# The Camp Olden Gazette

# News from the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table

Summer, 2012

#### President's Gavel.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> I decided to take a ride out to Cadwalader Park and check the condition of the Mercer County Soldiers & Sailors Civil War monument for a different project I had in mind but I disgustingly discovered the vandalism of the famous Swamp Angel. The plastic shield in the barrel is now broken and worst of all the bronze plaque with the description of the cannon and its actions is now missing after being there for many, many years. Camp Olden now has to step up to the plate and find a way to correct this wrongdoing and to hopefully prevent it from happening again.





I took photos that you can see above and am also presenting a write-up on the history of the Swamp Angel by Camp Olden member Dr. David Martin.

# The Swamp Angel

By David Martin

One of the most famous cannons of the Civil War era was the North's "Swamp Angel," an eight ton monster that terrorized Charleston, S.C., for three days in August of 1863 (it was also known as the "Marsh Battery"). The cannon, known technically as an eight inch Parrott rifle, Model 1861, was able to use a 16 pound powder charge to hurl a 150 pound shell as far as five miles, a range far beyond that of the Confederate cannons that were defending Charleston. The Swamp Angel was noted as much for its range as for the unique platform that supported it in a marsh at the southern edge of Charleston harbor. Union engineers used 13,000 sand bags, over 10,000 feet of planks and a force of 7000 men to

construct the base that supported and protected the huge cannon.

After three weeks of strenuous labor, the Swamp Angel was ready to open fire at 1:30 A.M. on 22 August 1863. Its blasts startled the citizens of Charleston, who at first could not determine where the screeching hostile shells were coming from. Fortunately for the Charlestonians, the Angel was using experimental incendiary shells. One of these may have caused the cannon to blow up at about 1:00 A.M. on 24 August 1863, when it was firing its 36th round. This explosion caused the breech of the gun (back part of the cannon) to blow out of its jacket just behind the vent, making it unfit for further use. The explosion threw the gun onto its parapet, making it appear to be ready to fire again, a fact that continued to distress the people of Charleston for some time.

The famous Swamp Angel now became only so much scrap metal and was junked along with other disabled cannons form the Charleston area. After the war, a pile of broken heavy cannons from Charleston was bought as scrap by Charles Carr of the Phoenix Iron Company of Trenton. The shipment was brought to Trenton as scrap, where a soldier who had served at Charleston claimed to recognize the broken Swamp Angel gun. A man named John Hart Brewer suggested the idea of setting up the cannon as a monument, and succeeded at raising enough money to do so. A plot of land at the intersection of Clinton and Perry Streets was donated by the city of Trenton, and the monument itself was designed by Isaac Brougham of Trenton. It was constructed of Trenton brown stone and was in the shape of a truncated pyramid. The cannon tube was placed on top of the base "plain for all to see." The monument was dedicated in February 1877. There is an article in the 1 December 1876 New

York Times about the construction of the memorial, and early pictures of it show the date February 1877 on its plaque. When the plaque was later replaced, the incorrect date of 1871 was accidentally inscribed.

The Swamp Angel was rededicated on 3 December 1915 and remained at the intersection of Clinton and Perry Streets until the opening of the Civil War Centennial, when it had to be moved because of road changes. It was transferred to its present location in Cadwalader Park and rededicated on 12 April 1961, when the principal speaker was Dr. Harold Morrison Smith, Headmaster of Bordentown Military Academy. Thirty-three years later the cannon and its base were cleaned by the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table. It was rededicated on 8 October 1994, with Dr. David Martin giving the rededication speech.

There has been controversy for a number of years as to whether or not the cannon in Trenton is the true "Swamp Angel." In the 1970s cannon historian Warren Ripley argued that at least six guns of the same size as the Swamp Angel were disabled near Charleston during the war, and that four of them blew off at the breech, the same spot where the Swamp Angel came apart. In the absence of serial numbers or other identifying marks, Ripley argued that there was only a one in four chance that Trenton's "Swamp Angel" was the real thing.

However, recent research has done much to confirm the Swamp Angel's identity. General Quincy A. Gilmore, commander of Union operations at Charleston, was meticulous and carefully recorded the serial numbers of all his cannons. His notes show that the cannon known as the Swamp Angel had serial No. 6 on it. Other evidence shows that this gun was cast at the West Point Foundry in New York in 1863 and weighed 16,577 pounds. It is now known that Ripley was not able to see the serial number on the gun in his time. Efforts to clean the muzzle since then have revealed the markings "No. 6/1xxx/W.P.F./8 IN". This information agrees in every way with Gilmore's notes and the notes from the foundry: that this is gun number 6 made at the West Point Foundry (W.P.F.) and is an 8incher. All that are lacking is the three last digits of its year of manufacture (1863). Also lacking, unfortunately, is the gun's distinctive breech band, common to all Parrott rifles, which apparently was lost in Charleston after the gun blew up, or when the broken barrel was being transported to Trenton.

Trenton's cannon, then, has been demonstrated to be most likely to be the true Swamp Angel, and as such it is a significant relic of the war. It is also a controversial one. In 1960, 1988 and 1990 three different Trenton mayors have proposed sending the gun back to Charleston as a "good will" token, a "grand gesture of reconciliation with the South." However, such a move has been strongly and successfully opposed by local citizens, veterans' groups and Civil War enthusiasts at each juncture. An ideal use of the cannon would be as a centerpiece for a state museum on the Civil War or New Jersey history. Perhaps it even could be moved to the plaza in front of the New Jersey State Museum on State Street in downtown Trenton.

I would like to thank the following volunteers who came out and supported Camp Olden at the New Jersey History Fair on May 12th - Bruce Smith, Bob Dunfey, Julia Foulks, Stu Foulks, Connie Davis, Keith Tomlinson, Kim Daly, Joe Sedor and his grandson Joe Sedor, as well as members who just stopped by and said Hi. It was a very successful and enjoyable day.

Now for our upcoming speakers: **June 7th** - Richard Schwartz will speak on "Why should *we* care about the Lincoln-Douglas debates?" **July 5th** - Dr. David Martin will speak on the *New Jersey Monuments Gettysburg Guide* of the New Jersey 150th Civil War Anniversary Committee. **September 6th** - Sydney Cruise Dixon will speak on Joseph Clifton of the 6<sup>th</sup> NJ.

See you at the next meeting! Your obedient servant.



Bruce.

(at Morristown NHP)

#### Meet Your Fellow Members:

Here's another entry in our biography series initiated as a way for members to get to know each other better.

I'm **Bob Christine** and I've always been interested in history, volunteering on the Battleship New Jersey and active in the Winslow Township Historical Society. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events in 1961 started my interest in the Civil War. Two books, "Reveille in Washington" and "The 20<sup>th</sup> Maine", hooked me. For years my wife and I vacationed in the South, touring 38 battlefields and historic sites.



About 10 years ago, I discovered that my greatgrandfather, Nathan K. Hammer had enlisted in 1861 in the 12<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment in Madison, WI, and trained at Camp Randall. His regiment has been called the "Marchingest Regiment", covering over 3800 miles, much of it as part of Sherman's army from Acworth Georgia, throughout Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. The 12<sup>th</sup> formed the advance of the charging column at the Battle of Atlanta. The regiment captured more small-arms than it had men engaged, many of the arms still capped and loaded. After the victory at Vicksburg, the regiment landed at Natchez, where they all reenlisted and returned to Wisconsin on leave. Family records include a Certificate of Service, pay chit and reenlistment copies. Although there are no pictures of Nathan, the enlistment copy gives a description-blue eyes, brown hair, fair complexion, 5'6 1/2."

I also found that the son of my great-great grandfather, Robert Bradbury Jr., served in an independent battery as part of the Army of the Potomac. The brother of this great-great grandfather moved to Austin Texas in 1838 and then had four sons who fought for the Confederacy. On my mother's side of the family, my great-great grandfather signed up when

Lincoln called for volunteers in 1861. He served three months and then returned to his shipyard in Camden to build lifeboats for the Union Navy. Two years later, he enlisted in the Navy and served the rest of the war on a blockade ship.

It is a pleasure being part of Camp Olden. ♦

# Civil War Sesquicentennial -

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

June 5, Tranter's Creek

June 6, Memphis

June 7-8, Chattanooga

June 8, Cross Keys

June 9, Port Republic

June 16, Secessionville / James Island

June 17, Saint Charles

June 21, Simmon's Bluff South Carolina

June 26, Beaver Dam Creek / Mechanicsville

June 27, Gaines' Mill / First Cold Harbor

June 27-28, Garnett's Farm / Golding's Farm

June 29, Savage's Station

June 30, White Oak Swamp

June 30, Glendale / Frayser's Farm

June 30-July 1, Tampa

July 1, Malvern Hill / Poindexter's Farm

July 7, Hill's Plantation / Cache River

July 11, Major-General Henry Halleck was named General-In-Chief of the Union army.

July 13, Murfreesboro

August 5, Baton Rouge / Magnolia Cemetery

August 6-9, Kirksville

August 9, Cedar Mountain / Cedar Run

August 11, Independence

August 15-16, Lone Jack

August 20-22, Fort Ridgely

August 22-25, Rappahannock Station

August 25-27, Manassas Station Operations

August 28, Thoroughfare Gap / Chapman's Mill

August 28-30, Second Bull Run

August 29-30, Richmond ♦



#### Who Am I?



I was born the son of a U.S. judge for the district of Illinois at Louisville, Kentucky, on the 16th of March 1822. I graduated at the United States Military Academy in 1842 and was assigned to the engineers. I served in the Mexican War, receiving the brevets of 1st Lieutenant and Captain for my conduct at Monterey and Buena Vista. Subsequently I was engaged engineering and exploring work, mainly in New Mexico, and in surveying the route for a Pacific railroad. I was commissioned captain in 1856. I was actively opposed to the James Buchanan administration, and a speech which I made in connection with the Presidential campaign of 1860 caused me to be summoned before a courtmartial. Early in the Civil War I was placed as a Brigadier-General U.S.V in charge of the district of Missouri which, by vigorous campaigning against guerrilla bands and severe administration of the civil population, I quickly reduced to order. In 1862, along with the gunboat flotilla (commanded by Commodore A. H. Foote) on the Mississippi, I obtained a great success by the capture of the defenses of New Madrid and Island No. 10, with nearly 7000 prisoners. I subsequently joined Henry W. Halleck, and in command of the Army of the Mississippi, took part in the siege of Corinth. I was now a Major-General U.S.V. The reputation I had thus gained as an energetic leader quickly placed me in a high command, to which I proved to be quite unequal. The "Army of Virginia", as my new forces were styled, had but a brief career. At the very outset of my Virginian campaign I, by a most ill-advised order, in which I contrasted the performances of the Western troops with the failures of the troops in Virginia, forfeited the confidence of my officers and men. The feeling of the Army of the Potomac (which was ordered to my support) was equally hostile and the short operations culminated in the disastrous defeat of the second battle of Bull Run. I was still sanguine and ready for another trial of strength,

but I was soon compelled to realize the impossibility of retrieving my position. I resigned the command. Bitter controversy arose over these events. Halleck, the General-In-Chief. was by no means free from blame, but the public odium chiefly fell upon generals George B. McClellan and Fitz-John Porter, against whom I, while admitting my own mistakes, made grave charges. I was not again employed in the Civil War, but in command of the Department of the North-West I showed my former skill and vigor in dealing with Indian risings. In 1865 I was made Brevet Major-General U.S.A. (having become Brigadier-General on my appointment to the Army of Virginia), and I subsequently was in charge of various military districts and departments until my retirement in 1886. In 1882 I was promoted to the full rank of Major-General U.S.A. I died at Sandusky, Ohio on the 23rd of September, 1892. (Courtesy of Soylent Comm.)

Who Am I? (Answer on page 10) ♦

#### Historic Picture:

For the last issue Stu and Julia Foulks submitted this group picture from an early Camp Olden reenactment asking who in the group can you name and in what year was it taken.



**Bruce Sirak** submitted the following: *Year taken* – 1993

**Bottom row** - Al Jarvis, Bob Banning, Diane Banning, Don Cooper, Connie Davis, Janis Ford, Carol Webster, Charles Webster; **Center row** - Diane Dombroski, Larry Dombroski, Joe Thoman, Bub Butera, Danny Davis, Stu Foulks, Bruce Sirak; **Top row** - ??, Rick Poinsett, Kathy Conti, ??.

Does anyone have any ideas on the two mystery members in the top row? Submit to **oldennewsletter@optonline.net**.

# Camp Olden Field Trip to Morristown, NJ

Contributed by John Maleski

"It was the worst I've ever seen" - George Washington on his camp at Morristown in the winter of 1779-80.

Hello again everyone! Your illusive event coordinator has a little summery of our most recent trip to George Washington's winter headquarters. Doing some reading on my own I had no idea it was this bad, worse than Valley Forge, some said. Our day started with yours truly renting a passenger van, which turned out to be a regular van. (Thanks to Kathy and her parents for squeezing in there!) So we were off to a shaky start, but the easy ride up behind Bruce Smith, (Bruce and Bob riding along) who lead the way right to our first point of interest which was the Ford Mansion. Here is where ole George stayed with his staff, slaves, horses, and others. It was the largest house in town and since Mr. Ford's husband had passed away a few years previous, she granted them a free stay. Our Ranger Tour was great. Our Guide put things in perspective for the whole afternoon. Imagine 22 people in your house as guests for months. Mrs. Ford had 4 children to raise and was placed in the large room on the 1st floor. The place had some neat architecture, furniture, and other old crafts from days gone by. The tour took about an hour, and I think everyone had got there monies worth for sure.



Then it was off to Macalluch Hall, a tremendous museum filled with great chandeliers, artwork, and stories from long ago. We had a great tour from one of the docents who was very knowledgeable about every detail of the antiques. We also enjoyed "Gone to Soldier" the exhibit in the adjacent hall, featuring civil war uniforms, coins, our own hardtack from our museum, rifles, swards and other great relics of the day. My nephew Mathew Milacki and his father John, and grandfathers Tom and Ray were delighted to see an author there doing a book signing and purchased a book from him about the local history of Morristown. We spent a good two hours there.

We also wanted to get in a quick tour of Jockey Hallow. So we took a quick snack break out front of the hall and went off to the visitors center. This place was small but had enough seating for most of us while viewing the 15 min. film. It gave a good sense of how hard it was on those brave men with words from a diary of a Massachusetts doctor in camp. I think we all were moved when we saw the huts they built per General Gates and Washington. Using hand tools they made small above ground sheds to keep the harsh winter off their already cold and tired frames. The doctor's diary stated that it snowed for over 3 days and nights in a row, and the temperature got as low as 12 degrees below zero. We took a short ride to some of the small huts that still stand there for visitors to view.

We then tried to find Fort Nonsense but, because there was no sign on the main road, we missed it...Oh well I'm sure a few of us will be back for another tour of this fine hamlet in Morris County. We ate at a nice period restaurant in town called *George and Martha's* which had a good burger and fine fare for all at a good price. I think I can speak for all the gang that went it was well worth it and fun. Bob and I hope to do another trip this fall to Sharpsburg, MD, for the 150<sup>th</sup> of the horrific battle of Antietam. Yours in history...Johnny "the white tornado" Maleski!. ◆



Ford Mansion and an encampment cabin.

# Special Event -

JUNIOR CAMP OLDEN DAY XVIII will be held at the *Civil War and Native American Museum*, 2202 Kuser Road Hamilton, NJ on **Saturday, June 16**<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

Young persons 8 to 13 years of age can once again enlist as a Civil War soldier 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! The fee is \$30 per participant. For information or reservations contact John Maleski − (609) 259-1428 or Bob Dumphy at 577-4813 or www.campolden.org and email webmaster. ◆

#### Other Events:

Sat., June 2 & Sun., June 3 - Discover the Civil War at Allaire State Park, Farmingdale, NJ! Meet the soldiers, shop at period stores, and experience encampment life! This event will be a non-combatant Civil War living history presentation of a Training Camp for new recruits in New Jersey service. Throughout the day speeches, artillery demonstrations, witness battalion drills, musket cleaning, dress parades, and a farewell at the train station as troops leave for the front! In addition, explore our 1836 Industrial Village! Presented by the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association (NJCWHA) and The Historic Village at Allaire. \$5 parking fee for this event.

Sat., June 9 & Sun., June 10 - 12th Annual Civil War Living History Weekend & the National Civil War Field Music School at Holcomb Jimison Farmstead, Lambertville, NJ. Daily battles, demonstrations, period music. Weekend admission \$10 per person over age 12. Proceeds benefit historic preservation & education. For information, Lambertville Living History Assn., (609) 397-4943, maryales@hotmail.com; www.lambertvillecivilwarreenactment.com.

**Sat., August 2 & Sun., August 4** - 15th Annual Parker Press Civil War Living History Weekend, Woodbridge, NJ, 10-4. Saturday candlelight tour 8:30-10 p.m. Period impressions, displays, skirmishes. Free. Sponsored by Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey.

For information, Mira Form, (732) 846-5725, <a href="mailto:mkform@optonline.net">mkform@optonline.net</a>

**Sat., Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>** from 10 AM to 4 PM. Civil War Day of Living history at the Belmar Public Library, 517 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Belmar, NJ. For information call 732-681-0775. ◆

# Ongoing Exhibits:

Monmouth County Historical Association: Marching Away: Monmouth County in the Civil War which focuses on Monmouth County soldiers who fought for the Union Army. The exhibition will run through July 2012 in the Washington Gallery at the historical society's museum and library building. The museum is located at 70 Court St. in Freehold and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the exhibition and related programming, log on to monmouthhistory.org or call 732-462-1466.

#### **Macculloch Hall Historical Museum**

"Gone for a Soldier:" Jerseymen in the Civil War exhibit (until July 1, 2012) featuring rare and never before seen NJ Civil War items. This exhibit brings together nearly 200 objects from the Civil War from nearly thirty museums, historical societies, and private collections.

The Other Side of War: The Civil War on the Home Front (until November 11, 2012) features a display of letters, poems and objects from the home front.

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. ◆

# Have you seen this one?

# Gettysburg Shop Yanks Bobblehead Doll of John Wilkes Booth

Over at the Gettysburg National Military Park bookstore in Pennsylvania, they've decided that maybe it's not such a great idea to sell a bobblehead of John Wilkes Booth, the notorious Confederate sympathizer and assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. The Associated Press reports that the dolls were on sale for about a week, then pulled from the shelf after the park superintendent and other officials determined that a bobblehead of a guy who murdered one of the nation's most revered public figures was sort of inappropriate.

"On rare occasions, there's an item that might cause concern, and obviously the bobbleheads appeared to be doing that," said Dru Anne Neil, a spokeswoman for the Gettysburg Foundation, in an interview with the wire service Tuesday.



If the doll weren't brandishing a pistol -- and standing on a pedestal featuring his name -- it would be difficult for all but the most passionate Civil War buff to identify the thing as a likeness of Booth: With its unkempt coif and droopy, vintage mustache, the doll could just as well be some guy who graduated from a second-tier indie rock band and now makes artisanal salami. Still, it managed to rankle. BobbleGate appears to have been sparked by a March 10 report in the Evening Sun newspaper of Hanover, Pa. Reporter Tim Prudente interviewed Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer, who opined that the doll must have been the brainchild of "an awfully sick marketing person."

An employee for the manufacturer of the doll, BobbleHead LLC, told Prudente that it was meant to be a "gag gift." The company Wednesday continued to offer the "JOHN WILKES BOOTH Lincoln Assasination [sic] Bobblehead Doll" for \$19.95 on its website, along with bobbleheads of Kim Jong II, Joe the Plumber, a chimpanzee, and a Marie Curie version that glows in the dark. (Richard Fausset - L. A. Times) •

Editor's Note – According to the Chicago Tribune, The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill., is no longer selling a bobblehead doll of Lincoln's assassin at its gift shop.

# Travel Opportunity -

GETTYSBURG - REMEMBRANCE DAYS - BUS TOUR - November 17-18, 2012

Are you interested in attending this year's Remembrance Days activities in Gettysburg but don't want to make the drive or can't find a hotel room? Please consider joining me on Starr's bus tour! The ride is comfortable (lavatory on bus as well as entertainment system), the cost includes accommodations at a Gettysburg hotel, and you'll have some free time on your own in town. Starr picks up in Hamilton at the AMC Theater on Sloan Avenue and you can leave your car in the parking lot at no additional charge.

Tour includes: Deluxe transportation, one night's lodging, one breakfast, one dinner, American Civil War Wax Museum, Gettysburg Museum & Visitors' Center, the David Wills House, and the Remembrance Day Parade & Illumination (weather permitting).

Cost (per person) for a double (2 people) room: \$289.95; single (1 person) room \$349.95; triple (3 people) room \$269.95. Please contact Starr directly to make a reservation by calling 609-587-0626 or on-line at www.starrtours.com.

I will serve as the tour director for this trip and look forward to seeing some familiar faces on the bus! Please contact me directly if you have any questions about the tour (other than reservation information).

Jane Peters Estes 18 Woodstone Lane Burlington, NJ 08016 609 526-4299 jcpetersestes@yahoo.com.◆



(Photo by Bruce Sirak)

# Bloody Bill" Anderson

Submitted by Bruce Sirak



Six miles from Brownwood, on the banks of Salt Creek, a pretty stream that flows between rocky banks through pecan groves and lovely valleys to the Colorado River, lives Uncle Bill Anderson, now 85 years old, and one time member of the famous Quantrill band of guerrillas. The writer formed the acquaintance of Uncle Bill about five year ago when he came to this part of Texas and has spent many hours talking to him about the stirring days of the past, at his home on Salt Creek. Uncle Bill, as everybody knows him, is a familiar figure on the streets of Brownwood on Saturday, and spends most of his time when in town at the courthouse. conversing with old time friends and acquaintances. He seldom talks about his connection with the famous band of William Quantrill, and it is only to the closest friends that he talks at all on this subject.

He joined Quantrill at the beginning of the tragic career of that stormy petrel of the Civil War and was with him in practically [all his] raids against the armies of the Union. Uncle Bill Anderson is supposed to be dead, and the official reports in the office of the secretary of war at Washington, signed by Major Cox of the Union army, show that he was killed in Ray County, Missouri, about the close of the Civil War, and was buried near where he was killed. In a book written some time ago by a man named Connelly, who is now president of the Kansas Historical Society at Topeka, Kansas, pains are taken to show just how Bill Anderson was killed by Union soldiers. The story is that on a certain occasion while Anderson with a small band of guerrillas was raiding in Ray County, Missouri, far removed from the main band under Quantrill, the Union forces found it out and sent Major Cox with a detachment of soldiers and under sealed orders to go to Ray County and Cox was not to open his

orders until he had reached a certain locality, which he was to do by night, using the utmost secrecy and stealth in doing so and not intimating to his men where he was going.

Major Cox followed the directions, and on reaching the lonely spot in Ray County, he opened his orders and was surprised that they told him he was now in the immediate vicinity of the camp of Bill Anderson, right hand man of Quantrill, and that while most of his men were to ambush or conceal themselves behind a fence on both sides of a long land that opened from a wooded area, a small detachment was to go forward, locate the band of Anderson and as soon as they had done so, beat a hasty retreat, running back through the lane, and the rest of the men under Cox were to fire upon the guerrillas and kill them as they came by.

The plan worked fine, but when the scouts located Bill Anderson, and Anderson's men gave instant pursuit, Anderson himself did not go. However, one of his lieutenants mounted on the fine horse of Anderson had joined in the chase. Every man was killed in ambush in the lane, just as the orders of Cox anticipated, and the one on the big horse known to belong to Anderson, was taken for Anderson.

As soon as Bill Anderson heard the shooting he knew that an ambuscade had told the story, and mounting another horse in camp he plunged into the woods and escaped. This was his last escapade of the war. Leaving Missouri, he rode southward and kept on riding, riding until he reached what is now the State of Texas, and then he rode on and on, intending to go to Mexico and locate there. By and by he reached the lovely valley of Salt Creek, in what is now Brown County. Nobody lived here then, and once in (a) while roving bands of Indians passed through the country. It was a charming place on an extreme feather edge of things. Bluebonnets were in bloom as far as the eye could see. Antelope and deer and an occasional buffalo and wild turkeys and prairie chickens added to the interest and beauty of the landscape. Through this lovely valley the little stream that Uncle Bill named Salt Creek wended its way, between great groves of pecan trees.

In the distance great hills formed as attractive

and satisfactory background. As Bill Anderson, then a young man, looked upon the peaceful scene, far removed from strife and from human habitation, he made up his mind at once to go no further in search of a place in which to locate and build a home. So tethering his horse in the midst of as fine grass as was ever tasted by the equine species, and after broiling a fine steak from a deer which he shot, the wanderer spread his blanket and with his saddle under his head was soon sleeping quietly, and dreaming perhaps of the stirring days with Quantrill back in Missouri. On the following day he rode up and down the valley, and at last selected the place on which to build his house.

The house was built of logs - a double-roomed affair, and still stands, although he has added to it as the years passed, covering it by and by with lumber hauled on ox wagons from Fort Worth. In time Bill married and children came to bless the union as the old saying goes. These children grew to manhood and womanhood, married and now in Brown County, all good people and doing their part toward making the world and humanity better in every way." ◆

Article written by Brownwood Banner - Bulletin staff writer Henry C. Fuller after Interviewing William C. "Bloody Bill" Anderson of Quantrill's Guerrillas of the Civil War at his home at Salt Creek, Brown County, Texas, in 1924. Henry Fuller's interview articles appeared in newspapers and magazines all across the United States.

# Dismembered Arm Tells Tale at New Civil War Medicine Museum

By David Dishneau, Associated Press

FREDERICK, Md. – Long after the guns grew silent at Antietam, the earth yielded up gruesome reminders of the bloodiest day of the American Civil War: bodies, bones, buttons and entire severed limbs - one of which is now the focus of intense study at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

A Sharpsburg-area farmer is said to have found the human forearm while plowing a field two weeks after the 1862 battle. Officials at the museum in Frederick, Md., are trying to learn more about the limb in hopes of verifying that it's a relic of the Battle of Antietam and exhibiting the well-preserved specimen during the battle's 150th anniversary in September.



The muddy-looking right forearm, with skin and hand attached, was donated anonymously to the museum earlier this year, said Executive Director George Wunderlich. It had been displayed for several decades at a private museum in Sharpsburg in a glass-topped, pine case with a placard reading, "Human arm found on the Antietam Battlefield." Though there is little hope of identifying the young man who lost it, Wunderlich said forensic experts may be able to discern his nationality and whether the arm was, as Wunderlich suspects, torn from his body by a bullet or artillery round. "Being able to put the story of this unknown person before this country is very important to us," Wunderlich said. "His remains will tell a story that will relate us back to his sacrifice. This was what they gave for what they believed. If done properly, it's a very poignant story."

The unidentified farmer who found the limb put it in a barrel of brine, according to Thomas McGrath's 1997 book, *Maryland September: True Stories from the Antietam Campaign*. The farmer reportedly gave it to a Boonsboro physician, who is said to have more permanently preserved it with embalming fluid. The arm eventually ended up in a private museum that was sold in the 1960s to John G. Ray Jr. After Ray died in 2001, his widow had the museum's contents sold at an auction, according to battlefield historian Ted Alexander.

Alexander grew up nearby and remembers seeing the arm on display. "It was quite an attraction," he said. "It was macabre and something to see as a kid." The arm's owner was probably a small man less than 20 years old, said William Gardner, a former Marshall University forensic-medicine instructor who examined it in March. Since the elbow joint is undamaged, with no surgical saw marks, the arm was likely

removed somewhere between the shoulder and elbow, he said. The forearm skin and tendons appear to have been violently twisted.

The battlefield's history and geography offer clues about how a solitary arm could end up buried in a farm field.

"That entire battle took place in people's fields, their yards," Gardner said. The pivotal clash on Sept. 17, 1862, left more than 23,000 soldiers dead, wounded or missing in the war's bloodiest one-day battle. Historians say some were blown to bits by the furious gunfire. Many were buried were they fell, their shallow graves crudely marked for their eventual removal to cemeteries. Some remains were never retrieved. In 2009, a battlefield visitor found bone fragments and uniform buttons of an unknown soldier from New York State. But it's rare to find bones still covered with skin. "It is really an impressive piece," Gardner said.

Museum curator Lori Eggleston said she's keeping the arm dry and handling it as little as possible on the advice of experts at the Mutter Museum, run by the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Wunderlich said he hopes to have a Smithsonian Institution forensic anthropologist examine the arm for clues about the owner's diet and origin. Battlefield Superintendent Susan Trail said the arm can't be displayed at the Antietam visitor center because the National Park Service generally forbids displaying human remains. But she said the medical museum could display it at the Pry House, a field hospital site that the museum runs on the battlefield.

"I'm sure the museum will do a very nice job with what they do with it," Trail said. "When you think about it, it's pretty awful what happened here - and you just multiply it many, many times over." •

From time to time members submit references to articles that might be of interest to members. The following are links to these in-depth studies.

Submitted by Bruce Sirak - Knights of the Golden Circle. The Knights of the Golden Circle or K.G.C. had its beginnings in the formation of Southern Rights Clubs in various southern cities in the mid-1830s. These clubs were inspired by the philosophies of John C. Calhoun (1782–1850). Calhoun had an illustrious political career serving as a congressman from his home

state of South Carolina, a state legislator, vice president under the administrations of both John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson, and a U. S. senator. http://knightsofthegoldencircle.webs.com/

Submitted by Brian Tarrent: - **Civil War Vets Help Popularize the National Pastime**. Some 30 men who either played or managed major league baseball served in the Civil War. In addition, three of the first five National League presidents wore the Union blue. (Page 34 in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Magazine) <a href="http://digitaledition.gwinc.com/publication/?i=106420">http://digitaledition.gwinc.com/publication/?i=106420</a>.

Submitted by Stuart Buncher - When General Grant Expelled the Jews. In December 1862, from his military headquarters in Mississippi, Major General Ulysses S. Grant issued a directive expelling "Jews as a class" from the immense war zone known as the Department of the Tennessee. General Orders No. 11 was the most notorious anti-Jewish edict ever issued by an official of the US government, and it was overruled by the commander-in-chief -- President Abraham Lincoln -- as soon as he learned of it in Washington. Complete article: http://townhall.com/columnists/jeffjacoby/2012/05/14/when general grant\_expelled\_the\_jews/page/full/.

Submitted by Bruce Sirak - New Estimate Raises Civil War Death Toll. For 110 years, the numbers stood as gospel: 618,222 men died in the Civil War, 360,222 from the North and 258,000 from the South — by far the greatest toll of any war in American history. But new research shows that the numbers were far too low. Complete article:

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/03/science/civil-wartoll-up-by-20-percent-in-new-

estimate.html? r=1&ref=science&pagewanted=all. ♦

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

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Answer to "Who Am I?"
Major General John Pope (1822-1892). ♦