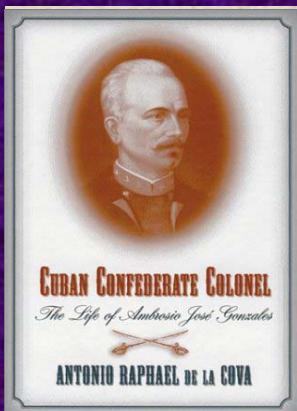




HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF
INDIANA
CIVIL WAR
ROUND TABLE

Our September Presentation—
Cuban Confederate Colonel: The Life of Antonio Jose Gonzales



"Cuban Confederate Colonel: The Life of Ambrosio José Gonzales" tells the story of a revolutionary who figured prominently in both his native country's struggle against Spain and the Confederacy's fight for secession. Immortalized as the first Cuban to shed blood in the effort to oust the Spanish, Gonzales (1818-



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1893) managed to place himself in the center of hostilities in both his homeland and in the United States. Antonio Rafael de la Cova will examine the Cuban filibuster movement of the 1840s and 1850s, the American Civil War, and Southern Reconstruction from Gonzales's unusual perspective as both a Cuban and Confederate rebel. In doing so, Tony will shed new light on the connections between Southern and Cuban society, the workings of coastal defenses during the Civil War, and the vicissitudes of Reconstruction for a Cuban expatriate.

Our Speaker: Dr. Antonio Rafael de la Cova



Dr. Tony de la Cova was born in Havana, Cuba, currently resides in Bloomington, IN, and teaches Latin-American Studies at IU. Tony's biography about Col. Gonzales was published by U. of South Carolina Press in August 2003.

President's Corner



Greetings Everyone!

This is our first meeting of the new season and it promises to be a great one. I hope all you all enjoyed your summer breaks and I certainly encourage you all to share any Civil War related experiences you had over the summer at our first meeting.

In August, I had the pleasure of serving as a Federal regimental sergeant major at the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Although participation and attendance wasn't as high as initially envisioned, thousands of people still came to reenact or watch and we all felt the event was a success.

See you on Tuesday,

David M. Hovde

President, CTCWRT

Monthly meeting notes:

- *Tuesday, 9 September 2003*
- *Tippecanoe Arts Federation, 638 North Street, Lafayette IN*
- *Doors open 6:30 p.m., business meeting starts at 7.*
- *Bring a friend!*
- *Bring finger food!*



CAMP TIPPECANOE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

President—David M. Hovde (765-296-9926)
Vice President—Mark D. Jaeger (765-742-1850)
Treasurer—Bob Nulph (765-447-0746)
(Vacant)—Secretary

Member at Large—Les Howey (765-538-2742)
Member at Large—Carol Howey (same as above)
Member at Large—Dr. Robert May (765-743-3956)

The CTCWRT meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month (September-May) at the Tippecanoe Arts Federation, 638 North Street, Lafayette IN. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., business meeting begins at 7.

The Civil War on the Web: “Cubans in the Civil War”

<http://www.rose-hulman.edu/~delacova/cubans-civil-war.htm>

Tony de la Cova's site provides a fascinating look at the heretofore little-known participation of Cubans in the Northern and Southern causes during the American Civil War. Well worth a look!

Latest C. S. S. Hunley News:

“Hunley researchers probe the mystery of time.”

Time itself is a multi-layered mystery to the international team of scientists working to excavate and conserve the world's first successful military submarine. On the day before the third anniversary of the raising of the H. L. Hunley from the floor of the Atlantic Ocean, researchers may be closer to answering questions that have puzzled historians for over a century: when exactly did the Hunley take on water? The Rosetta stone that may help answer these questions is the ornate gold pocket watch that belonged to Hunley commander Lt. George Dixon, which was recovered during the excavation of the submarine on May 30, 2002. When the watch was opened earlier this year, Hunley scientists were hopeful the time on the watch would offer insight as to why the submarine mysteriously vanished after sinking the USS Housatonic on February 17, 1864. As the scientists were soon to learn, however, there are many layers to the mystery of time.

Accounts from crewmembers aboard the Housatonic say the Hunley's attack took place between 8:45 and 9:00 in the evening. When Lt. Dixon's watch was opened earlier this year and the face displayed 8:23, more questions were raised than answered. After researching the operation of the watch and the time keeping standards of the day, Hunley scientists uncovered a series of fascinating clues. During the Civil War, the Confederate States kept Local Apparent Solar Time as its standard, while United States naval vessels maintained the Local Mean Solar Time of Washington D.C. These varying calculations, when adjusted, mean the time kept on Dixon's pocket watch was probably 26 minutes behind the time kept onboard the Housatonic. When scientists adjusted the time on the watch to the Local Mean Solar Time of Washington D.C., they came to the conclusion that Dixon's watch stopped ticking at precisely 8:49. At first glance, such a time setting would appear to indicate the watch stopped within minutes of the Hunley's attack on the Housatonic, suggesting the Hunley's crew compartment flooded immediately after the attack. Drawing that conclusion at this moment, however, would be premature, according to Friends of the Hunley Chairman Warren Lasch.

“An important clue we will soon discover is whether or not the watch was completely wound down,” Lasch said. “To answer that question, experts will need to examine the watch's internal mechanisms. And we still don't know if the time is AM or PM or even the same day,” Lasch said. “The spring driven balance wheel used to power Dixon's pocket watch cannot function underwater because the friction of the water stops the pendulum mechanism.” Senator Glenn McConnell, Chairman of the Hunley Commission, is hopeful the watch will soon provide scientists with even more timely information. McConnell said at this point the body of scientific evidence suggests that the Hunley crew compartment may not have immediately filled with water, a theory that could explain why most crewmembers were found at their stations.

“It is entirely possible that the Hunley's crew compartment remained water tight long after the oxygen the crew needed to survive was gone. If the watch was protected for a time from the invasion of water, then it would have continued to tick until it gradually wound down,” McConnell said. The Hunley project team is currently working with watch experts to determine whether the watch had wound down, and once the research is completed, Lt. Dixon's pocket watch may yet hold new clues to the mystery of the Hunley's fate.

“If we lock in on the exact time, we lock in on the time sequence of her fate,” said McConnell. “I continue to be awed by how much we've accomplished since the Hunley was recovered three years ago. This truly is a fantastic journey and a stirring tribute to the spirit of innovation that connects the past, the present and the future,” Lasch said. (From press release, 18 August 2003)