

The Camp Olden Gazette

News from the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table

Fall 2015

President's Gavel.

Welcome to Fall. A change to cooler weather will be welcome. I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer. It will be great to see you all again.

Events Coordinators Al Barbano and Brian Sirak have been developing and planning ideas for this year's activities calendar. They have had great success in the past and I'm certainly looking ahead to their next event.

I am particularly excited about our upcoming September 3rd speaker, Dr. James Green, Director of Planetary Science at NASA. Jim is a personal friend and an enthusiastic speaker. We all enjoyed his talk last year on the history of ballooning. This time he will talk about The Dugger Family in the Civil War. The Dugger family came to America in the early 1700s and first settled in Virginia. The succeeding generations migrated across the US along with the rest of the country. The Dugger name is unique making it relatively easy to trace the family members who were in the Civil War. The part of the Dugger family Jim descended from was living in Illinois when the war broke out and knew Lincoln very well. In all, there were 68 Union and 96 Confederate Duggers all related as brothers, cousins, and fathers. On both the eastern and western fronts, these Duggers faced and fought each other in many battles. In this lecture he will discuss just a few of the stories ranging from family lore to well documented events as this family was just trying to survive in this vicious conflict.

On October 1st the meeting will feature our famous potluck dinner. It's one of my favorite meeting evenings. Make a note that start time is 5:45 due to the early library closing time. Our entertainment friend Charlie Zahm will visit with his special music of the Civil War. That will be a great evening.

The November 5th meeting will bring back our

President's Award recipient Jane Peters Estes.

The December 3rd meeting will feature Ed Bonekemper discussing his book, *The Myth of the Lost Cause: Why the South Fought the Civil War and Why the North Won.*

Your obedient servant,

Bruce.♦

Camp Olden Tour of National Civil War Museum

By Al Barbano

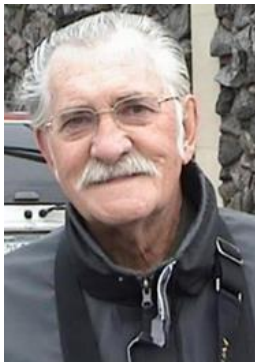
Very, very, fascinating trip, sponsored by COCWRT to the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. We had a total of 8 lucky persons. Brian Sirak was kind enough to use his van and be lead pilot for the group. Met at Lowe's parking lot on Rt. 130. Ate hearty 2,100 milligram sodium breakfast across the street at "Mickey D's". Headed West "Young Man" at 0800 hours, two hour trip, present for roll call were: Brian "Duke" Sirak, Mark (Brian's brother-in-law), Bruce (Gov. Olden) Sirak, Bruce "Museum" Smith, Keith Tomlinson, Connie "Jefferson" Davis, Renee "Unyis" Angel, and yours truly, AJB.

Museum was more than four stars! Wonderful exhibits, great gift shop, very informed docents, and a big TY to Gov. Olden, for introducing us to the Museum CEO, Wayne Motts, no relation to the apple. Wayne was a real gentleman, very courteous and helpful. Tour lasted several hours. We broke up into "tiny bubbles" and wandered in the catacombs as lost souls. Was just as fascinating as the Gettysburg Museum!

Had dinner at "Texas Road House" - great food, ice cold brews, and a nice hostess. Dessert was one mile away at "DD's".

Good ride home, everyone slept, including Brian...had van on auto! Great time! ♦

In Memory of Stu Foulks



Long time Camp Olden Round Table member Stuart J. "Stu" Foulks Sr., age 82, of Florence, NJ, died on Friday, June 26, 2015. Stu was proud of his family and heritage. With Julia, his wife, he made many contributions to Round Table activities.

Stu served his country with honor for four years in the US Navy and was aboard the USS Catamount LSD 17 for 3 years, 3 months and 3 days as a commissary clerk during the Korean War. He was a member of Camp Olden Civil War Round Table, the Abraham Lincoln Camp 100, Lincoln Fellowship of Gettysburg, USS Catamount LSD 17 Military Reunion, 112th Field Artillery, Garfield Camp #4, Francis W. Robbins American Legion Post 194 and the Florence and the Opre Larson V.F.W. Post 8838.

Here are some special remembrances of Stu and his family from Round Table members.

- Every time I marched in the Remembrance Day SUV/Gettysburg Parade weekend I always expected to see my good friends the Foulks along the parade route. I would march and wait for that Foulks scream to get my attention and hearing it, I would know everything was right. *Bruce Sirak*
- We have had the pleasure of knowing Stu and Julia for over 20 years. We shared many Camp Olden Civil War reenactments, the planning of our Civil War seminar and Camp Olden and Camp 100 meetings. Stu and Stan also spent many hours at the Garfield Camp Sons of Union Veterans Museum helping to restore Civil War artifacts and eating lots of donuts! One of our fondest memories of Stu was at the pig roast we hosted for Camp Olden and for

Camp 100 members. Stu, not a pork lover, waited patiently for the 14 lb. turkey that took 4 hours longer to cook than the 80 lb. pig! Stu, you will be deeply missed! *Cindy and Stan Saperstein*

- When Jared and Kim first joined Camp Olden Julia and Stu were two of the first people they met. Jared was very impressed with Mr. Foulks and always addressed him as such. Stu was kind and guiding and willing to share ideas and information with this 10-year old trying to learn it all. Kim was happy to advise Jared to "go ask Mr. Foulks". Stu was there for reenactments, Jr. Camp Oldens, events, trips, Museum coverage and so much more. Later when Kurt (son 2) started reenacting he too gravitated to Stu. There was something about his quiet, gentle, respectful and open way of sharing that EVERYONE was drawn to. We have wonderful thoughts of our time with Mr. Foulks. *Kim, Jared and Kurt Daly*
- I have known Julia and Stu for many years. They were always spectators at Remembrance Day in Gettysburg and I usually participated in the parade. Since they usually stood in the same location each year, it became a habit of mine to look for them as I marched up the street. They would always wave and Stu would give me a bit of a salute. I will miss seeing them together this year in November but will remember Stu as I pass by their usual spot. *Jane Peters Estes*
- Stu and Julia were very welcoming when we joined Camp Olden. Stu was concerned we got the right lunch at the Civil War seminar. He happily offered advice on researching ancestors. Michael was pleased when Stu invited him to join Camp 100 as an "associate" member. It was a treat watching a boy excitedly inspect the Swamp Angel model that Stu meticulously made for the Camp Olden Museum. We can remember Stu and Julia manning the "shebang" at the Camp Olden reenactment with him wearing his period vest that Julia had made. *Corinne and Michael Mazzocchi*

Stu is very much missed. His contributions will be remembered. ♦

Civil War Visits.

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

Revisiting Shiloh

By Mike Mazzocchi

Corinne and I had visited Shiloh over ten years ago following the basic auto tour. We remembered walking out onto Fraley Field where the first shots of the battle were fired on Sunday, April 6, 1862, and visiting the areas around Shiloh church, the “Hornet’s Nest” and the “Bloody Pond”. This time we wanted to get a better feel for the difficulties encountered by the troops engaged. Fortunately I found a well laid out 10 mile hike on the internet.

On a 90° day, carrying plenty of water, we began about a mile north of Fraley Field at the parking lot at the northern end of Rhea Field. It was here that two brigades from Brig. Gen. William T. Sherman’s division assembled in the early hours of the first day and near where Sherman was wounded while organizing a defensive position. We then followed the trail heading north across the East Branch of Shiloh Creek. Since there had been much rain prior to the battle, the creek was much higher and flowing much faster than we saw today. Fortunately we were gifted with a pedestrian bridge to aid our crossing and no one was shooting at us. Further along we found the first of the many Confederate burial trenches. Because of the warm weather after the battle, the dead were buried immediately. Bodies were stacked in these trenches sometimes seven men deep.



Confederate Burial Trench

The trail, of course, was open unlike the woods to our left and right. The whole battlefield consisted of dense woods and thickets (some so thick that horses couldn’t turn around) which made

conducting a cohesive attack virtually impossible. We continued to the Hamburg-Purdy Road where Sherman and Brig. Gen. John A. McClernand formed their lines near Shiloh Church.



Shiloh Church

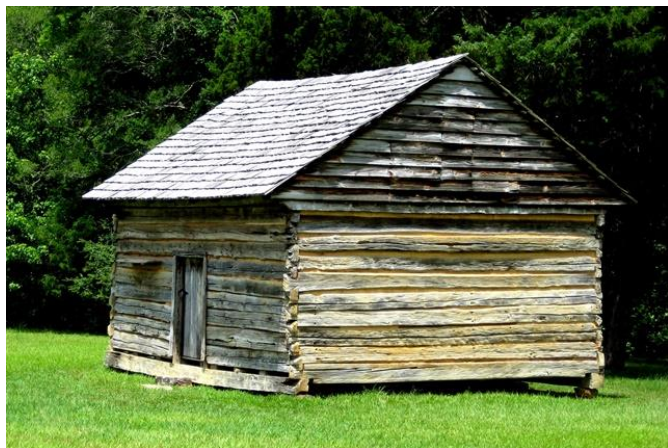
We turned right, went past the Review Field and turned left onto another trail through the woods. This overgrown trail head was difficult to locate but was the best find of the hike. One of the tour stops opposite Duncan Field is the site of Ruggles’ Battery where visitors can see a few cannon lined up. Using this trail we came in the back way and walked along the whole line where the Confederates had lined up about 60 artillery pieces. Now we could envision the whole line firing through the woods across Duncan Field and the woods to the right of the Confederates into the Union lines.



Ruggles’ Battery Opposite Duncan Field

We crossed Duncan Field and reached an old farm road (now referred to as the “Sunken Road”). Quite by chance we met Ranger Brian who was to give a tour of the immediate area. Since it was so hot, no one else came and we had

our own private tour. He pointed out the rolling terrain of Duncan Field and helped us envision charge after charge by the Confederates under Maj. Gen. Braxton Bragg. He also pointed out the sloping ground beside the road that served as a natural entrenchment protecting the Union troops as well as the dense thicket through which the Confederates would be forced to attack. This area became known as the “Hornet’s Nest” where the union held back the Confederates for five hours. The name came from the sound of minie balls buzzing through the air like hornets.



William Manse George’s Cabin

We continued along the “Sunken Road” until we reached the Peach Orchard, William Manse George’s cabin and Sarah Bell’s Field. The cabin is the only wartime structure that is still standing from the time of the battle. It was to our left looking south on the Hamburg-Savannah road that Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston was fatally wounded (probably from friendly fire) while leading from the front trying to rally a Tennessee unit that had refused to advance. He was the highest ranking officer killed in the war. Perhaps this would have been a time to use better judgement or for the nearby troops to organize a “Lee to the rear” movement.

We turned north on the Hamburg-Savannah road and passed the “Bloody Pond” which apparently turned red from the blood of the wounded soldiers and horses who tried to quench their thirst. We then crossed Wicker Field and took a trail that paralleled the wagon road and the Hornet’s Nest. Again we could see the dense woods through which the union troops retreated before their eventual capture. We turned north on the Eastern

Corinth road and then south on Corinth road. We passed the site where Brig. Gen. William H. Wallace was mortally wounded and where Brig. Gen. Benjamin Prentiss surrendered over 2,000 men.

The hike then took us past the Confederate monument and then east through Cloud field to the Shiloh Indian Mounds National Historic Landmark. These 800 year old, 5 to 15 foot high mounds, were used by Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest’s troops to scout the Union left flank. We then passed the spot where the gunboats, Lexington and Tyler, bombarded the Confederates through the night after the first day of the battle. Across Dill Branch we could see how the terrain made it difficult for the Confederates to cut off the Union from Pittsburg Landing. We then reached the area of Grant’s Last Line, the visitor center and National Cemetery. Since this was the half way point, we welcomed the chance to have an apple on the porch and refill our water bottles.

As darkness fell on the first day of the battle, Grant was reinforced by Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace’s Division and Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell’s Army of the Ohio. We left the visitor’s center and headed west on the Pittsburg Landing road until we reached Chambers field. We crossed the field and followed a trail heading towards Cavalry road again experiencing the dense woods on both sides of this overgrown trail. We found another Confederate burial trench and then turned west on Cavalry road until we reached Jones field. Along this road we crossed Tilghman Branch which was very steep with dense woods on both banks. The road then turned south and became Sherman road. We reached Woolf field where we could envision fighting that occurred in the “Crossroads” area near Shiloh Church. We then continued south, found our original trail, and returned to Rhea field.



Mortuary Monuments for Gens. Wallace and Johnston

The terrain consisting of dense woods, ravines and open fields reminded us of other battlefields

where we have hiked such as Culp's Hill at Gettysburg, the west woods at Antietam and, the most difficult we have ever seen, Pickett's Mill near Kennesaw Mountain in Georgia. All in all, despite the heat, it was a very rewarding hike which gave us an appreciation of the hardships encountered and a much better understanding of the battle of Shiloh. ♦

New Civil War Interpretive Center in Corinth, MS.

By Corinne Mazzocchi



Railroad Crossroads at Corinth

Occasionally a visit to a museum or an historic site gives me a new view or more complete explanation of what I thought I knew. Visiting the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center (a unit of Shiloh National Military Park) in Corinth, Mississippi, did both. Corinth was a major railroad crossroad, important for movement of Confederate supplies. Johnson staged his troops there before the battle of Shiloh and Halleck later raged through the town as the North gained control.



Entrance Walkway

From the parking lot, the entry walk looked like an ill-conceived handicap ramp - too long, too steep, too sharply curved. But, its story was revealed as I walked. On a low wall was a discarded kepi, on the grass was an empty canteen, what I thought was a pebble became a Confederate uniform button. Further on was a tossed uniform jacket, a broken rifle. And there were many types of leaves. All the details of soldier life were expressed in bronze.

At the top of the walkway a dimensional bronze of life size marching soldiers looking tired, with slightly bent shoulders and worn clothing, led to the museum entrance.



Soldier Life

The museum building is anchored on the site of Battery Robinett a redoubt used by both armies. The battles are explained with an introductory film and an intriguing semi-circular surround sound presentation using historical photos and re-enactor footage. Later, thinking I had wandered into an unfinished display area, I realized I was inside a recreation of a roughly hewn railway boxcar, like those that carried soldiers and supplies to and through Corinth. Additional videos and artifact displays fill the museum.



Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center

To me, one of the most thoughtful and dramatic depictions of our American history and the Civil War in particular is the courtyard water feature. "The Stream of American History" uses flowing water to show a timeline of events from 1770 to 1870. The stream lengthens greatly to represent each year of the war. In its center, what appears to be a tumble of granite blocks divides the stream. The larger blocks represent campaigns. The smaller blocks topping each larger one are the battles, sized in proportion to casualties and labeled on one side by the North's name and on

the other by the South's name (Antietam/Sharpsburg). At first, the 1861 and 1862 pieces curve toward the south illustrating Southern successes. As the years advance, the pieces began to bend toward the north. By the 1865 mark the two side streams merges into one. More fallen bronze leaves are in the courtyard. They represent the state trees of the states that lost soldiers in the Civil War: "fallen leaves; fallen sons."



Courtyard Water Feature



Much thought and sentiment created this commemorative art. For details see: <http://www.nps.gov/shil/learn/historyculture/corinth.htm#> = ♦

Libby Museum

By Kim Daly

Back in 1947 my grandparents bought a small part of a small island on a big lake in New Hampshire. My family makes the annual summer vacation trek to Dolly Island on Lake Winnepesaukee like clockwork. No one thinks of going anywhere else for summer vacation. Over the years we have "been there and done that", but each year we find a new gem. This year it was a small museum outside the resort mecca of Wolfeboro. We have passed by The Libby Museum every year but this year stopped in with the grandboys. It is a small museum with a change of \$2 for adults but it took over two hours to go through it and I'm sure we missed a lot. An eclectic assortment of this and that that a dentist (Libby) started to collect back in the mid 1800's. Over the years he added to it and others donated their treasure to the collection; local flora and faunas, Indian artifacts, excavations of local pipe factory or Tory Gov. Wentworth's house and so much more. A couple of items that caught my eye I'd like to share with you. A cool, handmade, Civil War, haversack ready knife and fork set. After all those Granite State boys were there in their Blues.



Spoon and Knife Set



Mid-19th Century Fan in Beautiful Fan Case



This shoe was found 4 feet down in a bog behind the cobbler shop in Wolfeboro. It is well worn and dates from the 1850's – Congress Gaiter style. This style lasted up to the 1890's. We all have seen this style on the feet of every reenactor.



These are just a sample of the eclectic assortment. Hair balls from cow's stomachs. Did you know cows got hair balls???? The one on the left is "polished" from several years of being in the stomach. Amazing.

If you get up that way stop in. It is a one of a kind place.

http://www.wolfeboronh.us/pages/wolfeboroNH_Museum/index ♦

Major Peter Vredenburg, Jr.

By Keith Tomlinson

I recently visited Maplewood Cemetery in Freehold, NJ, and found the grave of Major Peter Vredenburg, Jr. who was killed in action at the Third Battle of Winchester in September, 1864, and was then brought home and buried.



Major Peter Vredenburg, Jr.

Major Peter Vredenburg Jr. was born in Freehold, New Jersey on February 12, 1837. He was the eldest son of Judge Peter Vredenburg Sr. of Freehold. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in February 1859. He began the practice of law in Eatontown, New Jersey.

On September 1, 1862, he accepted a commission from Governor Olden as Major of the 14th New Jersey Volunteers. On September 5, 1863, he was detached from his regiment and appointed inspector general of the Third Division, 3rd Corps. On December 11, 1863, he was appointed inspector general of the 3rd Corps.

Special mention was made of his gallantry at the battle of Monocacy, Maryland on July 9, 1864. After the battle, he requested to return to his regiment since the 14th New Jersey had lost very heavily in officers during the battle. During his time as a staff officer, he was involved in the battles of Brandy Station, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and Monocacy.

On September 19, 1864, he arrived with his regiment at Opequan Creek near Winchester. His regiment was ordered to assault the enemy works. As his regiment moved forward, he was struck by an artillery shell and killed.

His body was taken home to Freehold and a large

funeral took place on September 30, 1864. He was buried in Maplewood Cemetery outside of Freehold.



Grave of Major Peter Vredenburg, Jr.

Reference - Ellis, Franklin History of Monmouth County, New Jersey, 1885 ♦

Where Am I?

“Where Am I?” features 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:



Hint – Here is a close up of the roof decoration:



This battle in 1862 was a Union victory and played a pivotal role in securing Missouri for the Union and opening Arkansas to Union occupation.

Where Am I? (Answer on page 11) ♦

Camp Olden Special Events

Events Coordinators - Al Barbano and Brian Sirak

Meerwald Tall Ship Tour on Saturday, 9/12/15. Boarding Time: 3:00 PM, recommend being on board at 2:30 PM sharp. Complete Sail Tour Duration: Two hours. Pre-Sail Libation Fest: Oneida Boat Club, York St, Burlington, NJ 08016, 1:30 PM. Sail Cost: \$15.00 senior, \$18.00 adult. There is no food or drink served on board, must bring own. Carry on alcoholic beverages are allowed on board ship. CEO/Narrator of Sail will be COCWRT's own, illustrious and infamous, Carole's "Captain Bill Moore". Attire: Sensible on board deck clothes, nautical shoes, and ladies, bring shawls for chilly river breezes. "Moore" Details: Call Carole/Bill Moore (24/7) at 609-433-7979 or 609-871-9555. **Must make sail reservations ASAP.** Call 856-785-2060 or e-mail Info@BayshoreCenter.org

"Ghost Story Campfire" on Saturday, 10/10/15. 6:00 PM until "Cinderella's coach" turns into a pumpkin"! Location is Carole/Bill Moore's Historical WhiteBriar B&B Inn: 1101 Cooper Road, Edgewater Park, NJ. Victuals - WhiteBriar Inn will serve: hot dogs, soda, and cake. COCWRT will serve: marshmallows, chocolate, and grahams, for S'mores. Guests must bring: lawn chairs, blankies, very pointed long sticks for hot dogs and unruly campers. Bring any beverage and food to share, if forced to share! Alcohol is allowed. Attire: sensible "fire-side chat" clothes, sweater, and sensible forest shoes. Water closet: There is one necessity house, near the entrance, none after that! Cost: \$5.00 donation payable at gate. Reservations needed before the event (for food purchase). Please call Carole/Bill at 609-871-9555 or 609-433-7979. Prizes: Given for best ghost story.

"In Search of the Jersey Devil" on Saturday, 10/24/15, 10:00 AM till late evening. Meet at Onieda Boat Club, Penn St, (at the Delaware River) Burlington, NJ. Pre-trip narration by our own COCWRT, illustrious historian and Carole's Bill Moore. Lunch at "Diggity Dog" or across the street at "The Chatsworth Restaurant". Travel time to start of hike is 35 minutes. Hike Duration is

30 minutes. Ride to Batsto is 45 minutes with water closet brake. Dinner at "The Oyster Creek Inn", Leeds Point, NJ, (**NO CREDIT CARDS!**) Cost of hike is \$10.00. To reserve mail check made out to Bill Moore to *Bill Moore, 1029 Cooper St, Edgewater Park, NJ 08010*. Include e-mail address. Transportation: *PKW, personen kraft wagen*, (German, for "drive yourself") or car pool. Attire: Outdoor clothing, sensible forest shoes, collection bag for devil remains, and possible evening change to "black and white", for after six dinner attire! "Moore" info: contact Bill Moore at 609-871-9555 or 609-433-7979.

Gen. George Meade's Birthday Celebration at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Ave, Phil., PA 215-228-8200 on 12/31/15 New Year's Eve Morning, 11:00 AM parade begins. Attire: Dress for 12/31/15 + sensible walking shoes. Donation is asked for at the gate. Period dressed folks, color guard, band, and officers from other CWRT's will present wreaths on Gen. Meade's grave. Champagne toast at Gen. Meade's grave site. Nice walk, to take in scenery, architecture, and many artistically, sculptured, grave stones. Brunch will be served upon return to the gate house after grave site ceremony – liquid refreshments, lite fare, and sweets. For much "Moore" detailed info, please call Bill/Carole Moore at 609-871-0955.

"Winter Soiree Festival" on 1/9/16 (snow date 1/16/16) from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. at American Legion Post #31, 1490 South Olden Ave, Trenton, NJ. Directions to follow prior to fest. Entertainment by Mike Plunkett playing Civil War and Irish favorites. Food, price info to follow (last year was \$18.00 pp). Dress will be Casual and Period Dress. Trivia contest, other additional contests. For more additional info, please call Alfred J. Barbano, Jr., 24/7, at 215-860-8146 or e mail to ajbarbano@gmail.com

Gettysburg Trip in Spring 2016. Two day trip including one overnight stay. Take off from Lowe's parking lot, Rt. 130 North, just above "ghost" of Harry's Army/Navy store. Travel by car pool. \$\$\$ on our: hotel, meals, drinks, + expenses (tolls/fuel paid to driver). Details to be discussed at next COCWRT meeting. ♦

Other Coming Events

Friday, September 11 - Sunday, September 13 - Civil War Weekend at Historic Cold Spring Village Living History Museum, Cape May, NJ. Friday morning school program. Living history, medical scenarios, 2 PM village battles both days. For information, Jim Stephens, 609-898-2300 Ext. 17, jstephens@hcsv.org.

Saturday, September 26 - Sunday, September 27 – 11th Annual Historic Soldiers Weekend at Fort Mott coastal artillery fort in Pennsville, NJ. French & Indian War through Vietnam including Civil War. Living history, speakers, authors, vehicles. Free admission. For information, www.soldiersweekend.com.

Saturday, October 10 - Sunday, October 11 - Annual Civil War Reenactment in Allentown, NJ. Battles both afternoons. Living history, demonstrations, Saturday period baseball game. Free, coincides with Fall Festival. Hosted by 2nd NH Brigade (7th NJ Infantry). All impressions welcome. Sponsored by Town of Allentown. For information, Robert Howell, 570-588-6400, 908-309-6347 (cell), roberthowellsr@gmail.com.

Friday, November 6 – 200th Anniversary Dinner for Gen. George Meade at the Union League of Philadelphia. 6:00 PM. \$75.00 pp, cash bar, buffet dinner, wine included, awards, favors and fellowship. For payment and other instructions, please email Blair Thron at bkthron@verizon.net. Speakers include MG Wes Craig, Adj. Gen. of PA, Ed Bearss, National Park Service Historian. ♦

Hospitality:

Thanks to all members who help with Hospitality! Following is the list of volunteers for the future.

September - Al Barbano

October – **Covered Dish (5:45 start)**

November – Martin Mosho

December – The Board ♦

Reminder – Bring A Dish!

Remember hospitality for the **Oct. 1st meeting** is a covered dish. Bring your favorite last taste of summer or first taste of fall food to share.

Special start time is 5:45 PM. ♦

The Final Confederate Surrender

Some believe the Civil War ended on April 9th, 1865, at Appomattox. Others believe it ended with the surrender of Indian troops under the command of Brigadier General Stand Watie in the Indian Territory on June 23rd, 1865. In actuality, the final surrender of Confederate forces took place on November 6th, 1865, with the surrender of the CSS *Shenandoah*.

With his army surrounded, his men weak and exhausted, Robert E. Lee realized there was little choice but to surrender his Army to General Grant. On April 9, 1865, in the village of Appomattox Courthouse, the two men met and, although there were other surrenders to follow, effectively brought the bloodiest conflict in the nation's history to an end.

News of the surrender travelled fast, reaching even San Francisco and Seattle within two days, but months later the Confederate warship CSS *Shenandoah* still hadn't gotten the memo.



The *Shenandoah* had started her career at Glasgow, Scotland, as the civilian steamer *Sea King*. After the Confederate Navy secretly purchased her, she put to sea in October 1864 under the cover that she was headed for India on a commercial voyage. When the *Sea King* neared Madeira, she rendezvoused at sea with another ship which transferred Confederate Navy officers, crew members, and heavy guns, and refitted her as a warship.

With James Iredell Waddell on board as Commanding Officer, she was commissioned as the CSS *Shenandoah* on 19 October, 1864. Waddell sailed his ship south through the Atlantic and into the Indian Ocean, and captured nine U.S. flag merchant vessels between late October and the end of 1864. All but two of these were sunk or

burned. In late January 1865, the *Shenandoah* arrived at Melbourne, Australia, where she put in for repairs and provisions and recruited forty “stowaways” to fill out her short-handed crew. Following three weeks in port, the cruiser put to sea, planning to attack the American South Pacific whaling fleet.

When Waddell discovered that his intended targets had been tipped off to his plans, he headed north. He stopped in the Eastern Caroline Islands at the beginning of April, where he seized four Union merchantmen and commandeered their supplies to stock up for further operations. About this time the Confederacy collapsed, but the news would spread very slowly through the distant Pacific. The *Shenandoah* headed for the Sea of Okhotsk, where she took one prize and the crew gained considerable experience in ice navigation, then moved on to the Bering Sea. There, in late June off the coast of Alaska, the *Shenandoah* captured two-dozen more Union vessels, destroying all but a few.

On June 27, 1865, Captain Waddell learned of General Lee’s surrender from a prize, the *Susan & Abigail*, when her captain produced a San Francisco newspaper reporting the flight of the Confederate Government 10 weeks previous. As the paper also contained Confederate President Jefferson Davis’s proclamation after Lee’s surrender, that the “war would be carried on with renewed vigor,” Waddell proceeded to capture 10 more whalers in the space of 7 hours. The *Shenandoah* then headed south towards San Francisco, which he believed would be weakly defended against his cruiser’s guns.

On August 2nd the *Shenandoah* encountered the Liverpool ship *Barracouta* and learned of the final Confederate collapse and the capture of Jefferson Davis. At this point Captain Waddell and his crew knew that their privateering careers had come to an end. Captain Waddell struck the Confederate flag. The CSS *Shenandoah* was dismantled as a man-of-war; her battery was dismantled and struck below, and her hull repainted to resemble an ordinary merchant vessel.

What should they do with their ship? Returning to a US port would mean facing a Union court and the risk of being tried in court and hanged as

pirates. Waddell considered heading for Sydney, or New Zealand, or perhaps Cape Town.

The crew started clamoring for their Captain to give them a firm commitment; he responded that he would take the ship into the “Nearest British port.” After several weeks sailing, the crew was still muttering amongst themselves, just what did the Captain mean by the “Nearest British port.”

The CSS *Shenandoah* then sailed from off the west coast of Mexico via Cape Horn to Liverpool, a voyage of three months and over 9,000 miles, being pursued the whole way by Union vessels.

When the CSS *Shenandoah* finally anchored at the Mersey Bar, she was flying no flag. The pilot refused to take the ship into Liverpool harbor unless they flew a flag. The crew proudly raised the Confederate banner one last time as the CSS *Shenandoah* sailed up the River Mersey.

The British warship HMS *Donegal* happened to be anchored in mid-river. Captain Waddell manoeuvred his ship near to the British man-of-war and dropped anchor. The stainless banner was lowered again for the very last time and Captain Waddell surrendered the CSS *Shenandoah* to Captain Paynter of HMS *Donegal* on November 6, 1865.

In the very last act of the Civil War, Captain Waddell walked up the steps of Liverpool Town Hall and presented a letter to the mayor officially surrendering his vessel to the British government. ♦

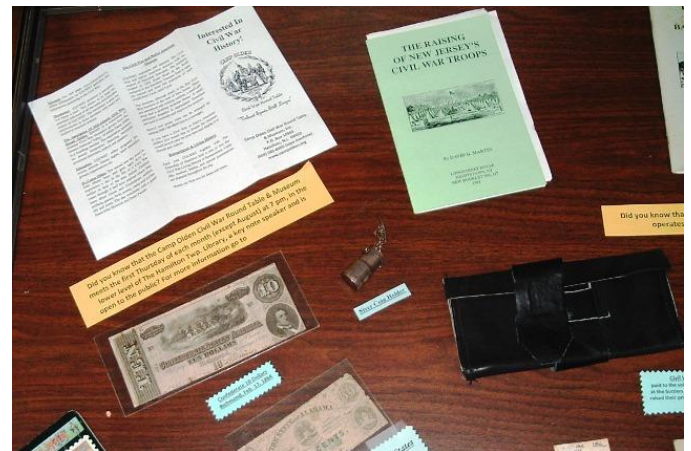
Source: *The Daily Dose, A Spoonful of History from Applewood Books*

Recent Events



Camp Olden signed up to fill the display cases in the Hamilton Township Library for the month of July. Kim Daly used many of her dad, Conrad Brennfleck's collection to tempt, tease and educate anyone checking out the four display cases. Not only were there Civil War artifacts that had been dug up but some antiques and a few reproductions

to round things out. Kim scattered messages encouraging folks to go to COCWRT web site for more information and meeting dates and to visit the Civil War and Native American Museum. She also left some teasers about the original Camp Olden. Kim had a lot of folks looking over her shoulder and asking questions as she set up the display and every time she visited the Library she saw someone leaning over the cases. This was not only a great community service but also a great way to get our name out. Hope you took the time to "check it out." *Kim Daly* ♦



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 *Where am I?* feature, submit a couple of your own photographs of a favorite Civil War site for other members to try to identify.**

We also need member profiles for 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?***" – Battle of Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern) located near Bentonville, Arkansas, just below the Missouri state line.

<http://www.nps.gov/peri/index.htm> ♦

