

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

GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



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Coming Events

February 12, 2013 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

March 12, 2013 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

April 9, 2013 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

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Experts Find New Evidence in Submarine Mystery

By Bruce Smith, Associated Press



NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Researchers say they may have the final clues needed to solve the mystery of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, which never resurfaced after it became the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship, taking its eight-man crew to a watery grave.

Scientists said Monday that the Hunley apparently was less than 20 feet away from the Housatonic when the crew ignited a torpedo that sank the Union blockade ship off South Carolina in 1864. That means it may have been close enough for the crew to be knocked unconscious by the explosion, long enough that they may have died before awakening.

For years, historians thought the Hunley was much farther away and had speculated the crew ran out of air before they were able to return to shore.

The discovery was based on a recent examination of the spar — the iron pole in front of the hand-cranked sub that held the torpedo.

The Hunley, built in Mobile, Ala., and deployed off Charles-

ton in an attempt to break the Union blockade during the Civil War, was finally found in 1995. It was raised five years later and brought to a lab in North Charleston, where it is being conserved.

Conservator Paul Mardikian had to remove material crusted onto one end of the spar after 150 years at the bottom of the ocean. Beneath the muck he found evidence of a cooper sleeve. The sleeve is in keeping with a diagram of the purported design of a Hunley torpedo that a Union general acquired after the war and is in the National Archives in Washington.

"The sleeve is an indication the torpedo was attached to the end of the spar," Mardikian said. He said the rest of the 16-foot spar shows deformities in keeping with it being bent during an explosion.

Now it may be that the crew, found at their seats when the sub was raised with no evidence of an attempt to abandon ship, may have been knocked out by the concussion of an explosion so close by, said Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, a member of the South Carolina Hunley Commission.

"I think the focus now goes down to the seconds and minutes around the attack on the Housatonic," he said. "Did the crew get knocked out? Did it cause rivets to come loose and the water rush into the hull?"

The final answers will come when scientists begin to remove en-

crustations from the outer hull, a process that will begin later this year. McConnell said scientists will also arrange to have a computer simulation of the attack created based on the new information. The simulation might be able to tell what effect the explosion would have on the nearby sub.

Maria Jacobsen, the senior archaeologist on the project, said small models might also be used to recreate the attack.

Ironically, the crucial information was literally at the feet of scientists for years.

The spar has long been on display to the public in a case at Clemson University's Warren Lasch Conservation Lab where the Hunley is being conserved. With other priorities on the sub itself, it wasn't until last fall that Mardikian began the slow work of removing encrustations from the spar.

Scientists X-rayed the spar early on and found the denser material that proved to be the cooper sleeve. But Jacobsen said it had long been thought it was some sort of device to release the torpedo itself. Finding evidence of the attached torpedo is "not only extremely unexpected, it's extremely critical," she said. "What we know now is the weapons system exploded at the end of the spar. That is very, very significant."



Our Commanders' Comments

By: Commander J. H. Underwood



Compatriots;

I want to thank everyone who attended the Lee-Jackson Dinner on January 8th.

Mr. Len Strozier of Omega Mapping Services

did a great job explaining the mapping process with ground penetrating radar and I think everyone enjoyed his presentation. We all look forward to the completion of the Middlebrook Cemetery mapping project and, with weather permitting, this should take place this month.



Mr. Mark Pollard, Henry Counties Civil War Historian and member of Col. Charles T. Zachry Rangers Camp 108, was named our Person of the Year. Mark's work on the preservation of the Nash Farm Battlefield and his willingness to share his experiences earned him this honor and I was very pleased that he was on hand to accept the award. He too is most deserving of the award and I want to thank our membership for choosing such dedicated servants of our charge as recipients of both of these awards.

Other guest included former Newton County Commissioner, Mr. Monty Laster and his wife Ann, Rockdale County Historical Society members Terrell Underwood, Judy Bond and Ellen Trainer, James M. Gresham Chapter 1312 President Pauline

Myers, her husband Roger and Past President Madelyn Stark, the 13th Brigade Commander Philip Autrey, from the John B. Gordon Camp #46, Mr. Ben Moon and from the Confederate Memorial Camp 1432, Commander Jeff Bailey, his wife Donna and Past 1st Lt. Commander Richard Strout.



Thank all of you for attending and making our 25th Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner a great success.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 12 when we will induct our newest member, Mr. Russell Toning. Please don't miss this important meeting and join me in welcoming Mr. Toning to our ranks.

J. H. Underwood, Commander



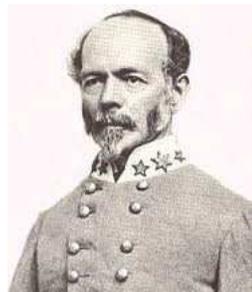
1st Lt. Cmdr. Tommy Cook and I were both pleased to announce our Compatriot of the Year, Hal Doby, for his hard work keeping up our website and his participation at all of our functions

throughout the year. Hal is most deserving of this honor and I know everyone joins me in congratulating him.



William T. Sherman and Joseph E. Johnston good friends personally?

Commander J. H. Underwood



I found this as an Epilogue to an article in "The Senior Tribune", Atlanta's senior news magazine dated July/August 1989 titled 125th Anniversary Of The Battle of Atlanta, by Harry Shaw.

EPILOGUE: William T. Sherman and Joseph E. Johnston, the bitterest of enemies in battle, were warm friends personally.

Sherman lay dying of asthma. It was February 14, 1891, Valentine's Day, just a week short of his 71st birthday. At 1:30 p.m., he insisted on rising and sitting in his favorite easy chair. At 1:50 he was dead.

At the funeral, after the Roman Catholic ritual, the black, silver-handled coffin was borne out into the cold windy day. Just outside the entrance foyer, hat in hand, stood tall, spare Joseph E. Johnston, one of the honorary pallbearers. His hair was snow white now, his goatee was trim and frosty.

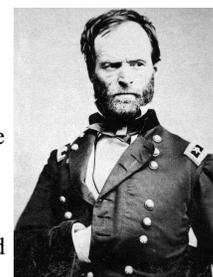
A Union brigadier general laid his hand gently on Johnston's arm. "General," he urged, "please put on your hat—You'll get sick in this weather."

At that moment Sherman's coffin was passing by. It paused a second beside Johnston. The old Confederate officer, his eyes misty, nodded toward it. "If I were in there, and he were standing here, he'd have his hat off."

Five weeks later Joe Johnston was dead—of pneumonia.

Knowing the history of General Johnston's continued retreats from Chattanooga to Kennesaw mountain this makes one wonder if this friendship was influencing his decision to refuse to take a stand. Of course we will never know but it does bring up some interesting questions and "what ifs".

This article also described Kennesaw Mountain as Sherman's worst mistake with loses of more than 8000 to 808 Confederates lost. What would have happened if Gen. Johnston would have taken a stand earlier.





The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford

(36th and 37th Soldiers in the series)



Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade

Headstone at Covington:
W. KEMP
6th GA



Actually:
WILLIAM A. KEMP
COMPANY E
63rd REGIMENT
GEORGIA INFANTRY

This soldier was a member of the 63rd Regiment, Georgia Infantry and not the 6th Georgia Infantry as indicated on the headstone. William A. Kemp enlisted as a private at Thunderbolt, Georgia on January 22, 1863 in Company E of the Phoenix Regiment, Georgia Infantry. He enlisted as a "substitute" for a G. Andrews. Enlisting as a substitute was a common practice in both the north and south that allowed those who could afford it to effectively hire a person to take his place in the military, at least until the next draft call. The South ended the practice of hiring substitutes by the end of 1863. The Phoenix Regiment became the 63rd Regiment, Georgia Infantry.

The 63rd Regiment was both an infantry and a heavy artillery unit during the war. The 63rd was formed in December 1862 using the 13th Georgia Infantry Battalion as its nucleus and by the further consolidation of various infantry companies and the 12th Battalion Georgia Light Artillery. This seemingly unusual consolidation of infantry and artillery companies into a single regiment makes perfect sense when you consider their mission was coastal defense requiring both infantry and artillery assets.

The 63rd Georgia defended Thunderbolt and Rosedew Island near Savannah, Georgia. Engagements of the 63rd regiment include deploying mainly artillery assets (Companies B and K) in the defense and battle of Battery Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina in July 1863. After the artillery was requisitioned by the Confederate navy in early 1864, the regiment became strictly infantry. The regiment was then placed in General Mercer's and J. A. Smith's Brigade, Army of Tennessee. Now serving as infantry, the brigade moved to the Atlanta area about May-June 1863. It appears that the 63rd participated in the fighting near Resaca (13-15 May, 1863) and other battles with heavy fighting at Kennesaw Mountain. The unit was heavily engaged at Jonesboro, Georgia and then later at Franklin, Tennessee and then in the Caro-

linas Campaign before the final surrender at Bentonville, North Carolina.

Unfortunately, Private Kemp did not live past the Atlanta Campaign. He was sick in a hospital for a short time during September-October 1863 but rosters show he was back with his unit during November and December 1863 and January and February 1864. The 63rd fought in battles before the Battle of Atlanta to include action at Resaca with the most deadly of all at Kennesaw Mountain on June 27, 1864. During the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain near Pigeon Hill and south of Burnt Hickory Road, the Union commander advanced his column and met the skirmish line manned by the 63rd Georgia. Unfortunately, the commander of the 63rd, instead of ordering his skirmishers to fall back, ordered the skirmishers and their support to attack the advancing Union forces. The 63rd suffered devastating losses in this unwise and uncoordinated attack. Since this was the most deadly combat action the 63rd had seen to date, it is likely that Private Kemp was wounded at this time. We do not know the exact date of his death but do know that he died at Hill Hospital, Covington, Georgia and is buried at the Confederate Cemetery there.

William A. Kemp was born about 1838 in Georgia, probably in Marion County, Georgia to John and Adaline Kemp. William had two brothers and four sisters. The siblings were Joseph (born abt 1838), Cintha (born abt 1842), Sarah (born abt 1848), John (born abt 1853), Minerva (born abt 1856) and Mary (born abt 1858).

William L. Kemp's older brother Joseph J. Kemp enlisted in Company H, 46th Georgia Infantry in 1862 and died September 16, 1862 at Charleston, South Carolina, likely in a Confederate hospital, of unknown causes. Brother Joseph left behind a wife and three small children. None of William L. Kemp's other brothers were old enough to serve but his father John Kemp (born abt 1811) appears to have served in Company E of the 3rd Georgia Reserves, a local defense force which incidentally fought at Griswoldville. The father, John, is reported to have died after the war in 1866. The census of 1870 shows the mother, Adaline, as head of household, living with most of her remaining children. Mother Adaline died between 1870-1880.

Private William A Kemp died at about age

19. There is no record of him being married. So sad that one so young would have his life cut so short.

Headstone at Covington:
H. KNIGHT
63d GA



Actually:
HENRY G. KNIGHT
COMPANY D
63d REGIMENT, GA
INFANTRY

This soldier enlisted on September 3, 1862 as a 38 year old private at Thunderbolt, Chat-ham County, Georgia in Company A, 13th Battalion (Phoenix Battalion), Georgia Infantry. Private Knight enlisted as a "substitute" for a J.W.B Howard. Enlisting as a substitute was a common practice in both the north and the south that allowed those who could afford it to effectively hire a person to take his place in the military, at least until the next draft call. The South ended the practice by the end of 1863. Private Knight transferred to Company F and then to Company D on December 5, 1862 where he remained until his death in 1864.

The 13th Battalion became the nucleus of the 63rd Regiment and by the further consolidation of various infantry companies and then the inclusion of the 12th Battalion, Georgia Light Artillery. This unusual consolidation of infantry and artillery makes perfect sense when you consider that the mission of the 63rd Regiment was coastal defense requiring both the infantry and artillery assets

The 63rd Georgia defended Thunderbolt and Rosedew Island, Georgia. Engagements of the 63rd Regiment include deploying mainly artillery assets (Companies B and K) to the defense and battle of Battery Wagner, Charleston, South Carolina in July 1863. After the artillery was requisitioned by the Confederate Navy in early 1864, the regiment became strictly infantry. The regiment was then placed in General Mercer's and J. A. Smith's Brigade, Army of Tennessee. Now serving as infantry, the brigade moved to northwest Georgia above Atlanta in early May 1864. The 63rd participated in fighting near Resaca (13-15 May 1864), Cassville (May 18, 1864), New Hope Church (May 25-26, 1864) and other battles with heavy fighting at Kennesaw Mountain (June 27, 1864). The unit was heavily engaged at Jonesboro, Georgia and then later at

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The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford

(36th and 37th Soldiers in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



Franklin, Tennessee and then in the Carolinas Campaign before the surrender at Bentonville, North Carolina.

Unfortunately, Private Knight did not survive past the Atlanta Campaign. It is likely that Private Knight was wounded in one of the May 1864 battles but before the June 27, 1864 battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Many of the records of the 63rd Georgia during this time frame did not survive the war. The National Archives military record for this soldier states only that Henry Knight was deceased and that the personal effect records number was 6455 but the place and date of death is not mentioned. Receipt number 6455 shown in his military record is the same receipt number used for three other soldiers (Carter/Beasley/Kemp) also of the 63rd Georgia, who also died at the Covington Confederate Hospital. A daily transcript found in the records of Samuel E. Stout, Medical Director of Confederate Hospitals, Army of Tennessee, shows that Henry Knight, private, Company D of the 63rd Georgia died on June 8, 1864 at the Confederate Hospital at Covington, Georgia. Exactly when he was admitted or the cause of death is not known.

Henry G. Knight was born about 1824 probably in Tatnell, Georgia to Seth Knight (born abt 1795 in SC) and Catherine (Johnston?) Knight (born abt 1796 in SC). His siblings were Adaline (b.1822), William H. (b.1827), Mary A. (b 1830) and Martha (b.1834). His father Seth became a Baptist minister in about 1840 and died about August 1853. His mother Catherine was living with son William Henry Knight and his wife and four children in 1860 in Tattnall County, Georgia. Catherine died between 1860 and 1870.

Our Private Henry G. Knight married Sarah A. Curry (b. abt 1824, Ga) in about 1846 in Tattnall County, Georgia. Their eight children were Ellen (b. 1847), Mary (b. 1850), Martha (b. 1852), Ardelia (b.1853), David (b.abt 1856), Allen (b. abt 1857), Isabell (b. abt 1859), and Rachel (b. abt 1862). None of Henry G Knight's children were old enough to serve the Confederacy. Henry left behind his widow Sarah and eight children ranging from ages 4 to 17. One can only imagine the anguish of this large family to suddenly become fatherless. Wife Sarah is shown in the 1870 Census in Liberty

County, Georgia as head of household with children Martha, Ardelia, David, Isabell and Rachel still at home. Martha is believed to be deceased before the 1880 census.

The only brother of Henry G. Knight was William H. Knight (b. 1827) who also served the Confederacy by joining Company K of the 47th Georgia Infantry Regiment in December 1862. Brother William was captured near Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863 and was sent to the prison camp at Rock Island, Illinois on December 18, 1863 during the coldest winter (-30 degrees) on record. No record can be found of Private William H. Knight after his arrival at Rock Island. He simply disappeared. His death is not recorded, nor was his release which was not unusual for the infamous Rock Island prison camp. William left behind a wife and four small children who likely never knew what happened to him.

Between them, brothers Henry and William Knight left behind a total of twelve children. A tragic loss for the families involved but unfortunately not at all unusual in the South.