

Merry Christmas to All!

OUR CAMP JOURNAL



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"We are but few in number but formidable." -Pvt. James Shelton, 7th Md. Co. B

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A Civil War Christmas



What was Christmas like at the time of the Civil War? Did the Victorians have their hearts filled with Joy with all the decorations, lights and celebrations as we do today? Some research was in order.

For the Soldier both North and South, his thoughts would be on family and friends at home. In camp and at the front, his mind and conversation was filled with memories of Holiday's past with loved ones. This would include the celebrations and the decorations.

They still had the active duties of soldiering like drill and guard duty, but research also shows that they also played "Rounders" (baseball) and had special meals as the Commissary permitted and supplied.

The First Lady Mrs. Lincoln even raised funds plus donated food and alcohol from her personal stores at the White House for use in the hospitals in Washington City for the wounded soldiers "to brighten their day".

This was especially true in December 1862 at the time of the Battle of Fredricksburg. She arranged for Christmas dinners of duck, turkey, chickens, ham and fresh apples to be delivered on Christmas Day and even visited the hospitals to ensure that the unscrupulous Hospital Stewards

and surgeons did not get the best of the goodies.

"O Christmas Tree"

On the home front, would there have been a Christmas Tree? Chances are the answer would be yes. The first Christmas Tree in America is recorded as being erected in Cleveland Ohio in 1851. The decorations for the tree would have been homemade and very simple. Popcorn balls and strings of popcorn as well as dried fruits and nuts, perhaps mixed with wax, paper and spun glass ornaments are some examples of what would have been used. Also some colored ribbon and candles would have been used to help decorate the tree. Ornaments might be shaped like angels, doll faces, the Christ Child and animals. All would have been handmade.

The tree would sit on a tabletop with unwrapped presents placed under them. Keep in mind that the candles on the tree would only be lit once (and then only for a few minutes due to fire hazard). A bucket of water would be kept close by and one of the children would be responsible for watching for fire. In addition to the tree, the entire house would be decorated with greenery such as fir, pine, holly, ivy and mistletoe. No house was considered festive without the fragrance of greenery!!

"Here We Come A Caroling"

Yes, Christmas Carols would have been sung at home and in camp. Songs such as "Silent Night", "Oh Come All

Ye Faithful", "Hark The Herald Angels Sing", and "Deck the Halls" were very popular. Other songs such as "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", "Away in a Manger", "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day", "We Three Kings", and "Up on the Housetop" were all written in the 1850's. One can almost hear Soldier voices both North and South singing these songs, praising the Savior's birth and longing for home and family. Perhaps for one brief moment for them there was "Peace on Earth Goodwill toward Men" as fighting would cease for Christmas. As they sang and celebrated the Savior's birth, perhaps they longed for a new invention (1844) the Christmas card from loved ones at home.

So as the Christmas Season comes each year, let us pause for a moment and reflect on how our ancestors would have celebrated. For more information, please refer to the book "We Were Marching on Christmas Day" by Kevin Rawlins. What a wonderful source of information to enlighten on traditions at the time of the Civil War.

A Christmas wish to you and yours, May His JOY, His PEACE and His LOVE be with you and all you hold dear.

Upcoming Campaigns

DECEMBER

Dec. 7th - Victorian Christmas at the Stone House (Manassas National Battlefield) Additional info to come

Dec. 14th - Civil War Christmas in Camp at Fort Ward (Alexandria, Va) Please email Jeff Joyce if you're interested in participating in these events.



Christmas, North and South

It hasn't escaped the attention of many that the traditions associated with Christmas celebrations in the United States today began during the Civil War. Without a doubt, it was the loneliness and insecurities of war felt by citizens and soldiers alike that created a need for them to seek solace and security. They found it in part by re-establishing familiar European traditions. This created the illusion of love and peace at a time when very little of that existed in their daily lives.

Christmas had been celebrated in Europe with eating, drinking, and dancing. It was the Puritans who attempted to end this indulgent behavior, and did it successfully when they came to America. With their arrival, Christmas became a serious occasion, the purpose of which was to introspectively ponder sin and religious commitment.

It took almost 200 years for our country to move away from this Puritan view and enjoy the holidays once more. Louisiana was the first state to make Christmas a holiday in 1830, and many states soon followed. Congress did not make Christmas a federal holiday until 1870. The religious revival of the mid 19th century also added to the desire to unite, celebrate, and recognize Christmas.

Christmas cards, carols, special foods, holding winter dances, all date back to the late 1850s. Even before the Civil War, it was common to cut Christmas trees and take them into the home, although they were tabletop size, and usually were arranged with

other greenery and mistletoe, all supposed to bring good luck to the household. Union soldiers' letters mention decorating their camp Christmas trees with salt-pork and hard tack.

It was the development of the modern Santa Claus that embedded Christmas into the American way of life. In 1861, Thomas Nast was a German immigrant working as a writer and artist at Harper's Weekly. When he was tasked with providing a drawing to accompany Clement Clark Moore's 1821 poem, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, he called upon his Bavarian childhood to create our modern image of Santa Claus. His cherubic (but thin by today's standards) Santa was depicted bringing gifts of Harper's to the soldiers, making Nast the first to combine imagery (Santa Claus) and commercialism (selling Harper's) into the American marketplace.

Santa brought children gifts, and gifts were always home made. Children were satisfied to receive just small hand-carved toys, cakes, oranges or apples. Many Southern diaries tell the story of Santa running the blockaded ports in Dixie to fill children's stockings with what little the parents could spare to make the day special for them. Even General Sherman's soldiers played Santa to impoverished Southern children by attaching tree-branch antlers to their horses and bringing food to the starving families in the war-ravaged Georgia countryside.

The most famous Christmas gift of the war was sent by telegram from William Tecumseh Sherman to Abraham Lincoln on December 22, 1864. "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with 100 and 50 guns and plenty of ammunition, also about 25,000 bales of cotton." The gift, of course, wasn't the guns, the ammunition or the cotton, but the beginning of the end of the Civil War.

Smithsonian Associates Newsletter



Thomas Nast's Original "The Union Christmas" Civil War Print

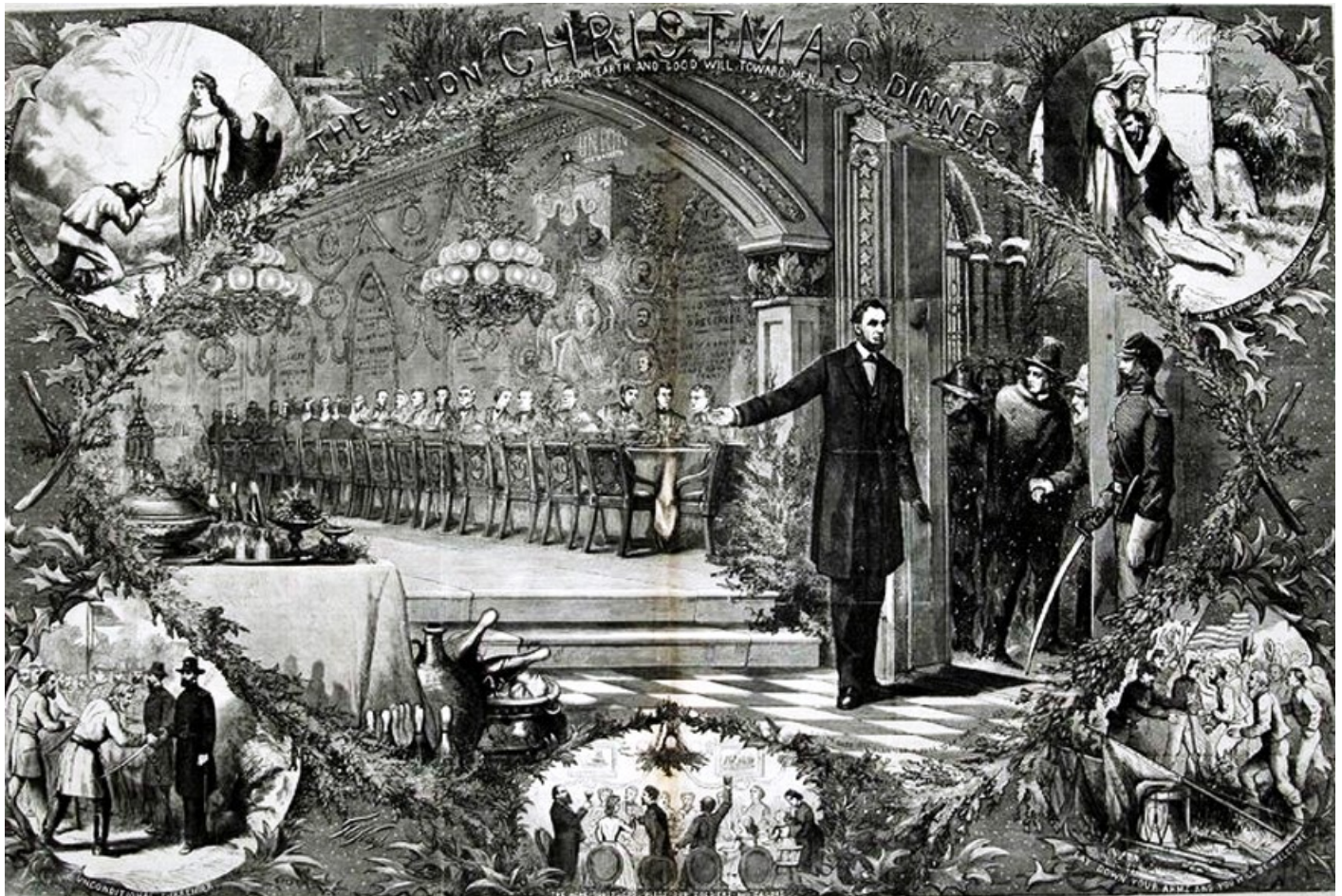
This is probably the most touching and moving Abraham Lincoln print to come out of the Civil War era. The leaf was printed on December 31, 1864, and Thomas Nast was the artist. The print shows Mr. Lincoln standing at the door, inviting the Southern Rebels to come in from the cold and snow, and rejoin the union.

A large banquet table has been prepared, and the table has empty chairs labeled Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and so forth. The print has a large banner that

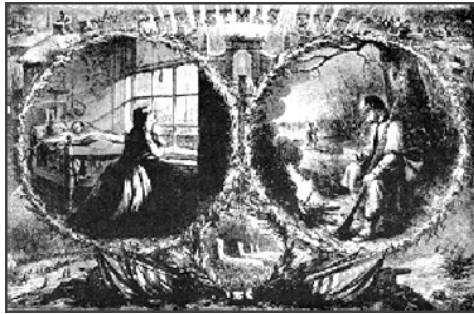
reads, "The Union Christmas Dinner, Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men." The print has four insets, one showing Robert E. Lee offering his surrender to Grant (something that did happen a few months later. The second inset is captioned, "Lay Down your Arms and You Will be Welcome", which shows Rebel Soldiers being welcomed back into the Union. The third inset presents the Rebels as the prodigal son returning home, and the fourth inset shows a soldier bowing down to accept a pardon

from Lady Liberty.

For all the pain and all the loss of the Civil War, we see by the end of 1864, there were signs of hope. Nast creates this image of hope by showing a country tired of war, and willing to invite their former countrymen to once again sit at the table of fellowship and Union. Within three months of this image being made, Mr. Lincoln was dead, assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. However, Nast's vision of a country once again united did come to pass.



"Ought it not be a Merry Christmas?"



Harper's Weekly depicts a family separated by war in its January 3, 1863 edition.

For a nation torn by civil war, Christmas in the 1860s was observed with conflicting emotions. Nineteenth-century Americans embraced Christmas with all the Victorian trappings that had moved the holiday from the private and religious realm to a public celebration. Christmas cards were in vogue, carol singing was common in public venues, and greenery festooned communities north and south. Christmas trees stood in places of honor in many homes, and a mirthful poem about the jolly old elf who delivered toys to well-behaved children captivated Americans on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line.

But Christmas also made the heartache for lost loved ones more acute. As the Civil War dragged on, deprivation replaced bounteous repasts and familiar faces were missing from the family dinner table. Soldiers used to "bringing in the tree" and caroling in church were instead scavenging for firewood and singing drinking songs around the campfire. And so the holiday celebration most associated with family and home was a contradiction. It was a joyful, sad, religious, boisterous, and subdued event.

Before the war

Many of the holiday customs we associate with Christmas today were familiar to 1840s celebrants. Christmas cards were popularized that decade and Christmas trees were a stylish addition to the parlor. By the 1850s, Americans were singing "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem," and "Away in a Manger" in public settings. In 1850 and 1860, *Godey's Lady's Book* featured Queen Victoria's tabletop Christmas tree,

placed there by her German husband Prince Albert. Closer to home, in December, 1853, Robert E. Lee's daughter recorded in her diary that her father - then superintendent at West Point - possessed an evergreen tree decorated with dried and sugared fruit, popcorn, ribbon, spun glass ornaments, and silver foil.



"The Christmas Tree" by F. A. Chapman.

Clement Clarke Moore, a religious scholar who for decades was too embarrassed to claim authorship of the 1822 poem, "A Visit From St. Nicholas," was now well-known for his tribute to Santa Claus. "Santa Claus" made his first public appearance in a Philadelphia department store in 1849, marking the advent of holiday commercialism.

For enslaved African Americans, the Christmas season often meant a mighty bustle of cooking, housekeeping, and other chores. "Reward" for these efforts was a suspension of duties for a day or two and the opportunity for singing, dancing, and possible brief reunions with separated family members. Further gestures of "goodwill" by masters who saw themselves as benevolent owners were small and the semi-annual clothing allotment.

By 1860, many worried about civil unrest, fearful this Christmas would be the last before the outbreak of war. An Arkansas diarist writes:

"Christmas has come around in the circle of time, but is not a day of rejoicing. Some of the usual ceremonies are going on, but there is gloom on the thoughts and countenances of all the better portion of our people."

1861

Events proceeded quickly in 1861, hastening war. Abraham Lincoln became the 16th president of the United States in March and the bombardment of Fort Sumter occurred in April. Southern states seceded and the Confederates claimed their first major victory at the first battle of Manassas. For the shopkeeper or farm boy or student away from home for Christmas the first time, melancholy set in.

Robert Gould Shaw, then a 2nd lieutenant in the 2d Massachusetts Infantry, writes about guard duty near Frederick, MD. He would later earn fame as the commander of the heroic African American unit, the 54th Massachusetts.

"It is Christmas morning and I hope a happy and merry one for you all, though it looks so stormy for our poor country, one can hardly be in merry humor."



Artist Winslow Homer depicts soldiers' joy at receiving holiday boxes from home in this 1861 *Harper's Weekly* illustration.

James Holloway, writing from Dranesville, VA tells his family that Christmas:

"You have no idea how lonesome I feel this day. It's the

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***first time in my life I'm away
from loved ones at home."***

On the civilian front, Sallie Brock Putnam describes Christmas, 1861 in Richmond, VA.

***"Never before had so sad a
Christmas dawned upon us.
Our religious services were not
remitted and the Christmas
dinner was plenteous of old;
but in nothing did it remind
us of days gone by. We had
neither the heart nor inclination
to make the week merry
with joyousness when such a
sad calamity hovered over us."***

Yet Christmas 1861 also saw soldiers full of bravado, still relatively well fed and equipped, and eagerly anticipating Christmas boxes of treats from home. Often officers authorized extra rations of spirits and men engaged in greased pig-catching contests, footraces, jumping matches, and impromptu pageants dressed as women. Soldiers erected small evergreen trees strung with hard-tack and pork. Some were excused from drills, although other references point to the need to haul logs and forage for firewood no matter what day of the year it was.

1862

This sad year brought forth the war's impact full force with battles at Shiloh, Manassas, and Antietam, and campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley and



By Christmas, 1862, Thomas Nast had allied Santa Claus with the Union Army. From *Harper's Weekly*, January 3, 1863.

the Peninsula. Many Fredericksburg, Virginia citizens were homeless or fled their town just prior to Christmas.

Harper's Weekly illustrator Thomas Nast, a staunch Unionist, is now depicting Santa Claus entertaining Federal soldiers by showing them Jefferson Davis with a cord around his neck. Abraham Lincoln would later refer to a politicized Santa as "the best recruiting sergeant the North ever had." More moderate illustrations show soldiers decorating camps with greens and firing salutes to Santa. Ironically, it was Nast who fixed Santa's home and toy workshop address at the "North Pole" "so no nation can claim him as their own."

Officers of the 20th Tennessee gave their men a barrel of whisky to mark the day. "We had many a drunken fight and knock-down before the day closed," wrote one participant. But there were other more somber occurrences recorded for Christmas 1862. One account tells of soldiers being forced to witness an execution for desertion and another grim letter describes how men firing their weapons in a funeral salute were mistakenly punished for unauthorized holiday merrymaking.

1863

This year saw the battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg and the beginning of the end for the Confederacy. Thomas Nast portrayed Santa Claus in a patriotic uniform, distributing to Yankee soldiers to raise their morale. Southern parents were gently preparing their children that Santa Claus may not "make it through the blockade" to deliver presents this year. *Harper's Weekly* depicted a tender reunion scene of a soldier husband and father briefly reunited with his family during furlough. Holiday boxes and barrels from home containing food, clothing and small articles of comfort were highly anticipated by soldier recipients. Depending on their duty assignment, Christmas dinner may have consisted of only crackers, hard tack, rice, beans and a casting of lots for a single piece of beef too small to divide. Those lucky enough to receive boxes from home could supplement a meager meal with turkey, oysters, potatoes, ham, cabbage, eggnog, cranberries and fruitcake.

One of the dreariest accounts of Christ-



Children still found Christmas morning joyful in this 1864 *Harper's Weekly* edition. Note that the youngster on the right is equipped with sword, drum, kepi and a haversack with "U.S." prominently displayed.

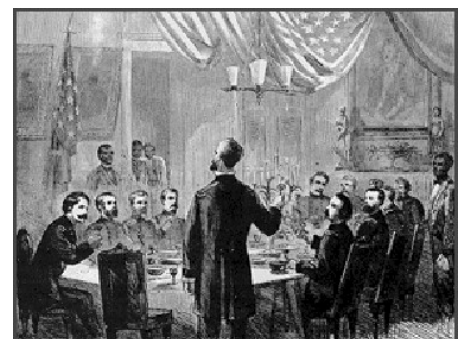
mas during the Civil War came from Lt. Col. Frederic Cavada, captured at Gettysburg and writing about Christmas 1863 in Libby Prison in Richmond:

***"The north wind comes reeling
in fitful gushes through the
iron bars, and jingles a sleigh-
bell in the prisoner's ear, and
puffs in his pale face with a
breath suggestively odorous of
eggnog."***

Cavada continued:

***"Christmas Day! A day which
was made for smiles, not sighs
- for laughter, not tears - for
the hearth, not prison."***

He described a makeshift dinner set on a



General William Tecumseh Sherman is host at a celebratory Christmas dinner in Savannah after presenting the captured city to President Lincoln as a holiday.

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tea towel-covered box. Each prisoner brought his own knife and fork and drank "Eau de James" (water from the nearby James River.) Cavada reported he combed his hair for the occasion and further related that the prisoners staged a "ball" with a "great deal of bad dancing" during which hats were crushed and trousers torn. Sentries called "lights out" at 9 p.m.

1864

The final wartime Christmas came as the Confederacy floundered, Lee's Army behind entrenchments in Petersburg and Richmond. Abraham Lincoln received a most unusual holiday - the city of Savannah, GA - presented by General William Tecumseh Sherman via telegram. Union and Confederate sympathizers were hoping this Christmas would be the last at conflict.

Johnny Green, of the 4th Kentucky's Orphan Brigade, expressed this sentiment:

"Peace on Earth, Good will to men should prevail. We certainly would preserve the peace if they would go home and let us alone..."

Green further reports he and his comrades received an unexpected and very welcome holiday:

"Our commissary sends word for each Orderly Sergeant to come to his wagon & he will issue one piece of soap to each man. This is indeed good news. Since the Skirmish began at Stockbridge Nov 15 we have not had a chance to wash any more than our faces occasional & never our feet or bodies until now...."

Holiday season charity was not forgotten this year. On Christmas Day, 90 Michigan men and

their captain loaded up wagons with food and supplies and distributed them to destitute civilians in the Georgia countryside. The Union "Santa Clauses" tied tree branches to the heads of the mule teams to resemble reindeer.

Many other units, however, were on the march, either trying to evade capture or pursuing the opponent for better position. Soldiers left in the squalid conditions of prison camps spent the day remembering holidays at home, as did others in slightly more comfortable settings. Confederate General Gordon, writing from his headquarters near Petersburg, wrote of fighting famine as well as General Grant:

"The one worn-out railroad running to the far South could not bring us half enough necessary supplies: and even if it could have transported Christmas boxes of good things, the people at home were too depleted to send them."



His wife, who was with him at headquarters, presented him with a most precious treat for Christmas 1864 - "real" coffee brought from home 'to celebrate our victories in the first years and to sustain us in defeat at the last.'

Moods were more buoyant in Washington and New York, where celebrants supped on substantial

feasts and attended the theatre.

After the war

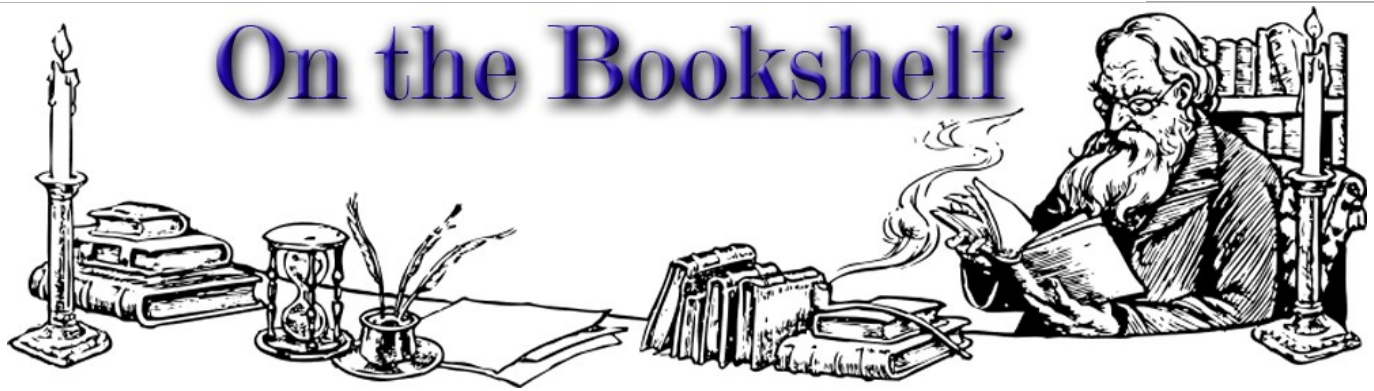
The events of 1865 again influenced holiday celebrations. President Lincoln's assassination shocked the nation, but by mid-summer, the conspirators were hung or imprisoned for lengthy terms. War was ended and many soldiers had been mustered out of service. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution became law on December 18, 1865, abolishing the institution of slavery. Soldiers and civilians alike were ready to reunite with their families and again embrace Victorian holiday customs.

At the end of hostilities, commerce once again flowed southward, and goods filled Northern shops. Long-held holiday traditions were re-introduced, as ornamental greens and trees filled the markets and toys and other items went on display. Newspaper illustrations were of domestic and wintry scenes.

The final verse of a poem *By the Christmas Hearth* published in the Christmas edition of *Harper's Weekly* reflected the sentiments of many:

*Bring holly, rich with berries
red,
And bring the sacred mistletoe;
Fill high each glass, and let
hearts
With kindest feelings flow;
So sweet it seems at home once
more
To sit with those we hold most
dear,
And keep absence once again
To keep the Merry Christmas
here.*





Two Brothers, One North, One South

By David H. Jones

Reviewed by Bill Hart

I was in California on vacation a couple of months back and needing a book to read on the flight home, I found *Two Brothers, One North, One South* at a used book store. The book purported to be about two brothers from Maryland who fought on different sides during the Civil War and was based on true events. A quick scan let me know that the brother who sided with the North wasn't in the 7th, but I bought the book anyway.

As to the premise of the book, two brothers, Clifton and William Prentiss, live with their father and step-mother in Baltimore. One joined the Confederate army, the other the U.S. army so the old 'brother's war' contrivance. The book follows their adventures through the war until they are reunited in one totally implausible event only a week before the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. This is not the climax however as unbelievable events continue with a celebrated individual of the era winding up the story. The reader's credulity is stretched to the breaking point to swallow a wholly unlikely string of events.

A seemingly improbable tale – but true.

The author fictionalizes the account of these brothers' experiences to fill in what is not known and makes it believable. What didn't happen, could have happened. Out of the cast of hundreds (I didn't count but I feel confident that he has close to a hundred if not more characters.), he used only three fictional individuals and these three are not essential in driving the story.

Two other true characters who figure prominently in the story are Hetty and Jenny Cary, a pair of Baltimore belles with southern sympathies, friends of William Prentiss who move to Virginia in the dark of night soon after the beginning of the war. The book brings in well-known and not-so-well-known persons in real and imagined encounters with the major characters.

Here and there he entertains the reader with tidbits of trivia. One such is that William P. Miles, a congressman from South Carolina serving on General

Beauregard's staff came up with the design of the Confederate battle flag, a fairly familiar bit of Civil War minutiae, but he enhances this small fact by adding that it was Beauregard's quartermaster, Major William L. Cabell, who suggested that it be square in order to conserve cloth and add to its uniqueness. The author also has Hetty and Jenny with their cousin Connie sewing the first three battle flags and then presenting them each to a favored general – True. This was after Jenny had already set the words of the poem, *Mar-*

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The Prentiss Brothers grave markers at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York. By way of explanation, an older brother of the two lived in New York and had his brothers interred there. An original pair of marble markers in the background have become unreadable due to physical and chemical weathering.

Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremonies 2024

By Bill Hart

Weather-wise this was one of the nicest Remembrance Days one could recall, temperature in the mid-fifties, sunny, although kind of windy in open areas but warm and comfy out of the wind. You'll recognize legacy 7th member Jeff Kuntzleman.

The cemetery experience seemed totally off without marching, without music, without flags. There were national park police at the entrance. Not intimidating, just there to make sure the new rules and old rules were followed.

I did see a color bearer carrying the U.S. colors with a small group turned back. No fuss, the soldier just took the flag back to his car and rejoined his group. So, six of us walked to the Maryland section and laid the wreath that Dawn Giovannini had made then hung about for a bit, I wandered through the Ohio section. Quiet. No music, no quietly shouted orders.

We then went to the Maryland monument and by this time Scott Diezman was with us and Katie had to leave (but rejoined to march in the parade).

We waited for 10 or 15 minutes through the induction of officers for a Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War unit being held in front of the monument, had our photo taken, both against the sun as usual and then from the side which came out much better and is the one I've attached. Finally coffee and mini cupcakes at the Giovannini's truck and kill time until the parade.

After the parade, Dan, Jeff, Scott and I went to O'Rourke's for some beers and dinner. We all highly recommend the shepherd's pie nachos as an appetizer. The nachos are Irish nachos – home-made kettle chips. We spent a bit of time listening to the fifers and drummers jamming and then Remembrance Day was over. **More photos on page 9.**



Above, 7th Maryland members Sgt. Steve Giovannini, Cpl. Dan Paterson, Jr., Pvt. Dawn Giovannini, Pvt. Jeff Kuntzleman, Pvt. Bill Hart and Pvt. Katie Gosmeyer during the morning cemetery ceremony. Below, Maryland boys on the parade route.



Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremonies 2024



Above, Sgt. Steve Giovannini, Pvt. Scott Diezman, Cpl. Dan Paterson, Jr., Pvt. Dawn Giovannini, Pvt. Jeff Kuntzleman and Pvt. Bill Hart stand together at the Maryland Monument prior to the Remembrance Day Parade.

Below left, Lt. Col. Denny Rohrbaugh is at the ready to lead the Maryland boys, below right, through the streets of Gettysburg.





“...and to all a Good Night.”

Familiar Hints for Indiana Soldiers Taking the Field

VII. LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Here is the seventh and final of the *Familiar Hints to Indiana Soldiers Taking the Field* to be published in *Our Camp Journal*. Like the others, it was written in 1862 by Colonel Henry B. Carrington, the mustering officer for Indiana volunteers, to help these citizen volunteers become good soldiers. Not as practical as the first six but possibly more significant by emphasizing the importance and value of citizen soldiers.

Remember this is not a mercenary war – a war for payment or plunder. Our true condition is that of peace. Armies are but an expansion of police authority, when civil process is inadequate to maintain order in the States. You fight to maintain civil authority, so that our

country whole and complete again, may know peace.

You are soldiers now – you are again becoming citizens. Let all your acts therefore, however earnest and aggressive upon the enemies of the State, prepare you to become better citizens, inasmuch, as by your toil and sacrifice, you have learned how precious our institutions are, and can realize the value of a well ordered, peaceful Republic.

Dare, do and endure, and you will be blessed.



On The Bookshelf

(Continued from page 7)

yland to the music of a favorite college tune slightly adjusting the title to fit the melody thus creating *Maryland My Maryland*. Again – True.

Reading *Two Brothers*, I found much to dislike. The author wrote his book imitating the style of speech and writing of the era which he did a bit clumsily. He used this technique not only for the dialog which seems reasonable but also for the narrative which I found problematic. He also frequently relied on exposition in the dialogue to bring out facts for the reader, often awkwardly and almost juvenily.

Here the elder Prentiss converses with his son, Clifton.

“You know son, Sarah was right. The election of Abraham Lincoln last November practically guaranteed that our country would face this terrible predicament.”

“Clearly, South Carolina seceded from the Union in December for that very reason,” Clifton replied.

“Sadly, they were soon followed by the other cotton states of the Deep South.”

“And how quickly things deteriorated from that point!” exclaimed his father.

“In no time at all, the Confederate States of America was formed in Montgomery, Alabama, and Jefferson Davis elected president.”

An exchange of information that the pair each knew and knew the other knew. It was obvious shared knowledge, only included in the unlikely event that the reader is unaware of these events.

The author is knowledgeable of the social practices of the day, of the practices of the armies, of the Civil War in general and for the most part he is accurate in relating the events of the time. However, while this is a work of fiction, his recounting of history should be accurate in order to support that fiction but there are two items that I found egregiously misleading. He repeats the myth of Longstreet’s shortcomings at Gettysburg by saying that Lee expected Longstreet to attack in the morning of the second day at Gettysburg but “. . . Longstreet dawdled while positioning his troops and the attack

was not made until late afternoon.”

This despite the fact that it has been well established that Lee did not issue his attack order until at least 11:00 a.m. making an attack any time during the morning impossible. He also provides a quote from Robert E. Lee commenting on the bravery of U.S. Colored Troops that Lee never made.

Although I found much to complain about the writing in this book – it will not be remembered as the ‘Great American Civil War Novel’ – the story is moving, fascinating and held my interest throughout. I recommend reading this book – heartily.

Jones, David H., *Two Brothers, One North, One South*, Encino, California: Staghorn Press, 2008, 317 pages, (published at \$24.95, much less in used condition on many web sites).

