

The Camp Olden Gazette

News from the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table

Summer 2014

President's Gavel.

On May 10th at the NJ History Fair I couldn't have been more proud to say I was a member of the Camp Olden CWRT because we had more than enough volunteers and everything came together. I want to thank everyone that came out that day even if you just stopped by our tables.



Camp Olden Members at the History Fair

l. to r. – Bill Moore, Jane Peters Estes, Daniel Fox, Bruce Sirak, Joe Sedor and Bruce Smith

On May 22nd we had our Jr. Camp Olden at the museum. A bus load of 44 children from an elementary School in West Windsor/Plainsboro, NJ, came down to learn about the Civil War which they did in a well behaved manner.

My thanks to all the volunteers & presenters
(See following article by Al Barbano and also pictures on page 11.)

Our upcoming speakers will be:

June 5 - Stephen Recker discussing *Rare Images of Antietam*.

July 3 - Conrad Laplante discussing *Canada and the American Civil War*.

In August we will take our annual break.

September 4 - Our Pot Luck Dinner. Dr. David Martin discussing *Gettysburg - The Town Fight*.

This past weekend was Memorial Day Weekend when we remembered our veterans who gave their

all! This comment about an unknown soldier was posted on Facebook by Ted Myers and pretty well sums it up!



"Unknown" Grave: *This Memorial Day- I was a Civil War soldier, who fought for my country and State. I died of wounds, of disease or was killed. I now lay in a grave known only to the almighty. I had left a mother and father, a wife and children, but they do not know where I lay. I lay in an "Unknown" grave, in a field, or along a roadside, on some farm, or a National Cemetery. Where I lay is known only by God. Do not only remember those you do know, but also remember me the "Unknown", unvisited, forgotten.*

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Your obedient servant,

Bruce. ♦

Junior Camp Olden

Contributed by Al Barbano

Jr. Camp Olden of COCWRT, held a Civil War Day, for 45 fifth graders, from Village Upper Elementary School, W. Windsor/Plainsboro, NJ, on Wed., May 21, at the Camp Olden Civil War and Native American Museum in Hamilton, NJ. Three teachers and one nurse also attended.

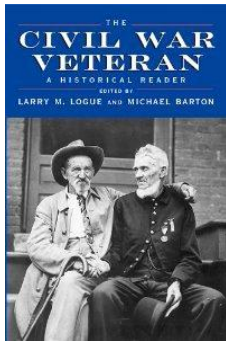
Junior Camp Olden continued on page 11.

Book Review

Following is a book review submitted by Camp Olden CWRT member John Allen:

The Civil War Veteran: A Historical Reader

Edited by Larry M. Logue and Michael Barton



In 2006 I finally learned of a Union veteran in my family tree. James Anthony Costar, my great great grandfather, enlisted in the 10th New York Volunteers at the age of 41, at which time he was married and had 5 children. Prior to that time I was mostly interested in the campaigns and battles of the Civil War, with occasional excursions into soldier life that could help me in my reenactment portrayal. James' pension papers changed that. He enlisted April 5, 1864. Within a month he was "trained", if you could call it that, and transported to the theater of war in northern Virginia, and lost his right eye to a gunshot wound received in his first and only battle, the Battle of The Wilderness on May 6, 1864. I can only imagine what his remaining 42 years must have been like for him and his family. This book is an immeasurable help in reconstructing his possible experiences.

The Civil War Veteran: A Historical Reader, is a collection of essays, edited by Larry M. Logue and Michael Barton, telling of the post-war experiences of veterans both North and South, although discussion of Federal Government policies is, understandably, limited to its effect on Union veterans. There are also several essays discussing the issues faced by returning African-American veterans, whether enlisted as freemen or ex-slaves.

Part I, "Transition to Peace", is a series of four essays that discuss demobilization of the armies on both sides. If you have read "Out Of The Storm" by Noah Andre Trudeau you will be

familiar with much of this material, but these experiences are amazing just the same.

Part II, entitled "Problems of Readjustment", is dedicated to discussing the returning veterans and the problems they faced: drug and/or alcohol dependence, a desire to avoid "society" and terrifying flashbacks, all symptoms of what is now called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The eight articles in this section discuss these problems, which will open the eyes of any reader who was under the impression that these soldiers enlisted, fought the War, went home and lived out their lives in relative normalcy. Civil War veterans were human, and faced the same issues veterans of all wars face. Drug addiction should come as no surprise, knowing that morphine was used to treat wounded soldiers and opium "balls" were typically given as a treatment for chronic diarrhea, a condition suffered by many - perhaps most - troops. The adjustment to peacetime following a very violent period is also examined statistically and relates the mustering out of over a million men with the increase in both violent and nonviolent crimes seen in the late 1860s and the 1870s. Rather than disparaging these men, the book results in a more complete picture of human beings subjected to the stress of combat and dealing with horrific, vivid memories and/or debilitating wounds.

"Governments Provide Aid" comprises Part III, a series of six papers that discuss the structure and evolution of pension schemes for veterans, in which one sees the political use made of Union soldiers, sadly reminiscent of the similar use made of our returning veterans today. Pension law changed not just in monetary value, but also in qualification requirements. Initially, evidence of war-related disability was required to obtain a pension but, under the Dependent Pensioner act of 1890, nearly all veterans, or their survivors, received a pension. Astonishingly, between 1880 and 1900 Civil War veterans' pensions accounted for a quarter of all Government expenditures! In many of these years it was the *largest* single budget item aside from retirement of the war debt.

Also discussed in this part is the creation of residences for veteran soldiers. Illustrated are the issues that faced those charged with providing shelter for indigent veterans unable to care for

themselves and, until 1884, unemployed and unemployable. In 1884 Congress opened these Homes to any honorably discharged veteran incapable of earning a living for whatever reason, even if not war-related (old age infirmities, for example). The prevailing use of domestic themes eventually led the Government to change the name of the National Asylum for Disabled Veteran Soldiers to the National Home due to the reluctance of ex-soldiers to take up residence in anything called an "asylum". Such a word conjured visions of the poorhouse, almshouse or prison. One of the major proponents of publicizing the distinction between these facilities was none other than Benjamin Butler, who dedicated one National Home by saying "let no soldier coming here think that he is coming to an almshouse. He is coming to his home, earned, richly earned, by him; and it is his forever."

The political power wielded by the veterans in both the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) is explored as well by eight papers in Part IV, entitled "Veterans Fight Their Own Battles". Most interesting to me is the discussion explaining the contrasting demographics in urban, suburban and rural posts, and how these determined the organization's activities and policy platform. Veteran's voting patterns and their influence on National policy is discussed and their impact on Veteran affairs and benefits are detailed. Heartbreaking details are provided discussing the post-war fights - often against both ex-Confederates as well as their previous comrades-in-arms - required of African American veterans for recognition of their contribution to the Union war effort.

In the final section entitled "Veterans Shape The Collective Memory" five articles show the extent to which veterans, both North and South, worked to shape their legacies. The results are largely the Civil War we read about today. Was the war fought to preserve State's Rights, prolong slavery, free the slaves or save the Union? Why did the South lose? Should it be called the "War of Rebellion", the "American Civil War", the "War Between The States" or the "War For Southern Independence"? Was secession constitutionally legal or not? If you have a single answer to these

questions you haven't read broadly enough! This book is a good one, but you shouldn't expect to find Orders of Battle or discussions of strategy or tactics. You *should* expect to come away with a greater respect for those that fought the War, whatever it is called, the knowledge that these people underwent a terrifying experience, and many or most suffered the consequences for the rest of their lives. ♦

Civil War Sesquicentennial –

Below are some of the major events which occurred 150 years ago from June of 1864 through August of 1864:

May 31-June 12 Second Cold Harbor
 June - The Siege of Petersburg begins.
 June 5-6 - Piedmont
 June 9-July 3 - Marietta / Pine Hill / Ruff's Mill
 June 10 - Brices Cross Roads
 June 11-12 - Trevilian Station
 June 15-18 - Assault on Petersburg
 June 17-18 - Lynchburg
 June 21-24 - Jerusalem Plank Road / First Weldon
 June 22 - Kolb's Farm
 June 24 - Saint Mary's Church / Nance's Shop
 June 27 - Kennesaw Mountain
 June 29 - Ream's Station
 July 9 - Monocacy
 July 14-15 - Tupelo / Harrisburg
 July 17-18 - Cool Spring / Parkers Ford
 July 20 - Peachtree Creek
 July 20 - Rutherford's Farm
 July 22 - Atlanta
 July 24 - Second Kernstown
 July 27-29 - Deep Bottom I / Gravel Hill
 July 28 - Ezra Church / Battle of the Poor House
 July 28-29 - Killdeer Mountain
 July 30 - Crater / The Mine
 August 2-23 - Mobile Bay / Fort Morgan
 August 5-7 - Utoy Creek
 August 13-20 - Deep Bottom II / Bailey's Creek
 August 14-15 - Dalton II
 August 16 - Front Royal / Cedarville
 August 18-21 - Globe Tavern / Blick's Station
 August 20 - Lovejoy's Station
 August 21 - Memphis
 August 25 - Ream's Station
 August 31 - September 1 - Jonesborough ♦

The National Pastime, Amid a National Crisis

By Michael Beschloss



This is one of the earliest photographs ever taken of a baseball game, and it happened by accident. The photographer, Henry P. Moore, of Concord, N.H., was focusing on the well-uniformed Union soldiers of the 48th New York State Volunteer Infantry, but he also captured their baseball-playing comrades in the background.

The “hurler” (as pitchers were called), wearing a white shirt, is tossing underhand (by the rules of the day) to a “striker” (batter), with bent knee. At the time, baseball had yet to achieve anything like the level of importance it later attained; for Moore, it was just something that got into your picture frame when you were trying to photograph soldiers on display.

It was the second year of the Civil War, and the scene was Fort Pulaski, Ga., which stood on an island at the mouth of the Savannah River. After falling to the Confederacy in 1861, the fortress had been bombarded for 30 hours and seized back in April 1862, preventing the rebels from using the vital port of Savannah. Like an increasing number of both rebel and Union soldiers, Pulaski’s warriors were encouraged to divert themselves from time to time by turning to baseball.

By combining the Civil War and baseball, Moore’s photograph merges two of the most important elements of the American historical experience, both of which, to this day, have deep emotional resonance. Baseball did not become the “national pastime” until long after Appomattox, but Americans came to feel so passionately about the game that some mythmakers tried to embellish

the historical record by exaggerating its importance during the time the Union fought the South.

For instance, Abner Doubleday (1819-1893) — revered as the Union’s second in command at Fort Sumter, S.C., who, in April 1861, had fired the first shot defending the beleaguered federal garrison — was posthumously claimed to be the “inventor” of baseball. This was although Doubleday had made no such assertion for himself, left no evidence of it in his papers, and, at the time he was supposed to have fashioned the game in Cooperstown, N.Y., (now home of the Baseball Hall of Fame), was studying at West Point. To this day, some baseball fans insist (inaccurately) that home plate was designed to resemble the five-sided Fort Sumter, recognizing Doubleday’s “contribution” to the game.

Others exaggerated baseball’s place in the life of the greatest Civil War figure of all.

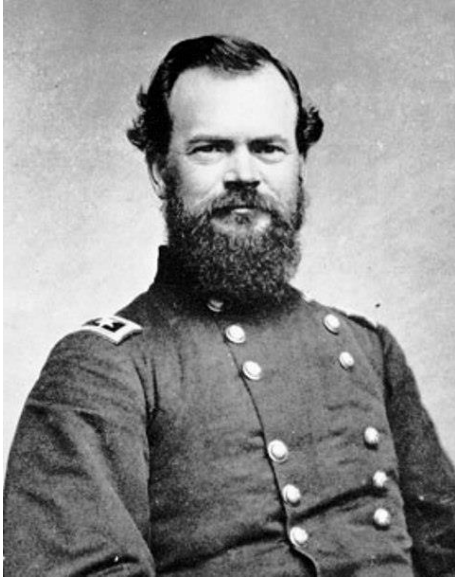
As a lawyer, and maybe as president, Abraham Lincoln may have picked up a bat in an early version of the game called “town ball”; he almost certainly viewed games on what is now the Ellipse, south of the White House. But later fabulists insisted that he was such a baseball fanatic that, when about to be notified by a Republican delegation of his nomination for President in 1860, Lincoln, playing baseball in Springfield, said, “They’ll have to wait a few minutes, until I make another hit.”

Of another, more ludicrous, made-up scene, you can agree with the moral of the story without accepting that it happened. This had the grievously wounded president on his deathbed in April 1865, regaining consciousness long enough to utter final words to Abner Doubleday: “Keep baseball going. The country needs it!” ♦

Michael Beschloss, a presidential historian, is the author of nine books and a contributor to NBC News and “PBS NewsHour.”



Who Am I?



I began my career after graduating first in his class from the United States Military Academy class of 1853, a class that included Philip Sheridan and future foe John Bell Hood. After graduation, I was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers, and participated in building improvements to New York Harbor, the building of Fort Delaware, and the construction of fortifications on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.

After the outbreak of the Civil War, I requested a transfer back to the east, briefly serving on the staff of General Henry Halleck.

I was then transferred to the command of Ulysses S. Grant and served as his Chief Engineer during the capture of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, as well as during Grant's advance on Corinth during the spring of 1862. At the Battle of Shiloh, I presciently warned Grant that his forward camps were indefensible and had a horse killed under me.

On August 19, 1862, I was promoted to a Brigadier General, and after the Battle of Corinth, was promoted to Major General of volunteers on October 8, 1862.

I was given command of the Seventeenth Corps in the Army of the Tennessee under Ulysses S. Grant, and served capably throughout the Vicksburg Campaign. At the May 12, 1863 Battle of Raymond, I nearly annihilated a smaller Confederate force that mistakenly attacked my 10,000-man column.

On August 1, 1863, I was made a Brigadier General in the regular army, and was given command of the Army of the Tennessee on March 26, 1864 after William T. Sherman was promoted to command all armies in the West.

My army made up the right wing of Sherman's force as he moved against Atlanta beginning in May of 1864. Me and my troops participated throughout the Atlanta Campaign, trying to outmaneuver Confederate forces under Joseph E. Johnston. On May 9, 1864, I tried to flank and destroy Johnston at the Battle of Rocky Face Ridge, but my 25,000-man column was thwarted by a blocking force of some 4,000 Confederates. Hearing of this defeat, Sherman told me that I had "missed the opportunity of a lifetime." My army also suffered heavily while assaulting the steep slopes of Kennesaw Mountain on June 27, 1864.

On July 17, 1864, Confederate President Jefferson Davis replaced Joe Johnston with my former classmate, General John Bell Hood. On July 22, 1864, Hood launched an attack against the Union forces in front of Atlanta. During the battle, a line of Confederate skirmishers shot and killed me after I attempted to escape capture on the way to the headquarters of William T. Sherman. I was returned to Union forces to receive a proper burial.

Ulysses S. Grant memorialized me as one of the army's "ablest, purest, and best generals." Sherman called me "a man who was...qualified to heal national strife." Even John Bell Hood marked my passing with friendship, admiration, and gratitude. ♦

Source: Civil War Trust.

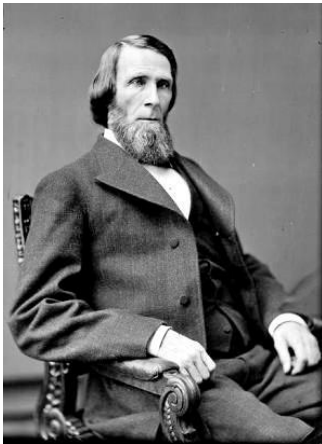
"Who Am I?" (Answer on page 12.)



BATTLE OF ATLANTA

Samuel Bell Maxey

by Nolan Maxie (Maxey) - Camp Olden Member from Texas



Samuel Bell Maxey was a United States Senator and Confederate General. He was born in Tompkinsville, Kentucky, on March 30, 1825, and died in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, in August of 1895.

He attended West Point and was a roommate Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson. He graduated as a brevet second lieutenant on July 1, 1846, and fought in the Mexican War, participating in battles of Cerro Gordo, Churubusco, and Molino del Rey. He was commended for valor and promoted to First Lieutenant. Maxey was chosen to command part of a postwar police guard in Mexico City.

In 1849 Maxey resigned from the army and began practicing law in Albany, Kentucky, with his father. Maxey and his father moved their families to Texas, where they arrived in October 1857 and purchased five acres south of Paris in Lamar County. Maxey served as district attorney for Lamar County.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he sought permission to form a regiment. He was also running for the Texas Senate that year. After winning his senate seat, he sent his father to Austin to serve for him. Maxey's newly-formed Ninth Texas Infantry regiment left Texas on New Year's Day, 1862. He joined the forces of Albert Sidney Johnson and was made Brigadier General in March of that year. His forces fought in the Vicksburg campaign and at Jackson, Mississippi.

In the waning days of 1863 he was made commander of the Indian Territory. In February of 1865 he was placed in charge of a division of

cavalry. By that time the war was winding down and desertion was rampant. In May of that year, a discouraged General Maxey requested to be relieved of his command. Unbeknownst to Maxey, he had been promoted to Major General prior to his resignation.

In January of 1874, Maxey was elected a U.S. Senator and served for two terms. During his tenure he served on the post office committee and established a mail route from Fort Worth to Yuma, Arizona. Maxey harbored no animosity toward the U.S. Government and is remembered for his moderate views. He looked to the future and not to the past. He became friends with former enemies Ulysses Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman – two Union generals most hated by the South.

According to Camp Olden member Nolan Maxie, a direct descendant of Samuel Bell Maxey, living in Conroe, Texas, there had been no fewer than 33 members of the Maxey family that fought for the North.

In the summer of 1895, Maxey, suffering from a gastro-intestinal disease, died at Eureka Springs, Arkansas where he had sought treatment. He was buried in Paris, Texas. The Maxey House in Paris, built in 1869, was placed on the National Register in 1971. It is one of North Texas' oldest and most authentic historic structures.

A friend of mine recently visited Paris, Texas. Discovering US Army Camp Maxey and the Maxey Home, a State Historical Site, he returned home and asked me if Sam was a relative of mine. "Yes, I am proud to say Sam Bell Maxey is in my family tree. He and I come together from the second and third generation of Maxeys in this new country. His line comes from Radford Maxey and I descend from Walter Maxey back in Goochland County, Virginia. The entire Maxey line in this country descend from Edward and Susanna Maxey who arrived here from England and took a land grant in the early 1700's in Goochland County on the James River.

I wish I had known Samuel Bell Maxey. There weren't a lot like him." ♦



Escape From Libby Prison

By Rick Beard



Thomas Rose could see the Union troops approaching from the east. After five days of torturous travel on foot, he was about to make good his escape from Richmond's infamous Libby Prison. Awaiting the arrival of his comrades, he noticed three soldiers to his rear. Assuming they were a federal vanguard, he rose to greet them, only to find himself recaptured. After wresting a musket from one of his captors and firing it into the air, Rose ran toward the approaching Yankees. A dozen rebel soldiers quickly knocked him to the ground and bound him for return to Richmond, ending the short-lived escape of one of the masterminds of the Civil War's most celebrated prison break.

During the night of Feb. 9, 1864, 109 Union officers squeezed through a narrow tunnel and fled a Confederate prison notorious for its wretched and overcrowded living conditions, starvation rations and the casual cruelty of its commanders. Of those escaping, 48 were captured, two drowned and 59 successfully reached Union lines.

The bold escape plan stemmed in part from the breakdown of prisoner exchanges between Union and Confederate forces. As expectations for a quick end to the fighting dissolved in the second year of the war, the management of tens of thousands of captured soldiers challenged Union and Confederate leaders alike. In July 1862 both sides agreed to parole future captives within 10 days at designated spots on the James River and near Vicksburg, and forbade parolees from taking up arms again until they had been officially

exchanged. A month later, 3,021 Union and 3,000 Confederate prisoners rejoined their respective armies.

Since captured Confederates were often treated better by their Union captors than they were by their own army, this arrangement clearly favored the South. "We get rid of a set of miserable wretches," crowed Col. Robert Ould, the Confederate exchange commissioner, "and receive some of the best material I ever saw." A year later, the Union suspended prisoner exchanges, and did not resume them until the last weeks of the war, in large part because of Confederate threats to execute the commanders of captured black soldiers, and to send the blacks into slavery.

This strategic decision had a substantial impact on the Union officers confined in Libby Prison. The first captives had arrived in March 1862, and by August the prison population numbered 1,350 prisoners, and would eventually climb to 4,000. Accessible by rail and water, the prison stood three stories high in front and four stories high in its rear, and measured 135 feet wide and 90 feet deep. The interior featured three sections separated by thick walls that extended from the basement to the attic. Each floor had three equally sized rooms. The prisoners occupied the six rooms on the two upper floors, while the first floor housed offices for prison officials, a kitchen, and a hospital. The basement included a room for commissary supplies and straw, which became known as "Rat Hell"; dungeons used to punish prisoners; a workshop; living quarters for black prisoners; and a cooking area.

Thomas Pratt Turner, a 21-year-old lieutenant, commanded the prison. Of him, one prisoner would write that his "utter depravity seems to have gained a full and complete expression in every lineament of his countenance." His second in command, Richard Turner, unrelated to his boss, was a 23-year-old former plantation overseer whom one writer described as "possessed of a vindictive, depraved, and fiendish nature." Richard Turner was the prison's designated "Negro whipper" and rarely missed the opportunity to employ physical punishment.

Upon arrival at Libby Prison, Union officers were generally relieved of their valuables, leading one

newcomer to declare that for “making a clean thing of the robbing business, commend me to the Confederate States of America.” This thievery was but a foretaste of what was to come. At first, prisoners received a daily ration of a quarter-pound of beef, half a pound of bread, and four ounces of rice or beans. By November 1863, meat had been eliminated and prisoners were receiving little more than nine ounces of corn bread and water. “I try to keep each bite in my mouth as long as I can,” wrote one famished soldier. Those prisoners who still had money or goods to trade could sometimes entice guards to purchase food at greatly inflated prices at the city markets. The prisoners’ families and relief agencies sent boxes of food and clothing, until prison officials halted these deliveries in December 1863, in part because the Sanitary Commission was addressing boxes to “Our Starving Soldiers in Richmond.”

The secret to survival, wrote one Union colonel, was “in having something to do.” Prisoners passed the time playing cards, carving bones and wood, and organizing a Lyceum (often referred to as the “Lice-I-see-’em”). Periodic “indignation meetings” were held to allow disgruntled inmates to bring complaints before a committee composed of three representatives from each room. For a brief time in the fall of 1863, the Libby Chronicle was “published” each Friday morning at 10 a.m., when Chaplain Louis Beaudry would read the latest news, gathered throughout the week on scraps of paper, to anyone in attendance.

In late September 1863, when conditions had reached their worst, two newly arrived prisoners began to plot an escape. From the moment of his arrival, Col. Thomas Ellwood Rose, of the 77th Pennsylvania, had made “a means to escape ... his constant and eager study.” He quickly formed an alliance with Maj. A. G. Hamilton of the 12th Kentucky Cavalry.

Rose and Hamilton determined that digging a tunnel from the basement presented the best chance of escape, and settled on the first-floor kitchen as the most promising spot to begin. Working after “lights out,” they carefully chiseled through the brick wall of the fireplace behind two stoves. At the end of each night’s work, they carefully replaced the bricks and disguised their

work with ashes and soot from the two stoves. Working with pen knives, it took Rose and Hamilton two weeks to break through the wall and create a pathway below to “Rat Hell.”

Over the next six weeks, the two worked with a few other prisoners to dig three tunnels. The first was to connect to a large sewer pipe, but it flooded and Rose almost drowned. Their second effort, aimed at a smaller sewer, caved in. And they abandoned the third when the sewer pipe proved too small.

Many of the men helping Rose and Hamilton lost heart. But in late January the two began to dig a fourth tunnel under a lot adjacent to the prison’s east wall and past a fence surrounding a tobacco shed. Rose and Hamilton recruited 13 other prisoners and organized them into three shifts so that the work could continue around the clock. One man dug and put the dirt in a wooden container that a second man pulled from the tunnel. The third prisoner dispersed it under the straw, while the fourth used a rubber sheet to fan air into the tunnel. The final member of each shift served as a lookout. The work demanded “exertions almost superhuman,” Capt. W.S.B. Randall later recalled. “We often pulled out our comrades, suffocated and exhausted, nearer dead than alive.” The din of “hundreds of rats squealing all the time while they ran over the diggers” added to the workers’ misery.

They completed the tunnel around 3 AM. on Feb. 9, but elected to wait until that night to escape. Measuring 30 to 36 inches at its entrance, the tunnel narrowed to less than two feet, and at some points a mere 16 inches. It extended more than 50 feet at depths of up to 9 feet. Each digger was allowed to choose one friend to accompany him, and after “lights out” that evening, the first 30 set out. Other prisoners were to follow them after an hour had passed. The prospect of escape proved too appealing for many, and chaos ensued as men pushed and shoved to gain access to the tunnel entrance. Eventually 21 majors and colonels, 35 captains and 53 lieutenants had crawled to freedom. Among the last through was Col. Abel Streight, whose raid into Alabama and Georgia had inflamed Southern passions and made him the most notorious Libby prisoner. At 225 pounds and

6 feet 2 inches tall, he was, in an aide's words, "somewhat inclined to corpulency," but nonetheless he managed to squeeze through the tunnel.

Once at liberty, most of the prisoners headed toward the nearest Union troops, stationed 50 miles away at Williamsburg. Although some men had relied on "persistent physical exercises to put themselves in readiness for the exodus," little could prepare the ill-clad, poorly shod, undernourished soldiers for the winter weather. Blacks living in the area helped many of the fugitives with food and shelter, and a robust underground community of Unionists under the leadership of the socially prominent Elizabeth Van Lew hid Colonel Streight and three others for eight days. The appearance of bogus stories in The New York Times and other Northern newspapers, reporting that Streight had already reached Union lines, helped him avoid capture and reach Washington. Still, within two days, 22 of the fugitive Union officers were back in prison and another 26 soon joined them.

The first 26 escapees reached Williamsburg on Feb. 14, with over 30 more to follow. Their descriptions of the conditions in Libby Prison spread throughout the North, particularly in the wake of the May release of the Joint Select Committee on the Conduct of the War's report on prison conditions. Calls for retaliation against rebel prisoners were frequent and largely ignored, although they did lead to such steps as the reduction of rations in several Northern prison camps. Meanwhile, many of those still confined in Libby Prison were soon transferred to a new prison near Andersonville, Ga. ♦

Rick Beard, an independent historian and exhibition curator, is co-author of the National Park Service publication "Slavery in the United States: A Brief Narrative History."

Coming Events –

Friday, May 30 - Sunday, June 1

5th Annual School of the Soldier encampment at Allaire State Park, Wall Township. "Camp Kaufer," in honor of late Capt. Lou Kaufer. Jersey home front, Lincoln & McClellan presidential debate, period music, infantry, artillery & cavalry training scenarios. Hosted by New Jersey Civil

War Heritage Assn. & N.J. Civil War 150th Committee. For information visit www.allairevillage.org.

Saturday, June 7

14th Annual Civil War Living History Weekend at Holcomb Jimison Farmstead, Lambertville. National Civil War Field Music School. Battles both days, craft demonstrations, period music. Weekend \$10 over age 12. Sponsored by Lambertville Living History Association. All proceeds benefit historic preservation & education. For information:

<http://www.lambertvillecivilwarreenactment.com>

Saturday, August 2 - Sunday, August 3

17th Annual Parker Press Civil War Living History Weekend in Woodbridge, 10-4. Special 150th program Saturday 8-10 p.m. Living history, displays, skirmishes, music. Sponsored by Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey.

Saturday, August 2 - Sunday, August 3

Living History & Encampment at Haven's Homestead Museum, Brick. Union camp, drill, demonstrations, museum open free. Hosted by museum & 61st N.Y. Volunteer Infantry. ♦

Camp Olden member Dr. David Martin has the following upcoming speaking engagements:

Sat May 31, 10:30 AM

Allaire State Park

1864 as the Turning Point of the Civil War

Wed June 4, 7 PM

Monmouth County Public Library

The Court Martial of General Charles Lee

Wed June 11, 7 PM

Burlington County Public Library

1864 as the Turning Point of the Civil War

Wed June 25, 7 PM

Camden County Community College

1864 as the Turning Point of the Civil War

Fri June 27, 11 AM

New Jersey State Museum, Trenton

New Jersey's Civil War Flags

Sat July 5, 11 AM

Monocacy National Battlefield, Frederick, MD

New Jersey Monument Rededication ♦

Fitzgerald

A Place Of Reconciliation

By Brian Brown

Fitzgerald, the seat of Ben Hill County, is located in the heart of south central Georgia, twenty-five miles northeast of Tifton. Settled in 1896 by a land company under the direction of Philander H. Fitzgerald, the town is best known as a place of reconciliation among Civil War (1861-65) veterans.

Fitzgerald, a former drummer boy in the Union army, had become a pension attorney with a thriving practice in Indianapolis, Indiana. His interest in the welfare of his fellow veterans, well documented in the widely read weekly newspaper American Tribune, led Fitzgerald to conceive of the idea for a soldiers' colony in the South. Georgia governor William J. Northen was eager to settle some of the sparsely populated areas in the wiregrass region of the Coastal Plain, and after some negotiation they settled on the area around the site of the former turpentine village of Swan on the Ocmulgee River.

Early on, the prospect of so many northerners inhabiting the Deep South was a strange concept, but as soon as settlement began, the locals offered their cooperation. An early nickname of Fitzgerald, the "Colony City," is still in use today. Through this harmony the idea that the town would be a spotlight of post-Reconstruction reconciliation was assured. There was little strife among the new colonists, who proved their dedication to unity by naming an equal number of streets in the city proper for Union and Confederate notables. In one of the first public-works constructions in the United States, a mammoth four-story hotel was built; it was named the Lee-Grant Hotel, to honor the leaders of the opposing sides of the Civil War.

In 1906 the town became the seat of the newly created Ben Hill County, named for prominent Confederate Georgia senator Benjamin Hill. Previously it was located in Irwin County, which was subdivided partly because Fitzgerald was about five times the size of the county seat of Irwinville. Almost immediately there was a model structure of government in the newly designated seat of government. A mayor and council were soon elected, and the city already had in place fire

and police protection, infrastructure, and even a utility provider, which was quite rare at the time. The school system was among the first in the state of Georgia to issue free textbooks to students, in 1897.



Lee-Grant Hotel, 1898

Much attention was brought to the city through the efforts of Beth Davis, founder and director of the Blue and Gray Museum. The museum hosts a Roll Call of the States, in which visitors from every state in the Union are photographed with their respective state flags. This idea was derived from an early custom in the colony in which representatives of the many northern and mid-western states paraded in unity through the center of town. The museum website is:

http://www.fitzgeraldga.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=148 ♦

Camp Olden Hospitality

Thanks to all members who help with Hospitality!

As a reminder, here is the list of volunteers for the rest of the year:

June - Connie Davis and Renee Angel

July – Brian Sirak and Mark Smith

August – no meeting – Happy Vacation!

September – Fall Covered Dish Dinner

October – Bob Dunphy and Al Barbano

November – Sun and Don Cooper

December – The Board ♦



First and foremost a special thanks to the following volunteers & presenters - John Maleski (Senior Coordinator), Bruce Sirak (Governor Charles Smith Olden from NJ), John Allen (Union Soldier), Doug Mount (Union Naval Sailor & Head Drill Instructor), Joe Sedor (Union Soldier/Schedule Coordinator), Jane Peters Estes (Civilian Lady present during the Civil war era), Daniel Fox (Confederate Soldier), Brian Sirak (Civilian/Schedule Coordinator), Bruce Smith (Museum Director), Clyde Goering Native American Representative, Alfred J. Barbano (Event Coordinator and "Worker Bee"). Assistance was also rendered before or during the event by Andrea Sirak, Kim Daly and Bob Dunphy. My thanks to all!

Students arrived by bus at 9:30 AM. They were broken up into 5 groups of little troops. Each group spent a half hour at each station with an instructor. Lunch/drinks were brought in by the kids, staff ordered sandwiches/soda.



Governor Olden with the Campers

PM was ditto plus we broke kids into two large groups. One was given wooden rifles and had field drill instruction. The other had a COCWRT Museum tour, then vice versa. At the end there were: live weapons demos, final muster, and dismissal. Bus left 1:45 PM.

A great day was had by all... the kids were transfixed by the dazzle of the instructors, their eyes were the size of saucers! And the instructors loved the kids reactions!

John Maleski did a fine job of coordination of all, he played "a fine tuned orchestra"! ♦



John Maleski & Al Barbano

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 Ted Evan – **The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial is the Lost Monument of Washington. It might as well be invisible. No one knows it's there.** Its location is actually spectacular, right at the foot of Capitol Hill, at the opening to the Mall. The memorial features one of the largest equestrian statues in the world, set on a platform 250 feet wide, with ancillary sculptures that are heaving with action and drama. Grant is, appropriately, the calm man at the center of the storm. He stares fixedly down the Mall toward Lincoln in his memorial. His horse is so passive-looking it appears to be waiting for someone to insert a quarter.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/us-grant-was-the-great-hero-of-the-civil-war-but-lost-favor-with-historians/2014/04/24/62f5439e-bf53-11e3-b574-f8748871856a_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend.

Submitted by Ted Evan – **Still Paying for the Civil War** - Each month, Irene Triplett collects \$73.13 from the Department of Veterans Affairs, a pension payment for her father's military service—in the Civil War. More than 3 million men fought and 530,000 men died in the conflict between North and South. Pvt. Mose Triplett joined the rebels, deserted on the road to Gettysburg, defected to the Union and married so late in life to a woman so young that their daughter Irene is today 84 years old—and the last child of any Civil War veteran still on the VA benefits rolls.
<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303603904579493830954152394>.

Submitted by John Maleski – **How Trains Saved the Union** - At a time when modern logistics was still in its infancy and the movement of troops by rail still a little-understood challenge, the Army of the Cumberland pulled off nothing short of a miracle.
http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/11/01/how-trains-saved-the-union/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0. ♦

Submitted by Mike Mazzocchi - **Lost in the Past**
Ask a high school senior what the Great War was all about and you're likely to get a shrug or a stab based on a recent episode of "Game of Thrones." Hint: its 100th anniversary is this year. Hint: globe-straddling old empires collapsed and new horrors, from genocide to slaughter by poisonous gas, were ushered in. Hint: its repercussions are with us still, from Syria to Russia to the American role as international cop.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/23/opinion/eagan-lost-in-the-past.html>.



“Spirit of the Jerseys” State History Fair

The 10th “Spirit of the Jerseys” State History Fair was held on Saturday, May 10 at Washington Crossing State Park in Hopewell Township. The fair showcased many contributions the Garden State has made to the country and world since New Jersey’s founding in 1664. More than 200 historical, government and nonprofit entities and organizations participated. Following are photographs of participants including members of Camp Olden CWRT.



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 “Who Am I?” - Major General James B. McPherson (Nov. 14, 1828 – July 22, 1864). ♦

