



THE DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter

November 2015, Volume 12, Issue 11

Speaker: Dr. Bradley Gottfried
Topic: "After Gettysburg: The Station/Mine Run Campaigns"
When: Monday, November 9, 2015
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm

Abstract on Dr. Bradley Gottfried, our scheduled speaker, Monday, November 9, 2015

By Jim Smithfield

Dr. Bradley Gottfried will be our scheduled speaker for the November 9th, monthly meeting of the RVCWRT. Dr. Gottfried has been the President of the *College of Southern Maryland* since 2006, he has served in higher education for almost 40 years at several colleges in the East, the Midwest, and the South. However, his personal passion is history and this is evidenced by his having written ten books on the American Civil War. How he finds time to pursue this avocation is by rising at 3:00 a.m. every morning. Dr. Gottfried has written four books on the *Gettysburg Campaign*, two brigade-level unit histories, and four map books. These latter efforts are what he has been concentrating on.

Among the campaign books that he's written are: *First Bull Run*, *Antietam*, *Gettysburg*, and *Bristoe Station/Mine Run*. Dr. Gottfried's book on the *Wilderness Campaign* should be out by January of 2016. He has also completed work on the *Fredericksburg Campaign*, and he is well into the *Spotsylvania Campaign*. Ultimately Dr. Gottfried plans to map every campaign in the Eastern Theater of the America's Civil War.

While many believe that the months between the Gettysburg and Overland Campaigns were inconsequential, these campaigns represented Lee's best opportunity to seek revenge upon the Army of the Potomac, and also for Meade to finally destroy Lee's army. While neither occurred, this period saw six interesting actions (Auburn, Bristoe Station, Rappahannock Station, Kelly's Ford, Payne's Farm, and Morton's Ford). Our speaker Dr. Bradley Gottfried will illustrate these important campaigns using his detailed full-color maps. Dr. Gottfried is married, and he and his wife, Linda, have four children and five grandchildren . . .

Monthly Cakes for 2016

RVCWRT's *Captain of the Cakes*, John Griffiths, states that he is pleased to announce that he has scheduled member volunteers to bring in a cake for each month of 2016.

Remember: Contact Bob Jones to order your Dinner selection in advance

To Confirm Your Reservations; Telephone 540-399-1702 or e-mail 3dognight@Bigplanet.Com

The RVCWRT Amazon Site

By Jim Smithfield

Our own Amazon web-site has been getting very little usage lately. However, with Christmas and other holidays approaching, let's hope that this is not an ongoing trend. Remember that all of the commissions from sales made through our web-site go directly to support the CVBT. The link to Amazon can be made through the RVCWRT web-site . . .

"First Battle of the Crater – Assault on the 3rd Louisiana Redan"

Presenter: Gary Castellino

Review of the October Program by Greg Mertz

When most students of the Civil War hear about the "*Battle of the Crater*" they usually think of the Siege of Petersburg and the mine explosion on July 30, 1864. Our speaker for October, Gary Castellino has worked for several seasons at Petersburg, but he had also worked at Vicksburg for a year during the 150th anniversary of the Siege of Vicksburg where another, earlier "*Battle of the Crater*" was fought on June 25, 1863.

Both sides recognized the importance of Vicksburg, Mississippi, to their respective causes. Abraham Lincoln declared "*Vicksburg is the key.*" However, Jefferson Davis also used a metaphor to reflect upon the importance of Vicksburg. The Confederate president, stated, "*Vicksburg is the nail head that holds the South's two halves together.*" The horseshoe bend in the Mississippi River forces boats to slow down to negotiate the rivers curves, and the 200 foot high bluffs on the east side of the river were an excellent Confederate artillery position, they were able to unleash a plunging fire on any gunboats seeking to pass the Vicksburg batteries.

Ulysses S. Grant was under severe pressure to open the Mississippi River and after seven attempts to try to get around to the rear of Vicksburg, Rear Admiral David D. Porter successfully ran the gauntlet of cannons on the evening of April 16, 1863. An active campaign of maneuver and a series of battles resulted in the Confederate forces pulling into the Vicksburg defenses, and the start of Federal siege operations.

The highest point on the land face of the Vicksburg defenses was the 3rd Louisiana Redan. This eroded roadbed to the Mississippi capitol of Jackson served as a moat in front of the redan and other natural ravines broke the ground, making it more than a difficult place for the Federals to attack. Union sappers dug zig-zag trenches to get closer to the Confederate lines. Sharpshooter activity was intense with some making use of mirrors to see whenever an opposing soldier dangerously exposed himself.

The lessons of the impenetrability of the position became apparent after a disastrous Federal assault on that portion of the line. During a cease fire after the action, called to remove Federal wounded and bury the dead, Federal officers sent between the lines with the stretcher bearers and the burial details were engineers making careful observations of the Confederate position.

One Confederate engineer officer, Major Samuel H. Lockett, also attempted to take advantage of the lull in battle to examine the Federal positions. He was invited to visit with Federal General William T. Sherman who ate and socialized with Lockett. Lockett pondered whether Sherman was simply being cordial or was purposely trying to divert him from his mission to survey the Union positions.

Since the Federals couldn't go over the Confederate works, and they couldn't go around the Southern defenses, the only option that was left was for them to go under them. Federal engineer and artillery officer Andrew Hickenlooper drew a sketch from his observations made during the cease fire, and tunnel operations began immediately. In areas where the Confederates suspected tunnel operations, they were also digging mines and setting them off in front of their own positions. The loess soil in the area stuck together and was relatively easy dirt to dig tunnels through, and the Confederate explosions tended to loosen the soil and hamper Federal tunnel operations.

As the Federal sappers and men working on the tunnels got close to the Confederate line, Confederates tossed grenades and rolled thunder barrels onto them – these were barrels filled with gunpowder and detonated with a short fuse – down the hills onto the Federal soldiers.

When the mine was ready, 2,200 pounds of gunpowder were carried into the tunnel. The powder was brought in 25 pound bags, with those hauling the explosives timing their trips between the fairly regularly paced cannon and rifle firings.

At 3:25 p.m. on June 25, 1863, the explosion went off and an artillery barrage ensued. Overall

the Immediate Confederate casualties caused by the explosion were minimal. The only Confederates in the 3rd Louisiana Redan, i.e., at the time of the blast were 6 volunteers and 9 slaves, all involved in a counter-mining operation. One of the slaves was named Abraham, who was blown up into the air and yet safely landed at of all places, inside the Union lines. Some enterprising Union soldier hosted Abraham in a tent and charged his fellow soldiers 25 cents each to enter the tent and to hear Abraham's story.

The explosion blew a 25 foot wide hole into the Confederate Redan. Then the 47th Illinois regiment charged into the gap and the Confederate 8th Missouri counterattacked. For the next 25 hours the troops engaged in intense back and forth, hand to hand fighting, with the Union army rotating some 8 - 10 regiments in and out of the front ranks every few hours. About 5:00 p.m. on the afternoon of June 26, the fighting ceased. The Federal casualties were not as high as the description of the fighting would suggest, with just 30 killed and another 150 wounded.

The failure of the battle of the crater did not end the tunnel operations. On July 1, the Federals detonated still another mine. This time the gap torn into the Confederate line was 45 feet wide, but Federal soldiers this time did not launch a corresponding infantry attack, as with the earlier explosion. Preparations were also in the works for yet a third mine to be detonated on July 6. However, Confederate commander John C. Pemberton surrendered Vicksburg on July 4, before the Federal army had the opportunity to give it yet another try. The next similar action would not occur until over more than a year later at Petersburg, Virginia, over 900 miles east of Vicksburg.

RVCWRT Membership Renewal SOP

By Jim Smithfield

November:

- Continue our ongoing notification to all members to renew their memberships
- By the first Tuesday of November, one separate mass e-mail will be sent only to those selected members whose membership renewal checks have NOT been received by 31 October (This will be sent separate from the email asking the membership to confirm Dinner Reservations).
 - Includes a soft copy of the membership application form or link to where it is stored on the Website
 - Includes a soft copy of the year's schedule or link to where it is stored on the Website
- Newsletter Notification in November's Drum & Bugle
- Website and Face Book Page posting
- Verbal announcement at our November Dinner Meeting addressed to all those who have not renewed their membership by NLT 31 December will be dropped from RVCWRT roles.

December:

- Final notification to renew RVCWRT memberships
- By the first Tuesday of December, one mass e-mail will be sent to only those select members whose 2016 membership renewal checks have not been received by 30 November (This will again be sent separate from the e-mail asking the membership to confirm Dinner Reservations).
 - Includes a soft copy of the membership application form or link to where it is stored on the Website
 - Includes a soft copy of the year schedule or link to where it is stored on the Website
- Newsletter Notification in December's Drum & Bugle
- Website and Face Book Page posting
- Final verbal announcement will be made at our December Dinner Meeting that tonight will be the last night that any notification will be made before those whose memberships have NOT been renewed will be dropped from RVCWRT roles.
- Any/all Website and Face Book Page postings that reference RVCWRT membership renewal will be removed by 01 January, 2016

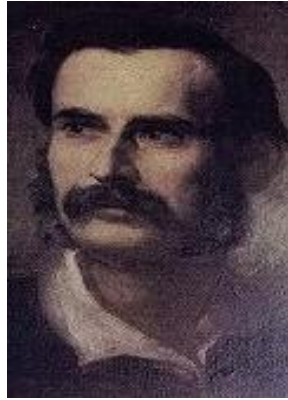
RVCWRT History Alert Program

By Jim Smithfield

RVCWRT member Alan Zirkle, provides a totally free service, which notifying his subscribers about any/all upcoming local history events in the Fredericksburg area. This is done via the subscribers recorded e-mail address, it concerns upcoming history-related events. RVCWRT members receive Alan's important messages. If you do not now, but would like to receive "History Alerts" please just send your e-mail to Alan Zirkle, noting this fact @ az@azirkle.com.

“The Confederacy’s Missed Opportunity” (Monturiol Estarriol’s Submarine *Ictineo*)

By Jim Smithfield



**Monturiol Estarriol
Inventor - Publisher - Communist**

Monturiol Estarriol was born in the city of Figueres Catalonia, Spain. Where as a youngster Monturiol attended public school in Cervera and later in 1845, he received a law degree in Barcelona. However, Monturiol Estarriol never practiced law, instead he turned his many talents to writing, publishing and free thinking. Although, still a young man, Monturiol had solved the serious fundamental problems of underwater navigation and thus in effect, Monturiol invented and built the first functional submarine.

Then, in 1846, Estarriol established his own publishing company. This was during the same year that he met and married his wife Emilia. He next produced a series of journals and pamphlets espousing his then, quite radical beliefs on feminism, pacifism, and utopian Communism. He also founded two newspapers; the first *La Madre de Familia*, in which he promised “. . . to defend women from the tyranny of men” and the other newspaper was the *La Fraternidad*, and this newspaper was in effect, Spain's first communist newspaper.

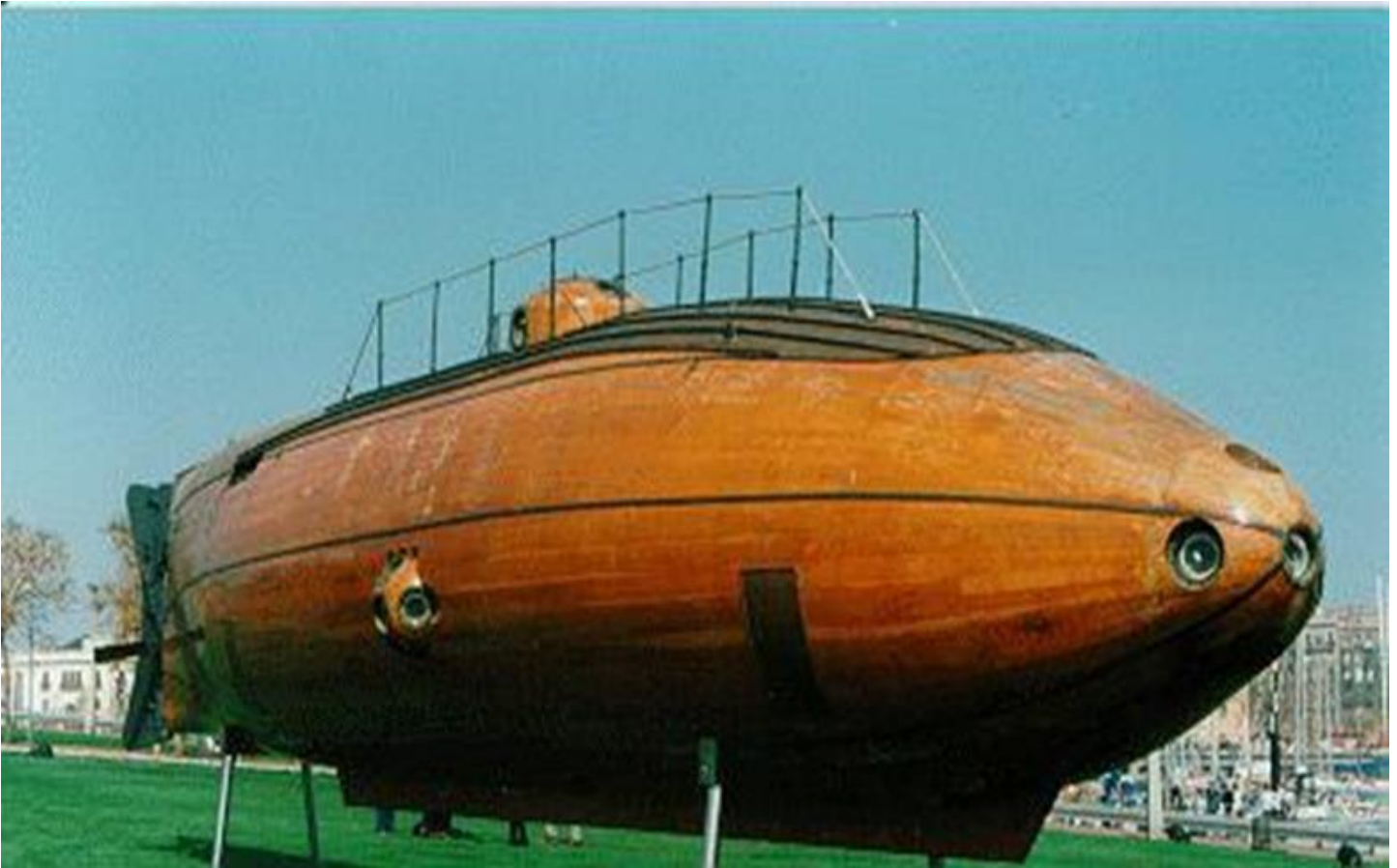
Monturiol joined the Republican Party of Spain and his circle of friends then included musicians, engineers and various reformists. Monturiol also became an enthusiastic follower of the utopian thinker and socialist Elieenne Cabel. In fact, he popularized Cabel's ideas through *La Fraternidad* and then produced and printed a Spanish translation of Cabel's novel *Voyage en Icarie*. Before long a fairly large circle of followers formed round *La Fraternidad* and through them Monturiol raised enough money for one of them to travel to Cabel's very utopian community of Lcana . . .

Following the Spanish Revolution of 1846, one of Monturiol’s publications was suppressed by the then reigning Spanish government and with that Monturiol was forced into a brief exile into France. When he returned to Barcelona in 1849, the new government curtailed his publishing activities completely. Not one to allow adversity to bring him down, Monturiol turned his attention to science and to underwater engineering instead.

It began with his brief stay in Cadaques, which allowed Montoriol to observe close up the very dangerous job of harvesting coral. It was also while there that he witnessed the death of a man, who had drowned while performing this job. This death prompted him to envision a submarine for under water navigation and in September 1857, he went back to Barcelona and there he organized the first commercial submarine navigation society in Catalonia, Spain. This new society was dedicated to the then new exploration of submarine navigation. In the year 1858, Monturiol presented his project in a scientific thesis *The Ictineo I or The Fish-ship*.

Although his invention was ignored by the then reigning Spanish government, Monturiol felt a kinship with the new Confederate government in America. The growing Federal Blockade of Southern ports bothered him greatly. He wrote several letters offering to sell his tested and fully working submarine to the Confederacy for their use to break the Federal Blockade. However, his offer was for various reasons NOT accepted by the Confederate government . . .

**Photo of the reproduction of the *Ictineo I*
AKA
The Fish-ship**



The above photo is of the modern day full scale, life size reproduction of the *Ictineo I*, it is currently maintained and placed on display at the Museum Maritim in Barcelona, Spain. Noteworthy, is the fact that the successful first dive of Monturiol's submarine, *Ictineo I*, took place in September of 1859 and yet our Civil War did not begin until 1861. By then the *Ictineo I* had certainly proved it's merits and also by then it had received publicity worldwide . . .

**Did you know . . .
By Jim Smithfield**

. . . that as I'd previously noted, Spanish inventor *Monturiol Estarriol* offered in writing to sell his advanced submarine, the *Ictineo I* to the Confederate States of America. This occurred because *Monturiol* felt that his submarine could be utilized by the Confederacy to break the Federal blockade of Southern ports. Of course, *Monturiol's* submarine was never purchased by the Confederate States! However, the well-known French author *Jules Verne* based his, so called, fictional vessel "*The Nautilus*" directly on *Estarriol's* actual submarine. The *Ictineo I* was the world's then, most advanced vessel of the day . . .

Who we are?

The *Drum and Bugle Newsletter* is published monthly, by the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 7632, Fredericksburg, VA 22404. Each month, The Drum and Bugle newsletter is also placed on our web-site, www.RVCWRT.org. Yearly membership dues are still just \$30.00 for individuals, \$40.00 for families, and it's still only \$7.50 for students. Membership is open to anyone interested in the study of the Civil War and the ongoing preservation of Civil War sites.

The RVCWRT Executive Committee:

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