



Visit to the Confederate Rest Cemetery, Point Clear, Baldwin County, Alabama, USA

Clive Hollick (CH)

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CRC, Point Clear: Introduction

The Confederate Rest Cemetery is now an inactive portion of Point Clear Cemetery, where Confederate dead were laid to rest, most of whom died at the Grand Hotel, when it was used as a hospital during the Civil War.[1] The victims were casualties from the Confederate defense of Vicksburg MS, May 18 – Jul 4 1863, around 250 miles away.



CRC, Point Clear: Timeline

Date

Event

1863

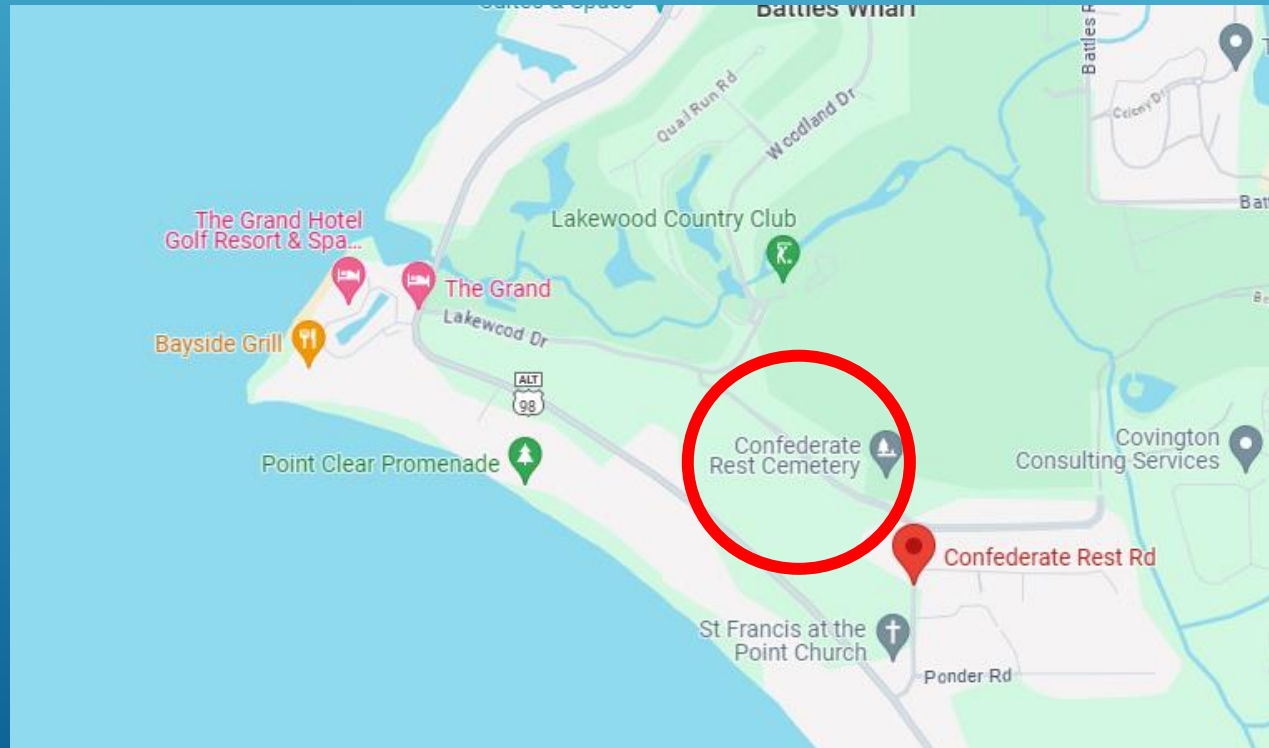
May 18 – Jul 4

Siege of Vicksburg ([Siege of Vicksburg – Wikipedia](#))

The Grand Hotel and Gunnison House are turned into hospitals to look after Confederate wounded from the above siege

1869

The Grand Hotel burns down destroying records of more than 300 of the Confederate dead buried at the cemetery



The Confederate Rest Cemetery (circled), off Mobile Bay, AL (Google Maps)

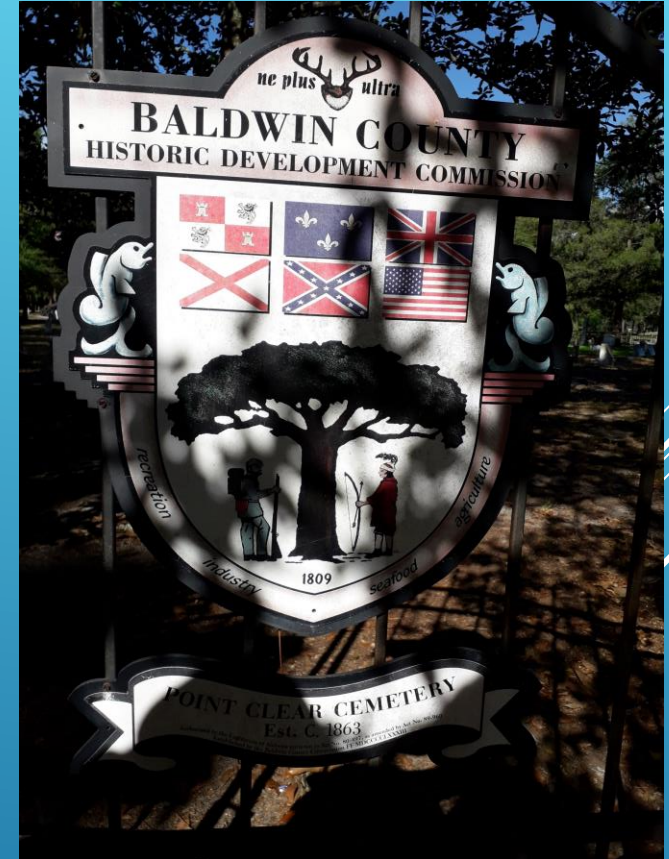
CRC, Point Clear: The Entrance



The above sign on the left gate post indicates that the CRC was established circa 1861

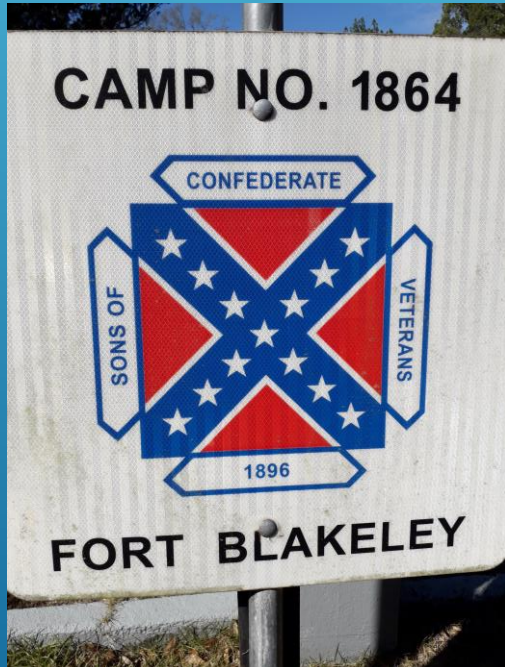


The gates to Point Clear Cemetery[1]



The above sign on the right gate indicates that the CRC was established circa 1863 (at the bottom)

CRC, Point Clear: The 'Confederate Dead' Entrance



The 'Confederate Dead' is written over the archway entrance to the Confederate Rest Cemetery

CRC, Point Clear: Graves



Two of the many graves to unknown Confederate soldiers



One of the greatest fears of an American Civil War (ACW) soldier was to be killed on the battlefield or to die in a field hospital as an 'unknown soldier'. Of the more than 325,000 Union soldiers buried in National Cemeteries, almost 149,000 are unknown. The number of unknown Confederates is thought to be even larger. At the start of the ACW, neither side issued any form of identification to its soldiers. Identification discs, later to be called "dog tags" were not issued by the federal government until 1906.[4] In addition to the importance of emotional closure for survivors of the deceased, there are frequently very practical issues that affect them, such as being able to re-marry (or not), property ownership, rights to war pensions, etc. Being unable to prove in law that someone has died can double-down on the grief.[5]

CRC, Point Clear: Confederate Monument



Left. The front of the CRC monument with a close up of the text, right



CRC, Point Clear: Confederate Monument



The obverse side of the CRC monument noted on the previous slide.

CRC, Point Clear: Army Pattern 4.2" (30pdr) Parrott MLR

This gun is within the CRC pointing towards the entrance – see next slide



Above. The 4.2" Parrott Muzzle Loading Rifle (MLR) with a close up, right, of the face of the right trunnion. It appears to read 'R.P.P.' – Robert Parker Parrott.[2] A heavy Union cast cannon within a Confederate cemetery.



Above. '4205' = Barrel weight in lbs
'No 301' = Army Registry No.
'1864' = Year of Manufacture
'W.P.F.' = West Point Foundry
'4.2' = Calibre in inches
'R.M.H.' = Initials of the insp. of ord. Richard Mason Hill (US Army)
According to records the gun was proofed Aug 08, 1864.[2]

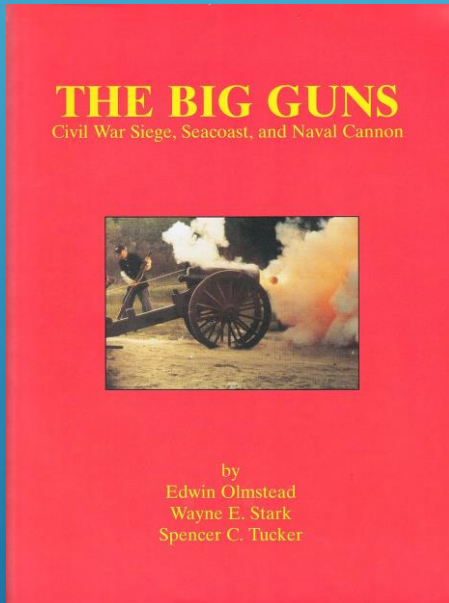
CRC, Point Clear: Army Pattern 4.2" (30pdr) Parrott MLR



Above. View from the rear of the Parrott MLR, which points to the entrance of the CRC, showing the knob on the breech base, a recognition feature of the Army (as opposed to the Navy) pattern [2,3]

End Notes

- [1] [Point Clear Cemetery, Fairhope, Baldwin, Alabama, United States | BillionGraves Cemetery and Images](#)
- [2] [The Big Guns \(Museum Restoration Service, 1997\), p114,116,169,183,185](#)
- [3] [Confederate Rest Cemetery, Point Clear, Alabama | The cemete... | Flickr](#)
- [4] [The Nameless Grave--Identifying Civil War Dead - National Museum of Civil War Medicine](#)
- [5] Comments from a former IRC operative to CH



All color photographs by CH unless noted otherwise.