

Grey Matter

Newsletter of The Rankin Greys

SCV Camp 2278

July 2017

Volume 1 Issue 3



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Commander's Report

by Commander Billy Bryant

Compatriots,

We are halfway done with another calender year, and what a year it has been.

I want to thank the compatriots who traveled up to Oxofoed for the Division Convention. While we may not be the largest Camp in the Division (yet) we were one of the best represented. I want to say congratulations to our new Division Commander Jeff Barnes. I also want to ensure Commander Barnes that he has our support as he, and the rest of the Division Executive Council work to heal, grow, and lead our Division while we

are in these troubling times. I would encourage all of our members to keep those compatriots in the leadership positions in our thoughts and prayers.

This month we have Lt. Commander-in-Chief Paul Grambling and his lovely wife Lynda. I am sure that this meeting will be well attended by members of the Division, so please try to come early.

Live the Charge,

Billy Bryant
Commander

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Adjutant's Report

by Camp Adjutant Chris Bryant

The elections are over and we have a new team at the top in the Division. A brighter future lies ahead and it's time for us all to get to work. Since our last meeting in Florence, we've picked up 2 new members and a transfer. Marty McAlilly comes to us from the Lowry Rifles in Pearl, and Robert Pursley and Jeff Ainsworth are our newest members to the Sons of Confederate Veterans. We welcome them all with open arms.

We have a few sites we're checking into for online shirt sales. More to come on that in the near future. In the meantime, please see our Quartermaster Phillip Griffin. He has hats and a few shirts left. Hopefully we'll be having a new shirt run soon. The quartermaster also has the new 4" patches for those that reserved one.

It's the season when by-laws and constitutions are amended, and it is affecting us also. There will be several bylaw amendments coming up to bring ours into line with National and to accommodate our ever growing membership. Stay tuned for these updates and please read them. Your vote and your opinion counts.

On a final note, dues are due. You have until August 31 to have your dues paid or you will be considered delinquent and under suspension. At this point you will need to pay late fees to be reinstated. There will be no proration of past members' dues going forward. Proration of dues will only be available as an option to incoming new members. Statements should be in the mail, so please keep an eye out for them and get them in as soon as possible. Dues are \$50 which covers National, Division, and Camp.

Chris Bryant

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*This publication is dedicated to the
honor and the memory of the brave
men of*

*Company I 6th Mississippi Infantry
Lest We Forget.*

A Look Back at June

by George Conor Bond (Editorial)

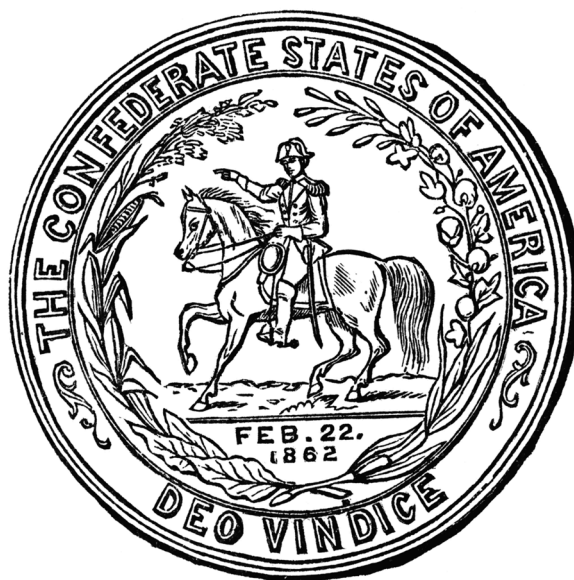
I want to first take this opportunity to thank the Camp for their support during my campaign for First Lieutenant Commander of the Mississippi Division. I look forward to serving the Division as we grow and prosper over these next two years.

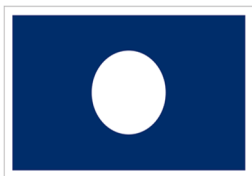
July is upon us and 2017 is halfway through. We have several great events planned across the Division and across the Confederation. On July 9th, there is the celebration at Forest Park in Memphis. On July 15th, the Third Brigade will be having their picnic at Grand Gulf Military State Park. On July 19th-22nd there is the National Convention that is going to be held in Memphis as well. On July 23rd, the Central Squad is going to ride from Pearl, to the Windsor Ruins, to Rodney Church, then have lunch at the old country store in Lorman. On July 29th, we have the OCR Wounded Warrior Ride.

Before we know it, school will be starting back. To the younger members of the camp and the cadets, the thought of returning to the classroom is a real “bummer”. However, having the youth as involved as we do in our camp, we do have an opportunity to help fulfill the *Charge*. We are the guardians of the Confederate Soldier’s history. Part of that is educating the youth of the South about why their ancestors went off to fight in the War for Southern Independence. Over the next few months, let’s try to think of ways to

present the true history of the South to these younger generations.

Finally, this month we have several great speakers scheduled to visit over the next few months. This will be a great time to invite potential members to visit our Camp. This month we have Lt. Commander-in Chief Paul Grambling visiting and speaking. I am sure that we will have a record crowd so please come early to make sure that you have a seat!





Forefathers in Grey



On a cold, moonlit night in February 1864, eight courageous volunteers sat at their battle stations ready to make history. They knew of the two crews who perished before them, and they knew the risks that they were undertaking. However, they also knew their vessel as they had been training on the craft for an average of four nights a week between mid-December and the end of January. As they sat at their post the order to prepare to dive was given. The hatches were closed, and they reached for the crank that powered the vessel. The crew of the Confederate Submarine, the *HL Hunley* was sailing out on her final voyage.

At the outset of the war, the Union recognized the importance of keeping the Confederacy isolated from foreign markets. On April 19, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued an order for the Union forces to begin a blockade of all major Confederate ports with the signing of the Proclamation of Blockade Against Southern Ports. Based on a plan by General-in-Chief Winfield Scott, its goal was to close all Confederate ports, preventing ships from exporting goods in support of commerce or delivering cargo and supplies to the South.

Once in place, the Union's Blockade strategy was very effective, covering 3,500 miles of coastline and 12 major ports. It was literally starving the South of supplies. The South grew increasingly desperate for any way to break the blockade to bring in much needed supplies.

The newly formed Confederate States of America had to rethink traditional battle tactics at sea when up against the powerful and established Union Navy. As a result, Horace L. Hunley and several others began to work together to find solutions to break the blockade. They attempted to take the battle beneath the water's surface and built a series of experimental underwater vessels, and helped give birth to the age of the submarine.

The *Hunley* began life as a steam boiler in Mobile, Alabama. She was designed to hold a crew of eight men. Seven to turn the hand cranked propeller and one to steer and direct the boat. The *Hunley* was equipped with two watertight hatches, one forward and one aft. By July of 1863, the *Hunley* was ready for demonstration. Supervised by Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan, the *Hunley* successfully attacked a coal flatboat in Mobile Bay. Following this, the submarine was shipped by rail to Charleston, South Carolina, arriving on August 12, 1863. Then she was taken into Confederate service. Naval Lieutenant John Payne and seven volunteers from the *CSS Chicora* and *CSS Palmetto State* were her first crew. On August 29, 1863, the *Hunley's* first crew was preparing to make its first test dive. Sadly, Lieutenant Payne accidentally stepped on the lever controlling the sub's diving planes as she was running on the surface. This caused the *Hunley* to dive with her hatches still open. Lt. Payne and two others escaped, but the other five crewmen drowned. It took weeks to retrieve the submarine, and in that time Horace Hunley arrived in Charleston and demanded the command of the sub. On October 15th, Horace Hunley scheduled a demonstration of his boat in Charleston Harbor. The Submarine was scheduled to dive beneath the *CSS Indian Chief* and surface on the other side. Once the submarine disappeared beneath the waves, it was not seen for several weeks. On November 7th, the *Hunley* was found deep in the harbor channel, with its bow buried in the mud and its stern still floating. The *Hunley* had lost its second crew.

Two tragedies had now happened to the *Hunley*. Although the dangers of the submarine were well-known, a new, courageous crew volunteered. This crew trained for weeks. On February 17th, 1864, the third and final crew of the *Hunley* sailed their way into history. Their target was the USS *Housatonic*, one of the Federal's largest ships. Slowly and stealthily the *Hunley* crept towards her prey. By the time they were spotted, it was too late. At about 8:45 pm, several sailors on the deck of the *Housatonic* reported seeing something on the water just a few hundred feet away. The sailors sounded the alarm and began firing at the *Hunley*. Their shots pinged off the hull of the *Hunley*. Below the surface, the *Hunley's* spar torpedo, the only weapon, detonated and the explosion blew a hole in the *Housatonic* causing her to sink. The *Hunley* and her crew became the first submarine to sink an enemy ship. 45 minutes later, a Union sailor saw a blue light on the water. It was the last time anyone would see the *Hunley* for over 136 years.

As soon as the *Hunley* disappeared, people began looking for her. Even, the Federal fleet searched the area in hopes of finding her. May 3rd, 1995 the *Hunley* was finally found. After years of research and planning the *Hunley* was raised from the sea floor on August 8, 2000. For the next four years, archeologist began to examine the contents of the *Hunley*. Found at their battle stations, were the crew members of the *Hunley*. On April 17th, 2004, over 140 years later, the remains of third crew were laid to rest at Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, South Carolina. These brave pioneers, volunteers, and patriots changed the world and naval warfare. They were our forefathers.



Upcoming Speakers

July: Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief Paul Grambling

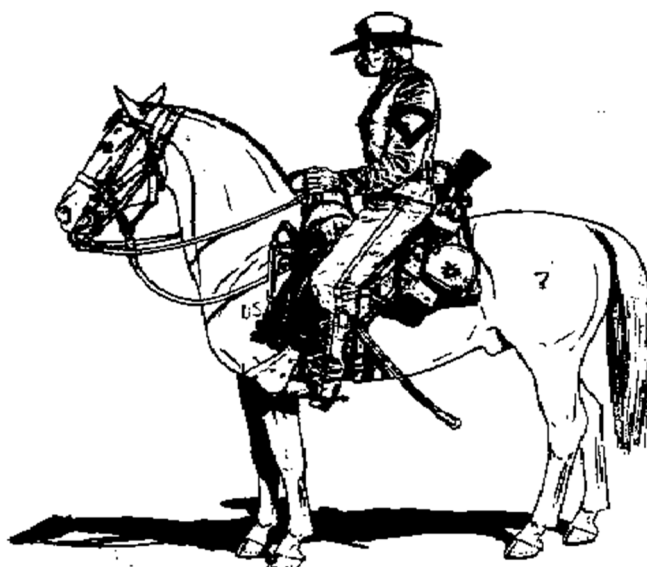
August: Army of Tennessee Larry McCluney

September: Commander-in-Chief Tom Strain & Al
Arnold

October: Open

November: Open

December: 2nd Annual Grey's Christmas In Dixie



Minutes from June 6, 2017

06/10/2017 (location Oxford Convention Center, 102 Ed Perry Blvd, Oxford, MS)

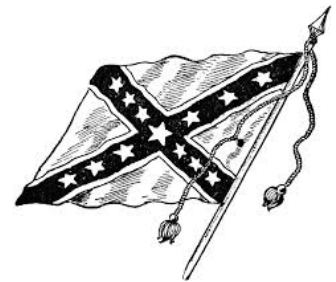
1:45 pm start

Billy:

- Welcome all
- Motion to accept May's minutes by Ben Edwards, 2nd by Phillip Griffin, pass unanimous
- Motion to accept Marty McAlilly as camp member by Phillip Griffin, 2nd by Rock Pfingston, pass unanimous
- Roses for Warriors ride coming up on the 24th of June, need to attend if possible
- New Division officers elected:
 - o Jeff Barnes, Commander
 - o Conor Bond, 1st Lt Commander
 - o Carl Ford, 2nd Lt Commander
 - o Dan McCaskill, Adjutant
- New Brigade officers elected:
 - o Bill Hinson, Commander
 - o Patrick Charlton, Councilman
- Phillip – shirts and hats
- See Chris for applications

Kevin Nelms:

- Still has Mech Cav shirts for sale
- Motion to adjourn by Conor Bond, 2nd by Billy Bryant, pass unanimous
Meeting ended – 2:00 pm



Agenda for July 9, 2017

- Opening prayer
- Pledges and Salutes
- Reading of the Charge
- Welcome
- Introduction of guests
- Speaker: Paul Gramling
- Old/Unfinished Business
 - New member certificates
 - Member Transfers and Officer Promotions
 - Mega Flag Update
 - Beauvoir news
 - Richland Hwy 49 Fest update
 - Division Convention update
 - Shiloh Cemetery updates
 - Jamie Knight Memorial Membership update
 - Kathy for any OCR news, Wounded Warrior Ride update
- New Business
 - July events
 - TBD Ben Edwards MC patch-in at Philadelphia
 - Memphis 9th
 - 1G Ride 23rd
 - WW Ride 29th
 - Upcoming patch in for Robert Pursley TBD
 - Update on water to Vicksburg during outage
 - DUES ARE DUE, \$50 by 08/31
 - If your mailing address has changed since becoming a member, please notify the adjutant so that it can be changed with the Division and with National
 - Website stats: 50 unique visitors, 128 page views
 - Requests for speakers, suggestions to Owen McDowell
 - See Camp Quarter Master Phillip Griffin for Shirts (\$20) and Hats (\$15)
 - Cafepress.com situation and status on new sales website
 - See Chris for applications
 - Open discussion
- Closing prayer

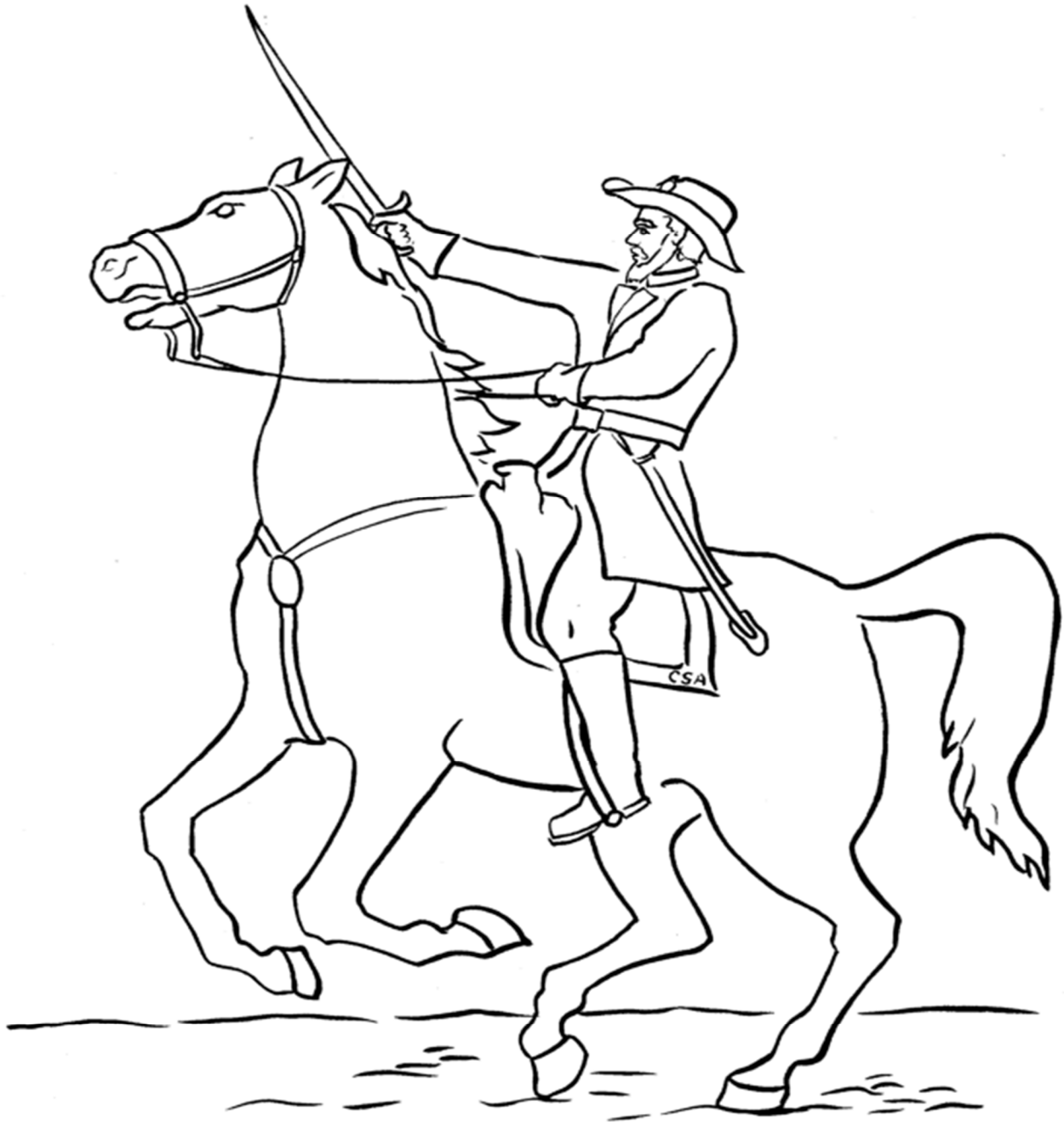


HL Hunley Award

The *H. L. Hunley* Award was created by the South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, to recognize deserving Junior ROTC cadets who have demonstrated the qualities of **Honor**, **Courage**, and **Commitment** to his or her unit throughout the school year. The award honors the crews of the Confederate submarine *H. L. Hunley*, the first submarine to sink an enemy vessel in combat. Typically, the award is given to a rising second year cadet identified by his JROTC instructors and is presented by a member of the local Sons of Confederate Veterans camp. This program is a great way to teach today's youth about the courage and sacrifice of our ancestors. In many JROTC programs, this award has become one of the most coveted awards among cadets. Florence, Richland, and McLaurin High Schools have a JROTC program.



Cadet Corner



Dressed in grey, Confederate soldiers were fighting
for the right to form a new government.

Please color in the Confederate soldier on the horse

Compatriots,

I hope that you have enjoyed this issue of *Grey Matter*. If you have suggestion for an article, or would like to write one please let me know. Next month's issue will have several interesting articles that I am sure you will enjoy.

Forward the Colors,

George Conor Bond
Editor
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