

THE CIVIL WAR REPORTER

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**MCCWRT
PRESENTATION
AND
GENERAL MEETING**
AT THE
**WOODSTOCK PUBLIC
LIBRARY**
414 WEST JUDD STREET
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

TUESDAY
JULY 11, 2017
7:00 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M

SHOW & TELL

IF YOU HAVE
AN ITEM YOU WANT
TO SHOW

(NO WEAPONS PLEASE)

BRING IT TO SHOW, THEN
TELL THE AUDIENCE
ABOUT IT!

OR

IF YOU HAVE
VISITED A CIVIL WAR SITE
OR
READ A NEW BOOK
ON THE CIVIL WAR,
PLEASE
SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE
WITH US.

**MCHENRY COUNTY
CIVIL WAR ROUND
TABLE
CELEBRATES
TWENTY YEARS**
JUNE 10, 1997 - JUNE 10, 2017

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
AND MCHENRY COUNTY.

FOUNDED AT
UNION, MCHENRY COUNTY,
ILLINOIS BY
**DR. EDWARD F. WILT
JR.**

THE LEGACY OF



CONTINUES ON!

**ALL MCCWRT PAID UP
MEMBERS**

GET YOUR VERY OWN
20 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY COFFEE CUP
TODAY!

**CONTACT DON PURN FOR
DETAILS**

**MCCWRT
DISCUSSION GROUP**
AT THE
**PANERA BREAD
COMPANY**
6000 NORTHWEST HIGHWAY
CRYSTAL LAKE, ILLINOIS

SATURDAY
JULY 29, 2017
10 A.M. TO NOON

**20
SIGNIFICANT
EVENTS
THAT AFFECTED
THE
CIVIL WAR**

**SIGNIFICANT DATES FILL IN THE
BLANKS**

NOVEMBER 6, 1860-

FEBRUARY 9, 1861- APRIL 12, 1861-
JULY 21, 1861-

FEBRUARY 6, 1862- MARCH 8, 1862-
APRIL 24, 1862- AUGUST 29, 1862-
SEPTEMBER 5, 1862- SEPTEMBER 17,
1862- DECEMBER 13, 1862-

MAY 2, 1863- JULY 2, & JULY 4, 1863-

SEPTEMBER 2, 1864-

APRIL 9, 1865- APRIL 14, 1865-
APRIL 27, 1865

MCCWRT

JUNE PRESENTATION IN REVIEW

Nashville – The Siren's Song of (for) the Confederacy. Just as the Sirens in the Odyssey attempted to lure Ulysses and his sailors to their death, so did Nashville, after it was occupied by the Union, repeatedly lured the Confederacy to re-take it.

War was won by the North in the western theater. The Eastern Theater was mostly a sideshow/stalemate. The enemy's army should be your true objective, not a capital.

On Feb 25, 1862, Nashville fell to the Union. For the rest of the war it was the focal point for both sides. Subsequently, the Confederacy made five attempts to re-take Nashville.

Background: Kentucky was a key state. It bordered the Ohio River on the north and was the gateway, geographically and through its 3 south-flowing rivers (Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland) to the south. In 1861 Kentucky was divided in its loyalties. It had a pro-southern governor (Magoffin) and a pro-confederacy Kentucky State Guard. At the same time, it had a pro-Union legislature and a pro-union Home Guard. As a result, Kentucky professed to be neutral.

When the Union captured Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River, the Union army moved down to Edgefield, Tennessee, on the north bank of the Cumberland River across from Nashville and waited for the Union gunboats to come up the river. Once the gunboats came in the city officials surrendered the city. The Union army commander is Don Carlos Buell. Nashville became the largest Union supply depot of the Civil War. The Union army constructed Fort Negly, which became a large supply depot. As a result, the Confederates had to abandon Kentucky and were ordered by A.S Johnston to concentrate at Corinth, Mississippi. Many in the Kentucky State Guard left Kentucky to join them and became part of the Orphan Brigade. Attempt No 1. April 6-7 The Confederates attacked Union forces at Shiloh/Pittsburg Landing. A.S. Johnston is killed, Confederates are defeated.

The Union Army under Ormsby Mitchell threatens Chattanooga and Union forces under Henry Halleck capture Corinth.

Attempt No. 2. Bragg is appointed commander of the main Confederate western army and retreats to Tupelo. From there he moves to Chattanooga. In August 1862 Bragg agrees with Confederate general Edmund Kirby Smith's proposal to invade Kentucky. Smith moves to eastern Kentucky and Bragg moves to central Kentucky. To counter, the Union is forced to pull most of its troops from middle Tennessee and northern Alabama, but it holds onto Nashville. Bragg's forces fight the Federals under Buell at Perryville, which is a Confederate tactical victory but strategic defeat. Bragg and Smith leave Kentucky, and the Union holds onto Nashville.

Attempt No. 3. Stones River. Bragg takes up a position in middle Tennessee at Murphreesboro. Unfortunately for Bragg, Confederate general Carter Stevenson's division has been moved from Bragg's army and sent to Mississippi. Union General William S. Rosecrans, who has replaced Buell as commander of the Army of the Cumberland, moves to meet Bragg. Both commanders plan to attack but Bragg strikes first on December 31, 1862. Confederates have success on the first day, but the Union stays put and digs in and bloodily repels a Confederate attack on Jan 2, 1863. Bragg is forced to retreat to the area around Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Attempt No 4. Beginning in late June, 1863 and continuing through September, 1863 Rosecrans, maneuvered Bragg out of Middle Tennessee and Chattanooga, Tennessee. Rosecrans captured Chattanooga, the gateway to Atlanta and the middle south, and continued on into northwest Georgia. Bragg attempted to go around Rosecrans' left and cut him off from Chattanooga. If successful, he could continue past Rosecrans and possibly continue up to Nashville. Bragg defeats Rosecrans at Chickamauga but Rosecrans is able to retreat to and hold on to Chattanooga. Bragg lays siege to Chattanooga but suffers defeat at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. Bragg is forced to give up the siege and retreat to northern Georgia.

Bragg is replaced by Joseph Johnston. Jefferson Davis urges Johnston to move into Tennessee and re-take Nashville. Johnston replies that his Army of Tennessee is in bad shape and needs to recuperate. Northern general W.T Sherman is placed in command of the Union armies facing Johnston's army. Sherman moves against Johnston and Atlanta. Johnston is replaced as army commander by John B. Hood. Sherman captures Atlanta on September 2, 1864.

Attempt No. 5. Hood attempts to draw Sherman out of Atlanta by attacking his supply lines. Hood is unsuccessful and Jefferson Davis agrees to

go further north and capture Nashville. Sherman sends two army corps under General George Thomas to defend middle Tennessee and Nashville and then Sherman starts out on his march to the sea.

Hood moves west to Tusculum, Alabama and waited for Confederate cavalry under Nathan B. Forrest. He departed Florence, Alabama and crossed into Tennessee with 40,000 infantrymen and 6000 cavalrymen under Forrest. on November 21, 1864. There he chased and tried to cut off Union General John Schofield's command of 30,000, which had been ordered to retreat from southern Tennessee and join Thomas's troops in Nashville.

Hood chases Schofield to Spring Hill and then to Franklin where Hood ordered an assault that was bloodily repulsed. Schofield retreated to join Thomas in Nashville, and Hood pursued and began to entrench his army south of Nashville. His soldiers had trouble digging trenches due to the frozen ground and large limestone deposits in the ground. His force was too small to attack Thomas but if he retreated his army would be depleted by desertions. Finally, on December 15 and 16, 1864, Thomas relentlessly attacked Hood and utterly defeated him. Hood's army, greatly diminished, was forced to retreat back to Alabama.

The fifth Confederate attempt to recapture Nashville was a dismal failure.

JIM STANNIS

DON'T FORGET THE MIDWEST CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONGRESS

SATURDAY JULY 22, 2017

**THE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM
5400 FIRST AVENUE
KENOSHA, WISCONSIN**

**FREE ADMISSION TO
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

INSIDE CIVIL WAR SUB: GEARS, CRANKS – AND A TOOTH

From Fox Business News



When it was raised in 2000, the *HL Hunley* looked a bit like the [Flying Dutchman](#). Encrusted in a rock-hard layer of sand and shell, the hand-powered Civil War submarine that slumbered off Charleston, SC, for almost 140 years had to be painstakingly [soaked and cleaned](#). But after three years of scrubbing, the first sub to sink an enemy ship is finally beginning to gleam. "It looks like a submarine now, as opposed to a corroded artifact," Michael Scafuri, the lead archaeologist of the project at Clemson University's Warren Lasch Conservation Center, tells the [Post and Courier](#). Most of the concretion that remains is in the interior, but even that is being peeled away to reveal gears, cranks, and some surprises—like a human tooth. Scafuri tells [WCSC](#) that the tooth, corroded to the iron of a crank handle, belonged to crew member Frank Collins, who was found to be missing several teeth when his remains were buried in 2004. It would've detached long after the Confederate sub sank on Feb. 17, 1864, just after downing the Union's *Housatonic*. Removing layers of debris also revealed cloth and metal on cranks that would've protected hands from chafing, but why the sub sank remains a mystery.

"We will always have an element of uncertainty," says Scafuri. For now, "everything is on the table within reason." A 2016 study determined it was unlikely that the crew members suffocated and that the sub sank as a result, as per the [Charleston City Paper](#).

CONTRIBUTED BY JEEF REESE

H. L. HUNLEY (SUBMARINE)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The *H. L. Hunley* was a [submarine](#) of the [Confederate States of America](#) that played a small part in the [American Civil War](#). The *Hunley* demonstrated all of the advantages and the dangers of undersea warfare. She was the first combat submarine to sink a warship, although the *Hunley* was not completely submerged and, following her successful attack, was lost along with her crew before she could return to base. The Confederacy lost 21 crewmen in three sinkings of the *Hunley* during her very short career. She was named for her inventor, [Horace Lawson Hunley](#), shortly after she was taken into government service under the control of the [Confederate States Army](#) at [Charleston, South Carolina](#).

The *Hunley*, nearly 40 feet (12 m) long, was built at [Mobile, Alabama](#), and launched in July 1863. She was then shipped by rail on August 12, 1863, to [Charleston, South Carolina](#). The *Hunley* (then called *Fish Boat*) sank on August 29, 1863, during a test run, killing five members of her crew. She sank again on October 15, 1863, killing all eight of her second crew, including Horace Hunley himself, who was aboard at the time, even though he was not a member of the Confederate military. Both times the *Hunley* was raised and returned to service. On February 17, 1864, The *Hunley* attacked and sank the 1240-short ton (1124 metric tons) [screw sloop USS Housatonic](#), which had been on [Union blockade](#)-duty in Charleston's outer harbor. Soon afterwards, the *Hunley* sank, killing all eight of her third crew.

Finally located in 1995, the *Hunley* was finally raised in 2000 and is now on display in [North Charleston, South Carolina](#), at the [Warren Lasch Conservation Center](#) on the [Cooper River](#).



Upon very close examination, in 2012, of recovered *Hunley* artifacts which had suggested that the submarine was as close as 20 feet to her torpedoed target, the *Housatonic*, when her deployed ordinance exploded, which eventually led most experts to believe that was the cause of the sub's own demise.

Disappearance

After the attack, the *H.L. Hunley* failed to return to her base. There is evidence that *Hunley* survived as long as one hour following the attack at about 8:45 p.m. The day after the attack, the commander of "Battery Marshall" reported that he had received "the signals" from the submarine indicating she was returning to her base. The report did not say what the signals were. A postwar correspondent wrote that "two blue lights" were the prearranged signals, and a lookout on board of the *Housatonic* reported he saw a "blue light" on the water after his ship sank. "Blue light" in 1864 referred to a [pyrotechnic signal](#) in long use by the U.S. Navy. It has been falsely represented in published works as a blue lantern, even though the lantern found on the recovered the *H.L. Hunley* had a clear, not a blue, lens. Pyrotechnic "blue light" could be seen easily over the four-mile distance between Battery Marshall and the site of the *Hunley*'s attack on the *Housatonic*.

After signaling, Dixon would have taken his submarine underwater to make a return to Sullivan's Island. What happened next is unknown. Although the finders of the *Hunley* suggested she was unintentionally rammed by the USS *Canandaigua* when that [warship](#) was going to rescue the crew of *Housatonic*, no such damage was found. . Another possibility is that the torpedo was not detonated on command, but instead malfunctioned because of damage suffered during the underwater attack. The intention was for the torpedo to be detonated about 150 feet (46 meters) away. However, witnesses stated that the submarine was no more than 100 feet (30 meters) away when her torpedo exploded.