

# Charles William "Savez" Read

Birth:

May 12, 1840

Hinds County

Mississippi, USA

Death:

Jan. 25, 1890

Meridian

Lauderdale County

Mississippi, USA



**Confederate Medal of Honor Recipient. He was twenty years old when he graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1860. In 1861 he resigned his Union commission and joined the Confederate Navy.**

**His first naval victory he participated in was while he served on the "CSS McRae" at New Orleans, Louisiana. He was the commander of the ironclad "CSS Arkansas" during the battle near Vicksburg, Mississippi on July 13, 1862 and Baton Rouge, Louisiana on August 6, 1862. He also served on the "CSS Florida" from January 15, to June 6, 1863.**

**He earned his Medal of Honor during a raiding mission that lasted from June 6 to June 27, 1863. During that time three ships would be captured, the "Clarence", "Tacony" and "Archer". On June 27, 1863, he and his crew were captured in Portland, Maine and sent to Fort Warren, in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts. He was released in 1864. As a Confederate raider, he helped capture or destroy 22 Union ships in 21 days.**



CHARLES W. "SAVEZ" READ  
NAVAL HERO OF THE CONFEDERACY

LIEUTENANT READ, A NATIVE MISSISSIPPIAN, IS BURIED HERE. HE WAS AN 1860 GRADUATE OF ANNAPOLIS. WITH A CREW OF 17, HE CAPTURED 22 UNION SHIPS IN 21 DAYS AND STRUCK TERROR ACROSS THE EASTERN SEABOARD. THIS ADVENTURE HAS BEEN CALLED THE MOST BRILLIANT, DARE-DEVIL NAVAL ACTION OF THE WAR.

W. D. CAMERON CAMP 1221  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS  
1998



CHARLES W. "SAVEZ" READ  
NAVAL HERO OF THE CONFEDERACY

LIEUTENANT READ, A NATIVE MISSISSIPPIAN, IS BURIED HERE. HE WAS AN 1860 GRADUATE OF ANNAPOLIS. WITH A CREW OF 17, HE CAPTURED 22 UNION SHIPS IN 21 DAYS AND STRUCK TERROR ACROSS THE EASTERN SEABOARD. THIS ADVENTURE HAS BEEN CALLED THE MOST BRILLIANT, DARE-DEVIL NAVAL ACTION OF THE WAR.

W. D. CAMERON CAMP 1221  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS  
1998



CHARLES W. READ,  
MAY 13, 1840,  
JANUARY 25, 1890.



CHARLES W. READ.

MAY 13, 1840.

JANUARY 25, 1890.

CHARLES W. "SAVEZ" READ

NAVAL HERO OF THE CONFEDERACY

LIEUTENANT READ, A NATIVE MISSISSIPPIAN, IS BURIED HERE. HE WAS AN 1860 GRADUATE OF ANNAPOLIS. WITH A CREW OF 17, HE CAPTURED 22 UNION SHIPS IN 21 DAYS AND STRUCK TERROR ACROSS THE EASTERN SEABOARD. THIS ADVENTURE HAS BEEN CALLED THE MOST BRILLIANT, DARE-DEVIL NAVAL ACTION OF THE WAR.

# A Brief History of Rose Hill Cemetery

"A Victorian Cemetery"  
Circa 1837-1901  
(Source: Lauderdale  
County Department of  
Archives and History, Inc.)



**Rose Hill is located on 7th Street and 40th Avenue and is owned by the Benevolent Fund, Inc. at 1410 51st Avenue, Meridian, MS 39307. The local phone number is 601-693-3344.**

**We have been unable to pin point the date of the first burials of Rose Hill Cemetery. The oldest marker that has been found is dated in 1853; however there were burials prior to that date. In that era, wooden markers were common, however they seldom lasted more than 20 years.**

**Two Masonic Lodges and an Odd Fellows Lodge acquired the Cemetery and incorporated in 1874. King Solomon Lodge #333 retired from the cemetery since one Masonic Lodge was all that was needed, leaving Meridian Lodge #308. Odd Fellows Lodge #80 disbanded around 1998, shortly after that the Cemetery was put into a separate Corporation called the Benevolent Fund, Inc. The Board of Directors of this corporation is drawn from the Masons. The purpose of the Masons is to assist widows and orphans and the purpose of the Odd Fellows is to bury the dead.**

**Location:**

**7th Street & 40th Avenue  
Meridian, MS 39301**

**Across 40th Avenue is Calvary Baptist Church on 8th Street.**

**The Following information is taken from:**

**Mississippi Gravesites CS Navy Research Library, Mobile, Alabama, [www.csnavy.org](http://www.csnavy.org)  
\*Lt. Charles W. Read\***

**The CSN Research Center founder (John E. Ellis) had the privilege of attending a ceremony on 15 July 2000 to mark the placing of a special monument to Lt. Charles W. Read, CSN on his gravesite at Rose Hill Cemetery. The 2 day festivities were hosted by the W. D. Cameron Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Meridian. Nearly 30 descendants of Lt. Read were on hand from all over the country as far away as Calif. and Virginia. In addition, a new book on Read was presented to the public by author Hewitt Clarke entitled "He Saw the Elephant". This was one of the finest, most enjoyable events attended by this writer. It was full of excitement and most of the Read descendants were meeting for the first time adding to the specialness of the occasion. The strong, bold traits of 'Savez' run through the entire family. In fact, the writer (Ellis) was able to establish a connection to the Read family through a marriage into the Duke family by Read's grandfather in TN in which the Dukes married into the Ellis family in Warren County, North Carolina prior. Below are some images taken by the founder at the ceremony and of the monument to this great sailor. Another book has just been released on him by Robert A. Jones titled "Confederate Corsair" in addition to the book by R. Thomas Campbell, "Sea Hawk of the Confederacy".**

**The year 2000 was the year Charles W. Read's story was fully known. An honor well overdue.**





CHARLES W. SWEET, REAR  
 NAVAL BUILDER OF THE U.S. STEAM

NAVY  
 U.S. NAVAL YARD  
 PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

REAR NAVAL BUILDER OF THE U.S. STEAM  
 NAVY  
 U.S. NAVAL YARD  
 PENSACOLA, FLORIDA



CHARLES W. SWEET  
 MAY 13, 1863  
 JANUARY 25, 1864



*The newly dedicated monument at Rose Hill cemetery located at the end of 7th Street at 40th Avenue. It is directly above Read's grave marker at base of mound Above that is another monument to 150 Confederates who are buried in the mass grave under the mound.*





CHARLES W. "SAVEZ" READ  
NAVAL HERO OF THE CONFEDERACY

LIEUTENANT READ, A NATIVE MISSISSIPPIAN, IS BURIED HERE. HE WAS AN 1860 GRADUATE OF ANNAPOLIS. WITH A CREW OF 17, HE CAPTURED 22 UNION SHIPS IN 21 DAYS AND STRUCK TERROR ACROSS THE EASTERN SEABOARD. THIS ADVENTURE HAS BEEN CALLED THE MOST BRILLIANT, DARE-DEVIL NAVAL ACTION OF THE WAR.

W. D. CAMERON CAMP 122  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS  
1998



**Re-enactors at the Savez Read grave**