

The H.L. Hunley Submarine: IT'S CONNECTION TO CONNECTICUT HISTORY

EXHIBIT: JANUARY 8 – FEBRUARY 28, 2018

HISTORY CORNER at the AVON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

281 Country Club Road, Avon, CT 06001

MOVIE PRESENTATION: THURSDAY, JANUARY 18TH @ 1:30 P.M. (SNOW DATE: JAN. 25, 1:30 P.M.)

In the Library's Community Room -History Channel's

"Digging for the Truth: The Hunley: New Revelations"

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH @ 1:30 P.M. (NO SNOW DATE)

In the Library's Community Room by Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, State Archaeologist Emeritus.

Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, State Archaeologist Emeritus, UCONN at Storrs was invited personally to work on the remains of the Hunley's crew, Dr. Bellantoni will explain his findings and the incredible history of the Hunley. This talk will be followed by Q+A. Light refreshments will be served.

There are many unsolved mysteries surrounding the Civil War submarine, the brainchild of Horace Lawson Hunley, since its sinking in February of 1862. Partnering with engineer James McClintock, Hunley designed this "fish boat" that was literally welded from boiler plates. Were they motivated by patriotism or profit to create this innovative war machine?

The mission of the Hunley was to break the naval blockade in Charleston, South Carolina harbor by sinking a Union 'ironclad' ship. After initial testing, the third mission was successful in sinking the USS Housatonic. However, the Hunley was unable to retreat from its death blow to the ironclad, and sank in the harbor, killing all crew members.

The Hunley submarine was discovered August 2000 by Clive Cussler. It was carefully raised from the bottom of the harbor and brought to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center. It is kept in a huge, saltwater tank for preservation and teams have worked painstakingly to remove over 130 years of barnacle encrustation and the cleaning of artifacts. Dr. Bellantoni was called in to help solve one of the many mysteries.

Please join us for the fascinating presentation by Dr. Bellantoni and learn about three connections to Connecticut's history. Afterwards, please view the exhibit curated by "Team Hunley" of the Special Projects Committee. The display will include copyrighted photographs with permission from 'The Friends of the Hunley', as well as reproduction artifacts, maps, and photographs. Team members will be available to explain the exhibit and answer questions.



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Special thanks to 'The Friends of the Hunley' Organization for Exhibit Materials.

Interested? Visit the Hunley at its special salt-water tank at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in Charleston, SC. Learn more at www.hunley.org

