

Confederate Gazette

Hunley Being Revealed

According to *Civil War News*, for the first time in over 150 years parts of the hull of the Confederate submarine, the *H.L. Hunley*, is once again visible. The submarine was raised in 2000 and since then has been undergoing conservation removing concretion which covered the vessel.

Currently the conservation effort is centering on the wrought iron pieces that largely compose the *Hunley's* hull. The *Civil War News* reports that uncovering the hull's surface will enable researchers to better under-

stand how the submarine appeared, how it operated, and what happened to the hull to cause it to sink.



Photo of a worker removing concretion from the hull of the Hunley. The smooth part is the Hunley's original hull surface. (Photo from Friends of the Hunley)

The deconcretion effort is near the end of the planned conservation activities for the *Hunley* and is expected

to take eight to twelve months.

The *Hunley* was built at Mobile, Alabama, and launched in July 1863. On February 17, 1864, the *Hunley* attacked and sank the sloop *USS Housatonic* on Union blockade duty in Charleston, South Carolina's outer harbor. Soon after, the *Hunley* sank, killing all eight of her third crew.

The submarine is the property of the U.S. Navy and the current conservation program has been approved by the Navy.

State of Texas Fighting the SCV

Now in its fifth year the State of Texas has appealed the decision of 5th Circuit Court of Appeals' panel in New Orleans which ruled in favor of the SCV to allow the sale of SCV license plates in Texas with the SCV logo. The State of Texas has appealed, all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

According to the *Dallas Morning News*, Texas Attor-

ney General Greg Abbott's office said that the court erred, leaving it unclear whether Texas could exclude "profanity, sacrilege or overt racism."

"The notion that the Constitution requires states to maintain viewpoint neutrality when deciding whether to issue specialty license plates is unworkable and leads to absurdities," the

state said.

Nine other Southern states now allow a SCV license plate. In seven of the nine states the SCV had to sue to get the plates available for sale.

For the most part the courts have declared the SCV logo and the Confederate image as private speech that the government cannot restrict.



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CONFEDERATE PROFILE

3rd Texas Cavalry Commander



George Washington Chilton

Chilton moved to Texas about 1851

He was a gifted orator who could bring his listening audience to tears or to laughter. He was also a pro-slavery man who thought all blacks should be put to hard labor. This attitude combined with being a gifted speaker made this Texan a powerful force in leading Texas out of the Union.

George Washington Chilton was born June 4, 1828, in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, to Thomas P. Chilton and Francis Tribble Stoner Chilton. The elder Chilton was a former member of the House of Representatives, an attorney and later a well-known Baptist minister. While in Congress George's father roomed with Davy Crockett and would be the ghost writer on Crockett's 1834 biography.

Young George would move with his family to Talladega, Alabama about 1839. George briefly attended Howard College at Marion, Alabama, but with the outbreak of the Mexican War he

enlisted as a private in a First Texas Mounted Rifles under Colonel John Hays. After the war Chilton returned to Alabama and studied law being admitted to the bar in 1848. He practiced law in Talladega until 1851 when he moved to Texas settling in Tyler. He married Ella Goodman of Tyler they would have three children, two of which would survive to adulthood. His first born, son Horace, would be the first native Texan to serve in the US Congress in the House of Representatives and he would later serve in the US Senate.

George practiced law in Tyler and was a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle, a secret organization dedicated to not only protecting slavery, but expanding it. He owned five slaves and he had very strong pro-slavery views including a desire to reopen slave trade. Chilton felt every white man should own a black slave and that the life of a slave in America was preferable, in spite of

the hard labor, than the "barbaric" life of an African.

As war flames loomed in 1861 Chilton served as a delegate to the Texas Secession Convention. Following Texas leaving the Union Chilton began recruiting men for the Confederate cause. The *Dallas Herald* reported that Chilton "raised 100 men and marched 120 miles — all within the space of six days! This is unparalleled, we believe, in the history of volunteer armies. The genius of the man, leads him to promptness, and his energy will ensure success." Chilton and his volunteers joined the 3rd Texas Cavalry. The men elected the officers, and voted Chilton a major.

Chilton commanded a battalion of the regiment at the battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri, on August 10, 1861, and received a slight head wound at the Battle of Chustenahlah in the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) on

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Chilton and Baylor

George Washington Chilton's father Thomas was a very well-known Baptist preacher. He was serving as the pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Talladega, Alabama. His maternal cousin, Robert Emmett Bledsoe (REB) Baylor, attended a revival lead by Chilton..

During the revival meeting, Chilton led his REB Baylor to Christ and baptized him.

REB Baylor would eventually move to Texas where he co-founded Baylor University and Baylor Female College, now the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB), in 1845.

Baylor would also serve as a traveling judge with his Bible in one hand and the laws of Texas in the other. Baylor is buried on the UMHB campus.

Thomas Chilton's son and George's half-brother was Lysias B. Chilton the founder of Chilton Texas in central Texas.

October Camp Meeting

By Michael E. Belcher

Charles Oliver, Camp Commander of the General Felix H. Robertson Camp No. 129 of Waco, was the guest speaker at the October camp meeting.



James Al Harris assists in installing three new Camp members at the October Camp meeting, Mason Wayne DuBose of Temple along with Matthew Cyrus Walters and his son Michael Stephen Walters of Temple were sworn in. (Photo by Steve Wooley)

He spoke about Alexander Hamilton Stephens, the Vice President of the Confederacy, who was born on February 11, 1812.

Stephens was a teacher, slave owner, politician, lawyer, U. S. Congressman, State Senator, and Governor. He was a "Unionist" at first, and then later a "States Rights" supporter. He was a U. S. Congressman before the war, and reluctantly accepted the Vice

Presidency position of the Confederacy; as he had previously turned down Stephen Douglas for Vice President, in his run for the Presidency.

If he had accepted that posi-

tion, because of his popularity, Lincoln would probably not have been elected. He promoted railroads, was not for dividing the union, yet was not an abolitionist. He publically criticized Jefferson Davis' administration. He was one of three Confederate commissioners who met with Lincoln on the steamer River Queen at the Hampton Roads Conference, on a fruitless effort to discuss

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Commander

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the day after Christmas in 1861. The Confederates pushed pro-Union Seminoles and Creeks out of Indian Territory north into Kansas.

In May of 1862 with their one-year enlistments up the 3rd Texas Cavalry reorganized and Chilton was not reelected. He left the army for a while, as his enlistment was up as well. We next hear from Chilton in 1863 when he returns as a captain and ordnance officer on the staff of Brigadier General Hamilton Bee. He would no longer see any front line action but was involved in an incident in 1863. Chilton led about 150 men after three Union officers of the Federal 1st Texas Cavalry who had escaped into the "safety" of Mexico. Chilton crossed the border and hunted them down. Three were captured but one of the men was lynched and some claim, likely untrue, was then decapitated.

He remained in uniform until July 1865, when he, somewhat surprisingly, signed an oath of allegiance to the federal government. In 1866 he was

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Chilton Chases Yankees into Mexico

Camp Schedule

November 11, 2014

Regular Camp Meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall, 7:00 PM. Speaker: Steve Foreman, subject to be determined.

December 12, 2014

Camp Christmas Meeting at Oscar Store, 8133 Oscar Spur,

Temple, TX, 6:00 PM Social, Meeting starts at 7:00 PM Special guest speaker: Ms. Susan Hathaway from the Virginia Flagggers organization.

January 17, 2014

27th Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner, Gober Party House 6:30



PM Social with Dinner at 7:00 PM. Speaker: Jeff Murrah, Topic: Secession

Next Camp Meeting:
November 11th
Cotton Patch Café
Temple Mall
6:00 PM Social
7:00 PM Meeting

Confederate Gazette

P.O. Box 794 Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting: November 11th Cotton Patch Cafe 7:00 PM

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Special December Meeting

The Major Robert M. White Camp #1250 will hold a special December meeting at the Oscar Store on Friday December 12th. The Camp is honored to have Ms.



Susan Hathaway

Susan Hathaway from the Virginia Flaggers organization as the featured speaker.

The Oscar Store is located at Little Elm Creek and Farm Road 3117, (8133 Oscar Spur), about six miles east of Temple. The meal will be \$14.00 per person and served buffet style.

3rd Texas Cavalry Commander



Chilton, post war

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elected to the House of Representatives from Texas but the Radical Republicans refused to seat him, using the enhanced story of the three Union officers' capture against him.

In 1876 he was a presidential elector on the Democratic ticket. Some accounts report that Chilton was bothered by the lynching and exaggerated stories and turned to alcohol. He died in Tyler on August 10, 1884 at the age of 56. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Tyler.

October Camp Meeting

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measures to bring an end to the war.

Stephens was elected U.S. Congressman, and later State Senator, and later still, Governor of Georgia after the war, and later died in office as Governor on March 4, 1883. His presentation was well received by the Camp membership and guests in attendance.

Three new members were sworn into the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Major Robert M. White, Camp No. 1250. They are Matthew Cyrus Walters and his son Michael Stephen Walters of Temple, Texas, who joined on their 3rd and 4th Great Grandfather ancestor; Ben-

jamin DeLane Walters, a private in Company C, 7th Battalion, Mississippi Infantry Volunteers.



Newest Camp Cadet member, Michael Stephen Walters of Temple. (Photo by Steve Wooley)

Also, Mason Wayne DuBose of Temple, who joined on his 4th Great Grandfather ancestor; James Lafayette DuBose, a Sergeant in Company E, 12th Arkansas Cavalry Regiment (also known as Wright's).

Commander Jimmy Dossey conducted the ceremony.