

The Camp Olden Gazette

News from the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table

Winter, 2012

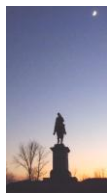
President's Gavel.

Our much anticipated Covered Dish was September 6th. I thought it went great. We had the right amount of entrees and the right amount of salads this time. Everyone got their fill with plenty of socializing. Great job!

September 9th turned out to be a beautiful day with the sun shining all day for Hamilton's September Fest. We had a large amount of visitors to the museum as well as the whole event. Overall it was very successful. However I was disappointed in the low number of volunteers as it was very difficult to keep control inside the museum and outside at our book table with just a few. Maybe next year it will be better. I would like to personally thank Bruce Smith, John Maleski and the famous duo Mike & Corinne Mazzocchi for putting all the hours they did especially when everyone saw the need.

On October 5th we had a very successful Jr. Camp Olden at the museum with the West Windsor school system busing 47 children in. Thanks go to Events Coordinators John Maleski, Bob Dunphy and all the volunteers. Everyone had a very enjoyable day.

As I write this, Hurricane Sandy is now in the history books as one of the most epic storms of our lifetime. I hope and pray everyone is now safe and secure and escaped with minimum damage. But, on a positive note, we enjoyed Gettysburg Remembrance Day with Stephen Spielberg speaking on Decoration Day.



Happy Holidays!

Your Obedient Servant.

Bruce ♦

Camp Olden Civil War Round Table Goes to West Point and Purple Heart Museum



On Saturday, Nov. 14th, 22 people (10 from Camp Olden) took a trip to beautiful New Windsor, NY, and West Point. The trip started off with a nice breakfast at the museum and some good banter among the new visitors we have gotten over the past few months to go on these trips. The bus came a little late but we ended up with a large bus instead of a short 33 passenger bus.

We arrived in New Windsor (the long way) to the Purple Heart Museum and it was filled as our friend Pete showing a short film (very moving) and a talk on his museum. The museum had many with interesting stories and artifacts. There was a lot to do but, with the late start, we had to eat lunch at Applebee's and then move on to the academy.



Bruce Smith at the Museum

Our guide from West Point Tours was great. His

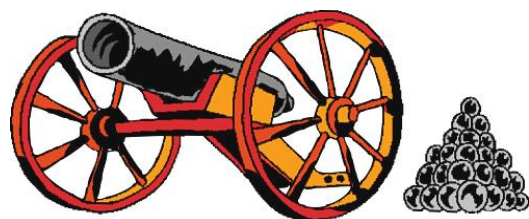
name was Ed and he took us on a 2 hour tour of the outer base and cemetery. Throughout his talk he told us about some great heroes, athletes, and other notables. The highlight for yours truly was the story of a Jewish hero from the academy in WWII who, after reluctantly being asked by the elders of Israel, ended up building Israel's army. He was shot by a sentry because he did not know the password in Hebrew.

Finally, I want to thank all of the organization for going on our trips the past few years, your support was much appreciated. I know Bob and Dan will be looking forward to your support when they plan there next trip for us, or need help in the next Jr. Camp Olden in June. I will continue to be at the museum on Sundays and make as many meetings as possible, golf withstanding. LOL...your friend always...John Maleski event coordinator. ♦

Civil War Sesquicentennial –

Below are some of the major events which occurred 150 years ago from December of 1862 to February of 1863:

December 7 - Hartsville
 December 7 - Prairie Grove / Fayetteville
 December 11-15 - Fredericksburg I
 December 14 - Kinston
 December 16 - White Hall / Whitehall Ferry
 December 17 - Goldsborough Bridge
 December 19 - Jackson
 December 26-29 - Chickasaw Bayou
 December 31 - Parker's Cross Roads
 Dec 31-Jan 2 - Stones River / Murfreesboro
 January 1 - Emancipation Proclamation Issued
 January 1 - Galveston
 January 8 - Springfield
 January 9-11 - Hartville
 January 9-11 - Arkansas Post / Fort Hindman
 January 29 - Bear River / Massacre at Boa Ogoi ♦



Who Am I?



I was born on February 27, 1823, in York, Pennsylvania. I attended West Point from 1839 to 1843, graduating first in my class. I was then assigned to the U.S. Army's Corps of Topographical Engineers, supervising many projects, including mapping expeditions, the construction of lighthouses, and the construction of the Capitol dome in Washington, DC.

In 1847, during the Mexican-American War and while serving under future Union General Philip Kearny, I was promoted to brevet first lieutenant for my actions in the Battle of Buena Vista.

Once the Civil War began in 1861, I was a natural choice for command, and I led a brigade at the Battle of First Manassas, a division during the beginning of the Peninsula Campaign, and was a corps commander by the time of the Seven Days Battles. I had a close relationship with General George McClellan, and it was perhaps due to this comradeship more than personal skill, that I rose so quickly through the ranks.

My performance in battle was far from stellar. During Second Manassas I was charged by General John Pope with failure to obey orders, and I also failed to relieve the garrison at Harpers Ferry before it was captured by General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson on Sept. 16, 1862, just prior to the battle of Antietam. After General Ambrose Burnside took command of the army in November of 1862, he appointed me commander of the "Left Grand Division" during the battle of Fredericksburg.

At the time, some government officials blamed the defeat of Union forces at Fredericksburg on my failure to aggressively attack the Confederate right flank, which led to a total repulse of federal troops. It is believed by historians that I may have misinterpreted Burnside's orders and not

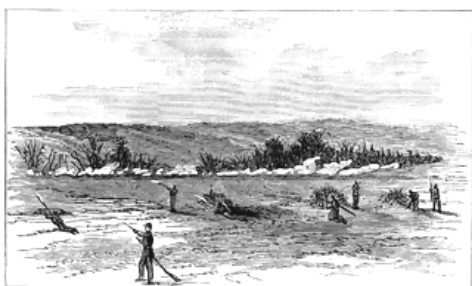
committed enough men to the initial attack. This decision would come back to haunt me.

After the battle, I went on the offensive against Burnside and proposed another campaign plan directly to President Lincoln without Burnside's approval. When the news of this reached Burnside, he removed me from his command. Shortly afterwards, however, Burnside himself was removed from command by Lincoln. I was called to testify at the Joint Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War, where I was subsequently blamed for the failure at Fredericksburg.

Reassigned to a corps command in Louisiana, I again saw defeat in the Battle of Sabine Pass in Texas on September 8, 1863. This served as another bad mark on my record. I then took part in the Red River Campaign in Louisiana and was wounded at the battle of Sabine Crossroads in April 1864. While returning from the field in July, I was taken prisoner when the train I was traveling on was captured by Confederate partisans. Although hindered by my leg wound, I managed to escape when my guard fell asleep.

I was never given another command during the war, and in 1866 I resigned from the army. I moved to Hartford, Connecticut and became general manager of the Colt Firearms Manufacturing Company. I also continued in engineering, supervising the construction of Connecticut's Capitol Building. In 1872 I was asked to run for President of the United States on the Democratic ticket, but declined. My retirement years were spent serving on the board of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. I died on March 8, 1903 and was buried in my home state of Pennsylvania. ♦

Courtesy of The Civil War Trust



Battle of Fredericksburg

Answer to “*Who Am I*” is on page 9.

Civil War Presidential Quiz

Submitted by Mario Florio

1. As a direct result of Lincoln's election in 1860, what was the first southern state to secede from the Union?
2. What was Jefferson Davis's seldom used middle name?
3. Who shouted to President Lincoln on July 11, 1863, “Get down you damn fool or you'll be killed”?
4. In 1864, George McClellan was nominated by the Democratic Party for president. Who was his vice presidential running mate?
5. What was made a formal national holiday by President Lincoln in response to Union victories?
6. What Christmas gift did General Sherman give to President Lincoln in December 1864?
7. Did Lincoln carry New Jersey in the presidential election of 1864?
8. Who was President Lincoln's running mate in 1860?
9. Who was the Vice-President of the Confederate States of America?
10. Who was President Lincoln's running mate in 1864?

Answers on page 7.

Junior Camp Olden Day



On Friday, Oct. 5th, the Events Committee put together a Jr. Camp Olden for the kids at Village School in West Windsor. Kelley Coyne's 5th grade class had 46 kids come to our museum area for a day of fun and learning with our splendid instructors. Teachers included Dan Fox and Jane Peters who again brought his students some fascinating facts and experiences in re-enacting to the kids. Both were great with the kids, Dan doing Southern soldier's way of life

and Jane showing what the woman and children did during the war.



Then we had Bruce Sirak as Governor Olden hold the kids attention with his talk of politics and showing some artifacts he had brought. Rounding up was of course Bruce Smith, Doug Mount and Pete Andrejco. Doug doing his best to keep the kids in line and of course his Navy uniform and pistol were a big hit. Doug, I'm sure Bob and Dan will use you next year. Pete always comes through with his medical displays where the kids are drawn in like nothing else. Even the teachers were very interested in Doug's and Pete's talks.



Bruce Smith did another great job on the tour of the museum and Native American displays. Hopefully the kids will come back to see it with their parents. Finally thanks to Connie and Bob Dunphy for helping me out with all the different duties that happen during the day and the cleaning up. Your help was most appreciated. I hope I did not forget anyone. I have to say it's been a great run as your event coordinator the past 3 years. I'm sure Dan and Bob will have your support for future events. God bless one and all ...your "sporty" event coordinator, John Maleski.

PS Thanks again to Kelly Coyne (5th grade teacher, Village School, W. Windsor NJ) and her well behaved kids! Hope to see you next year! ♦



The 1864 Plot to Burn Down New York City

For those members who have been viewing the BBC America television series *Copper*, The season finale was literally fiery: The Confederates' plot to destroy New York City by setting a series of blazes in various hotels and venues was set in motion on November 25, the day after Thanksgiving. Luckily, Corcoran and other members of NYC's police department were able to thwart the plan. In real life, the sabotage attempt occurred in early November, 1864, and was stopped by the police as well as the War Department. Following is a recent article published in *The New York Post*.

A Vast and Fiendish Plot: The Confederate Attack on New York City

By Clint Johnson

Their aim was to spread fear, to destroy huge swaths of the United States' largest city, to turn the tide of a war, to influence a presidential election.

Yet it wasn't a modern plot by al Qaeda — it was a Manhattan terrorist attack planned by Confederate officers in 1864, a nearly devastating (and almost forgotten) chapter of New York City history.

The vast and fiendish plot originated in Toronto, as an attempt by the Confederate Secret Service to disrupt the Nov. 8 re-election of President Abraham Lincoln. With the battles of the Civil War going against the South, Confederate officials hoped that Lincoln could be defeated by a peace-seeking Democrat — if the electorate saw how easily the Confederacy could strike at the North's largest cities.

The original targets included Chicago, Boston, Cincinnati and New York. Ultimately, the Emerald City, as it was then known to its 814,000 residents, was one of cities chosen. Fires would be set throughout Manhattan, destroying homes, businesses and hope.

The attack was to be carried out by six officers, all in their 20s, with the oldest being 29. They sincerely believed that 20,000 of New York's residents would rally to their cause. They had

been told by a handful of well-placed New Yorkers that once the fires started, an army of New York civilians would rush down to City Hall to raise a flag that most Manhattanites would not recognize — the Second National Flag of the Confederacy, a white banner with the familiar Confederate battle flag in the upper left.

But one double agent working for the Union, and another still unknown source in Canada, alerted the Lincoln administration to the plot. Telegrams were dashed off to mayors. On Nov. 3, 1864, The New York Times reprinted the telegram with the headline: *Rebel Conspiracy to Burn Northern Cities*. The body of the article explained that rebels intended to set “fire to the principal cities in the Northern States on the day of the Presidential election.”

Curiously, though, the Times article explained that the mayor of Buffalo had received the telegram, but no mention was made that New York City’s Mayor C. Godfrey Gunther had received the same threat. The Confederates never targeted Buffalo, but New York City had been mentioned as a potential firebombing target in a Richmond Whig editorial on Oct. 15, an editorial which the Times reprinted without any elaboration on Oct. 18. Most New York City residents probably thought they were safe.

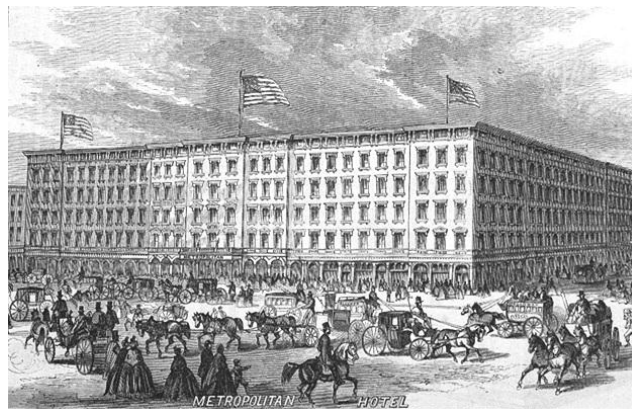
Nonetheless, acting on tips, the Lincoln administration sent 3,500 Union troops to guard New York City polls. That spooked the Confederates’ contacts, including James McMaster, editor of the Freeman’s Journal and Catholic Digest.

McMaster, imprisoned early in the war for his anti-Lincoln editorials, had promised the Confederates who arrived in the city on Oct. 27 that an army of “Copperheads” would take over the city once the fires halted polling. Yet when the Union troops arrived, McMaster told the Confederates that they could expect no support at all in carrying out the plot.

Election Day passed without incident, and Lincoln was re-elected. The Times ran a remarkable editorial on Nov. 16 thanking the just-departed Union forces for keeping peace, and then challenged New Yorkers whom it deemed as Southerners or sympathizers with

being “too slothful or cowardly to brave the dangers and fatigue of the battlefield.”

The Confederates, who had waited out the Union troops, may have reacted to the bluster.



Metropolitan Hotel - One of the Targets

They struck on Nov. 25, the Friday after the nation’s second official Thanksgiving, setting fires in the rooms they occupied in 21 commercial hotels, mostly along Broadway. Their weapon was “Greek fire,” a complex chemical compound that spontaneously combusts when exposed to air. They had been given 144 vials of the material by an unnamed chemist living just west of Washington Square.

None of the room fires caught beyond burning some bed linen. The Confederates, who had not practiced with the compound, had left their hotel room windows closed. That robbed the Greek fire of the oxygen it needed to spread. Police and firemen rushed to the hotels and extinguished the flames.

The Confederates picked the wrong targets. On the city’s west side was the Manhattan Gas Works, where coal was distilled into gas that lit the city’s homes and businesses. Had the Gas Works’ pressure-regulating tanks been sabotaged, gas flowing into the city’s homes and businesses would have made any lit match a potential firebomb.

If the Confederates had been better saboteurs, spies and scouts, there is little doubt New York City would have burned down in 1864 — perhaps changing the course of the Civil War. ♦

Further information can be found at: <http://chnm.gmu.edu/lostmuseum/lm/99/>.

Civil War Visits – Grant Cottage.

Submitted by Mike Mazzocchi



While visiting friends in Saratoga Springs, NY, I took the opportunity to visit the U. S. Grant Cottage State Historic site on Mount McGregor in Wilton, NY. It was here that Grant spent the last six weeks of his life finishing his memoirs and where he died on July 23, 1885.

To my surprise, since the cottage is located on the grounds of the Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility (a medium security prison for male inmates), I had to go through a checkpoint and show ID to enter the road to the Visitors Center, which offered interpretive displays and exhibits, a short introductory film, and a gift shop filled with books, memorabilia, and numerous Civil War-related items.

I walked up the hill to the cottage which is furnished the same as during the Grant's stay. I took a guided tour of the downstairs and viewed original furnishings, decorations, and personal items belonging to Grant including the bed where he died, the clock that has been reset to the time of his death and floral arrangements that remain from Grant's funeral.

I then followed a short path to the Eastern Outlook, which commands a beautiful view of the Hudson Valley, from the Adirondacks in the north, the Green Mountains of Vermont to the east, and the Catskills to the south.

The facility is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, Wednesday– Sunday, 10AM – 4 PM; from Labor Day to Columbus Day, Saturday & Sunday Only, 10AM – 4PM; also open on Monday holidays: Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Columbus Day. ♦

For more information see: http://www.grantcottage.org/index_UBFI.html.



It's Membership Renewal Time!

Below is your renewal form for 2013 membership in the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table.

These rates reflect a \$5.00 discount for payment by the February meeting.

For payment after that date, please add \$5.00.

New members can use this form also with, of course, the same discounts.

Camp Olden Civil War Round Table and Museum Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No. (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Birthdays: _____

Membership: Single (\$25) ☐ Senior Citizens: Single (\$20) ☐ Student ☐
(\$15)
Family (\$35) ☐ Sr. Husband & Wife (\$25) ☐

Send the completed form and your check to:

Camp Olden Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 10565, Hamilton, NJ 08690 or Ms. Connie Davis,
36 Baltusrol St., Hamilton, NJ 08690

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

Answers to Presidential Quiz:

1. South Carolina.
2. Finis.
3. Capt. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., future justice of the Supreme Court.
4. George Pendleton of Ohio.
5. Thanksgiving Day.
6. The city of Savannah.
7. No – Lincoln did not carry Delaware, Kentucky nor New Jersey.
8. Hannibal Hamlin of Maine.
9. Alexander Stephens of Georgia.
10. Andrew Jackson of Tennessee.



Number Correct:

10-9 Civil War Genius
7-8 Presidential Scholar
5-6 Civil War Buff
3-4 Civil War Dud
0-2 Read Some Books

Sunken Treasure Off New Jersey Coast? Florida Diver Lays Claim to Ship Wreck Site

By Stephen Stirling & Lisa Rose / The Star-Ledger



It was buried among the legal ads in a local newspaper this week, nary two paragraphs long amid public notices from municipalities and legal name changes. It was a federal court announcement, but no ordinary one, from a treasure hunter announcing to "modern day pirates" that he was laying claim to a previously undiscovered Civil War-era shipwreck buried off the coast of Asbury Park — the maritime equivalent of a wedding officiant asking "if anyone has reason for these two not to be wed, speak now or forever hold your peace." The "groom" is Allan Gardner, a Florida diver who is seeking to salvage the ship. His bride-to-be, he hopes, is the Ella Warley, a 19th century steamship that sank into the murky waters off New Jersey nearly 150 years ago, taking with it the lives of six crewmen.

"We're looking for sunken treasure," said Jerome A. Ballaratto, an attorney representing Gardner's company, Endeavor Associates. "We found the ship and we suspect that there's treasure in it, and we're hoping to find it." Gardner's company has asked the courts to recognize him as the sole owner of anything he unearths at the wreck site, a little-known niche of maritime law that would permit the arrest of anyone else who tries to poach his watery bounty.

"With today's technology, once you've located (a wreck), unless you put something on it twenty-four-seven, you can't protect it," said David Paul Horan, another attorney representing Gardner and one of the most prolific authorities on litigation involving salvage operations. "It

protects the site. So if a modern day pirate shows up and you say I have court protection of this site and show them your paperwork, a federal Marshall boards his ship, says come with me and that's that."

THE WRECK

By all accounts, it was a clear winter night on Feb. 9, 1863, when the Ella Warley was steaming south near the New Jersey coastline, the lights from the shore in full view from the ship's deck. The ship had recently been captured by Union forces during the Civil War, after acting as a blockade runner for the Confederacy for several years, and was headed for New Orleans with 30 passengers and cargo. Lights from another ship, the S.S. North Star headed toward New York, were spotted by the Ella Warley's crew, at this point miles away, according to newspaper articles and court records. The two ships altered their course, but incorrectly, putting them, unknowingly, on a collision course.

Officers of the Ella Warley, told the New York Herald what happened next: "Mr. O'Grady, the ship's steward, was in his room at the time. When the noise on deck was heard Mr. O'Grady rushed out, and when he saw the North Star coming called to the chief engineer, who sprang on deck," the article said. "As he did so the collision occurred and the North Star's stern passed directly into his stateroom, crushing it to pieces." Both ships suffered heavy damage, but the North Star was able to make it safely to shore with many of the passengers and crew of the Ella Warley on board. Six men on the Ella Warley were killed, and the ship sank in just 20 minutes, its full cargo still on board.

THE TREASURE

According to newspaper articles published in the following days, the cargo was worth \$175,000 and included jewelry, a safe containing \$5,000 and at least \$8,000 in gold coins — all of which has laid untouched and buried on the ocean floor ever since. Until Gardner came along.

Dan Lieb, president of the New Jersey Historical Divers' Association, has dived at the wreck site which, he said, Gardner and another diver discovered more than 20 years ago.

"I know for years they were very interested in it," Lieb said, adding the wreck site no longer resembled a ship. "I dived it years ago. It was widely scattered wreckage. The only thing I was able to find to mark it as a dive site was the machinery that propelled the vessel. It was unmistakably that of a side-wheel (steamboat), which the Ella Warley was."

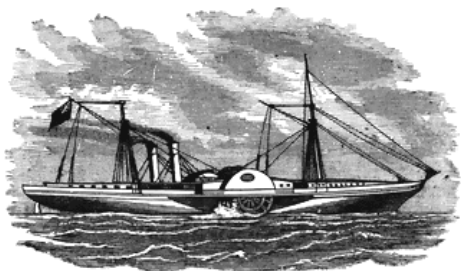
Horan said Gardner has already unearthed several artifacts from the wreck site, including a gold coin, and through meticulous research has virtually proven he has found the Ella Warley. "With this one, there's going to be a lot of artifacts as well as some coins. This is the kind of stuff you'd find in museums," Horan, who is based in Florida, said. "I've already told him to get things sorted up there because I'm going to jump in a plane, get up there and go dive with him."

Ballaratto said Gardner hopes to conduct a more substantial salvage operation in the spring, assuming the court filing goes smoothly. Poachers of wreck sites have become increasingly common as technology has improved, Horan said, so planting a legal flag on your find has become crucial.

That's especially true when the cargo could be worth several times what it was 150 years ago, but Ballaratto wouldn't comment on what they had found thus far, saying only they were "very enthusiastic" about it.

Lieb said he had a pretty good idea. "I know they found gold down there years ago and there were always rumors that there was more," he said. "They probably found what they were looking for." ♦

The above article was written in September, 2012. See the original 1863 NY Times article: <http://www.nytimes.com/1863/02/11/news/local-intelligence-disaster-sea-steamer-ella-warley-sunk-north-star-six-lives.html?pagewanted=all>.



Future Meetings:

Our next meeting will be **December 6, 2012** at 7 PM at the Hamilton Public Library located at [1 Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. Drive; Hamilton, NJ](#). It will feature Dick Simpson discussing the Battle of Pea Ridge (aka Elkhorn Tavern).

In **January** the speaker will be Jonathan Kinney and "Civil War Bounty Hunters" and in **February** - Bill Moore and "Lincoln - War Time President -- Constitutional Question"

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.

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 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 William Buel Franklin ♦

