd Lt. Commander and Judge Advocate will be appointed by Commander Moon when he takes office in January. I'd like to congratulate these men on taking their offices and I'd also like to thank current Lt. Commander **John Genes** and Compatriot **Paul Brown** for volunteering their services to the Camp in the election.

**Low Country Fair.** Speaking of Compatriot Brown my thanks go out to him for the fine job he did of organizing the very successful effort that our Camp and the 10th Brigade made at the recent Low Country Fair in Ladson. Paul was there almost every day and about 200 names were gathered of possible new SCV members. The event was great for our public relations by educating people of the true mission and purpose of the SCV. I would also like to thank all the Compatriots from Secession Camp who donated their time to work at the fair booth. Even Compatriots **Glenn and Sam McConnell** were able to chip in and help out. All you men did a great service to the SCV and Secession Camp.

**Highway Clean-up.** Chairman **Michael Dixon** completed the final highway clean-up of the year on November 7th. Several Compatriots came out to assist with the effort and the job was taken care of in only a couple hours. Thanks go to all those Compatriots who helped with the highway clean-up on the 7th as well as all the other clean-ups this past year.

**Battle of Secessionville.** Another event in which volunteers from Secession Camp played a big part is the Battle of Secessionville. This year's battle was another great event for the CHT and I want to thank Quartermaster **David Rentz** for bringing out the Camp's store and all those who helped David with that. Thanks also go to those who volunteered their time to work

the gate and other jobs at Boone Hall during the battle. The volunteering of Compatriots like you is what makes our Camp such a great organization.

**Christmas Party.** Next month instead of our regular meeting we will have our annual Camp Christmas Party. Compatriots are invited to bring your family and friends to share supper and company at the Knights Castle. The Camp will furnish the main dish and all Compatriots are asked to please bring a covered side dish or dessert. Compatriot **Don Pace** and his crew will be serving roast pork. This event is always a good time so make plans to attend.

**Lee-Jackson Banquet.** Don't forget about our upcoming Lee-Jackson Banquet. Lt. Commander **John Genes** is selling tickets and they are only \$30 again this year. We will be having a repeat of last year's event at the Washington Light Infantry's Armory on Meeting Street in downtown Charleston. Our speaker will be Dr. Sinisi, professor of history at The Citadel, and we will swear in our new officers. The food will be great as usual and everyone always has a fine time so get your tickets soon.

**Food Lion.** We are still not shopping at Food Lion and are saving our food receipts to be sent to them to show that we are opposed to their support of the ACC. Save all your grocery receipts (no Food Lion receipts) and bring them to the next meeting. The Division plans to continue this for some time to come, so don't forget to keep saving those receipts until you hear different.

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions for the Camp, I'm ready to listen.

Your Compatriot in Southern Heritage,  
**Bill Norris**  
Commander



## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Compatriots,

The holidays are fast approaching us. I pray that on Thanksgiving Day you would reflect on the many blessings, our God has given us. We should be thankful to the Lord for giving us His grace.

**Elmore Marlow** still needs your prayers for his healing. Again, I call upon all Camp members of Secession Camp #4 to offer intercessory prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of our compatriot Elmore Marlow for divine healing from his cancer. If you wish to contact Elmore, you need to call **John Waring** who is our 2nd Lieutenant Commander. John has been meeting with Elmore to conduct Camp business. Thanks, John, for helping Elmore during his recovery.

Please continue to pray for **Gail Weatherford**. Gail recently had heart surgery. Woody told me that the surgery was successful. Gail is now at home recovering.

I am very happy to see that Compatriot **Jim Dickinson** is

now attending our Camp meetings again. Jim has been a long time member of Secession Camp.

As Chaplin of this Camp, I will continue to pray for the following people associated with our Camp: **Andy Langdale, Jim Dickinson, Willie Heidtman, Elmore Marlow, Tricia Tetor, Gail Weatherford and Wimpy Seyle.**

If any compatriot needs the assistance of the Camp Chaplin, please do not hesitate to call me.

Yours in Christ,  
**Gene Patrick**  
Chaplain

<< >>



# Secession Camp # 4

## Minutes of Meeting of 17 November 2009

	Yes	No
Appropriate Flag Displayed	X	
SCV Charge Read	X	
Invocation	X	
Presentation of Colors	X	
Reading and Approval of Minutes	X	
Reading and Approval of Financial Report	X	
Remarks: 61 members and 12 guests for a total of 73 in attendance		

Program: **Events Leading to Respect for the Southern Cause**  
 Speaker: **Jack Hunter a/k/a Southern Avenger**

- **SCV Charge** was given by Commander **Bill Norris**.
  - **Invocation** given by **Gene Patrick**.
  - **Salute to the Flags** given by Color Sergeant **Loren O'Donnell**.
  - The cooks were then recognized for the meal. Mess Corporal **Don Pace** was assisted by **Loren O'Donnell, Don Petty, Bill Helm, and Jack Thompson**.
  - **Introduction of guests.** There were twelve guests, which included two members from the Star of the West Camp (The Citadel), one member from the Moultrie Camp. Several guests attended because of the booth at the fair.
  - Commander **Bill Norris** introduced our speaker **Jack Hunter**. Mr. Hunter gave an informative talk on his radio beginnings as the Southern Avenger. His speech was on the subject of the respect for the Southern Cause. He illustrated how the media and other groups define the Confederate Flag issues and how double standard and hypocritical the media is. He gave good examples of this. Mr. Hunter illustrated how he counters the liberal media when he is challenged by them.
  - **Minutes** of October Meeting: Commander Norris made a motion to approve the minutes as presented in *The Sentinel*. It was so moved, seconded and approved by the Camp.
  - **Treasurer's Report** was given by Treasurer **Buck Perry**. Reported a beginning balance of \$13,062.90. Checks cleared totaling \$912.29 written to the SCV National, Heri Lumb, Heritage, Portapotty, *The Sentinel*, and Her. Deposits of over \$6666.00 were made from the collection of dues. The closing balance was \$18,816.61, with eight checks still outstanding.
  - **Mickey Davis Fund** was not given and the report skipped.
  - **Chaplains Report** was given by **Gene Patrick**. **Gail Weatherford** wife of Compatriot **Woody Weatherford** had a heart operation; Compatriot **Jim Dickerson** is better. Compatriot **Andy Langdale**, Compatriot **Wimpy** and Adjutant **Elmore Marlow** are in our prayers.
  - **The Sentinel**: Editor Compatriot **John Whatley** requested that the Camp submit more articles.
- Committee Reports:**
- **Highway Clean-up Committee:** Commander **Bill Norris** gave the report for **Michael Dixon**. Trash was picked up by Camp Members on Glenn McConnell Parkway. The participants filled up ten to twelve bags. New schedule for clean up will be posted in January 2010.
  - **Graves & Guardian Committee:** Compatriot **Paul W Brown** reported for **John Evans**. Cemetery clean up in Adams Run on the first Saturday in December. The UDC will be providing refreshments.
  - **Heritage Ride Committee:** Compatriot **Brian Riddle** Heri-

tage Ride Committee Chairman presented S.C. Division Commander **Randy Burbage** a check for \$1025.00 to the Friends of the *Hunley*. Commander Burbage thanked the Camp for the donation. The donation was a portion of funds made in from the Heritage Ride.

- **Engraving** Compatriot **Benny Slay** reported taking in \$15.00 for engravings
- **Star of the West:** Two Citadel Cadets reported that 20 cadets attended their last meeting.
- **Confederate Heritage Trust (CHT)** Commander **Randy Burbage** reported on the Battle of Secessionville which was a three-day event held at Boone Hall Plantation. He thanked the persons in the Camp who participated in helping with the wood splitting, gate, registration and other duties performed. It was a good turn out and the event went well. Past Commander **David Rentz** mentioned that weapons of mass destruction were found in the throwing of biscuits at the 10th SCV. This was the 20th year of the Battle of Secessionville and Commander Burbage thanked everyone again for their help.

**Old Business:**

- **Fair Report:** Compatriot **Paul Brown** reported that 208 people signed up to know more. At least 14 of these persons could qualify as members. There was good PR given to the SCV. It took a lot of work. Thanks were given to Compatriot **Glenn and Sam McConnell** for their help in manning the booth for two full shifts. Commander Norris thanked Compatriot Brown for his hard work. Compatriot Brown also helped Quartermaster **David Rentz** with the sales of items at Boone Hall.
- **Lee-Jackson:** Lt Commander **John Genes** reported that the banquet will be held on January 23, 2010, at the Washington Light Infantry (WLI) armory. The dinner will be catered by the College of Charleston. Professor Sinisi of The Citadel will give a talk on 'General Robert E. Lee, Sense of Duty and Honor'.
- **Dues:** Commander Norris mentioned that dues are past due. Please see 2nd Lt Commander **John Waring** assisting Adjutant if you have not yet paid.

- **Other Business:** Compatriot **Bruce Hodges** declined the nomination of 1st Lt Commander. Commander Norris accepted the decline.

**New Business**

- Compatriot **Paul Brown** has a sign up sheet at the Adjutant's Desk for the December 5, 2009, clean-up in Adams Run. Compatriots who do not know the location of the cemetery are to meet at Hardee's at Ravenel between 8:00 and 8:30 am. Compatriots are asked to bring chain saws and other tools to do the clean-up.

*Minutes continued on page 13.*

## NEWS FROM THE REAL WORLD

### GEORGE WASHINGTON'S 1789 THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and

Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been able to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3d day of October, A.D. 1789.

*Happy Thanksgiving to all of you from the leadership of Secession Camp. Now you know why George Washington was on the Great Seal of the Confederacy, and its permanent founding was 22 February (Washington's birthday). Pass this on at your Thanksgiving meal.*

### GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW BEAUVOIR LIBRARY

Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home, will conduct a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum on at 2 PM on Sunday, December 6, 2009 (the 120th anniversary of Jefferson Davis' death).

The original Jefferson Davis Library opened in 1998 and was severely damaged in Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. Due to the damage caused by Katrina, the original library had to be demolished. The Combined Boards of Beauvoir have approved and signed a contract with J. C. Duke Contractors of Mobile for the construction of the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library.

The construction of the new library is estimated to be 550 days (18 months) in duration and the new building will be a 25,500 sq. ft. structure.

*Note that real world operations continue, with the damage from a hurricane being fixed, while the PC world is still waiting for the government to repair the damage. Let's see: government doesn't get you out before the hurricane; government doesn't rescue you after the hurricane; government doesn't repair your damage. Only the PC crowd would wait on the government. —Editor*

### FIRST THANKSGIVING

Despite the annual prattling of the Yankees about Puritans and Indians and the "first thanksgiving" in 1621, the first thanksgiving actually occurred *in the South!* So did the second and third. The Puritans were latecomers.

The first occurred in Texas on 23 May 1541 at Palo Duro Canyon near Amarillo when Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and his men held a service of thanksgiving after finding food, water, and pasture for their animals. Palo Duro is now a State park.

The second occurred on 30 June 1564 when French Huguenot colonists celebrated near Jacksonville, Florida. The third occurred 4 December 1619 at Berkeley Plantation in Virginia.

Remember this next year when you hear the annual babbling about thanksgiving being first in the north.

### H.K.'S READ IT; HAVE YOU?

When you've got some extra of time on your hands before t-shirt traffic, what's the best thing to do?

Well, H.K. bought a copy of your Editor's book and spent his time learning about what the Typical South Carolina Confederate thought about his participation during and in The War. See ad.





## THE REBEL REVIEW

Review of the book

*Defending Dixie (Essays in Southern Culture and History)* By Clyde N. Wilson

Review by: John B. Waring

To the real honest to goodness Southerner Dixie means love of home, its beautiful woman (mothers, daughters, and girl friends), NASCAR, College Football, Country

Music, Barbecue, boiled peanuts, honor of ancestors, patriotism for Country (It is mostly Southern blood of all colors who are serving in the Armed Forces), love of God (not called the Bible belt for nothing), family values and everything else that drives the progressive elitists nuts.

For those enlighten progressives, the book I am about to review has a warning placed on the jacket of the book: *"Finally be forewarned. If you hate Dixie and don't like to hear good things about the region, you might want to skip this book and pick up a copy of anything Southern that is favorably reviewed by the New York Times. As measured and objective of his arguments may be that Clyde Wilson is always a good Southerner."*

In reading Dr. Wilson's book defending Dixie, the reader will get a lesson in the unadulterated truth of Southern History and important political issues, both the past and the present.

Clyde Wilson is no stranger to the region Dixie. He is a born and bred Tar Heel who taught history at the University of South Carolina for more than thirty years. He is now retired and is working with the Abbeville Institute as an instructor. He is an expert on the life of John C. Calhoun, archiving many volumes of data on him. His previous book is titled the *The Essential Calhoun*.

The *Defense of Dixie* is a book organized around specific topics. These are essays and screeds that Professor Wilson wrote over the many years. This book will be of value for anyone studying Southern History. The topics are endless and his words are inspiring. If you want to know about States Rights, there is a chapter with about ten essays. The CSA Battle Flag, the same. Clyde Wilson wrote much on this subject in the chapter called "The Bloody Banner – Long May It Wave". Good articles on the Flag of South Carolina, History & Maurice Bessinger's Stand (Great Read). Want to know about ethnic Confederates? Jefferson Davis? Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson? He covers all subjects that relate to the South. There is so much more.

The book is a hard bound book with nine chapters with forward and index. There are at least ten essays per chapter. The List of Chapters and in my opinion the must read essays are as follows 1. Recovering Southern History, (Recovering Southern History, The Mind of the Old South) 2. The War – My Myth or Yours? A Comment on Cold Mountain, The War – My Myth or Yours? The American Iliad, High Tech Hunley 3. The Bloody Banner – Long May It

Wave, Confederate Memorial Day Address, Scholars' Statement on the Support of the Confederate Flag. 4. States Rights Revised (War, Reconstruction, and the End of the Union & Our Second Constitution), 5. The Other Southerners (Black Confederates, Spielberg's *Armistad*, On Reparations), 6. The Upper Right Hand Corner (Numerous Criticism of Yankees such as Yankee Slavers, The Yankee Problem and The Yankee Problem again), 7. A Mirror of Artist (New England against America, the True Fire Within, Thomas Nelson Page) 8. The Agrarian Vision: Uncle Sam's Other Province, Russell Kirk's Southern Valor, Their Children's Children 9. In Justice to So Fine a Country: What Are a Southerner, Harvard Goes South, Tar Heel Dead, The South and The American Empire?

Final Thoughts: Clyde Wilson through his love of the Southland has given much of his life educating the young and old alike on the true American History. Although he doesn't give speeches any more, there are recording and videos of speeches by him on Southern History. He is one of the South's greatest defenders.

The inset of the dust jacket states the following: *"The admiring view of Dixie presented here is rare at the present day. Dr. Wilson writes from a belief that the South is a living and long-lasting reality that continues to offer a valuable alternative vision to Americans of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. More importantly, as he says of Dixie, "there are plenty of good people who love her still."*

I would like to add to this by stating I believe Dr. Clyde Wilson is also one who still loves Dixie and so do I.

*The book is a hard back with Forward, 363 pages of great stuff and 4 pages of endnotes and is published by the Foundation for American Education, POBox 11851, Columbia, SC 29211*

*Deo Vindice*  
J.B.W.

Review of the book

*Wildwood Boys* By James Carlos Blake

Review by: Julian Shand

The actual civil war in Missouri and Kansas, the war-before-The-War, was fought over the larger issue of who was going to control the South, as was the Confederate War which followed. In deciding that, control of newly settled Kansas and Missouri had to be determined. Political means were first used, but armed men soon clashed, with Southern sympathizers arrayed against Northern. The Federal Government supported the Northerners [*surprise, surprise – Editor*], and it was neighbor against neighbor. Nobody was safe from raids and retaliations.

James Carlos Blake is a celebrated author. *The Wildwood Boys* is an historical novel based on the life of Bill

Anderson, a leader in the Kansas-Missouri conflict of the 1850s and 60s.

William (Bill) Anderson was born in the backwoods of Missouri. His father was killed trying to uphold the family's honor while drunk and waving a shotgun. Bill was attracted to violence and had a gift for shooting straight even from a galloping horse. As anarchy gripped the disputed territory, Bill fought for the South.

Bill joined the guerilla gang of William Quantrill, a handsome young Northern man who had come to hate Yankees. This and other gangs depended on sympathetic farmers for food, shelter, and information.

Quantrill performed amazingly well with small-unit cavalry raiding and fighting. Anderson learned the tactics quickly. Their hit and run attacks on Yankee soldiers and sympathizers were so effective that the army retaliated brutally on anybody even suspected of Southern attitudes.

When the army adopted the practice of executing all captured guerillas on the spot, new levels of barbarity were reached. The guerillas acted likewise, and sometimes whole units of soldiers were left as stripped bodies. Their uniforms were then worn by the guerillas so as to be able to pose as soldiers and get close to their victims.

Soldiers began to attack isolated farms and threaten to hang the men until they would betray the guerillas, then burn the homes and leave the men hanging. The guerillas retaliated, and foolish officers sent squads to kidnap Southern women and hold them in concentration camps as hostages.

In a very famous incident, woman hostages in a rickety building were killed when the building collapsed under suspicious circumstances. Among the victims was Bill Anderson's beloved sister.

Bill, without losing any of his proficiency at warfare, began a long slow slide into an orgy of killing. Eventually there was a raid deep into Kansas, to plunder and burn Lawrence, the abolitionist headquarters and origin of many raids to plunder and kill Southerners. "Bloody Bill" and his boys killed over 100 male residents of Lawrence and destroyed \$1.5 million worth of property before returning to Missouri. "The town is a complete ruin. The whole of the business part, and all good private residences are burned down," said a witness.

Author Blake writes wonderfully well of this hellish time in America's past. The action and shootouts are graphic and often horrifying. The reader can understand the situations described without sympathizing.

Historians are quick to condemn Bill Anderson and his ilk, not so quick to tell of the cruel actions of the Union army. All residents of a large area had to leave with what little they could carry, and everything flammable at their farms was burned. Once these refugees got on the road, the soldiers and the Northern sympathizers confiscated every thing of value they carried, plus mules, oxen, and horses that they wanted. Unanswered is the question of how many people survived such barbarity.

The book is highly recommended. The guerilla life is believable. The dialogue is clever, though often macabre. The

realities of a real civil war ring all to true.

*Julian Shand reviews books in The Dispatch, the newsletter of the Hampton Redshirts. This review appeared in the November 2009 issue.*

Review of the book

**Dark Hours By Randolph W. Kirkland, Jr.**

Review by: John Whatley

This is a research work about "South Carolina soldiers, sailors and citizens who were held in Federal prisons during the War for Southern Independence, 1861-1865".

We who do research work on South Carolina (and other States') military personnel (like for the book below) use works like this for information. Inside are listed the imprisoned, in alphabetical order, their units, how they arrived at being imprisoned (captured, wounded, etc.) and their disposition (escaped, exchanged, died, etc.) – some even three times!

This is not a book to curl up with on a cold night. It is a straightforward list of those imprisoned by the Yankees.

As is true of such works, and the amount of research involved, there are errors which creep in (i.e., Francis Wayne was transferred to Harts Island Prison (NY) but died at Harts Island (SC)), but it seems to be remarkably clean of them.

Amazingly, you can check this book out at your local library – just like your Editor did.

• **Perfect Christmas Gift** •

## **The Typical South Carolina Confederate**

*As compiled from his correspondence  
to the folks back home and from  
his post-war reminiscences  
on various topics of The War.*

*Illustrated with 17 photographs,  
30 contemporary prints,  
history of the Confederates quoted,  
index and bibliography.*

**\$7.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling.**  
*(That's \$9.00 for you Yankees reading this.)  
Sorry, Union funds only!*

**Want to avoid shipping and handling?**  
*Invite me to come speak to your organization  
about this or other pro-Southern topics at  
**athyriot@hotmail.com**  
and I'll bring some with me!*

**AthyriotGraphics / StBrendanPress**  
Order through *athyriot@hotmail.com*



*SUTLERS' ROW* under the Avenue of Oaks. (We'll raid this later.)



*SCV Commander Randy Burbage* (L) and *Sen. Glenn McConnell* explain why we're here.



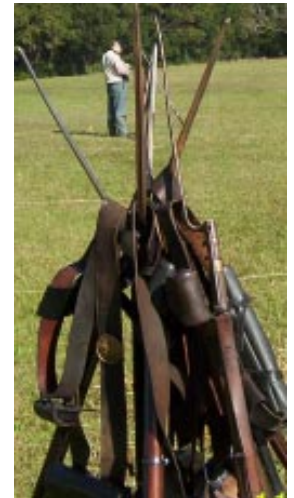
*54th Mass. reenactor* lost his unit and fell in with other Yankees. In real life, he's a retired U.S. Army field artilleryman.



*CONFEDERATES* getting ready for battle.



Here's a well-stocked SC camp.



*Stacked arms* ready for a fight at a moment's notice.



# Battle at Secessionville

Photos and Text by John Whatley, Colonel Commanding, 1st Regiment, Georgia State Line

On 14 and 15 November 2009 local troops (and a few galvanized Yanks) gathered at Secessionville (also known as Boone Hall Plantation) to reenact the battle and educate the public. (Secessionville was named by a group of planters who had earlier rebelled, not for South Carolina's secession.)

In early June 1862 (not November), Union Maj. Gen. David Hunter transported the divisions of Brig. Gens. Horatio G. Wright and Isaac I. Stevens, under the immediate direction of Brig. Gen. Henry Benham, to James Island (south of Charleston, not at Boone Hall), where they entrenched at Grimball's Landing near the southern flank of the Confederate defenses.

Benham landed 6,500 men from the 3rd New Hampshire, 8th Michigan, 7th Connecticut, 28th Massachusetts, and 79th New York "Highlanders" on the southeastern end of James Island, and marched toward Charleston. Benham met such light resistance that he thought he could take James Island, and attacked with a reconnaissance in force, even though he had been ordered not to bring on an engagement.

Brig. Gen. Nathan "Shanks" Evans, who commanded less than half that number of Confederate forces, made up of troops from South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia, met the

Yankees at a fort at Secessionville (Fort Lamar) commanded by Colonel T. G. Lamar and routed them.

The little unfinished fort controlled the only solid land on the way to Charleston. As the Yanks attacked, they discovered on their left and right mud flats they could not cross, which slowly pushed them inward until they were on solid ground right in front of the fort — and its cannon. Although a few Union soldiers reached the fort, most attacks were broken by the artillery firing cannister and grapeshot.

The Union suffered 683 casualties (107 dead), compared to 204 (52 dead) for the Confederates. Although the battle seemed minor, it became a powerful propaganda victory, increasing morale in Charleston, and offsetting recent Confederate losses in the Western Theater. Had the Yankees been successful, Fort Lamar at Secessionville would have controlled Charleston Harbor.

Confederates and Yankees, arriving at camps near the enemy, immediately expected hours-long constant pitched battles and were surprised to find a remarkably dull camp life between drilling and infrequent fighting, as these pictures, along with the battle shots, will show.





Real WBTS battlefields would disappear under smoke. Today's "smokeless" powder has cleaned up the reenactments.



The Hunley model. To restore the Hunley is why we're here.



Sit around the fire for awhile.



Well-armed cavalry is ready for battle.



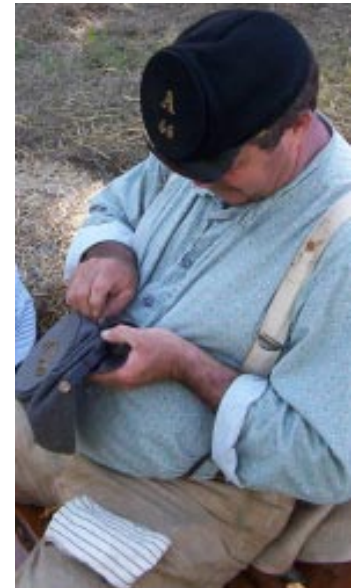
Short time to sketch the battlefield.



Hmmm. So that's why he's not running again.



Split some firewood.



Get out the "housewife" and repair the uniform.



Cavalry skirmish. Some of the horses were galvanized for this one.



(L) Getting ready for some battlefield casualties. (M) Chance for a quick nap before battle. (R) The brass "biscuit hurler" of the Marion Light Artillery.



**Photos  
and Text by  
the Author**



**3rd Annual SC Division  
Leadership Conference  
January 9 - 10th, 2010  
Camp Kinard,  
6053 Two Notch Road  
Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29070**



**The questions?** How do I lead a Heritage of Honor organization like the SCV? Are there ways I can support the SCV within my camp? How can I more efficiently support the camp and the SCV? How can I make my camp stable? How do I support the activities financially? Recruiting... Retention...Fundraising...The questions go on...

**The answers!** The SC Division SCV Leadership Conference will answer those questions and more. Tap into the resources of current and former SCV leaders. They will guide you through the aspects of what they have seen work and fail within a camp. A successful leader will turn obstacles and uncertainty into opportunity for their organization. Breakout sessions will offer current and future leaders the opportunity to strengthen their camps. Open dialogue with leadership from other camps will present you the opportunity to increase your creativity and conviction to the successful running of your organization. Ways to maintain growth and retain the current membership. Learn how to successfully engage the passion and conviction of compatriots.

**Who should attend?** Current camp leaders. Future camp leaders. Camp Chaplains. Camp webmasters. Compatriots that are working with the graves program and cemetery cleanings.  
**ANY COMPATRIOT THAT DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR CAMP AND THE SCV SHOULD ATTEND!**

**Several committees will meet during in preparation for Sesquicentennial functions.**

**LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SESSIONS**

<b><u>SESSION</u></b>	<b><u>PRESENTER</u></b>	<b><u>TOPIC</u></b>
Commanders	SC Division Commander Randy Burbage	I'm a camp commander –Now what?
Adjutants/Treasurers	SC Division Adjutant Howard Chalmers	Record keeping and accounting simplified! - Maintaining efficient records in a non- profit. Non-profit accounting and the IRS
Chaplain (For Camp Chaplains)	SC Division Chaplain Ed Westbury	Duties of the Chaplain – How to conduct Memorial Services, hospital visits and member induction ceremonies
Fundraising	Jack Marlar	Raising funds with little effort.
C.A.M.P	ANV Councilman Gene Hogan	Strengthening techniques for your camps.
Talking points or In their words?	SCV Adjutant-in-Chief Mark Simpson	The Confederate Veterans afforded us their honorable reasons in their own words.
Recruitment	SC Division Lt. Commander Don Gordon	Techniques to recruiting.
Increasing your web Presences (Camp webmasters)	Chief of Staff David Rentz	How to push your website toward being a top search result.
Grave Repair and Documentation	Guardian Chairman Stephen Douglas	How to properly care for cemetery headstones. Cleaning and repairing

**NOTE: This years Leadership Conference will run Saturday and Sunday . Last years conference sessions were condensed and did not afford attendees the opportunity to fully ask questions. Please make every effort to remain overnight for the Sunday morning church service and the last leadership classes.**

## Leadership Conference Session Agenda

Friday, January 8, 2010

5:00—8:00 SC Division Executive Council Meeting

**THIS YEAR'S LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE WILL  
CONCLUDE ON SUNDAY!**

Saturday, January 9, 2010

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast—Commanders Welcome

9:00—5:30 SC Leadership Conference Sessions Day 1

Sunday, January 10, 2010

8:00—9:00 Breakfast

9:00—9:30 Church Service

9:30—11:30 SC Leadership Conference Sessions Day 2

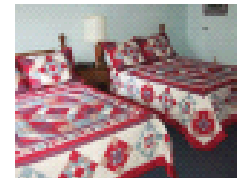
11:30—12:00 Open Forum and closing

### MEALS

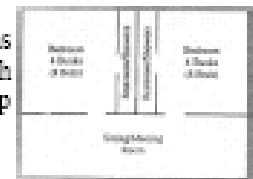
The SC Division will provide Saturday's Breakfast and Lunch. For dinner, the group will travel to an off-site establishment. Breakfast will be provided Sunday if enough attendees' are staying overnight.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

**LODGE VILLAGE ROOMS**—The Lodge Village consists of 16 rooms with two double beds and two rooms with two twin beds. The Lodge Rooms are set up motel style with sitting chairs, a dresser, heat and air, and private restroom. All bed and bath linens and soap are provided. Six rooms are handicap accessible rooms.



**COTTAGE VILLAGE**—Camp Kinard has 6 cottages. Each Cottage contains single mattress bunk beds that sleep 16 people. The Cottages are also equipped with lounging sofas, table and chairs, and heat and air conditioning. Bed and bath linens and soap are not provided, but sheets may be rented for \$4 a set. Sleeping bags recommended!



### Room Rates (based on 2 nights stay)

#### Lodge Village Rooms (per night)

Single	\$55.00
Double	\$60.00
Triple	\$65.00
Quad	\$70.00

#### Cottage Village

Per Person	\$22
------------	------

### Sharing rooms reduces expenses!

There are only 16 rooms in the motel accommodations style. With 4 to a room, (will be crowded – Charleston boys comments to a minimum please) that would provide space for 64 men. There are 96 spaces in the cottages with bunk beds. Remember to bring your linens if you plan on staying in the cottages.

### MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY

This year will be a 2 day seminar. Plan on Saturday night to attend the church Service and Grave Repair seminar.

### Attendance Reservations

Please contact Chief of Staff Rentz with the following information if you are attending the SC Division Leadership Conference.

Name, Phone, Camp #, # of in group, Friday night room?, Saturday night room?, Room type.\*  
\*Rooms will be first come first served. Please try to share to accommodate as many as possible.

**Please respond by December 31 so meals can be planned accordingly.**

David Rentz—Chief of Staff [heritageride@juno.com](mailto:heritageride@juno.com) 843-530-1766

# 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 12-15 Secession Camp Meeting and Christmas Party, 6:30 PM  
12-20 Secession Day  
12-25 Christmas  
12-31 New Year's Eve

## Meeting Dates for Camps of the 10th Brigade

Secession Camp # 4, Charleston: 3rd Tuesday of the Month  
Moultrie Camp # 27, Mt. Pleasant: 3rd Thursday of the Month  
Pvt. John S. Bird Camp # 38, N. Charleston: 2nd Thursday of the Month  
Gen. Ellison Capers Camp # 1212, Moncks Corner: 3rd Thursday of the Month  
Star of the West Camp # 1253, The Citadel: (irregular)  
Ft. Sumter Camp # 1269, Charleston: (irregular)

## DECEMBER 20 SECESSION DAY IN S.C.

Election of Lincoln, South Carolinians were warned by their politicians, would be the end of the nation, as the North would dominate everything to the detriment of the South. Gov. William H. Gist and the entire Congressional delegation wanted secession if Lincoln won. The loyal opposition conservatives, called National Democrats, opposed secession and wanted to try other means.

Lincoln's election that November was met with cheering and celebration by the secessionists. Robert Barnwell Rhett and Edmund Ruffin of Virginia found willing crowds for their speeches in Columbia. The politicians and the crowds badgered the Legislature to call a secession convention. Secessionist legislators introduced the bill.

On November 10, 1860, the Legislature passed a resolution, over opposition by moderates and the National Democrats, calling for a secession convention. All the elected delegates were secessionists. They convened at Columbia on December 17, 1860, and unanimously called for secession. Then, because of a smallpox outbreak, they moved the convention to Charleston.

At Charleston they were greeted by large cheering crowds and the militia firing cannon in salute. On December 20 the convention adopted the Secession Ordinance (written by the former leader of the National Democrats, James L. Orr, and edited by Rhett). Militia on duty had the Secession Ordinance read to them in formation, while it was read by orators from balconies to the crowds. Meeting at the South Carolina Institute Hall that night, the delegates unanimously signed the Secession Ordinance. A crowd of thousands inside and outside the Institute cheered as each delegate affixed his signature.

The City of Charleston then erupted in celebration.

## *In Memory of Compatriot*

*Gary Pruitt Stone*

*by Delores Stone*

Confederate Ancestors:

**W. H. Austin**

and

**O. G. Thompson**

*Gone but never forgotten*

Deo Vindice

Mrs. Gary P. Stone

Summerville, S.C.

## *In Memory of Compatriot*

*Sy Mabie*

*by Delores Stone*

Confederate Ancestor:

**Pvt. Edward M. Mabie**

**Co. B, 10th Missouri Inf.**

*Gone but never forgotten*

Deo Vindice

Mrs. Gary P. Stone

Summerville, S.C.

## Minutes (cont'd.)

### Election of Camp Officers:

Commander Norris at the request of Compatriot **Paul Brown** went over the responsibilities of the office of 1st Lt Commander. The main duty is the responsibility of putting on the Lee-Jackson event and conducting the meeting when the commander was not present. Other duties at the discretion of the Commander were also required. Compatriot **Fred Teeter** was nominated but declined. **Paul Brown** was nominated and seconded. Compatriot **Benny Slay** was nominated. The 1st Lt Commander's race was between Compatriot Brown and Compatriot Slay was closed by Commander Norris.

The commander's race was between Past Commander **Ed Moon** and 1st Lt Commander **John Genes**.

The other candidates were for Color Sgt Compatriot **Jimmy Wheeler** (unopposed); Adjutant **Elmore Marlow** (unopposed) and Treasurer **Buck Perry** (unopposed).

Commander Norris gave voting instructions to the Camp. **John Genes** and Past Commander **Ed Moon** gave a quick address to the Camp on what they would do if elected. Ballots were passed out to the Camp members.

- **Recruiting** Chairman Andy Langdale: No new members; one application to process.
- **Announcements:** Commander Norris got a count of persons who are not receiving the *Palmetto Partisan*. Eight members have not yet received the newspaper. Please see Commander Norris at the end of the meeting.
- **T Shirts** from the heritage ride are on sale for \$5.00. Please see 2nd Lt Commander **John Waring** at the adjutant's table to purchase. If you took part in the Heritage ride, one shirt is of no charge.
- **Next Executive Committee** meeting December 1, 2009, at 6:30pm. Newly elected officers are to come.
- **Next Camp Meeting** December 15, 2009, will be the Christmas Party
- Commander Norris gave a brief intermission
- It was announced that roast pork and apricot sauce will be main course per Compatriot **Don Pace**.

**Election Results.** Commander Norris gave the election results: Past Commander **Ed Moon** was elected as Commander and Compatriot **Benny Slay** was elected as First Lt. Commander and will be sworn into office at the Lee-Jackson Event with other officers who ran unopposed.

These elected officers will be sworn in at the Lee-Jackson Event in January.

- Moved, seconded, and approved that the meeting stand adjourned.
- Final Benediction given by Chaplain **Gene Patrick**
- Ended with the singing of "Dixie".

*Minutes Prepared by: 2nd Lt Commander John B. Waring vice Adjutant Elmore Marlow, absent.*

## STEPHEN DILL LEE INSTITUTE

February 26-27, 2010

*Sheraton Music City Hotel  
Nashville, Tennessee*

*Presents:*

*"The American System of Liberty:  
Nullification, Secession and States' Rights"*

The Institute is now taking registrations and reservations for our upcoming meeting.

Please call our headquarters at Elm Springs to register (1-800-MY DIXIE) or register at [www.StephenDLeeInstitute.com](http://www.StephenDLeeInstitute.com).

*Don't miss Thomas DiLorenzo, Donald Livingston, Kent Masterson Brown, Marshall DeRosa, W. Kirk Wood, and Brion McClanahan.*

*A special treat will occur on Friday evening with a book signing by the authors and an unforgettable historical lecture on The Battle of Franklin by nationally known historian Thomas Cartwright.*

Anyone desiring information can contact **Brag Bowling** at 804-389-3620.



*Battery Cheeves clean-up on James Island October 3. The Camp members are (L-R) Bill Norris, Paul Brown, Ben Pittman, Alan Bailie, Bob Gissell, Dennis Lemon, Elmore Marlow, Mike Burbage, Bruce Hodges, Sam Antley, and Paul Lord.*

## Fort Pulaski — cont'd.

to build 200 fortresses from Maine to Florida to protect major ports. In 1816 the Board of Engineers designed a series of coastal fortresses called the "Third System". Cockspur was selected as site of the last Third System fort built.

Recent West Point graduate Lt. Robert E. Lee was the engineer assigned in 1829 to raise Pulaski. Lee spent 17 months determining the fort's location, building the dikes and drainage system, and planning the support structure. He was succeeded in 1831 by Lt. Joseph Mansfield, who finished the fort in 1846. By then the United States was at war against Mexico, England had become an ally, and the Third System had low priority.

### FORT PULASKI

Pulaski was to be a twin to Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor: pentagonal, two-storied with three tiers of guns. But Cockspur could not support such weight and Pulaski was modified into a single-story two-tiered fort. Two layers of subflooring were built atop 70-foot-long pilings driven into the mud. On this the 7½-foot-thick walls were built, using 25 million bricks. Behind Pulaski's 48-foot-wide moat, two sides (faces) guarded the north channel, two the south. The top tier of guns was *en barbette* (on the parapet) and the second tier below fired through the casemate openings (embrasures). Heavy casemate piers and arches backed the fort's walls. Originally built for 150 guns, Pulaski had only 20 casemate 32-pounders in 1861.

When South Carolina seceded in December 1860, Union Maj. Robert Anderson consolidated his troops at Fort Sumter. Georgia Governor Joseph E. Brown, fearing a takeover of Pulaski by Federal troops, ordered Col. Alexander R. Lawton, commander of the 1st Volunteer Regiment of Georgia at Savannah, to seize Pulaski. The two-person garrison – an ordinance sergeant and the fort's caretaker – immediately surrendered.

Confederates found the fort neglected: the 32-pounders, mounted on rusted iron carriages, could not be fired; magazines held little powder and few shells; living quarters were uninhabitable; the parade ground was overgrown; silt and marsh grass filled the moat. But by hiring 125 slaves from local rice plantations to repair the fort and to clean the moat, 17 officers and 210 men garrisoned a refurbished Pulaski with 36 guns by October 1861. A telegraph line ran to Savannah, and supply ships regularly docked.

Pulaski as a fortress was considered impregnable. Union Brig. Gen. Joseph Totten, a member of the Board of Engineers who



*Today the unrepaired effects of the bombardment can still be seen.*

designed the Third System, said Fort Pulaski "could not be reduced in a month's firing with any number of guns of manageable calibers." Even Lee told Col. Charles Olmstead, commanding the fort, "They will make it very warm for you with shells from [Tybee Island] but they cannot breach at that distance [1,700 yards]." A contemporary military work noted: "An exposed wall may be breached with certainty at distances from 500 to 700 yards. . . [but at a] distance not exceeding 1,000 yards . . . the quantity of artillery must be considerable, and it will require from four to seven days' firing."

But the experts were wrong. New technology had recently arrived in the form of rifled cannon. The stable flight produced by the spin from rifled bores, coupled with the increased range of rifled cannon and the impact effect of conical shot on a target, would render coastal fortresses obsolete.

### RIFLED CANNON

Englishman Sir Joseph Whitworth manufactured a breech-loading gun with a distinctive hexagonal twisting bore in the 1850s. The hexagonal ammunition followed the tube when fired, producing spin. Whitworth discovered, though, that length and weight of the shot did not affect the gun. Larger projectiles could be made "by simply increasing the length of the projectile without increasing the diameter of the bore."

Englishman William G. Armstrong tested his breech-loading rifled gun against a Martello tower at Eastbourne, Sussex, England, in August 1860. Martello towers were shorter lighthouse-style towers mounting guns for coast defense instead of lights for navigation. This tower had 7½-foot-thick brick walls. At 1,032 yards a 4¾-inch 40-pounder, a 6-inch 82-pounder, and a 7-inch 100-pounder opened a breach 24 feet wide. The 40-pounder shot penetrated 4 to 5½ feet. A similar breaching test using 68- and 32-pounder smoothbores at the same range was deemed a failure.

The Prussians tested rifled breechloaders against some obsolete fortifications in September 1860. Lt. Col. A. Ross of the Royal Engineers observed that at 640 yards 27-pound rounds fired by two 12-pounder guns produced a breach 32 feet wide in a 3-foot-thick brick wall and penetrated 15 inches.

In America independent inventors experimented with rifled cannon. West Point graduate Robert P. Parrott, supervisor of the West Point Foundry, patented his cast iron rifled cannon design in 1861. Its thick reinforcing band around the breech guarded against the higher internal pressures when firing rifled ammunition. Parrott's reinforcing band adhered uniformly because he mounted the barrel horizontally on rollers while spraying water inside to cool it. A soft metal band on the shell forced into the rifling imparted spin at firing.

Rhode Island militia general Charles T. James, a self-educated



*Casemate damage in the interior of Fort Pulaski after the bombardment. Brick could not withstand rifled cannon.*

mechanic, invented a round with a conical top of cast iron. Iron ribs connected the top to an open circular base. A lead sabot and a lubricating greased canvas wrapped the ribs. Gases expanded through the ribs when fired, forcing the lead sabot into the rifling grooves, imparting spin.

Capt. Quincy A. Gillmore, the engineer officer of the Union force sent to close Confederate ports along the South Atlantic coast, was familiar with these rifled weapons. He became convinced that rifled artillery could reduce even fortresses such as Pulaski. When Union troops captured Tybee Island, across the South Channel of the Savannah from Pulaski, Gillmore was put in charge of troops there to set up breaching batteries.

Tybee, another Georgia marsh island, has little solid ground. When the cannon arrived, they were hauled by hand from the beach across the flat marshland to their emplacements. All work was done by night and camouflaged before morning. The Confederates heard noise by night, but saw nothing by day.

### EFFECT ON PULASKI

On the morning of April 10, 1862, the bushes on Tybee had been cut down and a camouflaging sand ridge leveled. The Confederates saw black objects which they suspected were cannon. When a boat under a flag of truce rowed from Tybee to Pulaski carrying the formal demand for surrender, Olmstead politely replied that he was there “to defend the fort, not to surrender it.” A mortar arched the first shot, the Union cannon joined in, and the Confederates replied.

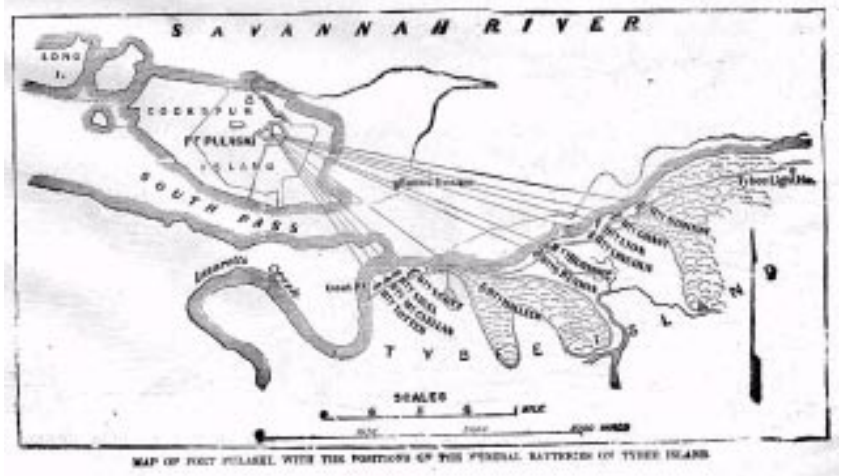
“Very early in the day however,” Olmstead wrote, “it was seen that the effect upon the fortification was becoming disastrous. . . . [The] rifled guns and Columbiads at the Point inflicted more damage to the Fort than all the others combined.” Firing from the Point were three 10-inch and one 8-inch smoothbore Columbiads in one battery, five 30-pounder Parrotts and one 48-pounder James in the second, and two 84-pounder and two 64-pounder James at the third.

The James shells penetrated the bricks, splitting them from the wall and causing whose sections to collapse. Clouds of reddish dust billowed from the walls at each impact. A shot from one of the Columbiads “struck the wall beneath an embrasure while it was still intact and bulged the bricks on the inside,” wrote Olmstead. “[Our guns] upon the faces fronting the fire that was breaching our walls nearly all were dismantled before the close of the day.”

Olmstead inspected the damage from outside the fort that night. “It was worse than disheartening, the pan-coupe [a short wall between faces] at the south-east angle was entirely breached while above, on the rampart, the parapet had been shot away. . . . The two adjoining casemates were rapidly approaching the same ruined condition; the moat was nearly filled with masses of broken masonry, as was the interior of the three casemates where the dismantled guns lay like logs among the bricks.”

The next morning “the breach rapidly became wider and the enemy’s shot and shell played freely through it across the parade upon the opposite interior angle where the principal service magazine [containing 44,000 pounds of powder] was located. The entrance to this was protected by a large traverse sufficiently heavy, it was thought, for the purpose designed. Between one and two o’clock in the afternoon, however, a shell passed through the top of this and exploded in the passage way, filling the magazine with smoke and lighting it up with flame.”

It was evident that a second similar shot would blow up the fort. The white flag was run up. “There are times when a soldier must hold his position ‘to the last extremity,’ which means extermination, but this was not one of them,” wrote Olmstead. After



the surrender another round was discovered stuck in the middle of new brickwork closing the ventilation hole to the southwest magazine.

A corporal of the Phoenix Riflemen and a signalman, escaping the fort before surrender, reported to Savannah: “At the close of the fight . . . the casemate walls [were] breached in almost every instance to the top of the arch, say between five and six feet in width. The moat outside was so filled with brick and mortar that one could have passed over dry shod. The officers’ quarters were torn to pieces, the bomb-proof timbers scattered in every direction over the yard, and the gates to the entrance knocked off. The parapet walls on the Tybee side were all gone, in many places down to the level of the earth on the casemates. The protection to the magazine in the northwest angle of the fort had all been shot away; the entire corner of the magazine next to the passageway was shot off, and the powder exposed, while three shots had actually penetrated the chamber.”

### CONCLUSION

After the surrender Gillmore rushed over, eager to see the effects on the fort, and Olmstead escorted him around. He found the James 84-pounders had penetrated 26 inches into the walls, and most James shells penetrated at least 18 inches before exploding, causing enormous lateral damage to the brick. One 42-pounder penetrated 12 feet into the traverses between the barbette guns! Olmstead said the fort’s masonry yielded like wood to the James projectiles. “Brick and mortar cannot stand before them.”

But Union commander Maj. Gen. David Hunter realized Pulaski’s true significance: “The result of this bombardment must cause, I am convinced, a change in the construction of fortifications as radical as that foreshadowed in naval architecture by the conflict between the *Monitor* and *Merrimac* [Virginia].

“No work of stone or brick can resist the impact of rifled artillery of heavy caliber.”

*Copyright 2005, 2007 by John C. Whatley. The author, besides being Editor of The Sentinel, is a retired field artillery officer. He has had over 200 by-lined articles published.*



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

This issue especially for:



**NEXT CAMP MEETING – DECEMBER 15  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
SPEAKER: 2ND LT. CMDR. JOHN B. WARING**

**RIFLED ARTILLERY AGAINST FORT PULASKI**

By John C. Whatley, Editor

The American Civil War introduced three major warfare innovations: ironclad ships (the *Monitor* and the *Virginia*); the first successful submarine (the *Hunley*); and destruction of coastal fortresses by rifled cannon. This last usually gets no more than a footnote – if that – yet it foreshadowed today's improved artillery and naval guns.

The first rifled cannon reduction was launched against Fort Pulaski, guarding the Savannah River and the port of Savannah, Georgia. Named for Revolutionary hero Count Casimir Pulaski, it still sits on Cockspar Island, a low marsh island splitting the Savannah into two channels. Two prior forts had been constructed there: a palisaded log blockhouse named Fort George (after King George II) built as defense against the Spanish in Florida, and a timber-reinforced earthen fort mounting a guardhouse and artillery pieces named Fort Greene (after Revolutionary hero Nathaniel Greene). The first was torn down; the second was destroyed by a hurricane.



Because the English fleet had landed troops at will during the War of 1812, the United States decided

*(continued inside on page 14)*