

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

# GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



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## Coming Events

March 10, 2015 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

April 14, 2015 - **Open House meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

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## 150 years after sinking, Confederate submarine slowly reveals its secrets



By: Fox News & The Associated Press

Scientists may finally solve the mystery behind the sinking of Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship.

A century and a half after it sank and a decade and a half after it was raised, scientists are finally getting a look at the H.L. Hunley's hull. Experts hope to solve the mystery of why the famed hand-cranked submarine sank during the Civil War.

gunk of encrusted sand, sediment and rust that scientists call concretion.

Last May, it was finally ready to be bathed in a solution of sodium hydroxide to loosen the encrustation. Then in August, scientists using small air-powered chisels and dental tools began the laborious job of removing the coating.

Now about 70 percent of the outside hull has been revealed.

Mardikian said the exposed hull indeed has revealed some things that may help solve the mystery of the sinking.

"I would have to lie to you if I said we had not, but it's too early to talk about it yet," he said. "We have a submarine that is encrypted. It's like an Enigma machine."

He said the clues will be studied closely as scientists try to piece together what happened to the 40-foot submarine that night in 1864.

The Hunley had a 16-foot spar tipped with a charge of black powder that was exploded, sinking the Housatonic. After close examination of the spar two years ago, scientists speculated the crew was knocked unconscious by the shock wave of the explosion.

When the Hunley was first raised, scientists speculated the crew may have run out of air before they could crank back to the coast. Scientists have also discussed the possibility the sub may have been sunk by an open hatch.

After the Hunley was raised, the sand and the silt and the remains of the crew in the interior were removed.

In April 2004, thousands of men in Confederate gray and Union blue walked in a procession with the crew's coffins four miles from Charleston's waterfront Battery to Magnolia Cemetery in what has been called the last Confederate funeral.



"It's like unwrapping a Christmas gift after 15 years. We have been wanting to do this for many years now," said Paul Mardikian, senior conservator on the Hunley project in North Charleston, S.C.

The Hunley sank the Union blockade ship USS Housatonic off Charleston in February 1864 as the South tried to break the Union blockade strangling the Confederacy. But the sub and its eight-man crew never made it back to shore.

The Hunley was discovered off the South Carolina coast in 1995, raised in 2000 and brought to a conservation lab in North Charleston.

It was covered with a hardened

The last remaining areas have been described as "forensic hot spots."

Friends of the Hunley, a group dedicated to conserving and eventually exhibiting the vessel, says that the remaining parts of the vessel's exterior should be revealed during the coming weeks. The team of conservators from Clemson University has already made some interesting discoveries, such as an area of the hull where the metal surface is stamped with the letters "C N." Experts are investigating the meaning of the stamp, which is thought to represent the foundry where the Hunley's iron was forged.



## Our Commanders' Comments

By: Commander John Maxey



weather.

Southern Gentlemen,

I hope all of you survived the ice and cold weather. All of you are probably like myself in wanting some warm

At our February meeting we all enjoyed the presentation of "Walking the Line" by Dr. Larry Krumenaker. He has done an excellent job of researching the fortifications of Atlanta during the invasion and plunder of the vile Yankees.

It also brought to light that much of Atlanta's War history has been lost. It's important that each of us work to keep what we have left.

We tip our hats to #863 Camp Adj. and 13th Brigade Cmdr. Steve Camp for providing such an interesting program.

Our next meeting will be on March 10th at 7:30 PM. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you there.

John Maxey, Cmdr.



## CWRT Honors Authors Of Gettysburg Guidebook

From: March issue of Civil War News



GETTYSBURG, Pa. — The Gettysburg Civil War Round Table recently presented its annual book award to Dr. Carol Reardon and Col. (Ret.) Tom Vossler for their book, *A Field Guide to Gettysburg* (2013, University of North Carolina Press).

Both are residents of Gettysburg. Their collaboration resulted in a book which the round table said, "will stand for years as the premier guidebook for the Battle of Gettysburg."

It breaks the battle into 35 "stops" and de-

scribes the combat that took place in each location. It also tells who the commanders were in each part of the field and identifies some of the men who fell at each place. In addition, the book introduces readers to the people who owned and lived on the land affected by the battle



## Compatriot Forrest Sellers Passes

J. H. Underwood, Editor



Compatriots;

It saddens me to inform you that our Compatriot and friend of more than 20 years passed away on February 7,

2015. The following is his obituary as it appeared on the Scott Ward Funeral Home web site;

*"Mr. Forrest Sellers, age 73 of Monroe, formerly of Conyers, died Saturday, February 7, 2015. He was preceded in death by his parents, E. J. and Hester Sellers. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jean Sellers of Monroe; son and daugh-*

*ter-in-law, Denny and Tracey Sellers of Covington; daughter and son-in law, Dineen and Buz Shubert of Monroe; seven grandchildren, Haley Shubert, Casey Shubert, Riley Shubert, Summer Sellers, Sydney Sellers, Savannah Evans and Chloe Evans; brother and sister-in-law, Ralph and Lillian Sellers of Stockbridge; sister and brother-in-law, Martha and James Hewatt; brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, Donnie and Dawn Lee, Joyce VanHorn and Ramona Morgan; several nieces and nephews. Forrest graduated from Rockdale High School in 1959 and served his country in the United States Army and Army Reserves. He retired from AT&T as a*

*Supervisor in 1996 and began a second career with Corning Cable. He belonged to the Pioneers Club, Romeo Club and Sons of Confederate Veterans; his passion was Youth and Little League Football and Baseball. He was loved by all. He supported his children and grandchildren in all of their activities. Forrest was a member of Rockdale Baptist Church"*

Forrest was a true "Southern Gentleman" and a champion of our cause and he will be greatly missed.







# The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford

(88th Soldier in the series)



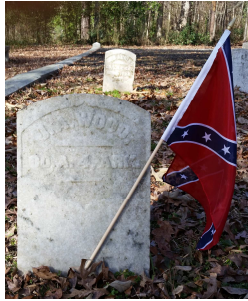
Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade

Headstone at Oxford shows:

J. A. WOOD  
CO A, 4 ARK

Actually:

JOSEPH A.  
WOOD  
COMPANY A  
4<sup>th</sup> ARKANSAS  
INFANTRY REGI-  
MENT



This soldier enlisted as a private on February 25, 1862 in Company A of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Arkansas Infantry. Company A was called the "Calhoun Escopets". (Escopet was an old French term for a type of carbine.) The 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas was originally organized in August 1861 and served in Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma) Sept-Oct 1861. Our private Wood enlisted in February 1862, about the time the regiment became part of General Earl Van Dorn's Army of the West.

The regiment fought at the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas on March 7-8 1862. At this time the 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas consisted of 695 men, and reported 55 casualties at Pea Ridge. The 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas re-consolidated at Van Buren, Arkansas and then marched to Des Arc, Arkansas where the regiment was transported by riverboat to Memphis, Tennessee in an attempt to unite the Army of the West with the Confederate Army of Mississippi to attack General Grant at Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh) Tennessee. Unfortunately, the 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas arrived too late for the battle of Shiloh (April 6-7 1862). The regiment then encamped near Tupelo, Mississippi.

The regiment soon joined General Kirby Smith's moved north and participated in the battle of Richmond, Kentucky on August 29-30 1862 where the regiment suffered 23 casualties. The Regiment soon fought at Murfreesboro, Tennessee (December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1862) and suffered 79 casualties in what was described as a brilliant charge against the union right flank.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas was part of the unsuccessful attempt in June-July 1862 by General Joseph E. Johnson to relieve the siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi. The regiment soon returned to the Army of Tennessee and after consolidations with other Arkansas regiments soon participated at the Battle of Chicamauga, Georgia (Sept 19-20, 1863). The 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas

was one of the units which, under Major General James Longstreet's direction, rushed through the gap in the federal line and put one wing of the union army to rout. The consolidated Arkansas regiments, 4<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas lost twenty-four percent of the 385 soldiers engaged at Chicamauga.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Infantry Regiment, now a part of McNair's Brigade, moved back to Mississippi to oppose General Sherman's Meridian Campaign (Feb 14-20, 1864). Sherman's Meridian Campaign was an expedition of 20,000 men moving through central Mississippi to break up Confederate communications and infrastructure. Sherman's Meridian Campaign was a "dress rehearsal" for the style of war against civilians that Sherman was to later bring to Georgia. The defense of central Mississippi by Confederate troops, now under the command of Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk, was insufficient and Meridian, Mississippi was essentially destroyed by Sherman. Most of the Confederate troops, to include the 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas, was soon transferred to the Army of Tennessee in time to oppose Sherman's Atlanta Campaign.



The 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Infantry Regiment participated in the Georgia fighting at Dug Gap (Sept 10-11 1864), Resaca (May 13-15, 1864), New Hope Church (May 25-26 1864) Pickett's Mill May 27, 1864) and most of the other battles leading up to the final battle of Atlanta on July

22, 1864 and then later at Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee before the final battle at Bentonville, North Carolina in March of 1865

It is not known when private Joseph A Wood arrived at the Hood Hospital at Oxford, Georgia but records of the Hood Hospital show that "Wood, J. A., private, 4<sup>th</sup> Ark, Company A, died of Rubeola (measles) on June 22, 1864". He likely became ill around the time of the fighting at New Hope Church (May 25-26, 1864).

Joseph A Wood was born in 1846 in Mississippi and was one of ten children. His parents were William Wood (1818-1877) and Mary Ann Ware Wood (1821-1878) both of whom were born in Alabama. His sisters were Ruth (1841-unk), Sarah (1842-aft 1878), Nancy (1849-unk) and Martha (1859-1924). The brothers were Silas (1845-abt1864), Sterling (1848-1919), James (abt 1851-aft 1890), George (1855-1927) and Bennett (1862-1944). The family started out in Alabama and moved to Mississippi about 1844, then to Arkansas about 1848.

In addition to our Private Joseph A Wood, the two brothers who were old enough to have served the Confederacy did serve. Brother Silas H Wood, about age 17 at enlistment in 1862, also served in Company A of the 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas and although his records are incomplete family genealogists say he died in the war in 1864. Brother Sterling Wood appears to have also enlisted at a young age late in the war and served in an Arkansas unit, possibly Tanner's Battalion. His service could not be further identified but he was approved for a Confederate pension in 1914. It is interesting that our subject Joseph and his brother Silas both enlisted on the same day, February 25, 1862. Brothers James, George and Bennett were too young to have served.

Private Joseph A. Wood was only about age 18 when he died. No record of a wife or children was found. How can we not lament the death in war of someone so young.



This is the last Soldier in the series. The book "Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford" will be available soon.

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## Another Confederate Monument Restored

A Georgia Division Press Release



**(BARNESVILLE, GA - February 26, 2015)** As a continuation of the ongoing monument restoration work of the Sons of Confederate Veterans during this final year of the Sesquicentennial commemoration of the War, the Georgia Division, in conjunction with its local camp in Thomaston, has completed the cleaning and restoration of the only Confederate monument in Lamar

Confederate Section of Greenwood Cemetery in Barnesville, Georgia, which was formerly part of Pike County until Lamar County was created in 1926. The funds for this project were raised by the General John B. Gordon Memorial Camp and the Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The cleaning and restoration was under the direction of Mr. Jeff Ellis of Clark Memorials in Macon, Ga. The Monument now sparkles like new and is a fitting tribute to those Southern heroes who gave their lives in the fight for Southern Independence and their country, the Confederate States of America. A Confederate battle flag flies on a nearby pole, adorning the Confederate section of the cemetery.

cleaning and restoration of those Confederate monuments which were erected in town squares and parks around the state near the turn of the twentieth century, as well as erecting dozens of new monuments in commemoration of the ongoing 150th anniversary of the War.



The monument is located in the Con-

This is just one of the dozens of projects which has already been completed in recent years by the Georgia Division. The Division has tasked itself with the



For more information about the Sons of Confederate Veterans or any of this year's planned events to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the War, contact the Georgia SCV at 404-456-3393 or online at [www.GeorgiaSCV.org](http://www.GeorgiaSCV.org)