

The Camp Olden Gazette

News from the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table

Fall, 2013

President's Gavel.

July 20th was *New Jersey Day at Gettysburg*. Camp Olden was represented in the ceremonies at Gettysburg by Dr. David Martin & myself. In the audience were members Gary & Sue Desiver. Although the day was hot, the ceremony was dignified. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Benediction, as Governor Charles Olden, I read a letter from the state's current Governor Chris Christie. Tom Burke presented the State Assembly's resolution declaring July 20, 2013 New Jersey Day at Gettysburg. John Zinn, Chairperson of NJ 150th Committee, provided some remarks and Dr. David Martin reviewed the actions of New Jersey troops at Gettysburg. Bob Costello as President Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address. Jari Villanueva ended the event with Taps. All in attendance received a pin with a ribbon commemorating the event. In the afternoon monument tours were given by Dr. Martin and Jim Lamason to the 5th and 11th NJ at Klinge Farm, the 7th NJ and Battery B, 1st NJ Artillery and the 6th NJ north of Devil's Den, the 8th NJ south of Stony Hill, Battery A, 1st NJ Artillery and the 13th NJ on lower Culp's Hill. Then we visited the 1st NJ Cavalry Regiment monument east of Gettysburg on the East Cavalry Battlefield. It was an enjoyable hot summer day!

On August 24th We held the Commemoration of 150th Anniversary of the famous Swamp Angel cannon but, because the original bronze plaque was stolen, the event also was a rededication for which Camp Olden Civil War Table, Abraham Lincoln Camp 100 Sons of Union Veterans, and the City of Trenton stepped up to the plate and placed a new marble tablet. The event was very well attended with about 75 spectators. A big thank you goes to Mr. Dana Ostermann of the Washington Crossing Forge for the production

of the plaque and to all the participants and attendees.



Bruce Sirak at the rededication of the Swamp Angel

We received a lot of press in the *Trentonian* and *TheTimes of Trenton*. If you missed them, here links to the articles.

<http://www.trentonian.com/article/20130822/NEWS01/130829912/-145-swamp-angel-8217-civil-war-cannon-in-trenton-to-be-celebrated>
<http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2013/08/trenton-celebrates-150th-anniversary-of-civil-war-cannon.html>

(For more see Tony Travaglione's images on page 10.)

For our upcoming speakers we have:

September 5- Mike Plunkett - Patty Gone For a Soldier.

October 3 - Dr. James Green - Civil War Balloons.

November 7 - Mark Luongo - Italians in the Civil War.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting.

Your obedient servant,

Bruce. ♦

Reminder -- Bring A Dish!

Remember hospitality for the **September 5th 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.** ♦

Civil War Visits.

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

What a Difference 50 Years Makes!

Submitted by Tony Travaglion

THEN - 1963 - You know you’re getting old when you attend similar events 50 years apart. I did it at the Battle of Gettysburg 100th and 150th anniversary reenactments. On July 3, 1963 my family and I sat on our lawn chairs right on the original battlefield, on Cemetery Ridge near the 69th Pennsylvania Infantry monument and in front of the Copse of Trees. The Union line was only a few feet in front of us. I took a few pictures with my Brownie-style camera. Several thousand spectators watched as several hundred Confederate reenactors walked the route of Pickett’s Charge on the actual ground. It was a silent movement. They did not fire their weapons, I assume because they were not allowed to fire. Several hundred Union troops waited behind the actual stone wall.



Union line at stone wall - 1963

The Confederates reached the Union line near us and continued on through, simulating the break through by Pickett’s troops.



Confederate troops passing through Union line - 1963

NOW - 2013 - Jump ahead 50 years to the Gettysburg 150th Anniversary Reenactment, held on July 4 - 7, 2013. The reenactment was sponsored by the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee. Since the National Park Service no longer allows reenactments on the original battlefields, it was held on a private farm north of Gettysburg. Also, it is no longer free (admission to the reenactment site plus a seat in the grandstand cost \$50). Since huge crowds of spectators attend these events (I estimated 20,000 to 25,000 on July 7 when I attended) grandstands are necessary in order to get a clear view of the action. Several thousand people also sat and stood at ground level. There was no shade, so we baked in the 95 degree heat for several hours.



View of grandstand and cavalry action - 2013

The view from the grandstand was clear, if a little distant from the reenactors. A telephoto lens on my digital SLR camera was necessary to take photos.



Reenactment site from grandstand - 2013

Just as in the real battle, an artillery bombardment took place to start the battle. Over 100 pieces of artillery, Union and Confederate combined, fired blanks for about one half hour, throwing smoke from the black powder across the field. It was an impressive and loud display.



Union artillery during bombardment - 2013

The Union reenactors waited on Cemetery Ridge. It was impressive to see so many Union soldiers lined up awaiting the Confederate attack. Reenactors came from many states, as well as 22 foreign countries, and I estimated numbered about 8,000 to 10,000. The action was narrated throughout the reenactment, the speaker explaining events as they took place, the units involved, the weapons, etc.



Union line on Cemetery Ridge - 2013

The Confederates finally advanced under Union fire (blanks of course), crossing a rail fence constructed to represent the Emmitsburg Road. Individuals began to “take a hit” and fall to simulate casualties. The reenactment was carried live by CSPAN-3 on their American History TV program, and was also available on the internet.



Confederates cross Emmitsburg Road - 2013

Finally the Confederate attack reached the reconstructed stone wall and temporarily

penetrated the Union line. Many Confederate “casualties” were visible, as the Union soldiers celebrated their victory, and the reenactment ended.



Confederate attack ends at stone wall - 2013

AFTERWARD - This year’s reenactment was excellently done, but of course was much different than the one held in 1963, especially in the number of reenactors and spectators. The 2013 Gettysburg reenactment was probably one of the largest events of the four-year Sesquicentennial. I was glad that I attended, despite the heat, the crowds of people, the heavy rainstorm immediately after the event that soaked me and everyone else, and the two hour wait to drive out of the parking fields. However, I think that in the future I will probably only attend smaller events. ♦

Summer Trip to Waldorf, MD. Booth’s Escape from Washington

Contributed by John Maleski

Time for our annual civil war trip with my high school buddies, and after going over the maps, we set our sites on the escape route that John Wilkes Booth took out of Washington to Port Royal VA. (Garrett Farm). We got a break in the weather from the horrid heat we had been getting here in July. We made our first stop at, where else but, Ford’s theater. Something I did not know was that the theater was almost new at the time of Lincoln’s assassination and was a showpiece of an otherwise whiskey ridden city. Ford’s Theater and the Museum were just updated in 2010. Downstairs was a series of pictures and stories. One my friends, Jeff, noticed one of Elmer Ellsworth, a young 23 year old whom Lincoln loved from his days in the patent office in Ill., who was shot in the chest after retrieving the Confederate Flag from the

Alexandria telegraph office. Of note were artifacts now on display from the Smithsonian – Booth's derringer, his deer antler knife that stabbed Maj. Rathbone, his frockcoat, and a pillow from Lincoln's deathbed, along with a host of other great displays from the assassination.

We then set our sights on two key stops Booth made along the way. First was the Mary Surratt House and Museum - a tavern and post office of sorts. It seems her husband ran all three. After his death, she rented it to a tenant and ran a boarding house just outside Washington (Chinatown today). There we had a great tour guide that took the three of us through the home. Surratt was an educated woman, and a devout Catholic. It was her young son who got involved in the plot and, from all accounts given, she almost had to have some idea of what was going on. Booth and his gang hid supplies there, (which are on display) delivered by Mary and hidden in a wall which the police found a day after the assassination. Mary was tried by the tribunal and sentenced to hang, the first and only woman to be executed by the US government. The tour guide took us from room to room and, with the small size of the home, it is hard to believe she had no idea of the wrongdoings that were about to unfold.



John and Friends at Ford's Theater

We then set down the road a bit to the Byrantown, MD, home of the most talked about doctor of his day, Dr. Samuel Mudd. A well-

educated graduate of Georgetown with a degree in medicine, Dr. Mudd would meet Booth in Nov. of 1864 at St. Mary's seminary just a few miles from his home. There they would talk about buying a farm in the area and, I'm sure, other issues of the day. The home has all original flooring, walls, handrails, beds and even his shaving bowl. Funny that one of the reasons Dr. Mudd and his wife give for not recognizing Booth was that he was sporting a fake beard. I know my friend Bill did not buy that one in any way shape or form. The guide was one of the best we had. He was a teacher in the area, and brought up some very neat tidbits on the land, paths and artifacts around the house. An actual descendant of Dr. Mudd was out there cutting the grass at the time of our visit. We then gathered ourselves and went to the cemetery where Dr. Mudd and Booth met in Nov. of 1864. A nice map of the graveyard helped us find the Mudd family gravesite.



John at the Mudd Gravesite

That night we did a walking tour of Washington, D.C., led by an actor playing a Washington detective the night of the murder. He was outstanding, taking us through step by step where he would have gone that night, including both the Kirkwood house (where Andrew Johnson was living) and William Seward Home near Lafayette Park. Topped off with an above average dinner at the oldest saloon in the district - *Old Ebbitt Grill*. Highly recommended....Well if you read the book *Manhunt* you should get yourself to see and do this tour and visit the museums/homes. Can't wait 'till next year. Thank you Jeff and Bill, and my fellow members....see you at the museum! ♦

Battle of the Crater

Submitted by Mike Mazzocchi

I recently visited Petersburg National Battlefield in Virginia the site of the longest continuous engagement of the Civil War. On the first day I took a ranger tour which included visits to a reconstructed entrenchment site, Fort Stedman (the last major confederate attack of the ten month engagement) and The Battle of The Crater. The next day I visited Grant's headquarters at City Point.



Reconstructed entrenchment sites

In a last-gasp offensive, Gen. Robert E. Lee attempted to break through Grant's defenses and threaten his supply depot at City Point. Directed by Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon, the pre-dawn assault on March 25, 1865 overpowered the garrisons of Fort Stedman and Batteries X, XI, and XII. The Confederates were brought under a killing crossfire, and Union counterattacks contained the breakthrough, cut off and captured more than 1,900 of the attackers. This was a devastating blow for Lee's army, setting up the Confederate defeat at Five Forks on April 1 and the fall of Petersburg on April 2-3. Since it is difficult to visualize and interpret the battle, the ranger's description was very valuable.

The "crater" that is present today is significantly smaller than its original size because of erosion

and the fact that before preservation it was part of an 18 hole golf course. On July 30, 1864, after weeks of preparation, the Federals exploded a mine in Burnside's IX Corps sector beneath Pegram's Salient, blowing a gap in the Confederate defenses of Petersburg. From this promising beginning, everything deteriorated rapidly for the Union attackers. Units charged into and around the crater, where soldiers milled in confusion. The Confederates quickly recovered and launched several counterattacks led by Maj. Gen. William Mahone. The break was sealed off, and the Federals were repulsed with severe casualties. Ferraro's division of colored troops was badly mauled. This may have been Grant's best chance to end the engagement at Petersburg. Instead, the soldiers settled in for another eight months of trench warfare. This seems like another instance of generals not learning the lessons of past mistakes. Grant had tried the same tactic at Vicksburg which also failed.



Mahone Monument at the Crater

I also visited the nearby Five Forks battlefield. On April 1, 1864, while General Sheridan's cavalry pinned the Confederate force in position, the V Corps under General Warren attacked and overwhelmed the Confederate left flank, taking many prisoners. Sheridan personally directed the attack, which extended Lee's Petersburg lines to the breaking point. Loss of Five Forks threatened Lee's last supply line, the South Side Railroad. The next morning, Lee informed Jefferson Davis that Petersburg and Richmond must be

evacuated. Although part of the Petersburg National Battlefield, the battlefield has its own visitor center.

For a better understanding of the battles down load the podcast and map of the 5-stop driving tour of Five Forks and the 7-stop walking tour of the Crater at:

<http://www.civilwartraveler.com/audio/podcasts.html>.

On the next day I visited General Grant's headquarters situated at City Point a few miles from the entrenchments. Its strategic position next to a railroad bed and the rivers offered Grant easy access to points along the front as well as good transportation and communications with Fort Monroe, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. When he arrived at City Point on June 15, 1864, Grant established his headquarters in a tent on the east lawn of Dr. Richard Eppes' plantation. I took a tour of Dr. Eppes' home called, interestingly enough, Appomattox Manor. The furnishings are typical of those used during the siege.

This was my second visit to Petersburg and as always I got a better understanding of the engagement including the fact that, since Lee could have withdrawn at any time, Petersburg was not a true siege as was Vicksburg.

The main park extends from the scene of the opening assaults at the Dimmock Line to the Crater. There are a number of other sites between this and Five Forks. City Point is a few miles from the main park. For information see <http://www.nps.gov/pete/index.htm>. ♦

North Anna Battlefield

Contributed by Mike Mazzocchi

On another trip to Virginia I stopped at the **North Anna Battlefield Park** in Doswell, Virginia, which consists of 80-acres presenting trench works with rifle pits, which are considered among the most pristine Civil War earthworks in existence. The state park, which opened in 1996, has a relatively easy 1- to 2-mile out-and-back walking trail with interpretive signs along the path with information on the battlefield and history. The park is wooded and overlooks the North Anna River. More than 150,000 soldiers faced one another in May 1864

and the battlefield was an important precursor to the Cold Harbor campaign. It was there that historians say Robert E. Lee missed his last opportunity to inflict a decisive defeat upon the army of Ulysses S. Grant.

The park encompasses a part of the Confederate position where, for the first time, Grant realized that Lee had outmaneuvered him. Grant's army had been moved forward so quickly that it had broken into three widely separated parts, surrounding the "inverted V" anchored at a strong point at Ox Ford on the North Anna River. With this configuration a Union unit moving from one flank to reinforce the other would have to cross the North Anna twice. Lee could attack in either direction and overwhelm either Hancock or Warren, with the other unable to support him in a timely manner. Then, the Confederates could swing back on interior lines using the railroad in the rear and attack the other side. Unfortunately for the Confederates, Lee was ill and on his back in his tent for much of this time and, given his lack of capable subordinates, was unable to arrange an attack against either Union corps.

Grant eventually realized that the defense was too strong and decided not to attack. After dark on May 26, Grant withdrew to the crossroads of Cold Harbor.

I visited the park in July. Hot, humid, hungry bugs. No surprise. I would recommend visiting the time of year with cooler weather and the leaves off the trees. This should give a much better view of the river. ♦



Confederate Earthworks - North Anna Battlefield

Archeology Field Trip

Contributed by Cindy and Stan Saperstein

This past May we were able to fulfill a long time "bucket list" wish. Sponsored by *Road Scholar* (formerly *Elderhostel*) and William and Mary College, we were able to participate in an archeological dig. The dig took place in Jamestown, Virginia. Our group consisted of eighteen history oriented people from all over the U.S. Hours of shoveling, digging and sifting produced exciting results as the group found artifacts from pre-historic times through the Civil War. We actually established the existence of the second Jamestown settlement named Argyletown by identifying the location of the block house posts. Noted archeologists and historians gave lectures on the history, geography, and importance of the Jamestown settlements. We were able to visit the laboratory and vaults where artifacts are identified, cleaned and painstakingly restored. The newest display, causing much fanfare, is that of the skull of a 14 year old woman who was cannibalized (after death) during the winter of starvation. Artifacts found included a 4,000 year old arrowhead known as a Potts point. Delft and Midlands pottery from the 17th century were unearthed. Shards of a bardman jug, also known as a beardman jug, the beer bottle of the day were also uncovered. Pieces of white clay pipes, brick and fire cracked stone from campfires were also found. Many Revolutionary and Civil War bullets along with pieces of 17th century armor were brought to light. An Indian trade bead, a very rare find, caused much excitement. A physically challenging but very satisfying experience was had by all! ♦

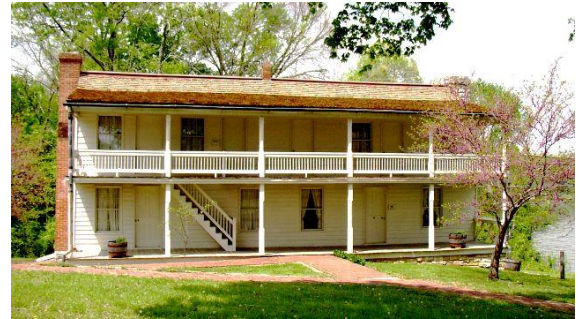
Where Am I?

This month marks the beginning of a new feature suggested by Mike Lawson, a member of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Woodbridge, New Jersey. *Where Am I?* will feature one or more photographs showing distinct aspects of a Civil War battlefield with perhaps a hint or two. Your job is to identify the battlefield. (Your images from your travels would be most welcome for future issues.) Here's an Editor's choice for this issue:

This battle was fought in the Western Theater in 1862. *Where Am I?* (Answer on page 11) ♦



Confederate River Battery



Generals met here for unconditional surrender

Civil War Sesquicentennial –

Below are some of the major events which occurred 150 years ago from September of 1863 to November of 1863:

September 6, Charleston Harbor
September 7-8, Charleston / Battery Gregg
September 8, Sabine Pass II
September 8, Fort Griffin Texas
September 10, Bayou Fourche / Little Rock
September 18-20, Chickamauga
September 22, Blountsville
September 29, Stirling's Plantation
October 6, Baxter Springs
October 10, Blue Springs
October 13, Catlett's Station
October 14, Bristoe Station
October 19, Buckland Mills / Buckland Races
October 25, Pine Bluff
October 28-29, Wauhatchie / Brown's Ferry
November 3, Collierville
November 6, Droop Mountain
November 7, Rappahannock Station
November 23-25, Chattanooga
November 27, Ringgold Gap / Taylor's Ridge
Nov 27-Dec 2, Mine Run / New Hope Church
November 29, Fort Sanders / Fort Loudon ♦

Who Am I?



Born in the Catskill Mountains of New York, I was descended from a long line of patriots. Both my grandfather and great grandfather fought in the War for Independence (the latter losing a leg at Bunker Hill) and my father took part in the War of 1812. But as westward expansion and the rise of industry proved to be the dominating forces of the early Nineteenth Century, I was swept away. By age 19 I had left my home for Ohio where, penniless, I found work as a draftsman and later as an apprentice in a foundry in Columbus. I learned much during this time and in 1857 I established a foundry of my own in Greensburg, Indiana. By 1860 I had become an inventor and expert in the field of hydraulics.

At the war's outset in 1861, I enlisted as a private in the First Indiana battery and—no doubt owing to my technical facility—was quickly elected captain. Two months later Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton commissioned me the lieutenant colonel of the Seventeenth Indiana Infantry. By the spring of 1862, I would be leading the regiment into its first battle as its colonel. Following my baptism by fire at the Battle of Shiloh, I received recognition from my superiors for my potential and was quickly given command of a brigade. Soon after I began to demonstrate the strange brand of independence that would become the hallmark of my military career.

Stationed at Munfordville, Kentucky in September of 1862, I found myself in command of a garrison of less than 2,000 as advanced elements of Gen. Braxton Bragg's 25,000-man Army of the Mississippi made their way through

the Bluegrass State. The town's railroad bridge over the Green River made Munfordville a crucial transportation hub for both armies, and I was determined to hold it. Late on September 13, 1862, Confederate Brigadier General James R. Chalmers demanded the garrison's surrender. I responded that I and my men would "try fighting for a while." Chalmers's assault on the morning of the 14th was met with spirited resistance from my men who inflicted 283 casualties on the Rebels, losing just 37 of their own number. Southern reinforcements, however, were streaming in by the score; the Federals, on the other hand, could only manage a handful of additional troops, totaling around 4,000 men. In the face of a growing enemy force and repeated entreaties to surrender, I and my men realized we could not hold out for long. After midnight on September 17, I was blindfolded and escorted into enemy lines to meet with my adversary, Munfordville native Maj. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner. I had come to ask the general's advice. Sympathetic to the my plight, Buckner allowed me to observe the Rebel positions facing my men. At the conclusion of this interview I said, "Well, it seems to me that I ought to surrender." The following morning, the entire Union garrison at Munfordville surrendered with full military honors. I spent the next two months in a Confederate prison.

When I returned to my command at the end of 1862, it was clear that my stint in captivity had done little to diminish my audacity. In March of 1863, after my troops unanimously voted to adopt the Spencer repeating rifle, I once again displayed my penchant for innovation—and my complete disregard for army red tape—by taking it upon myself to rearm my entire brigade with private funds loaned from Indiana bankers. At the same time, I received permission to raid the Tennessee countryside for horses in order to reorganize my outfit as mounted infantry. Armed with state-of-the-art weapons and, now, mounted, my four regiments became an integral instrument in the Army of the Cumberland's 1863 campaigns, often on detached missions or in advance of the army.

During the June 1863 Tullahoma campaign my men succeeded in driving Confederates from

Hoover's Gap, winning a key victory for Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans. Later that summer, reinforced by elements of Thomas Wood's division, I led a diversionary action in front of Chattanooga, and eventually captured the city. During the battle of Chickamauga that autumn, my men proved themselves to be indispensable, first protecting the army's flank at Alexander's Bridge, then, on the second day of battle, launching a counterattack around the through "Bloody Pond." For his performance at Chickamauga, XIV Corps commander Maj. Gen. George Thomas recommended that I be promoted to brigadier general.

Though brevetted to brigadier general in August of 1864, ill health plagued me during much of the war's penultimate year and in October I resigned my commission. After the war, I eventually settled in Chattanooga and established an ironworks manufacturing iron and rails for the railroad industry. My prominence grew along with my business ventures, and I was elected the city's mayor in 1871. In my twilight years I held a number of other political positions, among them commissioner of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. I died in Jacksonville, Florida at age 87 and am buried in Forest Hills Cemetery in Chattanooga. ♦

Source: Civil War Trust.

Answer to "Who Am I" is on page 11.

Coming Events –

Fri., September 13 – Sun., September 15.

Civil War Weekend at Historic Cold Spring Village, Cape May. Battles 2 p.m. daily featuring street fighting, living history, medical scenarios. For information, Jim Stephens, (609) 898-2300, Ext. 17, jstephens@hcsv.org **Fri.,**

September 13 – Sun., September 15.

Three-day Living History & Reenactment in Waterloo Village, Stanhope. Skirmishes & battles in fields and 1860s village both days. For information, hackettstownpamjohn@verizon.net; <http://www.27thnewjerseycompanyf.org>.

Now Thru Thurs., October 31.

"American Heroes in Bronze: The Artwork of James E. Kelly," sculptor who interviewed 40-plus Union generals, at Macculloch Hall

Historical Museum, Morristown. Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Sundays 1-4, last tour at 3. Fee charged. Gardens free. For information, (973) 538-2404 ext. 10; Visit website at:

www.maccullochhall.org.

Sat., October 12 – Sun., October 13.

Annual Allentown Civil War reenactment weekend & Allentown's Fall Festival. Civil War activities, 1860s baseball game, street fair with free entertainment, arts and crafts, food. All impressions welcomed. Sponsored by 2nd NJ Brigade. For information, Robert Bowell, (908) 309-6347.

Sat., November 9.

Historical Military Timeline Exhibition honoring veterans and Civil War 150th at Veterans Center Hall, Kenilworth, 10-4, Displays, presentations & reenactors from Revolution through Viet Nam. Free. Sponsored by New Jersey Arms Collectors Club. For information, John Rountree, (973) 762-0090, rountreeptr@comcast.net. ♦

Grant & Lee's Private Meeting

Contributed by Marilyn Evan

On a recent trip to Gettysburg, my husband Ted and I had the good fortune to pick up a brochure for a live on-stage two man play entitled *The Road From Appomattox* by Richard Hellerson. It was playing a limited engagement at the Majestic Theatre just off the town square. Knowing little about such a meeting we decided to go to the play that night. It turned out to be a very interesting evening. Most of us know quite a lot of details surrounding the surrender meeting between Lee and Grant at Appomattox; but Ted and I had never given much thought to the rumored second meeting between the two men the very next day. It was a private meeting just between the two Generals. They met under a tree in a field out by a rail fence between the lines of the two armies.

Lee came dressed in full uniform thinking he was about to be arrested. Grant, however, had actually invited Lee to meet with him hoping that he could convince Lee to use his influence to persuade other confederate commanders to surrender their armies. In return, Grant would give Lee a pass guaranteeing him, as the pass stated, safe conduct through all Union lines

north, south, east and west. Upon hearing the words north, south, east and west, Lee quickly realizes what he is being asked to do in return for the pass. He becomes angry with Grant for even thinking that he, Lee, would use his influence in that way. Refusing the pass, Lee hands it back to Grant saying that he only did what he felt was right for his Army of Virginia at this time and the other commanders must decide for themselves what to do with their armies. He would not press them to surrender.

During the play the two men speak of many things, both military and personal. Lee expresses his surprise at (and thanks Grant for) the lenient and generous surrender terms. He tells Grant why he made the difficult decision to surrender his army at this time and how hard the surrender is on his men who still want to continue the fight. Grant speaks of the coming of the end of the war and the inevitable Union victory. At times during the play both men lose patience with each other and voices are loudly raised, especially when they discuss Lee's personal reasons for joining the Confederate Cause. At one point near the end of the play, Lee speaks of the deteriorating conditions in the confederate army; lack of food, clothing and ammunition as well as the beginnings of low morale and the increasing desertion rate among the men. Grant asks Lee if he has any regrets to which Lee responds, "We fought on for what we believed, regrets be dammed."

The meeting ends on an amicable note with Lee saying to Grant, "I'll take that pass now." After the war Lee never wrote or spoke about their private meeting and Grant gave it only one paragraph in one of his memoirs.

The play lasted about 45 minutes followed by a question and answer session with the actors and audience. Just as the brochure stated, "it was dramatic imagining of the meeting between Lee and Grant and explored how two great and very different generals ended the war with mercy and the best interests of the country in mind." ♦



Swamp Angel Monument Rededicated

Contributed by Tony Travaglione

The monument featuring the Swamp Angel, a Civil War artillery piece located in Cadwalader Park in Trenton, was rededicated on August 24, 2013 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the service of the piece in the Civil War, and to replace the plaque that was stolen from the monument. Members of the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table and Museum, and Abraham Lincoln Camp 100 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War sponsored the event.

In August 1863 the Swamp Angel was mounted by the Union Army in the swamps outside Charleston, South Carolina in an effort to bomb the city into submission. However on the 36th shot made by the cannon the breech exploded, rendering the piece inoperable. After the war the cannon was brought to Trenton, New Jersey and set up as a monument in the city, then moved in 1961 to its present location.

The following are photos of the rededication ceremony.



Dr. David Martin next to the Swamp Angel



Bruce Sirak, President of the Camp Olden CWRT.



Trenton Councilwoman Marge Caldwell-Wilson



Dr. Martin giving the history of the Swamp Angel



Unveiling the new marble plaque for the monument



Taps played by Jeff Heagy, member of the SUV



Dr. Martin pointing to the cannon's serial number 6, proving this is the original Swamp Angel



Group photo - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Be a Gazette Contributor!

We hope you have enjoyed the many member contributions in this issue. Please submit some yourself. Explored a battlefield? Seen an interesting museum exhibit? Read a new Civil War book or reread a favorite one? Share your experiences with round table members. **Also, for our new *Where am I?* feature, submit a couple of your own photographs of a favorite Civil War site for other members to try to identify.**

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: 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 "*Where Am I?*" – Fort Donelson, Dover, Tennessee.

<http://www.nps.gov/fodo/index.htm>.

Pictures show a Confederate river battery defending the Cumberland River and the Dover Hotel which Confederate General Buckner used as his headquarters during the battle and where he and Union General Grant met to work out details of the surrender. ♦

Answer to "*Who Am I?*" - Colonel John T. Wilder (January 31, 1830 - October 20, 1917). ♦

Reminder -- Bring A Dish!

Remember hospitality for the **September 5th 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.** ♦