



Newsletter of the American Civil War Round Table Queensland
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THE SHENANDOAH *FURPHY* CANNON

Dr. Jack Ford



Last year, my wife Brenda and I were dining with some friends who had spent the previous ten years in Melbourne but who had just returned to Brisbane. Our guests were most excited when they went to show us two *Civil War* related photographs that they had taken while touring Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay. The photographs were of the famed *Shenandoah* cannon on Churchill Island and they were dismayed to learn that the story was just a *furphy*.

For those unfamiliar with the word, *furphy* is Australian slang meaning 'rumour' or a bit of gossip that invariably turns out to be completely wrong! It originated at Gallipoli in World War One, when water was delivered to the Anzacs in water carts manufactured by the *Furphy Company* in Australia. The water carriers accompanying these carts would bring the latest battlefield rumours to troops in the trenches. The claim that the Confederate Navy commerce raider *Shenandoah* donated a couple of its cannon to the Victorian colonial government in 1865 is just such a *furphy*. Even now the *Victorian Government Tourism Board* advertises the '*Shenandoah* cannon' as one of the attractions when visiting Churchill Island.

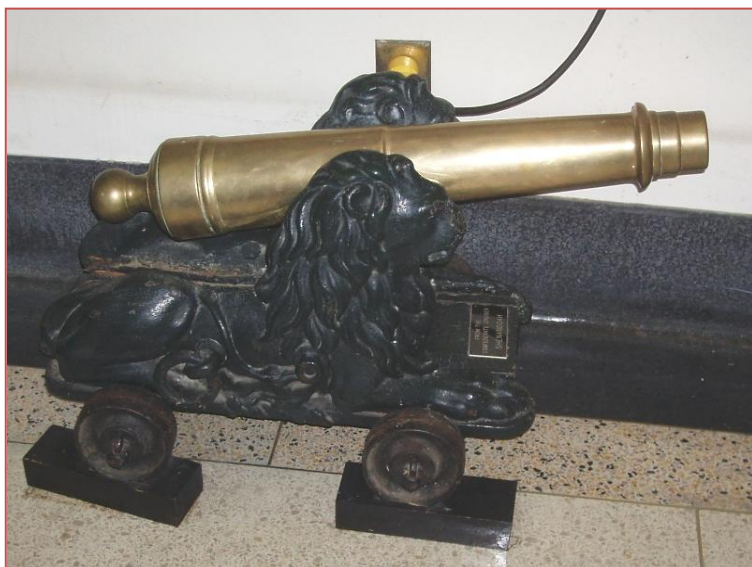
Shenandoah visited Melbourne from 25th January to 18th February 1865 undergoing repairs and recruit crew. When it was commissioned on the high seas as a Confederate Navy merchant raider, 14th October 1864, *Shenandoah* was armed with four 8 inch smooth bore cannon, two 32 pounder muzzle-loaded rifled cannon and two 12-pounder smooth bore cannon.¹ By the time *Shenandoah* reached Melbourne, she had sunk seven unarmed merchant ships and ransomed another, barques *Alina*, *D. Godfrey*, *Edward* and *Delphine*; schooners *Charter Oak* and *L. M. Stacey*; brig *Susan* and the sailing ship *Kate Prince*. The Phillip Island cannon appears to be a 3-pounder and so was not part of the initial weaponry of *Shenandoah*. The suggestion is made that it was a signal gun taken from one of the eight prizes captured by *Shenandoah*. This appears unlikely as the eight ships were without cannon and this gun dates from a much earlier period, Napoleonic or 18th Century.



¹ Paul H. Silverstone, *Warships of the Civil War Navies*, (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1989), page 214.

The popular myth is that a cannon, or cannons, were given to Samuel Amess, Lord Mayor of Melbourne at the time of *Shenandoah's* visit. In the years following, Samuel Amess became owner of Churchill Island (possibly 1870's) and took the cannon with him. Research by Melbourne-based *American Civil War Round Table of Australia (ACWRTA)* found that Amess was not Lord Mayor at the time but Councillor and not high enough in the corridors of power to warrant a cannon being given to him, let alone something so valuable. As well, international neutrality laws forbade any such gift being given to a foreign power by the captain of *Shenandoah*. The cannons are not recorded in any paperwork by the officers or in the warship's logs, or their diaries. There was no mention of cannons being captured from any vessels *Shenandoah* took, though they do mention other items taken. It is known signal cannons from *Shenandoah* itself are of a different style to the Churchill Island cannon. ACWRTA's Barry Crompton photographed (below) one of these signal guns at *Annapolis US Naval Museum*. Signal guns were a small calibre, usually brass cannon, light and easily portable. The cannon on Churchill Island is of a larger calibre, made of cast iron and very heavy. It appears, made more for naval action (bombardment) than signalling.

Although markings on the Churchill Island cannon are faint and cannot be researched, it's thought the cannon probably came from an 1830's battery at Rhyll, near Churchill Island and on the larger Phillip Island. They were used as protection against any ships that might steam into Port Phillip Bay (the entrance to the port of Melbourne) or adjacent Westernport Bay. There were similar cannon in Brisbane. In 1862, Queen Victoria sent twelve 3-pounder cannon to aid in the defence of the colony of Queensland. These outmoded guns were manufactured at Carron, Scotland between 1797 and 1810. They arrived on the ship *Clifton* in May 1862 and by 1863 were mounted as a saluting battery near the Edward Street entrance to Brisbane's Botanical Gardens. Eight of the twelve cannon remain in Brisbane at the South Brisbane Maritime Museum, (2 guns) Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, Fort Lytton national park, outside Wynnum Library, Vic Lucas Park, Bulimba and outside the Naval Cadets drill hall *TS Paluma* at Gibson Park, Stafford. (Pictured below)



It is also possible the Churchill Island cannon may have been used as signal gun on a supply and mail vessel servicing the islands in Port Phillip Bay.

Over the years, no researchers have been able to find any link between *Shenandoah* and the cannon amongst local papers and the ACWRTA's research doesn't support anything, so it is very doubtful the cannon has any Civil War link. If it could be proved, the U.S. government would have the right to take the cannon back to America as proceeds of Confederate ill-gotten gains. There is certainly no mention of the donation of cannon (or cannons) in the Australian account of Melbourne's visit of *Shenandoah* or Cyril Pearl's 1970 book *Rebel Down Under*. At the time of publication, Cyril Pearl was

becoming well known as one of four regular panellists on the ABC-TV quiz show *Would You Believe?* (1970-74).

For many years ACWRTA has tried to have this *furphy* laid to rest. ACWRTA's Stuart Duff has been aware of 'the *Shenandoah* cannon' since late 1960. He had been in contact with Nuns who ran Churchill Island when it was privately owned but later sold to the Victorian State Government in the 1970's. At one stage the only way to get to the island was by boat but now a bridge has been built and the island is open to tourists. In 1992, Stuart reported (in the ACWRTA's newsletter *Minnie News*) that a cannon ball, claimed to come from *Shenandoah* that had been on display at Churchill Island, had made its way into the Confederate Research Centre Hillsboro, Texas as a genuine *Shenandoah* relic! Stuart reported that in previous years, the



ACWRTA had been contacted about all these supposed 'Shenandoah' relics: 20 cannon balls, a Henry rifle (*with modern engravings*), a Confederate cavalry officer's uniform (*made in 1961 by the Saxony Uniform Company of New York*) and enough timber decking to build a ship. Stuart made this satirical comment, "***If we wait long enough, we should be able to reconstruct the whole damn ship from all the relics left in Melbourne.***"²

ACWRTA has advised various government departments, such as Victoria's Tourism Board of this but they continue to advertise this *furphy* as fact, without any apparent substantiating evidence. Indeed the Churchill Island cannon bears a plaque that reads, "**SIX Pdr. CANNON FROM AMERICAN CONFEDERATE WARSHIP SHENANDOAH 18-2-1865.**" (*Seen below*)

While there are no genuine relics left in Melbourne from the visit of *Shenandoah*, there are a number of modern items that mark her February 1865 visit. On an overpass wall opposite the Newport Railway Station, located at the corner of Hall and Tait Streets in Newport, Melbourne, there is a large mural depicting *Shenandoah*. Another mural, of a Civil War naval battle, adorns the exterior wall of the Telegraph Hotel (built c1860), Williamstown. Local artist Daryl Fox completed the mural in May 2001. A third mural can be found on the exterior wall of a two-storey house located at the corner of Ann and Aitken Streets, Williamstown. As well, the ACWRTA has placed a commemorative plaque outside of the Williamstown Dockyards, where *Shenandoah* underwent repairs. The ACWRTA has also placed a framed display of photographs of the officers of *Shenandoah* inside of Craig's Hotel at Ballarat, where a subscription ball was held for some of these Confederate States Navy officers in late January 1865.



Special acknowledgement goes to Barry Crompton of the ACWRTA for providing background information, the Annapolis Museum photograph and other assistance with this article. Thanks too to Neville and Ruth Buch for the two photographs of the so called 'Shenandoah cannon'.

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Editor: On behalf of ACWRTQ I attended this year's Australia Day Flag Raising Ceremony celebrations at the Beenleigh Historic Village soon to undergo a name change to Old Beenleigh Town in a bid to *revamp* the image. Beenleigh has undergone yet another boundary change and no longer exists within the Gold Coast province. It must be said the Gold Coast gave excellent support to the Village. Since the Logan takeover the village has been compelled to accept a quadrupling of council rates and refusal of an annual grant to help with maintenance. Seeing their plight, Stephanie Gray has kindly volunteered services to establish and care for their website that languished untouched since 2006. Steph' set

up a sparkling demonstration site for them. Unfortunately this seems to have upset a Logan City Council representative who unbeknown to the editor had ideas of taking over the site. Bugle editor attended the last official minuted meeting of the Beenleigh Historic Village as a financial member, where it was proposed to approach Steph,' there was no Lagan City Council representative present. These *politics* aside the Australia Day ceremony was an absolute pleasure to attend. It was attended by the admirable and smartly presented Gold Coast Australia Day Foundation and Light Horse. Well drilled they put on a well disciplined display that added a great deal to the moment. One of these participants declared they came to the rescue of Latimer's grave in Pimpama, when it was noticed the column was in danger of falling. They organised a team to straighten and support the column.

² Stuart Duff, "Beware of Impostors", *Minie News* Number 224 August 1992, page 4



Gold Coast Australia Foundation and Albert Battery President Rod Dux

The Gold Coast Australia Day Foundation was formed in 1981 as the Albert Australia Day Foundation to promote national pride in Australia, preserve Australian heritage and conduct Australia Day celebrations. For many years it organised the iconic Australia Day celebrations at Carrara, forerunner of present day activities at Evandale on Australia Day.

A community funded organization, the Foundation is one of the ways the group strives to achieve one of our National Heritage preservation objectives, by conducting flag raisings on behalf of third party organizations (*like the Beenleigh Village.*) More often than not these flag raisings are conducted in conjunction with the Albert Battery, our affiliate Military preservation group focussing on the Military History of Queensland from Colonial times to the Vietnam War era. We are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to promote our objectives with flag raising ceremonies. If the idea of marking an event you are organizing by incorporating a flag raising ceremony appeals then we invite you to contact our Secretary - Kirstin..0415 101 143 or yelling@bigpond.net.au

Under certain circumstances, the Foundation also makes available flagpoles. Due to costs involved, this service obviously has some limitations but we certainly may be able to help.

We really believe Australian heritage is worth celebrating and preserving. If you would like further information, we'd really like to hear from you. Please help us preserve Australia's wonderful Heritage.

Editor: *The American Civil War Round Table Queensland* is highly supportive of fellow enthusiasts who seek to preserve heritage. The organisation has, as a reason for being, the location of *Civil War* veterans' graves and there are many in Australia. Logistically it is impossible to conduct this role country wide and we leave it to our Round Table brothers and sisters in other states to complete this task. Once discovered the grave is audited and it is established if the veteran first warrants a memorial and then arrangements are made to have the Veteran's Association in America ship out either a plaque or headstone. Jim Gray has been very active in his search for these veterans and the task is enormous and extremely costly. ACWRTQ is a self funding non-profit group and the costs are met entirely from our fundraising and membership subscriptions. Donations to *The American Civil War Round Table Queensland* are welcome.



War Between States comes to Gin Gin.

From Bundaberg (Sat 7th Sun 8th March) the local branch of the American Civil War Round Table held a public display at the annual Gin Gin festival. It drew attention to the historic period and Queensland's connection via veterans who came from, or settled and died here. Bundaberg has a civil war veteran, Adam Walsh, buried at the Bundaberg General Cemetery. (*The Bugle Issue 7.*) Peter Richardson and Dick Rogers represented both sides with their uniforms and mounted an excellent static public display. It was a weekend event in Gin Gin that had Dick Rogers and Peter Richardson staying at a Motel on the Saturday and setting up the exhibit in the Show Pavillion and marching in the Sunday morning parade. Each carried a flag representing both sides of the conflict, rather than carrying shoulder or side arms

although Dick wore his sword as part of the uniform.

The display, seen on the right, comprised flags, uniforms, hat and kepis, two swords, replica colt revolver and small cannon loaned by Bob Terkelsen who intends building a full size version.



The display also featured books, photo albums and framed photos, Jim Gray's book on American Civil War Veterans Buried in Australia and New Zealand as well as laminated News Mail coverage of the ceremony for Adam Walsh

at Bundaberg. This gave the boys a talking point when people were confused why they re-enacted The War Between the States in Australia.



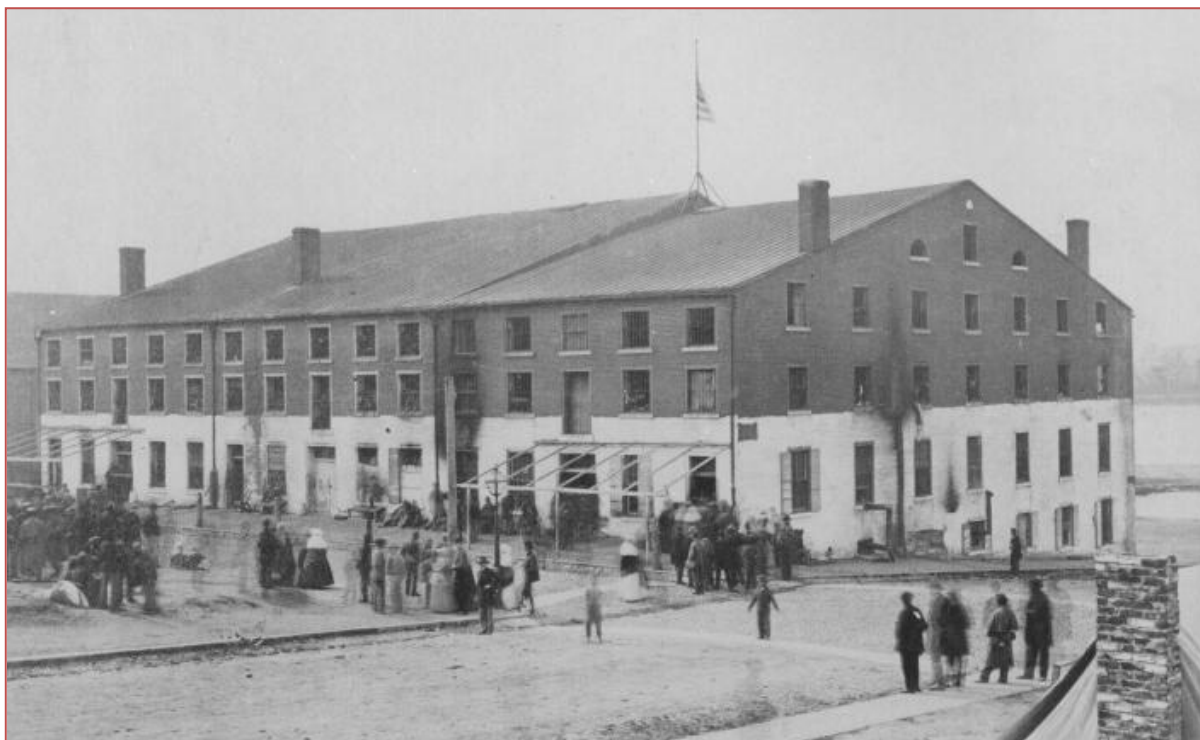
There was general interest as well, it was discovered that a family talked to had ancestors who were slaves in Virginia where the wife and daughter came from ,while her husband, like Dick, is from New York City. Peter adds, ***"Both Dick and myself look forward to continuing our displays at further venues when they present themselves. The people in charge of events were impressed as well when Peter's son, Kris and his Black Belts and students did their Taekwondo demonstration of Martial Arts and board breaking. Peter compered the event on microphone."***



Editor: Peter is seen left with some rather shocking green braces that might appeal to the Irish connection, being so close to St Patrick's Day, but oh my, they don't look period. He's caught the eye of a couple of Yankee snipers. Looks as though the braces are not too reliable at stopping Pete's trousers heading south as he also wears the CS officer's belt buckle. This would take the whole concept of *Heading South* in quite the wrong direction!

ESCAPE FROM RICHMOND

Submitted by Jack Ford, Typed from *The Brisbane Courier* by Brenda Ford



From *The Brisbane Courier* 1864
To the Editor of the *Spectator*
20, Marina, St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

Sir, I have received a letter from America this morning, from which I make the following extract. Perhaps it may interest your readers.

Your obedient servant, *Fanny Kemble.*

"You remember in my last letter I made an allusion to the escape of our prisoners from the Libby in Richmond. You know how our unfortunate soldiers, officers and men, have suffered in that abominable place, and, if possible, still more in Belle Isle, where a number have actually starved and frozen to death. About a month ago we suddenly heard that a hundred and nine of these poor wretches had escaped from the Libby Prison, and were coming into our lines. Upwards of fifty succeeded; the rest were re-captured; some, it is feared, dying from fatigue, cold, and hunger in the attempt.

The story of their escape is the most wonderful I ever heard, and though I am afraid I shall forget some of the details I would like to give you an idea of it.

Twenty-five began the enterprise, being sworn to secrecy. They were lodged on the ground floor, and managed to remove one side of the grate or chimney-place in such a way to be able to replace it again without leaving any trace of its having been disturbed. Through that aperture they dropped into the cellar below, which was full of rubbish and never used or entered, and there they began to cut through

the stone wall of the foundation. Their only tools were a broken cold-chisel and their clasp knives, with a block of wood which they used as a hammer.

In breaking through the wall they could only strike one blow in five or ten minutes, being forced to do so only when a cart, omnibus, or other heavy vehicle was rolling by, that the noise of their strokes might not attract attention.



The prisoners were crowded into cells

Having pierced the wall, which was very thick, they began tunnelling through the earth beyond, making a circular bore three feet in diameter. Their knives were their only tools here and as they made their way in, they used huge square wooden spittoons to drag away the dirt. The man at the further end would jerk a rope to let his companions at the outer end know that it was full, the latter would then pull it out,

empty it and the man at work hauled it back again. Every night when the task was done they spread the dirt carefully all over the floor, patted it down and strewed it over with soiled straw, piling up the stones, so that if by any chance the cellar was entered there might be nothing to excite suspicion.

You may fancy the precautions they had to take, the patience, the perseverance, which all this required. They knew by some means that there was a court surrounded by high walls attached to an unoccupied house on the opposite side of the street to the prison, and they bored their tunnel upwards with a view to bringing it to the surface there.

When they thought that they had dug far enough a discussion arose, some being of the opinion that they had better make it a little longer—to make it too long was as fatal as to make it too short, and they were afraid to risk either. At length two of the party received notice that boxes had come from the North for them, and they obtained permission to go to the place where they were deposited, a few houses off, on the other side of the street. They resolved to pace the street as they crossed it, and thus ascertain whether their tunnel was of the right length. They managed to do so, unobserved, their computation only differing by a few inches, and the tunnel was found to be too short by several feet. They then went on digging, but being fearful of bringing more dirt into the cellar, and perceptibly raising the level of the floor, they patted what they now dug down along the passage they had made, narrowing it to nearly two feet, and making it very difficult to pass through.

At length it was completed, being sixty feet long. Meanwhile they had been walking a certain length of time daily up and down their prison to get themselves into training, and saving a portion of their miserable daily food to carry with them; others had gradually been let into the secret, and on the day of their escape a hundred and nine were ready to make the attempt. They went into small parties, each making off as fast as possible as soon as they



reached the outlet, and one mounting guard at the prison end to give warning.

It was broad daylight, and they only escaped by running across the street from the court while the sentinel on his beat had his back turned; some were dressed in United States uniforms, some in the uniforms of the Confederate army, some in tattered civilians' clothes, but all three are common enough in Richmond, where half the men are clad in uniforms taken from our soldiers, and so mingling with the crowd in the streets, some in parties of two and three, others singly, they made their way out of the city, and struck into the woods and marshes beyond, with which many of them were familiar enough from going through the peninsular campaign. Of course they had endless difficulties to contend with, rivers to swim, morasses to cross, being forced to avoid all beaten tracks, take the most circuitous routes, lose time, and often retrace their steps to avoid the Southern pickets and the parties which were sent to scour the country as soon as their escape became known.

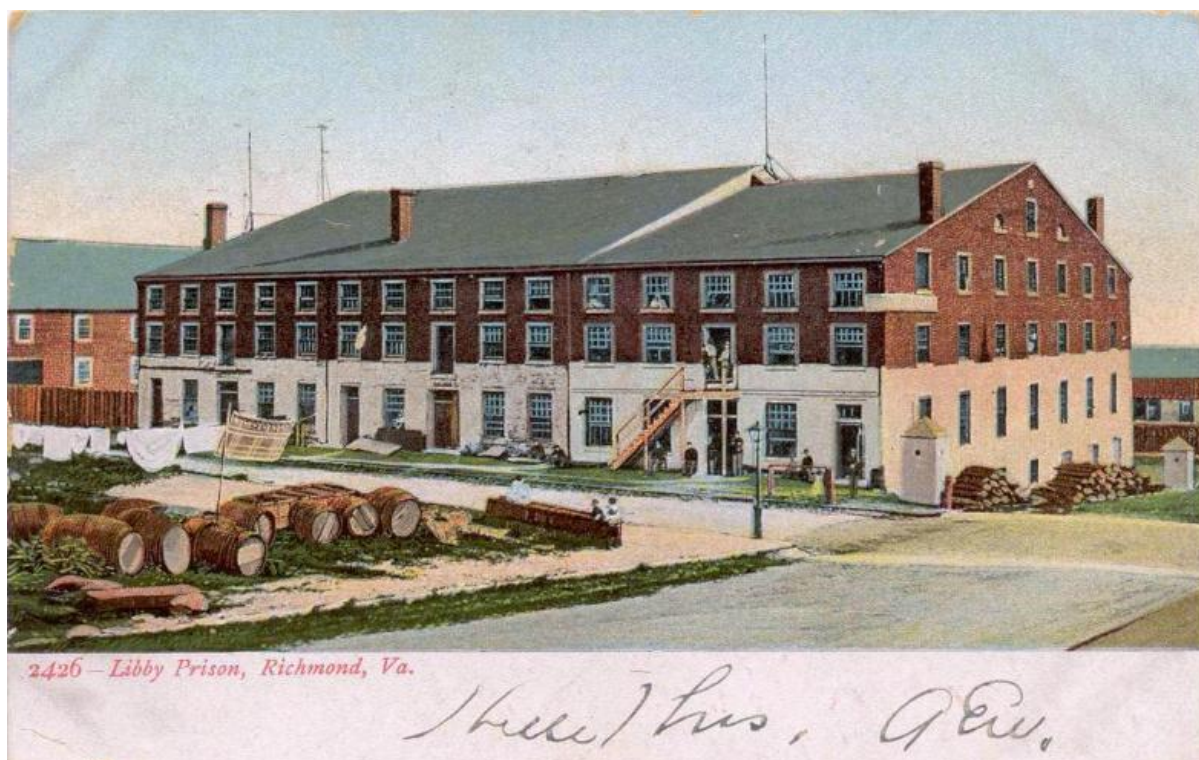


Libby looking more like a resort hotel on the river

The moment that the first of them reached our lines and made it known how many more were on the way parties or our cavalry were sent out to pick up as many of the poor wretches as they could, and, as I said, about half made good their escape. Those who reached home in safety spread such reports of the sufferings they had undergone in that hell that a renewed excitement regarding our poor fellows prevailed here, and about a fortnight ago a raid was planned; unfortunately by one of our least able cavalry commanders, to rescue the prisoners in Richmond and on Belle Isle by a coup de main.

Whether it would have succeeded at all or not is doubtful, but the guide of one of the two parties proved a traitor, and carried them out of their way, so that the function was not affected, and one party was forced to withdraw while the other, which had been betrayed, and was headed by young Captain Dahlgren, was cut off and cut to pieces, and after a week of suspense, during which we heard first that he was wounded and captured, and then that he was safe, we learned that he had been killed."





2426 - Libby Prison, Richmond, Va.

Libby Prison from a vintage postcard restored by the Editor

LETTER OF PLUNDER

Submitted by Jim Gray

The following is a copy of a revealing letter written by Union Lieut. Thomas J. Myers to his wife in Boston, Massachusetts, from a Camp near Camden, S. C.; Feb 26, 1865. In it he reveals first hand knowledge and detailed descriptions of atrocities committed by Union soldiers and commanders; including General Sherman. It says much about the integrity of General Sherman and the true attitude of northern soldiers towards the African Americans they so valiantly fought to 'free.'

'Camp near Camden, S. C., Feb 26, 1865.

THE REBELLION!
ITS CAUSE AND CURE!

A Meeting for the FREE DISCUSSION of the Great Principles involved in the present WAR FOR THE UNION
WILL BE HELD AT

THE WIGWAM
OF THE
VILLAGE OF HAVERSTRAW,
On Wednesday Evn'g, Sept. 24th
AT SEVEN O'CLOCK.

Among other able Speakers, the following Gentlemen are expected to Address the Meeting:

GEN. RICHARD BUSTEED,
Hon. MOSES G. LEONARD,
DEXTER A. HAWKINS, Esq.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

L. D. HANSFIELD. JOHN W. FERDON. WM. VOORHIS.
F. L. NICHOLS. D. D. SMITH.

MAKER & GRANGER, PRINTERS, 108, NASSAU AND SPRUCE STS., NEW YORK.

My dear wife,

I have no time for particulars. We have had a glorious time in this State. Unrestricted license to burn and plunder was the order of the day. The chivalry [meaning the Honourable & Chivalrous people of the South] have been stripped of most of their valuables. Gold watches, silver pitchers, cups, spoons, forks, &c., are as common in camp as blackberries.

The terms of plunder are as follows: Each company is required to exhibit the results of its operations at any given place--one-fifth and first choice falls to the share of the commander-in-chief and staff; one-fifth to the corps commanders and staff; one-fifth to field officers of regiments, and two-fifths to the company.

Officers are not allowed to join these expeditions without disguising themselves as privates. One of our corps commanders borrowed a suit of rough clothes from one of my men, and was successful in this place. He got a large quantity of silver (among other things an old-time milk pitcher) and a very fine gold watch from a Mrs De Saussure, at this place. De Saussure was one of the F. F. V.s of South Carolina, and was made to fork over liberally. Officers over the rank of Captain are not made to put their plunder in the estimate for general

distribution. This is very unfair, and for that reason, in order to protect themselves, subordinate officers and privates keep back every thing that they can carry about their persons, such as rings, earrings, breast pins, &c., of which, if I ever get home, I have about a quart. I am not joking--I have at least a quart of jewellery for you and all the girls, and some No. 1 diamond rings and pins among them.



General Sherman has silver and gold enough to start a bank. His share in gold watches alone at Columbia was two hundred and seventy-five. But I said I could not go into particulars. All the general officers and many besides had valuables of every description, down to embroidered ladies' pocket handkerchiefs. I have my share of them too. We took gold and silver enough from the damned rebels to have redeemed their infernal currency twice over. This, (the currency) whenever we came across it, we burned, as we considered it utterly worthless.

I wish all the jewellery this army has could be carried to the "Old Bay State". It would deck her out in glorious style; but, alas it will be scattered all over the North and Middle States. The damned niggers, as a general rule, prefer to stay at home, particularly after they found out that we only wanted the able-bodied men, (and to tell the truth, the youngest and best-looking women). Sometimes we took off whole families and plantations of niggers, by way of repaying secessionists. But the useless part of them we soon manage to lose; [one very effective way was to shoot at their bobbing heads as they swam rivers after the army units crossed over], sometimes in crossing rivers, sometimes in other ways. I shall write to you again from Wilmington, Goldsboro', or some other place in North Carolina. The order to march has arrived, and I must close hurriedly. Love to grandmother and aunt Charlotte. Take care of yourself and children. Don't show this letter out of the family.

Your affectionate husband, Thomas J Myers, Lieut.,

P.S. I will send this by the first flag of truce to be mailed, unless I have an opportunity of sending it at Hilton Head. Tell Sallie I am saving a pearl bracelet and ear-rings for her; but Lambert got the necklace and breast pin of the same set. I am trying to trade him out of them. These were taken from the daughters of the President of the South Carolina Secession Convention. We found these on our trip through Georgia."

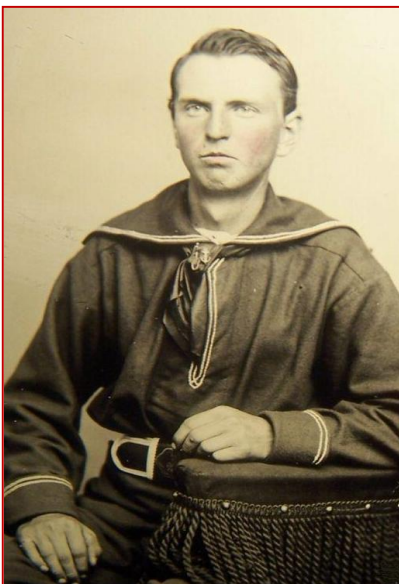
The letter was addressed to Mrs. Thomas J. Myers, Boston, Massachusetts. You can't help wonder how she received this news of murdering freed slaves, obviously enjoyed as a sport by Union soldiers.



THE HUNLEY: A COLD CASE FILE

Story submitted by James Gray. Adapted from an article published by Associated Press North Charleston with additional material by James Gray and Robert Taylor.

Editor: With archaeological work continuing on CSS Hunley much is being learned about not only the ship but its courageous crew. Commander Dixon has come under close scrutiny with the discovery of his legendary lucky gold coin within the sub. A picture has now surfaced, like the Hunley but not from the murky deep but some dusty archive purporting to be that of Dixon in his earlier Confederate naval days. This picture (left) reveals his pock marked face and the significant difference in Confederate naval uniforms being the neck scarf and anchor. Since their bodies were recovered forensic specialists have rebuilt faces and we can now see each individual as he looked in real life. It is fascinating forensic science that gives us a window into the times and for those who study it, makes *Civil War* history spring to life. The similar jaw line, cheek and chin are sure giveaways in all Dixon photographs. Romantacised in a Hollywood movie, Dixon's character and face have emerged as important as the ship itself. Of particular interest is that a member of the first ill-fated Hunley crew was African American. This has only recently come to light. The more we dig into this epoch the more we discover African Americans as willing participants in all theatres of the war for the South. There is much debate about Dixon's picture and a later one obviously of the same person showing a man purported to be Dixon but in clothing determined to be not used at the time. This decision has coloured the minds of historians and I believe is negligent. Dixon was dapper and particular in his attire, it is quite in the character of the man to buy the latest fashion off the blockade runners during the last stages of the war and I believe shouldn't influence identification. Facial features are so strong that there is little doubt the pictures revealed here are the same man.



Dixon four years prior to Hunley

It could be the nation's oldest Cold Case file: What happened to the eight brave Confederate sailors aboard H. L. Hunley after it became the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship? Their hand-cranked sub rammed a spar with black powder into the Housatonic, a Union blockade ship off Charleston on a chilly winter's night in 1864 but never returned. Its fate has been the subject of almost 150 years of conjecture and almost a decade of scientific research since the Hunley was raised from its murky depth in 2000. But the submarine has been agonizingly slow in surrendering her secrets.

State Senator Glenn McConnell says, *"She was a mystery when she was built. She was a mystery as to how she looked and how she was constructed for many years and she's still a mystery as to why she didn't come home."* Senator McConnell is chairman of the South Carolina Hunley Commission that raised the Confederate submarine and is charged with conserving and displaying it. Scientists hope the next phase of conservation, removing hardened sediment that coats the hull's exterior like concrete, will provide clues to the mystery. McConnell watched the sub being raised and thought at the time the mystery would be easily solved. *"We thought it would be very simple,"* he says, *"something must have happened at the time of the attack. We would just put those pieces together and know everything about it."*



What may have seemed clear then seems as murky now as the sandy bottom where the Hunley rested for 136 years. When she was gently raised, the design was different from the scientists' expectations and there were only eight, not nine crewmen, as originally thought. The first phase of work on Hunley consisted of photographing and studying the outside of the hull. Then several iron hull plates were removed allowing scientists to enter the crew compartment to remove sediment, human remains and a cache of artefacts and they are all telling us a story.

Thousands of people, many re-enactors in period dress, turned out in April 2004 when the crew were buried in what has been called, *the last Confederate funeral*.



Reconstructed face of Dixon

With the inside excavated, the outside of the hull is cleaned and the submarine rests in a chemical bath to remove salts left by years on the ocean floor.

The Hunley will eventually be displayed in a new museum in North Charleston. Archaeologist Maria Jacobsen says, *"The Hunley is like a crime scene except that, unlike the television shows, there's no smoking gun. If we compare this crime site investigation with, say, a tragic plane crash in the mountains, that investigation would be a lot easier, you can go to the crash site and see the metal pieces and they have the fingerprints of the crash site."* In the case of Hunley, some of those *fingerprints* may be covered by encrusted sediment on the hull scientists refer to as concretion. When the sub was found there was no window in the front conning tower, suggesting it had been shot out, perhaps by Union sharpshooters.



McConnell says, *"No glass was found inside the sub and the remains of the captain, Lt. George Dixon, showed no injuries to his skull or body consistent with being shot while looking through the window."* This comment is based on the portrayal in the movie where Dixon is depicted being shot through the cheek. The crew's bodies were found at their duty stations, suggesting there was no emergency resulting in a scramble to get out of the sub. And the controls on the bilge pump were not set to pump water from the crew compartment, suggesting there was no water flooding in. After the attack both Confederates on shore and Union ships reported seeing a blue light, believed to be the Hunley signalling it had completed the mission. A lantern with a thick lens that would have shifted the light spectrum and appeared blue from a distance was found in the wreck.

After the attack, the USS Canandaigua rushed to the aide of the Housatonic and there's speculation the light could have come from that ship. It has been suggested that the Canandaigua might have grazed the Hunley, disabling her and preventing the sub from surfacing. A good look at the hull in the coming months may provide

the answer to this speculation.

Dixon's faithful girlfriend carried this picture (above) in her locket. It bears a good resemblance to the younger image and the reconstruction above but significantly it is similar to the young image thought to show incorrect clothing for the period seen below. If you study the various images you can easily find common features.

Historians also know the Hunley needed to await an incoming tide to return to shore. McConnell wonders, *"Did they wait down there, miscalculate their oxygen and black out?"* It's a more likely theory. He says a grappling hook, believed to serve as an anchor was found near the Hunley wreck. Cleaning the hull may produce evidence of a rope showing the sub was anchored, perhaps awaiting the tide. Then there's the mystery of Dixon's watch that stopped at 8:23 p.m. Although times were far from uniform in the Civil War era, the Housatonic was attacked about 20 minutes later, according to federal time. There is no way that clocks could be accurately set unless linked with Greenwich Mean Time and this is most unlikely. So the time discrepancy is, as Jack Ford says about a cannon in his earlier story, "a Furphy."

One theory is the concussion of the explosion stopped the watch and knocked out the sailors in the sub. Or the watch simply might have run down and was not noticed in the excitement of the attack. This might have led to a miscalculation of the time they were under water. Analysis should reveal if the watch had run down.

Union troops reported seeing the Hunley approaching and light through the tower windows, *"Like dinosaur eyes or a giant porpoise in the water,"* says McConnell. He adds, *"If the Hunley crew miscalculated and surfaced too close to the Housatonic on their final approach they wouldn't have had enough time to replenish their oxygen before the attack."*



Disputed picture of Dixon

Clues now seem to indicate the crew died of anoxia, a lack of oxygen and didn't drown. *"Whatever happened, happened unexpectedly, with no warning,"* McConnell says. Running out of oxygen can quickly cause unconsciousness. *"Once you reach that critical stage, it's like flicking a switch,"* he says, *"it's that fast, like being on an airplane."* Archaeologists have determined the suit-attired photo (seen above) assumed to

be of Dixon is post-war with the man's tie, lapels, boots, even the furniture and draperies in the room, indicating the tintype photograph was taken after 1870, some six years after the Hunley sank and perhaps even as late as 1890. They ignore the move away from tintypes at that time and assume no one had access to modern fashion during the war. That Dixon was known to be fashion conscious and had ready access to shipments from Europe through the blockade is also ignored. This is false archaeology and denies results of facial reconstruction conducted on recovered skulls.

During summer of 2002 Diane France, described as one of the country's most renowned forensic anthropologists, was hired to analyse remains of Hunley crewmen. Her mission was to find clues about their lives and deaths. She spent two weeks studying bones and making silicone-based rubber moulds and scientists have put faces on Lt. George E. Dixon and the rest of the crew. While a mystery may have been solved others were created. The mystery comes from one picture, thought to be of Lt. George Dixon. According to Senator Glenn McConnell the photo shows a man in his mid 20s, and was found tucked behind another picture in Queenie Bennett's photo album. Queenie was the woman who gave Dixon the now famous gold coin that buckled but saved his life at the Battle of Shiloh.

According to Senator McConnell, Queenie Bennett's descendants all believe the photo is of Lt. Dixon because it matches his description. However, some historians question this account and cling to the theory that jacket lapels in a civilian picture and the type of tie suggest a later period than mid 1860s. One historian suggests the tie was fashionable in England at the time of the *Civil War* and perhaps Lt. Dixon was a little ahead of his time.

McConnell admits that Lt. Dixon was a fashionable man and had a reputation for being dashing. His remains reveal very white healthy teeth and his clothing found inside the sub, had metallic threads indicating his uniform was a cut above the others in the crew. Leading crewman, Commander George E. Dixon now has a face. There were high expectations as the final touches would reveal the face of a Southern hero. Diane France is one of a team that made this happen, a forensic anthropologist she spent two weeks sorting through the debris of the World Trade Centre seeking and helping identify human remains, some painfully tiny. Diane is director of the Human Identification Laboratory at Colorado State University and president of Colorado-based Necro Search International, a team of volunteer forensic scientists who lend their expertise to local law enforcement. Many contributed their expertise, as part of the U.S. Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team Dr. Doug Owsley, head anthropologist at the Smithsonian played his part. Research assistant Rebecca Kardash and Dr. Robert Mann, hand and foot bone experts, were at the Warren Lasch Conservation Centre in February 2002 to study the crew's remains. They worked with a common goal, playing different parts in the overall Cold Case investigation.

Dr. Owsley says, ***"Our goal is to sort the bones by laying them out anatomically in order to make a person, with 206 bones for each human; it's a complex and lengthy process."*** The forensic team's task has been simplified somewhat in that remains were found where each crewmember was stationed in the submarine. Dr. Owsley says, ***"This process is the first step in identifying each crew member. We have to create a person before the formal analysis can begin. What is also helpful is that we are dealing with people of various sizes and ages, which will assist in laying out the remains,"*** Scientists on the Hunley project assist the forensic team in this process.



Pipe found on Hunley

Study of remains helps unlock the mystery surrounding the crewmen. Project Director Dr. Bob Neyland says, ***"We should be prepared for startling discoveries about the personal life, background, age and health of the crew."*** In the bones and skeletal faces of Hunley's crew Dr. France discovers tiny clues, findings that might help archaeologists, conservators, anthropologists and historians understand the life of *Civil War* sailors and the dawn of modern submarines. One obviously smoked a pipe on the left side of his mouth until an abscessed tooth forced him to switch to the other side where it again wore a gap in his teeth. In another she sees evidence of a once-broken nose, compared to modern mouths, their teeth show more decay.



The mission's volunteers were not young men but not old either, though probably not wealthy. They show no obvious sign of disease or violent lives, other than that they were Confederate fighting men. A well preserved hat was found in the sub and is reconstructed above. ***"They seem like pretty regular guys,"*** France says, ***"When you know something about the remains you study you start to care about them as humans and develop a kind of relationship. I don't know anything about these guys other than that they got in a sub and blew up a Union ship. They had to be really committed to their cause."*** Little is known about them, since the Hunley had close ties to the Confederate Secret Service, many records were intentionally destroyed at the end of

the war to protect operatives. Their names and a few details of their military service are known but little else. Working from polyurethane-plastic casts personally made of the Hunley crew's bones, she has found no clues to the cause of their deaths on the bone-chilling night when the sub went down. Their bones don't reveal if they suffocated or drowned in the Hunley's claustrophobic confines. **"I've found nothing that will tell us what happened that night,"** she says, **"What interests me most is the preservation of the men."** France says, **"You could clean up a cadaver today and it wouldn't be any better preserved than these guys. Bearing the solemnity of this process in mind, it's fascinating and fun to pick up clues the public can't readily see."** France says, **"I think it's kind of disrespectful to want to totally isolate yourself from these people."**



Dixon's buckled coin

France's casts of the Hunley crew's skulls helped artist Sharon Long of Laramie reconstruct their proud faces, now displayed at the Hunley museum in South Carolina. The Hunley Commission promised the crew's remains would be buried beside two previous Hunley crew and it was conducted with a solemn funeral ritual.

Sharon Long, Forensic Artist specialising in re-creating appearances of people when they were alive by examining their skulls, relies on a scientific technique for measuring skin depth of various parts of the skull, she then forms a clay model of the head and places tissue markers of differing lengths on 21 strategic points of the face. After connecting the points with clay strips, she fills in the open areas. The final plaster version is made from a moulded cast from the clay model and has been placed on display.

http://www.trib.com/scjournal/ARC/1997/JUNE/6_8_97/lv1.html

Doctor France concludes, **"As a scientist, I know that any knowledge is valuable. Preserving the skeletons of Hunley's crew or any human skeleton is important because it gives us a greater understanding of the ways thoses skeletons record a person's life."**

Excerpts from article **"Civil War legends surface with sub. Fort Collins expert studies exhumed sailors"** By Ron Franscell, Denver Post Staff Writer. rfranscell@denverpost.com .



Latimer Grave Restoration

Editor: **T**his March I joined Aidan Smith, relative of Missouri veteran James Latimer and visited the Latimer grave at Pimpama to finalise painting of the headstone's dedication. Age had almost worn the lettering away but with care Aidan was able to pick out the final words "In Loving Memory of" with his paint brush and make the words more readable. Of note is that we discovered James latimer was a Freemason as indicatd by the star of Bethlehem and letter F under Aidan's wrist. Aidan had painted in the other words some years earlier for a picture requested by Roy Parker and met with objections from the family for missing the words across the top. He had missed them because the words were so hard to distinguish on the sun bleached and weathered stone. However that is now put right and we stood back and admired Aidan's handiwork. I commented that



James would be happy to know this moment had brought his kin back to the grave and that he is not forgotten. I could sense the presence of the proud old pioneer and was aware that this was a good deed we were doing and reminded of how many other veterans there are whose graves so desperately need such attention and need to be brought back into the light of today and need the grace of a descendant to give it purpose.

At the February meeting of the ACWRTQ I put a motion that **"Guardians"** be appointed to supervise and conduct regular maintenance audits of existing known graves, conduct and coordinate research into their designated veteran and act as liaison to that veteran. This was an idea forwarded by former member John King and I endorse the concept, so did a majority of the membership. So if you would like to **"adopt"** a veteran and become a particular grave's Guardian register with the ACWRTQ.

Interestingly the visit by Aidan and myself to Latimer's grave revealed the Orr family grave nearby containing former husband of Widow Mary Orr who was later to become James Latimer's wife and her two children by her first husband. The grave is a large plot and there can be no doubt that Mary is also buried there within a few metres of James Latimer and his mother although no inscription confirms this. The Latimer story is still unfolding and I am busy exploring the Fremont expedition across the Rocky Mountains that Latimer is supposed to have participated in. If this proves to be correct I believe it would be appropriate to have a plaque installed on the grave to commemorate the fact. However I have had a recent communication with an authority on Fremont in America who says there is no mention of Latimer on the famous last expedition.

Aidan Smith became a member of ACWRTQ at the February meeting and this is excellent as we gain members who are related to actual veterans who fought in the War Between the States. It is good to have family members at our side as we conduct our work commemorating veterans of America's most tragic of wars, the War Between the States.

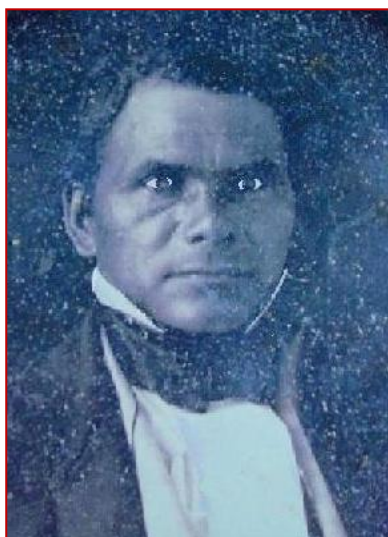


BATTLE OF TWO WOLVES

During the War Between the States part of the Cherokee nation stood with the South in defence of their homeland under the able command of General Stand Watie. Cherokee were the last Confederates to lay down their arms. A proud people, even today they value their culture and language and the basic right to live life as they see fit to choose. The culture that drives them sets a fine example to the world. Cherokee philosophy still inspires and much of what the war was about is revealed in one of their legends.



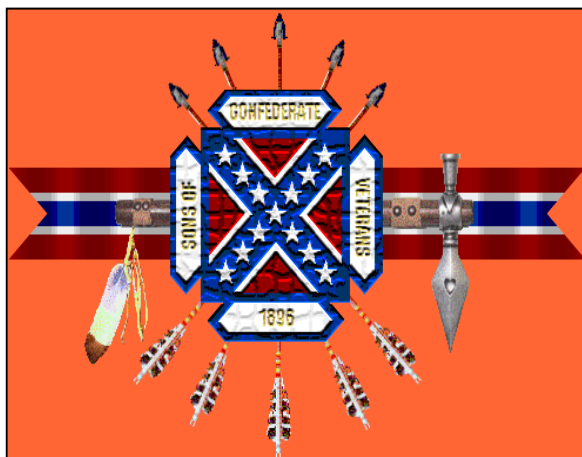
One evening an old Cherokee man stood with his Grandson under a full mist draped moon. They were listening to a distant wolf howl when the Grandfather turned to his Grandson and told him about a battle that goes on inside of all people. He said, ***“My son, there is a battle between two wolves that are inside each and every one of us. One wolf is evil; it is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other wolf is good; it is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.”*** The enthralled grandson thought about the wisdom of these words from his Grandfather for a moment and then asked him, ***“What wolf wins the battle Grandfather?”*** The old Cherokee looked him in the eyes with deep understanding and softly replied, ***“The one you feed the most my son.”***



Stand Watie before the war

Those same *wolves* are interpreted differently in various cultures. For Hindu Balinese it is black and white, left and right. Chinese see it as Ying and Yang and we know it as good and evil but the principal is the same. Frankly you have at least two voices in your head as there are two sides to any conflict and two sides to your brain, positive and negative. Listening to a voice that is good over evil won't avoid conflict with those who oppose such values but at least your conscience is clear and you won't have to colour history with myth and lies to cover the ugly scenes of your selfish battles.

Stand Watie was three-quarter Cherokee born 12th December 1806 near the site of the present day city of Rome, Georgia. He learned to speak English at a mission school and became a planter assisting in the publication of the Cherokee newspaper, *“The Phoenix.”* In 1835 he and others signed the treaty by which remaining Cherokee in Georgia agreed to their removal to what is now Oklahoma. This disappointing act split the people into two factions and made Watie the leader of the minority, or ***“Treaty Party.”*** So the Cherokee nation was split into *two battling wolves*.

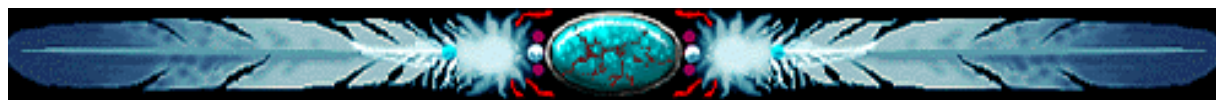


At the beginning of the War Between the States Cherokee attempted unsuccessfully to remain neutral but ultimately divided along the same lines as before. The majority declaring for the Union and the minority group under Watie pledging allegiance to the Confederacy with Watie raising a company early in 1861. Later in the year he was appointed Colonel of the 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles and from May 1864 to Brigadier General. The Cherokee were engaged in the *Battles of Wilson's Creek* and *Elkhorn Tavern* and principally used effectively in raids and as skirmishers in the Territory along its borders. They were found to be excellent soldiers in sudden offensive actions. General Watie fought bravely to the end, the last General of the Confederacy to "*strike the colours*" on 23rd June 1865 at Doaksville in Choctaw County, Oklahoma.

After the war, Watie resumed life as a planter and also engaged in various business enterprises. He died at his home on Honey Creek, in what is now Delaware County, Oklahoma on 9th September 1871 and is buried in *Old Polson Cemetery* near Grove, Oklahoma. The websites below are highly recommended for study. **Editor.**

http://www.scvlakotanationcamp2000.org/indian_territory_confederate_her.htm

<http://okdivision.org/index1.htm>



ACWRTQ



Join the *American Civil War Round Table Queensland*, experience past-times. Share in research, attend regular meetings, participate in public and Living History events, wear uniforms or costumes of the period, enjoy social activities and shooting black powder weapons. (*Licensed fire-arms users only.*) A prime activity of the group is locating and rededicating graves of *Civil War* veterans who died in Queensland. **Visit website:** <http://www.acwrtq.com/> **Phone President: Dr. Jack Ford 07 32663534. "We need your help to drive our historical society forward. To help in the search for lost veterans but also to join us in re-enactments, socialising, collecting, sharing information and stories and... let the past live in you."** Contact the editor: **Robert Taylor QSM fwwfn bob-anne@aapt.net.au** all correspondence and research gratefully accepted. Stories submitted as an attached Word document. The Editor reserves the right to change wording to fit space, editorial requirements and to Australian spelling.

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Meetings: Coorpooroo RSL. Third Thursday of the month. 7.30PM. All Welcome