

THE CHARGER

February, 2002

394 Meeting

Vol. 23 #6

Tonight's topic:

CSS HUNLEY: SLOWLY GIVES UP ITS SECRETS

The world's first submarine the CSS Hunley made history by ramming a black-powder explosive into the side of the Union ship USS Housatonic, becoming the first submarine in history to sink an enemy ship in battle on the evening of Feb. 17, 1864. Since its raising two years ago the sub is slowing giving up it's secrets.

In a speech to the College of Charleston, South Carolina State Senator and Hunley Commission Chairman, Glenn McConnell said, "The Hunley has seemed to capture the imagination of the world." McConnell estimated that some 70,000 people have taken the Hunley tour so far with *only word of mouth advertising*.

McConnell talked also about some of the recent discoveries in the Hunley. First, finding the compass in tack without the glass broken. The compass will help scientists to determine which direction she was heading when the submarine sank.

Second, McConnell said the excavation of sediment in the front conning tower and the screening of the removed deposits have been completed. No glass or iron from the blowout eyepiece in the front tower was found. "The deeper we excavate into the remaining sediment, the greater the probability that the front tower eyepiece was damaged during or right after the Hunley attacked. It is a scientific fact now that the glass and iron pieces of the shattered eyepiece are not in the sediment in the front conning tower. It still is too early to say that this-eyepiece contributed to the sinking"

The excavations have also uncovered a vertical steering rod approximately 70 centimeters long in front of the sub. "This vertical steer rod is similar to an airplane joy stick and could move in two directions from port to starboard side. This could be the world's first joystick for navigating a vessel. The Hunley is being revealed as an engineering marvel way ahead of her time." McConnell said.

Tonight's speaker:



**Glenn
McConnell**

South Carolina State
Senator, President
CSA Galleries, Inc.

Home: Charleston, SC
*born Dec. 11, 1947;
graduated College of*

*Charleston, B.S., ; Univ. of S.C., J.D.,
Sons of Confederate Veterans, Secession
Camp #4; Palmetto Battalion; 27th S.C.
Volunteer Infantry and 19th Indiana
Volunteers; Assn. for the Preservation of
Civil War Sites; S.C. Historical Society;
Chairman, Hunley Commission.*



Date: Friday

February 15, 2002

(note this is a Friday)

Place: The Cleveland
Playhouse Club
8501 Carnegie Ave.

Time: Drinks 6 PM
Dinner 7 PM

Reservations: Please Call
JAC Communications
(216) 861-5588

Meal choice: steak or lasagna

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Founded 1957

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Dick Crews -editor

Website: **SEARCH** Cleveland Civil War Roundtable
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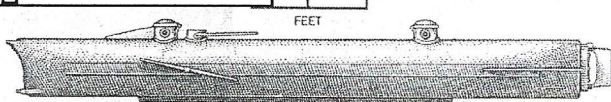
The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is open to anyone with an interest in the American Civil War. The Roundtable considers the Civil War the **defining** event in American history.

The Roundtable normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, at a private club of the Cleveland Playhouse, 8501 Carnegie, next to the Cleveland Clinic.

Yearly Dues: \$40.00 Dinner: \$20.00

February 15, 2002 *World's first submarine*

↑ **This is a Friday**



H.L. Hunley

South Carolina State Senator

Glenn McConnell

Chairman, Hunley Commission

March 13, 2002



**An Evening
With
Mary Todd
Lincoln**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February, 2001

Just a reminder about our next two meetings:

Senator Glenn McConnell

Chairman of the Hunley Commission

Friday, February 15, 2001 -

NOT Wednesday, February 13!

Wednesday, March 13, 2001

An Evening with Mary Todd Lincoln

Invite a friend, but remember, make your reservations early, these two meetings should be very well received.

Two websites/events you might want to pursue:

www.portcolumbus.org

River Blast 2002

March 8-10, 2002

Port Columbus National Civil War Naval Museum. The anniversary of the battle of the Monitor and the Virginia. There will be reenactments, living histories, naval displays, and cannon fire...3 x a day!

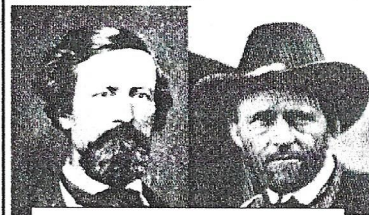
www.hlhunley.org

To join the Friends of the Hunley and to see what is new.

See you on Friday, February 15!

Bill McGrath

April 10, 2002



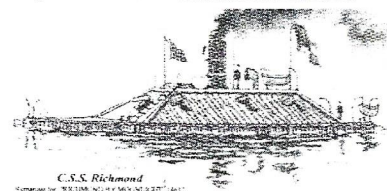
John C. Pemberton > < Ulysses S. Grant

"Unvexed to the Sea"
**The Vicksburg
Campaign**

Terry Winschel

Park Historian, Vicksburg Military Park

May 8, 2002 "Guest Night"



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**Capital
Navy**

*Confederate Navy
guarding Richmond*

John Coski

Historian and Library Director,
Museum of the Confederacy

My experience on the set of **Gods and Generals**

By David R. Thomas

For three weekends this fall, I was on the set for the upcoming film *Gods and Generals*, based on the novel by Jeff Shaara. The film covers the years from John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry up to the Gettysburg Campaign. I have had a wonderful experience working with this movie. The film is bringing back most of the actors to play the same roles in this prequel to *Gettysburg*, including Jeff Daniels as Lieut. Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, Kevin Conway as Sgt. Buster Kilrain, C. Thomas Howell as Lieut. Tom Chamberlain, Brian Mallon as Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock and Patrick Gorman as Gen. John Bell Hood. Stephen Lang will be returning but to play the role of Gen. Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson. New to the film are Bruce Boxleitner as Gen. James Longstreet, Mac Butler as Gen. Joe Hooker and Robert Duvall as Gen. Robert E. Lee. The time I spent on the set was a wonderful experience for me and three of my friends from Gettysburg College Eric Esser, Ian Harkness and John Potter.

The first weekend, Sept. 7-9, Eric, John and I traveled down to Staunton, Virginia to take part in the filming of the Manassas/Bull Run scenes of the film. Even after that first weekend, we had a greater respect for the film industry. We met Stephen Lang aka Stonewall Jackson and Ron Maxwell, director of the film. The filming was exhilarating; ground charges simulating cannon lasts were going off all over the place. Fake men and horses littered the field simulating dead corpses. That weekend gave us the first taste of what this film was going to be about.

The second weekend, Sept. 21-23, Eric, John and I, along with Ian Harkness traveled to Keedysville, Maryland to film the scenes for the Chancellorsville sequences in the film. There we got our picture taken with Stephen Lang. For the majority of the weekend we were playing the role of the 11th Corps being overrun by Jackson and his corps, that required a lot of running. We were set up in a fake camp and when the Confederates charged, we ran "for our lives." It was very exhausting but exciting at the same time. That weekend tested out our endurance and the strength of our legs. After we returned from the Battle of Chancellorsville, we took some time off to concentrate on our schoolwork. Eric and I made the final trip to the film set the weekend of Nov. 30-Dec.2.

The scenes we were there to film were the scenes of the Battle of Fredericksburg, most notably the charge up Marye's Heights. Because the temperature had dropped, we were put up in a KOA campground, which was surprisingly very comfortable. When we arrived Friday evening, we met two fellow reenactors who were bunking in our cabin. There was a guy named Steve from the 5th New York and Alex Johnson from the 140th New York. We had a long discussion about the filming and what to expect that weekend. Both Saturday and Sunday we were woken up at 4 am in order to catch the 5 am bus to the set. We were outfitted with greatcoats and the most "interesting" part was we were sent to wardrobe where we were each told to stand in front of a pool filled with muddy water while wardrobe men flipped it on us with brooms to make us look like we had just crossed the Rappahannock. Then we went to the

set. On Saturday we played the role of Zook's Brigade in Hancock's Division and also the 116th Pennsylvania of the legendary Irish Brigade led by Col. St. Claire Muirholland, played by Tim O'Hare. One particular event that really got our blood flowing was when a ground charge went off about a foot away from us covering us with peat moss, cork and crushed cement. That day was very exciting adding to the fact that Eric and I got our picture taken with Col.



David, Eric, and John with "Stonewall Jackson" (Stephen Lang)

Muirholland. The next day, Dec. 2, we were told we would be portraying the 20th Maine charging up Marye's Heights. Being the 20th Maine allowed us to film with Chamberlain (Jeff Daniels), Col. Adelbert Ames (Matt Letscher), Tom Chamberlain (C. Thomas Howell) and Kilrain (Kevin Conway). That part of the weekend was the most exciting because we got to fire while air bursts and ground charges were going off and men were flying everywhere. The Fredericksburg scenes had to have been the most exciting of the three weekends we participated.

My experience on the set of *Gods and Generals* is an event I will never forget. The film is due to come out November 2002 and plans to be more realistic and graphic than *Gettysburg* mostly because *Gettysburg* was made for television and *Gods and Generals* is being made for the big screen. Plans have already been made to begin filming for the final film in the Shaara trilogy, *Last Full Measure*, which covers the time after Gettysburg until the end of the war. The time I spent on the set of *Gods and Generals* has definitely given me a greater respect for the film industry and what goes into making an epic motion picture like *Gods and Generals*.

David Thomas

Before entering Gettysburg College, David Thomas was a student member of the Cleveland CWRT. Luckily, David's parents John and Lynda Thomas are still active members.



On September 29, 2001, members of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable visited the graves of all three crews of the H.L. Hunley in Charleston, South Carolina. Included in the graves were the Hunley's last Captain Lt. George Dixon and H. L. Hunley himself who died with the second crew.