

John Sexton
11231 US Highway 1, #387
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

(February 2, 2026, Authentication Report, Confederate B&G CSN sword)

Description of Property

Confederate Boyle & Gamble Naval Officer Sword of Midshipman James H. Dyke

Manufacturer: Boyle & Gamble

Where manufactured: Richmond, Virginia

Date of original manufacture: 1862

Materials: steel, brass, wood, leather

Blade length: ~27"

Blade Width: 1.2"

Blade thickness at ricasso: 0.26"

Scabbard: missing

Distinguishing features: high copper content brass hilt, B&G copy of US model 1850, pommel with unique cast B&G laurel decoration, wood grip leather & twisted copper wire wrapped, flat saber ground blade, spear point, ~10" sharpened top edge. Blade is etched with unique Confederate naval motifs (page 9)

Markings: blade is etched with similar motifs to USN swords, fouled anchor, acorns & oak leaves, "CSN" in large panel, casemate iron clad ship & "Jas. H. Dyke".

Condition: Very Good overall, "as found", grip retains wire wrap and small traces of white dyed leather under wire.

Rank: 3 of this pattern are documented, only 2 inscribed to individual officers

Provenance & Collection History:

Derek Manov purchased sword at Los Angeles flea market for \$700 in 1980 as related to me January 25, 2026 at Las Vegas antique Arms Show

John Sexton
11231 US Highway 1, #387
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

(February 2, 2026, Authentication Report, Confederate B&G CSN sword)

Photos of subject property and comments:



Classic Boyle & Gamble model 1850 pattern, with flat blade and Confederate Navy etched panels. Sword is identical to army pattern with slight variant scabbard mounts. All 3 known B&G naval swords have flat blades with sharpened spear point blades unique to naval pattern



Red copper patina often observed on B&G swords.

John Sexton
11231 US Highway 1, #387
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

(February 2, 2026, Authentication Report, Confederate B&G CSN sword)



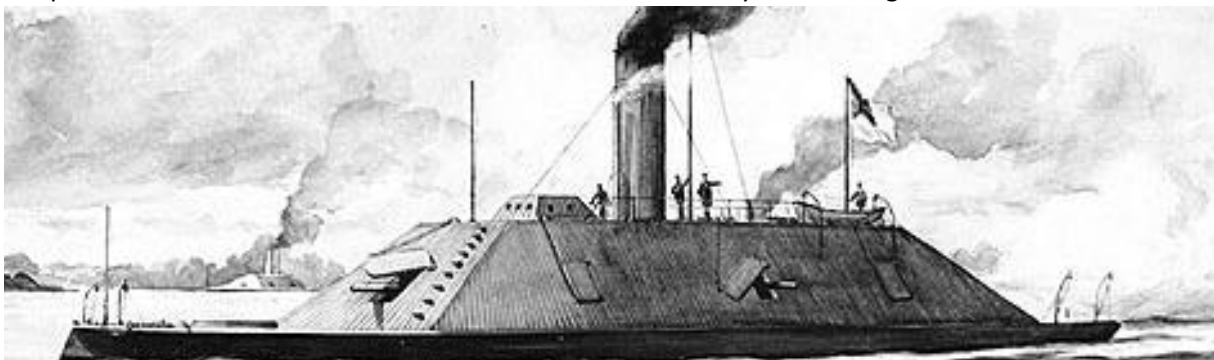
Grip has fragment of white dyed leather wrap unique to B&G and noted by early texts, single brass/copper wire wrap characteristic to B&G.



"Jas. H. Dyke" & fluted anchor inscription on blade. Inscription is unique and commissioned for midshipman Dyke. Only one other Boyle & Gamble named naval officer sword known and it also has the ship etched that they were assigned. Dyke was assigned to CSS Richmond mid 1862.



unique etched motif of CSN & ironclad CSS Richmond which Dyke was assigned mid 1862.



CSS Richmond, other drawings of Richmond show 4 gun ports like on blade. No photos known of ship.

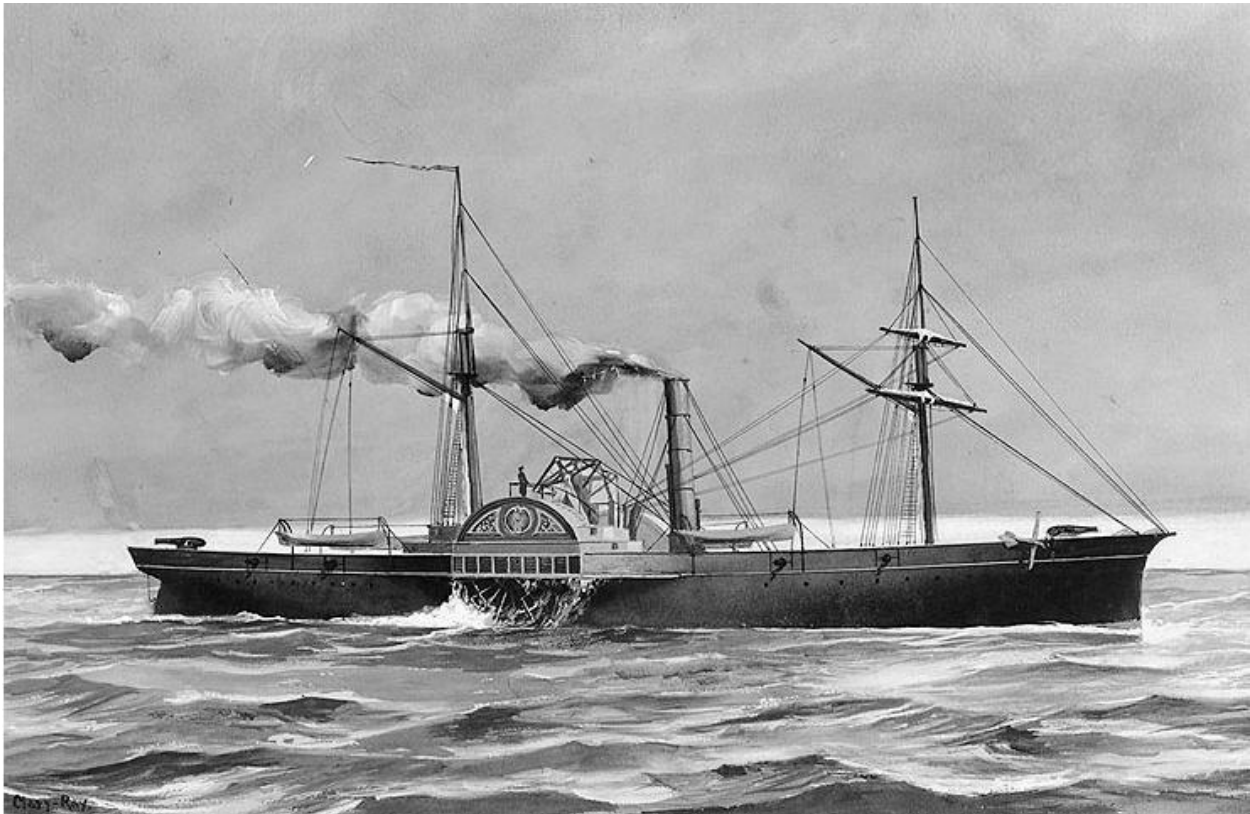
John Sexton
 11231 US Highway 1, #387
 North Palm Beach, FL 33408

(February 2, 2026, Authentication Report, Confederate B&G CSN sword)

Dyke, James H.

Born in Florida. Appointed from Florida. Acting midshipman, September 24, 1861. Midshipman Provisional Navy, June 2, 1864. Served on C. S. S. *Patrick Henry*, 1861–62, Drewrys Bluff, Va., 1862. C. S. S. *Richmond*, James River Squadron, 1862. C. S. cruiser *Florida*, 1862–1864; temporary duty on bark *Lapwing*, 1863. Served abroad, 1863–1865; C. S. S. *Rappahannock*, Callais, France, 1865.

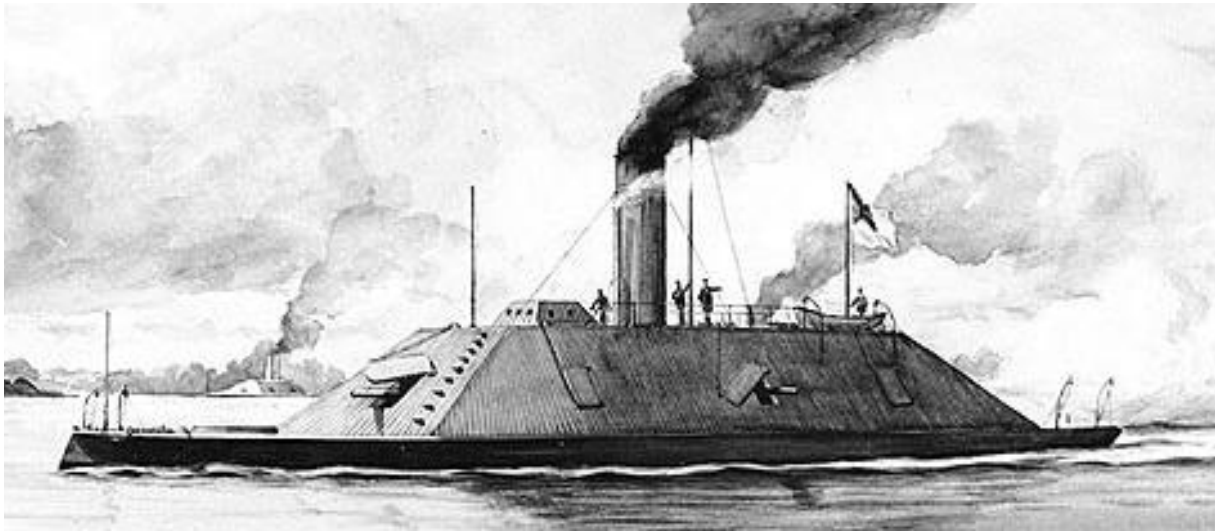
James H. Dyke (1846-1869) born in Florida was son of prominent Tallahassee newspaper editor, served in Tallahassee's Leon Guards, Co. D, 2nd Florida infantry, July-September 1861, transferring to Confederate navy as 16 year old midshipman on CSS Patrick Henry, later to CSS Richmond. The Richmond was a casemate iron clad war ship like its famous cousin CSS Virginia. He went on to be assigned to the famous revenue raider CSS Florida where Dyke served till June 1864 taking last command with CSS Rappahannock while still in dock in England. He returned to New York after the war penniless and made his way back to Tallahassee where he died at 23 years old.



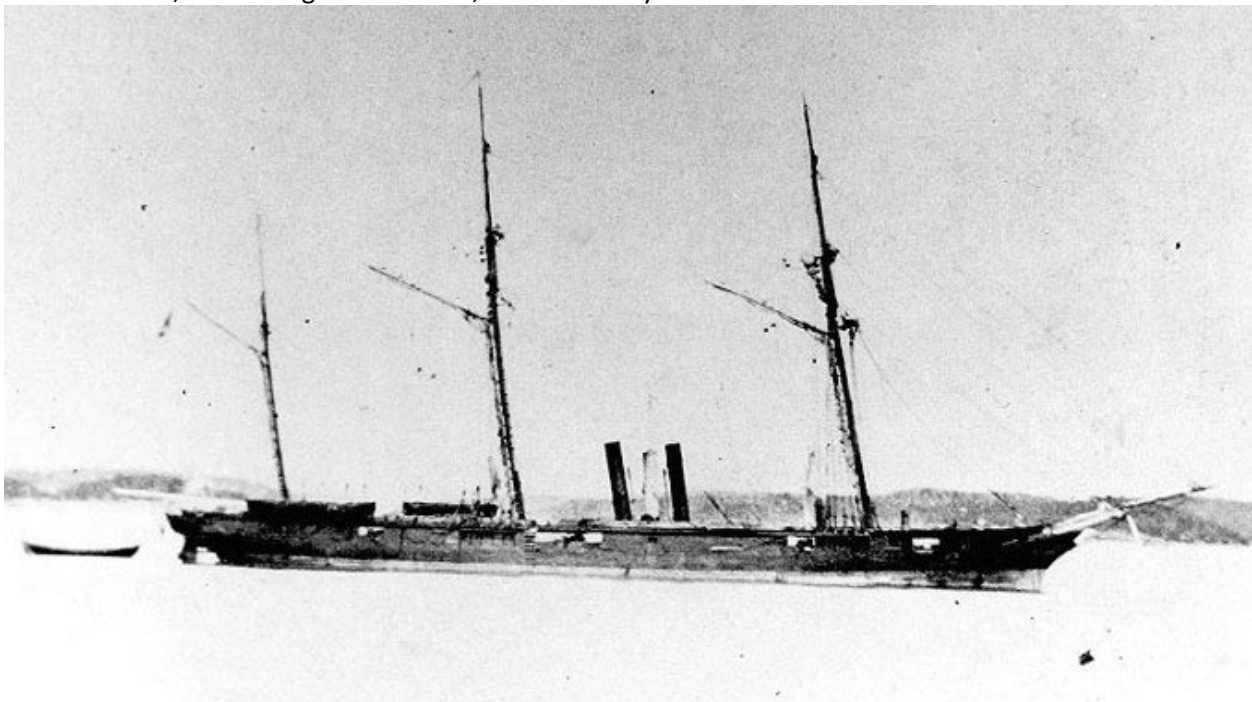
CSS Patrick Henry, sidewheeler, Dyke's first assignment September 1861

John Sexton
11231 US Highway 1, #387
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

(February 2, 2026, Authentication Report, Confederate B&G CSN sword)



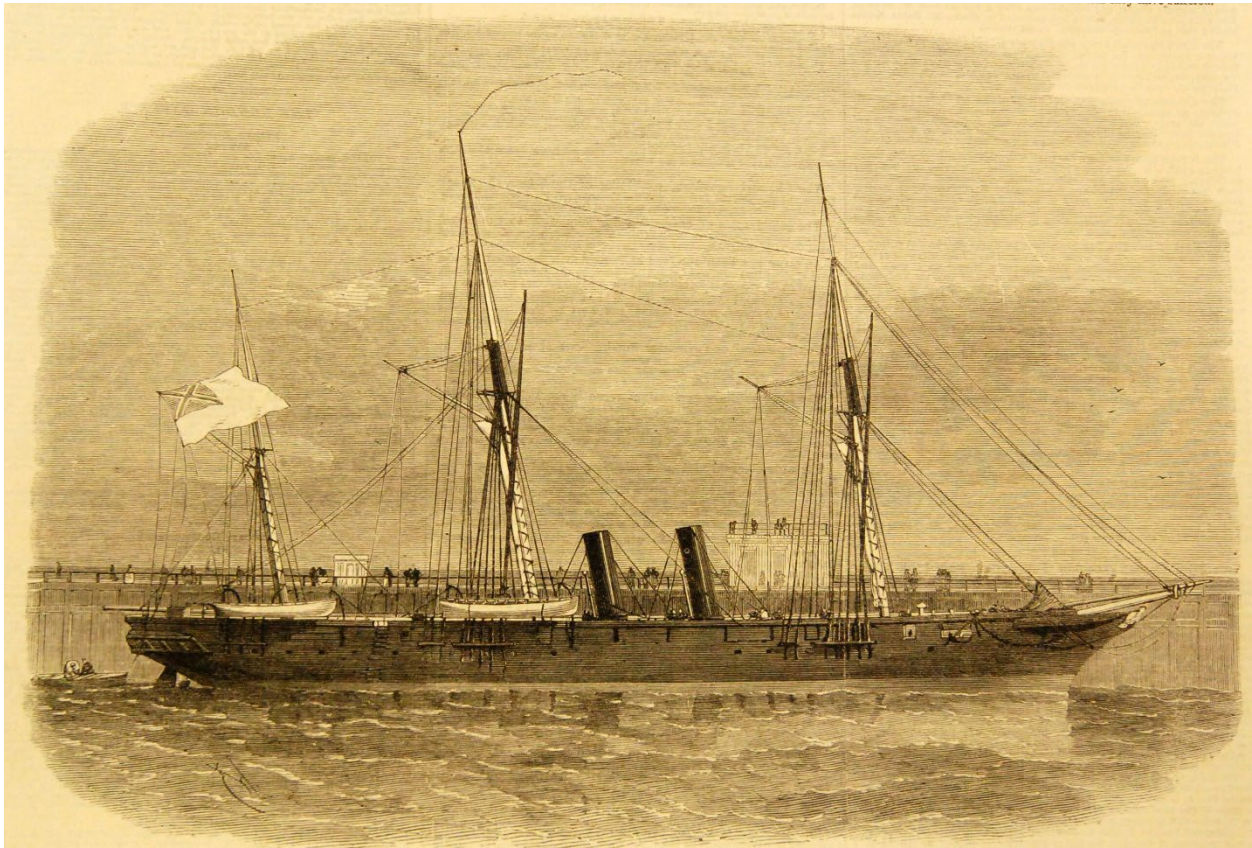
CSS Richmond, same image as on blade, launched May 1862 which dates sword to mid-1862



CSS Florida 1862-1864, Dyke was assigned through June 1864

John Sexton
11231 US Highway 1, #387
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

(February 2, 2026, Authentication Report, Confederate B&G CSN sword)



CSS Rappahannock, Dyke's last vessel late 1864-1865

* * * * *

Charles Edgar Dyke(8), Noah(7)
b. 24 January 1821
d. 8 February 1887 in Tallahassee, Florida
m.
(1) Sarah Oliver of New York City
Children:
1. James Dyke b. and d. in Tallahassee, Fla. He was on the gunboat Florida presumably during the Civil War. After the war, he landed in New York penniless and made his way to Troy, N.Y. where he was assisted by relatives.

449

child of Charles E. Dyke, family history has little info on James who died so young.

John Sexton
11231 US Highway 1, #387
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

(February 2, 2026, Authentication Report, Confederate B&G CSN sword)

DYKE, JAMES H

Florida

Acting Midshipman, CSN, from Sept. 24,
1861; C.S.S. Florida, 1862-64; "temp. duty
on prize bark Lapwing, March 28, 1863";

(C.S.S. Patrick Henry, 1861-62; Drewry's Bluff*)
Midshipman, PNCS, from June 2, 1864; C.S.S.
Rappahannock, 1864;

put., Co. D, 2nd Fla. Inf. Reg., July 8, 1861 ("dropped")

put., Co. M, 2nd Fla. Inf. Reg., Aug 20, 1861; to*

enl. Tallahassee, Fla.

*CSN; discharged Sept. 25, 1861;

*Va., 1862; C.S.S. Richmond, James River Sqdn., 1862)

James Dykes, personnel cards, NARA

John Sexton
11231 US Highway 1, #387
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

(February 2, 2026, Authentication Report, Confederate B&G CSN sword)

Only other inscribed B&G CSN sword has officer's ship etched with his name, unique to this maker. The other known etched CSN sword has no name or ship.

Payne, John A.

Born in Alabama. Appointed from Alabama. Transferred from C. S. Army. Master's mate, ———. Acting master, August 27, 1862. Lieutenant for the war, January 7, 1864, to rank from May 25, 1863. First lieutenant, Provisional Navy, June 2, 1864, to rank from January 6, 1864. Served on C. S. R. S. *United States* and C. S. S. *Raleigh*, Richmond station, 1862–63. C. S. S. *Chicora*, Charleston station, 1863. C. S. S. *Gaines*, Mobile Squadron, 1863–64; participated in the Battle of Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864.



Only other inscribed B&G naval officer sword of Lt. John A. Payne, shows 2-masted steam ship, CSS Raleigh, Payne's 1st ship assignment, based on Payne & Dyke motifs, B&G did very personal blade etch with each officer's vessels.



CSS Raleigh, Payne's 1st ship, from woodcut in Harpers October 19, 1861, not to be confused with later CSS Raleigh-casemate ironclad

John Sexton
11231 US Highway 1, #387
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

(February 2, 2026, Authentication Report, Confederate B&G CSN sword)

Bibliography & Sources for this Report

The American Society of Appraisers Personal Property Committee, monographs 1-8, 2013-2017

Appraisal Standards Board. Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice 2020-2021, Washington, DC 2017

Core Course in Appraisal Studies, Course Manual, January 2014, International Society of Appraisers, pages L9-3 – L9-7

Principles of Appraisal Practice and Code of Ethics, American Society of Appraisers, revised April 2012

Confederate Sword Selected Bibliography & Sources:

William Albaugh, Confederate Swords, 1950

William Albaugh, Confederate edged weapons, 1960

William Albaugh, Photographic Addendum to Confederate Swords, 1963

William Albaugh, Confederate Arms, 1957

Hartzler, Daniel, Confederate Presentation and Presentation Swords and Revolvers, 1988

John Sexton, CivilWarAppraiser.com, Gallery of Confederate Edged Weapons