

The Camp Olden Gazette

News from the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table

Summer, 2010

Presidents Gavel

Summer 2010

We are at a time of the year that most of us enjoy very much. We get the opportunity to visit family, civil war sites, history sites in general or whatever makes us happy. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

We have author Joe Bilby coming to our June 3rd meeting to promote the NJ 150th new book.” *NJ Goes to War*” (See article on page 2) and then we have our honorary Camp Olden member, Professor James McPherson, on July 1st. I hope every one can attend. It would be great to have a full house so tell your friends.

September’s meeting will also be a great one. So make sure to come back,

I thought that everyone would enjoy an article that was in “The Patriot-St John Neumann Assembly # 933” a newsletter I get at home. See it on page 5.

Your Obedient Servant,
Bruce

Here’s a Reminder!

The fifteenth annual **JUNIOR CAMP OLDEN** will occur on Saturday, June 19, between the hours of 9:30 AM and 3 PM. Young persons 8 to 13 years of age can once again enlist as a soldier of the Civil War or participate as a lady of the Civil War period. Soldiers and Ladies will join in military drills, camp life activities, music, games, songs, crafts and fun events. This event will be held at the Civil War and Native American Museum, 2202 Kuser Road, Hamilton.

In Search of Arabella Wharton Griffith Barlow

By Bob Silverman

Almost a year ago, while volunteering at the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey in Sea Girt, Diana Newman and I learned from Joe Bilby, the Assistant Curator, that the New Jersey Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee was preparing a book of short biographies of 150 New Jerseyans whose lives were touched by the great struggle. What a great project! We wanted in!

We volunteered to research and write a short biography of Arabella Wharton Griffith Barlow, a Somerville girl and New York socialite who married Francis Channing Barlow, an up-and-coming young lawyer who would go on to become a general in the Union Army. In the course of doing the research, we found out that she was a Sanitary Commission nurse who died in 1864 and was buried in the Old Somerville Cemetery in Somerville (where else?). We even saw a photo of her grave. Well, we hadn’t found a picture of her yet, so a picture of her grave would have to do. But, was the photo copyrighted and by whom?

Figuring that it would be easier to track down her grave than the owner of the copyright, we decided to visit the cemetery and take our own photograph of her headstone. So, we set out to find the Old Somerville Cemetery with OnStar as our navigator. Diana prefers its turn-by-turn directions to my use of a map. She claims that it limits wrong and “U” turns. I think that she just doesn’t like reading a map.

After following the voice’s directions along the Garden State Parkway, I-287, and then through several narrow streets, we arrived at the cemetery. We expected to simply enter the cemetery and find the grave. Well, no! The

cemetery is surrounded by a chain link fence and the gate is chained shut. Well, almost shut. It's actually open enough that a small donkey could squeeze through. On the gate is posted a big sign stating "No Trespassing" and listing two telephone numbers to call for permission to enter.

Being thoroughly modern intrepid explorers, we have cell phones. We called the first number -- out of service. So, we called the second number. It's out of service, too. Here we are, having traveled almost an hour from Long Branch, and we're locked out! And, our trusty cell phones proved useless in summoning help.

What would Indiana Jones do? Would Doctor Who be stymied by such a turn of events? Of course not, and neither were we! We decided to slide through the opening in the gate and promptly learned that our donkeys were too big. So, we walked around the perimeter until we found a hole in the fence and we entered the cemetery. Now, our adventure took on an edgy aspect. Would we find Arabella's grave before the police whisked us away for the grave crime of cemetery trespass?

We separated and began methodically roaming up and down the rows, pausing periodically to read a particularly interesting headstone. In the Old Cemetery, also known as Old Raritan Cemetery, one can find graves dating from before the Revolutionary War through the late 1800's.

By the way, across the street is the New Somerville Cemetery which was opened just after the Civil War and is still functioning. And, it's open to the public! A significant number of Civil War veterans are buried there, including a number of US Colored Troops interred in the "Colored Section." Our expedition to this cemetery is a story for another day. And now, we return to the original story.

After about an hour and a half of roaming around the Old Cemetery, we began to wonder if we had the right information about Arabella's whereabouts. And then, it happened. I found Arabella: the last grave I checked! The headstone is engraved, "Arabella Wharton Griffith." Why wasn't her surname, "Barlow," included?

Maybe, there is some story to be told. Or, maybe I just need to learn more about Victorian burial customs.

In any case, I got excited and shouted to Diana, "She's here! I found her! I found her!" I may have actually jumped up and down with joy. Diana ran over, shouting, "Stay with her. Don't lose her!"

Diana took the photograph and we left the way we came in. As we drove away, who came around the corner? A police car on patrol.

And to think that some people consider history boring. They should join us in an expedition.



Gravesite of Arabella Wharton Griffith Barlow

Courtesy of Old Somerville Cemetery, Somerville

Epilogue: The book has been published: "New Jersey Goes to War: Biographies of 150 New Jerseyans Caught Up in the Struggle of the Civil War," J. G. Bilby (ed.). And, we were never caught. Please don't turn us in. ♦

Here's some more detail on this uniquely New Jersey book:

NEW JERSEY GOES TO WAR

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of New Jersey's Role During the Civil War

New Jersey's official Civil War 150th Anniversary Committee is proud to announce its first publication, *New Jersey Goes to War: Biographies of 150 New Jerseyans Caught Up in the Struggle of the Civil War*, including Soldiers, Civilians, Men, Women, Heroes, Scoundrels – and a Heroic Horse. The book, edited by Joseph G. Bilby, author/editor of ten previous books on New Jersey and Civil War history, and with selections from two dozen contributors, features brief biographies of a compelling cross section of New Jersey's wartime generation, famous and obscure, whose lives were affected by the conflict and the events surrounding it.

New Jersey Goes to War recounts the lives of selfless heroes, conniving scamps and ordinary folks just getting by. As befitting New Jersey, they are men and women of diverse races, religions and ethnic backgrounds – as well as one non-human. The selections include enlisted men, officers, nurses, politicians, diplomats, manufacturers, merchants, writers, poets and artists who were born in or immigrated to our state and lived here before, during or after the war. When faced with the most climactic event in American history, the people of New Jersey's Civil War generation became, whether they wished it or not, actors upon the historical stage rather than observers. Many of their lives were, indisputably, in the oft-quoted words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, graphically "touched with fire," others less so, but all of them, for better or worse, would never be the same.

Included in the book are the stories of colorful and varied personalities like eccentric airship inventor Solomon Andrews, abolitionist and utopian idealist Rebecca Buffum Spring, courageous nurse Cornelia Hancock, Lieutenant Alexander Hamilton, a scoundrel who absconded with Jersey City's treasury after the war, William Joyce Sewell, an Irish immigrant who rose from captain to brigadier general and post-war United States senator, and First Sergeant George Ashby, an African-American soldier who, when he died in Allentown in 1946, was the last surviving New Jersey Civil War veteran. Biography subjects span the state from Cape May to Sussex and Camden to Jersey City, providing an entrée to further study for teachers, students and journalists interested in the colorful history of New Jersey.

New Jersey Goes to War, with full index and bibliography is available from Longstreet House Publishing, PO Box 730, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Retail price is \$20 plus \$5 shipping. NJ residents please add \$1.40 sales tax. All proceeds from book sales go towards funding the work of the New Jersey Civil War 150th Anniversary Committee during the rapidly approaching sesquicentennial of the conflict. For more information see (www.njcivilwar150.org). ♦

Civil War Quiz

Contributed by Mario Florio

1. The Union's 39th New York **Garibaldi Guard** was composed of mostly Italian immigrants. True or False?
2. Lt. General U. S. Grant's favorite horse was Cincinnati, Cumberland, Baldy or Billy?
3. Francis E. Butler of the 25th New Jersey, killed in action, was a chaplain, sharpshooter or cannoneer?
4. Who was Abe Lincoln's first vice-president? Andrew Johnson, William Seward, Hannibal Hamlin or Salmon P. Chase?
5. Edwin M. Stanton was Secretary of State, War, Navy or Treasury? ♦

Answers on page 6.

Here are some ***Civil War Era Recipes*** as submitted by Cindy Saperstein from *Plantation Row Slave Cabin Cooking* by Patricia B. Mitchell:



Fruit Fritters

1 Cup Flour

1tsp.sugar

½ tsp. salt

2/3 Cup milk

2 eggs, well beaten

Mix flour, sugar and salt. Add milk slowly and then gradually add eggs.

Cut fruit (apple, peach, pear, banana or other desired fruit into pieces. Dip in batter above and fry in deep, hot (375) fat or butter until golden brown. Remove and drain on paper towels. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve with lemon or other fruit sauce.

Sweet Potato Biscuits

White flour was a luxury in the South during the Civil War. Sweet potatoes were added to biscuit dough so that the flour would go further.

1 pound sweet potatoes, cooked and peeled

½ Cup butter

½ Cup sugar

Dash of salt
 2 Tbsp. milk
 3 1/2 Cups all purpose flour
 4 tsp. baking powder
 2 tsp. cinnamon

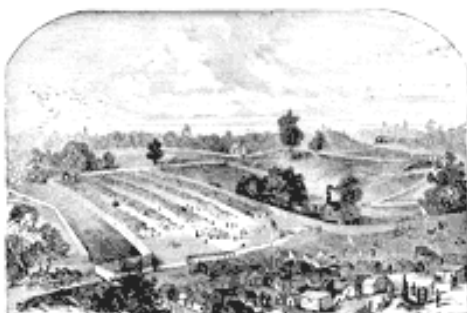
While the sweet potatoes are still hot, add butter, sugar, salt, and milk. Mix well. In a separate container, mix the flour, baking powder, and cinnamon. Stir into potato mixture.

Knead gently. Chill dough 2-3 hours. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to a 1/2 inch thickness. Cut into biscuits. Bake on lightly greased cookie sheet at 400 for about 15 minutes or until done.

Bread Pudding

Scald 2 Cups stale bread crumbs with 1 quart milk. Cool. Add 1/3 Cup sugar, 2 slightly beaten eggs, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/4 Cup melted butter, and 1 tsp. vanilla. Turn into a buttered baking dish and bake in a slow oven (about 325 I would think.) until thick and delicately browned. ♦

New Book About Andersonville



13 Days at Andersonville:

The Trial of the Raiders

A novel by Phillip J. Tichenor

In all the accounts about notorious Andersonville prison during the Civil War, a 146-year-old mystery remains. What actually happened at a trial of "Raider" prisoners, by other prisoners, in early July, 1864? The trial was outside the stockade, and no transcript has been found. This new book is a fictional interpretation of that trial. If you are interested in reviewing this book for a future newsletter issue, please contact the newsletter at oldennewsletter@optonline.net. The author will send a free copy to the first reviewer. ♦

Civil War Food Quiz

Contributed by Stanley Saperstein

Below are descriptions of various food related items of provided to Civil War soldiers. What are the common terms the soldiers gave to them?

1. Bacon sent to Bermuda by northern meat packers and then sold to the south.
2. Extract of coffee mixed with sugar and milk used in the Union army. (It was the Civil War version of instant coffee. It was hated and discontinued.)
3. A navy stew of hardtack soaked in water and baked with salt pork.
4. Desiccated vegetables that included roots, leaves and stalks.
5. B. C. was a marking on crates of hardtack that stood for Brigade Commissary. What term did the soldiers use?
6. Corned beef. (The army version was so tough that it could not be chewed.) ♦



Answers on page 6.

Depends on your point of view!

Here are some Civil War battles called by different names.

Confederate Name	Federal Name
First Manassas	Bull Run
Oak Hills	Wilson's Creek
Leesburg	Ball's Bluff
Mill Springs	Logan's Cross Roads
Elkhorn Tavern	Pea Ridge
Shiloh	Pittsburg Landing
Ox Hill	Chantilly
Boonsboro	South Mountain
Sharpsburg	Antietam
Perryville	Chaplin Hills
Murfreesboro	Stones River
Mansfield	Sabine Cross Roads
Winchester	Opequon Creek

REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS?

If you are 40, or older, you might think this is hilarious! When I was a kid, adults used to bore me to tears with their tedious diatribes about how hard things were. When they were growing up; what with walking 25 miles to school every morning . . . Uphill . . . Barefoot . . . BOTH ways . . . yadda, yadda, yadda. I remember promising myself that when I grew up, there was no way in hell I was going to lay a bunch of crap like that on my kids about how hard I had it and how easy they've got it!

But now that I'm over the ripe old age of forty, I can't help but look around and notice the youth of today. You've got it so easy! I mean, compared to my childhood, you live in a darn Utopia! And I hate to say it, but you kids today, you don't know how good you've got it!

I mean, when I was a kid we didn't have the Internet. If we wanted to know something, we had to go to the damn library and look it up ourselves, in the card catalog! There was no e-mail! We had to actually write somebody a letter with a PEN! Then we to a mailbox, and it would take like a week to get there! Stamps were 10 cents.

Child Protective Services didn't care if our parents beat us. As a matter of fact, the parents of all my friends also had permission to kick our ass! Nowhere was safe! There were no MP3's, Napsters, or iTunes! If you wanted to steal music, you had to hitchhike to the record store and shoplift it yourself!

Or you had to wait around all day to tape it off the radio, and the DJ would usually talk over the beginning and screw it all up! There were no CD players! We had tape decks in our cars. We'd play our favorite tape and "eject" it when finished, and then the tape would come undone rendering it useless. Because, hey, that's how we rolled, Baby! Dig?

We didn't have fancy crap like Call Waiting! If you were on the phone and somebody else called, they got a busy signal, that's it! There weren't any cell phones either. If you left the house you just didn't make a damn call or receive one. You actually had to be out of touch with your "friends" OH MY! Think of the horror of not being in touch with someone 24/7! Then there's TEXTING. Yeah, right. *Puleeze!* You kids have no idea how annoying you are.

And we didn't have fancy Caller ID either! When the phone rang, you had no idea who it was! It could be your school, your parents, your boss, your bookie,

or the collection agent . . . you just didn't know! You had to pick it up and take your chances, mister!

We didn't have any fancy PlayStation or Xbox video games with high-resolution and 3-D graphics! We had the Atari 2600 with games like 'Space Invaders' and 'Asteroids'. Your screen guy was a little square! You actually had to use your imagination! And there were no multiple levels or screens it was just one screen . . . FOREVER! And you could never win. The game just kept getting harder and harder and faster and faster until you died! Just like in real LIFE!

You had to use a little book called a TV Guide to find out what was on! You were screwed when it came to channel-surfing! You had to get off your ass and walk over to the TV to change the channel! NO REMOTES! Oh, no, what's the world coming to?

There was no Cartoon Network either! You could only get cartoons on Saturday Morning. Do you hear what I'm saying? We had to wait ALL WEEK for cartoons, you spoiled little rat-finks! And we didn't have microwaves. If we wanted to heat something we had to use the stove! Imagine that!

If our parents told us to stay outside and play . . . all day long. That's what they meant. Oh, no, no electronics to soothe and comfort. And if you came back inside . . . you were doing chores!

And how about those car seats—oh, please! Mom threw you in the back seat and you hung on. If you were lucky, you got the "safety arm" across the chest at the last moment if she had to stop suddenly, and if your head hit the dashboard, well that was your fault for calling "shotgun" in the first place!



Events –

Saturday, June 19 - Junior Camp Olden, at the Civil War and Native American Museum in Hamilton from 9:30 AM to 3 PM.

Saturday, June 26 thru Sunday, June 27 - 2nd Annual Civil War Reenactment at Dey Farm Historical Park. Hosted by 2nd New Jersey Brigade. Sponsored by Monroe Township Historic Preservation Commission.

Thursday, July 1 - Camp Olden Civil War Round Table is hosting "The Lincoln-McClellan Relationship" lecture by Dr. James McPherson, Hamilton Township Public Library, Lower Level, 7 p.m.

Friday, August 6, thru Sunday, August 8 - 14th Annual Parker Press Civil War Living History Weekend in Woodbridge, 10-4. Saturday candlelight tour 8:30-10 p.m. Sponsored by Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey.

Answers to Civil War Quiz:

1. False. It was composed of men of 15 different nationalities who spoke 7 different languages.
2. Cincinnati. 3. Chaplain. 4. Hannibal Hamlin.
5. Secretary of War. ♦

Answers to Civil War Food Quiz:

1. Bermuda Bacon. 2. Essence of Coffee.
3. Dandyfunk. 4. Baled Hay. 5. Before Christ,
- 6 Salt Horse ♦

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:

oldennewsletter@optonline.net or mail your article to:

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