

The Camp Olden Gazette

News from the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table

Summer 2016

President's Gavel.

There have been some interesting events over the last few weeks including the reenactment at Neshaminy, the very successful Camp Olden trip to Gettysburg and the *Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair* at Monmouth Battlefield State Park in Manalapan. I heard that all went very well at the History Fair (see accompanying article on page 5). I thank every one of the volunteers for the day. Sorry I missed everyone but I had another obligation and was unable to be in two places at once but I am sure that Camp Olden was well served in the good hands of Vice President Bill Moore and other members of the round table.

Our up-coming speakers are:

June 2nd - Gene Schmiel - *Citizen General Jacob Dolson Cox*

July 7th - Movie with Producer Tom Burke - "Called to Duty"

September 1st - Paul Kahan - *Simon Cameron, Admirable Scoundrel*

October 6th - Allen Meash - Maj. Gen. Charles F. Smith

Hope to see you all at the June meeting!

Your obedient servant,

Bruce. ♦

Hospitality:

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

June – Corinne & Mike Mazzocchi

July - Susan Slowik & Don Cooper

Aug - No Meeting

Sept – **Need Volunteer**

Oct - Covered Dish – 5:45 Start Time

Nov – **Need Volunteer**

Dec – Board ♦

Camp Olden Gettysburg Trip

Contributed by Corinne Mazzocchi

Exploring the Gettysburg Battlefield always offers new discoveries. It might be a new or expanded opinion of the battle, a site not seen before, hearing how the battlefield became what it is today or even a different restaurant. The recent Camp Olden trip, well planned by Sue and Gary DeSiver, had all of these possibilities.

Led by Licensed Battlefield Guide Dave Hamacher, the Saturday morning hiking tour started on Cemetery Hill. It passed often overlooked Menchey's Spring where soldiers were protected once there but at risk getting to and leaving. The climb up Culp's Hill followed a trail through the woods, removed from the tour road, making the soldiers' struggles a reality. On top of the hill by the modern tower, Dave explained there could have been a thousand soldiers placed there in that limited space. The tour then went on down Culp's Hill to Pardee Field and returned up Cemetery Hill with explanations of the flow of battle.



Cemetery Hill

Licensed Battlefield Guide and Camp Olden member Ralph Siegel presented the afternoon tour - *Art in the Park*. His lively lecture showed how the styles for memorials gradually changed from neoclassic, the Soldiers National Monument, to realism, the North Carolina Monument sculpted

by Gutzon Borglum of Mt. Rushmore fame. Ralph's stories of myths and facts were intriguing. Many monuments contain symbolism not easily recognized today. The Mississippi memorial has several references to "the lost cause."

Saturday ended with good food and interesting conversation at the Dobbin House Restaurant.

Sunday's tour, again led by Dave Hamacher, explored lesser known places around the battlefield. It started where the first shot was fired on the Chambersburg Pike at Knoxlyn Road, three miles west of Gettysburg. The adjacent original building has been acquired by the Park Service and, as funds grow, will be developed for interpretation. Future development is also planned for our next stop, the newly acquired Benner Farm and springhouse on the Old Harrisburg Road.



Benner Farm

The next stop was the Coster Avenue Mural. Having viewed the sad condition of the mural in the past, seeing it restored was remarkable. It has been reverse-painted on glass and looks great. The tour ended with a short climb up Power's Hill to look back toward Spangler's Spring and the top of Culp's Hill. It was a bonus piece of information to learn that the mini-golf course below Power's Hill will become part of the battlefield when the owner retires.



Power's Hill

It was a very enjoyable and informative weekend. Hope to see more members on next year's trip. ♦
(Photographs by Mike Mazzocchi)

Civil War Visits.

One of our members did some traveling over the past few months. Following is a "field report".

EXCHANGE HOTEL & Civil War MEDICAL MUSEUM

Contributed by Jane Peters Estes

My husband and I recently took a 4-day trip to Virginia which I nicknamed the "Founding Fathers" tour because it included the homes of four former presidents (Washington, Jefferson, Madison & Monroe). We also used the opportunity to do more genealogical research on Gary's family (Estes). While in Fredericksburg, Virginia, we visited the Heritage Center on Barton Street and saw the original 1798 deed to the Estes' family plantation, Greenfields, with his ancestor's signature (Richard Estes). The curator allowed Gary to hold the document and even made a copy for us to take home. Very exciting for a couple of history geeks!

We ended up with a little bit of extra time so, of course, I had to include a Civil War related site to our travels. I had read about the Exchange Hotel in Gordonsville, Virginia, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register and thought it would be an interesting site.



The Exchange Hotel was once a thriving tavern in the 1840's and a Railroad Grand Hotel during the 1860's. The building was used as the Gordonsville Receiving Hospital during the Civil War where 70,000 Confederate and Union soldiers were treated. After the war, it became Union-occupied as a Freedmen's Bureau.

The first floor has exhibits regarding the

building's use as a tavern. When the Orange Alexandria railroad came to Gordonsville and connected with the Central Virginia tracks, waiting passengers were treated to fried chicken, ham sandwiches, fried pies and fruits. In 1869, Dr. George W. Bagby proclaimed it "the chicken leg centre of the universe." It would be another eight decades before local trains provided food and beverage services.

There is also an exhibit about the Confederate Secret Service. When Jeb Stuart operated in the Eastern Theater, he reported to Dr. Cornelius Boyle who was Major General Provost Marshal of the Army of Northern Virginia. The secret cypher codes and clandestine visits by known spies add mystery and intrigue to this well-fortified railroad supply junction.

In March of 1862, the Confederacy transformed the Exchange Hotel into the Gordonsville Receiving Hospital. The wounded and dying from the nearby battlefields of Cedar Mountain, Mine Run, Chancellorsville, Trevilian, Brandy Station and the Wilderness were brought in by the trainload to the railroad platform in front of the hotel. In one year alone, 23,000 men were treated at the Exchange. The second floor has exhibits which showcase the hotel's use at this time.

The once beautifully manicured lawn and gardens around the building were churned into a sea of mud and debris as tents and crude sheds sprang up to house the overflow of wounded. The fields behind the hotel became a garden of graves that would eventually claim a harvest of more than 700 soldiers.

To protect the newly freed slaves, the Federal Government created the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, usually referred to as the Freedmen's Bureau. Using confiscated Confederate property, the government established schools, hospitals and courtrooms.

The Exchange Hotel was used for all of these purposes from 1865 to 1868. In 1867, there were 250 students registered to learn to read and write in the hotel. Court sessions were also held here for cases no higher than \$100 or 30 days in jail and were adjudicated on the first floor (although the Freedman's Bureau exhibit is located upstairs).



Exchange Hotel

Gary and I were dismayed to see the account of a "Mrs. Estes" who was fined in one of the court hearings for her treatment of former slaves. I told Gary that I was glad it wasn't **MY** side of the family! We later learned that it was not one of his direct family either, but a far-removed collateral ancestor.

While the collection exhibited at the Exchange Hotel is small, it is interesting and covers several different aspects of the building's use. If you have the opportunity, we recommend a visit!

For information visit www.hgiexchange.com

Like the GAR Museum in Philadelphia, this facility is staffed mostly by volunteers who have a sincere love of the building's history and its role in our country's Civil War. The administrator, Angel May, welcomed us, answered questions, and was delighted when we were able to provide additional information about a photograph on the 3rd floor. *(The picture included Civil War nurse Annie Bell Stubbs but she was not identified. I forwarded documentation to Angel to correct this situation and she was delighted to "put a name to the face" and give credit to one of the volunteer nurses. Annie is one of the nurses whose formerly unmarked grave was finally identified with a stone purchased with funds raised by volunteers in 1996. She is interred in West Laurel Hill Cemetery near Philadelphia.)* ♦



Reenacting - Corps of Engineers.

Contributed by Dan Fox

I have been involved with CW Reenacting for 20 years now. In the early years I was a private in the 110th Pa. Vol. Inf. Our unit was part of the Mifflin Guard, which is the parent company for units in the Mid-Atlantic States. I was involved with as much of the battles, living history, parades and other CW activities as possible. As we all grow old, sleeping on the ground and enjoying all types of weather wears you out.

A few years ago, one of the men in our unit was approached by an older gentleman who asked if our unit would be interested in some civil war period civil engineering equipment that his grandfather had given him. It just so happened that one of the privates in our unit was a civil engineer as was his father. Also we had two veterans who were in the Army Corps of Engineers. Well one thing lead to another and our unit decided to change its approach to the reenactment theme and would go into the life of what it was to be in the Engineers in the CW.

With the father and son team researching the profession and the army veterans and with the help of the other men in the regiment the 110th PA was transformed into a Company of US Army Engineers. The unit portrays two aspects of the Army Engineers: Topographical Engineering and Construction Engineering. Topographical Engineering is the mapping of anything and anywhere the Commanding General wishes. At our various reenactments, living histories, and other education programs we map a given area by foot. Several men walk a certain area, others site their movements, we have large black and white poles for this siting, a civil engineer has a small table with a pocket transit, compass, and other optics to map. Over the years we have done fine maps of Neshaminy, Eckley Miners Village, Landis Valley, Allaire, Gettysburg and other sites. We inform guests of the way when the company was in campaign how the use of horsemen were used to convey information to various units in the field.

Our unit also uses the Corps of Engineers to demonstrate how the army on campaign went about in the construction of roads, bridges,

(especially the pontoon bridges) defense positions, working with the railroad in building tracks, bridges setting up of camps to towns.

Our company of veteran engineers has built demonstration scale models of pontoon bridges (these are 5 feet in length with three pontoons with planking being supported. It shows how the bridge is secured to the water and the shore line.)

One interesting item that is shown and put to use is a *Civil War Copier*. By using a wooden box with a glass top and an opening on the reverse side (12 x 12 x 3) blue print paper with the aid of a chemical bath with sunlight can copy a printed paper (especially maps). The way that it is done is a map is drawn on blue print paper; a thin sheet of paper that has been treated with the chemical bath is placed between the map and the glass cover. Using direct sunlight for 3 minutes, the paper is then placed in a clear water bath, rinsed and let dry. The end result is a black paper with the diagram of the map. Then with the use of colored pencils, blue for water and red for roads a basic map is created. The maps fade after a while but the officers do have a basic map for use at a given time. With enough boxes, supplies, and sunlight, maps or papers can be continually reproduced. According to regulations commanding officers in the field, required new maps every 24 hours.

The Company has the equipment to demonstrate how roads were laid out, watch towers, emplacement for siege cannon, also designing the layout of tracks for the railroad.

It is very interesting when people who are in the various construction professions or military members talk and exchange ideas or past dealing with similar projects in the field of engineering and when members of various reenactments regiments approach us and ask "How did you do all this?" When the battle theme is being developed by the generals of the various armies, our company is often asked to map all the areas where we would fight also do help build defensive areas. Come see us in action at the *Civil War Skirmish and Encampment* at the Historic Village at Allaire, Wall, NJ. (See details on page 6.)

I hope this helps to inform members of the Round Table of other themes in the reenactment community. ♦

Who Am I?



I began my career in the navy after receiving an education at Norwich Academy from 1837 to 1839. I enlisted in the United States Navy in 1840 as a midshipman. I served on the fleet which supported the landings of Winfield Scott at Vera Cruz in 1847 during the Mexican-American War, and reached the grade of lieutenant by 1855.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, I was sent by President Abraham Lincoln to begin recruiting troops loyal to the Union from Kentucky. I created Camp Dick Robinson in Garrard County, and loyal troops began arriving. For my actions, I was made brigadier general of volunteers on September 16, 1861. I saw my first major combat during the Battle of Shiloh where I led the 4th Division within the Army of the Ohio under Union General Don Carlos Buell. I enjoyed success when my troops arrived on the field at a critical moment to help repulse a Confederate attack as well as take part in a Union counterattack. After the battle, I continued to lead the 4th Division during Henry W. Halleck's advance on Corinth along the Chattanooga River. On July 19, 1862, I was promoted to major general, becoming the only naval officer, from either the Union or Confederate navies, to become a full-rank major general of infantry during the Civil War. After I was promoted, I was given command of the Army of Kentucky, which consisted of only two brigades. I led the brigades into Kentucky in order to help stop the Confederate invasion of the state led by Braxton Bragg and Edmund Kirby Smith. On August 30, 1862, I was defeated at the battle of Richmond, Kentucky, by General Edmund Kirby Smith. The inexperienced Union troops fled from the field of battle, losing a great quantity of equipment, as well as 5,300 men. I was slightly wounded during the battle; however, while recovering, I was shot and killed by one of my fellow officers, Brigadier General Jefferson C. Davis, who shot me over an insult. (Source: *Civil War Trust*.) ♦

Answer to "Who Am I" is on page 8.

Spirit of the Jerseys History Fair

Contributed by Sue DeSiver and Carole Moore



Soldiers of the Fort Dix Military

This year's *Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair* was once again held at Monmouth Battlefield State Park. Hundreds of visitors participated in military exhibits and demonstrations from Revolutionary War times thru Vietnam to represent the long history of New Jersey and its participation in significant events. Reenactors of every era contributed to the festivities including music from the WWII era thru Vietnam along with famous actors of the day.

Bruce Smith manned the information table for the Camp Olden CWRT. Bill and Carole Moore shared those duties as well as staffing the table for Sons of Union Veterans, Lincoln Camp 100. Gary and Sue DeSiver provided afternoon relief. Carole Moore portrayed a Civil War medic, serving homemade bread spread with lard and applesauce, a Civil War recipe for the injured troops.

Information, displays, and demonstrations were provided by many of NJ's historical organizations including plowing with draft horses and sheep shearing. There were musical performances by the Delaware Cornet Band among others. Also this year were some programs in the indoor auditorium including a PowerPoint on Mourning Customs and the Civil War and first person interpretations of Walt Whitman, George Washington, and Harriet Tubman. Additional performances were outdoors at a "Hay Bale Theater". Another interesting exhibit was the "replica" of Abraham Lincoln's coffin by Batesville Coffin Manufacturers. Extra-long for his height, the black and steel studded coffin "lay in state" at the visitor's center during the History Fair.

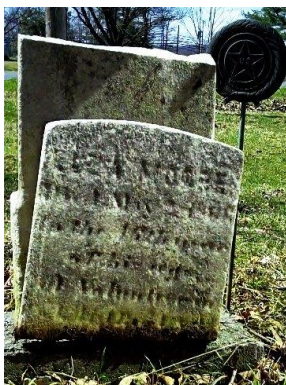
The weather was variably cool and then warm, but the rain held off until evening. All in attendance seemed to enjoy the day. (Photo by EvaJo Alvarez). ♦

Cemetery Corner

Continuing our feature where readers can submit one or two paragraphs and a photo of a Civil War veteran's headstone. It's an easy way to get your work in print and give tribute to a CW veteran.

Elijah ("Elza") Moore

Contributed by John F. Allen, Jr.



The son of former Amwell Township, NJ, slave Prime Moore (manumitted 19 March, 1805), 44 year old Elijah ("Elza") enlisted at Trenton in the 41st Regiment US Colored Troops on 1 October, 1864, for "one year or during the war".

Organized at Camp William Penn in Philadelphia between September 30 and December 7, 1864, the 41st USCT joined the X Corps in Major General Benjamin F. Butler's Army of The James in Virginia. A month later Corps command was changed to Major General Edward O. C. Ord, and in the resulting shake-up the Corps was disbanded and the regiment was attached to the XXV Corps for the remainder of the Civil War, seeing action during the Siege of Petersburg at Fair Oaks, Hatcher's Run, the fall of Petersburg, and in the Appomattox Court House Campaign. Following Lee's surrender, the 41st was ordered to the Mexican border in Texas where Elza remained until he mustered out at Brownsville, TX, on 10 December, 1865.

Elza returned to his home in Hunterdon County, but only four months later his death was reported on 29 April, 1866. He is buried in the Mt. Airy "Parsonage" cemetery, West Amwell Township, NJ. As the sensibilities of the time dictated, he was buried separately from the white church members. His marble stone is nearly illegible at present, but his service is remembered and his grave is marked annually with a flag. ♦

Coming Events –

Saturday, June 4 – Sunday, June 5 - Civil War Skirmish and Encampment at the Historic Village at Allaire, Wall, NJ. Visitors can travel back in time to explore Civil War Roadshow where you can have your family treasures identified and appraised. Join the crowds in watching and participate in military drills, meet President Lincoln and influential military figures, as well as learn about the lives of soldiers and civilians. A skirmish between Confederate and Union Troops will take place on both days. There are special lectures, musical programs, camp tours, a baseball game and much more taking place. Admission is \$5 per car. We are also offering a lantern tour for \$20 from 7 PM to 9:30 PM. Federal and Confederate camps open to the public at 10 AM. Programs include: Engineers constructing of bridges and observation tower, Libby Prison Minstrels, Brass Band performances, Tin type photography, Tinsmiths, Candle Making, Blacksmith and Carpentry demonstrations. Skirmishes will be held at 2 PM each day. For information visit:

<http://allairevillage.org/event/civil-war-encampment-3/>.

Saturday, August 6, & Sunday, August 7 - Annual Parker Press Civil War Living History Weekend in Woodbridge, NJ, 10-4 both days. Period impressions, displays, skirmishes. Saturday candlelight visits. Free parking and admission. Sponsored by Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey. For information: <http://www.releecivilwarroundtableofcentralnj.com/>. ♦

Where Am I?

This statue on a knoll commemorates a Major General who fought in a major battle in the East in 1863. ***Where Am I?*** (Answer on page 8) ♦



Photo by Mike Mazzocchi

Civil War Quiz



How well do you know the Union right flank at Gettysburg?

1. Culp's Hill was an important position on the Union right flank because:

- a) It commanded the Hanover Road
- b) It was the tallest hill near Gettysburg
- c) It dominated the flank and rear of the Union's Cemetery Hill position
- d) None of the above
- e) All of the above

2. Which of the following statements is not true?

- a) Culp's Hill consists of two hills, an upper and a lower.
- b) Severe fighting at Culp's Hill raged from July 1 to 2, 1863.
- c) Union General George Greene's troops defended Culp's Hill on the night of July 2, 1863.
- d) Trees were felled on Culp's Hill to make it a better artillery position.
- e) Culp's Hill was once one of the most popular sites on the Gettysburg battlefield.

3. Which Confederate division attacked Culp's Hill on the evening of July 2nd?

- a) General Edward Johnson's
- b) General Richard Ewell's
- c) General Jubal Early's
- d) General Henry Heth's
- e) General John Bell Hood's

4. Which of the following was not a reason the Confederates failed to attack Culp's Hill in force on July 1, 1863?

- a) There were reports of large numbers of Union troops on the flank and rear of the Confederate left flank.
- b) Union troops were found atop the hill during a Confederate reconnaissance.
- c) The troops slated for such an attack were slowed by a lengthy wagon train.
- d) Union Artillery atop Culp's Hill covered

the entire field of attack.

- e) Robert E. Lee's orders were discretionary—to attack the hills south of Gettysburg “if practicable.”

5. Confederates had to cross Rock Creek to attack Culp's Hill on July 2 and 3, 1863. Which of the following is not among Gettysburg's other streams, creeks and runs?

- a) Clapsaddle Creek
- b) Plum Run
- c) Steven's Run
- d) Marsh Creek
- e) Rose Run

6. Culp's Hill has been crowned since 1895 with a steel observation tower. Where are the other steel observation towers at Gettysburg?

- a) Cemetery Ridge and Big Round Top
- b) Big Round Top and Oak Ridge
- c) Cemetery Ridge and McPherson's Ridge
- d) Seminary Ridge and McPherson's Ridge
- e) Oak Ridge and Seminary Ridge

7. Of the six Union brigades positioned on Culp's Hill on the afternoon of July 2, 1863, how many were ordered to leave Culp's Hill in order to support the Union left flank?

- a) None
- b) Two
- c) Four
- d) Five
- e) Six

8. On July 3, 1863, Union artillery on which hill laid down an incessant fire against Confederate positions near Lower Culp's Hill and Spangler's Spring?

- a) Wolf Hill
- b) Cemetery Hill
- c) Casino Hill
- d) Libby Hill
- e) Power's Hill

9. Whose Confederate brigade captured abandoned Union trenches on Lower Culp's Hill on the evening of July 2, 1863?

- a) Gen. William Smith's
- b) Gen. George Steuart's
- c) Gen. Evander Law's
- d) Gen. Isaac Avery's
- e) Gen. James Walker's

Quiz answers on page 8. ♦

With Lincoln at Ford's Theater

By Stacy Conradt

It's been 151 years since John Wilkes Booth crept into the Presidential Box at Ford's Theater and fatally shot Abraham Lincoln. But the Lincolns weren't alone that night. General Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia, had declined an invitation to accompany the President and the First Lady. The Lincolns then extended invitation after invitation, but were repeatedly turned down for various reasons. They finally received a "yes" from Clara Harris, daughter of New York Senator Ira Harris. The senator's daughter had become friends with Mary Todd from attending various social engagements in Washington. Harris's date for the evening was her fiancé, Major Henry Rathbone (who was also her step-brother). After Lincoln was shot, Rathbone tried to grab the assassin. Booth responded by using a Bowie knife to slash Rathbone's arm, splitting it open from shoulder to elbow and slicing through a major artery. The massive amounts of blood later found in the Presidential Box mostly belonged to Rathbone, not Lincoln, who actually bled very little.

In 1867, after all of the assassination hoopla had calmed down, Rathbone and Harris were finally married. They had three children (one born on what would have been Lincoln's 61st birthday) and, in 1882, moved to Germany, after he was appointed the U.S. Consul to Hanover.

In the nearly two decades that had passed since Lincoln's assassination, however, Rathbone's mental health had severely declined. He became increasingly obsessed with the idea that Clara was going to leave him, to the point that he forbade her from sitting by windows. He began hallucinating, and even admitted that he was afraid of himself. G.W. Pope, Rathbone's doctor, believed the night at Ford's Theater had caused post-traumatic stress: "He never was thoroughly himself after that night ... I have no hesitation in affirming that the dreaded tragedy, which preyed upon his nervous and impressionable temperament for many years, laid the seeds of that homicidal mania."

On December 23, 1883, an erratic Rathbone made a move toward the children's bedrooms that alarmed Clara. Believing that he intended to harm them, Clara blocked his way and managed to get

him back to their bedroom. He then shot her several times and stabbed her with a knife which he then turned on himself. Rathbone was admitted to a hospital for the criminally insane, residing there until his death in 1911. Their children were raised by Clara's sister and her husband. Henry and Clara's son, Henry Riggs - the one born on Lincoln's birthday - later became a Congressman. Proving that he wasn't bitter about his parents' fateful night out with the Lincolns, Henry Riggs Rathbone headed an unsuccessful attempt to get the government to make a Lincoln Museum at Ford's Theater. When that failed, he worked to help preserve the Petersen House where Lincoln died, including a collection of artifacts from the evening. One artifact that he didn't preserve: his mother's blood-soaked dress. He had it burned in 1910, believing that it had been a curse upon his family. ♦

Be a Gazette Contributor!

We hope you have enjoyed the many member contributions in this issue. Please submit one 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.

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?" – Maj. General William ("Bull") Nelson – September 27, 1824 – September 29, 1862. ♦

Answer to "Where Am I?" –A bronze equestrian statue of Major General Henry Slocum located on the Gettysburg battlefield on Stevens Knoll, Gettysburg, PA. ♦

Answers to ***Culp's Hill QUIZ:***

1-c, 2-b, 3-a, 4-d, 5-a, 6-e, 7-d, 8-e, 9-b