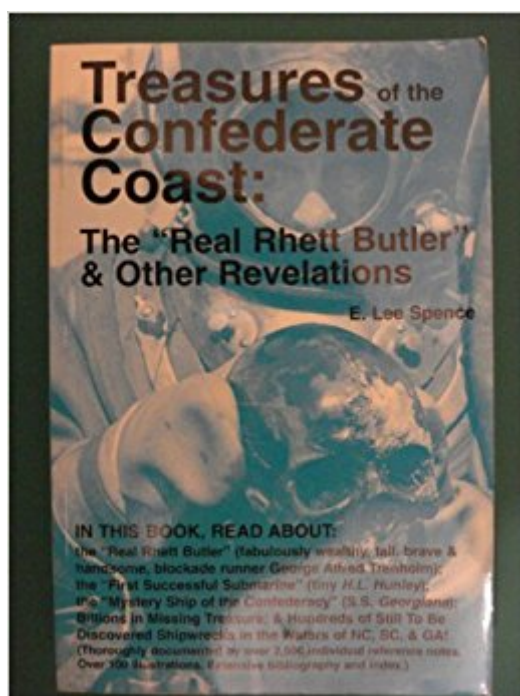


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# Treasures Of The Confederate Coast: The 'Real Rhett Butler' & Other Revelations



## Synopsis

Extensively researched and heavily documented book, giving information on literally hundreds of Civil War shipwrecks (many yet to be discovered and salvaged) in the waters of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Over one hundred illustrations (maps, photos, prints). Has individual chapters about Dr. Spence's discoveries of the Civil War submarine Hunley, the Confederate "privateer" Georgiana, and the identity of the "real Rhett Butler." An excellent book for reference or pleasure.

## Book Information

Paperback: 527 pages

Publisher: Narwhal Press; First Edition edition (January 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1886391017

ISBN-13: 978-1886391017

Product Dimensions: 9 x 6.1 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,164,356 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Naval Operations](#) #752 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Confederacy](#) #2454 in [Books > History > Military > Naval](#)

## Customer Reviews

Spurred on by childhood tales of pirates and adventure, internationally known shipwreck expert, E. Lee Spence, found his first shipwrecks at the age of twelve. He has since found hundreds of wrecks and has worked on everything from Spanish galleons and pirate ships to blockade runners and Great Lakes freighters. Always an adventurer, Dr. Spence has traveled to a wide range of countries including such places as Hong Kong, Vietnam, the Philippines, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, the Dominican Republic, El Salvadore, Jamaica, Haiti, Mexico, Colombia, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, Canada, England, Holland, Italy, Germany, Spain, and France. He has explored castles, palaces, shipwrecks, ancient ruins, secret tunnels, and subterranean and underwater caves. He has been shot at, buried in cave-ins, trapped in fishing nets, pinned under wreckage, run out of air, lost inside a wreck, and bitten by fish while pursuing his quests. Finding himself the target of an extortionist, he "borrowed" over a million dollars worth of original prints by famed wildlife artist John James Audubon in an unsuccessful effort to save the life of his child.

Afterwards, he voluntarily turned himself in along with the art which was the only concrete evidence against him. Charged with theft, he was unjustly imprisoned, but was finally pardoned. Legally, the pardon means he was never convicted. A man of action, Spence has saved the lives of others on more than a dozen occasions, sometimes at great risk to his own. He freely admits to having worked undercover for our government. However, he says it was many years ago when he was "young, invisible, and bulletproof." He refuses to say which agency. His tools of discovery have ranged from primitive grappling hooks to highly sophisticated side-scanning sonars. Over the years, he has worked out of tiny sailboats, beautiful yachts, and ocean going research vessels. He first made local and national news when he was a teenager. His work has since been written up in Life, People Weekly, the London Sun and hundreds of other periodicals all over the world. You may have seen him on the Today Show or heard him on Talk Net Radio. Having extensively researched ships lost in hurricanes, Spence was not surprised when his home on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, was destroyed by Hurricane Hugo. Spence's initial, but very brief announcement in 1989 of the identity of the "Real Rhett Butler," made international news. He had discovered (what one of the editors for Life magazine later characterized as "overwhelming evidence") that Margaret Mitchell based her famous Gone With The Wind character on a 19th century Charlestonian named George Alfred Trenholm. This book represents the first time that detailed information relating to that discovery has been made available to the public. Spence has actually located several steamers and sailing ships once owned by Trenholm. Trenholm's blockade running activities earned him today's equivalent of over one billion dollars in less than five years time. Spence is currently working on a book specifically on Trenholm. Although long considered one of the "founding fathers" of underwater archeology, at age 54, Dr. Spence is still a relatively young man. In June of 1992, Spence was appointed chief of underwater archeology for Providencia, an archipelago owned by the country of Colombia and covering more than 43,000 square miles in the Western Caribbean. As part of the arrangement, Spence's company was granted the exclusive salvage rights to the entire area for 25 years. His primary target was a treasure fleet which was lost in 1605 with over 250 tons of silver, gold, and precious jewels. His share would have made him richer than Ross Perot. When word leaked out that Spence had discovered the location of one of the fleet's richest galleons, he suddenly found himself threatened with trumped up charges of treason. The cha

Grreat!!!!

An absolutely must have book for armchair adventurers, shipwreck divers, treasure hunters, and

Gone With The Wind fans. The obvious amount of research that has gone into this work is staggering. This is definitely the definitive book on Civil War wrecks of the Confederate Coast. But more than that, it is extremely well written and highly interesting. Perhaps the most fascinating part of this book is the first chapter, which details the authors research and discovery of the true identity of the real Rhett Butler. His evidence is overwhelming. There is no question he has proved the identity of the true Rhett, and in doing so he has revealed a wealth of never before told details, including why Margaret Mitchell lied and claimed Rhett was pure fiction. According to Spence, Rhett was actually based on Charlestonian George Trenholm, who was tall, brave, and handsome. Trenholm made todays equivalent of over one billion dollars in just four years of blockade running. Like his fictional counterpart, Trenholm was accused of making off with the gold of the Confederate Treasury, and he really did have a beautiful, fast, young widow visit him in jail. Most of the missing treasure remains hidden to this day. I actually felt like I was diving with him when I read the exciting story of his discovery of Trenholm's wrecked blockade runner Georgiana. As if that was not enough the book includes information on another 500 Civil War shipwrecks off the coast of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Although brief, each shipwreck account is complete in itself. You will also be surprised to learn the facts behind his exciting discovery of the tiny Hunley and his efforts to see that it is raised and preserved. The Hunley was the first submarine in the entire history of the world to sink an enemy ship. This unique 527 page book has over 100 photographs, drawings and maps. It is well indexed and perhaps the most thoroughly researched book I have ever seen and is thoroughly documented by well over 2,500 individually cited reference notes

I bought this book thinking it was going to be filled with non-fiction southern stories and such. Unfortunately, out of a 525+ page book, there were only 100+ pages that fit that description. The other 400+ pages was entirely a list of shipwrecks. I'm not interested in reading an encyclopedia. Quite boring unless you are a scholar looking to do research as most of us reading this are most likely not. If you are though, this book is definitely for you! The "Product Description" leaves this out and I felt obligated to write this in the review. The most enjoyable part for me was reading the "About the Author" section on the last page. It is quite humorous. The arrogance and condescension that appears there also, regrettably, is a staple throughout the book. On the plus side though, the chapter about Rhett Butler is fairly interesting and the book has been well researched. Buyer beware though!

What an amazingly great and fascinating book! Lee is brilliant - a wonderful researcher, historian

and a class act!! Bruce

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