

The Camp Olden Gazette

News from the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table

Summer 2015

President's Gavel.

As I write this the sun is shining and it feels quite warm! Such a beautiful day! It was the complete opposite on May 9th at the NJ History Fair so called "Spirit of the Jerseys Day" We had plenty of rain in the morning and then the sun came out. Overall I think it was a very successful day.

We have been having some great speakers lately and I have some dynamite ones lined up.

On June 4th we will have our very own Martin Mosho speaking on Women in the Civil War. I am very happy that a brand new member is getting involved.

On July 2nd we will have Deacon George Wunderlich of Fredrick, MD, discussing Civil War Medical Care.

In August we will take our annual break.

On September 3rd we will have our pot luck dinner and the speaker will be our NASA friend Dr. Jim Green.

The October 1st meeting will bring a return visit from our entertainer friend Charlie Zahm.

The November 5th meeting will bring back our *President's Award* recipient Jane Peters Estes.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the meetings!

Your obedient servant,

Bruce. ♦

Camp Olden Medical Unit at the NJ History Fair

By Carole Lokan Moore

The NJ History Fair was held at Monmouth Battlefield State Park on May 9th. My husband Bill and I began early going to the Camp Olden Civil War and Native American Museum to pick up some of the medical equipment that former member Bill Ford had collected and used in a Civil War medical tent display.

We set up our display with medical cots, bodies and chairs which attracted a lot of kids who brought their parents over to the display. We quipped about the vulture at the head of one body and the rat under the bed of the other body.

I portrayed a female volunteer from the local town that had come to the battlefield to assist the surgeon, clean dressings, serve meals, sponge off heated brows, etc. I had a table of "herbs" and a mortar and pestle. The ground herbs were made into a tea and gently served to the wounded in an effort to reduce pain and inflammation. This practice has been used for a thousand years.

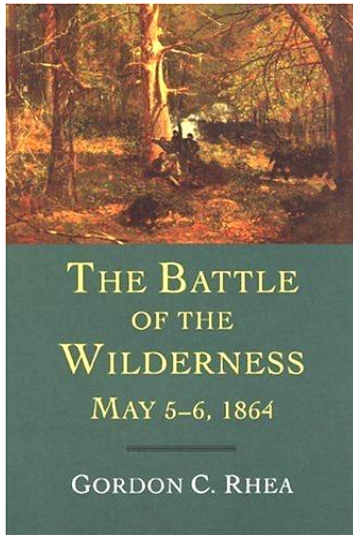
As we know, soldiers severely wounded in the limbs were subject to amputations. The use of a "hot poker" to cauterize the pumping artery after amputation did double duty by also sterilizing the wound, which made the survival rate higher. Since the importance of "cleanliness" was not realized in the early civil war, infection and disease were more the causes of death than actual battle wounds.

The day started with rain showers. Although we were under a nice tree which we thought would protect us from the forecast blazing sun, it did not keep off the drizzle. So several of our medical boxes were closed and stored under the table to protect them. Half way through the day, we could take off our "damp" jackets, enjoy the sunshine and dry out anything that had gotten wet.

Present were members of *Camp Olden* and also the *Sons of the Union Veterans - Lincoln Camp 100* including Corinne and Mike Mazzocchi, Carole and Bill Moore, Sue and Gary DeSiver, Marilyn and Ted Evan and Bruce Smith. Camp Olden President Bruce Sirak was also at the 150th *Committee* tent. Each took turns at the table giving everyone time to wander the History Fair. Cindy and Stan (Town Crier) Saperstein and Dr. David Martin were also involved in the event. ♦

Book Review

Following is a book review submitted by Camp Olden CWRT member John F. Allen, Jr.:



The Battle of the Wilderness May 5 - 6, 1864

By Gordon C. Rhea

It has been referred to as "more a gigantic piece of Indian fighting or bushwhacking of pioneer days than a battle", but there was much more to it. Gordon Rhea has brought form to the chaos that was the Battle of The Wilderness. He begins with organizational issues. Commonly thought of as the first "Grant vs. Lee" battle, Rhea makes clear the organizational issues that more realistically characterize this as a "Lee vs. Meade and Burnside" battle. This is among the problems faced by Ulysses S. Grant who, being recently promoted to Lieutenant General and commander of all Union armies, tried to coordinate both Major General George Gordon Meade's Army of The Potomac and Major General Ambrose Burnside's IX Corps. Coming from the Western Theater and his victories at Forts Henry and Donalson, Vicksburg and Chattanooga, Grant was unaccustomed to the politics that were rife in the Eastern Theater and resulted in at his awkward organizational structure. Adding to these problems, Meade had to deal with his fiery Cavalry Corps commander, Major General Phil Sheridan, with whom he had significant philosophical difference resulting in a poor working relationship. Sheridan, in turn, had an inexperienced 2nd Division commander in

Brigadier General James H. Wilson to whom, unfortunately for the Union, Sheridan assigned the key role of screening the Union right flank after they crossed the Rapidan River.

On the Confederate side, Lee had to deal with a scattered Army of Northern Virginia and untried Corps commanders in Lieutenant Generals Richard Ewell and A. P. Hill. Ewell was newly returned from his serious wounding and leg amputation and Hill was unproven in a Corps commander role. Complicating this further is the fact that Lieutenant General James Longstreet's I Corps only recently returned from their foray into the theaters of war in Georgia and Tennessee, where they participated in the victory at Chickamauga and the unsuccessful siege of Knoxville, and were a couple days' march from the rest of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Detrimental to both sides was the terrain in The Wilderness, a severe challenge to communication and a tremendously difficult place to maneuver troops. Participant observations are rife with descriptions of the terrain and it's unsuitability for movement of large bodies of troops.

The resulting chaos is well described by Rhea, but he manages to fit these actions into a larger context. He interprets the Saunders' Field debacle as resulting from Meade's impatience - interpreted by the author as Meade's attempt to demonstrate his aggressiveness to his new "boss", Ulysses Grant - ordering Major General Gouverneur K. Warren to "open the ball" with his V Corps without waiting for Major General John Sedgwick's VI Corps to be in position. The resulting uncoordinated assaults resulted in bloody Union repulses. Meade repeated this mistake on the Union's southern flank, urging Major General Winfield S. Hancock to attack with his partial II Corps once they began arriving to join Brigadier General George W. Getty's division at the key intersection of the Brock and Orange Plank roads. Try as he might, Grant could not compel Major General Ambrose E. Burnside to move quickly enough to conform to, or coordinate with, either of the Union flanks, creating a unified front with which to assault the Confederate lines. Instead, the IX Corps was too late to support the offensives on either the Union's northern or southern flank.

The resulting two-day battle and its associated cavalry actions are well described by Rhea, and the book includes 20 maps which help immeasurably! What was previously a wild melee is, in the author's skilled hands, an action which, despite really being two separate battles (at Saunders' Field and the Brock Road/Orange Plank Road intersection), was composed of a series of lost opportunities on both sides. Grant failed in his efforts to coordinate the actions of his commanders and their Corps who, in turn, frequently ordered actions based on poor or incomplete information. (Actually, this characteristic began before the two sides were even engaged when, as mentioned earlier, Phil Sheridan gave James Wilson, new to the cavalry arm having been an infantry commander, the critical role of shielding the Federal right flank during their intended march *through* the Wilderness. Is it any wonder the movement failed?) Lee also had problems with his Corps commanders: A. P. Hill in allowing his exhausted Corps to rest rather than entrench, organize and realign during the night of May 5/6 to face the expected Union morning assault; Dick Ewell in his reluctance to approve Gordon's Flank March over Jubal Early's resistance until late in the afternoon (near dark) on May 6. Oh, and James Longstreet's critical wounding at the peak of success during his May 6 flanking movement didn't help matters, either!

The Wilderness action initiated a new, terrible phase of the War as the first action of Grant's Overland Campaign and is deserving of the treatment it is given in this highly recommended book. As an aside, Rhea has also authored an additional three books leading the reader through the horrors of Spotsylvania Court House, the North Anna and Cold Harbor, leading the reader to the point where Grant decides on the Army of The Potomac's crossing of the James River. The associated cavalry actions (including Yellow Tavern) of the campaign are also explained in the context of Grant's thinking and covered in some detail. Each book is extremely helpful in understanding the tactical components of the Campaign, during which Grant never lost sight of his strategic objective of destroying the Army of Northern Virginia. ♦

Civil War Visits.

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

Guided Hiking at Gettysburg

By Corinne Mazzocchi

With emerging foliage and ongoing restoration by the Park Service, early May is a good time to explore the Gettysburg Battlefield. Led by Licensed Battlefield Guide Larry Korczyk, the Friends of Gettysburg ***Heritage Trail Hike*** capitalized on this timing to visually emphasize the battle's movement, the general's decisions and the soldier's perspective.

Both mornings of the two day fifteen mile hike started at the Visitors Center. Wearing boots and backpacks and using walking sticks and bug spray, participants followed the Billy Yank and Johnny Reb Trails. Hiking the battlefield definitely adds reality to the experience. What appear to be gentle slopes in the Peach Orchard and the Wheatfield become hills to climb. The rocky formations at Little Round Top are realized as major obstacles to rapid and cohesive troop movement. The rolling meadow of Pickett's Charge becomes long and hot. Lunch easily delivered to the West Confederate Avenue picnic area provided a strong contrast soldier rations.

Using many historical photographs, Larry highlighted the battlefield as it was and how it is evolving. From the early post-battle photos to later intrusions on the field as an amusement park and a trolley, he intertwined stories of actions, men and their monuments. ♦

*If you wish to pursue these hikes on your own, details are provided in ***Gettysburg Heritage Trail Guide*** published by the National Park Service and Boy Scouts of America which is available in the visitor's center book shop.*



Cemetery Ridge

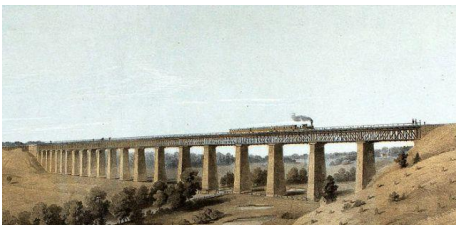
The Seven Days

By Corinne and Mike Mazzocchi

As Generals Lee and McClellan engaged in the 1862 Seven Days, we just did a “Seven Days” tour of Virginia Civil War sites.

Day 1 – Culpeper, Virginia is a historic town. Offering many restaurants and restored buildings, it is a central base from which to explore the battles of Kelly’s Ford, Cedar Mountain and Brandy Station. The Battle of Brandy Station, fought on June 9, 1863, was the largest cavalry battle of the war and the first fight of the Gettysburg Campaign. We saw where Brig. Gen. John Buford crossed the Rappahannock River at Beverley’s Ford. The two mile Buford’s Knoll Walking Trail took us to the hilltop with an impressive 360 degree view where Buford’s troops engaged the forces of Brig. Gen. William Henry Fitzhugh “Rooney” Lee, son of Robert E. Lee. There are shorter trails with interpretative markers at Fleetwood Hill, St. James Church, Cedar Mountain and Kelly’s Ford. Nearby is Graffiti House which was used as a hospital after the battle of Kelly’s Ford. It contains a large collection of soldiers’ graffiti on the walls. See http://www.stonesentinels.com/Brandy_Station/Brandy_Station.php for Brandy Station and <http://www.brandystationfoundation.com/> for the Graffiti House

Day 2 – Just east of Farmville, VA, is the site of High Bridge.



Historical depiction of High Bridge



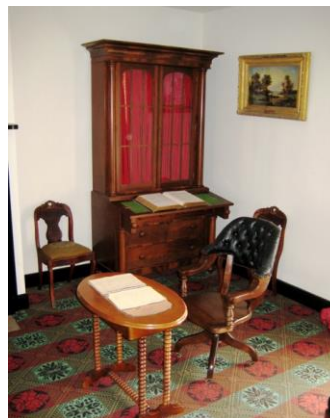
Original Supports

This major crossing of the Appomattox River was heavily guarded by the Confederates. On April 6, 1865, nine hundred Union soldiers attempting to capture the 2500 foot long, 126 feet high were captured by Confederate Cavalry. Crossing on April 7, retreating Confederates burned the rail bridge but failed to destroy the lower wagon bridge thus allowing Union soldiers to continue

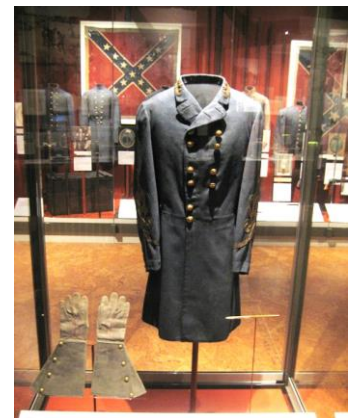
their pursuit of the retreating Confederates. This event is a part of Lee’s retreat to Appomattox. A new pedestrian/bike trail now crosses the where the bridge stood. Original supports are still in place. See <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/high-bridge-trail.shtml> - [general information](#)

Day 3 - The inspiration for our trip was a two day guided tour of Lee’s retreat route from Five Forks through Sailor’s Creek to his surrender at Appomattox. Lead by John Quarstein, historian, author and historical advisor for the Mariners’ Museum U.S.S. Monitor Project, the tour began with a short hike at Five Forks. Quarstein explained the flow of the battle stressing the lack of good information and resulting surprise attacks. At Amelia Court House the story advanced. When Lee had arrived here trains carrying arms and ammunition, which he did not need, were waiting, and the food and supplies, which he desperately needed, had not gotten through. The tour moved to Sailor’s Creek Battlefield. This farmland saw a surge of Confederates in the morning that was swept back in the afternoon by the Union troops. Lee lost a quarter of his men in battle and by desertion. The site is now is a State Park with a new Visitors Center and museum. The Hillsman farmhouse is restored to reflect the 1865 conditions of the family and the soldiers when it was a Union hospital. For information see http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/sailors-creek.shtml#general_information.

Day 4 – Following Lee’s path, we went to Appomattox Court House.



Grant's Table



Lee's Gauntlets and Tunic

Quarstein described the the final engagements and the surrender complications and formalities. We

visited the location of the final stacking of arms and the McLean house which preserved the meeting place of Lee and Grant. Near Appomattox Court House is the new home of the Museum of the Confederacy. For these locations see <http://www.nps.gov/apco/index.htm> and also <http://www.moc.org/visit-us?mode=appomattox>.

Day 5 – After the tour we moved on to Shenandoah National Park and hiked a trail that followed the Brown's Gap road used by "Stonewall" Jackson to cross the Blue Ridge Mountains in the spring of 1862. On the hike down, to the left of the trail, we found a short footpath that led to the grave of William H. Howard, Co. F, 44th VA. Inf, CSA.



Grave of William H. Howard

The 6.5 mile loop trail passed 3 waterfalls which were rapid flowing especially during rainstorm which began half way through the hike. The trail head is on the Skyline Drive across from the parking lot at milepost 82.9. For more information see <http://www.nps.gov/shen/index.htm>.

Day 6 – We hiked the 4.5 mile loop trail covering the battle of Third Winchester. On September 19, 1864, Union General Philip Sheridan called up his Sixth and Nineteenth Corps to break the Confederate positions on the south side of Redbud Run. Following heavy fighting, the Confederate Army under the control of Jubal Early, were forced further back to Winchester. The trails cover the third phase of the Battle. After making defensive stands in and around Winchester, the Confederate forces were forced to retreat thus opening up the Shenandoah Valley to Sheridan

and his Army. Future President, Rutherford B. Hayes, led the final assault on the Confederates at this location. These trails, which are difficult to find, are located at I-81, Exit 317. Take Route 11 east and turn right at the first light. Parking area is on Red Bud Road on the right. For information see: <http://www.visitwinchesterva.com/what-to-see-and-do-1/attractions-1/third-winchester-battlefield-1>.

Day 7 – Our last stop was the Monocacy battlefield near Fredrick, MD.



14th NJ Monument at Monocacy Battlefield

This was a very important battle in which Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace successfully delayed Lt. Gen. Jubal Early in his campaign to capture Washington D. C. We hiked 3 trails covering about 4 miles leading to the Monocacy rail junction, Worthington - McKinney ford, where the Confederates outflanked the Union troops, and various other positions occupied by the opposing forces. For more information see <http://www.nps.gov/mono/index.htm>.

Although covering a lot of ground in a short time, we gained a greater appreciation of battlefield terrain and the hardships endured by the Civil War soldier. ♦



Coming Events –

Camp Olden Civil War Round Table Road Trip

On Saturday, June 20, the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table will sponsor a road trip to the **NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM** located at One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park in Harrisburg, PA. Transportation will be by car pool which will meet at 7:30 AM in Hamilton Market Place by the Barnes & Noble store. Ride duration will be about two hours each way.

Cost: \$11.00 general admission. 60 years + - \$10.00. Military ID card - \$9.00. AARP/AAA - no discount. Admission will be paid at the door. Hours: of operation 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM everyday.

For further information contact Alfred J. Barbano, 215-860-8146, ajbarbano@gamil.com or check the museum web site - <http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/>.

Special Event -

Sat., June 13, 2015 (Rain date – June 14) - Pennsauken Historical Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Burrough-Dover House, 9201 Burrough-Dover Lane, Pennsauken, NJ. 12-1 PM - Tour the Historical Home and grounds of the Burrough-Dover House. 1-2 PM - Demonstration of most modern and up to date fire equipment to be found anywhere else in the area. 2-3 PM - Demonstration by the 12th New Jersey Civil War re-enactors. 3-4 PM - Dedication the "Joseph E. Fitzpatrick Nostalgia Museum". An anniversary cake will be cut and distributed to all present. Music and a "Free Ice Cream Cart". For further information contact Carole or Bill Moore at 609-871-9555 or whitebriarbb@hotmail.com.

Other Events

Fri., June 12 to Sun., June 14 - 8th annual Lehigh Valley Civil War Days (aka Camp Geiger) at Whitehall Parkway, Whitehall, PA. Battles both

days centering on war's last days including trenches & tactical. Living History Street with medical & Sanitary Commission, historical personages, children's games. Artillery & cavalry demonstrations, music, speakers. Saturday concert & night artillery firing. Cavalry, artillery & sutlers. www.friendsofcampgeiger.webs.com

Sat., July 18 & Sun., July 19 - Civil War Weekend at Fort Mifflin, Philadelphia, PA, 10-4. Living history, uniform & weapons demonstrations, musket drills, guided tours, 1 p.m. surgeon scenarios. www.FortMifflin.us.

Saturday, August 8, & Sunday, August 9 - 8th Annual Parker Press Civil War Living History Weekend in Woodbridge, NJ, 10-4. Period impressions, displays, skirmishes. Special 150th program & camp visits Saturday 8 PM to 10 PM. Sponsored by Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey. For information contact Mira Form, 717-420-5564, mkform48@gmail.com

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 Kim Daly - *The Civil War nearly destroyed the great experiment known as the United States of America, but is it possible that the preservation of the republic was influenced by extraterrestrial beings? Abraham Lincoln described strange visions and premonitions that occurred before pivotal moments in his presidency. Union officer Ambrose Bierce wrote about mysterious disappearances and inter-dimensional travel, and a ghostly image of George Washington was witnessed by hundreds of soldiers at Gettysburg prompting an official government investigation. Were alien observers on site during the war and did they take an active roll to preserve the Union?*

See the video at <http://www.history.com/shows/ancient-alien/videos/alien-and-the-civil-war>

Submitted by Kim Daly - *On March 29, 1886, pharmacist John Stith Pemberton, a veteran of the Civil War, brewed up the first batch of what would later become the world's most popular soft drink. However, as originally conceived by Pemberton, his concoction was designed to be marketed as a health tonic that could relieve the symptoms of headaches, impotence, indigestion, nausea, and assorted other ills. We've cooked up a few trivia questions to see how much you know about this popular soft drink. Video at* <http://www.triviatoday.com/blog/article.asp?a=4B88A0> .

Where Am I?

Contributed by John Allen

A major engagement was fought at this intersection in the Eastern Theater in 1864. ***Where Am I?*** (Answer on page 12) ♦



Here are a few hints:

- Key to the Union position, this crossroad was the scene of two days of very heavy fighting.
- Two Union and one Confederate general fell dead near this spot. And one Confederate Corps commander was seriously wounded near here. Three of these are marked with monuments.
- Entrenchments are still present lining the road running approximately north-south (upper left to lower right in the photo).
- Few monuments were placed near here, but one - placed in 1964 - is dedicated to a New Jersey infantry regiment.
- The southern flank of the Union line was situated near here at the end of the battle.
- It is in the western reaches of a National Military Park "Where 100,000 Fell".
- Perhaps the most well-known "Lee to the Rear" episode occurred west of here during the initial phase of a Confederate counterattack.
- While not a blacktop road at the time of the battle, the road running lower left to upper right across the image had an improved surface. Don't let the automobiles fool you! ♦



Confederate Army Units Surrendered in Piecemeal Fashion

By Chuck Hamilton - chattanooga.com

Contrary to common assumption, the American Civil War did not come to a screeching halt after Appomattox. The Army and Navy of the Confederate States of America did not surrender all at one time, but rather in a piecemeal fashion over a widely dispersed geographic distribution, including one unit overseas.

On 11 March 1865, Brig. Gen. James Slaughter and Col. John Salmon "Rip" Ford met with Union Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace and agreed to terms of surrender for all forces in the District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona that included an amnesty for former Confederates and the gradual emancipation of slaves. Maj. Gen. John G. Walker, temporarily commanding the district in the absence of Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder, refused the terms.

On 9 April 1865, General-in-chief Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army and Department of Northern Virginia to General-of-the-Army Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, Virginia.



On 20 April 1865, Maj. Gen. Howell Cobb surrendered the District of Georgia and Florida to Maj. Gen. Edward Canby at Macon, Georgia.

On 21 April 1865, Col. John S. Mosby disbanded Mosby's Partisan Rangers, (also known as 43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry) at Salem, Virginia.

On 26 April 1865, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered the Division of the West under himself, the Army of Tennessee under Gen. Braxton Bragg, the Department of North Carolina under Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, and the Department of Tennessee and Georgia under Lt. Gen. William Hardee to Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman at Durham Station, North Carolina.

On 4 May 1865, Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor surrendered the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana to Maj. Gen. Edward Canby at Citronelle, Alabama.

On 5 May 1865, Maj. Gen. Dabney Maury surrendered the District of the Gulf to Maj. Gen. Edward Canby at Citronelle, Alabama.

Also on 5 May 1865, Pres. Jefferson Davis met with his Cabinet for the last time in Washington, Georgia (Wilkes County), to dissolve the government of the Confederate States of America.

On 8 May 1865, Capt. Jesse McNeill surrendered McNeill's Partisan Rangers to Maj. Gen. (and future U.S. President) Rutherford B. Hayes at Sycamore Dale, West Virginia.

On 9 May 1865, Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest surrendered Forrest's Cavalry Corps to Brig. Gen. James H. Wilson at Gainesville, Alabama.

Also on 9 May 1865, Brig. Gen. James Martin surrendered the District of Western North Carolina and Col. Will Thomas the Thomas Legion of Cherokee Indians and Highlanders to Col. William C. Bartlett at Waynesville, North Carolina, after the Thomas Legion surrounded and captured Bartlett's entire command the previous day.

On 10 May 1865, Maj. Gen. Samuel Jones surrendered the Department of South Carolina, Florida, and South Georgia to Brig. Gen. Edward M. McCook at Tallahassee, Florida.

Also on 10 May 1865, COMO Ebenezer Farrand surrendered the CSS *Nashville*, CSS *Baltic*, CSS *Morgan*, and several other vessels, nearly all the remaining warships in the Confederate Navy, to Rear Admiral Henry Thatcher at Nanna Hubba, Alabama.

On 12 May 1865, Brig. Gen. William T. Wofford surrendered the Department of North Georgia to Brig. Gen. Henry M. Judah at Kingston, Georgia (Bartow County).

On 13 May 1865, the last land battle of the war was fought at Palmito Ranch in Texas, near Brownsville, with Confederate forces under Col. Rip Ford (incl. his own 2nd Texas Cavalry) defeating decisively the Union forces under Col. Theodore Barrett.

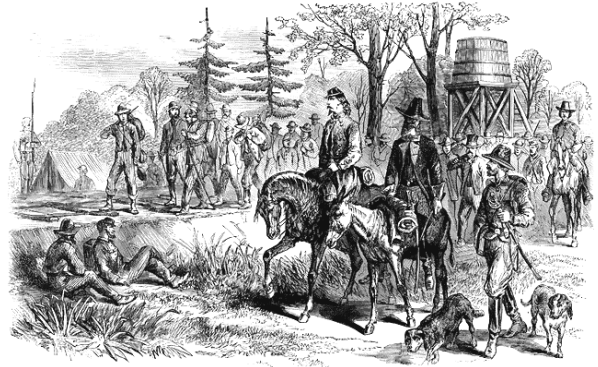
On 15 May 1865, Brig. Gen. John Echols disbanded the Department of East Tennessee and

Southwestern Virginia at Saltville, Virginia.

On 26 May 1865, Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner surrendered the Army of the Trans-Mississippi to Maj. Gen. Edward Canby at New Orleans, Louisiana. Buckner was in direct field command of the army at the time it was surrounded by Union forces. This made Buckner the only General to surrender two armies during the war (Fort Donelson).

On 30 May 1865, Brig. Gen. Slaughter and Col. Ford disbanded the remaining field forces of the District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona at Brownsville, Texas.

On 2 June 1865, Gen. Edmund Kirby-Smith surrendered the Department of the Trans-Mississippi to Maj. Gen. Edward Canby at Galveston, Texas.



On 3 June 1865, Capt Jonathan H. Carter surrendered the CSS *Missouri* to LCDR William E. Fitzhugh at Alexandria, Louisiana.

On 23 June 1865, Brig. Gen. Stand Watie, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, surrendered the First Indian Brigade of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi to Lt. Col. Asa C. Matthews at Doaksville, Choctaw Nation (Indian Territory).

On 4 July 1865, Maj. Gen. Joseph Shelby led his Iron Brigade and other troops in his Missouri Division across the Rio Grande at Eagle Pass, Texas, into Piedad Negras, Empire of Mexico, to avoid surrender.

Accompanying Shelby's column were former Confederate governors Pendelton Murrah (Texas), Henry Allen (Louisiana), Thomas Reynolds (Missouri), and Isham Harris (Tennessee), as well as ex-generals Edmund Kirby-Smith, Sterling Price, John Bankhead Magruder, Alexander W.

Terrell, and other officers of the former Trans-Mississippi Department and their families.

On 6 November 1865, CMDR James Waddell surrendered the privateer vessel CSS *Shenandoah* and its crew to Capt R.N Paynter of the HMS *Donegal* at Liverpool, England. It was the only Confederate Navy ship to circumvent the globe. The crew remained in Europe for several years afterward, for the most part, and eventually returned home. The *Shenandoah* was sold to the Sultan of Zanzibar.

On 20 August 1866, President Andrew Johnson declared the War Between the States officially over and peace restored.

Under the direction of former COMO Matthew Fontaine Maury of the Confederate Navy, the ex-officers and troops who had crossed into the Empire of Mexico established the New Virginia Colony in the state of Veracruz at the invitation of Emperor Maximilian. Its central city was Carlota, named for Maximilian's empress. Slaves were not allowed, slavery still being against Mexican law. When the republican Juaristas (supporters of Pres. Benito Juarez, whom the French ousted in 1864) overthrew Maximilian's government, these former Confederates returned north, many becoming prominent citizens.

Between ten and twenty thousand former Confederates immigrated to the Empire of Brasil at the invitation of Dom Pedro II, who wanted to encourage the growth of cotton. Establishing themselves in several communities, these people became the foundation of an ethnic group unique to Brasil known today as Los Confederados, now centered in the Sao Paulo town of Americana. The now multi-racial Los Confederados are extremely proud of their history and send young people to the American South every year to see the former homeland. The original settlers included an ancestor of former First Lady Rosalyn Carter.

The Reconstruction of the former Confederate states lasted from the end of the war until the Great Compromise of 1877, which is also called the Corrupt Bargain. The so-called Redemption Era of the South (which brought us Jim Crow, the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and drastic historical revisionism) lasted from that time until the civil rights legislation of the mid-1960's. ♦

The Union Dead

By Jean Huets

“The Dead in this War – there they lie, strewing the fields and woods and valleys and battle-fields of the South – Virginia ... the terraces of Fredericksburgh ... the varieties of the strayed dead ... the clusters of camp graves ... the single graves in the woods or by the roadside ...”

–Walt Whitman, “Memoranda during the War”

The best-known national cemeteries – Arlington in Virginia, Golden Gate in California – mingle veterans of different wars. But in the burial grounds where space for graves ran out sooner, Civil War soldiers dominate. Fredericksburg, Glendale, Antietam, City Point: these smaller cemeteries have a sleepier air than the seemingly infinite green fields of Arlington.

Cemeteries dedicated to the war dead came into being before the Civil War, but the design we see today is of the 1870s. Many people don't realize how specifically standardized they are: there is a wall of brick or stone enclosing the burial ground, a superintendent's lodge with a mansard roof (the superintendent, then, a veteran “thoroughly disabled for any kind of physical work”), a flagstaff, monuments – the plan covered all the details, down to drainage of the land, wells and cisterns for watering flowers and shrubs, and stables to house animals “for the care of the cemetery.”

Most important were the headstones. The wooden headboards in use after the war deteriorated quickly, and for honor and continuing costs, it was decided that durable stone should be used. In 1872 Congress appropriated \$1 million for that stone to be quarried, cut and set into the ground, and in 1873 Quartermaster-Gen. Montgomery Meigs invited bids.

Slabs were to be four inches thick (“of uniform thickness throughout”), 10 inches wide and 12 inches above ground. From Washington southward, the gravestones were to be set 24 inches into the ground, up North, 30 inches. Sharply squared edges were initially required. (Over the years, the stones have sunk, some nearly to the names, and the edges of many markers have been damaged by maintenance equipment,

especially power mowers.)

Anyone who has visited the old graves of a national cemetery is familiar with the marble “Civil War type” headstone design: a depressed shield, within which the inscription stands in bas relief. The design was executed by sandblasting, a new technology in the 1870s, in which the raised areas — the inscription and the border of the shield — were covered while the shield was blasted away by a steam-powered jet of sand. The shield design came to be used not only for the Civil War dead, but for the dead of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the campaigns against American Indians and the Spanish-American War.

Each inscription includes the deceased’s name and state, and the grave’s number. (The grave numbers are not equivalent to service or “serial” numbers, which in any case were not used in the Civil War.) Usually the rank is included, although one contractor convinced the government that “a soldier has no rank” and so markers for privates don’t always bear a rank. Until 1879, the graves of the unknown were marked only with a 6-inch-by-6-inch stone block incised with the grave number.

The brazen jobbery surrounding the contracts for the headstones would be laughable, were it not for the subject: monuments to the men who suffered and died for their country. President Ulysses S. Grant’s secretary of war, William Belknap, gave the inside edge to Samuel Bridges, a friend of his.

Bridges won the contracts for supplying marble headstones in every national cemetery, except one: Fredericksburg. There, the stones are granite. Granite being more durable than marble, it was preferred, but more expensive. It is harder, therefore harder to work, and it is heavier, therefore more costly to transport. Only one granite bidder came within the appropriation, Edward P. Doherty, a former cavalry officer who had commanded the expedition that captured John Wilkes Booth.

Like the marble, the granite had to be of monumental grade, with a finer and more uniform grain than building stone, and free of flaws like yellow or rusty discoloration; “knots,” or dark-gray or black segregations of minerals like iron and magnesium; and veinlike intrusions. For his

granite, Doherty engaged Westham Quarry.

The quarry, on the south bank of the James River about seven miles west of Richmond, had already passed into Northern hands, washed along in the post-bellum flood of Northern capital and Southern tax woes. It would later supply granite for the State, War, and Navy Department building (now called the Eisenhower Executive Office building), a Second Empire *belle laide* next to the White House.

The original headstone design, which assumed the stone would be incised, not sandblasted, “gave us a great deal of concern,” said another bidder, “because the letters were cut so deep that it jeopardized the letters and made it more difficult to get the name on the slab, on account of the size of the letters ... those deep letters and the large capital at the commencement of the name.”

Bridges, the marble contractor, avoided the difficulty altogether by acquiring the patent and machinery for the sandblast. He also got his friend Belknap to accept changes in the design: a reduction in the letter height from two inches to one inch, all capital letters of uniform size, and slightly rounded edges, which would reduce spoilage of slabs that were slightly chipped before being set. Bridges offered Doherty use of the sandblast, in exchange for a royalty payment per stone, but Doherty declined and stayed with the original design.

As a result, the Fredericksburg markers are strikingly different from those in other national cemeteries. The sharply incised granite markers contrast with the sandblasted marble, whose inscriptions were “softer” even when new. The granite markers also display no shield, and the incised inscriptions are not nearly as orderly in appearance. Some stones mix upper- and lower-case abbreviations — for example, Capt. — with names in all capital letters with larger initial letters. The work has a crowded quality, as feared.

Yet while the marble markers are more refined, with their graceful shields and evenly sized and neatly spaced letters, the Fredericksburg headstones have a sturdy, hand-hewn look. Unlike the glassy faces of many granite markers of today, the Fredericksburg markers remain unpolished. They have the “ruggedness, simplicity” that Walt

Whitman extolled in “typical soldiers.”



Granite Marker



Marble Marker

Aesthetic concerns, however, were not foremost in Doherty's mind. Delays at the Westham Quarry set him so far behind schedule, he was forced to petition the quartermaster-general's office for an extension to his contract. Worse yet was the government inspector overseeing the contract.

The quartermaster-general employed a small team of civil engineers to inspect every aspect of the cemeteries, from the walls to the cisterns to the grave markers. The inspector “inflicted on us,” as Doherty said, a young engineer named George D. Chenoweth.

Chenoweth condemned the slabs at the quarry as too yellow. After another inspector passed 600 slabs of granite at the Fredericksburg wharf, Doherty had them hauled to the graveyard, only to see Chenoweth condemn those slabs. The stonecutters' wages as well as the transportation costs were complete losses. Young Chenoweth, Doherty fumed, was “continually harassing me and condemning the work.”

A building contractor for the cemeteries claimed that Chenoweth touched him up for money, a gold watch, and “a fast horse in Fredericksburgh” but still would not pass his work because “he could not get money enough.” A Vermont marble supplier was “excessively annoyed” with Chenoweth, but allowed that “the young man was honest.”

Whether honest or of a piece with the rest of the headstones jobbery, Chenoweth's condemnations, together with Westham Quarry's delays, spelled disaster for Doherty. Squeezed for time and money, he lost the contract for the granite headstones, only to see the government arrange

directly with the Westham Quarry to do the rest of the work.

Eventually, the Westham contract and the dealings between Secretary of War Belknap and the marble contractor Bridges led to hearings by the Committee on Military Affairs. Chenoweth himself did not testify, and the government did not pursue him. It had a bigger fish to fry: Belknap himself.

The hearings on the headstones took place over spring of 1876. It wasn't Belknap's only scandal; in fact, he was ultimately brought down by a rotten deal involving corruption at Western trading posts. He tearfully resigned in the middle of the headstone hearings, in March 1876 (and was impeached anyway). The findings of the headstone hearings, published in August, stated that “the awarding of the contracts for the headstones ... were made in violation of law, and show a disregard of official duty.”

The postwar federal corruption around the grave markers echoed the nauseating duty of post-battle burial. Following the Battle of Fredericksburg in late 1862, Gen. Ambrose Burnside had to request two truces (granted by Gen. Robert E. Lee) to bury the Union dead. The numbers of dead, and maybe the war-weariness of the burial detail, made a bad job of it. The careless work appalled a Prussian observer, and evoked a grisly observation from a Fredericksburg resident: “The bodies received such a superficial burial, that parts of them after a short time showed above ground, & dogs brought home many a limb.”

And then, after the war, came the purposeful exhumations, as boys and men were gathered in from impromptu graveyards at battlefields and field hospitals, to be reinterred at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery: Capt. J.S. Abell of Ohio, who died in May 1864, originally buried at Mitchell's Farm, Spotsylvania; Pvt. George Bluch of Pennsylvania, who died in September 1862, originally buried at the Woolen Factory Lot, Fredericksburg; Pvt. John W. Smith, who died in January 1863, originally buried at Robinson's Farm, Stafford ...

The corruption of the grave, a process of nature, was for Whitman entirely different from the corruption of grasping contractors and arrogant

government employees, “the skeletons and skulls in the vaults of federal almshouses.” Having nursed the wounded and dying in the Civil War hospitals, Whitman knew well the exhalations of the degraded human body, but his “Infinite Dead,” the remains of Northern and Southern soldiers, did not smell of rotteness. “The entire land is saturated – perfumed with their impalpable ashes’ exhalation in Nature’s chemistry distill’d, and shall be so forever, and every grain of wheat and ear of corn, and every flower that grows, and every breath we draw.” ♦

Jean Huets is publisher of Circling Rivers, an independent press dedicated to historical fiction, nonfiction and poetry.

Civil War Quotes:

"Let me tell you what is coming. After the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives you may win Southern independence, but I doubt it. The North is determined to preserve this Union. They are not a fiery, impulsive people as you are, for they live in colder climates. But when they begin to move in a given direction, they move with the steady momentum and perseverance of a mighty avalanche." - Gov. Sam Houston-Texas

"If I owned Texas and Hell, I would rent out Texas and live in Hell" - Philip Henry Sheridan

I hate newspapermen. They come into camp and pick up their camp rumors and print them as facts. I regard them as spies, which, in truth, they are. If I killed them all there would be news from Hell before breakfast. I think I understand what military fame is; to be killed on the field of battle and have your name misspelled in the newspapers. - William Tecumseh Sherman

"I stood by Grant when he was drunk and he stood by me when I was crazy, and now we stand by each other always." - William Tecumseh Sherman

"You cannot make soldiers of slaves, or slaves of soldiers. The day you make a soldier of them is the beginning of the end of the Revolution. And if slaves seem good soldiers, then our whole theory of slavery is wrong." - Howell Cobb, in opposition to Robert E. Lee's plan, towards the end of the war, to enlist slaves into the rebel army. ♦

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.**

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. ♦

Hospitality:

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

June – Corinne and Mike Mazzocchi

July – Susan Slowik & Donald Cooper

August – No Meeting

September - **Covered Dish (5:45 start)**

October – Al Barbano

November – Martin Moshu

December – The Board ♦

Answer to “Where Am I”? – The intersection of Brock Road and Orange Plank Road. Defended by Major General Winfield S. Hancock's II Corps and Brigadier General George W. Getty's 2nd Division of the VI Corps during the Battle of The Wilderness. The crossroad was threatened on May 5, 1864, by Lieutenant General A. P. Hill's Third Corps and on May 6 by Lieutenant General James Longstreet's First Corps. Federal troops evacuated this position to move southeast to Spotsylvania Court House on May 7. Union Generals killed in action were Brig. Gen. James Wadsworth and Brig. Gen. Alexander Hays. The Confederate General killed in action was Brig. Gen. Micah Jenkins. Confederate Corps Commander Lt. Gen. James Longstreet was wounded. ♦