



**Volume 55, No 2
February, 2015**

2015 Officers:

Anne M. Peasley, President
(530) 320-5112
apeasley22@gmail.com

Robert E. Hanley, IPP
(805) 796-5895
acivilwar@aol.com

**Donald J. Hayden, Vice
President**
(916) 485-1246
djhbooklover@yahoo.com

Silver N. Williams,
Program Director
(916) 408-4574
snw5678@aol.com

Paul G. Ruud, Secretary
(530) 886-8806
paulgruud@gmail.com

George W. Foxworth,
Treasurer
(916) 362-0178
gwoffoxworth@sbcglobal.net

Nina L. Henley, MAL
(916) 481-4146
whenley@surewest.net

Wayne J. Henley, MAL
(916) 481-4146
whenley@surewest.net

VACANT
Editor

SCWRT Website
www.sacramentocwrt.com

Kim Knighton, Webmaster
webmaster@digitalthumbprint.com

Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. BOX 254702
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702
<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



President's Message

Happy February All!

February, mid-winter and the month for lovers. Most of our hearts turn to our nearest and dearest at this time, but to my delight, I was happy to come across Leo Tolstoy's love letter to Lincoln, written on the hundredth anniversary of the President's birth in 1909. You've all probably read this in its entirety, but in small part....

"Now, why was Lincoln so great that he overshadows all other national heroes? He really was not a great general like Napoléon or Washington; he was not such a skillful statesman as Gladstone or Frederick the Great; but his supremacy expresses itself altogether in his peculiar moral power and in the greatness of his character. He had come through many hardships and much experience to the realization that the greatest human achievement is love. He was what Beethoven was in music, Dante in poetry, Raphael in painting, and Christ in the philosophy of life.

"It is natural that before he reached his goal he had to walk the highway of mistakes. But we find him, nevertheless, in every tendency true to one main motive, and that was to benefit mankind.

"Lincoln is a strong type of those who make for truth and justice, for brotherhood and freedom. Love is the foundation of his life. That is what makes him immortal and that is the quality of a giant. Lincoln lived and died a hero, and as a great character he will live as long as the world lives. May his life-long bless humanity."

This month, our own Dr. Don Hayden is delivering a talk on a very different writer and his son. That would be "Oliver Wendell Holmes: Father and Son." A poet and a Supreme Court Justice, now that's a clash of minds in the making. To be a fly on the wall of their dinner table conversations. I'm certain Don Hayden will give us the details.

Auburn, California's Placer County Museum at the courthouse will be housing a Civil War Artifacts display in two parts: the initial display providing a look at events in California before hostilities broke out in 1861 and will be up until March 31. The second part –highlighting the War years—will last through June 1.

Since I live there when I'm in California, I will scout the exhibit and report back. Anyone who comes up to Auburn to view the museum is required to have lunch with me!

Have a lovely February and I will see you all on Wednesday, February 11.

Anne Peasley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, January 14, 2015
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 35

MEMBERS –29: Anne M. Peasley, President, Donald J. Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Paul Ruud, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Jutovsky Cain, Ardith Cnota, Mitch Cnota, Alice Corley, Monica Foxworth, Nina Henley, MAL, Wayne Henley, MAL, Chris Highsmith, Rebecca Highsmith, Bill Jackson, Jane Jackson, Dennis Kohlmann, Arnold Kunst, Barbara Leone, Rick Peasley, Horst Penning, John Rice, Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Roxanne E. Spizzirri, John V. Zasso, Vivian Zasso.

GUESTS – 6: Ester Boeck, Seanna Curler, Bret Lonsway, Erin McCabe, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Anne Peasley.
2. President Peasley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Dennis Kohlmann honored Paul Ruud's recent efforts in organizing the West Coast Civil War Conference with a book presentation. The book was "Elements of Algebra" that was written by DH Hill who we all know as a Civil War General. It is a legitimate mathematics book that Paul will be able to use with his background in mathematics.
4. President Peasley then introduced our speaker, Erin McCabe. Erin's subject was "Women in the Civil War." These women were soldiers and were able to join the combat ranks because they were thought to be men. These women were apparently unknown as women by male soldiers in their units. Erin has recently published a book, "I Shall Be Near to You," which was published by Broadway Books of New York.
5. Erin had learned about this cause of women primarily by reading several books that printed copies of letters these women had written to their families and loved ones. A main provider was entitled the Uncommon Soldier compiled by Lauren Cook Burgess. This was a compilation of letters written by Sarah Rosetta Wakeman who was known by the military as Lyons Wakeman. She served in the New York State Volunteers in three campaigns – the Seven Days, Antietam, and Gettysburg. She rose to the rank of Sergeant and finished her time as a prison guard in a prison where there were three female prisoners.
6. Rosetta was ultimately buried in the New Orleans cemetery. The tone of her letters reflected her personal pride of contributing as a soldier contrasted with another female soldier whose letters reflected patriotism as the prime motivator for her service. Rosetta did not want her husband to enlist, but hoping to save money for a post-war farm, he did join the ranks.
7. Some interesting statistics revealed that female soldiers were more likely to die from battle wounds than disease which differs from male soldiers. The available records reveal that 70% of the female soldiers served in the Union while 30% served for the Confederacy. The average length of service for female soldiers was 16 months - 14% were promoted at least once which compares favorably to 10% for males.
8. Seven women served while pregnant and records also reflect that 18% of all female soldiers were captured at least once.
9. President Peasley thanked Erin for her excellent presentation with both words and wine.
10. John Zasso sold additional raffle tickets and then read the lucky numbers.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM. Earlier in the day, the January Board and Brunch Meeting was hosted by Silver Williams at her beautiful home in Lincoln. The February Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 10 AM, at Brookfield's Restaurant. Come one, come all!

Paul Ruud, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the January 14, 2015 meeting was \$4,673.42. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$39.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2015 and 2016		
Date	Speaker	Topic
February 11th	Donald J. Hayden	“Oliver Wendell Holmes, Father and Son”
March 11th	George Beitzel	“The Worst Seat in the House”
April 8th	Richard Sickert	“Robbery at Bullion Bend—A Legitimate Confederate Fundraiser or Just Another Get Rich Quick Scheme Gone Bad?”
May 13th	Robert Hubbs	To Be Determined
June 10th	Martin Cain	“Baseball in the Civil War”
July 8th	Joe Maxwell	George Armstrong Custer, Part II
August 12th	Nancy B. Samuelson	“Nathan Bedford Forrest”
September 9th	Fred Bohmfalk	“A Personal Look at the Lives of Generals Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan”
October 14th	Tom Lubas	“Chicago, That Toddlin’ Civil War Town”
November 11th	Tad Smith	“The Failed Struggle to Obtain Recognition of the Confederacy by England and France”
December 9th	Nicholas Scivoletto	“General Joseph E. Johnston”
January 13th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

2015 Membership

The 2015 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2015. The dues are \$20.00 and you can renew at a monthly meeting or send to the Treasurer through the mail. For all checks, make them payable to **Sacramento Civil War Round Table** and send them to

George W. Foxworth
 9463 Salishan Court
 Sacramento, CA 95826-5233

Remember, you can also pay at any monthly meeting.

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1st of each month for that month’s **Battle Cry**. Please submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

gwofforth@sbcglobal.net

Do not submit scanned files since I need to edit files to combine the **Battle Cry**.

The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

A Splendid Expression of Civil War Symbolism

On a fairly recent sojourn to South-Central Tennessee, I revisited the Winstead Hill Memorial Park. First thing noticed was a new rock masonry entrance sign. Initial impression was that the sign had been severely damaged on its northernmost one-third, probable by an accident with a large vehicle. But upon closer inspection it became apparent that the sign was “as built,” and only then did I realize that it reflected a splendid expression of Civil War symbolism. Indeed a message was being conveyed. The background is as follows.

Winstead Hill is located two miles south of Franklin along the old Nashville-Columbia Pike, now US 31. The small elevation, raising about 150 feet above the roadbed, was the headquarters location and observation post for Confederate General John Bell Hood during the 30 November 1864 Battle of Franklin. (See *Battle Cry* July 2014 article.) Hood, in a vindictive fit of rage, coupled by a generous sprinkling of stupidity, had ordered a series of six separate frontal attacks against well fortified federal forces which resulted in 6,500 rebel casualties, one-third of his effective fighting forces, over a four and one-half hour period. Hood had begun a process toward the total destruction of the Confederate Army of Tennessee which he completed 3 weeks later at the Battle of Nashville. (See *Battle Cry* May 2014 article.)

Purpose of the Winstead Hill Memorial Park is to honor those Confederate soldiers killed, including one major general, five brigadier generals, and 16 regimental commanders. The one-third rubble end of the sign depicts the one-third loss of the rebel army. (Had a similar symbolic sign been placed at Traveler’s Rest, Hood’s headquarters during the Battle of Nashville, it would need to have been 100 percent rubble.)

Indeed, the Battle of Franklin was the worst blunder of the entire Civil War, and it was brought about



by the action of a single individual. Notwithstanding, that individual was later honored in 1942 by the naming of a major U. S Army installation in Texas after him. Some feel this to have been quite appropriate since John Bell Hood was the Confederate General who had done the most to help the Union win the Civil War.

Bob Williams: 12-2014



Gettysburg Valor of Lt. Alonzo Cushing Honored 151 Years Later

There is no expiration date on valor. This was the lesson on display at the White House on 6 November 2014, as the President awarded the Medal of Honor to a soldier who died 151 years ago at the climax of the Battle of Gettysburg. Alonzo Cushing was a Lieutenant, only two years out of West Point at that Battle. But he commanded the last two cannons that faced the short lived break through position of Pickett's Charge, and what he did with them has kept memory alive.

Alonzo Hereford Cushing was one of three sons born to a doctor-turned-merchant in Delafield, WI, in 1841. His father died when he was six, and the penniless family had few options for any form of education except the nation's military academies. In 1857, Alonzo was packed off to West Point. "His mother is poor," wrote the congressman who had recommended him, "but highly committed and her son will do honor to the position." He graduated in June 1861, 10th in his class of 35. The Civil War was two months old, and Cushing was at once commissioned as a first lieutenant in Battery G, 4th U.S. Artillery. He was sent to train as best he could the haphazard collection of militia and volunteers who had gathered in Washington, D.C., to "slay the rebel dragon with one blow," so the saying went.

Nothing nearly so neat occurred. Cushing was hurriedly posted to join the straggling Federal forces who marched out to the First Battle of Bull Run in July, only to spend most of the Battle covering their humiliating retreat. Cushing was in no mood for retreats. "I did some of the prettiest firing that was done that day," he wrote to his mother. "You ought to have seen me pour shell into their columns."

Cushing's war became quieter after the hard-nosed Maj. Gen. Edwin Sumner, who liked the young lieutenant's aggressiveness, tapped him for staff work at his headquarters. But Cushing eventually grew restless for action, and declined a permanent staff appointment. He returned to front-line service with

Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery, and won a brevet (honorary) promotion to captain, and then to major (again honorary), for service at the battles of Fredericksburg in December 1862 and Chancellorsville in early May 1863.

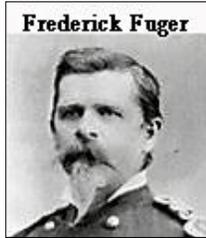
Cushing's ultimate test came as the Confederates lunged north into Pennsylvania and collided with the Union Army at Gettysburg. On July 3, 1863, after two days of intense fighting, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee launched the combined divisions of George Pickett, Johnston Pettigrew, and Isaac Trimble in an all-or-nothing frontal assault on the Union position along Cemetery Ridge. The spear-point of Pickett's Charge headed for ground occupied by Cushing's battery of six cannon.

The battery was 20 yards behind a low stone wall on Cemetery Ridge ready to support the Union infantry sheltering behind the wall. The Confederates began the assault with a lengthy artillery bombardment that put four of Cushing's guns out of action. But when his brigade commander, Alexander Webb, predicted that "the Confederate infantry will now advance and attack our position," Cushing ordered the last two of his pieces run down to the wall, calling for volunteers from the infantry to replace his depleted gun crews and piling loose rounds of canister, a closed metal cylinder filled with round lead or iron balls beside the guns.

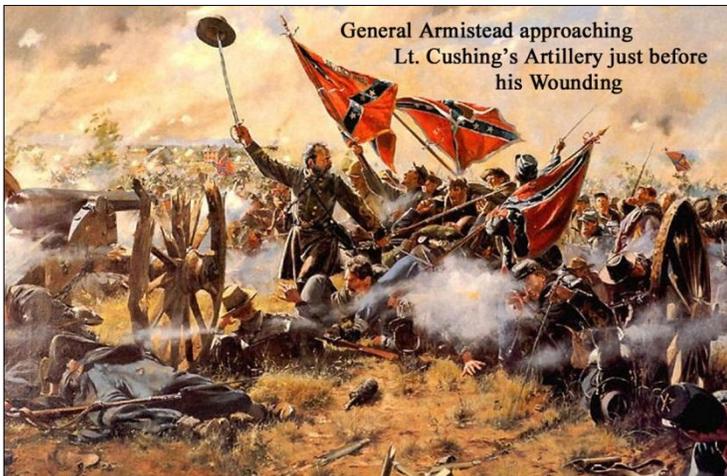
Cushing was wounded in the shoulder, then the groin. Instead of hobbling to safety, he was determined "to stay right here and fight it out or die in the attempt," according to Cushing's First Sergeant Frederick Fuger, writing in his postwar account.

When the Confederates were 400 yards away, Cushing opened fire with deadly rounds of canister. At 100 yards, he called for double, and then triple loads of canister, cutting "immense gaps" in the Confederate attackers. "I will give them one last shot," Cushing cried, according to an article written by Gen. Alexander Webb in 1895. And then a slug slammed into Cushing's head, and down he went for good. But Pickett's Charge stalled, then melted backward, and the greatest battle of the Civil War was over. Cushing's First Sergeant Fuger counted "nearly six hundred dead Confederates in front of our battery."

Sergeant Fuger was aiding his commander in directing the battery's fire when Cushing was killed. Since all battery officers were now either killed or wounded, Sgt. Fuger assumed command of Battery A and fired the remaining rounds of canister before fighting hand-to-hand to drive the Confederates off the field. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for this action. He also received a commission as Second Lieutenant in the Regular Army and retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1905.



No Medal of Honor was forthcoming for Alonzo Cushing in 1863, however. The Medal itself had only been instituted the year before, and the protocols for awarding it were vague. Initially, it was for enlisted men only, and there were no posthumous awards. Accordingly, there was no Medal of Honor for Cushing's naval brother William, who led a daring nighttime raid that sank the Confederate ironclad *Albemarle* in 1864, and his further actions of leading a cutlass charge by U.S. marines and sailors during the Battle for Fort Fisher the following year. (Will was, however, voted the "Thanks of Congress," the equivalent award of the times, and was the only sailor ranking below flag grade to so receive.) Work to obtain the award for Lon started some 20 years ago, but was stalled for a period because a Southern Senator removed the request from the Department of



Defense authorizing legislation. Shame on him!

Benjamin Franklin once complained that republics are notoriously forgetful. But Cushing's long-awaited award is proof that, even if memory is often short, valor is long. The nation joined on 6 Nov

2014 in saluting Alonzo Cushing's deeds of 3 July 1863.

Nothing in the following is meant to detract from the courage, boldness, braveness, and gallantry of Lon Cushing; but I believe it should be recognized that *Valor* is not a function of *Cause*.

A case in point is Confederate BG Lewis A. Armistead, Brigade commander of the only Rebel unit to penetrate the Union line on Cemetery Ridge during the Pickett-Pettigrew assault. Armistead, with his hat held high over his head on the tip of his sword



for identification stepped across almost exactly opposite Cushing's remaining artillery piece. By holding his hat over his head, he readily identified himself as the leader to both friend and enemy. Was that a matter of valor or stupidity? This problem was resolved in WWII when leaders carried distinct insignia on the *back* of their helmets which could be seen only by followers. There were no bars, oak leaves, eagles, or stars on the front collars or shoulders; nor stripes on sleeves. Armistead was immediately mortally wounded and fell holding on to a wheel of Cushing's only remaining serviceable cannon. He was followed by an estimated 300 men of his brigade, who were immediately captured, wounded, or killed. Thus ended, R. E. Lee's badly conceived frontal attack, which resulted from his poor judgment in ordering it over the objections of his subordinates James Longstreet, Porter Alexander, and perhaps others. *Lost Cause* writers later blamed

Longstreet for the whole sad affair, and thereby for losing the War.

Here is pictured a small monument in honor of BG Lewis Armistead located where he fell. It is near the Cushing and Fourth U. S. Artillery Monument shown on the Graphics Page.



One of the most moving and thought provoking Monuments at the Gettysburg National Military Park is the "Friend to Friend" Monument, which depicts Confederate Brigadier General Armistead handing his watch to Captain Henry Bingham, a Union Officer. Armistead had been a very close friend with Union Major General Winfield Scott Hancock since 1844, 17 years before the start of the Civil War. After receiving word of the secession of Southern States, Armistead knew that he, a citizen of Virginia, and Hancock from Pennsylvania, might well serve different causes. Armistead is said to have asked that God strike him dead if he ever brought harm to his friend.

Prior to the battles of the third day of Gettysburg, General Armistead, sensing the possible outcome of the day, asked that General Longstreet ensure the delivery of a package to Elmira Hancock, Win's wife, should he be struck down. The package contained his bible.

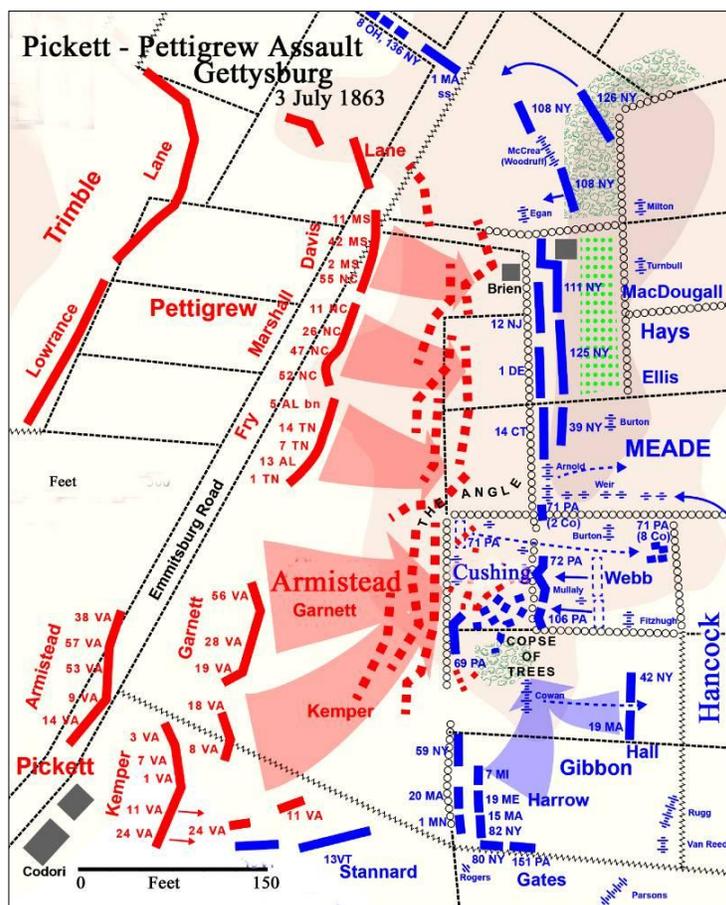
Late on July 3rd, after a valiant surge to the Union lines and crossing onto Cemetery Ridge, General Armistead was shot in the leg and arm. Finding him, [Captain Bingham](#), who served under Hancock, asked if General Armistead had any possessions for which he might care. While handing the Captain his watch and other possessions, General Armistead asked that this message be given to his friend. "Tell General Hancock for me that I have done him and done you all an injury which I shall regret the longest day I live."

Colonel Frank Haskell, an officer in Hancock's Corps present during the charge, would offer a slight different, far more controversial version of these events. In a letter to his brother shortly after the Battle, Haskell reported the events thus. "Tell General Hancock," he said to Lieutenant Mitchell, Hancock's aide-de-camp, to whom he handed his

watch, 'that I know I did my country a great wrong when I took up arms against her, for which I am sorry, but for which I cannot live to atone.' (Note: This latter statement was controverted by the Southern Historical Society in the 1880's. To read their views go to: <http://pw2.netcom/-buck1755/shsp.htm>)

References; WSJ Article 11-06-14 by Prof. Allen Guelzo: Battles & Leaders, Pt 1 Vol. 1V; Cushing of Gettysburg, by K.N. Brown; OR's Vol. 27

R. A. Williams; 11-15-2014



Graphics Page to Accompany Two SCWRT Battle Cry Articles on the Cushing Brothers

William Cushing Sank CSS *Albemarle*: Awarded: **Thanks of Congress**
 Graphics for Article on Lt. William B. Cushing, US Navy

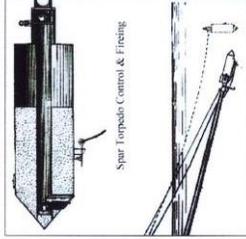
Alonzo Cushing Provided Key Artillery Support: Awarded: **Medal of Honor**
 Graphics for Article on Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing, US Army (KIA)



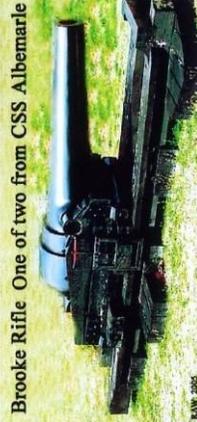
CSS Albemarle



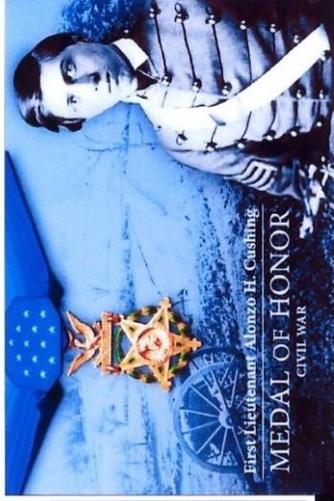
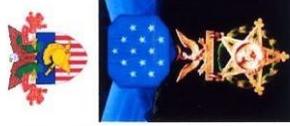
USS Sassacus ramming CSS Albemarle 5-05-1864



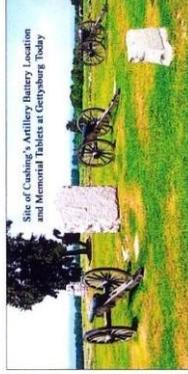
Spar Torpedo Control & Firing



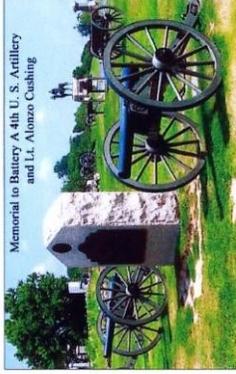
Brooke Rifle One of two from CSS Albemarle



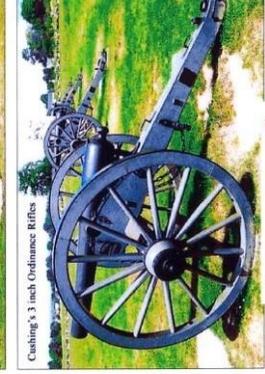
Memorial to Lt. Cushing



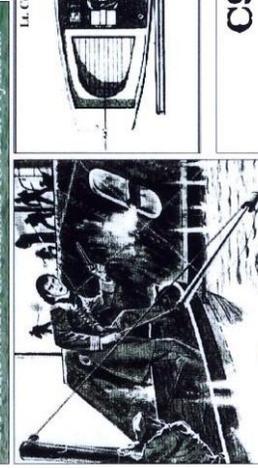
Memorial to Battery A 4th U. S. Artillery and Lt. Alonzo Cushing



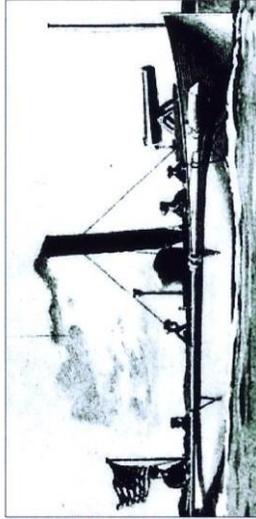
Cushing's 3 inch Ordnance Rifles



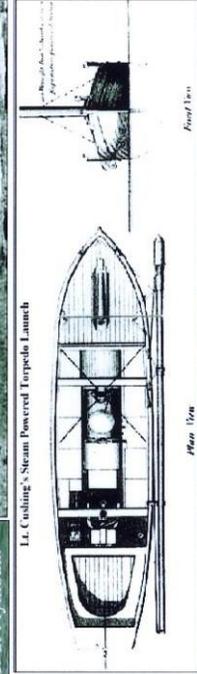
CSS Albemarle



375-Ton Santee Model on Roanoke River at Plymouth



Lt. Cushing's Steam Powered Torpedo Launch



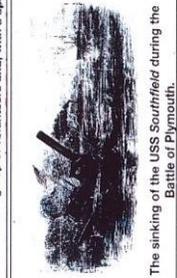
USS Miami

CSS ALBEMARLE

The ironclad ram, the CSS *Albemarle* was the most successful Confederate ironclad of the Civil War and twice defeated the Union Navy. Built in a cornfield on the Roanoke River near Scotland Neck, the *Albemarle* played a pivotal role in the Battle of Plymouth by sweeping the 5 gunboats of the Union Navy from the Roanoke River on April 19, 1864. In that battle the *Albemarle* rammed and sank the USS *Southfield*. Also in the same battle, the Union Navy Commander, Charles Flusser, was killed when his own shell bounced off the *Albemarle* and back at his feet on the deck of his flagship, the USS *Miami*.

On May 5, 1864, during the Battle of Backhouses Bay, the *Albemarle* faced another seven Union gunboats. A four hour battle ensued. The Union fleet lost 60 gunboats, but the *Albemarle*'s 2 Brooke Rifles and fired 557 shells at the her, but could not sink the *Albemarle*!

The career of the CSS *Albemarle* came to an end five months later. She was destroyed on October 27, 1864 in the moon derring commando raid of the war by 21 year-old US Navy Lieutenant William Barker Cushing who was the death of the friend, Charles Flusser! During the night he steamed up the Roanoke River to Plymouth in a 30' steam launch with a group of volunteers and, with a spar-mounted torpedo, sank the *Albemarle*.



The sinking of the USS *Southfield* during the Battle of Plymouth.



19th Century engraving of the ironclad ram CSS *Albemarle*.

