The Camp Olden Gazette

News from the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table

Spring, 2010

Presidents Gavel

Winter is half over as I write this and, for the amount of snow we have had, I would think we live in Alaska. But a trip to Gettysburg would be great, just for the photo's you can get.

The NJ 150th of the Civil War Committee, of which I am a member, reports that the *School of the Soldier* Event at Allaire State Park will take place on April 10th and 11th, with a *School of the Battalion* Event at Monmouth Battlefield State Park on May 15th and 16th. The sponsored march will take place at Gettysburg on June12th beginning from Daniel Lady farm about 9:30 to 10:00. Later in the day David Martin will give a talk about the 13th New Jersey's role at Gettysburg.

Now to let you know of some upcoming speakers:

On **March 4** Henry Ballone will give a slide presentation on Lee's retreat from Petersburg.

On **April 1** Tom Moran will discuss Lincoln and the Radical Republicans.

On **May 6** our own VP Gary DeSiver will speak on New York's participation in the Civil War.

Looking forward to seeing you at our March *Covered Dish Dinner* and meeting!

Your Obedient Servant, Bruce



Bring a Dish

Remember hospitality for the March 4th meeting is a covered dish. Bring your favorite last taste of winter or first taste of spring food to share. **Special start time is 6:00 PM.** ◆

Civil War Visits.

Our members did some traveling over the past few months Following are "field reports".

Droop Mountain Battlefield

Submitted by Tony Travaglione

Another lesser-known battlefield is at *Droop Mountain Battlefield* State Park located in the southeastern part of West Virginia, on U.S. Route 219, 27 miles north of Lewisburg, WV. Kathy and I visited in October, 2008, when the autumn foliage in the mountains was at its height.

The battle was part of a brief campaign by Union Brigadier General William Averell to secure the Virginia-Tennessee railroad, an important Confederate supply line. Moving south with his Federal force of approximately 4,000 men through the new state of West Virginia in November, 1863, Averell encountered the Confederate army of Brigadier General John Echols. The Confederates, who numbered only approximately 1,700, fortified the summit of Droop Mountain and awaited the Union army.

General Averell ordered an attack on the morning of November 6, 1863. The Federals had to scale the steep sides of the mountain to reach their enemy. The Confederates held off the Union attackers until midway through the day. About 1:30 PM the Union army attacked the Confederate left flank. After ninety minutes of vicious fighting on the mountain top they broke the enemy line. 140 Union and 275 Confederate soldiers became casualties. The Confederate force retreated south through Lewisburg and into Virginia. The Union army followed but could not sustain the pursuit, and

after several days returned to northern West Virginia. The battle was the last major one in that state.



Monuments to Union soldiers from the 10th WV Infantry.

The battlefield park was established in 1929, and improved in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who built cabins, trails, and a log observation tower. The park is an out-of-the-way location, but beautiful, especially in the fall. The view from the observation tower is outstanding.



Observation Tower

Most of the battlefield is presently wooded, with the most important areas marked by signs. After returning home I learned via the internet that ghosts have been seen on the battlefield many times! Droop Mountain is worth seeing if you're passing through the area. ◆



Revisiting Antietam

Submitted by Mike Mazzocchi

On a recent visit to *Antietam Battlefield* I used podcast audio tours to enhance the experience. I downloaded three tours and maps from The Civil War Traveler website and put on them on an Ipod.



Trail. This trail crosses Burnside Bridge and makes a loop on the east side of Antietam Creek. The hike explores the area where the Confederates defended the Burnside Bridge, and then crosses over the creek to where the Union Ninth Corps made their advances to capture the bridge. The podcast gives reasons why the union did not just wade across the creek and describes the difference between the conceptions of troops "just crossing" vs. a "military crossing".



View from Ferrero's brigade position looking west.

Trail. This trail continues the Union advance. After capturing the Bridge, over 8,000 Union soldiers crossed Antietam Creek and marched across the fields for the final advance to drive the Confederate Army from Maryland, only to be turned back by A.P. Hill's final Confederate counterattack. This podcast contains many first person impressions.



View of the Final Attack Trail and the 11th Ohio monument

The third tour is the 1.5 mile **Cornfield Trail**. The trail covers most of the area where the early morning action of battle took place. There were more casualties in and around the Cornfield than anywhere else on the battlefield. This tour is best when the field is actually planted with corn by the local farmers. This podcast is truly evocative of the experience of both the Union and Confederate infantry passing through the field while under fire.



14th Brooklyn monument at the SW corner of the cornfield.

These and many other podcasts which will work with any mp3 player can be downloaded at: http://www.civilwartraveler.com/audio/. Gettysburg fans should particularly enjoy podcasts on The Peach Orchard, The Wheatfield, Pickett's Charge, Little Round Top and Devil's Den. Just listening at home using the maps provided is very informative and adds much to an understanding of this and other battles.

Best part of the podcasts is the price – **FREE!** ◆

Presidential Quiz

Contributed by Mario Florio



Presidents Washington, Lincoln, Harrison and Reagan were born in the month of February and Presidents Jackson, Cleveland, Madison and Tyler were born in the month of March. This quiz is being presented in honor and in remembrance of all of our presidents.

Some questions are easy, some are more difficult, and some are very difficult. Good luck!

- Our youngest president to serve was Kennedy, T. Roosevelt, G. W. Bush or Clinton?
- 2. Our heaviest president was Cleveland, McKinley, Taft or Clinton?
- 3. The only president to survive two assassination attempts was Reagan, Ford, Garfield or Truman?
- 4. The only president to be born in New Jersey was Cleveland, Wilson, Coolidge or Grant?
- 5. Lincoln was our tallest president. Was he 6'3", 6'4", 6'5" or 6'6"?
- 6. The first inauguration to be televised was Truman, Franklin. D. Roosevelt, Eisenhower or Kennedy?
- 7. Name the five presidents who wore beards.
- 8. At 5'4", who was our shortest president?
- 9. What union general ran against Lincoln in 1864?
- 10. In what state is Mt. Rushmore located?

Answers on page 4.

Events -

The Belmar Free Public Library will host "The Scheier Brothers" a Civil War history in character on Wednesday, March 10th, at 7 pm. The presentation will illustrate the life of the Civil War soldier with a special twist to be revealed that night. Camp Olden CWRT members Robert Silverman and Diana Newman will tell stories, display photographs and musketry, talk about the war and the attitudes of the era. Time permitting they may sing a song or two! They have written 3 biographies and are collaborating on a new book about New Jersey participants in the Civil War for the sesquicentennial celebration in 2011. The show will be in the library media room located at 517 10th Ave., Belmar, NJ. Please call 732-681-0775 for further information or directions. •



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Visit us on the Web: www.campolden.org

Answers to Presidential Quiz:

1. T. Roosevelt was a year younger (42) than Kennedy who was our youngest elected president. 2. Taft – 300lbs. 3. Ford. 4. Cleveland – Caldwell, NJ. 5. 6'4". 6. Truman. 7. Lincoln, Grant, Hayes, Garfield and Harrison. 8. Madison. 9. McClellan. 10. South Dakota. ◆

New or Renewing Members!

The membership form for 2010 membership (new or renewal) in the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table is available at:

http://www.campolden.org/pdf/memberapp.pdf.

If you would like to submit an article to the Camp Olden Gazette, you can e-mail it to: <u>oldennewsletter@optonline.net</u> or mail your article to:

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