

" Remembering Yesterday For The People Of Tomorrow "



Bulletin

WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

P.O. Box 118 • Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

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July 2016

We meet on the third MONDAY of January, April, July, and October - at 7:00pm

STAR-SPANGLED AMERICAN HERO-



As you may know, our July meeting presentation is usually one of a patriotic nature, coming on the heels of our Nation's birthday celebration. This year is no exception. We are honored to host Mr. Ralph W. Galati- Vietnam veteran and Director of Veteran's Services for Saint Joseph's University, to address our group. A decorated veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Ralph's plane was shot down over Vietnam in 1972. He was captured and taken to Hanoi where he spent 14 months in the prison that became known as the "Hanoi Hilton". Join us to learn about his experiences during the Vietnam War, service in the military,

and his ongoing support of all men and women in uniform; especially our disabled veterans. We hope to see you at the July membership meeting!



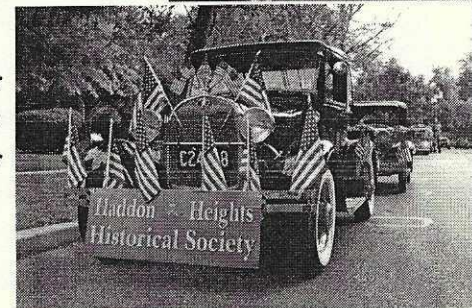
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-

I hope everyone is enjoying the glorious summer days!!!!!!!!!!!!!! A special "Thank You" to Ken Funkhouser and his antique car, "Florence". They represented the Haddon Heights Historical Society in the Fourth of July Parades in Haddon Heights, Haddonfield, and Haddon Township.



Congratulations to Doug Michell and his wife on the birth of their son, Harris Alexander. He is our youngest Historical Society member!!!!!!!!!!!!!! As the temperature rises, I hope you will join us in the air

conditioned Haddon Heights Library on Monday, July 18 at 7 P. M. We welcome Mr. Ralph Galati and thank him for his service. Let us all remember the brave men and women who have, and continue to serve our country. *Elena*

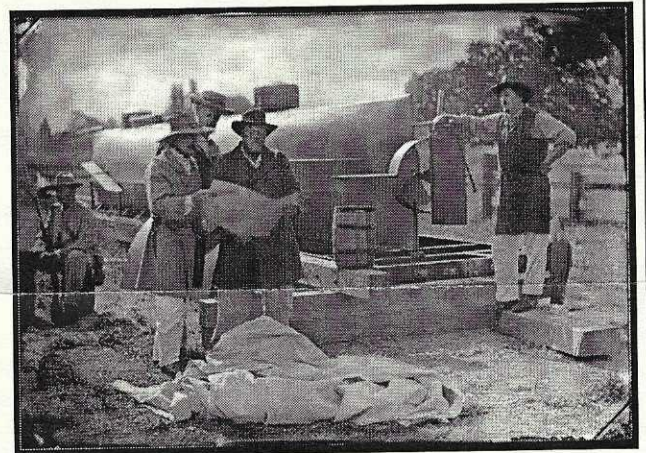


HL HUNLEY- PART II- Our last newsletter covered the first two disastrous attempts to test the revolutionary submersible warship- HL Hunley. Two crews of eight men each, perished in pursuit of the Confederate goal of breaking the Union blockade of Charleston Harbor. The submarine's creator Mr. H.L Hunley was killed as he ac

accompanied the second crew. The desperation of the times kept hope alive that the Hunley could save Charleston from the strangling blockade. Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard had grave concerns over the twice fatal experimental ship. At the urging of Lt. George Dixon, he nevertheless approved the Hunley to be salvaged by divers and pulled up by ships so she could again attempt a strike at the Union blockade. General Beauregard wrote, "After this tragedy I refused to permit the boat to be used again; but Lieutenant Dixon, a brave and determined man, having returned to Charleston, applied to me for authority to use it against the Federal steam sloop-of-war Housatonic, a powerful new vessel, carrying eleven guns of the largest caliber, which lay at that time in the north channel opposite Beach Inlet, materially obstructing the passage of our blockade-runners, in and out".

A courageous crew had already assembled after the second sinking and Lt. Dixon would command the Hunley and her crew on what would become their historic mission. For a long time, little was known about members of the final Hunley crew. Since the Hunley was a venture with close ties to the Confederate Secret Service, many records were intentionally destroyed at the end of the war to protect the identities of those involved. In 2001, forensic genealogist Linda Abrams began a massive research project to discover as much as possible about the group of submarine pioneers that navigated the Hunley into world history. Her research, coupled with the archeological and forensic data is allowing new details about the crew to emerge.

So it was that on February 17, 1864, four miles off Beach Inlet in Sullivan's Island, that the Housatonic was to become the target of the first successful military attack by a submarine, in history. There was a cold, bone chilling quiet on the moonlit sea as the Lookout aboard the Union Navy's largest ship was tired, cold, and restless. The talk of a Confederate secret weapon was in and out of his thoughts. Suddenly, he spotted something moving in the chilly waters. A porpoise? There were certainly a lot of them around. But something about this one didn't seem right. While the cold bit through the night lookout's coat, 8 men poured sweat over hand cranks that powered a spinning propeller while their captain manned the dive planes; steering men, iron, anxiety and raw courage toward its final destination.



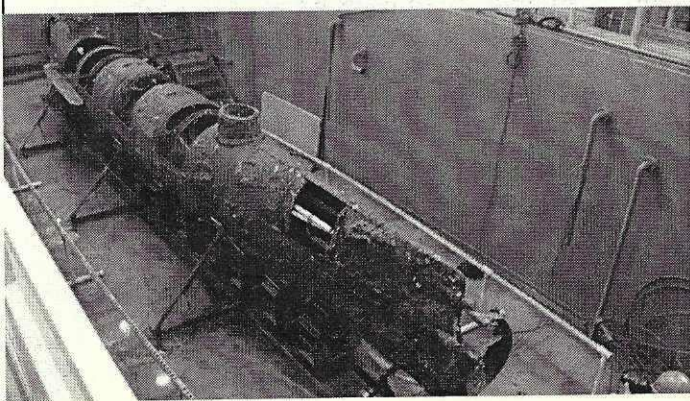
The alarm rang out. This was definitely no porpoise. Nor was it debris floating from a war-torn Fort Sumter. This was something bizarre. The ship's cannons could not target an object so low in the water. Shots rang out and bullets ricocheted as other Union sailors joined in the frantic firing of revolvers and rifles. The object continued to approach the ship at a speed of about three knots. Below the waterline, as bullets bounced off its cylindrical body, the H.L. Hunley rammed her long metal spar into the stern area of the Housatonic, planting a 135 pound torpedo into the warship. The men inside the Hunley lunged forward from the impact, then quickly backed their sub out as the 150 foot long attached detonation rope played out. Within seconds, the world rocked and every man, above and below, became enveloped in a concussion of destruction.

The explosion caused the USS Housatonic to burn for three minutes before sending the sloop-of-war collapsing to the bottom, killing five sailors. The Hunley then surfaced long enough for her crew to signal their comrades on the shore of Sullivan's Island with a blue magnesium light, indicating a successful mission. The shore crew stoked their signal fires and anxiously awaited the Hunley's safe return.. But minutes after her historic achievement, the Hunley and all hands onboard vanished into the sea without a trace.

That night, history was made. At the same time a mystery was born. The Hunley became the first submarine ever to sink an enemy ship. But why had she suddenly disappeared? What caused her to sink? And, would she ever be found? Since the end of the War Between the States, explorers and treasure seekers have scoured the sea around the site of the fallen Housatonic, hoping to discover the Hunley and her crew. In the years following the Civil War, a reward of \$100,000 was even offered by the great showman P.T. Barnum,

to encourage mercenaries to find the lost vessel. As the years passed by, the story of the Hunley remained shrouded in mystery with her secrets hidden and her resting place unknown for well over a century.

The world would have to wait until the tools of modern technology could begin to unlock the secrets of the Hunley. In 1995, author and adventurer Clive Cussler found the Hunley resting on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. Intact and remarkably well preserved, the Hunley was found buried deep within the sand and silt just outside of Charleston Harbor. The recovery of the Hunley turned out to be one of the most important single events in South Carolina history.



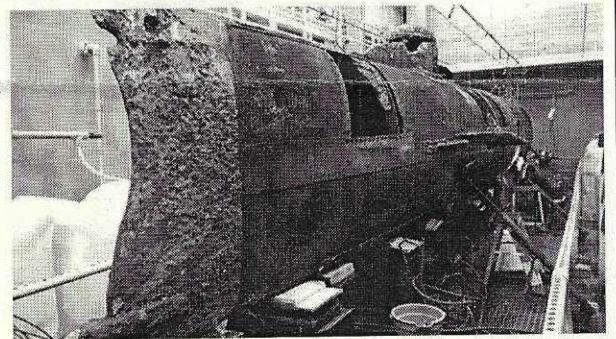
After being lost for 137 years, the Hunley was revealed on August 8, 2000, seen for the first time in her entirety from bow to stern and top to bottom. It was indeed a remarkable moment in history.

Today, well over a century after Lt. Dixon and his courageous crew vanished, the South Carolina Hunley Commission and a private, non-profit group called the Friends of the Hunley, are solving the mystery of the Hunley like a puzzle that reveals new information one piece at a time. They are engaged in the most important archaeological investigation of the century and are everyday coming closer to solving the mystery of why the Hunley

never came home. The submarine H.L. Hunley represents one of the most complex composite structures ever recovered by an archaeological team.

At this point, only the exterior of the submarine has been extensively analyzed. The exterior hull is comprised of wrought iron plates of various sizes, several cast iron fittings and glass view-ports. The excavation of the interior has produced a large number of artifacts taken on board by the crew, including navigational instruments, paper, clothing and personal items. In addition, the presence of human remains trapped in this "iron tomb" has made the conservation of the H.L.

Hunley a unique and somewhat daunting task. All actions undertaken on the submarine have been balanced and controlled so that the impact on the fragile artifacts and organic remains is minimized. Unfortunately, the stabilization of marine artifacts is often an expensive and time-consuming endeavor. The duration of the conservation work on the Hunley and its associated artifacts is expected to take seven to ten years before they can safely be handed over to an exhibition facility.



*Excerpts reprinted from "Friends of the Hunley" Web Site- with permission.

Epilogue- After the first installment of this story was published, a local resident, Debbie Soden, of Barrington reached out to me. She left a note at the Library, asking that I contact her as she had information about the Hunley. When we spoke, I was treated to some surprising facts. It seems that one of the members of the Hunley's final crew, Joseph Ridgaway, was a distant relative of Mrs. Soden's. Mr. Ridgaway was one of eight children; six boys and two girls. All six sons lost their lives in the Civil War. The daughters were forbidden to marry.

As the story goes, after the Hunley was lost, one of Joseph Ridgaway's friends, Joseph Joyner, returned his belongings to the Ridgaway family. During his visit, he fell in love with one of the two sisters and they were secretly married. They told the family later. Mrs. Soden is a descendant of that couple. The Joyner family homestead was in the area of St. Michaels, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Through some research begun by Mrs. Soden's great aunt, she located the Joyner homestead and contacted the current owners. They invited her for a visit, and showed her around the property. The current home is built around former slave quarters, which she found quite interesting. Additionally, she was able to visit the graves of two members of the Joyner family, who are buried on the property.

Mrs. Soden also shared that her grandfather, Mr. Magown, had a farm in Barrington and a house near the intersection of Clements Bridge Rd. and White Horse Pike. She said that he and his family were responsible for building many of the streets in Haddon Heights. This is just another case of you never know who has what history or contacts....

Thanks Debbie!!!!

Coming Events

7/18/16- 7:00pm- HH Library
HH Historical Society Gen. Membership Meeting
10/16/16- 7:00pm- HH Library
HH Historical Society Gen. Membership Meeting
11/5/16- League of Historical Societies of NJ
meeting: NJ Historical Society, Newark, Essex co.
Early/Winter 2017- League of Historical Societies
of NJ meeting: Wheaton Village
6/10/17- League of Historical Societies of NJ meet-
ing: Liberty Hall, Union County

Contact Peter Hill for more information about LHSNJ Meetings

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER- Your Dues
"Paid Through YEAR" is printed on your Newslet-
ter label. 2016 annual dues are now "due". If
your "date" is 2015 or earlier, please re-join for
2016. Your dues help keep history alive. In addi-
tion, paid-up members continue to receive the
HHHS Quarterly Newsletter!

If you give us your e-mail address, you will also re-
ceive a full color copy of each edition of the news-
letter, electronically.

2016 Historical Society Board

<u>President-(2014-2016)</u>	Elena Hill
<u>Vice-President-(2014-2016)</u>	Bob Hunter
<u>Past President-</u>	Margaret Westfield
<u>Treasurer-(Ends 2016)</u>	Art Ritter
<u>Secretary- (Ends 2016)</u>	Vacant
<u>Trustees-(2013-2016)</u>	Virginia Appleby Ken Funkhouser Anne McAdams

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<u>Newsletter Ed.-</u>	Ken Funkhouser
<u>Membership Chair-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Web Master-</u>	Dan Alexander
<u>Nominating Comm.-</u>	Bob Hunter/ Peter Hill
<u>Borough Council Liaison</u>	Vacant
<u>Affairs-</u>	Ginny Appleby
<u>Merch/Fund Raising-</u>	Joan Rossler/ Ginny Appleby
<u>Programs/Publicity-</u>	Doug Michell/ Dan Alexander

Programs/Publicity- Asst. Vacant

Digital Photographer Vacant

Contact the Board : WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

Just a reminder...The Haddon Heights Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Please keep us in mind as you plan your charitable donations. Make us part of Your Legacy...

I want to Thank Mark Zimmerman for bringing his Ford Model A to the Heights parade again this year, in support of our Historical Society. He is my grandkids' other Grandfather. Imagine the great lessons and appreciation for history those kids are getting when both grandfathers own and drive antique cars. Let's continue to do our share to "Remember Yesterday for the people of tomorrow"...Ken Funkhouser, Editor

Haddon Heights Historical Society

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