



15th Regimental Report

Camp #51 Lexington County, S.C.
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Volume XII, Issue I

WWW.15THREGTSCVOLS.ORG

January 2004

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Bermuda Hundred

The move against Petersburg was the ultimate objective of the crossing of the James. While the Army of the Potomac, with Hancock's II Corps in the lead, marched down to the crossing point and over the river (some being ferried by steamers), W. F. Smith's XVIII Corps took transports from West Point on the York River all the way around the Peninsula to Bermuda Hundred. From there, on June 15, Smith was ordered to cross the Appomattox and march on Petersburg.

Smith was supposed to have his entire corps, but at the last minute one division



(under Brig. Gen. Adelbert Ames) was withheld by Army of the James commander Maj. Gen. Ben Butler, and replaced by the X Corps division of Brig. Gen. Edward Hincks,

consisting entirely of untried U.S.C.T. regiments. In addition, Smith had Brig. Gen. August Kautz's division of cavalry, making a total force of at least 10,000, possibly as high as 14,000.

The Federals were across the Appomattox River and on the City Point Road by

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**January Speaker
Historian
Rick Hatcher**

**Evolution of
Fort Sumter**

*Send all camp
correspondence to:*

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

**Winner of the S. A. Cunningham Newsletter Award,
Camps with over 50 members.
2002 SCV National Convention - Memphis Tennessee
2003 SCV National Convention - Asheville, North Carolina**

**Winner of the Ambrose Gonzales Newsletter Award,
Palmetto Level
First Place 2002 S. C. SCV State Convention - Aiken
Second Place 2003 S. C. SCV State Convention - Mount Pleasant**

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E. M. Clark, Jr.



Ask about how you can become a
South Carolina
Guardian

Volunteers Needed For The
Battle of Aiken
February 21st – 22nd

Camp 51 needs volunteers to man our tent at the Battle of Aiken this year. We will be present in order to both recruit new members and to raise money for

The Lake Murray Monument.

See Allen Frye at the January meeting to sign up or call him at 803-356-5554 and tell him that you would like to volunteer.

Your Camp needs your help in completing this project.

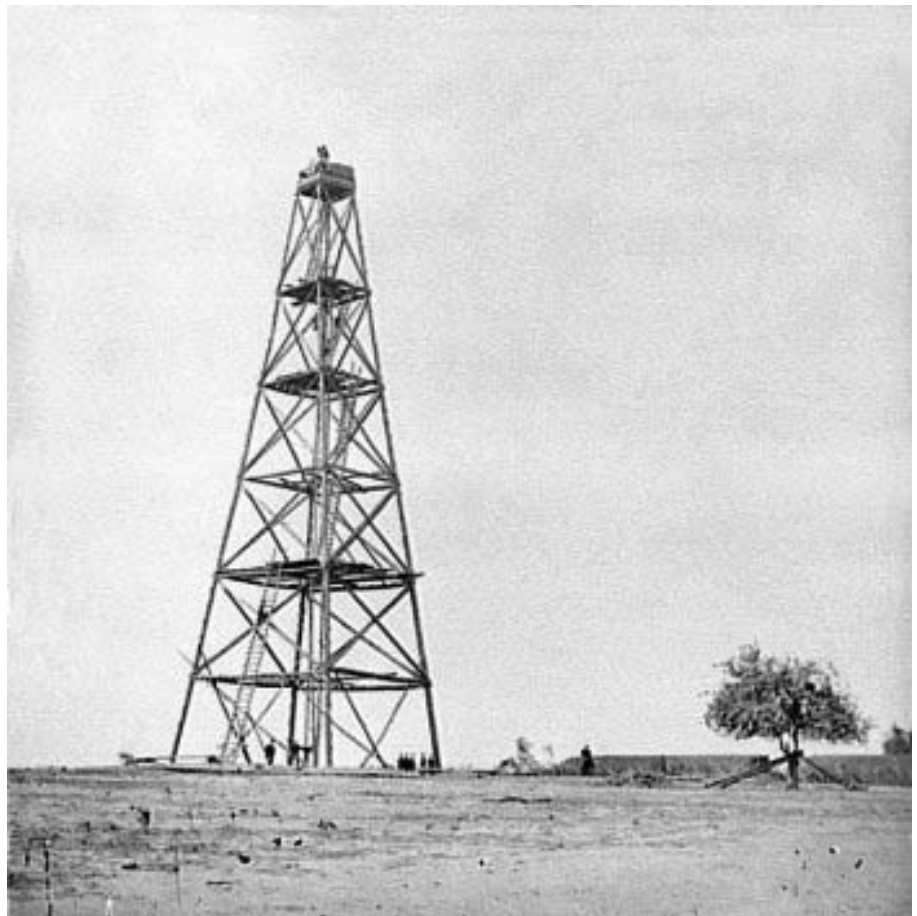
Volunteer today

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5:00 a.m., only about eight miles from Petersburg, and made contact with Confederate skirmishers at around 6:00 a.m., but it was not until 11:00 in the morning that Hincks's division pulled up in front of the Petersburg lines, and possibly as late as 2:00 before the last division (Brig. Gen. John Martindale, on the right) arrived. Gen. W.H.T. Brooks's division held the center. Most of this delay was due to a spirited defense by some cavalry under Brig. Gen. James Dearing (who had commanded Pickett's artillery at Gettysburg). His Rebel force of about 850 held up Smith for two hours at the Baylor farm, some three and a half miles from the main Petersburg lines. Some of the delay, however, has to be attributed to Smith's own caution.

The fortifications around Petersburg stretched from the Appomattox River east of town, all the way around to the same river west of town and consisted of 55 numbered batteries or redoubts, connected by strong lines of entrenchments. The line was known as the Dimmock Line, in honor of the Confederate engineering officer who designed it and supervised its construction in 1862. Overall command of Confederate forces at Petersburg and Bermuda Hundred was in the hands of Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard. At the time that Smith and XVIII Corps arrived in his front, Beauregard had half of Dearing's cavalry brigade and a single infantry brigade under the former Virginia governor, now brigadier general, Henry Wise. Reinforcements from the Bermuda Hundred lines had been ordered to march rapidly for Petersburg, but could not reach the city before late evening. Until then, Wise's 2200 men (plus Dearing's two regiments of cavalry) were all that Beauregard had to work with.

Having participated in the debacle at Cold Harbor, Smith was reluctant to assault what was obviously a very strong position. After a lengthy personal recon, however, he was able to determine to his satisfaction that the lines were thinly manned, although bolstered by a lot of artillery. Smith therefore decided to attack in open formation, i.e., essentially as a huge skirmish line, in order to minimize the effect of the Rebel artillery. It took Smith --- who admittedly was suffering from the effects of a malaria attack and some bad water he had drunk at Cold Harbor --- until nearly 5:00 p.m. to decide where and how to attack, and then it was learned that the corps artillery commander had sent all the horses off to be watered!



Yankee Observation Tower

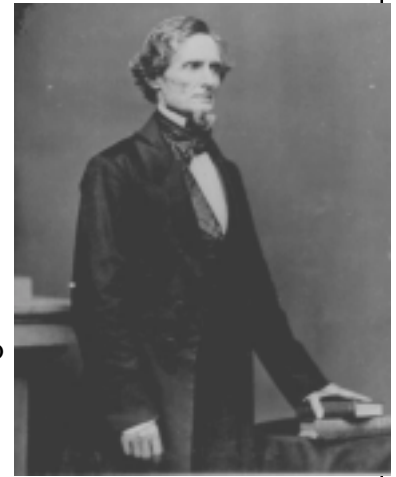
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Commander's Comments

Commander's Comments
January 2004

Dear Compatriots:

The new year has just begun and so has my time as being the Commander of Camp 51. This year we will do our best to complete the Lake Murray Monument project. An Executive Council meeting was called for January 19th to review what has been completed so far and what must be done to finish this job. Past Commander Wayne Roberts is heading the committee to see that Bing Chambers has the needed Camp support to finish up this effort. You can expect to hear a report on the needs and accomplishments of this project at each meeting this year.



We as a camp must go out and raise funds. Lately we have put this chore on the shoulders of a small number of members. We must have more members to step forward and assist in these fundraisers. On **February 21st and 22nd** we will have our tent at the **Battle of Aiken**. Money raised at this event will go toward the Lake Murray Monument. We have been given this opportunity thanks to 3rd Brigade Commander Crawford and his camp. On **July 3rd** we will return to the **Gilbert Peach Festival**. We will be there to recruit new members and to raise money for both the Lake Murray Monument and for the good of the camp.

On **Monday May 10th (Confederate Memorial Day)** members of the Camp will stand in honor of our Confederate Dead at the Lexington County Court House Confederate Monument. As in the previous years we will be there from 7 AM until 7 PM. Members are needed to volunteer to stand in one-hour segments. A sign up sheet will be available starting next month.

On Saturday January 24th our Camp sponsored organization The Louisa McCord Chapter Order of Confederate Rose met in North Charleston to assist the other OCR chapters make the armbands for the April 17th funeral for the final Hunley Crew. Making 50,000 armbands is no small or easy task and our OCR chapter is to be congratulated for their efforts in this monumental effort and for supporting the efforts of Camp 51. I am asking that every member suggest to their wife or girlfriend that they should join this group. The Order of Confederate Rose will be present at our meetings. This organization is a SCV support group made up mainly of ladies, but there are some of us gentlemen who are also members (and proud of it). They do not have to be Confederate descendant, but do share a desire to see that the history of the Confederate soldier is preserved.

Gentlemen, your ladies are welcome at all of our meetings. If it was not for the efforts of the ladies back home, our ancestors would not of had what they needed to fight their fight.

Wayne Roberts as Programs Chairman is lining up an excellent set of programs for this year. Some of the people whom we will hear from include: Rick Hatcher, Commander Robert Roper, Museum of the Confederacy Director Barton Campbell, author Elizabeth Roberson, and author Gordon Rhea. For the pre-

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Chaplin's Corner

“One must place God first before every battle to win a war “

As the sun's rays began to lift through the cool moist mist, just above the hardwoods and pines, a figure walked softly inside the tree line. His eyes could see the fine line of the brick wall just across the field where today his men had to lay their lives on the line for what they believed in.



With a blanket wrapped around his shoulders for a little warmth in a breeze that started to move the clouds upward, a set of hands were raised unto the Almighty God whom he worshiped every day. He asked for leading and guidance for all his fellow soldiers who were standing with him as they marched into the ranks of their brothers and family members fighting for what they knew was right.

In God's sight, all men are created equal. Each has an individual soul, body and spirit. For in His Word there is life and death. In His Word there is joy, peace and happiness. Not all these men knew that peace on this early morning during the Civil War.

On the Southern lines, there were Generals who had went to the same military academy with classmates. Generals across a mile span facing each other today. This is where, what you believe, that drives you in the right direction. Remember, hope hopes for it, but faith has got it, that's what presses the battle.

Within the next 72 hours over 56,000 lives would be given for a cause each thought was the right thing for which to lay down their lives. A family, a farm, crops, freedom to express their opinion democratically and to elect representatives that would govern the people as their needs were openly viewed by Congress.

Behind all these lives were politicians who had not only deceived the pilgrims and earlier settlers, but were bashing the south for slavery, an unjust act in which they participated also in their northern states.

The true southern culture that runs in our veins, cannot be removed. Our inheritance that we have carried for hundreds of years can never be withdrawn from our spirits or the true beliefs of our forefathers. No wonder when Moses looked down at his people working in the brickyards, they truly being the first slaves, he knew one day by God's Grace, freedom from bondage would come.

When history was being written over thousands of years ago, in a little simple book, called “The Bible” not

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only did it depict father against son, daughter against mother, but how in the last days these things would happen. When we look over the many battle flags that have flown over our nation today, there are many bloodstains that could have been prevented if the right Leader, (God) had been in full control.

If you are a democrat or a republican or of the independent party, always remember there is a happy meeting place where all can all come together in unity. It will always be a continuous battle until Christ is put back in the right position in our hearts.

As the western skies began to turn to a deep blue and purple, the medics began to scout across the open battlefield to spot any wounded fellow soldier who had fallen, this was their commitment to their country. In among the whizzing bullets of those who knew no respect for their comrades, they went from body to body, turning over and listening for a faint heartbeat, or a ray of hope.

As one medic knelt down beside a young small frail teen-age boy, he called for the Chaplin to assist. When the Chaplin approached the little small soldier, dying from heavy explosive wounds, he kneeled down beside him and asked if he knew the Lord as his Savior. The lad replied, "I don't know". The Chaplin said, "Son you better find out soon, you don't have but a few minutes to live".

As the Chaplin returned several minutes later, he leaned over the boy, hearing his last words. "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray dear Lord my soul to keep... He had left Him in the cradle. He closed his eyes and slowly moved into that other dimension.

This brought to mind in one of the old hymnals are these words:

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have built Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His Truth is marching on.

Let us always be thankful, no matter how dark our road seems, even if it leads into an oncoming battlefield against friend or foe. Just as our forefathers pressed against the odds, they had something no one could take from them, the Truth for which they stood.

That's why today we as a group of fellow soldiers of past wars, and present battles must remember, we may have lost several battles, but we didn't lose the war.

Glory! Glory, Hallelujah! His Truth is marching on.

Rev. Larry D. Sharpe Sr.

Sent up the river



01/11/04

MIKE BOLTON

News staff writer

By all accounts, Birmingham scuba diver Steve Phillips is a friend of law enforcement. The walls of his Southern Skin Divers Supply are littered with commendations from police departments in Alabama for his work in retrieving evidence from underwater haunts.

When Gadsden police needed to recover a pistol used in a 1994 fast-food restaurant robbery where three employees were murdered, for instance, it was Phillips who dove into the frigid waters of the Coosa River in February to recover the murder weapon.

He has made similar dives - all free of charge, he says - that have recovered murder weapons in Jefferson and Shelby counties. In addition, his frequent dives in Alabama rivers have resulted in the accidental discovery of numerous stolen weapons that were turned over to authorities.

These days, Phillips finds himself on the opposite side of the law.

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New Camp items available for purchase at this month's meeting



NEW Camp hats with the scroll from the Regimental Flag

\$10.00

NEW Camp Car Tags
An exclusive creation for our Camp
1/8th inch aluminum
\$20.00



Boykin Mill Stone Ground Grits

Yellow & White

\$4.00 per lb

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Phillips was charged in October with stealing Alabama's cultural artifacts, a felony. He was arrested after finding a Civil War-era rifle on the bottom of the Alabama River during an October diving trip in Selma. It's a case that has Phillips, other diving enthusiasts, and several state legislators up in arms.

On Oct. 20, Phillips was filming a television show for the Outdoor Channel with Perry Massie, the chairman of the Outdoor Channel's holdings. As he has done for more than 30 years, Phillips went diving in hopes of finding cannonballs, muskets, bullets or other Civil War relics discarded into the river during the 1860s.

"When the Yankees were coming, the Confederates threw a lot of stuff in the river so that the Yankees couldn't get a hold of it and use it," Phillips explained. "When the Yankees got here, they took what they found and threw it into the river so the Confederates couldn't use it again."

The Oct. 20 dive trip started like many others with the two divers finding not only a rusty Civil War rifle that apparently had been in the river for more than 140 years, but a pistol that had been reported stolen in Selma in 1993.

Back at the boat ramp, however, the trip quickly turned into a nightmare for Phillips and his guest. Members of the Alabama Historical Commission were on hand with a state conservation officer who arrested Phillips and Massie and charged each with a felony. Phillips' boat was confiscated by the state.

Both were charged with having the Civil War-era rifle, a Civil War ammunition canister and numerous musket balls.

"The Alabama Historical Commission showed its expertise in that none of them could identify the gun," Phillips said. "We had buckets of garbage we had picked up, including beer cans, a brake shoe and some kind of automobile cylinder.

"What they said was an ammunition canister was an old Prince Albert can. What they said was minie-balls were fishing weights. They had the holes drilled in them."

The charges came under a 1999 Alabama law that State Archaeologist Tom Maher says makes anything of historical value on a river bottom in Alabama the property of the state.

Maher, who works for the Historical Commission, acknowledges that the state has no intentions of recovering such artifacts because the commission's budget won't allow for divers to search for such artifacts. Regardless, Maher said, Phillips violated the law.

Such artifacts belong in a museum, Maher said.

"It's my opinion that professional people using professional methods should be seeking out artifacts. I have an ethical problem with someone removing artifacts, especially if they are being sold."

Phillips insists he doesn't sell artifacts. He says all Civil War relics he has found in the past 39 years of diving have gone in his private collection, a collection that, ironically, he intended to put in an Alabama Historical Commission museum.

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The commission may want only professional personnel handling such artifacts, Phillips said, but a "professional's" credentials aren't necessarily impressive.

"That's somebody that took archaeological classes at Alabama and spent maybe one summer digging somewhere.

"A person like myself that has done this for more than 30 years and has my work published in numerous books on Civil War relics is not a professional. Somebody that took some classes at Alabama is."

The battle between Phillips and the Alabama Historical Commission is a battle over money, Phillips insists. He says the cash-strapped commission, which had its budget slashed by 28 percent by Gov. Bob Riley, wants his collection to sell it.

"All you have to do is to look at what all they are trying to sell right now," Phillips said. "They are selling old homes and a lot of other stuff. They'd love to get a hold of my collection so they can sell it."

Maher said the commission is not in the relic-selling business and that Phillips' charges are not true.

Phillips said the 100-word sentence in the law that details the definition of cultural resources is vague and confusing. Attorneys have told him that he did not violate the law as it is written. Phillips will challenge the charge in court.

The law specifically designates the protection of shipwrecks and Phillips says that is good, but he added that he was not diving on a shipwreck. The law also protects other locations such as "any other type not associated as part of a shipping vessel, and are eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage."

Maher said the site definitely would fall under the Selma armory and would be considered a part of the Battle of Selma and thus would be eligible for the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

Phillips' arrest has several Alabama lawmakers concerned, too. Both Sen. Jack Biddle of Gardendale and J.T. "Jabo" Wagonner of Vestavia Hills say the law was intended to stop the pilfering of artifacts from sunken vessels in Mobile Bay and in Alabama waters off the coast. It was never intended to address amateur divers, they say.

"Lawmakers were told the law only applies to the Mobile area and was to restrict things being taken from shipwrecks," Biddle said. "This dang Historical Commission now believes it owns all of Alabama.

"Mr. Phillips has one of the best collections of artillery shells in the country and he's good about sharing the history with people. He's done more for history in the state of Alabama than most anybody."

Biddle said lawmakers will amend the law to apply only to Mobile Bay.

The Birmingham News
Sunday January 11, 2004

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The attack finally stepped off at 7 p.m. --- seven and half hours after the Federals first reached the enemy lines --- and was largely successful, which is no surprise since the lines were so sparsely manned. The Federals seized a stretch of line over a mile wide, containing nine redoubts, and backed up by absolutely nothing. The attack was aimed at a salient in the Dimmock Line which projected out between Battery 2 (just north of the City Point Railroad) and Battery 8, halfway between the railroad and the road to Prince George's Courthouse. Batteries 3 through 11 fell to the Federal attackers, along with at least 250 Rebel prisoners, mostly from the 26th and 46th Virginia regiments. Five of the captured battery positions fell to the USCT regiments in Hincks's division; the rest fell to W.H.T. Brooks's troops. Despite the ease of his success and the opportunity to expand his gains before enemy reinforcements could arrive, Smith decided not to press the attack that night. "Deeming that I held the important points of the enemy's line of works, I thought it prudent to make no farther advance."

Smith's failure to press his advantage at Petersburg has been the subject of much argument and contention. In his post-war writings, Smith was adamant that the failure was not due to any error or caution on his part, but instead tried to throw all the blame on Grant and Butler.

There was still a chance for decisive success on this day. The Federals had intended that Hancock's II Corps would be available to support and perhaps even join in the attack on Petersburg, but for some reason no one had told Hancock, who crossed the James and paused to feed his troops, in the course of which there were substantial delays, and then the corps got lost trying to find a non-existent spot on a map. Finally told that he was expected to be supporting Smith, Hancock put his men on the road. They began arriving about the same time as Smith's attack went forward.

It was bright, moonlit night, and, while Hancock's men were tired from the all-day march, they understood that a march had been stolen on Lee and now was the time to take advantage of it. Hancock was the senior officer of the two (although Smith had been his division commander in 1862, when Hancock led a VI Corps brigade), but he deferred to Smith because the XVIII Corps commander had been on the ground all day and therefore was more familiar with the tactical situation. Instead of pressing forward with a night advance, Smith asked Hancock to relieve his own troops. Post-war accounts by Federal troops indicate that the men in the ranks understood that an opportunity was being thrown away here, but the die had been cast. If the Federals were to take Petersburg, it would not be on June 15th.

Beauregard, who had arrived during the day to supervise the defense, was astonished that he was not attacked again that night. Writing after the war, he said that "Petersburg at that hour was clearly at the mercy of the Federal commander, who had all but captured it." During the night the Confederates pulled back to a new line and dug in as best they could, all the while screaming for help from Lee. The only reinforcements Beauregard could scrape together was the division of Robert Hoke, taken from the Bermuda Hundred lines, which arrived just after Smith's attack ground to a halt. Lee refused to send help, being convinced that Grant was about to attack east of Richmond. Desperate for help, Beauregard completely abandoned the Bermuda Hundred line, pulling out Bushrod Johnson's division to reinforce Petersburg.

Vacating the Bermuda Hundred line was a gamble fraught with great risk. If the Federal troops on the Bermuda Hundred peninsula -- Ben Butler's Army of the James -- were to advance from their own lines they might well be able to interpose between Lee's position north of James River, and Petersburg to the south of the Appomattox, force Lee to fight a major battle simply to get reinforcements to Beauregard. As it happened, the Federal troops did move forward, but cautiously and not in great strength, and so Lee was able

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to push them aside without too much effort or delay. Still, it was another missed opportunity for the Yankees

As dawn of June 16th broke at Petersburg, Beauregard had a force of about 14,000 men, deployed with Hoke's division on the left, next to the river and extending to about halfway between the Prince George's Court House Road and the Baxter Road, and Johnson's division on the right, the latter arriving just in time to help beat off a Federal attack on the Confederate far right. This much force was probably strong enough to hold off Smith and Hancock; however, late on the morning of the 16th U.S. Grant arrived with Burnside and IX Corps, giving the Federals about 50,000 men, arranged with XVIII Corps on the right, along the river, II Corps in the center between the Prince George's Court House and Baxter Roads, and IX Corps going into line on the left, roughly astride the Baxter Road. A morning probe was made along Hancock's front --- it was this attack, in part at least, that Johnson's timely arrival helped to defeat --- in order to develop the Confederate lines for a later attack, which Grant ordered Hancock to make at 6 p.m. Meanwhile Meade arrived at Petersburg and Grant returned to City Point to coordinate efforts with Butler's Army of the James. Hancock's attack pressed the Union lines up close to Beauregard's center, but failed to breach the Rebel defenses. The advance resulted in the seizure of three more of the Dimmock Line redoubts, but these had been essentially rendered untenable by Beauregard's withdrawal after Smith's attack the night before. IX Corps developed the Rebel lines on the Federal left in addition to supporting II Corps, but made no major effort on its own to attack the enemy; XVIII Corps supported on the right, but likewise did very little to actually exert pressure on the Confederate position. Federal efforts on this day seemed even more disjointed and poorly planned than those of the 15th. The evening attack was a half-hearted effort along only a portion of the Rebel front. No one on the Federal side seems to have thought of sending a force south and west of Petersburg, then north, to strike the Dimmock Line where it was basically empty of troops. (In fairness to the Federal high command the road network at Petersburg did not lend itself well to this kind of maneuver.) Efforts to advance along the river were hampered by enfilade fire from Rebel batteries north of the Appomattox.

During the night of June 16-17, Meade received information indicating that Lee's troops were still north of the James, confirming information delivered by escaped prisoners who had worked their way through the lines. Thus satisfied that the trenches in his front were not manned by the Army of Northern Virginia, Meade ordered a moonlight assault, to be carried out by Burnside's IX Corps. Owing to the time required for preparation, the attack was put off until dawn.

The objective of the attack was a salient occupied by the Shand House, just north of the Baxter Road, and defended by Bushrod Johnson's Tennessee brigade. A breakthrough here would rupture the connection between the new Confederate line and the Dimmock Line, and possibly give the Federals access to the Baxter Road as an avenue of attack directly into town. The attack would be led by Brig. Gen. Robert Potter's Second Division, with the other two IX Corps divisions (Ledlie and Willcox) supporting on the flanks. (The remaining IX Corps division, 4/IX under Ferraro, was still guarding the James River bridges.) During the night Potter had his men quietly take up position, massed for the attack, just behind their own picket line below the hill on which the Shand House stood.

Stepping off to the attack at 3 a.m., Potter's men achieved one of the great tactical successes of the war, taking another mile of the main line and nearly 600 prisoners before running out of steam. Incredibly, Potter's men were unsupported on either flank, an error that he felt prevented the collapse of the entire Rebel line, "from the Appomattox to the Jerusalem Plank Road," as he later put it. Other Federal attacks were uncoor-

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dinated and Beauregard was able to defeat them, one at a time, as they occurred. But he knew he was in trouble. Warren's V Corps had arrived that morning and was extending the Federal left next to Burnside.

Willcox finally attacked on the left of Potter's division, but not until 2 p.m., and then the effort was so mismanaged as to succeed only in mangling one of the Federal brigades. At 6 p.m., Ledlie attacked the new Rebel line formed behind the Shand House Hill, and although initially successful in achieving a lodgement, the attack was unsupported and a Rebel counterattack that night drove Ledlie back with heavy losses. Fore-shadowing tragic events a month and a half later, Ledlie remained in the rear when his division went forward, lying on the ground in a drunken stupor, according to the post-war comments of one of his regimental commanders.

Almost all of the fighting this day had been done by IX Corps, just as almost all of the fighting the day before had been by II Corps. On the Federal right, Smith's XVIII Corps did not accomplish much except to skirmish with the enemy. Hancock, on Smith's left, did very little on his front, although the continued problems he was having with his Gettysburg wound may have contributed to this. While a vigorous effort by Hancock (especially Barlow, who was on Potter's right and might have been able to exploit that success) could well have been decisive, it cannot be ignored that the II Corps troops-- officers as well as men -- were physically exhausted from the marching and fighting of the previous four days.

So far, all of the Federal attacks had all come against the eastern face of the oval-shaped Dimmock Line, together with a very short stretch along the south face, and had in fact pushed it back quite a ways. The Federals now held a front from the Appomattox River all the way to the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad, and in fact a touch beyond the tracks. (The entire stretch of the Dimmock Line from Battery 3, near the river, to Battery 17, was now in Federal hands.) Beauregard's right was in serious danger because of the Federal successes there and the advance -- however halting -- of Warren's V Corps, so he decided to take up a new line in the rear of his present position.

At 12:30 or so on the morning of June 18th, the Confederates pulled back and commenced to construct a new line, running generally from Redoubts 25-29 (soon to be the site of Fort Mahone) north to the river. This new line was about a mile in the rear of the original Dimmock Line, and about half a mile or so from the city proper. It was a strong line, running along the course of a small stream known as Taylor's Branch. Beauregard still had received no troops from Lee.

However, by 3 a.m. on the 18th, Lee's son Rooney had finally been able to press forward far enough to actually see the Federal pontoon bridge over James River, and this, together with prisoner reports sent by Beauregard, convinced the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia that the Federal Army was indeed entirely south of the river, and so the grayclad veterans set off to relieve beleaguered Beauregard. The divisions of Field and Kershaw led the way.

The previous evening Meade had ordered a strong attack to be made along the entire Federal line, at 4 o'clock in the morning. This attack struck thin air, of course, as the Confederates had drawn back, and it was nearly 2 p.m. when Beauregard's new line was finally developed. Hancock was lost during the night when his Gettysburg wound re-opened and began to hemorrhage. Command of II Corps now fell to Maj. Gen. David B. Birney, a solid commander but not as aggressive as Hancock, and not used to commanding the corps.

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In the meantime June 18th became the most frustrating day in George Meade's year-long tenure as commander of the Army of the Potomac. Meade knew that Lee's troops were not yet at hand, but might be at any moment now, and he became increasingly exasperated at the inability of his commanders to close up on each other and the new enemy position.

The ultimate frustration was yet to come. At 7:30 a.m. or so, Kershaw's troops crossed the Appomattox River, the first of Lee's veterans to arrive, followed two hours later by Field's division. Lee's men were stationed on the Confederate right, thought to be the weakest point of the new line.

Finally, at about noon, a series of half-hearted attacks were made along the II Corps front and to its right, by Martindale's division of XVIII Corps. Losses were heavy and gains were slight. The news of this "assault," when it reached Meade's headquarters, only increased the level of frustration and the edginess of Meade's temper. Soon after 2 p.m., Meade essentially lost control. In response to a dispatch from Warren explaining why it was not his (i.e., Warren's) fault that V Corps was unable to advance, Meade reminded the V Corps commander that his orders to attack were repeated and explicit, and any further delay would result in "consequences." Half an hour later a similar order went to Birney, now in command of II Corps, as well as Burnside.

The attacks that were made throughout the rest of the day were unsuccessful and bloodily so. There was even less coordination than on the 17th, and the Federals were approaching exhaustion after four days of marching and fighting. Warren's attack, finally made at about 3 p.m., succeeded only in heavy losses and the near-fatal wounding of Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, shot through both hips while leading his brigade in an assault on the position known as Rives Salient. At 4 p.m., came a final effort by Birney, in which the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery lost 632 men out of about 850 engaged. (It was in this attack that Army of the Potomac veterans refused to go forward, having tried three times already that day and being convinced that the enemy position was too strong; however, this was the only instance in this four day period in which the troops refused to go forward.) Finally, at about 5:30 p.m., Willcox's division and part of Potter's made a final attack in the IX Corps sector, and secured a position significantly closer to the main Rebel line than was the case elsewhere on the Federal lines. (Within a few weeks, Henry Pleasants and the 48th Pennsylvania would begin digging the mine in this sector.) Meade called off all further attacks at 6:30, then had to argue down Warren, who wanted to make another effort at 7 p.m.

Federal casualties for the four day effort are generally pegged at around 11,000. Confederate casualties are not known. No doubt they were much less. The 18th was no doubt the day of the greatest Federal loss and least Federal success.

The 15th and 17th were the days that should have seen the greatest Federal success: The 15th because of the unpreparedness of the Rebel defenders and their lack of numbers, the 17th because this was the last day before Lee's troops arrived and there had been time to plan a coordinated attack for the entire Federal force. Beauregard deserves a full measure of credit for his skillful defense prior to Lee's arrival. On the Federal side, Smith's caution --- to the end of his days, Smith tried to deflect criticism for having failed to take the city on the 15th --- the poor staff-work that made Hancock late on the 15th, and a general tactical breakdown of command on the 17th and 18th contributed to the failure to take the city, as did simple physical exhaustion of the Federal troops, who had made long and tiring marches in the June heat to get to Petersburg prior to being thrown into combat. The Federal officers on the scene seemed to have no sense of urgency about pressing forward their vanishing numerical advantage; this is seen, for example, in the failure

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of anyone to develop the new enemy line during the early morning of the 16th. Grant deserves some censure for managing the operation from his headquarters at City Point, about eight miles away, rather than exercising more direct control. While it needs to be remembered that Meade still commanded the Army of the Potomac and that the extent to which Grant took over tactical control during the campaign is *vastly* overstated, this was the most crucial operation of the campaign and it could have used a little more of the kind of energy and urgency that Grant's presence would no doubt have brought.

<http://members.aol.com/siege1864/assaults.html>

Membership Dues are delinquent as of January 31st

Regular Dues are \$40 per year

Dues paid after January 31st will incur a \$10 late payment charge which goes to the State SCV and National SCV.

See Adjutant Allen Frye to pay your dues or mail them to the Camp's P.O. Box listed on the front page of this newsletter. Remember that it is the Camp's post mark which determines if our dues are paid on time.

**New Members to be Sworn in
at the January meeting**

**Marion Dale Gantt
Eric Todd Hickman
marion lynn hickman
Robert Lee frye, jr**

Private Manley Gartman receives his veteran's marker.

On Saturday December 13th, members of Camp 51 were honored to place a new veteran's gravestone on the grave of Private Manley Gartman of Co. H, 3rd SC Infantry. The weather was very cold that day, but placing a stone always warms the heart. Members of Private Gartman's family were also present.



A Letter From The Camp's Email

December 6, 2003

Gentlemen,

Please allow me to relate today's success with the Lee-Moses- Dixon Vindicator Camp #408 and the newly re-activated Jefferson Davis Vindicator Camp #1206. I hope you do not take this as a sin of pride.

Today, our little camp had the best float in the Saraland Christmas Parade. Saraland is 10 minutes from Mobile, and hosts the largest Christmas Parade in Mobile County. It has been estimated that 25 thousand were in attendance. We had a professional 500 amp concert sound system playing Southern Hymns like Dixie, Sweet Home Alabama, Christmas in Dixie, and If Heaven ain't a Lot Like Dixie. Our float was the recently converted 26 foot Confederate Assault Vehicle-1 , and was the only one with a light system which also helped all us ugly Confederates look good.

I have always said that every ten years, we have another ignorant generation to deal with. Today I learned this statement is not true and needs modification. Today, as I was going to the restroom, a little black girl crowded on a trailer with other kids, asked me in my Confederate Sergeant's uniform; "mister, do you have any room on your float?" I responded, "yes, but you will have to ask your parent or boss if it is OK that you come." As I came out of the restroom, three little black girls surrounding an older black man, pointed at me and yelled as one, "That's him, that's him!" I felt like Michael Jackson in a line up, and said to myself, 'here comes the grief.' I introduced myself as commander of the camp, told the gentleman we were strictly non-political and non-racial, and that I had informed the girls they would need permission. The gentleman said it was fine with him, and we wound up with five little girls who also made us ugly Confederates look better.

We had a great time, handing out candy, moon pies, SCV coins, customized candy and little rebel flags. Most all the children wanted one of the flags, mobbing our marchers and the float at times. The black girls were handing our Confederate Flags to the children, all of them, white and black. So the statement has to be modified. We don't have a new ignorant generation every ten years. We have a new generation every ten years with a blank slate. Problems occur when the adults begin corrupting them with our biases and preconceived notions. It's the adults who are the problem. There are times we adults should take example from them. Most of our kids are innocent, like the little children Jesus called to him in the Bible.

So allow me to say that in Mobile County, on December 6, 2003, it was a truly Dixie Day. Some SCV entities are fixated on words like benevolent, non-political, and educational, using the terms in ways that excuse them from being active and doing something in the community. To them I say, today, the Lee-Moses-Dixon Vindicator Camp, along with the Jefferson Davis Vindicator Camp, touched 25 thousand in a benevolent, educational, non-political way. There were children today who will go to sleep with thoughts of Christmas sharing time with thoughts of a newly acquired knowledge that they are Southern, and starting on the journey to understand what that means.

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Our small gift to the adults of tomorrow. May they not make all our mistakes.

Dixie Day Gentleman,
Ben George, commander
Lee-Moses-Dixon Vindicator Camp #408
Proud Sons of Confederate Veterans
And
Thomas Jonathan-Jackson George, commander
Jefferson Davis Vindicator Camp #1206
More Proud Sons of Confederate Veterans

(Continued from page 5)

vious two years we have pushed for better programs and it is clear that with Wayne in charge of the programs, we will continue on that path.

Our meetings this year will be mainly at Gilligan's in Lexington. We are asking you to be there around 6:30 PM so that those who wish to eat can place their orders. The meeting itself will begin promptly at 7 PM and will be concluded no later than 9 PM.

Yours in the preservation of history,

Steve Wolfe

Commander

Louisa McCord



Chapter # 51

The **Louisa McCord OCR Chapter 51**
is looking for new members.
Have your lady inquire about membership at this
month's meeting, or she can contact them at:
OCR@15thregtscvols.org

Use this form to Order your Armbands and Handkerchiefs for the funeral of the third and final
 H. L. Hunley crew.
 Seven dollars of each item ordered goes to the H. L. Hunley.
 This is a great remembrance, even if you cannot attend the funeral.

H. L. Hunley
15th Regt SCV Camp 51
2-17-1864 4-17-2004

_____ Armbands (\$10.00 each)
 _____ Plain Handkerchiefs (\$10.00 each)
 _____ Black Bordered Handkerchiefs (\$12.00 Each)
 Total Enclosed: \$ _____

H. L. Hunley
SCV
2-17-1864 4-17-2004

_____ Armbands (\$10.00 each)
 _____ Plain Handkerchiefs (\$10.00 each)
 _____ Black Bordered Handkerchiefs (\$12.00 Each)
 Total Enclosed: \$ _____

In Memory of
H. L. Hunley
2-17-1864 4-17-2004

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 _____ Black Bordered Handkerchiefs (\$12.00 Each)
 Total Enclosed: \$ _____

H. L. Hunley
2-17-1864 4-17-2004
Louisa McCord Chapter
OCR

_____ Armbands (\$10.00 each)
 _____ Plain Handkerchiefs (\$10.00 each)
 _____ Black Bordered Handkerchiefs (\$12.00 Each)
 Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail to : Roseanne Christie
 3 Warren Ct.
 Sumter, SC 29150



Support the Lake Murray Monument Project by buying a brick for a veteran in your family. These bricks honor veterans from all the wars that America has fought.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January	19th	Executive Council Meeting
January	29th	Camp Meeting Gilligan's, Lexington
February	21st - 22nd	Battle of Aiken
February	26th	Camp Meeting
March	20th	State Convention
2004 Monthly Meetings will be held at Gilligan's		



Re-enactors 2004 Event Schedule

Date	Event
Jan 24-26	Hagood's March - Charleston, SC
Jan 31 - Feb 2	Rivers Bridge - Allendale, SC - Affiliated
Feb 21-23	Battle Of Aiken - Aiken, SC - Affiliated
Mar 7-9	The Columns - Florence, SC - Affiliated
Mar 7-9	Broxton's Bridge - Allendale, SC
Mar 26-28	Battle For Anderson - Anderson, SC - Other
Apr 2-4	Battle Of Cheraw - Cheraw, SC - Affiliated
17-Apr	Hunley Funeral - Charleston, SC - Other
Apr 23 - 25	Battle Of Selma - Selma, AL - Other (For info call 334-875-7241)
Apr 30 - May 2	Battle For Columbia & Confederate Memorial Day - Columbia, SC - Affiliated
8-May	Confederate Memorial Day - Charleston, SC - Other
May 14-16	Battle Of Resaca - Resaca, GA - Other



15TH REGIMENT SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEERS

Newsletter Editor
15th Regiment South Carolina Volunteers
130 Upper Loop Way
Columbia, South Carolina 29212

Next Camp Meeting
Thursday January 29th, 6:30 PM
Gilligan's Seafood & Raw Bar
Hwy 6 & US 378
Lexington, SC

“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

The 15th Regimental Report is a monthly publication of the Lexington, South Carolina Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 51.