Old Baldy
Civil War Round Table
of Philadelphia

Kevin M. Hale Award
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best Historical Newsletter
in New Jersey

July 9, 2020 The Civil War: April 12, 1861 - August 20, 1866

"The Civil War on the Rio Grande: 1846-1876"

Roseann Bacha-Garza

Join us at **7:15 PM** on **Thursday, July 9 on Zoom**. This month's topic is ***"The Civil War on the Rio Grande: 1846-1876"***

Long known as a place of cross-border intrigue, the Rio Grande's unique role in the history of the American Civil War has been largely forgotten or overlooked. Few know of the dramatic events that took place here or the complex history of ethnic tensions and international intrigue and the clash of colorful characters that marked the unfolding and aftermath of the Civil War in the Lone Star State.

To understand the American Civil War in Texas also requires an understanding of the history of Mexico. The Civil War on the Rio Grande focuses on the region's forced annexation from Mexico in 1848 through the Civil War and Reconstruction. In a very real sense, the Lower Rio Grande Valley was a microcosm not only of the United States but also of increasing globalization as revealed by the intersections of races, cultures, economic forces, historical dynamics, and individual destinies.

Roseann Bacha-Garza serves as program manager for the Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools (CHAPS) Program at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She is the coauthor of Blue and Gray on the Border: The Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail and coeditor of The Native American Peoples of South Texas. She resides in McAllen, Texas. Website from the Rio Grande Valley CW Trails: https://www.utrgv.edu/civilwar-trail/

Notes from the President...

With half the year completed, our Round Table is doing well even with all the crisis. You have let us know so in the recent membership survey. Review the article on the survey results in this newsletter. Welcome to our new members. Hope everyone had a safe Holiday weekend commemorating Independence Day and the surrender of Vicksburg. Do tell those you are in contact with to check us out on a future Zoom presentation, as we want to grow our family.

At our meeting last month, **Bob Jorgensen** explained "The Federal Bridging Operation at Fredericksburg" in December 1862. All in attendance came away with a better understanding of what happened to get the Union Army across the Rappahannock River. Last week, **Richard Schaus** gave a detailed review of "The Eleven Fateful Days after Gettysburg." Our audience of folks across the nation enjoyed his talk. Several will be reading his book on this topic. **Dave Gilson** continues to schedule informative and enjoyable presentations.

This month we will learn about the thirty year "Civil War on the Rio Grande" when **Roseann Bacha-Garza** will visit with us over ZOOM. Tune in to learn about the unique role this region played in the Civil War and Reconstruction. Later this month **Dr. Michael Birkner** from the Eisenhower Society will tell us about Dwight D. Eisenhower's experiences at Gettysburg. Watch for the announcement from Dave. Start telling folks to be here next month for **Kevin Levine**.

Our round table was highlighted during the first CWRT Congress Summit last month. The Summit sessions are to permit round tables across the nation to express their concerns in dealing with the current crises we all face. They also are to open up dialogue between groups with similar needs and situations. We were featured because of how we dealt with the COIVD-19 situation. A video of the session is available on the CWRT Congress website. Our Michael A. Cavanaugh Book Award Committee is reading their books over the summer to choose this year's winner.

Based on your feedback we will be scheduling member-based nights. First will be a book night for you to share

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the best book your read during your recent time at home. We are developing a discussion for later this year. Our Board is planning an outdoor event this summer in a local park so we can see each other while social distancing. Details to come soon.

We have used up our 40th anniversary Irish-fluted glasses and have ordered the next set. They should be in for your viewing at our meeting. Look for member profiles to start appearing in the coming newsletter. If you would like to interview and write up a profile let us know. If you would like to be interviewed so our fellow members can learn about what brought you to us speak up. Thank you to those who have sent **Don Wiles** articles and book reviews for the newsletter. *Support your local restaurants by ordering take out before our meeting and be sure to bring a friend or family member.*

Stay safe and well

Rich Jankowski, President

Today in Civil War History

1861 Tuesday, July 9

Trans-Mississippi
Missouri remains the scene of skirmishing. Reports are received of a July 8 attack on a Confederate camp at Florida, Missouri. The camp is dispersed.

1862 Wednesday, July 9

Eastern Theater/Naval Operations
Confederate positions along the banks of the Roanoke River are seized, and a number of Confederate vessels are taken. Only one sailor is killed in the operation, which involves the Federal gunboats Perry, Ceres and Shawseen.

Western Theater
Morgan's Confederate raiders seizes Tomkinsville, Kentucky.

Trans-Mississippi
Skirmishing continues around Aberdeen in Arkansas.

1863 Thursday, July 9

Westem Theater
Eluding Union troops now in pursuit, Morgan's raiders reach Brandenburg on the Ohio and cross over in two captured steamboats. By midnight his men are in Indiana.

1864 Saturday, July 9

Eastern Theater
Early finds his path blocked by Lew Wallace's hastily assembled force of raw recruits and Rickett's division, hurried forward on the railroad. The Federal force of 6000 occupies a strong position on the east bank of the Monocacy near Frederick, Maryland. Having already marched 14 miles today, the Confederates attack immediately. Early's 10,000 veterans batter their way through by sunset, Wallace's green troops disintegrating. Union losses are 90 dead, 579 wounded, and over 1200 missing—mostly "helping the wounded to the rear." The battle delays Early's advance on Washington by a day, gaining vital time for the capital's defenses to be organized. Early levies $200,000 from Frederick.

Western Theater
Johnston withdraws across the Chattahoochee, destroying all the bridges as he goes and occupying new entrenchments around Atlanta itself. President Davis dispatches Braxton Bragg to meet Johnston and ask what he is planning to do next.

The Final Civil War Battle - Palmito Ranch

This is a reprint from the April 14, 2016 newsletter and related to this month speaker's subject.

The Battle of Palmito Ranch is generally reckoned as the final battle of the American Civil War, since it was the last engagement between organized forces of the Union Army and Confederate States Army involving casualties. It was fought on May 12 and 13, 1865, on the banks of the Rio Grande east of Brownsville, Texas, and a few miles from the seaport of Los Brazos de Santiago (now known as Matamoros).

Union and Confederate forces in southern Texas had been observing an unofficial truce, but Union Colonel Theodore H. Barrett ordered an attack on a Confederate camp near Fort Brown, for reasons unknown (some claimed he wanted to see combat before the war ended.) The Union took a few prisoners, but the attack was repulsed near Palmito Ranch the next day by Col. John Salmon Ford, and most historians regard it as a Confederate victory. Casualty estimates are not dependable, but Union Private John J. Williams of the 34th Indiana is believed to have been the last man killed in combat in the war. The engagement is also known as the **Battle of Palmito Hill** or the **Battle of Palmetto Ranch**.

Background
After July 27, 1864, most of the 6,500 Union troops were withdrawn from the lower Rio Grande Valley, including Brownsville, which they had occupied on November 2, 1863. The Confederates were determined to protect their remaining ports, which were essential for cotton sales to Europe, and the importation of supplies. The Mexicans across the border tended to side with the Confederates because of the lucrative smuggling trade. Early in 1865, the rival armies in south Texas honored a gentlemen's agreement, since there was no point in further hostilities between them.

Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace proposed a negotiated end of hostilities in Texas to Confederate Brig. Gen. James E. Slaughter, and met with Slaughter and his subordinate Col. Ford at Port Isabel on March 11–12, 1865. Despite

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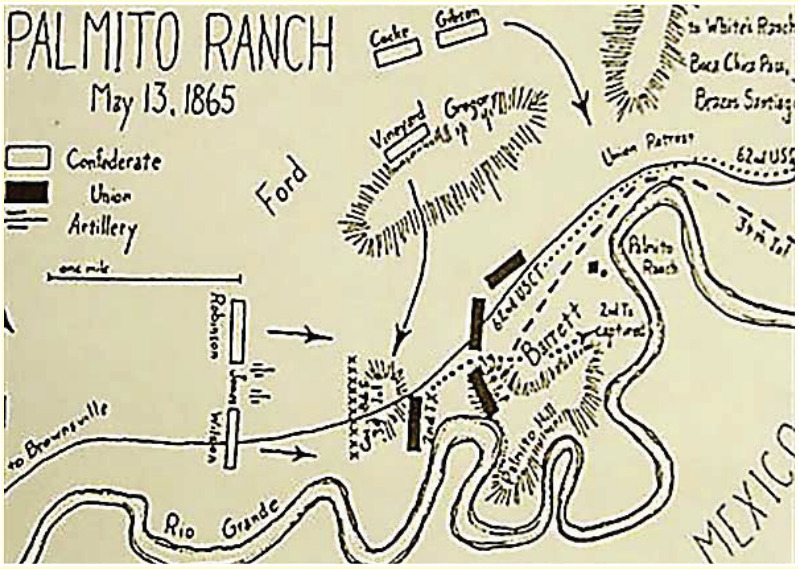
Slaughter's and Ford's agreement that combat would prove tragic, their superior, Confederate Maj. Gen. John G. Walker, rejected the cease fire in a scathing exchange of letters with Wallace. Despite this, both sides honored a tacit agreement not to advance on the other without prior written notice.



A brigade of 1,900 Union troops, commanded by Col. Robert B. Jones of the 34th Indiana Veteran Volunteer Infantry, were on blockade duty at the Port of Brazos Santiago, on the mouth of the present ship channel of the Port of Brownsville. The 400-man 34th Indiana was an experienced regiment that had served in the Vicksburg Campaign and was then reorganized in December 1863 as a "Veteran" regiment, composed of veterans from several regiments whose original enlistments had expired. The 34th Indiana deployed to the Port of Los Brazos de Santiago on December 22, 1864, replacing the 91st Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which returned to New Orleans. The brigade also included the 87th and 62nd United States Colored Infantry Regiments ("United States Colored Troops", or U.S.C.T.), with a combined strength of about 1,100. Shortly after Gen. Walker rejected the armistice proposal, Col. Jones resigned from the army to return to Indiana. He was replaced in the regiment by Lt. Col. Robert G. Morrison, and at Los Brazos de Santiago by Colonel Theodore H. Barrett, commander of the 62nd U.S.C.T.

The 30-year-old Barrett had been an army officer since 1862, but he had yet to see combat. Anxious for higher rank, he volunteered for the newly raised "colored" regiments, and was appointed colonel of the 1st Missouri Colored Infantry in 1863. In March 1864, the regiment became the 62nd U.S.C.T. Barrett contracted malaria in Louisiana that summer, and while he was on convalescent leave, the 62nd was posted to Brazos Santiago. He joined it there in February 1865.

Why this final battle even took place is still debated. Soon after the battle, Barrett's detractors claimed he desired "a little battlefield glory before the war ended altogether."[2] Others have suggested that Barrett needed horses for the 300 dismounted cavalrymen in his brigade and decided to take them from his enemy. Louis J. Schuler, in his 1960 pamphlet The last battle in the War Between the States, May 13, 1865: Confederate Force of 300 defeats 1,700 Federals near Brownsville, Texas, asserts that Brig-Gen. Egbert B. Brown of the U.S. Volunteers had ordered the expedition to seize as contraband 2,000 bales of cotton stored in Brownsville and sell them for his own profit. However, this is impossible, as Brown was not appointed to command at Brazos Santiago until later in May.

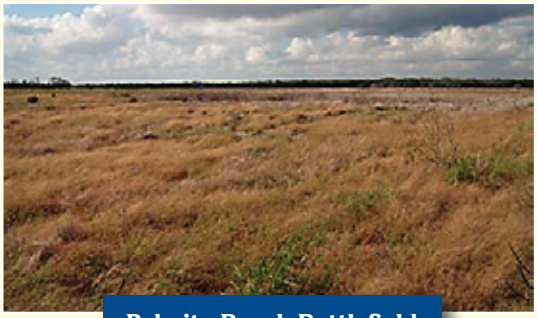
Battle

Lieutenant colonel David Branson wanted to attack the Confederate encampments commanded by Ford at White and Palmito Ranches near Fort Brown, outside Brownsville. Branson's Union forces consisted of 250 men of the 62nd U.S.C.T. in eight companies and two companies of the (U.S.) 2nd Texas Cavalry Battalion, 50 men without mounts. They moved from Brazos Santiago to the mainland. At first Branson's expedition was successful, capturing three prisoners and some supplies, although it failed to achieve the desired surprise. During the afternoon, Confederate forces under Captain William N. Robinson counterattacked with less than 100 cavalry, driving Branson back to White's Ranch, where the fighting stopped for the night! Both sides sent for reinforcements; Ford arrived with six French guns and the remainder of his cavalry force (for a total of 300 men), while Barrett came with 200 troops of the 34th Indiana in nine understrength companies.

The next day, Barrett started advancing westward, passing a half mile to the west of Palmito Ranch, with skirmishers from the 34th Indiana deployed in advance. Ford attacked Barrett's force as it was skirmishing with an advance Confederate force along the Rio Grande about 4 p.m. Ford sent a couple of companies with artillery to attack the Union right flank, sending the remainder of his force into a frontal attack. After some confusion and fierce fighting, the Union forces retreated towards Boca Chica. Barrett attempted to form a rearguard, but Confederate artillery prevented him from rallying a significant force to do so. During the retreat, which lasted until 14 May, 50 members of the 34th Indiana's rear guard company, 30 stragglers, and 20 of the dismounted cavalry were surrounded in a bend of the Rio Grande and captured. The battle is recorded as a Confederate victory.

Fighting in the battle involved Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic, and Native American troops. Reports of shots from the Mexican side, the sounding of a warning to the Confederates of the Union approach, the crossing of Imperial cavalry into Texas, and the participation by several among Ford's troops are unverified, despite many witnesses reporting shooting from the Mexican shore.

In Barrett's official report of August 10, 1865, he reported 115 Union casualties: one killed, nine wounded, and 105 captured. Confederate casualties were reported as five or six wounded, with none killed. Historian and Ford biographer Stephen B. Oates, however, concludes that Union deaths were much higher,



Palmito Ranch Battlefield

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probably around 30, many of whom drowned in the Rio Grande or were attacked by French border guards on the Mexican side. He likewise estimated Confederate casualties at approximately the same number.

Colonel
Theodore Harvey Barrett

Colonel
John Salmon "Rip" Ford

However, using court-martial testimony and post returns from Brazos Santiago, Texas A&M International University historian Jerry D. Thompson determined that: the 62nd U.S.C.T. incurred two killed and four wounded; the 34th Indiana one killed, one wounded, and 79 captured; and the 2nd Texas Cavalry Battalion one killed, seven wounded, and 22 captured, totaling four killed, 12 wounded, and 101 captured.

Private John J. Williams of the 34th Indiana was the last fatality during the Battle at Palmito Ranch, making him likely the final combat death of the war, and historians generally count this as the final battle.

Aftermath

Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith officially surrendered all Confederate forces in the Trans-Mississippi Department, except those under the command of Brigadier General Chief Stand Watie, on June 2, 1865. Brigadier General Stand Watie of the 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles was the last Confederate general to surrender his forces, in Doaksville, Indian Territory on June 23, 1865. On that same day, President Andrew Johnson ended the Union blockade of the Southern states.

Many senior Confederate commanders in Texas (including Smith, Walker, Slaughter, and Ford) and many troops with their equipment fled across the border to Mexico, possibly to ally with Imperial French forces, or with Mexican forces under Benito Juárez.

The Military Division of the Southwest (after June 27 the Division of the Gulf), commanded by Maj. Gen. Phillip H. Sheridan, occupied Texas between June and August. Consisting of the IV Corps, XIII Corps, the African-American XXV Corps, and two 4,000-man cavalry divisions commanded by Brig-Gen. Wesley Merritt and Maj-Gen. George A. Custer, it aggregated a 50,000-man force on the Gulf Coast and along the Rio Grande to pressure the French intervention in Mexico and garrison the Reconstruction Department of Texas.

In July 1865, Barrett preferred charges of disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, abandoning his colors, and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline against Morrison for actions in the battle, resulting in the latter's court martial. Confederate Col. Ford, who had returned from Mexico at the request of Union Gen. Frederick Steele to act as parole commissioner for disbanding Confederate forces, appeared as a defense witness and assisted in absolving Morrison of responsibility for the defeat.

The following material is from first-hand and published sources. They are recounts of the role of Hispanic Confederate veterans and the treatment of black POWs in South Texas.

There were Hispanic Confederate veterans at Fort Brown in Brownsville and on the field of Palmito Ranch. Col. Santos Benavides, who was the highest ranking Hispanic in either army, led between 100 and 150 Hispanic soldiers in the Brownsville Campaign in May 1865.

"Some of the Sixty-Second Colored Regiment were also taken. They had been led to believe that if captured they would either be shot or returned to slavery. They were agreeably surprised when they were paroled and permitted to depart with the white prisoners. Several of the prisoners were from Austin and vicinity. They were assured they would be treated as prisoners of war. There was no disposition to visit upon them a mean spirit of revenge."-Colonel John Salmon Ford, May 1865.

When Colonel Ford surrendered his command following the campaign of Palmito Ranch he urged his men to honor their paroles. He insisted that "The negro had a right to vote."

Private John J. Williams
34th Indiana
Final Combat Death

On April 2, 1866, President Johnson declared the insurrection at an end, except in Texas, because of a technicality concerning incomplete formation of a new state government. He declared the insurrection at an end in Texas and throughout the United States on August 20, 1866.

Welcome to the new recruits

Honorary - Robert Jorgensen
West New York, NJ

Gary Salkind
Drexel Hill, PA

Joseph Fafara
Philadelphia, PA

Unholy War: For God and Country!

By Joe Wilson, Member OBCWRT

Soldiers going into battle carried a musket, a bayonet, and 60 rounds of lead balls, all designed for maximum damage.

For one company of men from central Pennsylvania, something else central to fending off the enemy was packed alongside their government compliment of weapons. An ever present pocket sized bible bolstered their veil of defense and odds of survival. To march into battle without their bible meant facing the enemy stripped of their armor. The good book was standard issue in Company C of the 125th Pennsylvania Regiment.

Known as the "Bible Company," the 130 soldiers of Company C signed up for 9 months in August of 1862 after Lincoln's call for 300,000 more volunteers. Along with Theodore Flood, a divinity student, Captain William Wallace recruited a unique company of men in the name of the Lord Almighty. Most boys hailed from Huntington County, Pennsylvania. Wallace was a saintly Scottish Presbyterian whose strong faith carried over in guiding his raw recruits in the ungodly art of warfare. The gospel according to the adamant captain demanded a prayer meeting follow every morning roll call.

Only a short 6 weeks under arms with little training, the citizen soldiers of Company C marched toward the Antietam Creek flowing beside the hamlet of Sharpsburg, Maryland. An unholy bloodbath awaited them. Looming ahead was a not so spiritual encounter with a determined horde of veteran soldiers belonging to Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. If indeed a heavenly cloak of protection shielded the boys of the bible company, it would be needed on the terrifying morning of September 17th when mayhem followed their morning devotions. At least for a day, "Thou Shalt Not Kill" fell by the wayside.

At the Battle of Antietam, the green enlistees descended into the vortex of hell for a baptism of another kind. To be thrust into the bloodiest single day of the war for an introduction to combat was certainly not sanctioned from above, but seemed more a downright punishment. Any blessings crowning the group went AWOL for a day. Making matters worse for the bible boys, Company C was assigned to carry the flag of the regiment into battle. Considered an honor by many, the company holding the colors aloft also drew the heaviest fire from the enemy. On September 17th, 1862, the 125th regiment pushed beyond the Hagerstown Pike and into the West Woods well beyond any supporting troops. Wallace led his company into their first battle with his own unique battle cry. Holding his sword high he screamed "In God We Trust" for all to hear while marching his young bible toting charges on the double quick into a storm of shot and shell.

After imploring the company to echo his shouts, his 130 spirited disciples shouted their peculiar cry while silently placing their fate in a higher power. Hoping their cries for Divine Intervention would rise above the din of battle, they gripped their loaded muskets fixed with bayonets and followed Wallace straight into the chaos swirling in the West Woods and around the Dunker Church. Tucked away, the powerful word of God went along.

125th Pennsylvania Regiment

In the ensuing fight, four confederate charges failed to dislodge the boys in blue. Bravely standing his ground, the color bearer of Company C, Sergeant George Simpson, took a lead ball to the brain and fell dead with his blood oozing onto the flag. Under intense rebel musket fire, a rush of Union men dashed for the sullied flag. Several fell wounded attempting to save the flag before the daring Sergeant W.W. Greenland snatched up the banner and passed the rescued flag to Captain William Wallace.

The defiant Wallace waved the bloodstained flag high in the air while rallying his men to continue firing on the enemy. "In God We Trust" could still be heard reverberating through the West Woods. A fifth desperate charge of determined rebels finally pushed the outnumbered regiment to the breaking point. An unrelenting tide of Confederate reinforcements swarming the woods convinced the regimental commander, Union Colonel Jacob Higgins, the fight was in vain.

Fearing the loss of his total command, Higgins ordered the regiment back to the safety of a Rhode Island battery 200 yards away. The race was on as the boys of company C, along with the rest of the 125th Pa. regiment, fled the maelstrom in the West Woods with the shrieking rebels in hot pursuit. Once behind the menacing line of Union artillery, the reformed regiment watched the advancing confederates abruptly reverse course as a deadly cannon spewed hot iron into their ranks. Faith in God is a powerful ally. A righteous cannon barking fire is another.

The Sons of Pennsylvania fought valiantly in their advanced position until overwhelmed by the crushing Confederate counterattack. In 20 minutes, the 125th Pennsylvania lost 54 killed and 91 wounded in the lopsided fight in the West Woods. Colonel Jacob Higgins later remarked, "On looking around and finding no support in sight, I was compelled to retire. Had I remained in my position two minutes longer, I would have lost my whole command."

Captain Wallace and his pious recruits of Company C lost 13 men killed and 12 wounded from a total of 130 soldiers. When compared to other units caught in the slaughter in the West Woods, the group was fortunate. Over 100 of Wallace's faithful boys escaped the debacle totally unscathed. A celestial shroud of protection seemed to envelop the believers. Maybe the good Lord was watching over them after all.

Many regiments suffered terribly in the morning bloodbath around the Dunker Church, the West Woods, and Miller's

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cornfield. Of all the gruesome battles waged during the Civil War, few matched the carnage that erupted at Sharpsburg on the morning of September 17th, 1862. The nine month citizen soldiers of the 125th Pa. fought their only other battle in May of 1863 at Chancellorsville. Not being swept up in Stonewall Jackson's flank attack, their casualties were few.


Antietam National Cemetery

Behind the Dunker Church on the present day battlefield, an impressive monument marks the spot where the 125th Pennsylvania stubbornly held their ground. All members of the regiment agreed that Sgt. George Simpson of Company C be immortalized forever atop the monument for his actions at Antietam. In a tribute to their courageous flag bearer, the likeness of Sergeant Simpson crowns the monument still faithfully clutching his flag.

The granite Simpson stands firm and unyielding just as he did in 1862. Miss Annie Simpson, George's sister, unveiled the monument in 1904 to the 60 surviving members of the regiment. The regimental flag, still stained with the blood of the brave Sergeant, was unpacked for the ceremony.

George is buried in the Antietam National Cemetery in the Pennsylvania section along with 53 comrades of the 125th Pennsylvania Regiment who also fought and died at Antietam. They rest in peace beside the 2100 other Union defenders who gave all in turning back Robert E. Lee's threatened invasion of the North.

Company C mustered out of service in May, 1863, along with the rest of the regiment after serving their 9 month enlistment. A majority joined other units to keep on fighting. One year after the bible troop disbanded, Captain Wallace's famed battle cry, "In God We Trust," graced the face of American coins. History credits the Huntington Bible Company's battle cry for inspiring the iconic saying that still appears today on American currency.

Almost a hundred years after the Civil War, the 84th Congress passed a resolution making "In God We Trust" the official motto of the United States of America. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the piece into law on July 30th, 1956.

Captain William Wallace and his collection of devout holy warriors would have been proud.

This war story is one of many in the writer's upcoming book, "Obscure Tales of the Civil War." Joef21@aol.com

Spotlight on Lucy Petway Holcombe Pickens

By Kathy Clark, Member OBCWRT

Lucy was called the "Queen of the Confederacy" as well as the First Lady of South Carolina and some say she was the model for Scarlet O' Hara. She was the second child of Beverly Lafayette Holcomb and Eugenia Dorothea (Hunt) Holcomb on June 11, 1832. Lucy was born in the family plantation, Ingleside, located near La Grange, Tennessee which was Eugenia's fathers' home. By 1848 the Holcomb's moved to Marshall, Texas, living in the Capital Hotel while the house was under construction. The main house and outbuildings of this cotton plantation, Wyalucing, was completed and Lucy and her siblings moved into this slave owning household. Since the location of the plantation was away from any other property the children played with the children of their slaves.

Lucy personally was an upbeat, happy child looking at life as full of beauty, happiness, and herself. As she got older, she took on the stereotype of the "Southern Belle". She had many admirers as she got in her teens one of which was William Crittendem, a West Point Cadet from Kentucky. He was a nephew of the US Attorney General John J. Crittendem. At this time, Lucy also met General Narciso Lopez who had attempted to invade Cuba three times and failed. His idea was to invade the island to get it out of Spain's rule. The island was to be annexed to the United States. On August 3, 1851, General Lopez asked Colonel Crittendem to go with him back to Cuba for another try to invade the country. Colonel Crittendem and 323 men headed through the jungle. General Lopez left 50 men with Colonel Crittendem to guard the supplies. Some of the troops got through but the 50 men guarding the supplies got arrested and taken to Havana. The men were sentenced to death by firing squad in the public plaza.


Lucy Petway Holcombe Pickens

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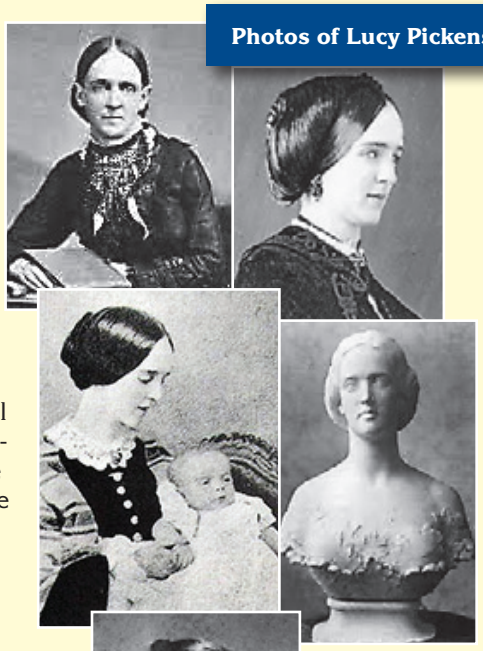
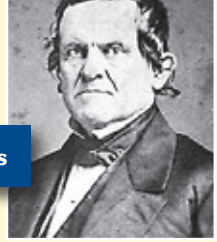
Lucy was terribly upset learning Colonel Crittendem was killed by the Spanish forces. She did not know that the real reason to invade Cuba was to extend the southern slave economy to the Caribbean and Mexico. As a result, Lucy, at age 19, wrote a novel that talked about the cause of Cuban Liberation entitled "The Free Flag of Cuba on the Martyrdom of Lopez: A Tale of the Liberating Expedition of 1851" and the role General Lopez and William Crittendem played in this fight.

In the summer of 1857, Lucy met Colonel Frances Wilkinson Pickens of South Carolina, an older widow but Lucy did not give him a second look until he lost his senate seat and accepted an appointment as US Ambassador to Russia in January 1858. That was enough to get her attention and they were married at Wyalucing on April 28, 1858. Frances was 20 years older and had grown daughters from two previous marriages.

Photos of Lucy Pickens





Frances Wilkinson Pickens

They took two household slaves to Russia with them, Lucinda, and Tom. Lucy enjoyed her time in Russia and became a favorite at the Russian court of Alexander II.

Alexander and his wife, Maria Alexandrovna became friends of Lucy and Frances, becoming godparents to their daughter named, Eugenia Frances Dorothea Olga Neva. Lucy taught her slave Lucinda to read and write in English and to speak French and Russia. Lucinda and Tom both came home with the family when they returned to South Carolina.

Confederate Currency

By August 1860, the family was worried and anxious to get home to their plantation of Edgewood. Frances was elected governor of the General Assembly of South Carolina on December 17, which was three days before a vote was issued for secession from the Union. Lucy was an advocate of succession as the wife of the governor and friend to the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury Christopher G. Memminger who approved having Lucy's likeness engraved on the June 2, 1862 issue of the Confederate State of America's one-dollar bill. The bill showed in the lower right corner Lucy's portrait, female figure of Liberty in upper left corner, center side-wheeler steam sailing ship in the ocean giving chase to a sailing vessel. At the end of 1862, her face appeared on the one-hundred-dollar bill of December 2, 1862, April 6, 1863, and February 17, 1864. She was also featured on the issue of $1,000 loan certificate.

In April 1861 Lucy and her friends are standing on a rooftop in Charleston and saw the firing of Fort Sumter. By November 1861, a unit of the Confederate State Army was called the Holcombe Legion in Lucy's honor. She designed and sewed the flag and claimed that she financed its equipment by the sale of some of the jewels given to her by the tzar.

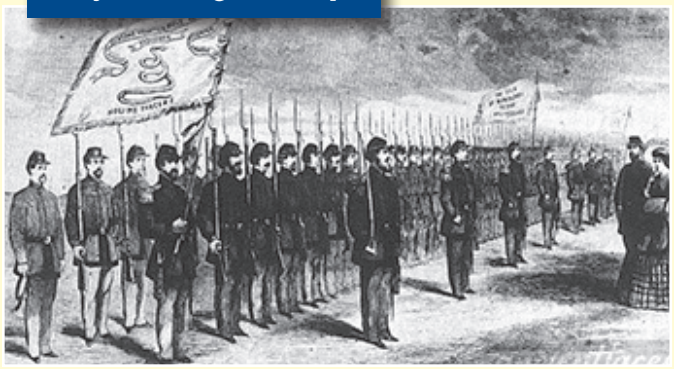
During the war years she lived at her husband's plantation Edgewood, overseeing the slave force. Her family's plantation Wyalucing was used as the base of the Trans-Mississippi Agency of the Confederate Post Office during the war. After the war, many freedmen continued to work at Edgewood as sharecroppers. At this time Lucy accepted an offer to be Vice-Regent of South Carolina for the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. Due to money issues and tax problems after the war, Edgewood was the only property saved from foreclosure with Lucy's help.

In 1869, Francis died, and Lucy became a widow at 37. She learned to manage a plantation by herself. Her daughter also died in her 30's. Lucy continued to live at Edgewood until her death of a cerebral embolism on August 8, 1899. She was buried near her husband and daughter in Edgefield Cemetery.

Inscription on the stone:

"This stone is erected in memory of a beautiful and gracious lady of the Old South. She was the wife of Frances Wilkinson Pickens. The war governor of South Carolina from 1860-1863. Beautiful in person, cultured in mind, patriotic in spirit. She was loved by all who knew her."

Lucy Reviewing the Troops



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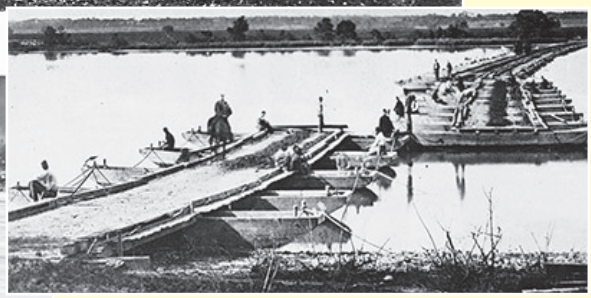
"The Federal Bridging Operation at Fredericksburg"

June 11th Meeting

Zoom Presentation By Robert Jorgensen



On November 7, 1862, General Ambrose Burnside becomes the leader of the Army of the Potomac when Major General George McClellan was stripped of his position by Abraham Lincoln. By December 1862 General Burnside's Winter campaign was stalled and basically at risk for the Army of the Potomac. Burnside was trying to outmaneuver Lee's Army of Northern Virginia so he could get his troops into Richmond before Lee. Burnside's strategy was taking advantage of both the river and rails to win the battle. He was delayed in getting supplies for bridge construction because they did not have a stockpile of building material to fall back on. As his troops got nearer to Fredericksburg Burnside's thoughts were to get to the Rappahannock River before Lee so he could get his engineers started building the bridges. Burnside's men occupied the high ground around Stafford Heights awaiting the bridge trains from Washington and Harper's Ferry, but delays continued in getting the supplies to the river. It seems that the town of Fredericksburg is located on a tidal basin, marshy, swampy, and flooded at times. November 1862 was one of those rainy months and the river was running full, muddy at times and impossible to navigate. It seems that all this was going to play havoc on Burnside's plan.

Terrain for construction of the pontoon bridges was one important aspect for building. There was high ground north of the river but past Fredericksburg the terrain backs up. The problem is that the banks of the river should be the same elevation on both sides. The fords northwest of town was impassable, and Burnside also wanted a bridge on the south side of the town. Federal engineers were ordered to Fredericksburg including Colonel Wesley Brainerd, Commander of the 50th New York Volunteer Engineers; Volunteer Engineer Brigade Brigadier General Daniel Woodbury; Army Regular Engineer Battalion Captain James Duane; Major James Magruder of the 15th New York Volunteer Engineer and Major Ira Spaulding of the 50th New York Volunteer Engineers.

A scouting party was organized with Major Ira Spaulding and Captain Wesley Brainerd to investigate a crossing to the south. They traveled over ten miles but found the shores too marshy. November 28 the party was sent twenty miles going all the way to Port Royal. As they were making a bend in the river, they came to Skinker's Neck and examining the shoreline felt that the shore was even on both sides with high terrain suitable for bridge construction. While they were examining this area saw men on horseback observing them from afar. They were local men, sectionalist and think that they may have alerted Lee of what was happening around them.

There were three bridge crossing sites: upper crossing and middle crossing near the Lacey House at the southern part of town near the railroad bridge: the lower crossing was the third site and the last to be built. On December 11, Burnside's engineers began construction at the waterline once the moon set and fog covered the night. By 3am pontoon boats were laid. On the lower crossing the engineers found the banks steeper then they calculated. They found it was not a gently sloping bank. Major Magruder ordered his 15th New York Volunteer Engineers to launch their boats about 250 yards northwest of the construction site and then float the pontoons down to the next sloping bank. The quicker the construction was underway was better for the men for they were working in the open and sitting ducks for Confederate shots. Robertson Texas Brigade sent about 100 riflemen to harass the engineers. The first volley drove the engineers back and then a second line of sharpshoot-

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ers who assisted the riflemen opened fire on the Federal troops.

The 50th New York Volunteer Engineers occupied the middle bridge site by 3am continuing to work under fog and darkness. By 5am the Mississippians attack the engineers with cannon fire. As the musket and artillery fire was silenced the engineers continued to get the pontoons in place to continue building the bridge. Major Spaulding arrived at the upper crossing with the 8th Connecticut Infantry making three or four attempts to protect the engineers. By 12:30 pm, Burnside ordered a temporary halt while Brigadier General Henry J. Hunt sent a landing party crossing to the far shore to clear out a line of sharpshooters. For an hour of fighting the results were only marginal because of unreliable fuses and solid shot which did not work on wooden buildings. The 7th Michigan infantry and the 19th Massachusetts also volunteered to cross at the Upper Crossing. The 89th New York Infantry was south of the town, but the skirmishes pushed the men back into town from Sophia Street to Carolina Street.

In the aftermath: It was the first time that the Michigan Volunteer Engineers became part of the infantry. Before this time, they would go into the area before the battle to construct the bridges. Now In this battle they were doing both: building and fighting. The engineers learned to build the bridges faster and employed local manpower such as lumberjacks and other men in construction. Men in 1862's were better at knowing how to build then today's men. Also, a stockpile of construction materials for bridge building got better as the war progressed.

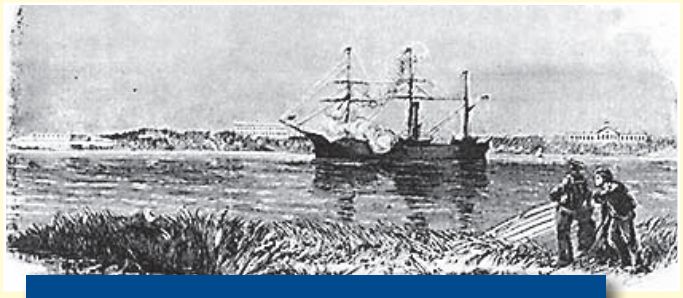
Learning about pontoon bridge building was a new way to look at the battle of Fredericksburg. We know the battle and the results but how the pontoon bridges were constructed and used in the battle was best explained through Robert Jorgenson's presentation. Thank you, Robert, for this highly informative lecture. We were glad to have ZOOM so that so many of our members could participate in this June meeting. Stay safe and healthy during this critical time and were glad to have the opportunity to use our computer to be a part of our Old Baldy CWRT meeting.

"First Shots at Fort Barrancas"

A day before firing began at Charleston, this tiny garrison saw the opening of war in a forgotten skirmish.

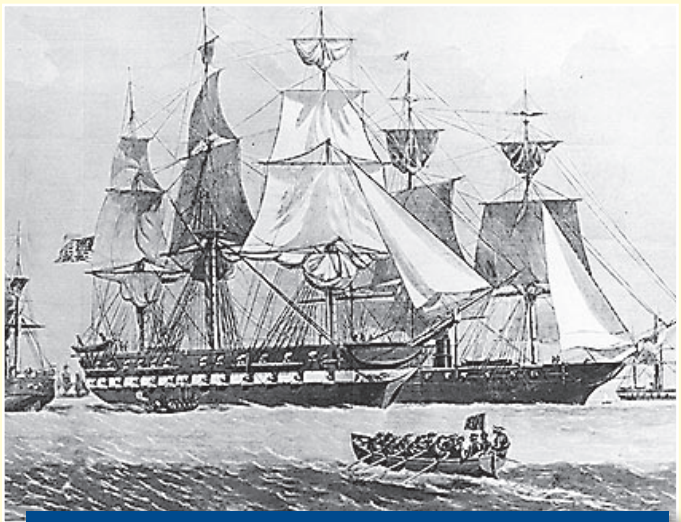
By Robert R. Scassellati, Jr., January 1973, CWTI

On a point of land approximately one mile south and west of the navy yard at Pensacola, Florida lie the crumbling ruins of Fort Barrancas. There, on the night ofJanuary 8, 1861. men of Company G. 1st U.S. Artillery under the command of First Lieutenant Adam J. Slemmer fired on and dispersed Florida state troops attempting to seize its powder stores. This was the first time the Federal Government had resisted, with force. the seizure of its property by a seceding state, and it happened a full day before Confederates fired the "first shots" of the war. on the Star of the West at Charleston. The Federal and civilian shipyards in Pensacola. along with the Alabama & Florida Railroad running to Montgomery. would be a valuable asset to the foreign trade soon to become so vital to the Confederacy. The harbor. with its defenses. Fort McRee and ungarri- soned Fort Pickens and Fort Barrancas and Barrancas Barracks, would have to be seized for the Confederacy. Governor M. S. Perry of Florida ordered this to be done and requested troops from Alabama for support.



USS Wyandotte fires a salute on Washington's birthday in Pensacola Harbor. Fort Barrancas in left background.

Slemmer, in command of only forty—six men of Company G at Barrancas Barracks and Fort Barrancas. became alarmed at rumors of an impending seizure attempt and sought aid from the navy. However. Commodore James Armstrong, commander of the navy yard and harbor hesitated to cooperate in any defensive action for the area without specific orders from Washington. On January 8. then. Slemmer. acting on his own initiative. transferred the powder stores from an exposed position to the inner magazines of Fort Barrancas. He also put the batteries of the fort in working order and prepared to contest the seizure of the fort and its store of powder. That evening a sergeant's guard was posted and the drawbridge raised.



USS Broklyn (Right of center) arrives off Fort Pickens with reinforcements for Lieutenant Slemmer's beleaguered garrison, thus assuring Federal retention of the fort

About midnight. a force of twenty men approached, intent on seizing the post. Evidently they expected the fort to be

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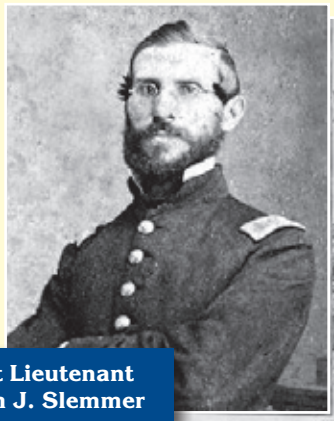
ungarrisoned, as it had been for some time. The corporal of the guard challenged them and. failing to get a reply. sounded the alarm and fired on them. The intruders. surprised at this unexpected resistance fled. Meanwhile Slemmer, expecting another assault in force on his small garrison. strengthened his guard and waited through the rest of an uneventful night. The challenge had been met and for the first time the seizure of government property had been prevented. But the situation of the garrison was still precarious and the crisis was not yet over.



First Lieutenant Adam J. Slemmer

The following day, as the Star of the West was being shelled at Charleston. Slemmer received orders from the War Department to hold the forts. But to hold three forts with forty-six men was an impossible task. That day. at a meeting with Commodore Armstrong. he decided that he should only attempt to hold Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island.

Santa Rosa is a long. narrow. low-lying island. opposite the navy yard. which almost seals off the entrance to Pensacola Bay. Fort Pickens on its western tip commands the entrance to the bay as well as Forts Barrancas and McRee. Rebels might seize the harbor and its coastal defenses, but if Fort Pickens could be held the harbor would be useless to them. Slemmer. realizing its importance. determined to hold it.

On January 10. as the Florida State Assembly was officially passing its ordinance of secession, Slemmer transferred his garrison to Fort Pickens. The transportation promised by Commodore Armstrong failed to appear and he was forced to use any small boats he could get his hands on. Finally, after repeated calls for assistance. Armstrong ordered thirty seamen transferred from the steamer Wyandotte to Slemmer's command. Now with a command of seventy-six men, Slemmer removed all the powder and stores from Fort Barrancas to Fort Pickens. He then had all the guns bearing on the bay spiked and ordered thefort abandoned.

With his command transferred, he faced the task of defending a fortress designed for 1.200 men with only his small command. The batteries had to be made serviceable. the walls repaired and strengthened. and the living quarters made livable. It was a backbreaking job, but his men accomplished more than was expected during the next two days.

On the morning of January 12, Florida and Alabama state troops, under the command of Colonel William Chase. appeared before the United States Navy Yard. That afternoon Commodore Armstrong surrendered it without firing a shot. The state troops also seized the now empty forts.

Barrancas and McRee. That evening Captain Randolph of Florida demanded the surrender of Fort Pickens. Slemmer refused.

The state troops began mounting 32-pounders in Fort Barrancas and Fort McRee to threaten Pickens and on the 15th Colonel Chase met with Slemmer. With tears in his eyes and his voice shaking with emotion. Colonel Chase read a formal note demanding the surrender ofthe garrison at Fort Pickens. Slemmer. knowing the importance of his position, refused to surrender it without a fight. Three days later Colonel Chase again tried to effect a capitulation and still again Slemmer declined.

The War Department had already ordered reinforcements sent from Fort Monroe. Virginia to Fort Pickens. On February 6. they arrived on board the Steamer USS Brooklyn, and the chance for the Confederates to take Fort Pickens and open the harbor was now gone. Thanks to the determination of Slemmer and his command. Fort Pickens remained in Federal hands throughout the war and Pensacola Bay was closed to the Confederates.

Surely Chase could have attacked the paltry Union garrison with sure success, but he did not. Perhaps Slemmer best explains why:

Had we been attacked during those days dreadful would have been the havoc, and we were menaced every day and night. from the 12th to the 26th, by the increasing number opposite us, numbering at one time over 2,000 men. All that prevented, I am confident (for such was the pitch to which their mad folly had carried them). was Colonel Chase's knowledge of the strength and means of resistance within the fort. and our steady and firm adherence to the course determined on from the beginning, not to allow ourselves one moment to think of surrendering unless absolutely overpowered by numbers.

Three Gravestone Fragments: Four Union Veterans

By Ann Kauffman, GAR Museum

One aspect of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library's mission of preserving the heritage and history of the Civil War era, is telling the individual stories of the men and women who participated in and contributed to the war effort. Over many years the museum had acquired under very different circumstances and added the fragments of three gravestone fragments to its collection. Labels attached to these fragments have listed the names and units in which their Union veterans served. Two of the stones were very weathered. Parts of their inscriptions are barely or no longer legible.

Some additional, limited information about these veterans is not on display but is filed in the museum's archives. In anticipation of the museum's participation in Historic LaMott's Camp William Penn event on 21 September 2019, the museum decided to include photos of two stone fragments that had marked the graves of USCT soldiers in its "museum on the go" display for this event. This prompted an online research project to update these files since these fragments were last on loan to Historic LaMott for an exhibition on Camp William Penn at The Richard Wall House Museum that ran from May 2006 to May 2007.

Since that time much additional information has become available online. The Index to Invalid and other Pension Applications filed by veterans, widows, children, and other dependents is now searchable, although, only a few pension applications have been digitized and added to Fold3's database. The museum's volunteer researchers learned that the National Archives and Records Administration held the applications for the two, USCT veterans. However, the museum did not have the discretionary funds to purchase these applications. Instead, a crowd-sourced-funding project was launched.

Because research identified that Pvt. Daniel Nicholas of Co. C 41st USCT was a resident of Camden, NJ, after the war, The Old Baldy Civil War Roundtable was approached about donating funds to help acquire his pension application. Not only did Old Baldy CWRT generously provide the funds to obtain the pension application for Pvt. Nicholas, it also provided the funds to obtain the pension application for Pvt. Charles Jacobs of Co. C 25th USCT leading to a twist in his story. Although the museum is now closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both of these pension applications will be available for research when the museum is safe to reopen. Until then, the stories to date of four Union veterans associated with these three gravestone fragments follows.

The smaller of the three fragments marked the grave of Musician John E. Mann of the 104th PA Vol Regimental Band. According to Anthony Waskie, Museum Vice President and Historian, John E. Mann was a German immigrant, a member of GAR Meade Post # 1, and is buried in the Meade Post burial plot by the "Silent Sentry" at Laurel Hill Cemetery. After the war, the census enumerations list his residence as Philadelphia and his occupation as plasterer. A photo of the fragment that marked his grave is visible under the Collections section at the museum website. It is the smaller of the two stones in this photo. garmuslib.org

The other two, larger gravestone fragments are more weathered than that of Musician Mann. They were brought to the museum years ago by someone who saw them in an inappropriate display that did not afford them the respect they deserved. Each of these stones had marked the grave of a USCT member.

The more legible stone had marked the grave of Pvt. Daniel Nicholas of Co. C 41st USCT. It is also visible behind that of Musician Mann's gravestone fragment at the museum's website. His existing Service Record information on file at the museum noted that he was born in Philadelphia, was employed as a stevedore, and enlisted 16 Sept 1864 at Frankford. He was mustered out 30 June 1865 at Brownsville, Texas.

After the war, Daniel Nicholas returned to Philadelphia where the 1867 and 1868 City Directories showed him living at the rear of 942 Rodman Street. He was employed as an ink maker and, subsequently, as a laborer. His pension application included statements from his wife, Mary Ann Durham, and from the grandson of the minister attesting to their marriage on 19 May 1864 by Rev. Thomas Allen. They initially lived in Philadelphia. He next appears as a laborer in the 1883 Camden, NJ, City Directory. Daniel and Mary had two children, Anna and Eva. Only Eva survived to adulthood.

In 1890 Daniel is listed in the Camden, NJ, Special Schedule of Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines and Widows. He applied for an Invalid Pension that year. His stated reason was that while in service around December of 1864, he had contracted scurvy and rheumatism. In 1891 the examining physician reported that the only evidence of the effects of scurvy were: "discolored, ulcerated, and shrunken gums and the loss of four of his lower teeth". He was given

a rating of 2/18ths for Scurvy and no rating for rheumatism. Additional information was requested.

In February of 1893, the Overseer of the Poor of the City of Camden testified that Daniel Nicholas was well known to him for the past five years during which time he "was called upon to furnish medicine and medical attendance and also fuel and food for the maintenance of his family. "I consider him to be a man incapable of supporting himself and his family." Daniel Nicholas' pension was denied. He died on 6 April 1896. Mary Nicholas applied for a pension as Daniel's

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widow. Her application was approved. She received $8 per month until her death in 1916.

Daniel was buried at Johnson Cemetery, Camden, NJ. Information from www.findagrave and by Kevin C. Shelly, PhillyVoice contributor, reported that the cemetery was started by Jacob Johnson in 1854. It was the first cemetery dedicated to middle class black citizens of Camden and is the final resting place for 250-300 people of African-American descent. Included in that number are 123 United Sates Colored Troops veterans as well as veterans from the Spanish American War and World War I.

In an altogether, distressingly familiar story, over the years Johnson Cemetery was neglected and in the 1970s acquired by the City of Camden for a park. It, too, was also subsequently neglected. When preparing the cemetery as a park, city workers removed the gravestones. A few stones remain flat, serving as stepping stones. However, most stones were added to the Delaware River breakwater on the Camden waterfront.

The name and other information on the second, weathered stone were not as legible. However, based on the still legible parts of the transcription on the third gravestone fragment and its display along with that of Pvt. Nicolas, museum volunteers at the time believed it had marked the grave of Pvt. Charles Jacobs of Co. C 25th USCT.
His Service Record on file at the museum noted that he

was born in Sussex County, DE. He was a 37-year-old laborer when he enlisted on 12 January 1864 at Wilmington. He was medically discharged at Barrancas, FL, on 15 July 1865 due to the effects of scurvy which rendered him unable to perform full duty as a soldier.

A question about whether the museum's stone fragment had marked Pvt. Jacobs' grave did not arise until the museum received Cornelia Jacobs' 1868 Pension Application as the widow of Pvt. Charles H Jacobs of Co. C 25th USCT. The application stated that he had died at Seaford, DE, on 11 July 1864. This date was inconsistent with the partially visible 4 Feb 1877 date of death on the museum's stone fragment. If Pvt. Jacobs had died in Seaford, DE, near where his Service Record stated that he was born and where his widow lived, why would he have been buried and his gravestone recovered near Philadelphia along with that of Pvt. Nicholas? If not the stone marking Pvt. Jacobs' grave, then whose grave did it mark?

More research of the USCT veterans buried at Johnson Cemetery was initiated. Although the gravestone may no longer exist, a listing of all of the USCT veterans buried there did. That list did not include Pvt. Charles Jacobs' name. A second search for someone whose date of death was 4 February 18?? was completed. This led to the hypothesis that the stone, in fact, marked the grave of Pvt. Charles Wayples of Co. G 25th USCT. Pvt. Wayples was the only USCT veteran buried at Johnson Cemetery whose date of death matched what was still legible on the gravestone fragment.

More online research found the Index to Pvt. Charles Waypels of Co. G 25th USCT Pension Application of 10 October 1890 that was filed from New Jersey. The Waypels surname was the second spelling variant encountered during the research. Whapels was a third variant. Unfortunately, Pvt. Charles Wayples pension application is not yet available online.

However, Fold 3 did provide some significant information about Charles Whaples. His Service Record noted that he was born in Sussex County, DE. He was a 26-year-old laborer when he enlisted on 28 January 1864 at Wilmington and was mustered out on 6 December 1865. He was born around 1837-38. Among his Fold 3 documents was another dated 10 February 1847. It recorded the bargain, sale, and delivery for the sum of $200 from Cornelius Waples to John Waples of Sussex County for "one Negro boy named Charles that will be ten years old on the twentieth day of this [illegible]."

The 1850 Slave Schedule of Cedar Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE, lists one black, fourteen-year old, male slave belonging to John Waples. His age was comparable to that of the male slave from the 1847 sale by Cornelius Waples to John Waples, all of Sussex County, DE.
In a January 1865 Evidence of Title, John Waples stated that he is the owner of the slave, Charles, who having enlisted in the 25th USCT was owed John Waples service for the duration of his natural life. On 27 March 1865 after declaring his loyalty to the Constitution and Government of the United States, under General Orders of the War Department, John Waples received the sum of $300 to compensate for all claims to the future service of his slave, Charles Waples,

On completion of his military service, Charles Waples settled in Camden County, NJ. The 1870 Census lists Charles Waples, age 30, born in Delaware, his wife, Emma, age 20, and their one-year old daughter, Anna, living in Newton Township, Camden County. In 1880 Charles and Emma were living in Camden City with their children, Anna, age 11, Margaret, age 5, and Ernist [sic], age 2. Charles appears in Camden on the 1890 Special Schedule – Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows. He applied for a pension on 10 October 1890. Emma died on 10 March 1896. Her burial location is unknown. Charles Wayples died on 4 February 1898 and was buried at Johnson Cemetery, Camden, NJ. His gravestone fragment can be seen next to the door leading into the museum's library. Its label acknowledges both Pvt. Wayples and Pvt. Jacobs.

When discretionary funds permit, the pension application of Pvt. Charles Waples/Waypels/Whapels Co. G 25th USCT will be acquired from the National Archives and Records Administration to add more details to his story and will be included with those on file at the museum for Pvt. Daniel Nicholas and for Pvt. Charles H. Jacobs.

The Membership has Spoken.

Thank you very much to everyone who responded to our member survey. Thanks to the efforts of our Board we collected responses from 75% of those surveyed. It was good to check in on and chat with our members. Members are doing alright during our time apart, finding much to do and looking forward to getting back together to see their friends in person when we are able to gather again. We want to share some of the results so you know what your fellow members are thinking.

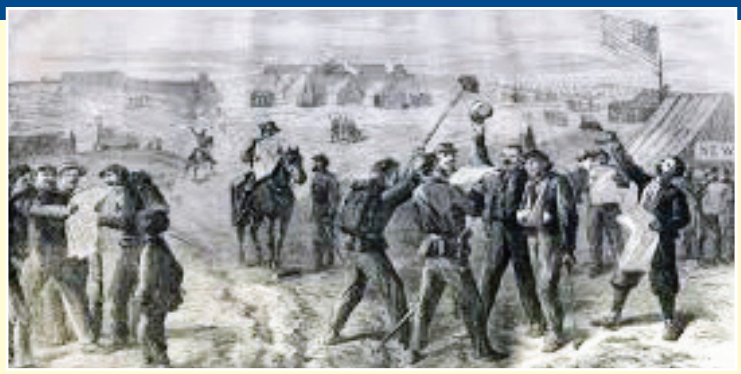
Many positive comments about our Zoom programs, communication and leadership. Looks like they will be part of our life for the rest of this year. Those unable to join us on Zoom had various reasons from equipment issues, conflicts, fatigue, to forgetting to tune in. Our folks are pleased with the diversity and quality of the programs Dave Gilson has scheduled for us, as well as the smooth sign on procedure he has set up and will continue to tune in to them. You have asked for member-based programs. We will be scheduling a Book night as a second event one of the summer months and plan a discussion night for later this year or early in the new year. Be sure to invite a friend you think might be interested to join us for a future presentation.

Members understand we are waiting for the College to decide about re-opening and rules that will be in place. They will follow rules and return when they are comfortable. Several folks suggested an outdoor event for members to see each other and get fresh air. The Board is looking into scheduling something before the end of the summer. We understand folks will do what is in their best interest in participating and returning to live events.

Members appreciate the comradery and welcoming nature of our group, as well as our connections to other history organizations in the community. Favorable comments on communication avenues offered including our award-winning newsletter, website and Facebook page. Many are grateful for the efforts of our leadership to sustain and grow our Round Table. As you have seen in the newsletter, we have added several new members in the last month and hope to bring in more. Let us know if you would like to be interviewed, during your time at home, for a profile in a future newsletter.

If you did not get to share your responses or think of something else you want to share, please send us your feedback. Thank you for taking time to tell us how you are doing, what you are thinking and how we can better serve your needs. Join us when you are able to do so and write a short article telling us what you have been doing during the period of extended time at home.
Feel free to use the roster Arlene sends out to contact another member to check on them or just chat. Continue to stay safe and well. Hope to see you this year.

During the American Civil War, how was the 4th of July treated in the South and the North?



The Confederacy did celebrate the 4th of July; they just did so for different reasons, and only through the first two years of the war. “After 1863 the South stopped celebrating the holiday. Confederate losses at Vicksburg, Miss., Gettysburg, Pa., Helena, Ark., and Port Hudson, La., early in July 1863 made it difficult for the South the celebrate the day...”

But in the first two years of the war, the Confederacy celebrated the day based on the pretext that they were fighting for the true meaning of what their forefathers

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fought for and drew various comparisons between their actions and the actions of the Revolutionary War heroes. "From the Southern point of view, this was the time to stress the principles of the Founding Fathers. Rather than celebrating the Union, Southerners recognized constitutional rights and ideas of independence."

During the first Independence Day of the Civil War, there was disagreement amongst various Confederate factions on what the holiday would mean and whether or not it was appropriate to celebrate in light of soldiers dying on the battlefield. As a result, many of the places around the Confederacy had reduced celebration or no celebration at all; and some cities and states had extravagant celebrations, it all depended on the mood of where you were located.

Society for Women and the Civil War
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Society for Women and the Civil War (www.SWCW.org) will hold its 21st annual conference at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, July 24-26, 2020.

This year's theme will be "The Women of the Valley." The keynote speaker will be distinguished author and consultant Jonathan A. Noyalas, Director of the McCormick Civil War Institute, Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia.

There will be additional presentations by noted scholars and tours of local sites of interest, emphasizing their roles relevant to the contributions of women during the various Civil War campaigns that took place in the Shenandoah Valley.

The conference is open to non-members.

For more information please visit www.SWCW.org

New Digital Display at
CAMDEN SHIPYARD AND MARITIME MUSEUM
1912 Broadway, Camden NJ
www.camdenshipyardmuseum.org
856-541-7447

Camden Shipyard and Maritime Museum has a new digital panel display of Camden's maritime past. It is a sequence of panels, in words and photos, about ships produced at New York Shipyard, other area shipyards and other maritime topics. Please come by and see it once we are allowed to open, hopefully soon!

USS Indianapolis was a cruiser built by New York Shipyard and commissioned in 1932. It had eight boilers, four geared steam turbines and four propellers. It was -610 foot long, beam of 66 feet and capable of 32 knots speed. During WWII the ship served from Aleutian Islands to South Pacific. It was part of task force that bombed Japanese home island military facilities in February 1945. On 31 March 1945, while supporting the invasion of Okinawa a Japanese plane bombed the ship causing flooding and extensive damage. The ship made it back to Mare Island Naval Shipyard in California under its own power for repairs.

The Spanish Flu in Haddon Township (1918)

Prohibited Gatherings, Home Confinements, Canceled Events, Face Masks-sound familiar? The Spanish Flu (a misnomer suggesting that this virus originated in Spain, which it did not) pandemic of 1918 infected millions of people worldwide, including over 600,000 Americans. We do not have an exact count of Haddon Township citizens who contracted or died from this deadly virus, but we can find several articles in local newspapers about its impact.

View and read articles about the
Spanish Flu in Haddon Township at:
www.facebook.com/haddontwphistoricalsociety

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2020

July 9, 2020 – Thursday
Roseann Bacha-Garza
"The Civil War on the Rio Grande; 1846-1876"

August 13, 2020 – Thursday
Kevin M. Levin
"Searching for Black Confederates, The Civil War's Most Persistent Myth"

September 10, 2020 – Thursday
Amy Murrell Taylor
"Embattled Freedom – Journeys through the Civil War's Slave Refugee Camps"

Questions to
Dave Gilson - 856-323-6484 - dgilson404@gmail.com.

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
Camden County College
Blackwood Campus - Connector Building
Room 101 Forum, Civic Hall, Atrium

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