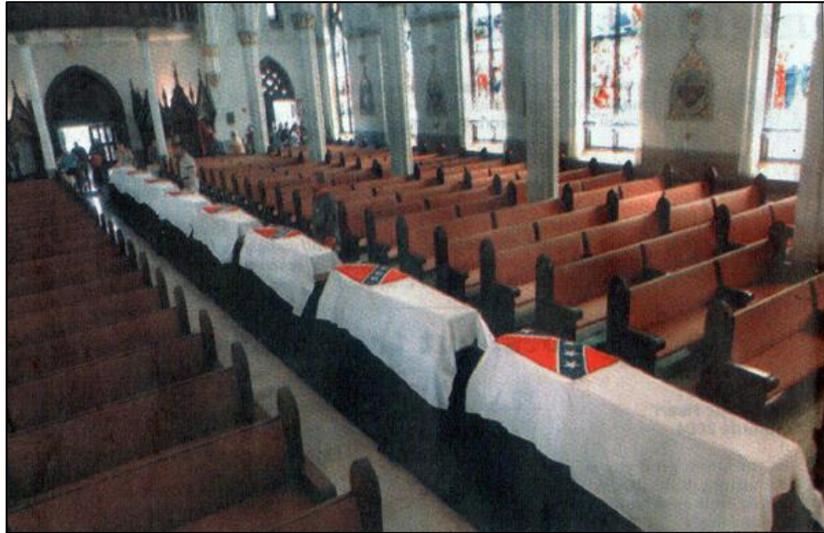


BIOGRAPHIES OF LAST TWO HUNLEY CREWMEN
RELEASED ON EVE OF FUNERAL – April 2004
By Bruce Smith: AP Photo The Post and Courier, Alan Hawes Staff



The crew of the H.L. Hunley confederate submarine are viewed as honor guard soldiers stand guard at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist Thursday in Charleston, SC. The crew of the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship will be buried on Saturday.

CHARLESTON, SC (AP) – J. F. Carlsen came to the crew of the Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley after serving on a Southern privateer. James Wicks also served on a ship before volunteering for the Hunley crew – only he served in the Union Navy on a vessel crippled by a Southern ironclad.

Biographies of Carlsen and Wicks, along with facial reconstructions, were released Thursday, the last stories to be told of the eight-man Hunley crew.

The crew of the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship will be buried on Saturday. Thousands of Civil War re-enactors are expected to march about five miles from Charleston's Battery to the burial plot in a cemetery overlooking the Cooper River.

The 40-foot, hand cranked Hunley sank the Union blockade ship Housatonic off Charleston on February 17, 1864. But the Hunley went down minutes later with its crew. It was raised off the South Carolina coast almost four years ago and brought to a conservation lab in North Charleston.

Wicks was born in North Carolina around 1819 and by the time he was in his early 30's, had joined the United States Navy. He married while stationed in Brooklyn, NY and was the father of four girls.

But when the war broke out, Wick's family was living in Florida and researchers say he likely suffered from conflicted loyalties.

During the early years of the war, he served aboard the USS Braziliera and the USS Congress.

The Congress was crippled by the ironclad CSS Virginia in March of 1862, the day before the ironclad met the Union ironclad Monitor off Newport News, VA. When the Congress was destroyed the following month, Wicks got his chance to enter Virginia and enlist in the Confederate Navy.

He later served on the Confederate vessel Indian Chief and was one of five crewmen from that ship who volunteered for service on the Hunley.

Carlsen was born in Europe and was between 20 and 23 when he died aboard the Hunley, researchers said.

Before serving on the Hunley, he was a helmsman aboard the Jefferson Davis, a Confederate privateer that sailed from Charleston with a black hull, masts and sails. Such vessels would capture merchant vessels and return to port to sell the captured goods.

In 1861, the Jefferson Davis sailed and captured seven merchant ships and their crews.

The captured crewmen attempted to take over the privateer and the ship was lost off Florida. Although the merchant crewmen had been captured, it was still against the law to stage such a revolt.

Carlsen and the rest of the privateer crew returned to Charleston and brought charges of treason against the merchant sailors, researchers found.

Carlsen later joined the German Artillery, a local Confederate unit, and was recognized for bravery in fighting at Fort Walker on Hilton Head Island in November of 1861.

When he later joined the Hunley crew, he sat in the middle of the sub, a dangerous position if there was an emergency and the vessel had to be evacuated through one of its two hatches.

Story taken from: The Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 16 April 2004

DESCENDANTS GATHER FOR CONFEDERATE SUB CREW FUNERAL

By Bruce Smith: Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, SC (AP)

Thousands of men in Confederate gray and Union blue and women in black hoop skirts and veils escorted the crew of the Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley, the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship, to their final resting place Saturday.

In what has been called the last Confederate funeral, the coffins of the crew members draped in Confederate flags were first taken to Charleston's Battery and placed in a semi-circle, a wreath set in front of each.

Then, a column of the uniformed re-enactors stretching a mile and half took the crew of the Hunley, which sank outside Charleston Harbor, to their final resting place in Magnolia Cemetery, about five miles north. It took the column more than an hour to file into the cemetery.

After horse-drawn caissons brought the coffins to the breezy, oak-shrouded plot, rifles crackled and cannons rumbled across the marsh.

"These men taught us and they will teach future generations the meaning of words like honor," said State Sen. Gleen McConnell, the chairman of the South Carolina Hunley Commission. "Their spirit will live beyond the horizon of time."

Commission member Randy Burbage said it was a testimony to the crew that so many people had come to pay tribute to "eight Americans who died for a cause they believed in so long ago."

"There are some who have scoffed at our efforts to pay tribute to these men saying that because they were Confederates, they don't deserve so high an honor," said Ronald Wilson, the commander in chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "It is our duty to respect and remember these individual."

Fourteen Southern governors were invited to the ceremony, but declined to attend. Most cited scheduling conflicts, but some observers speculated they may be wary of the political implications of attending an event with thousands of Confederate re-enactors.

The hand-cranked Hunley made history on February 17, 1864, when it rammed a spar with a black powder charge into the Union blockade ship Housatonic.

“These eight men would change the world,” said McConnell, noting that 50 years passed before a second submarine sank an enemy warship.

But Hunley never returned from the mission. It was found off the South Carolina coast nine years ago and was raised in 2000 and brought to a conservation lab at the old Charleston Naval Base. About 40 relatives of the Hunley crew members were in Charleston Saturday.

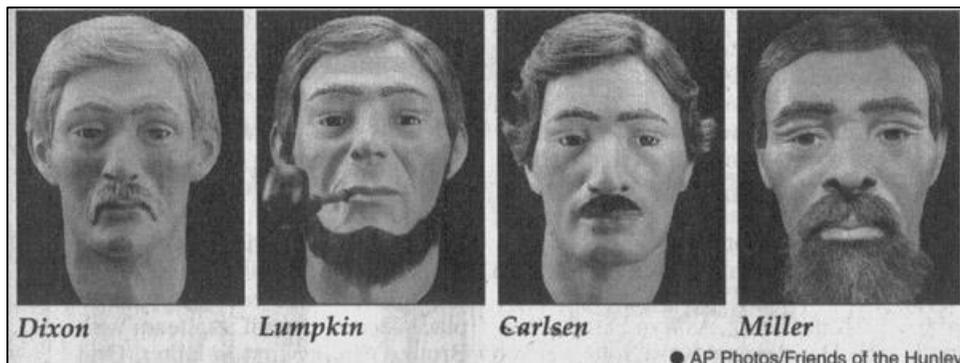
Emma Busbey Ditman of Silver Spring, MD, said she learned about 12 years ago that she had a relative aboard the Hunley. She is the great-grandniece of crewman Joseph Ridgaway, who was born on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

“It’s been very emotional. My father died when I was a little girl and I knew almost nothing about father’s family when I was a child,” she said. “For me, it’s finding my family.”

The crew buried Saturday was the third crew to die aboard the submarine. The first crew drowned in the fall of 1863 when waves from the wake of a passing ship flooded the sub at its mooring. A few weeks later a second crew, including designer H.L. Hunley, died during a test dive.

The members of the third crew were being buried next to the other crews in a plot shaded by oaks and palmettos.

Story from the Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN on Sunday, 18 April 2004-Page 9.



Reconstructions of the faces of four Hunley crewmen were released by the Friends of the Hunley last week leading up to the Saturday funeral. From left are George Dixon, commander of the H.L. Hunley, a Hunley crewman identified only by the last name Lumpkin or Lumpkins, crewman J. F. Carlsen and a foreign-born Confederate sailor known only by his last name, Miller. They were aboard the Hunley on February 17, 1864, when it sank the Union blockade ship Housatonic, becoming the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship.

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