The Camp Olden Gazette

News from the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table

Spring, 2007

President's Gavel -- by Bruce L. Sirak

I would like to thank those who helped staff the Camp Olden Booth at the Mercer County Earth Day & NJ History Day at Washington Crossing State Park. Camp Olden's participation in events such as these helps to inform the public of our existence.

Hillary Clinton wrote that it takes a "Village to raise a child". "Well it takes active members to maintain a productive Civil War organization. A good club can't rely on just a few people to make the club run! It takes all of its members' participation to get a job done well and I commend those who have helped and the people who will help in the future.

With Memorial Day upon us, I became curious about the History of this holiday. As a member of the "Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" I knew that General Logan of the "Grand Army of the Republic" proclaimed the 30th of May a day of remembrance of soldiers who died during the Civil War in General Order No. 11, but I wanted to know more. So I searched the Internet for more information. I found some interesting information, which I present, in the following paragraphs. So enjoy reading, learning and Remember and Honor our Veterans everyday.

Memorial Day History

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War: a hymn published in 1867, "Kneel Where Our Loves are Sleeping" by Nella L. Sweet carried the dedication "To The Ladies of the South who are Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead" (Source: Duke University's Historic American Sheet Music,

1850-1920). While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings; each of those towns and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860's tapped into the general human need to honor our dead, each contributed honorably to the growing movement that culminated in Gen Logan giving his official proclamation in 1868. It is not important who was the very first, what is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honor those who gave their all.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by



Gen. John A. Logan

General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day,

honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 - 363) to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays), though several southern



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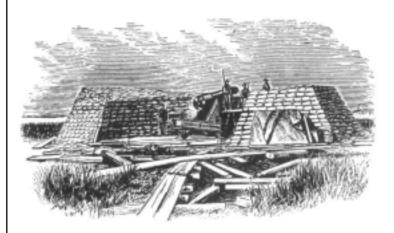
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If you would like to submit an article to the Camp Olden Gazette, you can e-mail it to:

campolden.news@verizon.net or mail your article to:

> Barry Leilich 7 Wolfpack Road Hamilton, NJ 08619



The Swamp Angel By Francis A. Lord

This article was originally printed in the CIVIL WAR TIMES ILLUSTRATED, April, 1963 edition.

One of the most remarkable feats of military engineering during the Civil War was the construction of a platform and firing site for the notorious siege gun, the Swamp Angel, on Morris Island during the siege of Charleston in 1863. In July of that year, Maj. Gen. Quincy A. Gillmore, after an examination of the marshes on the island, was convinced that it was possible to construct an emplacement from which to fire on the city. On July 16 he directed Col. Edward W. Serrell, New York Volunteer Engineers, to select a position from which interdicting fire could be adjusted on the lower end of Charleston so that that portion of the city could be made untenable.

Colonel Serrell found that the most convenient spot was in a marsh on the left of the Federal lines, but that the ground at that position consisted of black mud, 16 to 18 feet deep, and subject to daily tidal inundation. A man walking there would sink two feet or more, but the colonel instructed a lieutenant of his regiment to survey the area and make requisition for whatever was needed for constructing a battery position and mounting the gun. The colonel believed that a cannon weighing not over 10,000 pounds could be emplaced in the selected area. However, to the lieutenant, Colonel Serrell's order seemed a tremendous joke. Accordingly, he included in his requisition a request for 1,000 men over 18 feet tall! Serrell, offended at this, haled the lieutenant before a court-martial, which found the young officer guilty of impertinence and sentenced him to be reprimanded in the presence of his men.

President's Gavel, Continued from Page 1.

states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas, April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

We cherish too, the Poppy red That grows on fields where valor led, It seems to signal to the skies That blood of heroes never dies.

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael and when she returned to France, made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help. Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3-cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

Traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored, neglected. Most people no longer remember the proper flag etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades. Some people think the day is for honoring any and all dead, and not just those fallen in service to our country.

There are a few notable exceptions. Since the late 50's on the Thursday before Memorial Day, the 1,200 soldiers of the 3d U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing. In 1951, the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of St. Louis began placing flags on the 150,000 graves at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery as an

annual Good Turn, a practice that continues to this day. More recently, beginning in 1998, on the Saturday before the observed day for Memorial Day, the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts place a candle at each of approximately 15,300 grave sites of soldiers buried at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park on Marye's Heights (the Luminaria Program). And in 2004, Washington D.C. held its first Memorial Day parade in over 60 years.

To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to 'Taps."

The Moment of Remembrance is a step in the right direction to returning the meaning back to the day. What is needed is a full return to the original day of observance. Set aside one day out of the year for the nation to get together to remember, reflect and honor those who have given their all in service to their country.

But what may be needed to return the solemn, and even sacred, spirit back to Memorial Day is for a return to its traditional day of observance. Many feel that when Congress made the day into a three-day weekend in with the National Holiday Act of 1971, it made it all the easier for people to be distracted from the spirit and meaning of the day. As the VFW stated in its 2002 Memorial Day address: "Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed greatly to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day."

As the legal successor to the GAR the Son's have a campaign going on to bring back the traditional day of observance of Memorial Day back to May 30th instead of "the last Monday in May". .

"The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone".

Harriet Beecher Stowne (1811-1896)

If you have never read General Logan's order No. 11, it is presented on Page 4. Have a great summer and I will see you at the meetings.

You're obedient Servant

Bruce

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HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC General Orders No.11, WASHINGTON, D.C., May 5, 1868

1. The 30th day of May 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of spring-time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

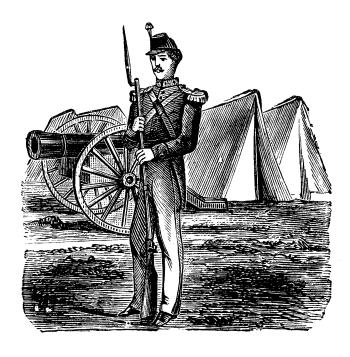
- 2. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to lend its friendly aid in bringing to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.
- 3. Department commanders will use efforts to make this order effective.

By order of

JOHN A. LOGAN, Commander-in-Chief

N.P. CHIPMAN, Adjutant General

Official: WM. T. COLLINS, A.A.G.



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Education Highlights -- by Kim Daly

Education Report

We had our first Scout visit to the Museum on March 9th. This was a pack who toured the Museum last year for work on a history badge. A new group of kids this year and more history badge work lead to a return to the Museum. The kids were great and spent a good 45 minutes scanning the displays. The medical display receive a few giggles and of course the weapons were oo-ed and ah-ed over. It would seem the bigger the better at this age so the Swamp Angel style cannon shell and the large Native American bowl attracted the most attention. Handouts on Jr. Camp Olden day were distributed and several of the guys want to attend. There was no fee for this visit but several parents put donations in the Scholarship box and the Museum box. Our Scout flyer was shared with the leaders and they promised to share it with others. Thanks to Joe Seliga and Kim Daly for opening up for the troop.

April 21, 2007 was Mercer County's Earth Day at Mercer County Park. Bruce Sirak, Nick & Pete Andrejco & Barry Leilich were on hand to man the Camp Olden table and share some Civil War history with kids and their parents. It was a wonderful day and there were lots of people. Critters, plants, free T shirts, fishing, horse-drawn wagon rides, golf, metal detecting and much, much more. This is still a well kept secret. It's a shame more folks don't take advantages of the day of fun and free stuff for kids and adults.

May 5, 2007 was Washington Crossing Park's Sate History Fair. What a GREAT event. Thanks to Bruce Sirak (aka: Gov. Olden), Julia & Stu Foulks, Bil Ford, Barry Leilich, Nick & Pete Andrejco for staffing the Camp Olden Tent. Several others members were there wearing different hats: Stanley, Kim, Mark Sirak, Fred Minus and a blast from our past Bob Butera. Parking was a little different this year as they bused people in but visitor numbers still were estimated in the 3,000. Great weather, lots to see and do all make for a great event.

May 9, 2007 saw Nick Andrejco and Kim Daly visit over 300 –7th graders at Fisher Middle School in Ewing. The students were very attentive and had some wonderful questions. Still can't get past the roomful of giggles when Nick explained that the cap on the rifle went on the nipple and that you would pull the cock back to fire. Oh well, 7th grade fixations. We have been visiting Fisher for many years now and Mrs. Viola reminded me of just how many when she said we started coming was Jared was playing the fife... umm 12+ years ago now. Ouch. We received a \$160.00 donation to the Scholarship Awards.

June 9, 2007 from 9 am-3 pm will be our own Jr. Camp Olden at the Museum (rain date June 10). We need 50+ kids to support our yearly scholarship. Hand out and post the enclosed flyer. Talk up the day with friends, colleagues and neighbors. Offer your assistance to staff the day. We need your help.

Scholarship Committee

The Committee met and as there were only 2 applications this year selecting was a breeze. Both winners are well deserving of the award and would have been top candidates even if we had received more applications.

Our two winners are: Drew Gerber from Toms River, NJ. and Sean MacMorris from Bellemead, NJ.

Drew Gerber reenacts with the 14th NJ, Co. H. He is in his third year at University of Mary Washington majoring in Historic Preservation. He has stayed very active in reenacting and has become instrumental in several preservation projects.

Sean MacMorris has been reenacting with the 8^{th} N.J. He will be graduating from Montgomery H.S. He plans to attend The College of N.J. as a History major. Sean since 2004. Following college Sean plans to enlist in the Army "for a few years".

Congratulations to both are winners. We wish them good luck in their studies and future endeavors.

We will be holding a Pie Auction at the reenactment on Saturday afternoon, July 21sr. This will be a fun, period way to raise a little money for the Scholarship. Everyone is asked to donate a home made (or home made-store bought) pie or two (or three). If we get enough hungry individuals and enough delicious homemade pies this can prove to be a win-win fundraiser. Kim will have a sign up sheet for donations at the June and July meetings. More details for time and place for the auction TBA.

If you are looking for ways to support the Scholarship and our programs of Camp Olden? Here are a few.:

- 1. We still have the ABC books for sale, \$5.00. They make great baby and kids keepsakes as well as gifts for the collector or history buff.
- 2. Need to renew your *Civil War News* subscription or want to start a subscription? Your cost is \$10 (regular price \$29.49) and when you tell them they will donate

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Education Highlights, Continued from Page 5.

\$10 to Camp Olden. You can call (800) 777 –1862 or email: mail@civilwarnews.com or Kim has the flyer if you'd like a copy. You also get a free 6-issue classified ad. But remember: tell them Camp Olden sent you!

- 3. A new magazine on the market is *Civil War Historian*. They offer a 1-year subscription (6 issues) for \$28.95 but will return \$14.50 for every new subscription and \$5.00 for every renewal to Camp Olden. You must include a key code number for Camp Olden to get the credit. Kim will be getting this from the company. If you'd like to subscribe and need the key code call or email Kim. Kdaly14@aol.com or (609) 581-3549. To call the magazine and place an order call 800-767-5826 Ext 18. You cannot subscribe using this offer on line.
- 4. Bake a Pie (or two or three) for the Pie Auction on Saturday at the July reenactment.
- And finally support Jr. Camp Olden by assisting on June 9th and by handing out flyers to kids you know may be interested and posting the flyer in your local library and supermarket.

We are always looking for fundraisers for the yearly Scholarships and other programs of Camp Olden. If you have any ideas, please share them with the Committee or Board.

Hospitality

Thank you to Kim Daly for starting out 2007 Hospitality. No one had offered to cover the January meeting and we had the Mayor coming so.... it was done. Mario stepped up to host February, many thanks. Our $3^{\rm rd}$ Bring-a-dish-to-share Covered Dish was in March and the tables were full. After the dinner members voted to repeat this repast in September. Mark your calendar for September $6^{\rm th}$, dinner starts at 6:30 and lasts about 30 minutes. Paper products and beverages will be supplied by Camp Olden. Bring your goodies by 6:30 pm and get ready to feast.

April hospitality was as always... scrumptious thanks to Julia and Stu, May was hosted by Ginny and John, June will be John and Tom, July Mario.

Sunshine

Thinking of you notes were sent to Kathe Conte after arm repair and Bob Goyne for his gallbladder surgery. Both are fine now. A sympathy note and food basket was given to Julia and Stu after the passing of Julia's older sister. Julia shared some

wonderful memories of her sister. She was a women who made her mark in this world. A sympathy note was sent to John Sunkiskis following the passing of his mother.

Belated Happy Birthday wishes to: March 26-Jerrie Glass, April 5-Robert Ford, 10-Dick Glass, 17-Cindy Saperstein, 21-Kurt Daly, 30-Jane Peters; May 1-John Maleski, 7- Carole Moore, 13-Kim Daly, 24-Melvin Schurter, 31-Warren Spengler and Happy Birthday wishes to: June 2-Robert Christine, 6-Joe Seliga, 8-Pete Andrejco, 9-Terri Paglione, 24-Connie Davis, 25-Bruce Sirak, 26-Joanne Leilich & Stan Saperstein, 27-Helen Ahern; July 11-Martin D'Artrechy, 15-Bill Ford, 16-Bill Moore, 18-Bob Dunphy, 21-Mark Sirak, 31-Rita Cunningham; August 8-Joe Mogancki, 20-Conrad Brennfleck, 26-Keith Tomlinson, 28-John Gabor, 30 Matt Leilich; September 6- Alice Ranson & Anthony Travaglione, 7-Mary Ann Sirak, 13-Jonathan Ford, 17-Ron Vogel, 29-Nick Andrejco

Any news to share, important dates to acknowledge? Call or Email Connie 587-0584, conniemdavis@verizon.net or Kim 581-3549, daydreaming513@aol.com with the name of someone you know needs a missive from our Club or with some news you want to share.

Visitors and New Members to Camp Olden:

Kevin Pattersen of Pennington, New Jersey

Ken Williams of Lakewood, New Jersey (new member)

Rolf Maris of Hamilton, NewJersey

Richard Fenoglio of Yardville, New Jersey

Peter & Caroly Funk of Hammilton, NewJersey (new member)

Drew Gerber of Toms River , New Jersey (Scholarship winner)

Sean MacMorris of Bellemead, New Jersey (Scholarship winner)

Camp Olden Calendar of Events 2007

Camp Olden's Calendar of Events will be updated each newsletter. Watch for changes. If you have something to add to the Calendar, email Kim Daly at kdaly@aol.com.

June

- **3** -- Camp Olden Park clean up, 1pm, bring your gloves, rake, tools etc.
- General Membership meeting, 7 pm, Library Hospitality: John Maleski and Tom Milacki Speaker: Glen LaBoeuf – Lincoln, 10 crucial moments.
 - * Scholarship Awards presented tonight
- **9** Jr.Camp Olden at Museum, 9am-3 pm, set up 8:15 am. Museum open.
- **21** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Firehouse
- **23** Cedar Grove Cemetery Remembrance Ceremony

July

- **1** -- Camp Olden Park clean up, 1pm, bring your gloves, rake, tools etc.
- **4** Gettysburg Reenacment. Local Parades etc.
- General Membership meeting, Library, 7 pm
 Hospitality: Open, No volunteer
 Speaker: Thomas J. Craughwell -- Stealing Lincolin's
 Body
- **18** Board Meeting, Firehouse, 7pm
- **20, 21, 22** Camp Olden Reenactment, Hamilton, NJ. Back to original area. Museum open.

August

- **2** REMINDER, NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- 4 & 5 Lambertville, NJ Reenactment
- **5** Camp Olden Park clean up, 1pm, bring your gloves, rake, tools etc.

16 — Board meeting (if needed) 7pm, Firehouse

September

- **2** Camp Olden Park clean up, 1pm, bring your gloves, rake, tools etc.
- **6** Camp Olden Bring-a-dish-to-share Covered dish 6:30 pm, Library, followed by General Membership meeting, 7:15 pm Speaker: TBA
- **9** Septemberfest, Hamilton's Veteran's Park, Museum open
- **18**-- AMART Tentitive meeting,7pm, Oneida Club, Burlington
- **20** Board meeting, 7pm, Firehouse
- **22** AMART symposium, Temple U., Phila. www.amartcivilwar.org
- **23** Museum meeting, 2pm, Museum

October

- **4** General Membership meeting, 7pm, Library Hospitality: Warren Spengler Speaker: TBA
- **7** Camp Olden Park clean up, 1pm, bring your gloves, rake, tools etc.
- **18** Board meeting, 7pm, Firehouse
- **27 & 28** Historic weekend, Burlington

November

- 1 General Membership meeting, 7 pm, Library Hospitality: Corrine Davis & Mike Mazzocchi Speaker: TBA
- **4** Camp Olden Park clean up, 1pm, bring your gloves, rake, tools etc.
- **15** Board meeting, 7pm, Firehouse
- **17 & 18** Remembrance Day Weekend Gettysburg

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Swamp Angel, Continued from Page 2.

Nevertheless, work was begun. In the week following General Gillmore's approval of plans for the undertaking, a road some 2½ miles long was constructed to the gun site. A large detail of soldiers began to fill sand bags, while a mock battery was built some distance to the left, as a decoy to draw Confederate fire away from the Federal working parties.

At the gun site a solid foundation for the gun was made by laying down pine logs crisscross in the form of a grill or square, then driving down pilings in the center of the square. The space was filled in with planks and sandbags. Some 307 tons of timber and 812 tons of sand—a total of 13,000 filled bags—were used. By August 7, the emplacement was ready for the gun.

On August 12 the Federals carefully patrolled all the streams and inlets, using boats armed with naval howitzers, so that the soldiers at work in the marsh would not be surprised. On the 17th an 8-inch Parrott rifle was successfully transported over the marsh and mounted in the battery. It was immediately christened the Swamp Angel by the men. The gun weighed 16,300 pounds, and fired a 175-pound projectile.

The range to the target was 8,000 yards—nearly five miles. Using an elevation of 31 degrees 30 minutes, the gun crew fired the first shell at 1:30 a.m. August 22. Firing data was calculated from the mean of several bearings taken with a pocket compass, using St. Michael's steeple as the point on which to adjust fire, since neither the city nor the steeple could be seen from the gun position. Though a very crude method of calculating data, this was probably the first instance on record in which a gun was aimed by compass at an invisible object and at such a great distance. Sixteen shells were fired during the first morning, 12 of which were filled with an incendiary material, "Short's Solidified Greek Fire." General Beauregard remonstrated bitterly against this mode of warfare, but on the following day Gillmore replied with 20 more such shells.

However, the Swamp Angel began to have its troubles. In fact, after the sixth shot the gunner reported that he could not get the priming wire down into the vent. The gun had moved in its jacket, that is, in the wrought-iron band around the breech. It could still be fired, because, although the priming wire would not go down, there was still sufficient space to ignite the charge with the primer. Nevertheless the Swamp Angel was damaged beyond repair in the field, and might burst at any discharge.

The crew continued to fire but was cautioned to leave the gun's vicinity at the command "Ready" so as to be out of danger if it should burst. The number 4 man, who fired the gun, was given two lanyards tied together, that he might stand well clear, and be protected by the wall of sandbags around the gun.

At the 20th round, fired the night of the 23rd (another report says the 36th round), the gun crew commander wished to know the time of night in order to calculate the rapidity of fire. Watch in hand, he placed himself on the left side of the gun, so as to see the time by the flash of the discharge. He gave the command, "Fire." Instantly the whole battery became one sheet of flame. The Swamp Angel had burst.

The lieutenant's left ear bled from an internal injury, and his hair, eyebrows, and mustache were singed. Number 4 cannoneer's hand was injured, and another member of the gun crew was severely wounded. Upon examination of the gun, it was discovered that the breech in rear of the vent had been blown loose from its jacket, and plunged through the scaffolding, on into the mud. The Swamp Angel itself had died like a soldier, face to the foe. It had pitched forward, clear out of the carriage, and rested on the ground in nearly the same posture as when ready to be fired. The projectile itself went smoothly to the city, as if nothing had happened to the gun. No wonder the Confederate batteries kept up their fire at the emplacement for two more days.

The Swamp Angel was removed later and replaced by a seacoast mortar, which was never fired.

In 1994 Camp Olden Civil War Round Table raised funds to restore the cannon barrel to National Park Service Standards. It was rededicated in October, 1994.

Camp Olden Calendar, Continued from Page 7.

25 -- Museum meeting, 2pm, Museum

December

- **2** -- Camp Olden Park clean up (if needed), 1pm, bring your gloves, rake, tools etc.
- **5-9** Kuser Farm Mansion Christmas Tours & NJ Model RR display, 6-9 pm except Saturday which is 12-3 pm. No Model RR on Dec. 9
- **6** General Membership meeting, 7pm, Library Hospitality: Board Speaker:TBA
- **9** Hist. Soc. of Hamilton Wassail Party , Abbott House 2-4 pm
- **20** Board meeting (if needed), 7pm

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CONFEDERATE BAKED POTATOES

From the Hurter's Bull Cook Book

Getting a good baked potato these days is next to impossible. They are usually baked so they are *solid*, too stringy, or too tough and bluish or gray in color. A good baked potato must he white, soft, and flaky right up to the skin.

For many years I used the old Indian method for baking potatoes as I found it to be far superior to the usual way of just putting them in an oven and baking them. The Indian method is to take a large metal pan, fill it with fine sand, bury your potatoes in the sand and place the pan in your oven. Bake for one hour at about 400 degrees.

This gives you a much flakier baked potato than just oven baking them. It keeps the skin from becoming hard causing the potato near the skin to become hard and over cooked.

A great many years back a group of ex-Confederate soldiers, refugees from the War Between the States, came to Minnesota to start life over again. There was plenty or free homesteading land in Minnesota at the time. Their homes had been destroyed and burned during he fighting.

Among them was a John McLins, a wooden bridge builder by trade. The Confederate army had practically lived on potatoes and had learned by necessity how to make them as palatable as possible. This they certainly succeeded in doing. The potatoes baked by the McLins were entirely different and far superior to those baked by any method including sand or oven baked potatoes.

Here is exactly how it was done. This is a recipe to treasure and like all really important tricks in cooking is easy to do.

Go to your lumberyard and buy a dozen 60-penny nails. These are large nails as thick around as a lead pencil and about five inches bog. The nails will be dirty and usually a little rusted. Take the nails and sandpaper them clean and wipe them off with paper. Paper cleans steel better than anything. Now wash them well in hot water and soap.

I am going to take the time here to tell you how to buy potatoes because unless you know how to buy them it is impossible to make good potatoes of any kind using any method.

Originally potatoes were, of course, taken from wild potatoes and cultivated by the Indians. They soon found that the red skinned potatoes were by far the best for baking, boiling or frying. Today these potatoes are known as Pontiac potatoes. Do not boy any other kind of potato but these. White men promoted the white potatoes commercially. They grow larger than the red skinned potatoes and hence are more profitable to grow. Some names for them are Russets, Idaho Bakers, etc. They have been promoted as a baking potato mainly. Actually they are good for nothing. When baked they are tough, stringy, and often turn gray or blue in color. When boiled they are mushy and for trying are very soggy. Remember the red skinned potato is your only baking potato as well as a boiling and frying potato. Don't let them fool you.

Take the potatoes and run a 60-penny nail lengthwise through each one leaving the nail protruding out of each end. Then take a sharp knife and cut a patch of skin off from the side of each potato about as big as a nickel. This patch lets off moisture from the potato when it first begins to bake preventing any toughness developing. After the potato bakes a short time this open patch seals over.

The nail puts heat right straight through the potato causing it to bake both from the outside and the center. Makes the potato as flaky as can be. Bake the potatoes about 50 minutes at 400 degrees.

Remove the potatoes from the oven and serve them with the nail in place as it keeps the potato at the right temperature until opened. Leave the person eating the potato cut down to the nail and remove

Potatoes baked in this manor are far superior to any baked in any other way. Be nice to try this method.

No passion on Earth, neither love nor hate, is equal to the passion to alter someone else's draft.

-H. G. Wells

For a complete listing of Events, see Page 7.

July 20 through 22, 2007 – Camp Olden Reenactment at Hamilton Twp. New Jersey, Veteran's Park

July 5, 2007 - General Meeting at Hamilton Twp. Library, Speaker To be adnounced

June 9, 2007 - Jr. Camp Olden at Museum in Veteran's Park

Lincolin Ten Crucial Moments

June 7, 2007 - General Meeting at Hamilton Twp. Library, Speaker Glen LaBoeuf

Up and Coming Events

Camp Olden
Civil War Round Table
and Museum
2202 Kuser Road
Hamilton, New Jersey 08690



Visit Us on the Web: www.campolden.org