



Rebel Underground

Sons of Confederate Veterans
Major John C. Hutto Camp # 443
Jasper, Alabama

Published Monthly

February 2025

The Major John C. Hutto Camp's February Camp Meeting
will be in Jasper, Alabama on

Sunday 16 February 2025 at 2:00 pm

The Program for February will be

*Wealth & Slavery in Massachusetts
Stuff You Missed in History Class and
Show & Tell.*

Each member will be given three minutes to
honor their Confederate family heroes.

A [form to download](#) can assist in preparation for Show & Tell

It's not to late to pay your 2025 SCV dues.

Please help us preserve and honor our Confederate Family & Heroes

Please remit your dues (\$55.00) to the Camp Adjutant :

John McGraw

702 Haston Terrace

Jasper, Alabama 35504

Civil War Secrets
Robert S. Davis
January 31, 2025

During the Civil War, colorful figures seemed to appear and disappear out of nowhere, often becoming the stuff of legend rather than fact. New Orleans, in particular, became notorious as a “black hole” where such personalities emerged and vanished. Meanwhile, Florida and Texas served as refuges for those seeking to escape their pasts.

Scholars take great pride—rightly so—in unraveling these mysteries, especially in the days before the Internet. The desire to uncover the true biographies of celebrated figures was often a national sensation before 1860. However, since the end of the Civil War, some researchers, eager to establish an identity, origin, or fate for these enigmatic individuals, have published assumptions that have since been wrongly accepted as facts.



Union, Pinkerton agent Hattie Lawton with fellow agent Timothy Webster, before his execution in Richmond, Virginia, by a Confederate firing squad for wartime espionage. | public domain

Elusive Spies and Secret Agents



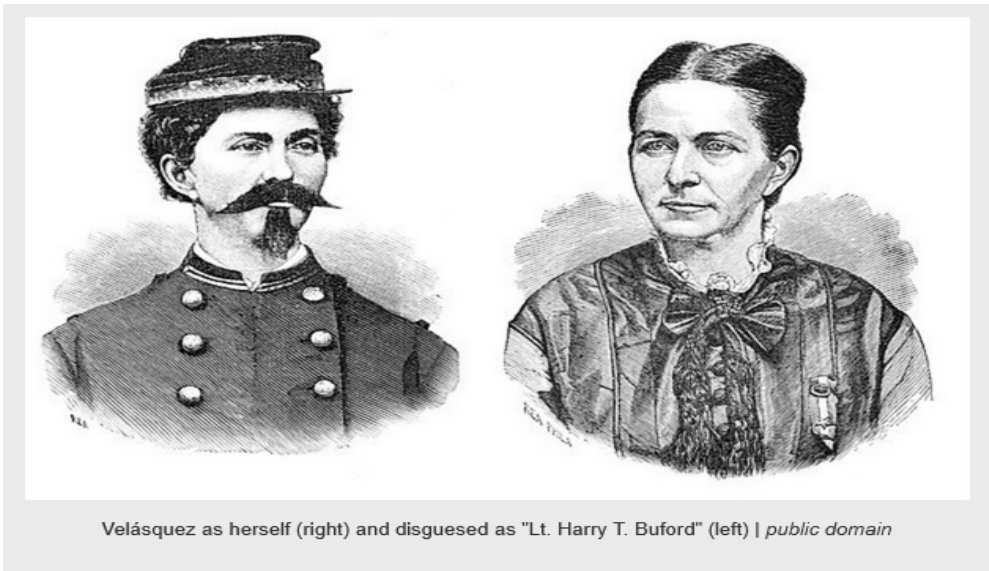
One such figure, the Confederate scout, spy, and actor Henry Thomas Harrison—made famous by the film *Gettysburg*—was finally identified correctly by Dr. James O. Hall in "A Modern Hunt for Fabled Agent: The Spy Harrison" (*Civil War Times Illustrated*, Vol. 24, No. 10, 1986, pp. 18-25).

Similarly, the long-unknown fate of Hattie Lawton, a Civil War secret agent for Allen Pinkerton and one of the era's few woman detectives, was revealed in John Stewart's *Pinkerton, Prostitutes, and Spies*.

Forgotten Figures and False Identities

Finding answers is daunting, particularly when records are sparse—often by design, as many individuals deliberately concealed their pasts. Nowhere was this truer than at the infamous Confederate prison known as Andersonville (officially Camp Sumter). The prison was home to countless figures with forgotten, misrepresented, or secret pasts—enough to fill *Ghosts and Shadows of Andersonville* and then some. Many of the prisoners buried there remain under false identities.

Researchers have long questioned the claims of Confederate spy Maria Isabella "Belle" Boyd and Union supporter Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. Dr. Albert C. Castel examines the real Walker—and many provocative ideas—in his *Winning and Losing in the Civil War*.



The Ongoing Search for Truth

Many mysteries remain to be solved. Prominent historian William C. Davis cut through the fabrications surrounding the colorful Civil War figure who called herself Loreta Velásquez in *Inventing Loreta Velásquez*, yet her true identity remains unknown. Likewise, Larry Stephens proved that the notorious pro-Confederate guerilla John Gatewood did not meet his end as legend claims (John P. Gatewood: Confederate Bushwhacker). What ultimately became of this dark character is still a mystery.

The truth behind Lafayette Baker's self-aggrandizing claims about his role in the national secret service, as well as the realities of federal security and espionage in the Eastern Theater, is revealed in Edwin C. Fishel's *The Secret War for the Union*.

Dr. James O. Hall likewise dismantled the cabal of theories and conspiracies surrounding

the Lincoln assassination in *Come Retribution*, a work that has since inspired several other works.

And what about Newton Knight, the figure at the center of the film *Free State of Jones*? His legend remains shrouded in speculation, leaving much for future researchers to uncover.

The never-ending stories of men and women in American history—especially the Civil War—and the discovery of the truth concerning some of our most well-known personalities will only continue.



Newton Knight, the leader of the Knight Company, a band of Confederate Army deserters who resisted the Confederacy during the Civil War. The nature and extent of the Knight Company's opposition to the Confederate government is disputed among historians. | public domain

HUTTO CAMP OFFICERS

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The Rebel Underground is dedicated to bringing our readers the very best of important news concerning Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We are not ashamed of our Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We dare to defend our rights.