

Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863, Conyers, Ga.

GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



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Camp Officers:

Camp Cmdr: Joe Underwood

Commander@campjoe Wheeler.org

1st Lt. Cmdr: Tommy Cook

1st Lt.Cmdr@campjoe Wheeler.org

2nd Lt. Cmdr: Jerry New

2nd Lt.Cmdr@campjoe Wheeler.org

Camp Adjutant: Steve Camp

Adjutant@campjoe Wheeler.org

Coming Events

July 10, 2012 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

August 14, 2012 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

August 25, 2012 - **25th Anniversary Cookout and meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers Georgia

Inside this issue:

"Our Commanders Comments" 2
By: Cmdr. J. H. Underwood

"Mr. Gould B. Hagler Jr. to speak at our July Meeting" 2
By: Gould Hagler & Cmdr. J. H. Underwood

"The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington & Oxford" 3
(24th and 25th Soldiers in a series)
Continuing project by Compatriot Gene Wade

"Hunley Lantern's Surprises: Lens not blue, Body was Fragile" 3
By: Scott C. Boyd, (Continued from page 1.)

"The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington & Oxford" 4
(24th and 25th Soldiers in a series)
Continuing project by Compatriot Gene



Hunley Lantern's Surprises:

Lens is not blue, Body was Fragile

By: Scott C. Boyd
(July 2012 Civil War News)



At left is the famous lantern as it was found during excavation of the H.L. Hunley's interior. It had to be detached from the side of the hull to which it was fused due to corrosion. At right is how it looks after two years of conservation and removal of concretion. (Friends of the Hunley)

CHARLESTON, S.C. – The famous lantern of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, which is said to have signaled the vessel's successful attack on the USS Housatonic, has completed conservation.

One surprising discovery is that the one 3-inch diameter lens is clear, despite accounts that the submarine flashed a blue light signal after its history-making attack as the first submarine to sink an enemy vessel in combat on Feb. 17, 1864.

The lantern was displayed for the media on April 19. It is not on public display at this time, according to Friends of the Hunley Executive Director Kellen Correia.

The lantern was found during excavation of the submarine's interior, chief conservator Paul Mardikian said in an interview. It was fused by corrosion to the vessel's hull.

The lantern was an "extremely inexpensive and easily available" type, Mardikian said. Ships would have normally had a sturdier lantern, made of brass, he said.

The only brass object found in the Hunley, however, was the oil can, according to Mardikian. There were also some buttons from the crew's clothing and parts of the sub's compass that were brass.

The lantern body was made of tin-plated iron, "the most fragile material you could have on a boat" due to the corrosive power of seawater, according to Mardikian.

Tin-plated iron is "fragile, unstable and corrodible," he said.

With the Hunley's lantern, "you're looking at a ghost artifact," he said. "It was corroded through, filled with sediment, and extremely heavy, with a massive lens. The only dense areas were where the solder was."

Mardikian said the lantern had the "consistency of a biscuit" and could not be handled unless there were some kind of backing material inside, or the fragile metal would crumble.

The total treatment time for the lantern was two years. The manual work needed to remove the concretion totaled about three weeks, requiring a scalpel used under a microscope to lift off the concretion.

Mardikian said, "The lantern is probably the most complex artifact ever conserved for the Hunley."

The conserved lantern is not "restored," he noted. A large hole in the lantern was covered with a strong, synthetic fabric to give it "a natural, normal appearance."

"The goal was to make it appealing to the viewer without making it tell a lie," he said. "You want to know what is original and what's not when you look at it."

Although Mardikian believes the lantern was an inexpensive, common type for the era, he has not found anything "strictly similar" to it. Many people have contacted him to claim they have a lantern just like it, but none have convinced him.

"The top of the lantern – the baffle – is particularly different from what you typically find,"



Our Commanders Comments

By: Commander J. H. Underwood



Compatriots;

Well, summer is upon us and it is already too hot for me! I hope this heat wave does not last too long.

Below is an article about our next meeting's guest speaker, Mr. Gould Hagler. Don't miss his interesting program on Confederate Monuments of Georgia and bring a friend. I hope to have a good turn out and show Mr. Hagler our support for his work documenting these historic markers.

In addition to Mr. Hagler's program we will be planning the upcoming 25th anniversary of the signing of our Camp Charter. After writing a letter to the Worshipful Master of Philologia Lodge requesting permission to use the lodge

for our proposed cookout on August 18th, I was contacted by Mr. Don Pol-lard, the current Secretary of the Lodge, who informed me that they already had someone using the space on the 18th but the 11th and 25th were open.

Adjutant Steve Camp and I have de-cided to go with the August 25th since that date is closer to the actual date of the signing of the original, charter which was August 28, 1987. This also gives us two more weeks and one extra meeting to plan the event.

I need as many of you at this next meeting, July 10th, as possible to sign up for different tasks. We need people with grills that can cook, people to help set up, people to help clean up and peo-ple to bring food. I will have some sign up sheets made for these tasks at this meeting so be thinking about what you

can do or would like to volunteer for. Also be thinking about who we need to invite to this event so we can compile a list and I can get invitations out in a timely manner.

After July's meeting we have one more on Tuesday August 14th which will be used to finalize our plans for the 25th Anniver-sary Cook Out event. I hope this will be the biggest event since the Lee-Jackson Dinner last January.

I have asked Georgia Division Com-mander Jack Bridwell to be our honored guest speaker at this event however I have not yet heard from him. Hopefully I will have his answer before the July meeting.

As always for the cause:

J. H. Underwood
Commander.



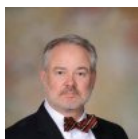
Gould B. Hagler Jr. to speak at our July Meeting

By: Gould Hagler & Commander J. H. Underwood



Compatriots;

I am pleased to announce that the guest speaker for our July 10th meeting will be Mr. Gould Hagler Jr. of Augusta, Geor-gia. Here is a brief biography of Mr. Hagler.



Mr. Hagler is the lobbyist for the Independent Insur-ance Agents of Georgia, a trade association of inde-pendent agencies headquar-tered in Atlanta. From 1995 to 2010 Mr. Hagler was also the association's chief executive officer.

Mr. Hagler is a member of the Govern-mental Affairs Council of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Advisory Council of the State Board of Workers' Compensation. He has also served on various committees of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Amer-ica.

Mr. Hagler is a native of Augusta. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University (B.A., 1972) and Georgia State Univer-sity (M.S., 1976).

Mr. Hagler has photographed almost all of Georgia's Confederate monuments and is a frequent speaker on this topic. He has also written articles on subjects ranging from the meaning of the Confed-eracy's Latin motto to a series on North-ern men who served in the Confederate army. His book on Georgia's Confed-erate monuments is to be published by Mercer University Press.

Other activities and memberships:

Sons of Confederate Veterans (Past Com-mander, John B. Gordon Camp)

Atlanta Civil War Round Table, Presi-dent

Society of Mayflower Descendants, member of Executive Committee

Society of Colonial Wars

Military Order of the Stars and Bars

Board of Trustees, Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails

It is an honor to have such a distin-guished guest as our speaker and I encourage all of you to be there. This is one you don't want to miss.

Mr. Hagler will speak to us about his new upcoming book on Confederate monuments and he will have plenty of pictures.

Invitations to this meeting will be sent to the James M. Gresham Chapter of the UDC and to several neighboring camps so I look for a good turn out.

J. H. Underwood
Commander.



The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford (24th & 25th Soldiers in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



Headstone at Covington:
S. GOSSET
--TN



Actually:
SAMUEL G. GOSSETT
COMPANY C
9th BATTALION
MISSISSIPPI SHARP
SHOOTERS

This soldier enlisted at Monroe County, Mississippi on February 9, 1862 in Company C of the 9th Battalion, Mississippi Sharpshooters. This unit consisted of companies A, B and C and participated in the Kentucky campaign of 1862 including the attack at Munfordsville, Kentucky in September 1862. The unit was also engaged at Murfreesboro, Tennessee in December 1862.

It is interesting that the 9th Battalion successfully defended the Confederate river steamer Paint Rock at Bridgeport, Alabama on the Tennessee River from Federal cavalry in July 1863. The Paint Rock was captured a few days later and was soon used by Union forces on "the cracker line" to supply their forces at Chattanooga in October 1863.

The 9th Battalion fought at Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge before wintering in 1863 near Dalton, Georgia. In the Spring of 1864, the unit served at Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta and Jonesboro. Unfortu-

nately, most roster rolls for the 9th Battalion did not survive the war so we know only a few details of Private Gossett's service. We know that he enlisted in February 1862 but nothing is known of his service until he was shown as "joined from desertion on October 4, 1863, absent in arrest" for part of November/December 1863 and was "absent in arrest" for part of January-February 1864. His service record also shows that he died at the Lumpkin Hospital at Covington, Georgia on March 23, 1864.

Did he really desert or was he absent ill? The separate records of the Atlanta Fairgrounds Hospital Number 2 show that Private S. Gossett, 9th Battalion, was admitted November 9, 1863 for Chronic Rheumatism and was evacuated to Covington on January 26, 1864 along with 88 other sick and wounded. A report from the attending surgeon at Lumpkin Hospital states "soldier died from Sinusitis of the knee-joint resulting in necrosis and abscess". Simply put, the flesh around the knee-joint died and infection set in. He likely had Rheumatoid arthritis, a long-term disease that leads to inflammation of the joints and where the body's immune system mistakenly attacks healthy tissue. Even now, little is known about this disease and antibiotics were unknown in 1864. He probably was simply no longer physically capable of performing the strenuous duties of a combat soldier. The 9th Battalion served continuously in rifle pits or behind barricades of logs all the way from Dalton to Atlanta so this constant exposure to the elements would have aggravated any medical condition. Private Samuel Gossett likely died a painful death and died in the

service of his country.

Little is known about the family of Samuel Gossett except that they originally came from South Carolina to Mississippi. According to the 1860 U.S. Census for Tippah County, Mississippi, it appears likely that he is the Samuel Gossett (age 21) who was living with his widowed mother, Lucinda Gossett (age 43) in the same residence with Lucinda's daughter (and Samuel's sister), Margaret (Gossett) Lucas (age 23) and Margaret's husband Andrew J. Lucas (age 26) and with two small Lucas children. This Andrew J. Lucas also likely died in the war because he cannot be found in the 1870 census. The father of Private Samuel Gossett could not be determined with any accuracy. Private Samuel Gossett's mother and sister cannot be found in later censuses possibly because they possibly died or remarried.

Headstone at Covington shows:
J. C. EDWARDS
25th GA



Actually:
JAMES. C. EDWARDS
COMPANY C,
25th GEORGIA INFANTRY
REGIMENT

Little is known about this soldier. We know what his headstone says. We know that the May 2nd, 1864 daily transcript for the Covington Hill Hospital says "Edwards, J. C., Private, Co. C, 25th Georgia - Died". No cause of death is given.

Continued on page 4.



Hunley Lantern's Surprises: Lens is not blue, Body was Fragile

By: Scott C. Boyd (July 2012 Civil War News)



(Continued from page 1.)

he said.

Regarding the lens color, Mardikian said he can only judge based on what he sees. "I never found evidence of anything 'blue' about it. Based on the material evidence, there is nothing 'blue' about the object."

He said "blue light" may refer to a signaling technique common at the time rather than to the color of the light. He used the analogy of French fries. "There's nothing 'French'

about them," the native of France said.

"I would have loved to see something blue, but I deliver what I find."

The next conservation projects include the aft hatch, grapnel anchor and compass. Mardikian said plans for 2013 include de-concreting the spar that held the sub's torpedo.

Discovered underwater in 1995 just outside

the mouth of Charleston Harbor, the 40-foot-long Hunley has been at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center at the former navy base in North Charleston since it was recovered intact from the sea on Aug. 8, 2000.

In 2004, the remains of the eight men discovered when the sub's interior was excavated were buried with full honors at Charleston's Magnolia Cemetery.

**MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH WHEELER CAMP #863,
CONYERS, GA.**

805 Commerce Drive
Conyers, GA. 30094

E-mail: commander@campjoewheeler.org



We're on the Web!

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The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford (24th & 25th Soldiers in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



We also know that the “Roster of Confederate Soldiers of Georgia 1861-1865” from the early 1900's by Lillian Henderson, Director of the State of Georgia Confederate and Records Department, states “Edwards, James C., Pvt, March 1864. Died in Covington, GA Hospital May 1864, buried there”. As valuable as Mrs. Henderson's works are, she unfortunately did not mention her sources of information. The Lillian Henderson research indicates that Private Edwards was in the 1st Company L, 25th Regiment, Calhoun County, “Calhoun Repeaters”. Company letter designations in the 25th Georgia changed so much during the war that soldiers possibly never knew which company they were really in. Several websites listing 25th Georgia rosters quote verbatim what Mrs. Lillian Henderson shows in her works so it appears that her information is simply being repeated. Hopefully, her research is accurate.

Unfortunately, this soldier cannot be located in the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) which is based on the National Archives collection of Civil War participants or in FOLD3, which is the web's

premier collection of military records that incorporates records from the National Archives and CWSS. According to the CWSS, the only soldier named Edwards in the 25th Georgia Infantry Regiment was a Jesse J. Edwards but research shows that Jesse J. Edwards survived the war and drew a Confederate indigent soldier pension after 1895. It is assumed that the records for James C. Edwards, possibly because of short service, either no longer exist or that they are deeply buried in the Georgia Archives and were never submitted for input into the National Archives system.

The 25th Georgia Infantry Regiment was recruited mainly from counties in west Georgia and even east Alabama and was formally organized at Savannah (Thunderbolt), Georgia in September 1861. The regiment spent a short time serving on the coast of South Carolina and Georgia before being sent to Jackson, Mississippi and then after several consolidations, fought at Chickamauga, the siege of Chattanooga and Missionary Ridge. The 25th Georgia fought at Cassville, Dallas, New Hope

Church and Kennesaw Mountain among others. The 25th later fought at Franklin, Tennessee and finally surrendered at war's end in North Carolina. Likely, Private Edwards was wounded or became sick during the early stages of the Atlanta Campaign

Genealogy research is sparse and reveals little about James C. Edwards. According to a researcher, he was born about 1843 in Calhoun County, Alabama. His parents are unknown but the researcher says he married Ellen Morgan (born abt.1843) in Calhoun County, Alabama (Calhoun County is just across the Chattahoochee River from Georgia) in 1863. James C. Edwards cannot be located in available census records with any degree of certainty nor can a wife or children be later identified.



Confederate Memorial Wall