

The Palmetto



Guardian

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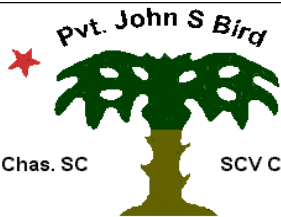
BRIAN LEE MERRILL, EDITOR

Jamie Parks, Commander  
Robert Jackson, Lt. Commander  
Ricky Herndon, Adjutant  
Chris Ross, Treasurer  
Cleon Brown, Chaplain  
Tony Smith, Color Sgt.

[www.scvcamp38.org](http://www.scvcamp38.org)

PO Box 61780

Charleston, SC 29419-1780



Palmetto Guard

Our camp is based in North Charleston, South Carolina. We meet the second Thursday of every month at Breck's on Rivers Avenue at 6:30pm.

**CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS**

"TO YOU, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, WE WILL COMMIT THE VINDICATION OF THE CAUSE FOR WHICH WE FOUGHT. TO YOUR STRENGTH WILL BE GIVEN THE DEFENSE OF THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIER'S GOOD NAME, THE GUARDIANSHIP OF HIS HISTORY, THE EMULATION OF HIS VIRTUES, THE PERPETUATION OF THOSE PRINCIPLES WHICH HE LOVED AND WHICH YOU LOVE ALSO, AND THOSE IDEALS WHICH MADE HIM GLORIOUS AND WHICH YOU ALSO CHERISH."  
- STEPHEN DILL LEE, 1906

**CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AT MAGNOLIA**  
*(PALMETTO GUARDIAN, EDITOR)*

On May 10th, the Private John S. Bird, Jr.—Palmetto Guard Camp #38, Sons of Confederate Veterans held it's first very own Confederate Memorial Day service at 10am at fabled Magnolia Cemetery in downtown Charleston.

Traditionally, the Confederate Heritage Trust (of which the Bird Camp is a member organization) held it's CMD service on May 10th at 10am, followed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy's service at 3pm. However, this year due to the 10th falling on a Saturday, the CHT decided not to hold their usual service and offered the slot to the Bird Camp.

Naturally, we jumped at the chance.



vice, there was a good crowd gathered, somewhere around 40 spectators and participants. Thanks to everyone who helped make our first CMD service a success.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO CHRIS ROSS FOR THE GREAT PHOTOGRAPHY.**



Considering the short notice and our small membership, the service was put together in record time and went off without a hitch. Despite the sparse advertisement of the ser-

## LAST MEETING

- Read the Charge.
- Chaplain Brown gave the opening prayer.
- Color Sergeant Smith lead us in the pledges to the flags.
- Adjutant Herndon gave us the minutes from the last meeting.
- Treasurer Ross gave the treasury report.
- Ricky Herndon has a connection to possibly get flags for Magnolia Cemetery at no cost to the camp.
- Commander Parks and Cleon Brown gave an after-action report on the JROTC - H L Hunley award presented to Jamie Something from North Charleston High School.
- May 9th, we will be reading the Roll of the Dead at the Magnolia Cemetery CMD CHT observance. Our camp's time slot is 6pm to 7pm. Starting at 5pm, our camp will be putting lanterns on the H L Hunley plot and ten other marked graves near the lake.
- May 10th is our camp CMD service at Magnolia Cemetery. Our service will run from 10am to 11am.
- UDC will hold their CMD service at 3pm on May 10th.
- Secession Camp will be holding their CMD services at the French Huguenot Church in Charleston at 7pm.
- Jamie gave a short summary of the Battle of Charleston last month.
- He also gave us a summary of the service for John Ashe in McConnells.
- Jamie updated us on the SCV Division and UDC State Chapter CMD services in Columbia.
- Brian Lee Merrill, 10th Brigade Rep. on the Graves Registrations Committee, brought everyone up to speed on the project to date.
- Cleon gave the closing prayer.
- We sand Dixie and adjourned.

## NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on June 12th at Breck's on Rivers Avenue. The meeting starts at 7pm, but be sure to come early and join us for supper. Our program for June hasn't been determined yet. Please keep up to date by visiting our website at [www.scvcamp38.org](http://www.scvcamp38.org), or contact Commander Jamie Parks at (843) 819-9765.

### WANT TO JOIN UP?

Come to one of our meetings and get with a member to find out how to join up. In the meantime, we encourage you to read about membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans at [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org), or call 1-800-MY-DIXIE (1-800-693-4943).



### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG

I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



### SALUTE TO THE FLAG OF SOUTH CAROLINA

I salute the flag of South Carolina and pledge to the Palmetto State love, loyalty, and faith.



### SALUTE TO THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

I salute the Confederate Flag with affection, reverence, and undying devotion to the cause for which it stands.

## Other 10th Brigade Camp Meetings



### Secession Camp #4

Meets once a month, on the third Tuesday in the month, at 6:30 PM, at the Knights of Pythias building on Belgrade Avenue at Sam Rittenburg Boulevard (Hwy. 7, West Ashley) in Charleston, SC.

[www.scv4.org](http://www.scv4.org)

Cmdr. William Norris (843) 849-9924

### Moultrie Camp #27

Normally meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at The Point Grill, 176 Patriots Point Rd., Mt. Pleasant, SC, at 6:45pm.

[www.scv27.org](http://www.scv27.org)

Cmdr. Howard Chalmers (843) 881-2043

### General Ellison Capers Camp #1212

Meets every 3rd Thursday at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant on Hwy 52 in Moncks Corner, SC. The meeting starts at 7:00pm, come earlier for dinner and to socialize.

<http://camp1212.scv.org>

Cmdr. Cain Griffin (843) 747-7480

### Star of the West Camp #1253

Meets on the 1st Thursday of the month (Sept - April) at Bond Hall, The Citadel, 171 Moultrie Street, Charleston, SC.

Cmdr. Benjamin Norris (843) 849-9924

### Fort Sumter Camp #1269

Meets at the Charleston Club, East Bay Street, Charleston, SC, on 2nd Thursday (irregular).

Cmdr. Thomas Lowndes (843) 723-1688

2008

Year of Davis





**CHUCK NORRED BOWS OUT  
OF COM. IN CHIEF RACE**  
*(SCV NEWS)*

My Brothers,

I thank all of you who have supported me. And sincerely, I want you to know how much it has meant to me, to have your support.

I have been dealing with some personal issues that have caused me to have to reevaluate my candidacy in the upcoming election. Because of these issues, I must decline my candidacy for Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

This decision has been so very difficult for me, because I care deeply for all of you and our Organization. Should I have been elected as your C-I-C, I am now concerned that I would not be able to devote what is needed in time and such, as I feel is required to represent you and our Organization as you deserve.

It is for this reason that I ask you to please understand my reasoning and decision to remove myself and withdraw from my candidacy for Commander-in-Chief.

I ask for your support and prayers for my family and I. I ask for your understanding in the making of this difficult, but necessary decision.

For it has always been of utmost importance to me to serve with complete dedication and place my full attention to that service.

I want you to know how much it means to me for all your efforts in all you have done. I want you all to know that I am sorry to have to send you this message and I hope and pray that you will understand.

I thank you so much for all of your effort. May God Bless you and your families,

Chuck Norred

**HISTORY REVISED BY POLITICAL  
CORRECTNESS IN LOUISIANA**  
*(SCV News)*



*Elm Springs, Columbia, TN, April 14, 2008* - The news of the changes in long-standing proclamations declaring Confederate History and Heritage Month observances in Shreveport and Bossier City, Louisiana has prompted the following statement from Christopher M. Sullivan, Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Confederate Veterans:

"We learned with immense dismay of the mayors of Bossier City and Shreveport, Louisiana, departing from a long-standing tradition of issuing proclamations honoring Confederate History and Heritage Month.

"According to local news accounts they have taken it upon themselves to change the observance to 'Civil War History Month'.

"This is a direct act of political correctness that takes on more serious proportions as it undertakes revising or eliminating true history in America.

"Cities, counties and states annually issue proclamations honoring the various cultures and events that have made the greatness of America. Confederate History and Heritage Month is one of the most widely known throughout the United States with hundreds of proclamations and observances each year which honor the Confederate soldiers who are recognized by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs with the same rights and recognition as all veterans of U. S. service.

"It is indeed disheartening to see the success of this recognition distorted and intentionally eliminated by a small element whose agenda is to impugn or eradicate the history of the Confederate military."

"It is our hope the people of Shreveport and Bossier City will show a spirit of fairness and patriotism by effectively speaking out against censorship and historical revision."

Contact, J. A. Davis, SCV PR & Media Committee, 770 297-4788.

**WAR SERVICE MEDAL MINIATURE  
LAPEL PIN NOW AVAILABLE  
FROM HEADQUARTERS**  
*(SCV IN THE KNOW)*



Based upon a member suggestion, the SCV General Headquarters has developed a War Service Medal (WSM) Lapel Pin which is a miniature version of the medal. Both new WSM recipients, as well as any member who has previously received the award, may order the new lapel pin from the SCV Merchandising Section for a cost of \$10.00 plus the appropriate shipping and handling charge. The lapel pin is shown next to a full-sized War Service Medal.

**'FRIENDS OF THE SCV' PROGRAM,  
APPLICATION READY**  
*(SCV IN THE KNOW)*

As a way to recognize persons who support the SCV, but do not meet the requirements for membership, the GEC previously adopted the "Friends of the SCV" concept. That has now come to fruition. For a minimum initial donation of \$40, the "Friend" will receive a nice certificate and a one-year subscription to the Confederate Veteran. Subsequent donations of \$30 or more each year will maintain their subscription and friendship. Please note that "Friends" are not members, and cannot hold themselves out to be such, or exercise any rights of membership. Visit [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org) for more details.

## CIVIL WAR CANNONBALL KILLS VA RELIC COLLECTOR

(STEVE SZKOTAK - ASSOCIATED PRESS)

CHESTER, Va. - Like many boys in the South, Sam White got hooked on the Civil War early, digging up rusting bullets and military buttons in the battle-scarred earth of his hometown.

As an adult, he crisscrossed the Virginia countryside in search of war-time relics — weapons, battle flags, even artillery shells buried in the red clay. He sometimes put on diving gear to feel for treasures hidden in the black muck of river bottoms.



But in February, White's hobby cost him his life: A cannonball he was restoring exploded, killing him in his driveway.

More than 140 years after Lee surrendered to Grant, the cannonball was still powerful enough to send a chunk of shrapnel through the front porch of a house a quarter-mile from White's home in this leafy Richmond suburb.

White's death shook the close-knit fraternity of relic collectors and raised concerns about the dangers of other Civil War munitions that lay buried beneath old battlefields. Explosives experts said the fatal blast defied extraordinary odds.

"You can't drop these things on the ground and make them go off," said retired Col. John F. Biemeck, formerly of the Army Ordnance Corps.

White, 53, was one of thousands of hobbyists who comb former battlefields for artifacts using metal detectors, pickaxes, shovels and trowels.

"There just aren't many areas in the South in which battlefields aren't located. They're literally under your feet," said Harry Ridgeway, a former relic hunter who has amassed a vast collection. "It's just a huge thrill to pull even a mundane relic out of the

ground."

After growing up in Petersburg, White went to college, served on his local police force, then worked for 25 years as a deliveryman for UPS. He retired in 1998 and devoted most of his time to relic hunting.

He was an avid reader, a Civil War raconteur and an amateur historian who watched History Channel programs over and over, to the mild annoyance of his wife.

"I used to laugh at him and say, 'Why do you watch this? You know how it turned out. It's not going to be any different,'" Brenda White said.

She didn't share her husband's devotion, but she was understanding of his interest.

"True relic hunters who have this passion, they don't live that way vicariously, like if you were a sports fanatic," she said. "Finding a treasure is their touchdown, even if it's two, three bullets."

Union and Confederate troops lobbed an estimated 1.5 million artillery shells and cannonballs at each other from 1861 to 1865. As many as one in five were duds.

Some of the weapons remain buried in the ground or river bottoms. In late March, a 44-pound, 8-inch mortar shell was uncovered at Petersburg National Battlefield, the site of an epic 292-day battle. The shell was taken to the city landfill and detonated.

Black powder provided the destructive force for cannonballs and artillery shells. The combination of sulfur, potassium nitrate and finely ground charcoal requires a high temperature — 572 degrees Fahrenheit — and friction to ignite.

White estimated he had worked on about 1,600 shells for collectors and museums. On the day he died, he had 18 cannonballs lined up in his driveway to restore.

White's efforts seldom raised safety concerns. His wife and son Travis sometimes stood in the driveway as he worked.

"Sam knew his stuff, no doubt about it," said Jimmy Blankenship, historian-curator at the Petersburg battleground. "He did know Civil War ordnance."

An investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will not be complete until the end of May, but police who responded to the blast and examined shrapnel concluded that it came from a Civil War explosive.

Experts suspect White was killed while trying to disarm a 9-inch, 75-pound

naval cannonball, a particularly potent explosive with a more complex fuse and many times the destructive power of those used by infantry artillery.

Biemeck and Peter George, co-author of a book on Civil War ordnance, believe White was using either a drill or a grinder attached to a drill to remove grit from the cannonball, causing a shower of sparks.

Because of the fuse design, it may have appeared as though the weapon's powder had already been removed, leading even a veteran like White to conclude mistakenly that the ball was inert.

The weapon also had to be waterproof because it was designed to skip over the water at 600 mph to strike at the waterline of an enemy ship. The protection against moisture meant the ball could have remained potent longer than an infantry shell.

Brenda White is convinced her husband was working on a flawed cannonball, and no amount of caution could have prevented his death.

"He had already disarmed the shell," she said. "From what I was told, there was absolutely nothing he had done wrong, that there was a manufacturing defect that no one would have known was there."

After White's death, about two dozen homes were evacuated for two days while explosives experts collected pieces from his collection and detonated them.



Today, there is little evidence of the Feb. 18 blast. The garage where White did most of his work is still crammed with his discoveries, many painstakingly restored and mounted. Rusted horseshoes are piled high in the crook of a small tree.

White's digging partner, Fred Lange, hasn't had the heart to return to his relic hunting.

"I truly miss him," Lange said. "Not a day that goes by that I don't think of him."

# Confederate Ingenuity

**Official Records:**  
**“Authority is hereby granted R. S. Williams to raise a light artillery company, to be equipped with Williams’ breech-loading guns, to consist of Kentuckians, under the call of the President and existing law.”**

The first machine-gun type weapon ever used in combat was built for the Confederate War Department in September 1861 by Confederate Captain R.S. Williams.

The Williams breech-loading rapid-fire gun was first used at the Battle of Seven Pines and worked so well that the War Department ordered 42 more of them to be made by Tredger Ironworks. How many were actually fabricated is not known.

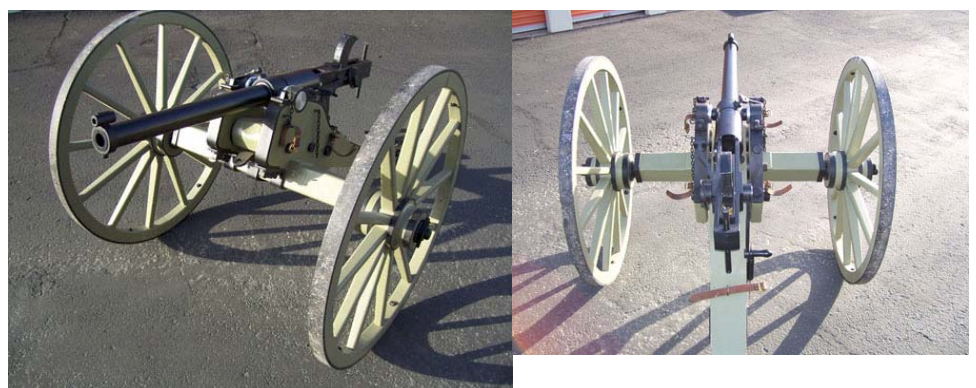
The Williams Gun was mounted on a field carriage and pulled by a single horse. This made it much more mobile and less demanding on provisions such as horses, rigging, and teamsters.

The gun itself was actually a crank-operated, very light artillery piece that fired a one-pound projectile with a range of about 2,000 yards. The gun operated by a lever attached to a revolving cam shaft, which rotated a cylinder. Each time the cylinder turned, a cartridge was dropped into the breech and a sliding hammer struck the cartridge's percussion cap.

It was manned by a crew of three and could fire at a rate of 65 rounds per minute. One operator aimed and fired the weapon by turning the crank, the second placed a paper cartridge into the breech, and the third placed the percussion cap. The major problem with this gun was overheating, which made the breech jam due to heat expansion.



*Original surviving Williams Guns.*



*The above two pictures are of a replica Williams Gun crafted by Spriks Cannon Works.*

Thanks to Mr. Paul Spriks of Spriks Cannon Works for these pictures. Spriks makes full-sized Mountain Howitzers, Williams Guns, 12-pounder Coehorn mortars, beds and carriages for reenactors. Visit them online at [www.spriks-civil-war-cannon-sales.com](http://www.spriks-civil-war-cannon-sales.com), or call at (480) 204-5228.

**MIKE DUMINIAK FOR C-I-C**  
(SCV NEWS)



Compatriots,

As I am sure you know, Cmdr. Norred was running for C.i.C. but was compelled to withdrawal for personal reasons. I was asked by several Compatriots to continue that campaign and platform as its candidate and after reflection, I accepted that challenge. There are some very important issues facing us in the SCV that are at the core of this election and this campaign.

The most significant of these issues is membership. Our numbers continue to decline. With the average member well past the minimum age needed to get a senior discount, we need to face the unpleasant fact that many of the Compatriots who shoulder the work to keep us doing our duty may not be with us by the end of the Sesquicentennial, seven years from now. Our failure to increase our numbers through recruitment combined with our continued retention problems has placed us in a serious position of jeopardy. If we do not make significant and dramatic progress on those fronts soon, we will literally die off. The strategy we are following in this area is clearly not working and we all know that if you keep doing what you've been doing, you'll keep getting what you've got. We must do better and we can do better.

A related issue is morale and involvement. While it certainly easy to cite examples of very active Camps and successful Division level projects, they demonstrate the dedication of some very hard working Compatriots rather than evidence of a motivated and involved membership at large. We all know that it is a challenge to keep members active and engaged. Unfortunately, our success in keeping members involved and motivated has continually waned since its peak when

we pulled together to save our organization. This weakened morale also plays itself out in our retention problems and combined with the upcoming dues increase could mean the loss of many Compatriots who just don't feel like the SCV is worth the money anymore when times are tough. We cannot allow that happen and our success in any of our heritage efforts hinges on an active membership.

That brings us to the third major issue facing us: namely our continued attrition in the war being waged against our heritage. There are some notable successes that highlight the way to a winning strategy such as the private land purchase program with its flag raisings. That program is fundamentally a local and Division effort supported by national as needed. By being locally run and focused, it serves not only to accomplish its primary mission to advance our heritage, but it also serves to motivate and energize existing members to keep them involved and to demonstrate to potential new recruits that the SCV is actively advancing heritage in their area. We need to apply that same methodology across the board in our heritage efforts so that we can not only defend against attacks effectively, but also wage a counter-offensive that will put our enemies on the defensive for a change. We also need to increase our efforts at winning the fight for our Heritage through education. If we don't combat the system which educates people with false myths about our heritage, we won't have the base to win ballot measures or to even to recruit from in the future.

Finally, we need to greatly reduce the amount of time and effort spent on infighting. We are destroying ourselves more successfully than the outside forces arrayed against us. We are all strong-willed and opinionated men. That is what drives us to stand up and fight for our heritage against such a determined and often underhanded foe. We need to understand that and ac-

cept that there will always be members within the SCV who strongly and vocally disagree with any given course or any given officer. It is a poor leader who sacrifices the effectiveness of his force to solve a personal dispute. We need to work together and to find ways to resolve our differences through the chain of command. Surely if such a threat as the past coup rose again, we must be ready and able to act swiftly to stop it. But, when our national leadership is distracted by settling personal differences with Camp level officers, surely we have lost focus on our primary mission.

These are serious issues that need to be discussed and resolved quickly. We cannot simply ignore them and continue down the same path we are on, hoping that things will turn around and fix themselves. Our numbers are down. Our morale and involvement is declining. Our Heritage strategy is hit or miss. The level of intensity of infighting has become a national level distraction. Beyond these four key issues are host of related issues from media relations to financial stability. We united and proved to ourselves what kind of potent force we can be just a few years ago. We need that same determination and fire now. We need a revival of our organization away from a corporate viewpoint to a fighting force. We must make that commitment. We can make that commitment. I am running for Commander-in-Chief to provide the leadership and drive to make sure that we will make that commitment.

Together we can succeed!

Respectfully,

Mike Duminiak

Candidate for Commander-in-Chief

<http://elect.duminiak.com>



**CONFEDERATE HERITAGE  
TRUST CMD ACTIVITY**  
(PALMETTO GUARDIAN, EDITOR)

As a member group of the Confederate Heritage Trust, the Bird Camp has certain responsibilities to take care of during the year. Of course, Confederate Memorial Day is a biggie.

We were given the honor of lighting lanterns and ...

(continued on page 7)



# IN MEMORY OF OUR CONFEDERATE ANCESTORS

Pvt. Marcus Lauriston Baldwin  
Co G, 11th SC Reserves (90 days,  
1862-63)  
14th SC Militia

Pvt. Daniel W Bodiford  
Howell's Co, GA Light Artillery

Pvt. Jesse Brown  
Co B, 114th SC Volunteer Infantry

Pvt. Edmond C Cribb  
Co A, 21st SC Volunteer Infantry

Pvt. Moses Davis  
Gist Guard Heavy Artillery

Pvt. Joel J Dobbins  
Co I, 50th NC Volunteer Infantry

Pvt. Phillip Herndon  
Co A, 3rd SC Cavalry

Pvt. Warren Middleton Hughes  
Co F, 2nd SC Heavy Artillery

Sgt. John Owens  
Co A, 21st SC Volunteer Infantry

Cpl. John Owens  
Co A, 21st SC Volunteer Infantry

Pvt. Tilmon Poole  
Co. I, 20th SC Volunteer Infantry

Pvt. Wainberry Ross  
Co B, 11th SC Reserves

Capt. Hugo Grotius Sheridan  
4th SC Cavalry

Pvt. Jesse William Smith  
Co G, 20th SC Volunteer Infantry

Cpl. Thomas W B Smith  
Co G, 20th SC Volunteer Infantry

Pvt. Ezekiel Starnes  
Co I, 20th SC Volunteer Infantry

Pvt. George Washington Wimberly  
Co H, 11th SC Volunteer Infantry

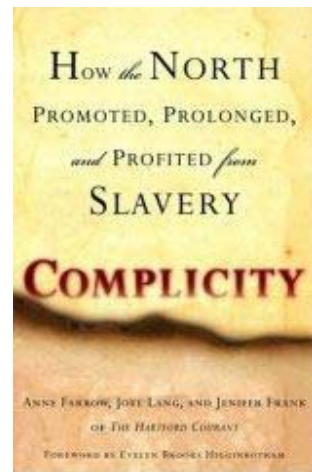
## IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN CAMP COMPATRIOT



WAYNE "DOC" MURRAY, 2008

### "COMPLICITY" AVAILABLE FROM THE SCV STORE (SCV NEWS)

The SCV merchandise operation and book store currently sells a book called "Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged and Profited from Slavery" which was written by three New England journalists and accurately tells the rest of the story about Slavery and the North's part in it. This is a hard bound book which you will want for your library, and it may be purchased new from the SCV for \$25.95 plus shipping and handling.



Additionally, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) carries a TV show entitled Tony Brown's Journal on which he interviewed one of the

authors during a segment that was most recently aired on Sunday May 18th. Part two of this show will be aired on Sunday, May 25, 2008 at 12:30 PM on the East Coast. The title of this week's segment is "Southern Slavery A Northern Lie?" You should check your local listings to find the correct time to watch this interesting and informative show.

Finally, for an academic introduction to the topic of Northern slavery, visit <http://slavenorth.com/>.

### CHT CMD ACTIVITY

*(continued from page 6)*

placing them on the graves of the Hunley crews resting at Magnolia Cemetery, as well as some soldiers resting near the lake in the middle of the cemetery. Thanks to Jamie Parks, Ricky Herndon, Chris Ross, Tony Smith, and Cleon Brown for volunteering to represent our camp and getting their hands dirty in honor of our Confederate ancestors.

[www.csatrust.org](http://www.csatrust.org)



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**Comments, Questions, Submissions, Criticisms? Contact the Editor!**

Remember, this is OUR camp's newsletter. Help make it bigger, better, and more personalized by submitting your articles, stories, and histories relating to our shared Confederate heritage. Have an idea that you think will improve the Palmetto Guardian? Please send it along. Do you want to write your own monthly column? Please contact me!

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