



January 2012

The Cannon Report

The Powhatan Troop, SCV Camp 1382

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**DEO
VINDICE**

Commander's Comments

Happy New Year to all, I hope everyone had a great Christmas. We had 14 members and wives at our Christmas Party and I think that it is fair to say that all had a good time. To start our meetings this year, I have invited Commander Edwin Ray of the J.E.B. Stuart Camp to speak to us. For those who do not know, Commander Ray's other job is that of a research librarian at the Library of Virginia. He could just talk about the Library, which is a great resource for researching Confederate ancestors and their families. However, his own official research has embroiled him in a controversy, which was the subject of a Wall Street Journal article. The working title of Commander Ray's talk is, "The Virginia Military Dead Database & The Wall Street Journal Article of March 26, 2011." I encourage all to come and hear what I already know to be a fascinating subject.

The meeting this month will be in the meeting room at Rosa's restaurant at 1:00 PM. The meeting will commence as soon as the food has been served and largely eaten. Prices at Rosa's start around \$6.00 and the servings are generous. We have access to the meeting room only because it is assumed that we are there to eat. I have one other restaurant to suggest at this meeting, so if anyone has any ideas on alternative places to meet, this is the meeting to attend.

We have a speaker for the February meeting but I am still waiting on a confirmation for February 26. I should be able to announce the speaker at our January meeting. Looking ahead to March or April we need to have a business only meeting. Our camp treasury is broke and the camp cannot continue without some changes. We take in about \$200 per year in dues and we spend about \$700 per year. On average, we spend more on postage than we have received in dues the past few years. Only the generous donations of a few members have kept us afloat. I do not expect that one meeting will generate a solution but we do need to start the discussion.

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As a reminder, the Camp meetings are on the fourth Sunday each month which places this meeting on the 22nd of January.

On the back page I have included information on the H.L. Hunley titled "Complete Civil War submarine unveiled for first time" This information was taken from an internet article from "Science on MSNBC.com that Commander Moody forwarded to me. I thought you might find it interesting so I have included the article that appeared on January 12, 2012.

The article can be found at http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45980970/ns/technology_and_science-science/t/complete-civil-war-submarine-unveiled-first-time/from/toolbar#.TxL3tdXnv58.



Senior conservator Paul Mardikian wets down the Civil War submarine H.L. Hunley after it was freed of the steel truss that was used to raise it from the ocean floor in 2000 at Clemson University's Warren Lasch Conservation Center in North Charleston, S.C., on Thursday. Far right: A concretion layer covers the hand crank that crew members powered the Civil War submarine

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Confederate Civil War vessel H.L. Hunley, the world's first successful combat submarine, was unveiled in full and unobstructed for the first time on Thursday, capping a decade of careful preservation.

"No one alive has ever seen the Hunley complete. We're going to see it today," engineer John King said as a crane at a Charleston conservation laboratory slowly lifted a massive steel truss covering the top of the submarine. About 20 engineers and scientists applauded as they caught the first glimpse of the intact 42-foot-long narrow iron cylinder, which was raised from the ocean floor near Charleston more than a decade ago. The public will see the same view, but in a water tank to keep it from rusting. In the summer of 2000, an expedition led by adventurer Clive Cussler raised the Hunley and delivered it to the conservatory on Charleston's old Navy base, where it sat in a 90,000-gallon tank of fresh water to leach salt out of its iron hull. On weekdays, scientists drain the tank and work on the sub. On weekends, tourists who before this week could only see an obstructed view of the vessel in the water tank, now will be able to see it unimpeded.

What scientists have found: Mardikian has the lantern, which archaeologists found in the submarine more than a century later, in his laboratory. Scientists removed 10 tons of sediment from the submarine, along with the bones, skulls and even brain matter of the crew members, Mardikian told Reuters. They also found fabric and sailors' personal belongings. Facial reconstructions were made of each member of the third and final crew. They are displayed along with other artifacts in a museum near the submarine. In a nearby vault is a bent gold coin that archaeologists also found in the submarine. It was carried by the sub's captain, Lieutenant George Dixon, for good luck after it stopped a bullet from entering his leg during the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. "The submarine was a perfect time capsule of everything inside," said Ben Rennison, one of three maritime archaeologists on the project. The next phase of the project will be to remove corrosion on the iron hull and reveal the submarine's skin, preserve it with chemicals, and eventually display it in open air.

Surprisingly sophisticated: Scientists have found the vessel to be a more sophisticated feat of engineering than historians had thought, said Michael Drews, director of Clemson's Warren Lasch Conservation Center. "It has the ballast tanks fore and aft, the dive planes were counterbalanced, the propeller was shrouded," Drews said. "It's just got all of the elements that the modern submarines have, updated." There were previous submarines, Drews said, but the Hunley, designed to sail in the open ocean and built for warfare, was cutting-edge technology at the time. "Dixon's mission was to attack and sink an enemy ship and he did," Drews said. "At that particular time, the mindset of naval warfare was, basically, big ships sink little ships. Little ships do not sink big ships. And the Hunley turned that upside down."

*Paul M. Houser
Cannon Report Editor*