



**Official Newsletter of the BG Micah Jenkins  
SCV Camp 1569**

**Volume XIII Number II February 2014**



# *Honoring the Gray*

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## **Micah Jenkins Camp Meeting Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Regularly scheduled meeting will be at 7:00 PM at the  
Mayflower Seafood Restaurant at 2124 Celanese Rd, Rock Hill, SC  
Come early join the fellowship and eat.**

**Jack is from Kentucky and has a bachelor's degree in history.  
This is his 11th year as an SCV member. He has served as Camp  
Commander in Florida. His topic for the upcoming meeting is the  
"Irish Units and the Charleston Irish".**



**Jack O'Brien is the speaker at our next Camp meeting.**

## H. L. Hunley, Confederate Submarine

On 17 February 1864, the submarine made a daring late night attack on USS Housatonic, a 1,240-ton sloop-of-war with 16 guns. H.L. Hunley rammed Housatonic with spar torpedo packed with explosive powder and attached to a long pole on its bow. The spar torpedo embedded in the sloop's wooden side was detonated by a rope as Hunley backed away. The resulting explosion that sent Housatonic with five crew members to the bottom of Charleston Harbor also sank Hunley with its crew of eight. H.L. Hunley earned a place in the history of undersea warfare as the first submarine to sink a ship in wartime.

The search for Hunley ended 131 years later when best-selling author Clive Cussler and his team from the National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA) discovered the submarine after a 14-year search. The team realized that they had found Hunley after exposing the forward hatch and the ventilator box (the air box for the attachment of a snorkel). The submarine rested on its starboard side at about a 45-degree angle and is covered in a 1/4 to 3/4-inch encrustation of ferrous oxide bonded with sand and shell particles. Archaeologists exposed a little more on the port side and found the bow dive plane on that side. More probing revealed an approximate length of 34 feet with most, if not all, of the vessel preserved under the sediment.

In August 2000, Once the on-site investigation was complete, harnesses were slipped underneath the sub one by one and attached to a truss. Then after the last harness had been secured, a crane began hoisting the submarine from the mire of the harbor. On August 8 at 8:37 AM the sub broke the surface for the first time in over 136 years where it was greeted by a cheering crowd in hundreds of nearby watercraft. Once safely on its transporting barge, Hunley finally completed its last voyage back to Charleston, passing by thousands of spectators on Charleston's shores and bridges.

All who viewed the vessel said Hunley incorporated an unexpectedly graceful and beautiful design. It is certainly a marvel both for its time period and for modern day researchers. No doubt this small submarine will be the key to unlock many mysteries of a bygone era.



### Prayer Closet

- Please continue to pray for our President & government leaders. Continue to pray for our country. We are in very troubling times. The evening news is rarely about anything good.
- Please continue to keep Brad Blackmon's wife, Deborah to your prayer list.
- Please continue to keep Dan Sipe on your prayer list. Dan was able to be at November's meeting, but is still having back problems.
- Please keep Ray Baker on your prayer list. Ray is doing much better. He was able to be at the Lowry's parade.
- Please add Howard Noe to your list. He also has been having some medical issues.
- Please add Larry Gregory's 9 year old grandson to your list. While visiting the Grand Canyon with his family, he fell and broke his femur and had surgery to put in screws and plates.
- Please continue to pray for the SCV, national, division and brigade.
- Pray for our service men and women and for their families.

*Camp Chaplain,  
Mike Short*

### From the Chaplain

Please send your Prayer Requests to our Camp Chaplain, Mike Short. Mike can be contacted by phone (803-547-5446) or by email (cmshort@comporium.net).

**Visit the Micah Jenkins Camp website at:  
<http://bgmicahjenkins.org/>**

## Time Line Febuary 1864

**Feb 3rd** - William Tecumseh Sherman, having moved to Vicksburg by boat, begins the Meridian Campaign.

**Feb 5th** - Sherman enters Jackson, Mississippi.

**Feb 7th** - Union forces enter Jacksonville, Florida.

**Feb 9th** - 109 Union officers led by Colonel Thomas Rose escape from Libby Prison on the banks of the James River in Richmond. 59 reach Union lines.

**Feb 9th** - Federal Major General John Schofield assumes command of the Department of the Ohio

**Feb 14th** - Federals take Meridian. They continue their "work," tearing up railroad infrastructure and destroying locomotives, but there is little Leonidas Polk can do.

**Feb 17th** - The CSS Hunley destroys the USS Housatonic with a torpedo in Charleston Harbor. The Housatonic sinks without a loss of life. The Hunley also sinks, killing 9 men.

**Feb 20th - Battle of Olustee** - Near Ocean Pond outside the town of Olustee Federal Brigadier General Truman Seymour attacked Confederate Brigadier General Joseph Finegan resulting in a Confederate victory.

**Feb 22nd - 26th** - Battle of Dalton, Georgia (First Dalton) - General George Thomas demonstrates against Joe Johnston's entrenched line.

**Feb 22nd** - Crisis in the Lincoln Administration over the Pomeroy Circular backing Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase as Republican candidate for President in the 1864 elections.

**Feb 22nd** - Battle of Okolana Other Names: Ivey's Farm, Ivey Hill - Nathan Bedford Forrest defeats W. Sooy Smith, attempting to join Sherman's Meridian Campaign.

**Feb 24th** - Braxton Bragg becomes Jefferson Davis' chief of staff.

**Feb 27th** - Federal prisoners begin arriving at Camp Sumter in Andersonville, Georgia.

**Feb 29th** - General Judson Kilpatrick splits his force in two detaching 500 men under Ulric Dahlgreen to attack Richmond from the west.

### Commander's Comments

I continue to be amazed at the Camp's accomplishments. We worked on two cemeteries last year, had very successful tables at Brattonville and York Summerfest, and the crowd applauding us in Lowry's was unbelievable.

It is now time for us to do two things: seek recognition for our past accomplishments, and plan our programs for 2014.

The Division reunion is coming up in March and the Camp has submitted the paperwork for recognition of our newsletter, our scrapbook and some of our members. Based on what I have seen in the past, I think we stand a reasonable chance to win some of these awards.

For continue onward, at our next meeting we will discuss briefly our programs for 2014. Please come prepared to share your suggestions. Our ancestors deserve nothing less.

*Bucky Sutton*

**Who: OCR members, your children & grandchildren**

**When: February 11, 2014 Beginning 6:00pm**

**Where: Mayflower Seafood Restaurant**

**What: We are filling bags for homeless Veterans.**

We want the kids to help fill the bags and to make "thank you" cards for our Veterans. We have purchased items appropriate for our homeless Veterans, wewiU have them available for the bags to be packed. Please come and help us recognize our Veterans who are homeless and are in need of basic necessities.

If you are interested in donating items for the bags please contact Linda Sutton.

[linda.sutton23@yahoo.com](mailto:linda.sutton23@yahoo.com) 803-328-8732

### Famous Quotes

THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA IN PENNSYLVANIA...

"Again and again in the Pennsylvania campaign, the citizens told us that we treated them far better than their own soldiers did. I can truly say I didn't see a fence rail burned between Hagerstown and Gettysburg."

Source: "A Soldiers Recollection: Leaves from the Diary of a Young Confederate," by Rev. Randolph H. McKim, 1910.



**Our Children of the Confederacy Chapter and South Carolina Division  
have been very busy!**

On January 12, 2014, they attended four Monument Rededication Ceremonies and the Iron Cross Ceremony at Flatrock Cemetery near Jonesville, SC. Billy Gallien, SC Division President, presided over the events. We were so pleased to have support from the Micah Jenkins SCV Camp. I have attached pictures. They tell the whole story!



Union County Monument



General Wallace Home Marker



General Wallace's Grave



Union District Monument, Jonesville



Flatrock Cemetery

For membership information for your children and grandchildren,  
please contact Judy McCardle at [mdm1@comporium.net](mailto:mdm1@comporium.net) or 803/493-6530.

## **“Resurrection” The Story Of The Chester Gun**

Our story begins in 1860, when the Virginia State Militia agrees to purchase a number of the new 2.9" Parrot rifled guns, made at the West Point Foundry, in Cold Spring, NY. One of the guns is taken to Tredegar Iron Works, located in Richmond, for their inspection by a team headed by John M. Brooke of the CS Navy. They will measure, examine, test fire, disassemble and draw the gun, its limber and caisson to determine how to improve it, should the need ever arise for Tredegar to build this gun in its shops. By 1860, they had already built over 700 cannon barrels, since starting the business in 1836 and their expertise in this area is among the best in the South.

Just over a year later, the need arises for Tredegar to build its version of the Parrot, which is similar, but not identical to the US Parrot rifle. It is built in models from 10 lb. to 100 lb. shell weights, designed for a variety of applications. When war comes in April 1861, Tredegar already builds a number of proven artillery barrels in its foundry and the new design for a light field gun is slow to fit into their manufacturing process. Production starts in September 1861, with emphasis placed on larger guns with a 6.4" and greater diameter, all are intended for Naval use and or coastal defense.

By the time they build the smaller field rifle, the original Parrot design has been modified to accept a 3.0" shell, which will also be used in the new US Ordnance rifle, which is not yet in production. All of the earlier 2.9" Parrot rifles are brought back to US Arsenals and modified to make them 3.0" guns. The Tredegar team decides to change their design to handle the new 10 lb. or 3.0" shell, to help ease the supply of ammunition.

In early 1864, workers in the foundry room of Tredegar pour molten iron into molds, to cast new TPR rifles for use by the Confederate Light Artillery. Once the process is complete, the molds will sit undisturbed for days as the iron inside them cures; then they will be broken apart to remove the new barrels. This is followed by cleaning, boring, lathe finishing of the metal and then proof testing them, before they are mounted on their carriages for final outfitting.

These four 10 lb. TPR pieces are delivered to the CS Ordnance Department and then shipped to South Carolina in late 1864. During the WBTS, Tredegar made over 1,000 cannons in all sizes, shell weights and models, with most having bores of 6.4" larger; it is believed that less than 200 of these smaller field rifles were built.

In early 1865, the Federal Army was poised to enter South Carolina near Augusta, GA and in the low country, near Broxton's and River's Bridge. Tensions are high and multiple daily telegraphs from Maj. Gen. Wheeler, keep Lt. Gen. Hardee informed on the Federal advance. By the first week of February 1865, Federal forces have crossed the Salkhatchie River and they are headed for Charleston, a major port the Federals want to capture. This southern

portion of the Federal Army is under the Command of Gen. W.T. Sherman and they reach the western side of the Ashley River, at Charleston on Feb. 10-13, 1865 but due to the rivers depth from heavy rain and peninsula layout of the city, they are delayed.

At Augusta, the northern part of the Federal Army under the Command of Gen. O.O. Howard has crossed the Savannah River and is headed straight for Columbia. At the same time, Gov. McGrath orders the capital moved to a safer location at Union (SC), about 75 miles north of Columbia and 25 miles west of Chesterville (now called Chester). By Feb. 15, 1865 the state's official records, office personnel, numerous elected Officials and the Governor are in Union, leaving the fate of Columbia to Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton. On Feb. 17, 1865, Federal Troops begin crossing the Congaree River and enter Columbia and Gen. Hampton retreats to the north. Columbia, now in flames surrenders to Gen. Howard the same day.

To the south, instructions arrive from Gen G.T. Beauregard ordering Gen. William Hardee to evacuate Charleston; this starts Feb. 15, 1865 and is completed in a short time. Plans are for Hardee to head north by railroad toward Charlotte, NC and link up with Gen. Hampton at Chesterville, SC. This is an important rail crossroads and marshaling yard and it has tons of military supplies and useful equipment stored there. Logic says this is a perfect area to defend, once Hampton's and Hardee's forces come together. The plan is to protect Charlotte by securing and holding the vital railroad bridge over the Catabwa River, located at Nation's Ford, east of present day Rock Hill. Unfortunately, none of this plan comes together, because it is effectively thwarted by the rapid advance of the Federal Army.

When Hampton arrives in Chesterville on Feb. 20, 1865 he finds hundreds of rail cars, fully loaded with much needed food, ammunition, powder and other essential military supplies and all are awaiting transfer to the rail cars heading into North Carolina. This is due to the NC rail system being a narrower gauge, thus preventing the SC cars from using their railroads. Fortunately, the day before, Col. Otey, Commanding Officer of the CS forces in Chesterville, had been successful in sending 15,000 rations to Gen. Beauregard at Ridgeway. Hampton's command is growing and now includes elements of the State Militia, reinforced with the Infantry Companies and Artillery Batteries that were evacuated on the first trains that departed from Charleston.

Meanwhile the Federals push through Columbia and realize that Hampton has headed north and that Hardee is moving in that same direction. As soon as the vital railroad line is captured and held by the Federals, Gen. Hardee has no choice but to turn north by east and the trains take him and the balance of his Troops, to Cheraw. When this information is received by telegraph, Hampton realizes his ability to hold Chesterville is limited to a matter of days. He orders the destruction of all non-essential military

*continued on next page*

## **“Resurrection” The Story Of The Chester Gun**

equipment and supplies, to keep them out of Federal hands, in accordance with CS War Department directives. This also includes cannons, their carriages and limbers, if there are no crews to operate them and or horses to pull them in the field.

It is not known at this point, what unit had these guns or who ordered them to be placed on the first train from Charleston going to Chesterville. This part of the story point requires additional research and we note the record is limited, because at the time, the CS forces were moving fast and trying to get out of Charleston, as quickly as possible. Only two or three trains actually left from Charleston; the others all departed from St. Stephens about 40 miles north and these trains were all re-directed to Cheraw.

The four brand new Tredegar Parrot rifles are spiked by Hampton's men and their carriages, limbers and implements are destroyed in the process. The guns have multiple shells rammed down the bores, vents are plugged and the trunions are broken off on each gun, to render them useless, if captured. The guns are all dismounted and buried together in a shallow grave, near the marshaling yards.

As the Federal forces enter Chesterville, they found the place in chaos, but no CS forces were there, because they had already retreated. Other than railroad equipment that was destroyed, some of which is on still fire, no additional burning of the houses, destruction of local buildings or looting of civilian property takes place. There is no time for that; the Federals have to prevent Hampton and Hardee from linking up with Gen. Johnston, in North Carolina.

The action now becomes a chase and a few days later, Federal forces arrive at Ridgeway and Union and they arrest Gov. McGrath and take control of the South Carolina state government. As February closes, Gen. Hampton retreats across the Catabwa River, destroying the only bridge and he moves into North Carolina, intending to link up with the Army of Tennessee.

At the same time, Gen. Hardee has arrived at Cheraw and finds the railroad bridge across the Pee Dee River undamaged. He orders his men to stock up on food and ammunition, but leave any extra supplies and equipment in Cheraw, because the rest of the trip will be on foot. The North Carolina railroad gauge is narrower and the trains from St. Stephens can no longer be used. As Hardees troops are crossing the bridge on March 3, 1865, the Federal Army enters the west side of the town and Hardee's men destroy the bridge just in time. This will cause a 2-3 day delay for the Federals, who are not amused and the town's people of Cheraw are severely punished, as the town is plundered and burned, as 20,000 Federal troops descend on it, waiting to cross the river. As soon as the pontoon bridge is completed, they continue the chase Hardee, but do not catch him until they reach Bentonville, where a large battle ensues. Ultimately, it all ends on April 26, 1865 when Gen.,

Johnson surrenders to Gen. Sherman, at Bennett's Place, near Durham, NC.

For the next 121 years, the four cannons buried in Chester (formerly Chesterville) lay there unmolested and forgotten, a mute testament to Gen. Hampton's unsuccessful attempt to defend the town.

In January 1986, the Elders of the Cavalry Baptist AME Church, sign a contract with a local company to make a new addition on the church building; the work would start in February of that year. In the first week, the contractor begins to clear the dirt and starts digging the footers at the specified locations. On Feb. 7, 1986 the construction is stopped, when the workmen encounter a large metallic mass in their way, just 18" below the ground. The area is carefully excavated by hand, fearing they had struck an underground gas line.

Everyone is surprised when they clear enough dirt away to reveal four very old cannon barrels, buried side by side, less than 6 feet from the existing church building. As members from the Chester County Historical Society arrive, it is discovered that the barrels appear to be loaded (remember the crews spiked them 121 years earlier). They stop the work, put police guards on the site and summoned the SC State Museum and personnel from the University of South Carolina (USC) to the site to determine how to remove the obstructions in each barrel. Each gun had 5 to 7 live rounds lodged in their barrels and once this was accomplished, the guns were safe to move and handle for conservation.

Preservation actions took place with a long term agreement, stating that it would be taken to re-enactments and educational programs all over the state and it would only be fired as a Confederate piece. This gun was not surrendered or captured and it has never been fired by Federal soldiers or portrayed at re-enactments as a Federal piece.

Vernon Terry is a Compatriot in the Micah Jenkins SCV Camp at Rock Hill, SC. He is the Commander of the Palmetto Battalion Artillery and is a member of McIntosh's Battery of the Pee Dee Light Artillery and the 6<sup>th</sup>. South Carolina Infantry Regiment. He has honored the commitment made over two decades ago and the gun has been at numerous re-enactments in South Carolina and in many adjoining states. The gun has attended plethora of local and national re-enactments and numerous public school programs, where it always is the star attraction. The crews who have worked this gun are humbled by their experience to not only see, but to be able to work on such an important piece of WBTS history.

In closing, the "*Chester Gun*" is a unique piece of history. It's not something hidden behind glass, that is untouchable and kept away from the people who have come to see it, in the name of preservation. It is a working piece of history; one you can touch, get a picture taken with up close and you can hear it speak. It actually takes on a personality of its own when you are in its presence.

## Joseph Finegan (November 17, 1814 – October 29, 1885)

Joseph Finegan was an attorney, politician, and railroad builder in Florida, but is primarily known as the general who commanded the Confederate Army in its victory at the Battle of Olustee.

Finegan was born November 17, 1814 at Clones in County Monaghan, Ireland. He came to Florida in the 1830s, first establishing a sawmill at Jacksonville and later a law practice at Fernandina. At the latter place, he became the business partner of David Levy Yulee and began construction of the Florida Railroad to speed transportation of goods and people from the new state's east coast to the Gulf of Mexico.

Finegan's successes are perhaps attributable to his first marriage on July 28, 1842, to the widow Rebecca Smith Travers. Her sister Mary Martha Smith was the wife of Florida's territorial governor Robert Raymond Reid, an appointee of President Martin Van Buren. At a courthouse auction in 1849, Finegan paid just \$40 for five miles of shoreline along Lake Monroe.

By the outbreak of the War, Finegan had built his family a forty-room mansion in Fernandina, bounded by 11th and 12th Streets and Broome and Calhoun Avenues, the site of the modern Atlantic Elementary School. His family included his three stepdaughters Maria, Margaret, and Martha Travers; and children Rutledge, Agnes, Josephine, and Yulee Finegan. At Florida's secession convention, Finegan represented Nassau County alongside James G. Cooper.

In April 1862, Finegan assumed command of Middle and East Florida from Brigadier General James H. Trapier. Soon thereafter, he suffered some embarrassment surrounding the wreck of the blockade runner Kate at Mosquito Inlet (the modern Ponce de Leon Inlet). Her cargo of rifles, ammunition, medical supplies, blankets, and shoes was plundered by civilians. Attempts to recover these items took months before he issued a public appeal. Eventually, most of the rifles were found, but the other supplies were never recovered. Also in 1862, recognizing the importance of Florida beef to the Confederate cause, Finegan gave cattle baron Jacob Summerlin permission to select thirty men from the state troops under his command to assist in rounding up herds to drive north.

At this time, the principal Confederate military post in east Florida was dubbed "Camp Finegan" to honor the state's highest-ranking officer. It was about seven miles west of Jacksonville, south of the rail line near modern Marietta.

In 1863, Finegan complained of the large quantity of rum making its way from the West Indies into Florida. Smugglers were buying it in Cuba for a mere seventeen cents per gallon, only to sell it in the blockaded state for \$25 per gallon. He urged Governor John Milton to confiscate the "vile article" and destroy it before it could impact army and civilian morals.

In February 1864, General P.G.T. Beauregard began rushing reinforcements to Finegan after Confederate officials became aware of a build-up of Federal troops in the occupied city of Jacksonville. As Florida was a vital supply route and source of beef to the other southern states, they could not allow it to fall completely into Union hands.

On February 20, 1864, Finegan stopped a Federal advance from Jacksonville under General Truman Seymour that was intent upon capturing the state capitol at Tallahassee. Their two armies clashed at the Battle of Olustee, where Finegan's men defeated the Union Army and forced them to flee back beyond the Saint Johns River. Critics have faulted Finegan for failing to exploit his victory by pursuing his retreating enemy, contenting himself by salvaging their arms and ammunition from the battlefield. But, his victory was one rare bright spot in an otherwise gloomy year for the dying Confederacy.

Some Finegan detractors believe he did little more to contribute to the Confederate victory at Olustee than to shuttle troops forward to General Alfred H. Colquitt of Georgia, whom they credit for thwarting the Federal advance. They point out that Finegan was quickly relieved of his command over the state troops, replaced by Major General James Patton Anderson. But this change in command was necessary as Finegan was ordered to lead the "Florida Brigade" in the Army of Northern Virginia. And, he performed with excellence in that capacity until near the end of the war.

General Finegan returned to Fernandina after the war to discover his mansion had been seized by the Freedmen's Bureau for use as an orphanage and school for black children. It took some legal wrangling, but he was eventually able to recover this property. He had to sell most of his lands along Lake Monroe to Henry Sanford for \$18,200 to pay his attorneys and other creditors. (Though he did retain a home site at Silver Lake.) Adding to his sorrows was the untimely death of his son Rutledge died April 4, 1871, precipitating a move to Savannah, Georgia. There, Finegan felt at home with the large Irish population and worked as a cotton broker.

It was while living in Savannah that Finegan married his second wife, the widow Lucy C. Alexander, a Tennessee belle. They eventually settled on a large orange grove in Orange County, Florida.

Finegan died October 29, 1885, at Rutledge, Florida. According to the Florida Times Union, his death was the result of "severe cold, inducing chills, to which he succumbed after brief illness." The paper described him as "heartly, unaffected, jovial, clear-headed, and keen-witted." He was buried at the Old City Cemetery in Jacksonville.



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**Joseph Finegan (November 17, 1814 – October 29, 1885)**