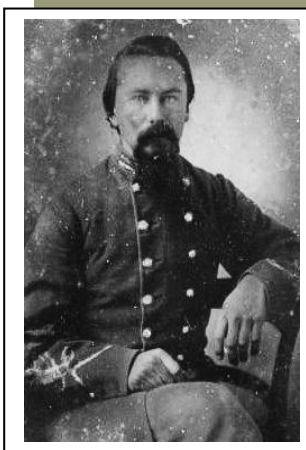
March 2012
Volume 2 Issue 3

SON'S OF CONFEDERATE VETERAN'S

Lt. JOHN T. BULLOCK CAMP Camp # 2205



COMMANDER: JOEY DICKERSON ----EMAIL--- Johntbullockscvcamp@GMAIL.COM
LT. COMMANDER: CHRIS POWELL
ADJUTANT: GEORGE KEARNEY

Upcoming dates

Tues, Mar 6--- 5:30 meeting at Bobs

Tues, Apr 3—5:30 Meeting at Bobs

Tues, May 1—5:30 meeting at Bobs

Sat, Jun 2—Butner Chicken Picking

Tues, Jun 5—5:30 brigade meeting at Bobs

Individual Highlights:

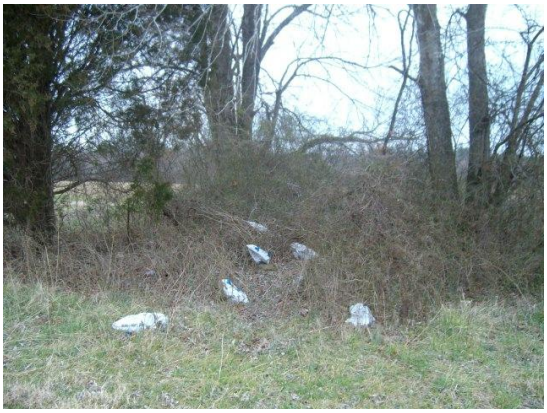
From the Commander:

Greetings fellow members and friends of Lt. John T. Bullock Camp N0. 2205. If you missed our last meeting, you missed a good one. We had the privilege of having John Guss speak to us about the meetings between Gens. Johnston and Sherman in and around our area. I hope those of you that did attend found the program as informative as I did. I always walk away from a meeting knowing a little more TRUE history than I thought I knew. I would like to thank each member that participated in the Davis Cemetery cleanup project. I look forward to having the honor of the Davis family descendants attend a memorial dedication in the cemetery in the near future. I would also like to mention that George and I are getting ready to open a camp bank account. Anyone wishing to make donations for the Bullock Cemetery renovations let me know. Our new camp website is coming along. I am expecting our webmaster Allen Dew to attend our next meeting. Bring any of your ideas to discuss. I look forward to seeing you at the March 6 meeting. The program promises to be a memorable one. Author Charles Purser will be talking about the Oakwood Confederate Cemetery in Raleigh. We will also discuss some ideas for the Butner Chicken Pickin in June, where we will be setting up a recruitment booth.

As always,

For the cause: Joey

2-11-2012 Cemetery cleanup



Cemetery before we began

After the cleanup

Iverson's Pits

From: North Carolina Museum of History
Office of Archives and History, N.C. Department of Cultural Resources

This picture shows the field that Alfred Iverson's troops advanced across during the first day at Gettysburg. The Union troops were hiding behind the wall in the foreground.

The largest land battle ever fought in North America took place during the Civil War. It began on July 1, 1863, in and around the small Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg. For three days thousands of Confederate and Federal soldiers battled. At the end of the clash about 28,000 Confederate troops were listed as dead, wounded, or missing in action. One-fourth of them came from North Carolina. This is the story of what happened to one unit of North Carolinians.

Brigadier General Alfred Iverson commanded a brigade made up of four North Carolina regiments. Many of the soldiers in the brigade disliked their leader, a cold and distant man from Georgia. Iverson had joined the Confederate army at the start of the war. He was sent to Wilmington, where he raised one of four regiments that became part of a new brigade. When the brigade commander was killed in late 1862, Iverson was promoted to brigadier general, and the unit became known as "Iverson's brigade."

During the Battle of Gettysburg, the men of the brigade approached John Forney's farm outside town. Union troops were hiding in front of them, but where? General Iverson ordered his unit to stop, form a battle line, and move forward. But instead of leading the line, he stayed behind. This angered the soldiers. If a battle started, they would be without their commander. What's more, Iverson had not sent out a skirmish line or scouts to draw enemy fire before committing all his troops. He wasn't following even basic military strategy!

Suddenly hundreds of Federal soldiers rose up from behind a stone wall and poured volley after volley into the line. Scores of Tar Heels died and fell to the ground. At last General Iverson arrived to survey the battle scene. He cursed his men and called them cowards for hugging the ground for safety. An officer who had survived the slaughter angrily told the general that the men were not alive but dead from his poor leadership. That night four long ditches were dug and the soldiers were rolled into their shallow graves. After the battle people began calling the graves "Iverson's Pits."

Gettysburg soon became known as a place with strange sightings. The first ghostly appearances took place at Iverson's Pits on the Forney farm. Farm laborers felt uncomfortable working there and always left before dark. Only the bravest souls passed by at night, and they spoke of mysterious lights and a milky-colored mist rising from the burial grounds. Some people said it was the angry, restless spirits of the North Carolina soldiers who had sacrificed their lives needlessly.

Thousands of tourists visit Gettysburg each year to study the battle and explore the area. Some visitors sign up for ghost tours that take them to "haunted" town and battlefield sites, including Iverson's Pits. People still report an eerie presence and unexplained sightings in the fields of Forney's farm. Do the ghosts of Tar Heel soldiers killed at Gettysburg walk those fields today?

Iverson's Brigade
Rodes's Division, Second Army Corps
Army of Northern Virginia
Ewell's Corps Rodes Division
Iverson's Brigade
5th 12th 20th 23rd North Carolina Infantry

July 1. -- The Brigade was one of the first of the Division in the battle. It advanced against the Union line posted behind stone fence east of Forney Field. Its right being assailed by 2nd Brigade First Corps and its left exposed by the repulse of O'Neal a vigorous assault by Union forces in front and on left flank almost annihilated three regiments. The 12th Regiment on the right being sheltered by the knoll suffered slight loss and the remnants of the others joined Ramseur's Brigade and served with it throughout the battle.

July 2. --Lay all day in the town. At dusk moved to aid in an attack on Cemetery Hill but two of Early's Brigade having been repulsed the Brigade withdrew.

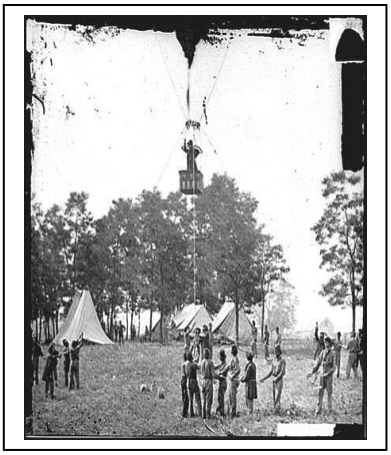
July 3. --With other brigades in the sunken road southwest of town. At night withdrew to Seminary Ridge.

July 4. -- Marched at 2 P. M. as wagon train guard on road to Hagerstown.

Present 1470 Killed 130 Wounded 382 Missing 308 Total 820

Balloon Launching Point to be preserved
Nonprofit aims to save Civil War's 'Kitty Hawk'

Story posted 2011.11.26
By STEVE SZKOTAK: The Associated Press



MECHANICSVILLE, Va. — It was the Civil War's "Kitty Hawk moment," and it happened here when balloons manned by Confederate and Union aeronauts floated above a field of battle — the first time warring armies sent their air ships aloft simultaneously over U.S. soil. The historic encounter in the skies occurred on June 27, 1862, when two Union balloons — the Intrepid and the Washington — rose aloft only miles west of Richmond while their Southern counterpart, Gazelle, floated over the capital of the Confederacy. These balloons were the unarmed drones of war, collecting intelligence on rival troop movements from a vantage of 1,000 feet above the earth. "You had the Confederate balloon up and the Union balloons up, all trying to exploit the advantages of being above and over the battlefield and providing tactical information to their respective generals," says Mike Boehme, director of the Virginia Aviation Museum. "This was the first time that opposing air forces were facing each other." Today a multimillion-dollar preservation effort by the nonprofit group The Civil War Trust is seeking to save the ground where the Union launched its balloons here. Little of the original battlefield has been preserved. But the 285-acre slice of the Gaines' Mill battlefield includes a ravine that shielded the North's balloons from Confederate troops while they were launched. Gaines' Mill was the stage for the one of the biggest and bloodiest battles of the Civil War and the battleground where Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee recorded his first victory. The June 27, 1862, battle repulsed Union forces and their Peninsula Campaign, a disastrous attempt starting in March 1862 to occupy Richmond by way of the peninsula between the York and James Rivers.

The battle involved nearly 100,000 troops and left more than 15,000 dead or wounded. The trust's Rob Shenk was attending a presentation on Civil War ballooning in June at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum when he made the aeronautic connection. "I realized, God, that looks like one of the tracts we're about to save," said Shenk, the trust's director of Internet strategy and development. "How amazing it would be if we were saving a piece of battlefield land that had great aeronautical history." Until the Civil War, balloons were fairgrounds attractions, taking the curious aloft for a few dollars. A New Englander, Thaddeus S.C. Lowe, changed all that. The father of military aerial reconnaissance, he had planned a trans-Atlantic balloon crossing until he was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as chief aeronaut of the Union's balloon corps. He dazzled the president by taking a balloon over the White House and telegraphing Lincoln a message in June 1861.That was the beginning of the Union's earliest "air force" and balloons would later be sent aloft on several occasions to spy on enemy lines — but not at the same time by rival forces until Gaines' Mill. Intrigued by the intersection of Civil War and aeronautic history, Boehme and two experts in aviation history trekked to Gaines' Mill one crisp fall day. They carried historic photos of ballooning from Gaines' Mill, comparing the present-day contours of the spare landscape with the aging images. All agreed, this was the home of Civil War ballooning's heyday. "Military ballooning spreads from here, really, to around the world," said Tom D. Crouch, senior curator of aeronautics at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington. "The high ground. It is the ultimate high ground," said James L. Green, chief of planetary science at NASA and one of the three who viewed the site of the Union balloon camp. With Richmond about 6 miles due east and the faint sound of traffic on Interstate 295 in the distance, it now seems an unlikely setting for aeronautic history. A closer look, however, connects all the dots. Today the Union balloon camp is found beyond a field of grazing beef cattle and in a ravine studded with decaying logs and a thicket of boot-snagging grasses. In this trough, Union aeronauts hauled in wagons to inflate the balloons. The Gazelle, which was stitched together using silk common to dressmaking, was launched from a rail track close to Richmond. While Confederate forces had balloons, the North had the technological and financial edge to assemble a balloon corps. Still, even the Union's use of balloons was limited to a couple of years. Military leaders weren't quite sure how to effectively deploy this novelty. The balloons were tethered as aeronauts relayed observations by telegraph, the communication wire dangling to the ground. Residents in Richmond could see the Union inflatables. It was probably a terrifying sight. "If I was in Richmond and I saw the balloons, which they did quite frequently, I would be scared that the Union army is just over the hill," Green said. The Union balloons were made of thick silk with a coat of varnish enveloped by a netting of Italian flax thread. The basket was made of willow and cane and had an armored floor. The three modern-day pilgrims stood near the banks of a small, clear brook, talking excitedly about what occurred here 149 years ago and how balloons could be inflated in the ravine by Union forces without being detected by Confederate forces. The hydrogen was concocted in inflation wagons using dilute sulfuric acid and iron filings. "This spot is incredibly historic for people who really enjoy aeronautics and the birth of flight," Boehme said. "For me, personally, this is like going down to Kitty Hawk and the Wright Brothers." The Civil War wasn't the first time balloons were used in a wartime environment. More than a half century before the start of the Civil War, France created the Corp d'Aerostiers in 1794. They too were used for military reconnaissance. Lowe, whom Crouch described as a showman, designed balloons that were sturdier than the fairground versions, with some able to carry five people aloft. One of the largest, the Intrepid, had a portrait on the balloon depicting Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, who led the Union's Peninsula campaign. The portrait was suspended from an eagle's beak. The Union's balloon corps, which included seven inflatable's, were sent aloft during the Peninsula campaign at Yorktown and at the Union-held Fortress Monroe in Hampton, Va. There was even an early forerunner of an aircraft carrier: two balloons and their gas generators were loaded onto a converted coal barge for observations over water. Despite the Union's dominance of the skies, Lee's troops had a rare edge in numbers at Gaines' Mill and the Southern forces were able to drive back the Army of the Potomac and save the Confederate capital. The Civil War Trust is using state and federal funds to preserve the 285 acres of the battlefield, but a capital campaign is needed to raise an additional $1.2 million to close the deal. The land ultimately could be transferred to the National Park Service. At the 150th anniversary of the Gaines Mill battle next June, Shenk is hopeful a replica of the Intrepid can be launched from the same site. "The fact that we could fly and see what's going on over the hill has absolutely shaped the course of world history," Crouch said. "And all of it starts here."

FLAGS OF THE CONFEDERACY

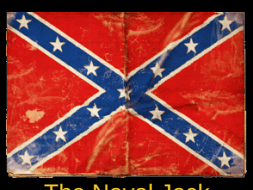

The Bonnie Blue


The Stars and Bars


The First National


The Second National


The Third National


The Naval Jack

Gen. Lee to the Army

Taken from the Semi-Weekly Standard Paper, Raleigh NC, Oct 10, 1862

Gen. Lee has issued the following flattering address to the army, reviewing the late achievements, and fully endorsing the courage, endurance and self-sacrifice of our brave troops. All honor both to the living and the dead:--

"Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia, October 2nd 1862"

General Orders, No. 116,

In reviewing the achievements of the Army during the present campaign, the Commanding General cannot withhold the expression of his admiration of the indomitable courage it has displayed in battle, and its cheerful endurance of privation and hardship on the march.

Since your great victories around Richmond you have defeated the enemy at Cedar mountain, expelled him from the Rappahannock' and, after a conflict of three days, utterly repulsed him on the Plains of Manassas, and forced him to take shelter within the fortifications around his capital.

Without halting for repose you crossed the Potomac, stormed the heights of Harper's Ferry, made prisoners of more than eleven thousand men, and captured upwards of seventy pieces of artillery, all their small arms and other munitions of war.

While one corps of the army was thus engaged, the other insured its success by arresting at Boonsboro' the combined armies of the enemy, advancing under their favorite general, to the relief of their beleaguered comrades.

On the field of Sharpsburg, with less than one-third his numbers, you resisted, from daylight until dark, the whole army of the enemy, and repulsed every attack along his entire front, of more than four miles in extent.

The whole of the following day you stood prepared to resume the conflict on the same ground, and retired next morning, without molestation, across the Potomac.

Two attempts subsequently made by the enemy to follow you across the river, have resulted in his complete discomfiture, and being driven back with loss.

Achievements such as these demanded much valor and patriotism. History records few examples of greater fortitude and endurance than this army had exhibited; and I am commissioned by the President to thank you in the name of the Confederate States for the undying fame you have won for their arms.

Much as you have done, much more remains to be accomplished. The enemy again threatens us with invasion, and to your tried valor and patriotism the country looks with confidence for deliverance and safety; your past exploits give assurance that this confidence is not misplace

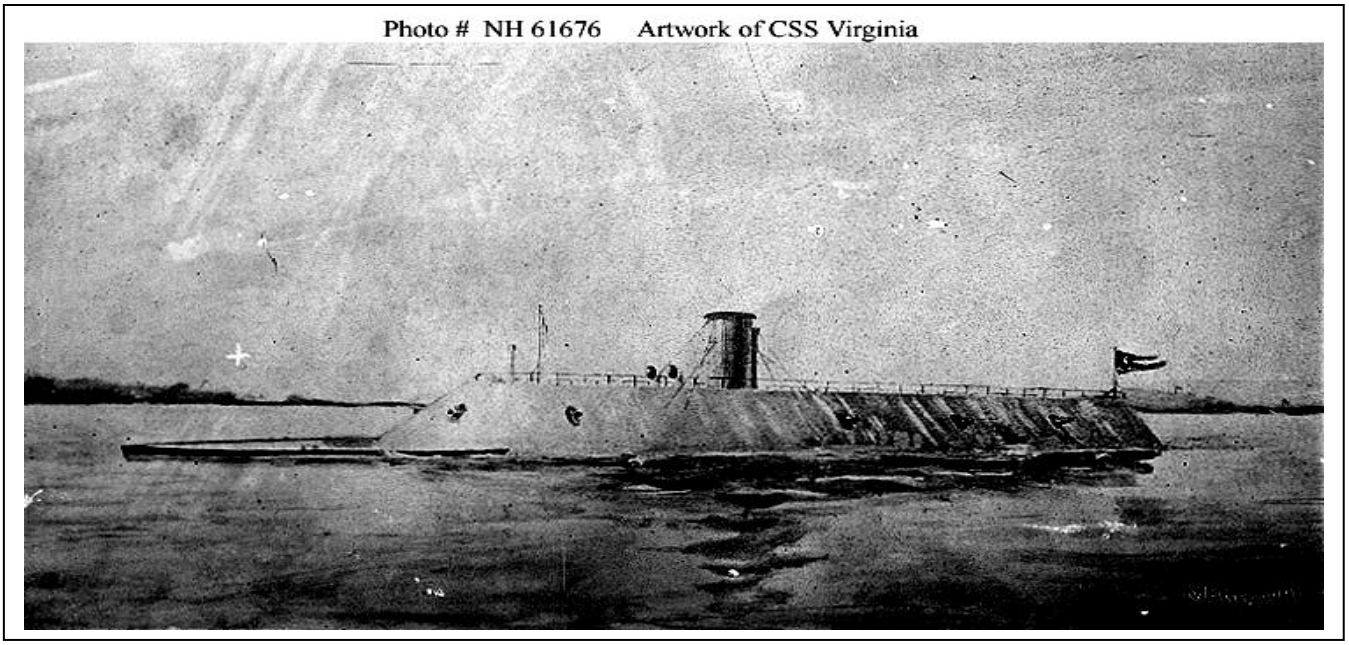
R. E. LEE,

General Commanding.

Bentonville Battlefield's Medical Program Compares 19th Century

FOUR OAKS - Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site will present a weekend program, March 17-18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., demonstrating the trauma of wartime injury. The free program entitled "War So Terrible" will offer numerous medical care comparisons of the death and injury surrounding the Civil War to what is now experienced on the battlefields of Afghanistan and Iraq. Modern day military representatives will be on hand throughout the weekend, along with numerous historic site staff and Civil War re-enactors, to answer questions and showcase the advances in combat medicine. Sailors and marines from the 2nd Medical Battalion of Camp Lejeune, airmen from the 43rd Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron, and soldiers from the 3274th U.S. Army Hospital at Fort Bragg will be available. An additional program on the evening of March 17, 7-10 p.m., will graphically reflect the hospital care one might experience during the Civil War era. Discretion is advised for younger guests, and the cost to attend is $5. During the 1860s, the Civil War happened as weaponry was becoming more accurate and deadly. Unfortunately, the advancement of medical care was not as successful. A dose of chloroform, a shot of whisky, and a likely amputation were standard treatment for the wounded. In fact, during the Civil War limbs were frequently shattered by bullets and artillery projectiles, resulting in 75% of all surgeries being amputations. To further present the hardships of a Civil War amputee, research historian Ansley Wegner will give a Saturday presentation based on her book, "Phantom Pain" The book examines in detail North Carolina's implementation of an artificial limb program, the first in the South. Visitors will be able to view a Civil War era wooden leg on permanent display at the Bentonville Battlefield Visitor Center. The Battle of Bentonville was fought March 19-21, 1865 and was the last Confederate offensive against Union Gen. William T. Sherman. During the three day seize, 80,000 combatants fought across 6,000 acres. Approximately 4,200 casualties resulted. In addition to the battlefield, the home of John and Amy Harper was converted into a field hospital by the Union Army. The home stands today and is furnished as a Civil War field hospital. The site also includes a reconstructed kitchen and slave quarters.

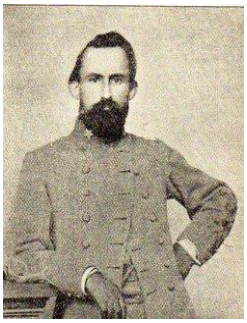
CSS VIRGINIA



The CSS Virginia was an ironclad ship in the Confederate navy during the American Civil War (1861–1865). The first American warship of its kind—prior to 1862, all navy vessels were made of wood—it was constructed in order to attack the ever-tightening Union blockade on the Confederacy's major Atlantic ports and harbors. The CSS Virginia's launch in March 1862 provided one of the first truly unmistakable signs of a revolution in naval warfare that would transform the conduct of war at sea during the nineteenth century. It quickly met its match, however, in a hastily constructed, Swedish-engineered Union ironclad, the USS Monitor, at the Battle of Hampton Roads (1862). By April 1862, the Confederacy's 3,500 miles of coastline were largely lost (only Wilmington, North Carolina, and Charleston, South Carolina, remained under Confederate control), and in May of that year, the Virginia was intentionally destroyed. The CSS Virginia was constructed from the burned hulk and salvaged machinery of the USS Merrimack, a ship imperfectly scuttled by retreating Union forces and subsequently salvaged at Norfolk's Gosport Naval Yard in April 1861. A steam-powered frigate constructed in Massachusetts in June 1855, the Merrimack had once carried forty guns and had seen service in the West Indies and Pacific before being sent to Norfolk for repairs and refitting early in 1860. Soon after the Merrimack was raised, the Confederate secretary of the navy, Stephen R. Mallory, issued what at that point in naval history was a remarkable order: that it be converted into an ironclad ship. The Union navy was debating the idea of ironclads, but perhaps because it was more tradition-bound than its Confederate counterpart, it had not acted. The Confederacy, however, moved quickly, modifying the operations of the Tredegar ironworks in Richmond enough to enable it to produce the two-inch-thick iron plates necessary to meet the specifications outlined by designer Lieutenant John M. Brooke. Iron covered, the ship measured 275 feet long 38.5 feet across its beam, and 27.5 feet deep. It was angled such that cannon shot would harmlessly bounce off its sides. Outfitted with ten guns and resembling a floating barn roof, the ship was rechristened the CSS Virginia and released from dry dock into the Elizabeth River on February 17, 1862. On March 8 of that year, the ship steamed out to Hampton Roads under the command of Captain Franklin Buchanan to take on the wooden warships of the Union's North Atlantic Blockading Squadron anchored near Fort Monroe. The first ship to tangle with the Virginia, the sloop USS Cumberland, was quickly rammed and sunk, although in the process the Virginia's ram was snapped off. Meanwhile, the rest of the Confederate James River Squadron had come out to join the fight, and Lieutenant Joseph B. Smith, commander of the frigate USS Congress, moved his ship into shallow water and grounded it, lest he, too, be sunk. He exchanged fire with Buchanan's ironclad for about an hour before he finally surrendered. The Virginia suffered a battering in the course of its engagements with the Cumberland and the Congress, and when it received fire from Union shore batteries, Buchanan fired hot shot on the surrendered Congress in a retaliatory attempt to set the ship on fire. While directing the firing of the Congress, though, Buchanan suffered a leg wound that forced him to turn command over to Lieutenant Catesby ap Roger Jones, a Virginian who had served on the Merrimack before the war. (The "ap" in Jones's name is Welsh and means "son of.") Jones turned his ship toward the frigate USS Minnesota, which had already run aground in the course of maneuvering against the rest of the James River Squadron. Due to the lateness of the day, however, he decided to break off the fight shortly after making contact with the Minnesota. The Confederates fully expected to resume their rampage against the Union fleet the following morning. But when Jones brought the Virginia back out on March 9, he found the Union navy now had its own, strange-looking ironclad ship, the USS Monitor (famously described as resembling "a cheese box on a raft"), and that it blocked the Virginia's approach to the Minnesota. Shortly before eight o'clock in the morning, the two ironclads began a historic fight that would last about four hours and end with neither side achieving a decisive advantage, even though a fortuitously aimed shot from the Virginia managed to strike the Union ship's pilot house and wound its commander, Lieutenant John L. Worden. Although a tactical draw, the battle ensured that the Union anchorage at Hampton Roads was secure. The Virginia would sortie out from Norfolk on April 11 and May 8, but on neither occasion did it become seriously engaged with Union warships. Finally, a little more than two months after the Battle of Hampton Roads, the Confederates were compelled by the Union army's capture of Yorktown to evacuate Norfolk. They destroyed the Virginia on May 11, 1862, to ensure it would not fall into Union hands.

Rafuse, Ethan S. "CSS Virginia ." Encyclopedia Virginia. Ed. Brendan Wolfe. READ_DATE. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. 29 Mar. 2011 <http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org/C_S_S_hi_rend_italic_Virginia_hi>.

Soldiers Bio : *Charles Christopher Blacknall*



Birth: Dec. 4, 1830
Death: Nov. 6, 1864—Buried at the Stonewall Confederate Cemetery in Winchester VA.

Civil War Confederate Army Officer. The pre-war Mayor of Franklinton, North Carolina, he enlisted as a Captain in the 13th North Carolina Infantry regiment after the outbreak of the Civil War. He fought with the unit, which was re-designated as the 23rd North Carolina Infantry regiment, in its participation in the campaigns in Virginia, and was captured at the May 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville. After his exchange he was promoted to Major in time for the unit's participation in the July 1863 Battle of Gettysburg. There, on the First Day of the Battle, he was with his unit as it made an ill-conceived charge on Federal positions that was repulsed with severe losses. Every field officer in the 23rd North Carolina was killed or wounded, except one. Colonel Daniel H. Christie was mortally wounded, and Major Blacknall was shot through the mouth and neck. Captured by Federal forces once again, he remained in their captivity while recovering from his grievous wound, and was eventually exchanged again. After rejoining his regiment, he was promoted to Colonel and commander to replace Colonel Christie. At the Third Battle of Winchester on September 19, 1864, he was wounded in the foot, and prevented Confederate surgeons from amputating it, reputedly saying "I'll live yet to dance on that foot". Hobbled by the wound, he still led his men in engagements at Auburn and Morton's Gap, Virginia in October 1864. His wound would prove mortal though, and he died on November 6, 1864 a few weeks after the crushing Confederate defeat at the October 19, 1864 Battle of Cedar Creek. His story was chronicled in the 2000 work "Confederate Courage on Other Fields: Four Lesser Known Accounts of the War Between the States" by Mark J. Crawford.
Bio by Russ Dodge

Confederate Letters ; *(Augustus Cabot Abernathy to his sister Mrs. Nancy Catherine Abernathy Kesterson in Paraclifta Arkansas) Cabot was a member of the 12th AR Calvary*

July 30 1863

Ringgold Georgia

Dear Sister,

We have been retreating and it has completely worn me out. I left my troops in Chattanooga, Tennessee and crossed the line into Georgia to rest and recoup my health. Gen. Lee lost 15000 men at Gettysburg and the Yanks lost more. In our retreat across the Cumberland Mts. our wagon train threw away all clothing bedding, so I have no blanket. After this I will have to carry my bedding on my back - if I have any. We never hear from your side of the river now, so I do not know what has happened since I was captured at Arkansas Post. Two thirds of the people around Chattanooga are Union sympathizers and a great many families have men in the Union Army. They all refuse to take our Confederate money. They charge $3.00 for a little chicken, $3.00 for butter, $2.00 for a gallon of milk. Eggs are $1.00 each. I saw Dick Murphy on the retreat. He is in Gen ? Division, but had no time to talk to him. We have not a single tent in the entire Reg. and never will have anymore. They threw all of them away and there are only 2 ovens left to cook in for all these men. Two men usually sleep together by placing one blanket on the ground, the other over us. I hear that Henry has had a furlough and been home. Do hope that is true and that we may both come through this safely and get home to you once more. I hear that Arkansas has been voted back into the Union- but hope it is not true. Do not let Pa re-enlist for he could not stand the hardships now. I would like a furlough home but I am needed too badly here right now. Kiss all the children for me, Dave, Fanny and Walter.

As ever your brother

12th Arkansa Reg. Churchill's Brigade