

Lowcountry Civil War Roundtable

October 2002 Edition Issue 21

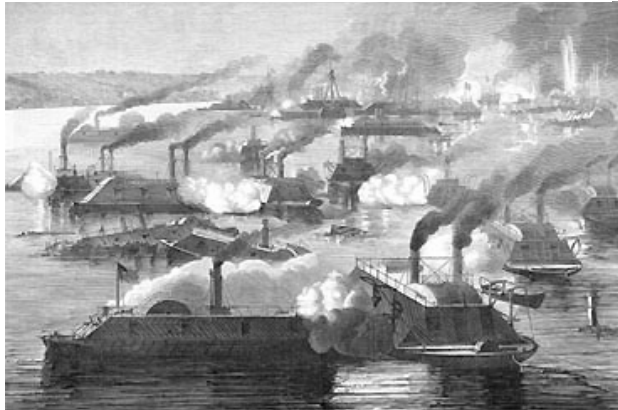
Latest Membership Data
Renewals: 307
New: 72
Total: 379



Our October Presentation

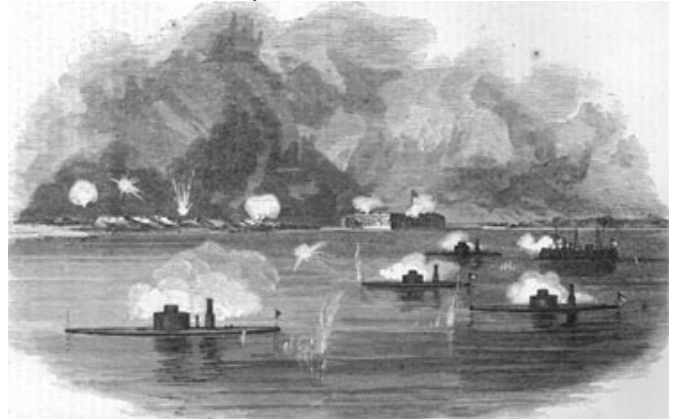
John M. Coski on the First Ironclad Battle of the War

So You Thought There Was Only One Merrimack!



Ironclad Group on the Mississippi near Memphis July 6, 1862

How Many Monitors Can You Count?



Bombardment of Charleston by Union Ironclads

At October's meeting you will discover the story behind the first ironclad on both sides and how they changed the future of naval warfare forever. Major changes in ordnance technology immediately preceding the Civil War had a significant influence on how both land and naval battles were to be fought during that conflict. Rifling of cannon and muskets had given them much longer range and greater accuracy. Explosive shells replaced solid shot that could blow apart the sturdiest wooden vessels.

The epic battle between the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia (USS Merrimack) on March 9, 1862 in Hampton Roads, Virginia will be the centerpiece of a talk by **John M. Coski** on how this new weaponry dictated that iron plating become an essential feature of warship design. Until this engagement there had never been an opportunity to test ironclad versus ironclad. Hilton Head Island and Port Royal Sound became the base for many Union ironclads from which they conducted operations against Charleston and Fort. McAllister.

John Coski is the Director of Library and historian at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va. He holds a Ph. D. in American history from the College of William and Mary. His publications include *The Capital Navy: The Men, Ships, and Operations of the James River Squadron* and *The Army of the Potomac at Berkley Plantation: The Harrison's Landing Occupation of 1862*. He is currently completing a book on the Confederate battle flag.



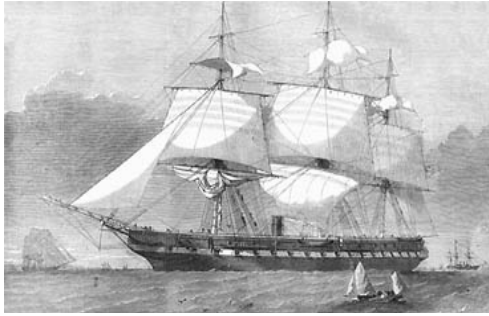
Scuttling of the CSS Virginia (Merrimack)

federate battle flag.

USS Merrimack (1856-1861)

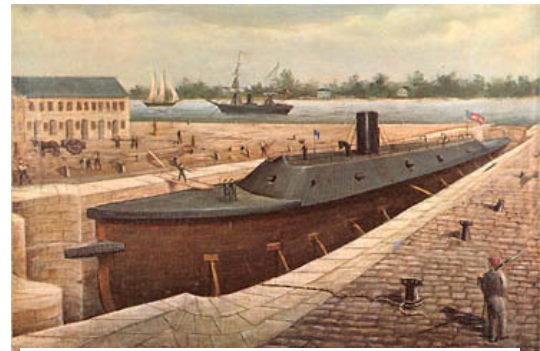
USS Merrimack, a 4636-ton steam frigate, was built at the Boston Navy Yard.

Commissioned in February 1856, she made her initial deployment to European waters, visiting ports in England, France and Portugal before returning to the U.S.



USS Merrimack before scuttling

in early 1857. Following repairs, in October 1857 *USS Merrimack* was sent around South America to become flagship of the Pacific Squadron, a role she played until November 1859. Completing this cruise at the Norfolk Navy Yard, Virginia, the frigate was decommissioned in February 1860. *USS Merrimack* was still there, receiving repairs to her troublesome machinery, when the state of Virginia seceded from the Union in mid-April 1861. In an effort to make her unusable to the southern cause, Federal forces burned and sank *USS Merrimack* as



CSS Virginia being converted

they withdrew from the Norfolk Navy Yard on 20 April 1861. The Confederates subsequently salvaged the ship and converted her to an armored casemate ironclad. She was

commissioned as the *CSS Virginia* (almost always referred to as the *Merrimac*, no k) in February 1862.

She carried ten guns of her own, a seven-inch pivot-mounted rifle at each end and a broadside battery of two six-inch rifles and six nine-inch smoothbores. Affixed to her bow was an iron ram, allowing the ship herself to be employed as a deadly weapon.

CSS Virginia made her first combat sortie on 8 March 1862, steaming down the Elizabeth River from Norfolk and into Hampton Roads. In a historic action that dramatically demonstrated the superiority of armored steam-powered warships over their wooden sailing counterparts, she rammed and sank the big U.S. Navy sloop of war *Cumberland* and shelled the frigate *Congress* into submission.

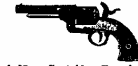
THE MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE Lowcountry Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 2252

Bluffton, SC 29910

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Dedicated to Historic Preservation and Enlightenment



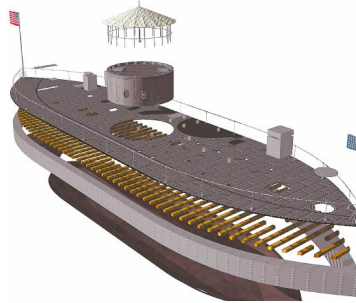
A New Cartridge Revolver,
Carrying 40 Balls (10 in the groove). Any one loaded
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USS Monitor (1862-1862)



Monitor as Built in Greenpoint Brooklyn

In Washington, D.C., many of the Federal Government's senior officials panicked, convinced that *CSS Virginia* posed a grave threat to Union sea power and coastal cities. They were unaware that her serious operational limitations, caused by her deep draft, weak power

plant and extremely poor sea keeping, essentially restricted her use to deep channels in calm, inland waterways.

A new ship was required and they accepted the design of John Ericson. The *USS Monitor*, a 987 ton armored turret gunboat, was built in New York to his design. She was the first of what became a large number of

(Continued on page 6)



- October 10th *Morning After Details*
During the **MORNING AFTER** Round Table on Thursday morning, 09/12, from 10-12, at the Palmetto Electric Building on Rt. #278, John will discuss a most timely subject, *The Confederate Battle Flag*, and will accept questions on a variety of subjects. Call Bernie Covert 705-7808 to reserve a place.
- November 13th Our own Bill Slaughter will be speaking on the *Port Royal Invasion*. This will provide another slant on this very important Civil War action in our own backyard.
- January 8th Bud Robertson, a most entertaining and informative speaker, expounding on *Thomas Stonewall Jackson, The Man, The Soldier, The Legend*. **
- February 19th Edwin C Bearss, renown military expert, will discuss *Military Prisons* in the Civil War. He is an eminent preservationist and lectures throughout the country.**
- March 12th Jim Adams: *Robert E. Lee* impersonator. He will be discussing Lee's 1862 campaign strategies as he became General of the Confederate Army. **
- April 9th Speakers from the National Park Service Staff from *FORT PULASKI*, located at the mouth of the Savannah River, will discuss the importance of the Fort in 1862.
- May 14th *Stonewall Jackson and the Valley Campaign*. This will be discussed in detail by noted historian Robert Krick.**

** There will be a *Morning after* meeting for this event..

October's Trivia Question

Next to Duke's Menu there is a picture of a kitchen. Where were these cooks actually standing?

Basement of the Citadel Savannah-HHI Ferry Beneath the Turret of the Monitor Beneath Sutter's Mill

Answer on Page 8

JEFFERSON DAVIS IS CAPTURED

On a limited basis, our members are being offered a rare opportunity to accompany the preeminent battlefield guide and interpreter, Ed Bearss, on tour. He will follow the route taken through Georgia by Confederate President **Jefferson Davis** and party during their escape attempt after the fall of Richmond VA. Also, to be included in the program, because of the association with Davis's flight and capture, will be the study of the cavalry raid into Georgia by Union **General James Wilson** in the spring of 1865.



Jefferson Davis

This tour sponsored by the Georgia Battlefield Preservation Association will be conducted on Feb. 20-23, 2003 immediately following Bearss' visit to our Round Table. Our headquarters will be in a motel in Macon, GA. The tour route will include Irwinville (site of capture), Fitzgerald, West Point, LaGrange, Andersonville (CSA prison) and possi-



Gen. James Wilson was born in Illinois in 1837 and graduated from West Point just prior to the start of the Civil War. He served as a Union cavalry commander, and during this service he captured Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy. Died in 1925.

bly Griswoldville. Cost is to be determined, and proceeds will go to the preservation of Georgia battlefields. Space is limited as there will only be one bus and it is now half-filled.



Union Solders at Anderson Prison

Having been on numerous tours with Ed Bearss, and planning to go on this one, I can assure those interested that this tour will be conducted in a very informative and highly entertaining manner.

For more information and registration, contact Jack Keller 843-671-5260 or Oliver Keller at 404-351-1211, 1150 Peachtree Battle Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30327 or e-mail okeller@webtv.net.



PS. The Keller's are unrelated. Ed

This cartoon from *Harper's Weekly* presented a disarmed and thoroughly cowed Davis surrounded by mocking Union soldiers. Not only is Davis wearing a dress and bonnet, he carries a hatbox marked "C.S." for Confederate States, suggesting that not only Davis himself but the entire Confederacy was characterized by feminine attributes.

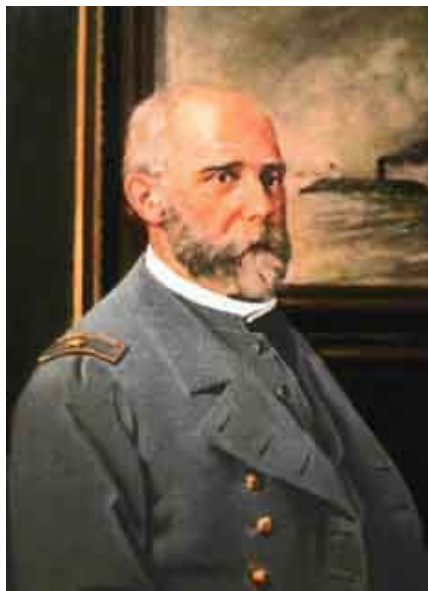
THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW, by our CIC, Tom Oliver

The **University of South Carolina at Beaufort** is sponsoring a **tour** November 1-3, 2002 entitled ***The Day The Yankees Invaded: Come and Re-Live It***. The tour will deal with before, during, and after the navel attack on Beaufort and the occupation that changed the culture of the South and gave birth to the Reconstruction Era. The tour includes 5 lectures, docent-led tours, a black church visit/service, documentary film, a visit with Robert Small's great granddaughter, a musicale, boat excursion and 2 lunches. The cost is \$233. For reservations and additional information, call **Jo Ann Kingsley** at 843-521-4147 or e-mail kingsley@gwm.sc.edu.

The Civil War a film by Ken Burns returns to Georgia Public Television on Sunday September 22 through Thursday September 26 beginning at 8 PM; encoring Saturday, September 28 from 2-7:30 PM and Sunday, September 29 from 2-11 PM. In addition, GPTV is creating a four-part companion series, **Georgia's Civil War**; beginning Sunday, September 22 at 10 PM. Georgia Public Radio is producing special segments (about The War in Georgia) for **Georgia Gazette** on Fridays at 3 PM (September 13, 20, 27) and Sunday at 10 AM (September 15, 22, 27).

Lieutenant Catesby Jones, the executive and ordnance officer of the *CSS Virginia*

To that brave and intelligent officer Lieutenant Catesby Jones, the executive and ordnance officer of the *Virginia*, I am greatly indebted for the success achieved. His constant attention to his duties in the equipment of the ship; his intelligence in the instruction of ordnance to the crew, as proved by the accuracy and effect of their fire, some of the guns having been personally directed by him; his tact and management in the government of raw recruits; his general knowledge of the executive duties of a man-of-war, together with his high-toned bearing, were all eminently conspicuous,



Catesby Jones, Executive Office of the CSS Virginia

and had their fruits in the admirable efficiency of the *Virginia*. If conduct such as his (and I do not know that I have used adequate language in describing it) entitles an officer to promotion, I see in the case of Lieutenant Jones one in all respects worthy of it.

Flag Officer Franklin Buchanan, C.S. Navy
March 27, 1862
Report on the battle against
the *Monitor*
to the Secretary of the Navy

MILITARY FASHION COLUMN



The 5th New York Volunteer Infantry, "Duryée's Zouave," was a famous regiment in the Civil War. They were respected for colorful Zouave uniform, precise maneuvers, effectiveness in combat and steady bearing under fire. "I doubt whether it had an equal," said General George Sykes of the 5th New York, "and certainly no superior among all the regiments of the Army of the Potomac." Many ob-

A corporal in the 5th New York Infantry at Federal Hill, Baltimore, 1862. Courtesy of Richard Tibbals

servers considered the 5th New York to be the best-drilled volunteer unit in the Federal Army. Its casualty list totaled 211 dead out of 1,508 men borne on the rolls.

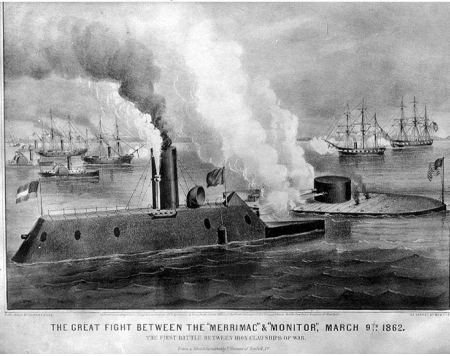


Sketch by Thulstrup of the 5th New York Infantry drilling atop Federal Hill, Baltimore, in 1862

MILITARY BALL SET FOR BEAUFORT

The local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the 11th South Carolina Volunteer Infantry will be hosting a formal Military Ball Saturday, November 16, 2002 in Beaufort at the historic Beaufort Arsenal. The well-known period band, *The Rebelaires*, will provide the musical entertainment, and Steve Fields of the 11th South Carolina will call the dances. The cost of the event is \$20 per couple and \$10 for singles. In addition to the dancing (which will include the Virginia Reel and the always popular Broom Dance), there will be a cash bar, and hors

d' oeuvres will be served. There will be historical role-playing as well. Attire will be Confederate uniform, period civilian dress or black tie. The Ball will run from 7 P.M. to 11 P.M. The Beaufort Arsenal is located at 731 Craven Street in downtown Beaufort. The 11th South Carolina has always been very supportive of our Round Table, and Steve Fields called the dances at our first Holiday party two years ago. We now have an opportunity to return the favor by supporting this event with a large turnout. Anyone may contact Bob Eberly at 785-5393 for information regarding reservations and tickets.



monitors in the United States and other navies. Commissioned on 25 February 1862 and launched in Greenpoint Brooklyn. She soon was underway for Hampton Roads, Virginia. The USS

Monitor arrived there on 9 March, and was immediately sent into action against the Confederate ironclad CSS Virginia, which had sunk two Federal ships the previous day. The resulting battle, the first between iron-armored warships, was a tactical draw. However, the USS Monitor prevented the CSS Virginia from gaining control of Hampton Roads and thus preserved the Federal blockade of the Norfolk area.

In The Monitor Turret

Your Editor has extracted the following from the report *In The Monitor Turret* by S. Dana Greene, Commander, U. S. N., Executive Officer of the Monitor.

...the drawbacks to the position of the pilot-house were soon realized. We could not fire ahead nor within several points of the bow, since the blast from our own guns would have injured the people in the pilot-house.... the situation was novel; a vessel of war was engaged in desperate combat with a powerful foe; the captain, commanding and guiding, was enclosed in one place, and the executive officer, working and fighting the guns, was shut up in another, and communication between them was difficult and uncertain.....

As the engagement continued, the working of the turret was not altogether satisfactory. It was difficult to start it revolving, or, when once started, to stop it, on account of the imperfections of the novel machinery, which was now undergo-

ing its first trial. Stimers was an active muscular man, and did his utmost to control the motion of the turret; but, in spite of his efforts, it was difficult, if not impossi-

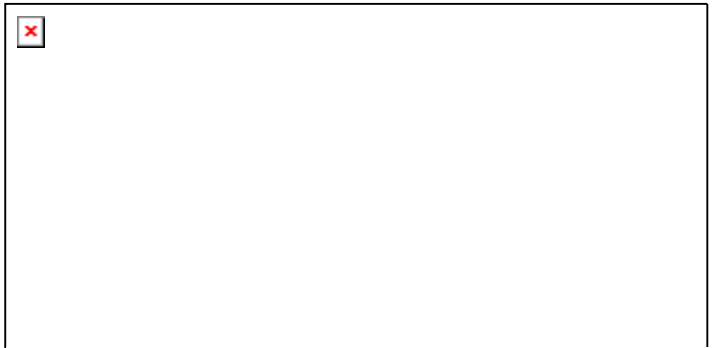


Monitor sinking December 31, 1862 off Cape Hatteras during a thunder-storm.

ble, to secure accurate firing. ...

White marks had been placed upon the stationary deck immediately below the turret to indicate the direction of the starboard and port sides, and the bow and stern; but these marks were obliterated early in the action. I would continually ask the captain, "How does the Merrimac bear?" He replied, "on the starboard-beam," or "On the port-quarter," as the case might be. Then the difficulty was to determine the direction of the starboard-beam, or port-quarter, or any other bearing. It finally resulted, that when a gun was ready for firing, the turret would be started on its revolving journey in search of the target, and when found it was taken "on the fly," because the turret could not be accurately controlled. The turret was made of rolled iron and was about 8" thick.

SPORTS COLUMN



"The parade ground has been a busy place for a week or so past, ball-playing having become a mania in camp. Officer and men forget, for a time, the differences in rank and indulge in the invigorating sport with a school boy's ardor." Private Alpheris B. Parker, 10th Massachusetts, April 21, 1863

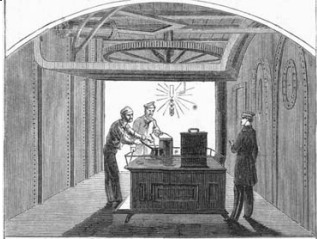
One of the best attended sporting events of the nineteenth century occurred on Christmas Day, 1862 when the 165th New York Volunteer Regiment (Duryea Zouaves) played at Hilton Head, South Carolina with more than 40,000 troops watching. The Zouaves' opponent was a team composed of men selected from other Union regiments. A.G. Mills, who would later become the president of the National League, played in the game. Reference: *Civil War Baseball, Ft Ward Museum, Alexandria Va*

CULINARY DEPARTMENT

THE USE OF PEPPER

If you will learn to use cayenne pepper in place of black you will find it a preventative of dysentery, and a cure for colds. An extra pinch of it in your breakfast will often break up a cold caught through the night; and a smart sprinkle of it in your liquid will relieve sickness caused by bad drinking-water. Black pepper produces inflammation--red pepper heals it. (from the "Military Handbook")

RESERVATION FOR OCTOBER 9TH MEETING AT McCRACKEN MIDDLE SCHOOL DINNER @ 5:30PM—MEETING @ 7:00PM



**CATERED BY DUKE'S
MENU FOR OCTOBER 9
2002**

**BBQ CHICKEN, RIBS
BUTTER BEANS, BROCCOLI
CASSEROLE, CORN ON COB**

**FIELD PEAS, SLAW, POTATO SALAD
BANANA PUDDING, GERMAN CHOCOLATE CAKE
ICED TEA**

**TO ATTEND PROGRAM
ONLY**

Make your reservation by calling
705-9898

Number of Dinners: _____ @ \$11 each = _____

Names: _____

Phone: _____ Ck# _____ Date _____

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO *LCWRT*
MAIL CHECK WITH THIS FORM TO:**

**FRANK BULSON
37 STROBHAR ST.
BLUFFTON, SC 29909**

**DINNER FORM & CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER
THAN OCTOBER 4, 2002**

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P. O. BOX 2252 BLUFFTON, SC 29910
843-705-9898 www.lowcountrycwr.org
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD: 9/1/02 – 8/31/03**

Last Name First Name Badge Nickname

Family/Household Member Name Badge Nickname

Address City State Zip Code

Phone() _____ E-Mail _____

Enlist Single: One Time Initiation Fee \$25.00 + Annual Membership \$26.00 = \$51.00 _____

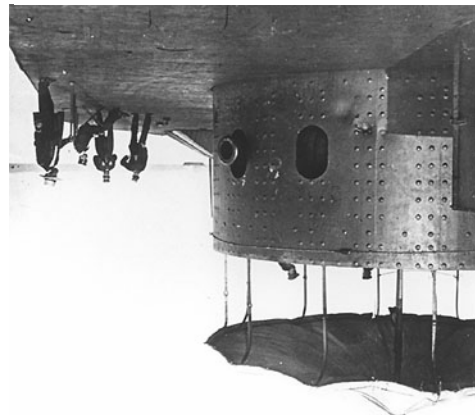
Enlist Family/Household: One Time Initiation Fee \$30.00 + Annual Membership \$38.00 = \$68.00 _____

Re-enlistment: Single Membership: \$26.00 _____ Family/Household..... \$38.00 _____

Check # _____ Date: _____ Payable To: **Lowcountry Civil War Round Table**



USS Monitor Turret After Exchange with CSS Virginia (Merrimack)



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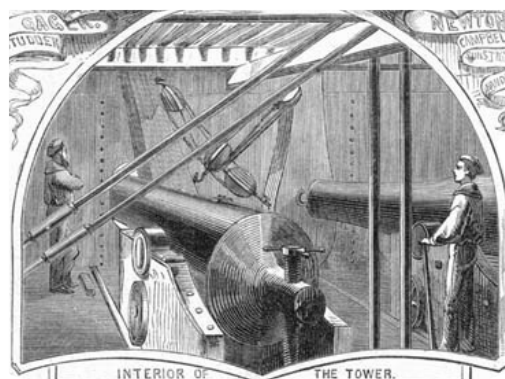
Women and the Civil War

The popular class, **WOMEN AND THE CIVIL WAR**, will be taught by Carol Cutrona in Beaufort for the Creative Retirement Center, USC, starting on 10-14-02 from 10am-12pm. To attend the class or join CRC, please call 785-3995 or 521-4100.



NOVEMBER 13th

The Port Royal Invasion
In our backyard
Not to be missed



Inside the Monitor's Turret

Answer to Trivia Question
Don't Peek Until You Read Page 3

The kitchen on the Monitor was located on the first deck, which was below the waterline. Above the cooks, was the gear for turning the turret. I assume the aromas were vented through the turret somehow. I hope the recipes were good so that the gunners were not driven from their posts.

NOTICE

Men missing their 4 front teeth are disqualified for service! They wouldn't be able to bite bullets!

1861 Federal Draft Regulation

Internet Sites of Interest

- LCWRT: www.lowcountrycwr.org
- Monitor Plans: www.monitorcenter.org/history/hull.html
- Kits: www.modelshipbuilding.com/ironclads.htm
- Civil War List: www.cwc.lsu.edu/cwc/civlink.htm