Home Thoughts from Abroad

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Scarborough, England
Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #2161

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Camp Commander: John Collier

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."
Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,
United Confederate Veterans,
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906



"Confederate Veteran"
August 1896



"Confederate Veteran"
September 1906



"Confederate Veteran"
October 1916



Welcome Compatriots
to another issue of our camp newsletter. Well, the summer-and we DID have a real summer here in Ireland in 2026!! has passed and with the long evenings coming in fast, it's time to turn to serious research and possible trips for 2027 in search of Confederate graves. Last August, Mrs Sgt-Major & I made the trip to Hull, UK of which you can read more of on page 2 of this issue.
This issue has a Confederate European theme, as we have included some features on 2 men that left their homes in Europe and joined the Southern cause. The number of Europeans that committed to the South is huge and, even though, sourcing information on them is difficult-it is not impossible. We can't give up on the men and women of the South, they have stories that have to be told, history is a two-sided lesson.
General Cleburne was correct when he stated that the history of this War will be written by the winner- but that doesn't mean the South has to be silenced.
I have said many times before and will say again, as long as I have breath in my body, I WILL tell the stories of the those that wore the gray & butternut.

Editor

Hull Natives Remembered

On Saturday August 1st in the Western cemetery Hull, East Yorkshire, UK, LaDona, Liam and myself visited the gravesites of two people whose final resting place was found through the research of the late Elizabeth Whipkey.

En route to the cemetery, Liam was dressed in Confederate uniform and La Dona was in period dress, there were several comments and gestures from passersby and car occupants and all were complimentary

Firstly, we visited the grave of Zachariah Pearson (1821-1891) who was born in Hull, ran away to sea at 12 but was returned home, a cabin boy at the age of 16, he was captain by the age of 21, he became a ship owner and was a government adviser on shipping matters. He was involved in many aspects of philanthropy and social welfare in Hull on a grand scale.



He later became mayor of Hull.

When the War began, cotton mills closed resulting in huge job losses, his efforts in supplying ships to bring cotton from the south resulted in 6 ships of his being lost and in him being in debt to the sum of £646,000, in today's money that's hundreds of millions.

He was declared bankrupt, and spent the next three decades paying off what he could.

His support for the South resulted in him being regarded controversially by some, when previously he had been universally regarded with great respect and admiration

His grave is in the part of the cemetery that had been a zoo previously, it resembles a forest today and despite his fame his gravesite had remained lost until being located by Elizabeth, when my wife and I visited it for the first time it was completely surround with bushes with birds' nests on it



The second gravesite is of James Parker (d 1862) who was the captain of one of Zachariah's ships, the Ancient Greece, it was attacked and ran aground while attempting to get into Wilmington harbour

James died shortly after in Manchester near Richmond, Virginia and his body returned to Hull for burial, his family gravesite with some stones missing was also located by Elizabeth. The grave is not in the wooded area, but in an adjoining open area

Flags were left at both graves. Their support and sacrifice to the South is not forgotten

The War is not only a huge part of American history. It is a huge part of world history

The care home where my wife resides knew I was going to be going to cemetery before seeing her that day and asked if the couple in period dress could sit and talk to some of the residents, this too went extremely well

The medal I wore on my right side is an award numerous family members of mine earned through service in the war, there is circumstantial evidence that the medal I wore was actually issued to a man called George Green who is believed to be the last surviving participant of the War who lived outside America.







The flags placed upon the gravesites of these two Confederate Patriots were kindly supplied by Tony Jones, former Commander SCV-Europe.

Thank you, sir for your generosity.

From Bavaria to Confederate Hero

Michael Bliemel was born in Regensburg (Ratisbon) on the banks of the River Danube in September 1831 and received his early education at the local St Michael's Abbey, where he was acknowledged that the young boy was particularly bright in mathematics and logic.

As he grew, friends remarked on his determination to continually excel academically and also his tremendous faith in God. Michael, it seemed by an early age, had decided that he was to become a priest and after leaving education he travelled to the United States as a missionary.

At the age of 2o, Michael entered St Vincent's Abbey in Pennsylvania and despite having very little English-a difficulty he overcame with usual determination, becoming proficient within a matter of months- the young man took his vows as a Benedictine monk, adapting the name "Emmeran" in recognition of the patron saint of his home town. Another 4 years of intense study and training would follow leading to Emmeran being ordained to the priesthood in May 1856 in Pittsburgh.

Over the next few years, Fr Bliemel would serve in a number of rural parishes throughout Pennsylvania before moving to Nashville in December 1860.

A few months later, Tennessee nailed her colours to the Confederacy and with men entering the military, the young priest saw the number of parishioners drop while he administered in the military hospitals in the city, regardless of uniform colour. By mid-1862, Fr Bliemel wasn no longer shy about expressing his feelings about the War and the north, "*Union men, assisted by their secret societies were persecuting his Catholicism while southerners, by contrast, extended the full measure of religious tolerance to Catholics*." Sentiments like these were often expressed by the young priest, at times in front of senior Federal officers who he deemed to be turning "a blind eye" to the harshness and hostility of Federal troops in Nashville. Feeling that a great injustice was being done to the population of the city, Fr Bliemel thought about he could best serve the Confederacy in a more meaningful way.

With a great many of his male parishioners serving with the 10th TN Infantry, the young priest asked his Bishop for permission to enlist, writing in his letter to his superior; "*there could be no better way Christian activity in this stime of War than to take the world of The Almighty to the camps and battlefields of the Southern soldier.*" His request was denied.



Fr Emmeran Bliemel OSB
Chaplain 10th TN Infantry

Disappointed but undeterred, Fr Bliemel quietly began to source badly needed medicines and have them sent through the lines to Confederate hospitals. A very dangerous practice, especially with the number of spies in the city willing to aid the occupying army and in December 1862, Fr Bliemel was arrested with 4ozs of morphine in his possession and taken before Gen Rosecrans. The cleric informed the Federal officer that he was selling the medicine for profit and using the monies received to help those in need in the city. Rosecrans believed the story and not wishing to imprison a Catholic priest, he issued a severe reprimand and a warning to cease from such activity.

June 1863, saw Fr Bliemel back in front of the authorities facing allegations that he was the author of treasonous articles in the "New York Freeman's Journal" under the pseudonym, "Charlie." These were strenuously denied-they were later proved to be untrue-and without any official proof, the priest was once again released without charge.

Once again, Fr Bliemel requested permission to join the army as a chaplain, specifically, the 10th Tn, arguing that he was already on the muster rolls of the regiment. Seven out the ten companies that made up the 10th were Irishmen from the Nashville area and following its reorganisation in October 1862, the men had elected Fr Bliemel, in absentia, as chaplain! For a second time, his request was denied but in September 1863 after the Army of Tennessee's triumph at Chickamauga a third request was granted and on October 6th Fr Emmeran left Nashville to join up with his parishioners in the 10th who, were at the time, encamped near Chattanooga.

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Fr Bliemel continued from previous page

After a circuitous journey because of enemy lines, Fr Bliemel finally arrived in camp in November 1863 where he was given a tremendous welcome by, both, officers and men of the 10th. The cleric was quickly put to work following the battle at Missionary Ridge and despite the setback, Fr Bliemel was determined to stay with "*his boys*" until the end.

Every step taken by the men of the 10th Tn in 1864 was matched by their beloved chaplain; every hardship they endured, he also endured; every time they under fire, he was there beside them. "Fr Emery" as he was known as by was loved by his comrades and was even adopted by the 4th Ky Infantry as they had no chaplain of their own!!

Throughout the spring and summer of 1864, the 10th Tn were witnesses to the horrors of battle: Rocky Face Ridge; Mill Creek Gap; Resaca; Pine Mountain; Kennesaw Mountain; Atlanta and Utoy Creek created huge losses in the regimental ranks and Fr Bliemel was there in the mist of battle, tending the wounded, administering to the dying never thinking of his own safety.

Then came Jonesboro.

It was mid-afternoon on August 31st 1864, when the men of the 10th Tn were ordered to attack through a cornfield, coming under enemy artillery fire almost instantly. Taking a huge number of casualties, Fr Bliemel tried to get to as many of the wounded and dying as he could but, realizing the situation the Confederate commander gave orders to withdraw. As they began falling back, their chaplain remained near the front try to ensure as many as possible would escape capture. While helping put a wounded man on a litter, Fr Bliemel Col Grace, commander of the 10th, fall. Immediately calling for help, two medics came to his aid. Seeing that the colonel's wounds were severe, Fr Bliemel told to medics to go back while he remained with his colonel and gave him what, physical and spiritual, comfort he could.

On a Georgia battlefield, a Bavarian priest cradled an Irishman's head in his arms as gunfire bellowed all around them. Laying Grace's head in his lap, Fr Bliemel began to give absolution to the dying man and he raised his arms above his head toward Heaven in prayer when an artillery shell decapitated him. Death was instantaneous and Fr Michael "Emmeran" Bliemel became the 1st American Catholic Priest to be killed in action during time of war.

Col Grace survived a few hours more before he succumbed to his wounds and shortly afterwards, but before giving an account of Fr Bliemel's bravery. Both men were laid side-by-side on land owned by Mrs Holliday before being moved to the Patrick Cleburne Confederate Cemetery in Jonesboro.



The body of Fr Bliemel was exhumed, once more, in 1899 and taken to Tuscumbia, Alabama where he was laid in the Holy Cross Cemetery where he lies to this day, his gravestone noting his service to the Confederacy.



Fr Michael Emmeran Bliemel OSB
Born: 29 Sep 1831; Regensburg, Bavaria, Germany.
Died: 31 Aug 1864; Jonesboro, Clayton County, Georgia

Fr Bliemel's bravery wasn't forgotten and 119 years later, on March 12th 1993 the Bavarian cleric was posthumously awarded the Confederate Medal of Honor for "*intrepid valor on the field of battle above and beyond the call of duty.*"

To the best of my knowledge his medal is on display in The Father Bliemel Assembly of The Knights of Columbus in Jonesboro, Georgia.

*** I twice tried contacting the Fr Bliemel Assembly for confirmation of the presence of his medal, but received no replies to my emails-Editor****

Collier's Column

A couple of weeks ago my stepson and I walked into a branch of the "Admiral" in my home town of Scarborough on the East Coast of England, it's a branch of a business in the UK that provides slot machine entertainment and such, their main attraction is they provide a very good free range of snacks and drinks with no commitment. Whilst there something happened that proved something I have been trying to get over for some time

Whist chatting with a worker it was mentioned that she was a history student at university and of course the subject of the War was brought up, stood nearby was a senior company worker called Kelly who mentioned that an ancestor of hers had fought in the War, A Federal Brigadier General called, Hiram Burnham

We got in a conversation and this fact about her family was discovered just by tracing family history Kelly was just going back through the generations when she came across this. She was just a girl researching her family. I had just engaged her in conversation, she was unknown to me, I had not sought her out. I have always maintained that if you search your family to the mid-19th century you are almost certain to find veterans of the War.



Hiram-pictured right- was killed in 1864, by coincidence on September 29th (the very date I am typing this), his story and War service is freely available on the internet

As is your family history, so if you haven't researched your family history yet, get started!!

Like many people reading this, 25 years ago I assumed I had no family members fight in the War.....I have now confirmed 12 Federals and 4 Confederates.....up to now.

A few weeks ago, I saw some photos taken 100-125 years ago, in these photos taken in Southern cities, thousands, perhaps tens of thousands were there to see statues dedicated and unveiled, regarding the Confederacy, Southern serviceman who fought and died for the South and Southern Generals who our ancestors served with.

Every single person in attendance clearly could not possibly have been more supportive, yet only a few years ago these very same statues were unceremoniously removed....and worse.

How could people of the very same cities become so different to how the population once was? The makeup of the population, immigration and political trends change, I know.... but its more than that ....as time goes on, we don't see that past how it was.....

Here is what I mean; There are many lists of who people and organisations regard as America's greatest presidents...almost everyone lists Lincoln as the greatest, and it's even more so with polls taken after 1948.

Which is incredible, during his presidency he barely had support of 30% of the population, I'm not talking about votes I'm on about people satisfied with his presidency while in office.

Whereas among those regarded as poor presidents now, Nixon invariably is poorly rated.... yet while in office his popularity was very high, almost twice the percentage of Lincoln's support.

It does make you wonder if history is changed as time goes on, not quite rewritten as mentioned in Orwell's novel.....but getting there.

John Collier, Camp Commander

We hope that you enjoyed this issue of "Home Thoughts from Abroad" and if you would like to contribute an article for our next newsletter, or to be included in "Members Profile," then please email:

greenblueandgray6165@gmail.com

DEADLINE; 18:00hrs GMT; Saturday, December 12th 2026

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SCV Camp #2161; (Capt John Low), Scarborough UK.
Camp Commander: *John Collier*. Newsletter Editor: *Liam McAlister*

A Scotswoman's Journey Among the Horrors of War

Kate Cumming was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on a date unknown, between 1828-1835 and while a young girl, her father David, moved the family across the Atlantic. Initially the Cumming family lived in Montreal and then for a while in New York (where Kate's youngest brother, James, was born in 1840) before settling in Mobile, Alabama.

The Cumming family blended in well in the Gulf Coast city and within a few years, Kate considered herself as a true southerner, despite her Scottish accent, and like many others found herself caught up in the powerful political atmosphere of that time.

Shortly after War began, the Cumming family split with Kate's mother and 2 sisters opting to return to Great Britain, while Kate, her father and brother remained in Mobile. Indeed, James Cumming would go on to enlist with Co A (Ketchum's) Alabama State Battery CSA. As Kate the news of the War, she joined in the efforts of the ladies of "The Azalea City" to provide relief for those at the front, but for Kate this wasn't enough.



Having heard a speech by the Rev Benjamin M Miller strongly advocating for female nurses, Kate would volunteer her services despite of objections from her family and soon the Edinburgh native was among a party of 40 women that that travelled to Corinth, Mississippi to care for those wounded following the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862.

After spending nearly 4 months in Corinth, Kate returned home for a brief rest, assured in the knowledge that she had found her calling. While in Mobile, she applied for a permanent position in an army hospital, but would prove difficult due to the fact that many of those responsible for the running of hospitals felt that women were not up to the sights, smells and conditions of these facilities. Even some members of Kate's family were extremely hostile to her career choice as it was seen as wholly inappropriate for a woman of her standing to carry out such duties.

Undaunted, Kate along with 2 other Mobile women spent much of the summer of 1862 visiting various hospitals seeking a position, before finding a supporter of female nurses in Dr Samuel Stout, Medical Director, Army of Tennessee near Chattanooga. Happily, for Kate and her fellow nurses, the Confederate Medical Dept had finally recognized the efforts of women in their hospitals and authorized official positions for them, and giving some, including Kate Cumming, a rank of "Matron".

Kate would remain with The Army of Tennessee for the duration of the War, following its campaigns through Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. All during this time, Kate, somehow, managed to keep a daily diary detailing what life was like for patients, nurses and doctors in Confederate hospitals. Not only did the nursing corps tend to patient's wounds, but they also acted as letter writers to soldiers families, listened and spoke with them as often as possible. Outside the hospitals, foraging details became more frequent and desperate as the War progressed. The administrations, both North & South, acknowledged that the female nursing corps played a huge role in helping raise morale among hospital inmates while, also helped lower mortality rates due to the care and attention each patient received.



Dr Samuel Stout
Medical Director
Army of
Tennessee

Kate would publish her diary, "*A Journal of Hospital Life in The Confederate Army of Tennessee from the Battle of Shiloh to the End of The War: With Sketches of Life and Character and Brief Notices of Current Events During That Period"* in 1866 but I failed to capture the public's imagination, possibly, due to the amount of Confederate related material that was published in the immediate aftermath of the War.

Kate remained unapologetic for her service to the Confederacy and became a

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Kate Cumming continued from page 6 stout defender of the South and her military personnel and its cause for the remainder of her life.
The years that followed were good to Kate who never would marry; she moved to Birmingham, Alabama where she would teach school and music; writing and was very active in her Church as well as the UDC and UCV right up until her death.
In 1895, Kate's diary was republished, under the title "*Gleanings from Southland*" in a highly edited form, passage from her earlier version that were critical of Southern unity and the "non-actions" of some Southern citizens were omitted.
Kate Cumming, Matron, Confederate Medical Department, died in Birmingham on June 5th 1909 with her remains brought back to her adopted city of Mobile to be buried in Magnolia Cemetery, where she lies today.



Kate Cumming
Matron, Confederate Medical Department
Born: 1836; Edinburgh, Scotland
Died:
5th Jun 1909; Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama, USA
Buried:
Magnolia Cemetery, Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama, USA

Capt Leon Jastremski was born in Soulon, France on July17th 139, according to his obituary and moved with his parents to Lafayette Parish, Louisiana at an early age.



He enlisted at Camp Moore in July 1861 with the rank of corporal, with Co E 10th La Infantry, for the War. Suffered a wound to his throat during the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863 and was taken prisoner he following month near Richmond. Released on parole, the now, Captain Jasremski was recaptured at The Wilderness in May 1864 and sent to Fort Delaware the following August before being sent to Charleston SC where he was on of "*The Immortal 600*." After nearly 3 months in Charleston, Capt Jastremski was transferred to Fr Pulaski in Georgia on Christmas Eve 1864.
In March 1865, as he was being returned to Ft Delaware, the French native and 2 other prisoners made their escape and managed to make their way to Meridian and reported for duty to Gen Taylor, who promptly gave them furlough as he would surrender his army within a matter of days.
After the War, Capt Jastremski returned to Baton Rouge where he would become involved in local and State politics. He was also a high-ranking official with the *United Confederate Veterans*. (see page 8}
Capt Jastremski died on November 29th 1907 having suffered a paralysis 9 days earlier and was laid to rest in St Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.





Capt Leon Jastremski
Co E 10th Louisiana Infantry, CSA
Born: 17th July 1843; Soulon, France
Died: 29th November 1907;
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Buried: St Joseph Catholic Cemetery,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



We searched through he 1907 and 1908 volumes of "Confederate Veteran" for further details on both Kate Cumming and Capt Jastremski but, unfortunately, nothing was found at this time.

UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS ASSOCIATION

The United Confederate Veterans Association was established in 1889 as a benevolent historical, social and literary association. It was active from 1889 to the mid-1940s. Its mission was to

"unite in a general federation all associations of Confederate Veterans, soldiers and sailors, now in existence or hereafter to be formed; to gather authentic data for an impartial history of the War Between the States; to preserve relics or mementos of the same; to cherish ties of friendship that exist among men who have shared common dangers, common sufferings and privations; to care for the disabled and extend a helping hand to the needy; to protect the widows and the orphans, and to make and preserve a record of the services of every member, and as far as possible of those of our comrades who have preceded us in eternity."

Leon Jastremski, a member of Louisiana's Division of the Association of the Army of Northern Virginia (AANV), claimed to have suggested to Louisiana Confederate veteran E. D. Wilett, president of that association, the idea that led to the organisation of the United Confederate Veterans Association (UCV).

After having witnessed a reunion of the Grand Army of The Republic in 1888, Jastremski approached Wilett, Fred S. Washington and Fred Ober and other members of the AANVA. They were joined by J.A. Chalaron and D.E. Givens of The Association of The Army of Tennessee. In February 1889 the Association of Confederate Sates Cavalry joined the other two organisations in formally endorsing a plan for a general membership of Confederate Veterans. The total membership in the UCV may have approached 160,000 or 25 per cent of the Southern soldiers who survived the War Between the States. The organizational structure of the UCV was based on an elaborate military style of hierarchy, with a national office, three departments and divisions within the departments and local camps.

The early "Generals Commanding", later known as Commanders-in-Chief, included generals and several lower officers of the former Confederate States Army. General John B. Gordon, elected in 1889, served as General Commanding until 1904 when he was succeeded by Stephen D. Lee, who served from 1904 to 1907. UCV Commanders-in-Chief who followed often had held merely the rank of privates during the war.



E. D. Wilett



General John B. Gordon



Stephen D. Lee

Sources Used in Issue #9

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https://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/kate-cuming/
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"Valor in Gray"; Gregg S. Clemmer. "*Foreigners in The Confederacy*"; Ella Lonn
"*Transactions of the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society No. 33*"
"The Biographical Roster of The Immortal 600."; Mauriel Joslyn
Souvenir Program: Memorial Hall, Gala, New Orleans, Louisiana. January 24, 2004



They Came from Across the Sea

For many, many years, I have been using "*Find-A-Grave*" to track down the burial locations of Irishmen that wore the gray (and the blue) because these men need to be remembered for future generations. Initially, I set myself a target of 100 graves from both sides…that was in 2019; today my database total stands at 900 CS & 6,200 US grave locations in the USA, here in Ireland and elsewhere. Of course, once I began editing this newsletter and sharing my findings with UK based SCV compatriots my thoughts went toward a similar quest for those born in the UK and off I went down that particular rabbit hole!

I was subsequently given a copy of Ella Lonn's a fantastic book about those men from the eastern side of the Atlantic that made their homes in the South and wore the uniforms of the Confederate States when the need arose. Before you read any further, there are no prizes for guessing what I got into!! Yup, I began to compile a database of European a Rest of World (outside USA). From these latter lists, I have been amazed at the different nations that had soldiers fighting for Southern Independence, I was aware of "foreigners" that stood against the North but seeing the different places these men came from, was something I honestly was not prepared for. (Please see below)

I have been in regular contact with David Hill, SCV Graves Registry, sending him details of my findings and he has graciously and generously given his time to go through these and add new findings to the CGR. (I think David must shudder when he sees an email from my address in his inbox!!)



Irish born confederate graves

Ireland A-C

Name; Rank; Co & Regiment	Date & Place of Birth	Date & Place of Death	Cemetery & Grave Details	Find A Grave ID#
2nd Lt James J Ahern Co E 2nd Batt NC Local Defense Troops	12 Jul 1830	27 Dec 1902	Cross Creek Cemetery #2 Fayetteville, Cumberland County, North Carolina	59474768
Maj Alfred Wm Armstrong Co G 2nd TX Infantry	12 May 1837	22 Nov 1909 San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas	Fairmount Cemetery San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas	30477889
James J Barry LA Artillary	1829	Dec 1902 Princeton, Mille Lacs County, Minnesota	Oak Knoll Cemetery Princeton, Mille Lacs County, Minnesota	93549245
Pvt John Barry Co B&A 1st Battn VA Infantry	??	9 Nov 1865 Calhoun County, West Virginia	Thornrose Cemetery Staunton, Virginia	15971495
Pvt James Boyle Co H 14th LA Infantry	??	27 Jun 1862 Ellerson Mill, Hanover County, Virginia	Oakwood Cemetery Richmond, Virginia	291621355
Pvt John Brady Co E 10th TN Cavalry	28 Aug 1834	3 May 1932 Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee	Rose Hill Cemetery Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee	11887056
JD Bresnahan Co H 3rd Infantry Cleburne's Division	1836	25 Dec 1923	Texas State Cemetery Austin, Travis County, Texas,	10690607
Reuben B Bryan Co E 11th ARK Cavalry (?)	29 Sep 1825	16 Jun 1903 Stephens, Ouachita County, Arkansas	Stephens Cemetery Stephens, Ouachita County, Arkansas	176801054

To the left is an example of how I forward the relevant information to David, I have already sent him similar sheets, as PDFs, covering all 32 counties on the island of Ireland and I am currently working on those soldiers that only have "*Ireland*" listed as a place of birth.

On finding the graves of Irishmen, I search Confederate Service Records on FOLD3 to verify these and then add to our Service Record (SRs) database if required. The SRs at the moment stands at over 2,250 and hopefully will increase in the future.

As for my own research, there may be errors therein, and if any found, please be assured that which are unintentional and I offer sincere apologies. ***Liam***

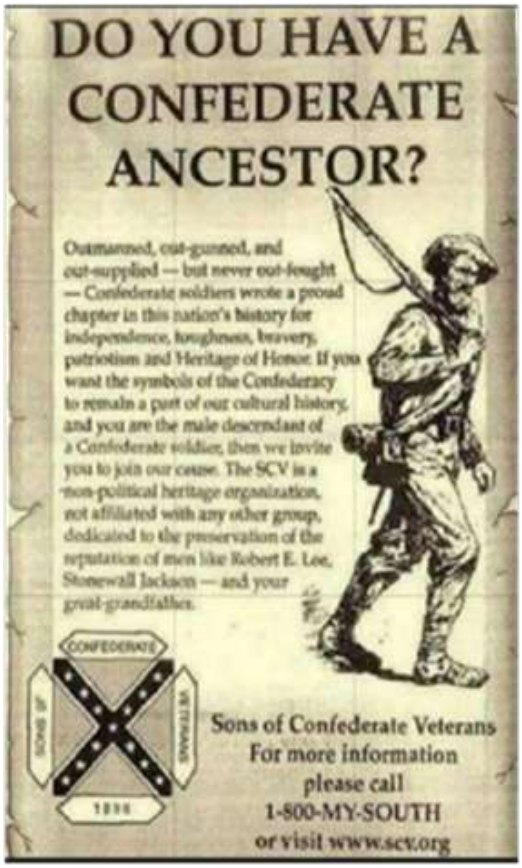
***** Please remember that "Find-A-Grave" is NOT a definitive listing. It is a site that depends on volunteers to carry out searches and document the graves, so I am extremely thankful for all their efforts and, I'm sure, there are still plenty of undocumented CS graves out there*****

"*Graves of Foreign-Born Confederate Personnel*"

The following listing are the current grave figures by country.

Ireland-936; England-245; Scotland-124; Wales-14; UK-22.
Australia-1; Austria-2; Belgium-3; China-1; Czechia-2; Denmark-7;
Finland-1; France-15; Germany-177; Greece-3; Hungary-3; Italy-18;
Luxembourg-1; Norway-4; Poland-6; Russia-3; Spain-5; Sweden-4;
Switzerland-20; Virgin Islands-1

TOTAL: 1,618 Graves; 24 Countries



The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the Second American Revolution. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the Sons of Confederate Veterans is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes so that future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.

Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces.



The flag pictured above is designed by former SCV Europe Commander, Anthony Jones. Anthony is selling these in batches of 10 and if anyone wishes to purchase some, please contact either, John Collier or myself and we will put you in touch with Anthony.





ON THE WATER

Originally built in the mid 1830's at the Tindall Yard in Scarborough, the *Agrippina* was primarily used on Mediterranean trade routes. In 1862, she was brought by James D Bulloch for use by the Confederate States and she would become a tender to the "*Enrica*" or as that vessel became known as, *CSS Alabama*.
On July 28th 1862, orders written by Cmr Bulloch were passed onto *Agrippina's* master, Alexander McQueen to sail to Terceira in the Azores and await the CS raider.
On board were 350 tons of Welsh coal, taken on in Cardiff, guns, ammunition and other stores which were loaded in London and would be transferred during the rendezvous. The transfer of equipment went smoothly, but the relationship between Capt McQueen and Semmes, aboard the Alabama was completely different. McQueen was fond a drink or two and while the coaling between the ships was on-going, he decided that there would be no better way for he and some of his crew than to enjoy a few beverages! Unfortunately, things got very quickly out of hand during which a fight broke out which was only broken up when Capt Semmes instructed some of his crew to use belaying pins to retore order.
With the coaling and transferring of stores completed, the *Agrippina* was instructed to return to Cardiff and take on more coal and then sail for the island of Martinque in the West Indies where she was to wait or meet Capt Semmes and his ship within 30 days. The tender accomplished the first part of its mission without incident but as she was bound for Jamaica, only a few days out of Cardiff, the tender encountered a ferocious storm which caused her cargo to shift putting the ship and all on board in grave danger. Capt McQueen showed great seamanship skills as he, somehow, managed to keep the ship afloat and made his destination a week before Capt Semmes ship.



Scarborough built, *Agrippina,* tender to CSS Alabama.

While waiting for the CS ship to arrive, Capt McQueen spent his time drinking and openly boasting of his prowess as a seaman and of his connections to Capt Semmes and The Alabama. Hearing of this behaviour, on his arrival, the Alabama's captain fearful that it would reach the ears of Federal operatives on the island (if it already had not done so) ordered McQueen to leave port and sail to Blanquilla and effect the refuelling. As soon this was done, both ships went their separate ways with an understanding that they would meet again at Arcas Island.
In January 1863 with another refuelling process completed, the *Agrippina* headed for the United Kingdom but as she headed east, she was once more severely damaged in another Atlantic storm, forcing her to snail's pace and it was near the end of February that she finally berthed in Liverpool. Hurried repairs were carried out as Capt McQueen made for Swansea to take on more coal before making for Fernando de Noronha off the coast of Brazil. By the time she reached her destination, the Alabama had already left port and Capt Semmes unaware of the difficulties experienced by his supply ship, condemned Capt McQueen and his crew in no uncertain terms to his Confederate Navy superiors all the while fully expecting Capt McQueen to try and find him.
As she sailed between Brazilian ports, Alabama captured a ship fully loaded with coal and using this as a source, Semmes had no use now for the *Agrippina*, which encountered a Federal ship and just managed to evade it by putting into Bahia fully laden. Capt McQueen contacted the British Consul, seeking advice as to how to dispose of his cargo and he was told to sell the coal, take on a legitimate cargo which the Consul provide documents of proof and sail for home. Capt McQueen took the advice and on September 23rd 1863, he berthed *Agrippina* in Gravesend.
The Alabama and her tender would never cross paths again but that didn't stop Capt Semmes accusing McQueen of deserting him, selling his cargo of coal for his own benefit and described his counterpart as "*worthless and incorrigible."*

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Agrippina; continued from previous page

Now well known to Federal shipping, the presence of the Scarborough built ship was deemed to be a danger to any Confederate ship, so the decision was taken by Cmr Bulloch to sell her but potential buyers were slow in forthcoming. With a crew still to be paid, Capt McQueen took on a cargo and left the Thames estuary in November 1863, bound for Bermuda.

The passage for Bermuda was far from easy for those on-board *Agrippina,* insubordination and a mutiny occurred with both 1st mate, Robert Wright and, later Capt McQueen being put in irons. McQueen for physically assaulting the helmsman. On arrival in Bermuda, the local authorities took charge and restored Capt McQueen to command, despite the protestations of the crew-many of whom refused to sail with him on the return leg home. The return was uneventful and it would be July 1864 when she docked in Liverpool, being sold at auction for STG£860 (*Agrippina* cost the Confederacy STG£1,400).

In December 1865, *Agrippina* was off the Bahamas with a load of cotton when she caught fire; her crew managed to get off and row to safety, their ship disappearing beneath the waves as they did so.

A WBTS Related Mystery

During our recent "Zoom" meeting, John Collier brought up the subject of a Veterans reunion in London in 1917.

Among those pictured is a Sikh gentleman and, to my mind, he appears to be wearing a Confederate uniform. I have seen this photograph over the years and, to date, this man remains unidentified.

To the right I am reproducing the original and a close-up picture and maybe one of our readers may be able to shed some light upon this mystery.

Below is the wording to the accompanying article.





"At first glance it looks straightforward: a group of elderly men in suits and medals, arranged in three rows with an American flag and a banner that reads "London Branch U.S. Civil War Veterans. Not for ourselves but for our country."

These are war veterans and old soldiers, posing for the camera. One thing that sticks out, is the man in the turban.

In the middle row, wearing what appears to be a ribbon or medal like the rest of them, sits a man who very clearly appears to be South Asian, most likely, a Sikh.

Researchers who have studied the London Branch have noted him. Michael Hammerson, the historian who wrote the most detailed account of the group's history, described the photograph bluntly: "one of the 14 men, wearing a ribbon or medal like the rest of them, very clearly appears to be a Sikh; no record of any practicing Sikh in the Union armies or navies has been found, and efforts to identify him have so far failed."

Any ideas or suggestions on how we could identify this man would be gratefully appreciated.

John Collier; Camp Commander. Liam McAlister; Editor