The Camp Olden Gazette

News from the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table

Fall, 2012

President's Gavel.

It's been a very busy August this year. On the 12th of the month I attended a special opening at the Hopewell Museum for a Civil War display which ran throughout the month of August. It was great!



On the 7th of August I had the honor to attend the wedding of Camp Olden members Bob Silverman and Diana Newman at the National Guard Armory at Sea Girt, NJ. It was a very enjoyable day. Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Robert Silverman. Here are some photos of the day.





And on the 14th of the month I participated in the filming of a new movie that was done in Newtown, PA., called *THE NORTH STAR* staring Jeremiah Trotter (Big Ben Jones), Clifton Powell (Mr. Lee), Thomas Bartley (Moses Hopkins) Keith David (Frederick Douglas). It was a long day but well worth it.





The weekend of the 18th was also real busy with New Jersey Day at Antietam. If you did not make it there, you missed a very active and educational day! To give you an idea of the day here's the schedule of activities.

- Interpretation of Hexamer's Battery.
- The 13th New Jersey at Antietam.
- "New Jersey in the Maryland Campaign" program by Dr. David Martin.
- Rededication of the New Jersey Monument.
- "Clara Barton" by Dr. David Martin.
- "Lincoln and McClellan at Antietam".
- Period dress interpretive programs discussing these great men followed by a walk over to the Dunker Church area and re-creation of the famous tent scene.
- "Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Taps" in the Dunker Church.

Here are some photos of the day













And now for our upcoming speakers:

- **September 6** Sydney F. Cruice Dixion discussing Joseph W. Clifton of the 6th New Jersey.
- October 4 Jack Lieberman (Captain USN, Retired) portraying Commodore (Union Navy) Percival Drayton.
- **November 1** Hugh Boyle discussing Abraham Lincoln's assassination.
- **December 6** Dick Simpson discussing the Battle of Pea Ridge (aka Elkhorn Tavern) (March 6-8, 1862).

Your obedient servant,

Bruce. ♦

Reminder --- Bring A Dish!

Remember hospitality for the **September 6**th **meeting** is a covered dish. Bring your favorite last taste of summer or first taste of fall food to share. **Special start time is 6:00 PM.** •

Junior Camp Olden Day

Our annual Junior Camp Olden Day was held at the Civil War Museum in Veteran's Park, Hamilton, NJ on June 16. The weather was great on this day of fun and learning for the "great eight" at this year's Civil War Camp. Yes folks, we had just eight students this year but that did not stop us from our quest to teach the ways and means to get by at a camp during the Civil War. I want to thank all the volunteers. Kim Daly (who brought her two grandchildren) did a great job on the game station. Conrad Daly provided artifacts from his collection which were a big hit with the kids. Dick Mount taught the value of the Navy during the war and led the dress parade. His daughter helped move things along from station to station. Pete Andrejco and Bob Dunphy manned the medical table and uniform station. Bob's young friend, Joe Sedor, wore his uniform all day in the sweltering heat. Connie Davis helped with the mustering of the kids and sent them home with gift bags. The volunteers at the Abbott House provided tours free of charge. And

finally, Bruce Smith provided coffee and bagels and did tours of our own museum. Well, I hope I remembered everyone. If I forgot someone let me know. Here are some photos of the day.

Here are some photos of the day.









If anyone knows any scouts, we still do two programs in the Fall at a discounted rate for all Cub and Boy Scouts. Again, thanks for all your help.

John Maleski and Bob Dunphy, Event Coordinators

Ongoing Exhibits:

The Other Side of War: The Civil War on the Home Front (until November 11, 2012) at Macculloch Hall Historical Museum, Morristown. Includes Shaw & Lowell family letters, Lincoln, Walt Whitman, poetry, images, Nast & Homer illustrations. Macculloch Hall is located at 45 Macculloch Ave., Morristown, NJ, and is open Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday from 1pm − 4pm. For information, call the Museum weekdays at (973) 538-2404, visit www.maccullochhall.org. ◆

Did You Know?

Artist and socialite Gloria Vanderbilt is New Jersey native Major General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick's great-granddaughter. Another prominent descendant is her son CNN newsman Anderson Cooper, Kilpatrick's great-grandson. Submitted by Cecile Ayres, Goshen, NY.

Who Am I?



In one of the greatest miscarriages of military justice during the Civil War, I was cashiered for failing to obey an order which a later inquiry determined was impossible of execution.

Born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, August 31, 1822, I received an appointment to West Point from New York and graduated in 1845 and was posted to the artillery. Wounded at Chapultepec, I earned two brevets in Mexico and transferred to the adjutant generals department in the 1850s. I was Albert Sidney Johnston's adjutant during the operations against the Mormons. During the Civil War, I rose from first lieutenant to Major General, USV (July 4, 1862).

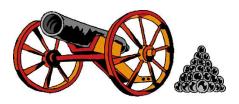
Following initial service as a staff officer under Robert Patterson, I began a long-lasting and damaging friendship with Major General George B. McClellan. He led a division to the Peninsula and saw action in the operations against Yorktown. When McClellan created two provisional corps he appointed me to the command of one of them. At Beaver Dam Creek and Gaines Mill--at the start of the Seven Days--I displayed excellent generalship in the defensive fighting. Again at Malvern Hill I played a leading role in covering the withdrawal of the army. For this series of battles I was awarded a second star and was brevetted regular army brigadier. My command was sent to reinforce Pope in northern Virginia--an assignment for which he made no secret of his displeasure. At 2nd Bull Run I was ordered to attack the flank and rear of Stonewall Jackson's command. But no attack was launched because the order was based upon faulty information indications that Longstreet was then present on the field. An 1878 inquiry under John M.

Schofield found that I was right in not committing my men to a doomed assault which Longstreet would have crushed. It further found that my actions probably saved the Army of Virginia from an even greater disaster. However, these findings came too late to save my military career. After serving in reserve under McClellan at Antietam I was relieved of command on November 10, 1862, and placed under arrest. In the trial for disloyalty, disobedience of orders, and misconduct in the face of the enemy I was damaged by my friendship for the now-deposed McClellan and my own anti-Pope statements. There was a political atmosphere to the court which was composed of Secretary of War Stanton's appointees, most of whom received promotions, brevets, or higher commands for their service on the panel. I was found guilty on January 10, 1863, and sentenced to be cashiered from the army. Eleven days later the sentence was carried out, and I spent much of the remainder of my life trying to get my name cleared. The 1878 Schofield board was a first step and, following its recommendations, President Chester A. Arthur remitted the sentence four years later. By a special act of Congress in 1886 I was recommissioned an infantry colonel, to rank from May 14, 1861, but back pay was denied me. Two days later, with my battle largely won; I was retired at my own request. In the postwar years I was involved in mining, construction, and the businesses. I refused an appointment in the Egyptian army and served as New York City's police, fire, and public works commissioners.

The controversy over my guilt or innocence has continued among historians, most of whom conclude that the only offense committed by me was indiscretion. I died in Morristown, New Jersey, May 21, 1901.

Who Am I? (Answer on page 9) ♦

Source: "Who Was Who in the Civil War" by Stewart Sifakis



Civil War Visits.

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

A Visit to Fort Fisher

By Brian Tarrant

Known as the Gibraltar of the South, by late 1864, Fort Fisher was the largest, most formidable fortification coastal in the Confederacy, protecting its lone remaining seaport of Wilmington, North Carolina. The Union Navy had maintained a blockade throughout the war but was unsuccessful as 80% of ships attempting to evade capture or sinking made it into port. In December, 1864, the Federals attempted to take the fort but failed due to poor coordination between the Army and Navy. A successful second attempt was started on January 12th, 1865, but with a large cost of lives on both sides. For three days, Federal ships bombarded the fort on both land and sea face. Union infantry then assaulted and captured the fort after fierce hand to hand combat. With the fort taken, little attempt was made to save Wilmington. The seaport had been a major supplier of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Six weeks later, Lee would surrender at Appomattox.



A Personal Story

From 1963 to 1965, I was a young U.S. Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune. In January, 1965, a fellow Marine from the area persuaded me to be part of the reenactment of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher. I had scant knowledge of the Civil War, but I went along and was a Confederate soldier. I believe the event (small by today's standards) was sponsored by the Daughters of the Confederacy. There was an emotional wreath-laying at the monument which I didn't fully appreciate because of my then unfamiliarity with the Civil War struggle.

I had not been south of Washington, D.C., since 1969 until this June (2012) when I attended my niece's wedding in the Wilmington/Carolina Beach area. The changes from what I remember from 47 years ago are considerable. The area is quite built up and very tourist friendly. I made a special visit to Fort Fisher. The remains of the Fort and battleground is much the same, but now has a visitors center with exhibits, a 16 foot optic map detailing the second battle, a video presentation and a gift shop. Approximately ten percent of the original fort remains. A quarter mile trail surrounds the preservation, offering scenic views of the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean. Exterior exhibits include a partially restored gun emplacement enhanced historic interpretation. Guided tours are available

For further information on Fort Fisher visit: http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/.

A New Twist on Exploring Civil War Battlefields.

By Mike Mazzocchi

On a recent trip to Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville battlefields, I explored two new historic trails using the Civil War Trust Battlefield APPs. The APPs are organized into a detailed battle overview and a number of tour options (driving and walking). Each tour includes a map with numbered "virtual signs" to access information about events that happened at the location where the user is standing. This information includes historian videos, audio accounts of soldiers and civilians, maps and photos. These can be used either at the battlefield to enhance the experience or at home to learn or review the details of the battle. In addition you download can maps at (http://www.cwmaps.com/freemaps.html and http://www.civilwar.org/maps/maps-

listings.html?map_type=cwpt). Select appropriate ones and take screen shots to keep them on your device (as photos) that you can reference anywhere on the battlefield. Using the APPs and maps before my visit gave me a great deal of background. Using them after provided a good review. I used them sparingly on the trails and only listened to the video/audio while at the site.

By doing this I could enhance the experience without distracting from what I was seeing. A complete list of available APPs and links to download them is available at: http://www.civilwar.org/battleapps/. (Remember to download the media to your device. It will now be resident and you will not have to depend on Wi-Fi nor wireless.)

On the Fredericksburg battlefield, I walked the new Slaughter Pen Trail which was part of the Union Attack Begins tour in the Fredericksburg APP. This 1.9 mile, 11 stop, walking tour covered the advance of Maj. Gen. George G. Meade's Division and Brig. Gen John Gibbon's Division of Maj. Gen. Franklin's Left Grand Division. The well marked trail focused on Gibbon's advance to the tracks of the *Richmond*, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad attacking units of Lt. Gen. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson's Second Corps. The APP led me to the "Virginia ditch fences" which were dug by farmers to irrigate and divide fields. The attackers were forced to scramble through them and thus became disorganized. The APP points out that unbeknownst to Gen. Gibbon, his three brothers were members of the brigade (Brig. Gen. James H. Lane) which defended the area beyond the railroad. As Lane's brigade crumbled, Gibbon's brigade negotiated a swampy marshland and crossed the tracks but, since Franklin would not provide reinforcements, they were eventually driven back by the Confederates.



"Virginia Ditch Fences"

To complete the experience, I proceeded to the Military Drive (modern Lee Drive) and hiked to the site Bernard's Cabins (slave cabins on the Mannsfield Plantation). Jackson used this high ground as an artillery position to successfully maintain his lines north of Prospect Hill. From this point I could look back and imagine the Federal attack as seen by the Confederates.



Railroad Tracks from Slaughter Pen Trail



Railroad Tracks from Slave Cabin Site

Video of the Slaughter Pen Farm: http://vimeo.com/42716452. Animated Map of the Slaughter Pen Farm: http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/fredericksburg-animated-map/

I next visited the Chancellorsville battlefield and hiked the 2 mile First Day Trail which was part of the Two Armies tour in the Chancellorsville APP. The head of Union Gen. Joseph Hooker's Army of the Potomac arrived here on May 1, 1863 and was poised to descend on the left flank and rear of the Army of Northern Virginia. The Confederates under Gens. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson collided with Union forces on these open fields. On May 1, the head of Hooker's column under Gen. George Sykes ran into Lee's Confederates on the ground on the fields traversed by this trail. The trail reaches the farthest point of the Union infantry advance on May 1. From there, Federal troops poured a murderous fire into the disorganized Confederate line. The Southerners, under Gen. William Mahone, soon regrouped for battle. Confederate fire halted the Union attack. The Federals fell

back to the Lewis house and held off the enemy from behind the ridge. For Union troops, however, the battle soon took an unfortunate turn. Union Gen. George Sykes was flanked out of his position by Jackson (his first flank attack of the battle) and was ordered by Gen. Hooker to withdraw to Chancellorsville moving across over the little brook along the trail then known as Mott's Run (today called Lick Run). The impact of the fighting here convinced Hooker to abandon his advance and fall back to the Chancellorsville intersection. Lee took the high ground east of Chancellorsville and, in the three days that followed, inflicted a punishing defeat on the Union army. This trail follows the farthest advance of Sykes forces and then his retreat under Confederate pressure. It provided a good feel for the terrain, especially the plateau near Mott's Run, and a better understanding of the effects of Jackson's first day flank attack.



First Day at Chancellorsville

First Day at Chancellorsville Animated Map: http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/chancellorsville.html.

Remember - Download an APP and some maps and try them on the next battlefield you visit!

Following is an essay about the "war within the war" on its 150th anniversary.

Lincoln and the Sioux

By RON SOODALTER

During his term as president, Abraham Lincoln was responsible for the largest mass execution – and the greatest act of clemency – in our nation's history.

Indeed, as every schoolchild is aware, the history of our government's relations with the American Indians is disgraceful. Congress never made a treaty that it wasn't more than willing to break at the slightest provocation. Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, tribe after tribe was left with no recourse other than rebellion or starvation, and the Dakota Sioux were no exception.

In 1851 – 10 years before the Civil War – the United States signed two treaties with the Sioux that resulted in the Indians' ceding huge portions of the Minnesota Territory. In exchange, they were promised compensation in the form of cash and trade goods, and directed to live on a reservation along the upper Minnesota River. The thoroughly corrupt Bureau of Indian Affairs was responsible for overseeing the terms of the treaties. Not surprisingly, many of the trade goods were substandard and overvalued by several hundred percent, and the promised payments were often not forthcoming – stolen by Washington functionaries, or simply channeled directly to the crooked traders and Indian agents.

This situation continued for years. Finally, in 1858 – the year Minnesota entered the Union – a party of Sioux led by Chief Little Crow visited Washington to see about proper enforcement of the treaties. It did not go the way they'd hoped; instead of acknowledging the Sioux grievances, the government took back half their reservation, and opened it up to white settlement. The land was cleared, and the hunting and fishing that had in large measure sustained the Sioux virtually ended.

The situation worsened with each passing year, with the Sioux suffering increasing hunger and hardship. There was nothing to be gained by appealing to the traders; reportedly, their representative – a clod of a fellow fittingly named Andrew Jackson Myrick – responded to the Indians' appeal for food with the comment, "So far as I am concerned, if they are hungry, let them eat grass or their own dung."

In August 1862, the powder keg exploded. It began almost randomly, when a party of four braves on an egg-stealing foray impulsively killed five white settlers. From there, it escalated rapidly. Under the leadership of a somewhat reluctant Little Crow, several bands held a war council, and set about attacking the new settlements. They seized the Lower Sioux Agency, killing whites and burning the

buildings. At the outbreak of hostilities, Myrick was one of the first casualties, and when his body was discovered, his mouth was stuffed with grass.

A combined force of militia and volunteer infantry set out to subdue the Indians. The two sides met at Redwood Ferry, where the Indians gave the soldiers a thorough drubbing, killing 24 men. Flush with victory, roving bands of Sioux destroyed entire townships throughout the month and into September, plundering and killing as they went. A number of desperate appeals for help had gone to Lincoln, but he was immersed in such day-to-day matters as the stunning debacle at Second Bull Run, Gen. Robert E. Lee's invasion of Maryland, Gen. George B. McClellan's heartbreaking failure to follow up after Antietam, and the release of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Finally, over a month after the outbreak of the Sioux uprising, Lincoln responded, assigning Gen. John Pope, fresh from his defeat at Bull Run, the task of ending the uprising. A pompous, self-righteous man, Pope declared his "purpose to utterly exterminate the Sioux.... They are to be treated as maniacs and wild beasts."

The Army finally subdued the Sioux in the battle of Wood Lake on Sept. 23. The butcher's bill at the end of the fighting totaled some 77 soldiers killed, between 75 and 100 Sioux, and – no one took an accurate count – between 300 and 800 white settlers.

The Sioux who surrendered were promised safety. But once the hostilities were over, hundreds of Sioux – some of whom had had nothing to do with the uprising – were arrested and summarily tried by a five-man military commission. The trials were perfunctory affairs, some lasting less than five minutes. More than 40 cases were adjudicated in one day alone. Due process played no part; most of the defendants hadn't a clue what was happening. Of the 393 tried for "murder and other outrages," 323 were convicted, and 303 sentenced to hang – including those who had surrendered with a promise of safety.

The final approval for the executions rested with the president. General Pope, seeking a quick and dramatic finish to the affair, pressured Lincoln to sign the orders for all 303 executions. Nor was he alone; outraged newspaper editors and congressmen advocated a speedy hanging as well. Alexander Ramsey, the governor of Minnesota – who had made a fortune cheating the Sioux — threatened that if the president didn't hang all the condemned, the citizens of his state would.

The Sioux had a rare friend, however, in Minnesota's Episcopal bishop, Henry Whipple. The clergyman traveled to Washington and met with Lincoln, who was so impressed with Whipple's account that he ordered that every case be re-examined on its own merits. After thorough analysis, only 38 Sioux could be proved to have participated in the uprising. Lincoln immediately approved their execution order, and commuted the sentences of the others. In a finish that is pure Lincoln, the president hand wrote the list of long, difficult, phonetically spelled Sioux names himself, and advised the telegrapher on the vital necessity of sending them correctly, lest the wrong men be hanged.

On Dec. 26, 38 Dakota Sioux were led to the scaffold; they sang their death songs as they walked, and when they had mounted the scaffold and the hoods were drawn down over their faces, they continued to sing and sway, and clasp one another's manacled hands. At a drum signal, the trap was sprung, and the watching crowd of thousands cheered.



Execution of 38 Sioux men on Dec. 26, 1862

The year after the uprising, Congress expunged all Sioux treaties from the record, took back their reservation and ordered that the entire tribe be expelled from Minnesota. As an incentive, a bounty of \$25 was offered for the scalp of any Sioux found living in the state after the edict.

There still was scattered resistance, but the Dakota War was over. The Sioux would continue to fight for years to come, until 1890, when the Army marked paid to their account by massacring at least 150 men, women and children from the tribe at Wounded Knee.

Given the mood of the country regarding what were seen as unprovoked savage depredations, what drove Lincoln to spare the lives of so many Sioux? The wonder isn't that Lincoln allowed more than three dozen men to hang; it's that he took the time away from a war that was going badly – and that threatened the very existence of our nation – to examine one at a time the cases of more than 300 Sioux, and to spare the lives of all but 38 of them.

While Lincoln felt that there must be a reckoning, and that the wholesale killing of settlers could neither be condoned nor ignored, he would not allow the law to be used to elicit indiscriminate revenge, despite the tremendous pressure on him to do just that. When it was suggested to him that he would have garnered political support by allowing the original orders to stand, he responded, "I could not hang men for votes."

Ron Soodalter is the author of "Hanging Captain Gordon: The Life and Trial of an American Slave Trader" and a co-author of "The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today." He is a featured writer and columnist for America's Civil War magazine and a frequent contributor to Civil War Times and Military History.

Coming Events -

Sat., Sept. 22nd - Camp Olden Civil War Round Table Anniversary Soiree. Hamilton American Legion Post 31, 1490 South Olden Avenue, Hamilton, NJ, from 4 – 6PM. Hot and cold buffet, soft drinks, cash bar, period music, program. \$10.00 per person paid by 9/15. Limited seating, no sales at door. Send checks to: Connie Davis, 36 Balustrol Street, Hamilton Square, NJ, 08690-1602.

Sept. 13-15 - "Fire on the River" living history weekend at Waterloo Village, Byram Twp. Friday school program, skirmishes Saturday & Sunday. All proceeds go to village restoration.

Hosted by Friends of Waterloo Village & 27th Regiment of New Jersey. For information, www.27thnewjerseycompanyf.org.

Sept. 14-15 - Civil War Weekend at Historic Cold Spring Village, Cape May. Friday school program, living history, medical scenarios, battle both days featuring street fighting. Hosted by Co. E, 17th Virginia, 5th Bn., ANV & 5th New Jersey Volunteers, USV.

Oct. 13-14 - Annual Civil War weekend at historic Mullica Hill. Skirmishes, weapon displays, drill, camp life. Ladies' demonstrations of candle making, open fire pie baking, basket weaving. Saturday guided lantern tour of camps & cemetery. Sunday morning fashion show, period church service. Presented by 28th Pennsylvania Historical Assn. & Co. C.

Oct. 13-14 - Annual Mid-Jersey Civil War Reenactment in conjunction with Allentown's Fall Festival in Heritage Park. Battles both days, living history, free entertainment.

Nov. 3 - Historical Military Exhibition with displays, reenactors & presentations from the Revolution through Viet Nam at Veterans Center Hall, Kenilworth, 10-4. Free. Sponsored by New Jersey Arms Collectors Club Inc. ◆

Civil War Sesquicentennial -

Below are some of the major events which occurred 150 years ago from September of 1862 to November of 1862:

September 1, Chantilly / Ox Hill

September 4, Army of Northern Virginia crosses

Potomac river to invade Maryland

September 12-15, 1862 Harpers Ferry

September 14-17, Munfordville

Sept 14, South Mountain / Crampton Gap /

Turner Gap / Fox Gap

September 16-18, Antietam / Sharpsburg

September 19, Iuka

September 19-20, Shepherdstown

September 23, Wood Lake

September 24-25, Sabine Pass

September 30, Newtonia

October 1-3, St. John's Bluff

October 3-4, Corinth

October 4, Galveston Texas.
October 5, Hatchie's Bridge / Davis Bridge
October 8, Perryville
October 22, Old Fort Wayne / Beaty's Prairie
October 27, Georgia Landing / Labadieville
November 7, Clark's Mill / Vera Cruz
November 28, Cane Hill / Boston Mountains •



New Jersey's Civil War and Native American Museum



Civil War and Native American Museum

A reminder to all members and associates - A visit to the Civil War and Native American Museum sponsored by the Camp Olden CWRT is an informative way for Civil War buffs to spend an afternoon. The museum contains a specialized collection of Civil War medical equipment, including amputation and surgical kits as well as various muskets, rifles and artillery. Several displays offer soldier documents and artifacts specific to New Jersey. Also of interest is a diorama of the Swamp Angel, an 8 in. parrott used in the siege of Charleston, SC, in August, 1863. The original is now mounted in Cadwalader Park, Trenton. The museum is located at 2202 Kuser Road at the south entrance to Hamilton Veterans Park and is

open the 2nd and 3rd full weekends of each month, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. For more history, visit the John Abbott House, built 1730-1840, just across the parking lot.







Be a Gazette Contributor!

Explore a battlefield? See an interesting museum exhibit? Read a new Civil War book or reread a favorite one? Share your experiences with round table members. Don't forget the *Meet Your Fellow Members* series. Send a brief biography relating how you became interested in the Civil War and became a member of Camp Olden CWRT. Please send a photograph so other members will know who you are.

Jot down a couple of lines and send your photos and your thoughts to the Gazette email address: <u>oldennewsletter@optonline.net</u>. The mailing address is C&M Mazzocchi, 1430 18th Ave. Wall, NJ 07719.

For meeting and other information visit us on the Web: www.campolden.org. ◆

Answer to "Who Am I?"
Major General Fitz-John Porter (1822-1901). ◆