



15th Regimental Report

Camp #51 Lexington County, S.C.

Sons of Confederate Veterans



Volume IX, Issue 1V

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April 2001

In Their Own Words

- “The ball entered my left eye and came out behind my left ear. I saw the visions of a drowning man, time, space, all lost its limit or measure”
- Col. Alexander Cheves Haskell 7th SC Cavalry commenting on having his eye shot out on the Darbytown Road.

15th Regiment SC Vols
P.O. Box 84381
Lexington, SC 29073

Inside this issue:

<i>Commander's Com-</i>	2
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	2
<i>Hunley Crew Burial</i>	2
<i>Ancestor Highlight</i>	3
<i>Dues Payment</i>	4
<i>1865 Hunley Report</i>	5
<i>Confederate History</i>	5
<i>G. T. Beauregard's</i>	6
<i>Oakliegh Park Planta-</i>	7
<i>Re-enactors 2001</i>	8

Remember The Hunley Crew



A decorative 'A' adorns this button found inside the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley Thursday, March 15, 2001 in North Charleston, S.C. The front of the button has the letter "A" signifying that it was from an artilleryman's coat. The button is hollow and made of copper or brass.

Staff Photo By Juliette Coughlin Charleston Post & Courier

Plans for Lake Murray monument are taking shape

Bing Chambers reported at the last Camp meeting that things are just about ready to start the real work on the monument for the Lake Murray Confederate Veterans. After the final word on placement of the monument on the property we will be ready to start taking orders for the Memorial Bricks fund raising. Currently we are planning to sell the bricks for fifty dollars a piece. From the interest that has been raised, we have decided to advertise our project not only on a local and state level, but also on the national level. Just imagine a whole courtyard filled with the names of our Confederate ancestors. This will be a project that will bring a shining light upon Lexington County and especially our Camp.

Continued on page 4

Commander's Comments

On Confederate Memorial Day, May 10th, the Sons of Camp 51 have stood guard at the monument on the Lexington Courthouse grounds. This has become a Camp tradition to honor our ancestors. Compatriots, I am calling on you to continue this tradition. A sign-up list will be passed around at the next Camp meeting. Please be sure to put your name and the time you will be able to stand guard on the list. If you cannot be at the next meeting please give me a call at 788-4669 to sign-up. The normal length of time for standing guard has been two hours but anytime you can give would be appropriate.

As you know, the Camp has several projects under consideration. The most important is the soldier's monument for the Lake Murray Information Center. We all need to think of ways to market the bricks we will use to raise the funds needed to finance the project. Bing Chambers is doing the work on this project and gives an update at each meeting.

Recently, I received a flyer from the Civil War Preservation Trust. They are trying to save 25 acres that border on the Manassas Battlefield Park. It is the

ground where Gregg's 1st South Carolina brigade fought. The Camp will be asked to consider a contribution.

Bret Bradshaw will be this month's speaker and will discuss the battle of Trevillians Station. This may be our last meeting at the Lexington Memorial Building.

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Brett is the current state society president of the MOS&B and Vice President of the John Pelham Historical Association. A member of the Maxcy Gregg Chapter MOS&B, Captain John Kinard Camp SCV, John Pelham Historical Association and the Columbia Civil War Roundtable.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|--|
| April 26th | Next Camp Meeting |
| May 10th | Confederate Memorial Day
Lexington (Camp Event) |
| May 12th | Confederate Memorial Day
Services—Columbia |
| May 31st | Camp Meeting |



Hunley Crew Burial Ceremony

The latest word available as to the scheduled funeral for the final Hunley Crew is tentatively set for the weekend of November 10th. Due to the expected number of people who will be down in Charleston for the services, it would be advisable for you to secure lodging now if you wish to stay the weekend. This will coincide with the annual re-enactment at Boone Hall Plantation.

Ancestor Highlight

Franklin Jacob Geiger

Date & place of birth:-Dec. 20, 1835; Lexington Co. S. C.

Date & place of death:-Nov. 30, 1910; Calhoun Co. S. C., near Bethel church.

Names of parents and items of interest relating to them:- John Conrad Geiger, born Aug. 24, 1801-,died Mar. 10, 1870. Elleanor Barbara Baker, born Jan. 1809; died May 28, 1881. John Conrad Geiger was a member of the S. C. legislature. He was a member of the Secession Convention, and a Signer of the Ordinance of Secession.

Where educated. Dates of graduation and degrees.--Shirley Institute, Winnsboro, S. C.; Sandy Run Academy; S. C. Medical college, 1858.

Nature of business and profession--Practical medicine in upper Orangeburg County and lower Lexington County. Was also interested in farming.

Progress and leading incidents in professional career:-Practiced medicine in Mississippi before the War between the States.

Military record:-Assistant Surgeon. Confederate States Army, Ft. Sumter and defenses around Charleston.

Public offices held:-School trustee for a number of years. Political views and efforts:-Very pronounced on question of States Rights; Democrat; active in redeeming the state from Radical misrule.

Societies:-Mason. W. M. Oliver 133.

Church associations:-Lutheran, Sandy Run Lutheran Church; Elder.

Date & place of marriage:-Mar. 8th, 1860, Charleston, S. C. Maiden name of wife, daughter of :-Anna Elizabeth, daughter of Godfrey Herman Geiger and Elizabeth Lorick.

Items of interest relating to her and her family --Her father, Godfrey Herman Geiger, was a farmer of Lexington County, S. C. Her mother was a daughter of Michael Lorick of Lexington County, S. C. She was born June 23, 1843; died July 20, 1905.

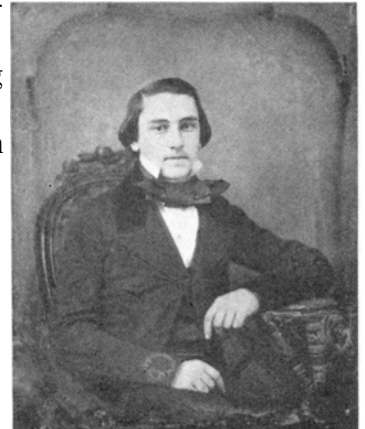
Genealogical record:-Grandfather William Geiger: Grandmother, Margaret Kersh; Great grandfather, John Geiger; great grandmother, Ann Murff. Great, great grandfather, Herman Geiger, an emigrant from Switzerland, settled in Lexington County S. C. about 1737 on the Congaree river.

Any other information that may assist in making this a complete record:-Franklin J. Geiger was very active in the Hampton Campaign. He was one of the "Red Shirt Boys."

Copied from record of Franklin Jacob Geiger (by L. M. Cain). The death of Dr. Franklin J. Geiger, -on , November 30th, 1910, at his home near St. Matthews, S. C., deserves to be noted in a worthy manner on account of his high character-the type of man whose life in its simple faith and unswerving adherence to the highest and purest motives could well be emulated by the rising generation.

Dr. Geiger was born Dec. 20, 1835, his age at his death being 74 years, 11 months and 10 days. He was a prominent and faithful member of Sandy Run Lutheran church, and for many years one of its trusted and trustworthy officers.

Dr. Geiger was a man of strong personal character, holding with uncompromising firmness to what he conceived to be right, and just as firmly opposing the wrong. He was a successful physician, a patriotic and honorable citizen, a true friend and neighbor, and above all, a faithful Christian. He will be greatly missed because of his intrinsic worth, as well as because of the severance of ties which bound him firmly while living to friends, relatives, community and church.



A large family, eight sons and four daughters, survive him, viz:-Drs. Charles B. and J. Franklin, of Manning, S. C., Godfrey H. of Anderson, Herbert L. S. Elliot, Rufus B., Percy L. and Harold C., Misses Elizabeth, Lou and Anna, of Calhoun County, and Mrs. P. H. E. Derrick, of Richland County. Two sisters, Mary E. Muller and Mrs. M. L. Baker, of Sandy Run, also survive him. His wife preceded him to the spirit land by about five years. The loving estimation in which he was hold was manifested by the attendance of an unusually large congregation upon his funeral services which were conducted by his pastor. His body rests in Sandy Run cemetery. A good man Has gone to his reward.'--R. E. Livingston.

Source: The Geigers of South Carolina
Compiled By: Percy L. Geiger

Dues Payment Change Starting with 2002 Dues

In co-ordination with the Camp Adjutant Eddie Killian, we will start sending invoices for payment of camp dues with the September newsletter.

Currently there are several different ways to pay your dues:

National Life Membership—pay once then only have state and local yearly dues

National & State Life Membership—pay each once and only have local yearly dues

Regular Membership—pay each yearly

Monument Project

With the amount of time which has passed since the first sketch of the monument was made, Bing said that he will revisit the monument company for new pricing and design ideas. One thing that we can count on is that the Battle Flag will be incorporated into the design of the stone.

The Visitor's Center has also expressed a desire to have flag poles on their property and to have extensive landscaping done. We specifically were not asked to do this for them, but it is felt that with the money that we expect to raise, the Camp could provide these things to the Visitor's Center.

Last Call for Payment of 2001 Dues

If you have not paid your dues for 2001, you need to contact Eddie Killian as soon as possible. Dues plus late penalties for state and national for regular members amounts to \$47.00. Either pay Eddie at the April meeting or send your dues to:
15th Regiment SC Vols P.O. Box 84381 Lexington, SC 29073

Original Confederate States Navy Documents

Notes from papers of First Engineer Tomb, C.S. Navy, regarding the submarine torpedo boat, *H.L. Hunley*.

CHARLESTON, S. C., *January, 1865.*

There was a submarine torpedo boat, not under the orders of the Navy, and I was ordered to tow her down the harbor three or four times by Flag-Officer Tucker, who also gave me orders to report as to her efficiency as well as safety. In my report to him I stated, "The only way to use a torpedo was on the same plan as the 'David' that is, a spar torpedo and to strike with his boat on the surface, the torpedo being lowered to 8 feet. Should she attempt to use a torpedo as Lieutenant Dixon intended, by submerging the boat and striking from below, the level of the torpedo would be above his own boat, and as she had little buoyancy and no power, the chances were the suction caused by the water passing into the sinking ship would prevent her rising to the surface, besides the possibility of his own boat being disabled." Lieutenant Dixon was a very brave and cool-headed man, and had every confidence in his boat, but had great trouble when under the water from lack of air and light. At the time she made the attempt to dive under the receiving ship in Charleston Harbor, Lieutenant Dixon, James A. Eason, and myself stood on the wharf as she passed out and saw her dive, but she did not rise again, and after a week's effort she was brought to the surface and the crew of 7 men were found in a bunch near the manhole. Lieutenant Dixon said they had failed to close the after valve.

The last night the "David" towed him down the harbor his torpedo got foul of us and came near blowing up both boats before we got it clear of the bottom, where it had drifted. I let him go after passing Fort Sumter, and on my making report of this, Flag-Officer Tucker refused to have the "David" tow him again. The power for driving this boat came from 7 or 8 men turning cranks attached to the propeller shaft, and when working at their best would make about 3 knots. She was very slow in turning, but would sink at a minute's notice and at times without it. The understanding was that from the time of her construction at Mobile up to the time when she struck *Housatonic* not less than 33 men had lost their lives in her. She was a veritable coffin to this brave officer and his men.

J. H. TOMB

Source: *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*. Series II, vol. 1 (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1921): 334-335.

Copied from Naval Historical Center's web site.

Va. Governor scraps Confederate month

From the 3/21/01 USA Today

Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore, under pressure from civil rights leaders who threatened last year a state wide tourism boycott, scrapped a tradition of declaring April "Confederate History Month" in the commonwealth. In a move that drew protests from descendants of Confederate soldiers, Gilmore designated April as a month to honor all Virginians who fought in the

Civil War, both for the Confederacy and the Union.

A leader for the NAACP's Virginia chapter last year threatened to make Virginia the second state targeted for a tourism boycott. The civil rights group has called for a boycott of South Carolina until a Confederate flag is removed from the statehouse grounds in Columbia.

UDC needs assistance in repairing/replacing the roof on the home of General Martin W. Gary's home in Edgefield, S.C.

Last January the MOS&B held its annual Lee-Jackson Day dinner at the plantation home of General Martin W. Gary in Edgefield, S.C.. General Gary served our state well as a cavalry officer with the Seventh South Carolina Cavalry. As a leader of the Red Shirts he and others were able to force the army of occupation out of our state and secure the election of General Wade Hampton as governor of the Palmetto State. On election day 1876 there were reported to be over fifteen hundred mounted Red Shirts at his home.

This home is filled with a wealth of artifacts pertaining to the struggle for an independent Confederate States of America. Among the items entrusted to the ladies of the UDC are the personal effects of the General. On display are several uniforms, his Confederate Veterans Reunion medals, arms of different types, an original copy of the Ordinance of Secession, a Red Shirt, and numerous family photographs, along with family furniture. This home is also the home of the Edgefield SCV Camp.

The ladies need our help. As they told us in January, they are unable to qualify for federal funds sufficient to take care of the roof. I believe that we would be forgoing our duties as preservers of the *Confederate Soldier's good name*, if we did not send some financial assistance to the ladies at Oakliegh Park Plantation.

If we do not act to help the UDC, General Gary's home might have to be donated to the city. Now can you imagine what could become of the treasure of artifacts that are on display in the home. Gentlemen, the UDC is about out of funds and it is time for all SCV camps to come to their aid. I would like to propose that the 15th SC Volunteers make a donation to the preservation of Oakliegh Park Plantation.



Brig. General G.T. Beauregard's Official Report on Fort Sumter

HEADQUARTERS PROVISIONAL ARMY, C. S. A.,
Charleston, S.C., April 17, 1861.

Hon. L. P. WALKER,
Secretary of War, Montgomery, Ala.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit by Col. R. A. Pryor, one of my aides (who like the others was quite indefatigable and fearless in conveying my orders, in an open boat, from these headquarters to the batteries during the bombardment), a general report of the attack of the 12th instant on Fort Sumter. This report would have been sent sooner if my other pressing duties had permitted me to devote my time to it, while the presence of the enemy's fleet still led us to expect an attack along the coast at any moment. A more detailed account will be sent forward as soon as the returns of the commanders of batteries shall have reached this office. The great difficulty I will labor under will be to do full justice to all when so much zeal, energy, and gallantry were displayed by officers and soldiers in the execution of my orders. I wish, however, to record two incidents, which will illustrate the feelings that animated all here.

Whilst the barracks in Fort Sumter were in a blaze, and the interior of the work appeared untenable from the heat and from the fire of our batteries (at about which period I sent three of my aides to offer assistance in the name of the Confederate States), whenever the guns of Fort Sumter would fire upon Fort Moultrie the men occupying Cummings Point batteries (Palmetto Guard, Captain Cuthbert) at each shot would cheer Anderson for his gallantry, although themselves still firing upon him, and when on the 15th instant he left the harbor on the steamer Isabel the soldiers of the batteries on Cummings Point lined the beach, silent, and with heads uncovered, while Anderson and his command passed before them, and expressions of scorn at the apparent cowardice of the fleet in not even attempting to rescue so gallant an officer and his command were upon the lips of all. With such material for an army, if properly disciplined, I would consider myself almost invincible against any forces not too greatly superior.

The fire of those barracks was only put out on the 15th instant, p.m., after great exertions by the gallant fire companies of this city, who were at their pumps night and day, although aware that close by them was a magazine filled with thirty thousand pounds of powder, with a shot-hole through the wall of its anteroom.

I am now removing the tottering walls of the buildings within, and clearing away all the rubbish, &c., from the interior of the work, so as to render it still more formidable than it was before it was attacked.

In one or two days I will send forward to you photographs taken at different points of sight, from which you can clearly understand the condition of the fort within when first occupied by us.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. T. BEAUREGARD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

15TH REGIMENT SOUTH CAROLINA
VOLUNTEERS

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Next Camp Meeting

April 26th, 2001

Memorial Building

219 East Main Street Lexington, South Carolina

“To you , Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will 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.”

Stephen D. Lee

Re-enactors 2001 Event Schedule

April 21	Newberry Monument Dedication & Lantern Tour (O)
April 28—29	Pickens (I)
April 28—29	Fairview Church Living History (I)
May 4-5-6	Vicksburg Campaign, Raymond, MS (Max Battalion Effort)
May 12	Confederate Memorial Day Columbia (BAE)
May 12-13	Lancaster Living History (I)
May 19	Confederate Memorial Day Charleston (O)
(BAE)	Battalion Affiliated Event
(O)	Other
(I)	Information Only

