

The Dispatch

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CAPITAL DISTRICT
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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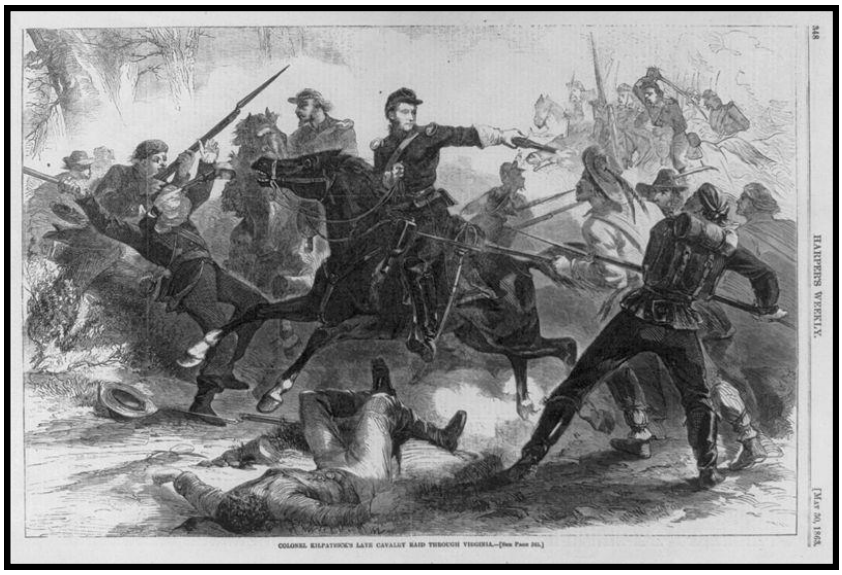
KILPATRICK LEADS RICHMOND RAID



COLONEL KILPATRICK'S LATE CAVALRY RAID THROUGH VIRGINIA.—[See Page 581.]

As reported in Harper's Weekly

A prisoner states that a Colonel with one foot had been captured" said the first report of Kilpatrick's raid. The President received a dispatch from Fortress Monroe this afternoon stating that Col. Dahlgren, with his one hundred men, had safely arrived within our lines. The Colonel was at Fortress Monroe. The President and Secretary Stanton immediately called upon Admiral Dahlgren, to convey the glad tidings and congratulate him upon the safety of his gallant son, said one still later. Colonel Dahlgren is dead, said yet another report. Ulrich Dahlgren is scarcely more than twenty years old. He was wounded in the leg last summer, just after the battle of Gettysburg, in the daring dash by which he succeeded in capturing the rebel dispatches from Jefferson Davis to General Lee. His leg was subsequently taken off. Four weeks ago he was tall, slight, pale-faced boy, sitting quietly in Washington, and saying: "I am waiting for my new leg, and then I shall see whether I can ride again." We all now know whether he can ride again. The brave boy has not only dashed at the outworks of the rebel city, but, living or dead, he has ridden straight into the love and honor of his countrymen.

SEPTEMBER MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2016

WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER
1541 BROADWAY
WATERVLIET, NY

The Kilpatrick-Dahlgren Raid

Dr. Bruce Venter

Social Hour	**6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**
Business Meeting	**7:00 p.m.**
Presentation	**7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**
Discussion	**8:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

CDCWRT MEETING

The September meeting of the CDCWRT will be held at the Watervliet Senior Center on Friday, September 9, 2016. The Round Table's special guest speaker will be Dr. Bruce Venter, and the title of his presentation is **"The Kilpatrick-Dahlgren Raid." This will be based on Bruce's new book,** ***Kill Jeff Davis.***

Kill Jeff Davis ***is a fresh look at the Kilpatrick-Dahlgren cavalry raid on Richmond in 1864. It describes the raid from both a tactical and a strategic angle.***

The ostensible goal of the raid was to free some 13,000 Union prisoners of war held in the Confederate capital. But sinister orders found on the dead body of the raid's subordinate commander, Colonel Ulric Dahlgren pointed to a plot to capture or kill Confederate President Jefferson Davis and set Richmond ablaze.

The book also delves into the political maneuvering orchestrated by the raid's commander, Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick to get the raid approved by President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton. It includes an analysis of the infamous "Dahlgren Papers," based on newly discovered documents which provide a different interpretation of the authorship of the orders found on Dahlgren's body.

This book relies on unpublished letters and diaries, soldier letters published in wartime newspapers, published and unpublished official records, pension records, memoirs, regimental histories, and postwar recollections published in the national and local newspapers to tell the full story of this event. Many of the primary sources cited have never been used by historians or authors who have written about the raid.

The Kilpatrick-Dahlgren raid failed, but not for any one reason. This book lays out a detailed, yet lively narrative which describes the multiple problems experienced by the raiders. Extensive new material on the identity of the black guide, hanged by Dahlgren, is revealed. New evidence shows that Richmond was not defended only by "old men and young boys" when Kilpatrick and Dahlgren attacked the city, an old canard from previous writers.

The relationship between Kilpatrick and Brigadier General George A. Custer is discussed to show the reasons why the

flamboyant Custer was excluded from the Richmond raid. There is also a new interpretation of Custer's Charlottesville raid as well as a detailed narrative of General Benjamin F. Butler's raid in early February 1864 to capture Davis. In the end, various myths and legends surrounding the raid are put to rest.

Dr. Venter's major interest is Civil War cavalry, with an emphasis on the career of General Judson Kilpatrick. He frequently lectures on the cavalry and has led bus tours on the Kilpatrick-Dahlgren raid. He is president of America's History, LLC, a tour and conference company. In 2012 he participated in a re-enactment of Dahlgren's raid thru Goochland County where he rode with the troopers for three days, serving as their historian. He is a past president of the Richmond Civil War Round Table.

Venter has published articles in Blue and Gray, Civil War, Patriots of the American Revolution, Goochland County Historical Society Magazine and the Washington Times. He is also the author of The Battle of Hubbardton: The Rear Guard Action that Saved America. Bruce holds a B.A. in history from Manhattan College, and a doctorate in educational administration from the University at Albany. He lives in Goochland County, Virginia with his wife and their beagle.

Bruce has been a member of the CDCWRT.

UP-COMING MEETING/ EVENTS

On Friday, October 14, 2016, the regular meeting of the CDCWRT will sponsor Vernon Benjamin, who will talk about the Hudson Valley during the Civil War.

On Friday, November 11, 2016, Veterans' Day, the regular meeting of the CDCWRT will sponsor Neil Yetwin, who will talk about Reverend Day.

On Friday, December 9, 2016, the regular meeting of the CDCWRT will sponsor Ed Bonekemper, who will talk about the Myth of the Lost Cause.

GAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

As part of the celebration, the GAR has a variety of logo products such as t-shirts, mugs and key chains at:
www.zazzle.com/willardcamp154

FROM THE SOUTH

This is a continuaton of the Rufus Barringer CWRT of Southern Pines, NC April exhibit in the library of the Sandhills Community College. For the past 5 year, there has been an exhibit of events that occurred that year in the sesquicentennial cycle – 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1865.

This year's exhibit deals with events up to the 50th reunion at Gettysburg in 1863. It is an overview of the period which is often ignored in public school education.
The main theme is:

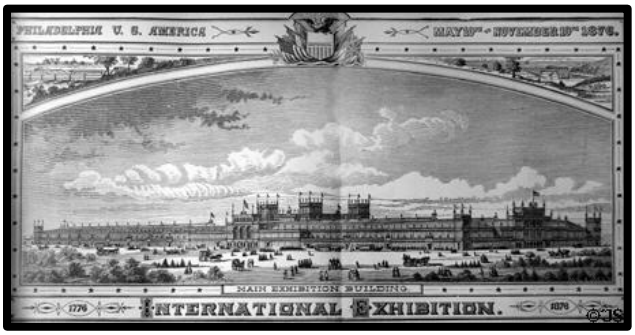
Reconstruction & Remembrance:
Binding Old Wounds & Inflicting New Ones

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY U.S.A.

The Centennial International Exhibition of 1876, the first official World's Fair in the United States, was held in Philadelphia, PA from May 10 to November 10, 1876, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. Officially named the International Exhibition of Arts, Manufactures and Products of the Soil and Mine, it was held in Fairmount Park along the Schuylkill River. Just over 10 million visitors attended the exhibition and thirty-seven countries participated in it.

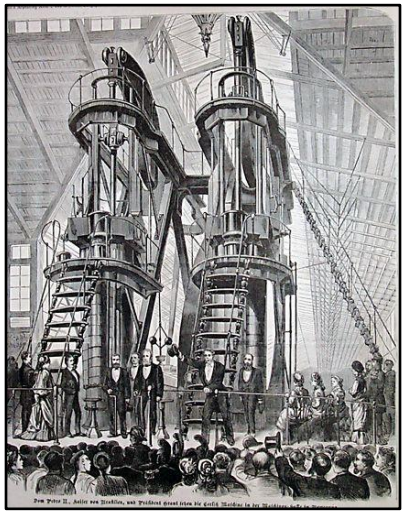
More than 200 buildings were constructed within the Exposition's grounds, which were surrounded by a fence nearly three miles long. The official number for first day attendees was 186,272, with an average day attendance that ranged from 35,000 to 115,000.

The Main Exhibition Building, a temporary structure, was the largest building in the world by area, enclosing 21.5 acres. It measured 464 ft. in width and 1880 ft. in length. It was constructed using prefabricated parts, with a wood and iron frame resting on a substructure of 672 stone piers. The wrought iron roof trusses were supported by the columns of the superstructure. The building took eighteen months to complete and costed $1,580,000.



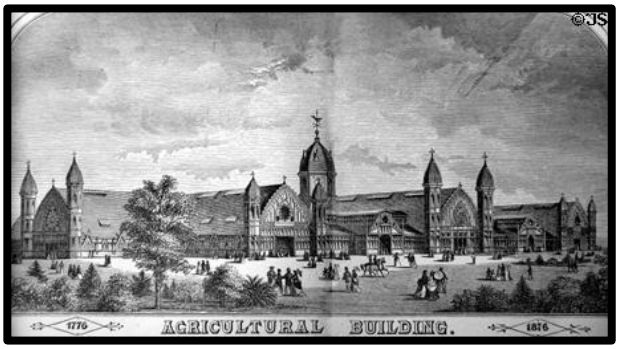
Machinery Hall, the second largest building in the exposition, consisted of a main hall, 1402 ft. long and 360 ft. wide, with a wing of 208 ft. by 210 ft. attached on the south side of the building. The building occupied 558,440 square feet, had 1,900 exhibitors in the Hall and took six months to construct. One of the major attractions on display in the building was the Corliss Centennial Steam Engine that ran power to all the machinery in the building as well as other parts of the world's fair. The engine was 70 feet tall, produced 1,400 horsepower and weighed 650 tons. It had 5 miles of overhead line belts that connected to the machinery in the building.





Corliss Centennial Steam Engine

The third largest structure at the Centennial was Agricultural Hall. The Hall was 820 ft. long and 540 ft. wide. Made of wood and glass, the building was designed to look like various barn structures pieced together. The building's exhibits included products and machines in agriculture and other related businesses.



Situated high atop a hill, the Horticultural Hall epitomized floral achievement. The Centennial introduced the general public to the notion of landscape design, as exemplified in the building itself and the grounds surrounding it.



The Art Gallery Building, now known as Memorial Hall, is made of brick, glass, iron and granite. Memorial Hall, the only exhibit building to survive on the Centennial site, housed the art exhibits. It was the largest art hall in the country when it opened, with a massive 1.5-acre footprint and a 150-foot dome sitting atop a 59-foot-high structure with a 150-foot dome sitting on top. It provided 75,000 square feet of wall surface for paintings and 20,000 square feet of floor space for sculptures



Among the inventions and exhibits at the Centennial celebration were the following:

Alexander Graham Bell's telephone
Remington's typewriter
New foods including Heinz ketchup, bananas, popcorn
Hires Root Beer
The monorail train
The dishwasher
The first automatic screw making machine
Kudzu as a plant species for erosion control
Air powered tools
The mechanical calculator
The 5 ¾ inch cable that would be used on the Brooklyn Bridge
The arm and torch of the Statue of Liberty

The right arm and torch of the Statue of Liberty were showcased at the Exposition. For a fee of 50 cents, visitors could climb the ladder to the balcony, and the money raised this way was used to fund the pedestal for the statue.



REMEMBER ME

By the 1890s, veterans of the Civil War were beginning to die in increasing numbers. The erection of monuments in town squares and other places increased dramatically. Veterans wanted the country to remember what they did.

At the individual level, a veteran could purchase elaborate documents that displayed his military history for all to see. This framed certificate is one example. It reads:

JOSEPH OLLRENSHAW
Enlisted in the U.S. service Sept. 1" 1864 as private in Capt. Misner's Co. A 80th Regt. N.Y. Vol. Inft. to serve one year. The Regt. served in the Independent Brig. 9" Corps A.P. and participated in the following battles:

Before Petersburg Va. Sept. 64 to Apr. 2" 65. Fall of Petersburg Apr. 2" 65. The regt. served on provost duty at City Point, Va. from Apr. 7" 65 and he was mustered out of the U.S. service and honorably discharged June 17" 1865 by reason of the close of the war.

The picture of the Easel Shaped Monument bearing the personal record of Joseph Ollrenshaw was presented by him July 4" 95 to his wife Elizabeth.

THE LAST CONFEDERATE WIDOW

Alberta Martin (December 4, 1906-May 31, 2004) was born to share-croppers in Danleys Crossroads, AL. At age 18 she married Howard Farrow, but he died 2 years later in an auto accident. She and Howard had a son.

Alberta met widower, William Jasper Martin who was born in 1845 and who had served in the 4th Alabama Infantry during the Civil War. In December 1927 she married the old soldier primarily to get help raising her son, because William's $50 per month Confederate pension check guaranteed her a degree of financial security. She gave birth to a second son, Willie Martin, 10 months after her wedding to William Jasper Martin, who was 82 at the time of the child's birth. William Jasper Martin died in 1931.

Two months after her second husband's death, Alberta Martin married Charlie Martin, William Jasper Martin's grandson from a much earlier marriage. Alberta and Charlie Martin were married for more than fifty years until his death in 1983.

In the final years of her life she became a symbol for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, appearing at some of their rallies. The state of Alabama had long since stopped issuing pension checks to the widows of Confederate veterans, believing them all to be dead, but with assistance from Sons of Confederate Veterans and other supporters, Alberta began receiving a Confederate widow's pension in 1996 and was awarded back pay as well.

In 1998 Alberta and the last surviving Union widow, Gertrude Janeway, met at Gettysburg on the 135th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. This is where she autographed the Mary Walker envelope for me. The Union widow died in 2003. Since Alberta's death in 2004, another Confederate widow, Maudie Hopkins, was identified.

Maudie Hopkins was born in Arkansas, and in 1934 married 86-year old William M. Cantrell, who had served in French's Virginia Battalion in the Civil War. William received a small pension until his death in 1937. Maudie later remarried. The state of Arkansas did not pay pensions to widows of Civil War soldiers. In 2004 she heard of the death of Alberta Martin. Maudie then broke her silence about her marriage to Cantrell. After researching Arkansas and U.S. Census Bureau data, Maudie was certified as the last known Confederate widow. She died at 93 years on August 17, 2008. Thus three Confederate widows lived into the 21st Century.







Alberta Martin – top left
Gertrude Janeway – top right
Maudie Hopkins – below left

A 20TH MAINE SOLDIER HOME

Associated Press: August 1, 2016

Jewett Williams served in the 20th Maine Regiment in the Civil War. When he died in 1922 at an Oregon insane asylum, he was

cremated and his ashes were stored and forgotten along with the remains of thousands of other patients. With a color guard in Civil War-era uniforms present, Oregon State Hospital officials handed over Williams' ashes to a group of motorcycle-riding military veterans for a journey across the country to his home state.

"He was a son, a brother, a husband and a father. At the end of his life, however, he was alone and institutionalized here," Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney said at the ceremony. "When he died, nobody came. Nobody came to honor him. Nobody came to take him home. Nobody came. Until today." Members of the Patriot Guard Riders, a group that attends the funerals of U.S. military veterans, firefighters and police, then solemnly received the ashes, started their Harleys and began the long journey to Maine. Wearing leather vests festooned with patches describing their branches of service and American flags flapping from their bikes, the group will escort the remains in relays across America.

It was in 2004 that Courtney, on a tour, found in corroding copper cans stashed in a shed, the ashes of more than 3,600 people who died at the Oregon State Hospital and other institutions. In 2014, a memorial was opened, where the remains are labeled with names, birth and death dates and embedded in a wall. A gap now exists where Williams' urn had been. Over 300 other remains have been claimed.

Jewett Williams had joined Company H of the 20th Maine more than a year after it famously prevented a Union defeat at Gettysburg with a bayonet charge at Little Round Top. But many engagements remained to be fought by the time Williams, of Hodgdon, Maine, joined in October 1864. His regiment was at the siege of Petersburg, Virginia, and in battles with the rebels right up to Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Virginia, in April 1865, said Maine historian Tom Desjardin. "The New Englanders were actively engaged with Grant's army in the long siege of Petersburg and the running fight with Lee to Appomattox," said James I. Robertson Jr., retired professor of Civil War history at Virginia Tech.

Jewett shared a tent with his cousin, Albert Williams, who in a letter, reflecting his rudimentary education described long marches in bad weather and sleeping in the open, according to a family history published online in 2005 by Barbara Ann Estabrook. He also described a scorched-earth campaign. "i didnt have a chance to get a shot at a reb when we on the rode but i made the Cattle and Sheep and hogs suffer. You bet we killed every thing that we see and burnt every thing as we went," Albert Williams wrote on Dec. 18, 1864, less than four months before he died of fever at age 21.

Jewett Williams was married and divorced, then remarried and moved to Michigan, then to Minnesota where he was a carpenter. Their first child died after only 19 months. They had five more children and moved to Washington State, where the couple separated. In the 1920 census, Williams was listed as a widower in Portland, Oregon. In April 1922, Williams was admitted to the Oregon State Hospital for the Insane in Salem, as the hospital was then known. He died on July 17, 1922, at 78, of cerebral arteriosclerosis.

None of Jewett's descendants has been found. His remains are scheduled to arrive in Maine on Aug. 22 and will be buried with military honors in Togus National Cemetery in Maine on Sept. 17. A period-correct white marble veterans headstone will mark the spot, said Dave Richmond, deputy director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services. "He will rejoin his comrades-in-arms in Maine," said Greg Roberts, the superintendent of Oregon State Hospital. Also buried at Togus are five other 20th Maine veterans, including one from Company H.

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