

OUR CAMP JOURNAL

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

January 2025

Five Maryland Citizens Honored at Old Berlin Cemetery in Brunswick

By Pvt. Bill Hart

The five men honored at the December ceremony in Brunswick, MD, were all members of the 1st Maryland Infantry Regiment of the Potomac Home Brigade and all served as privates. The 1st Maryland Infantry, Potomac Home Brigade was mustered in on December 13, 1861 "for the protection of the canal and the property and persons of loyal citizens of the neighborhood, and to be stationed in the

vicinity whilst in the service." In the end, the regiment was called on to serve in additional duties during the war. Besides protecting canals, railroads, bridges, and other important assets, they took part in the defense of Harpers Ferry in late 1862 and were engaged on Lower Culp's Hill during The Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 where they suffered 15% casualties. At The Battle of the Monocacy in 1864, they took part in the fight against a rebel army intent on attacking Washington City.

On April 8, 1865, the First was recruited up to a full regiment of infantry, the designation changed to the 13th Maryland Infantry Regiment and the veterans transferred to that new unit. The 13th Maryland led a short life before being disbanded May 29, 1865 and all members mustered out. These five men were citizen soldiers, not professionals. Before their enlistments they were engaged in a variety of occupations unrelated to the military profession. What they had in common was that they stepped forward to serve their country when their service was needed.

When they were discharged in 1865, they returned to their civilian pursuits, those who were not married became married. They raised families, contributed to their communities, lived, died and were buried in what is now known as the Old Berlin Cemetery in Brunswick, Maryland.

My gratitude and thanks to Dr. Wayne Allgaier for the research he performed and the information he provided about these five men. More detailed information about each of them beyond my brief summaries may be found on the bruns-



From left, Dr. Wayne Allgaier, Brunswick Distinguished Citizen 2023, Michelle Peyton of the Pulling for Veterans organization and Pvt. Mike Lafferty at the Old Berlin Cemetery wreath laying ceremony.

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Upcoming Campaigns

Information and agenda for the 7th Maryland Annual Meeting will appear in this space.....soon.

Cemetery Honors

(Continued from page 1)

wickmd.gov websites for each individual that Doctor Allgaier assembled from his research.

Leander Barger (1838-1901)

Leander Barger was born in Clear Spring, Maryland on April 16, 1838. He was still living with his parents in 1860. In 1861 he was employed as a boatman on the C&O canal. He enlisted in Company F on August 21, 1861. During November 1862 through February 1863, he was AWOL from Camp Parole near Annapolis where the regiment was posted awaiting exchange after being captured during the September 1862 rebel invasion of Maryland. He suffered a "gunshot wound of both thighs from accidental discharge of a musket in the hands of another soldier" on September 4, 1864. Leander married Elizabeth Reed several months later and despite his injury continued to serve until the 13th Maryland was disbanded and he was discharged on May 29, 1865. The couple eventually raised ten children. After his military service he worked as a farmer, a dry goods merchant, and a canal boatman. He died suddenly at the age of 63 while loading a wagon. His obituary related that he was known as 'Captain Barger'.

Leonard House (1843-1929)

Leonard House was born in Berlin (now Brunswick), Maryland. He

was working as a laborer when he enlisted in Company H in August 1862 at the age of 19. Within several years after he was mustered out, he married his wife, Mary. Initially they settled in Loudon County, Virginia but Leonard returned to Berlin by 1870 with his wife and their two children and was working as a laborer. Mary died in 1915. Leonard's older brothers Wesley and Lawson also served in the 1st Maryland Infantry Regiment of the Potomac Home Brigade. He died in 1929 at the age of 86.

Battle Bond (1820-1898)

Battle Bond was born in Virginia in 1820. He was married to his wife Barbara and they had three children living at home and although he had worked as a basket maker,

by 1860 he was working as a laborer. He enlisted in Company K on December 13, 1861 at the age of 41. After his discharge, he worked on the railroad as a repairer, moved to Cumberland, and was later a fireman (I assume firing locomotives rather than as a fire fighter as Cumberland was a major railroad town) and later became a watchman. Battle took sick and died aged about 77 while visiting his son in Brunswick. His pallbearers were all fellow Civil War veterans.

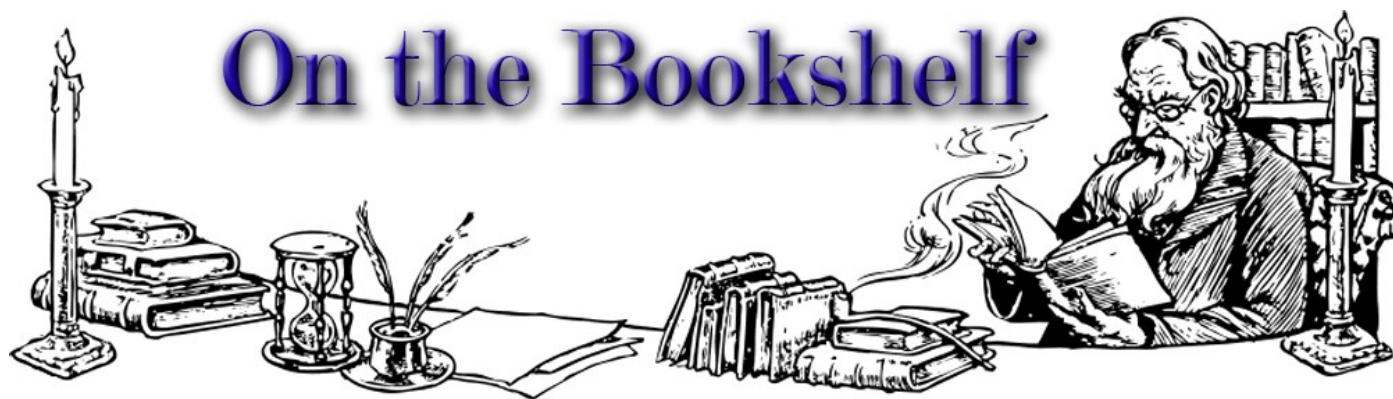
Hezekiah Shilling (1844-1909)

Hezekiah Shilling was born in Maryland in 1844. On August 26, 1862 at the age of 18 he mustered into Company G at Harpers Ferry on August 26 1862. Within seven

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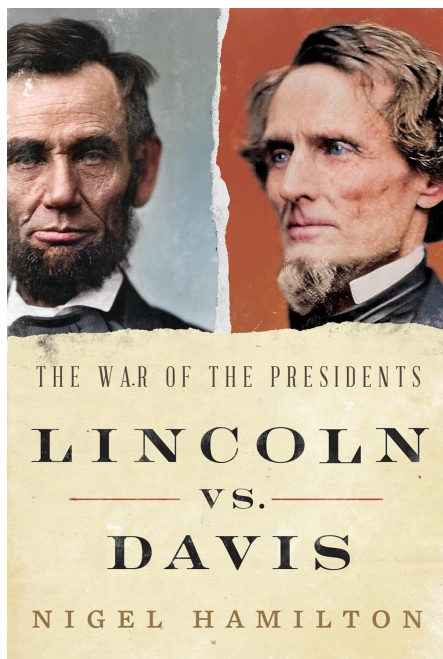
Liam Lafferty, Sarah Harris Lafferty, Kevin Harris Josh Harris and Mike Lafferty represented the 7th Maryland at the Old Berlin Cemetery ceremony.



On the Bookshelf

Lincoln vs. Davis: The War of the Presidents

By Nigel Hamilton, Little, Brown and Company, 800 pgs.



How did Lincoln grow into the formidable leader we know him as, and where did Jefferson Davis go wrong? This is a compelling account of two complicated men in American history.

From Nigel Hamilton, the *New York Times* bestselling presidential biographer, comes the greatest untold story of the Civil War: how two American presidents faced off as the fate of the nation hung in the balance— and how Abraham Lincoln came to embrace emancipation

as the last, best chance to save the Union.

Of all the books written on Abraham Lincoln, there has been one surprising gap: the drama of how the “rail-splitter” from Illinois grew into his critical role as U.S. commander-in-chief, and managed to outwit his formidable opponent, Jefferson Davis, in what remains history’s only military faceoff between rival American presidents. Davis was a trained soldier and war hero; Lincoln a country lawyer who had only briefly served in the militia. Confronted with the most violent and challenging war ever seen on American soil, Lincoln seemed ill-suited to the task: inexperienced, indecisive, and a poor judge of people’s motives, he allowed his administration’s war policies to be sabotaged by fickle, faithless cabinet officials while entrusting command of his army to a preening young officer named George McClellan — whose defeat in battle left Washington, the nation’s capital, at the mercy of General Robert E. Lee, Davis’s star performer.

The war almost ended there. But in a Shakespearean twist, Lincoln

summoned the courage to make, at last, a climactic decision: issuing as a “military necessity” a proclamation freeing the 3.5 million enslaved Americans without whom the South could not feed or fund their armed insurrection. The new war policy doomed the rebellion— which was in dire need of support from Europe, none of whose governments now would dare to recognize rebel “independence” in a war openly fought over slavery. The fate of President Davis was sealed.

With a cast of unforgettable characters, from first ladies to fugitive coachmen to treasonous cabinet officials, *Lincoln vs. Davis* is a spell-binding dual biography from renowned presidential chronicler Nigel Hamilton: a saga that will surprise, touch, and enthrall.

Editor’s note:

Have you read an interesting book lately? Or received one as a gift? Feel free to contribute a book review or recommendation of any length for inclusion in *Our Camp Journal*.

Discipline in the Civil War Armies

The Articles of War and civil laws covering military discipline were written and enacted before the Civil War to govern a small, self-contained professional military service. The military maintained order with a caste system and disciplined with shame and pain. With the mustering of great armies and navies, this way of life was revealed to vast numbers of civilian volunteers for the first time. Trouble resulted.

The Union and Confederate armies were led by small cadres of professionals who found that the war they were to fight required the coordinated movement of enormous bodies of men. The drill discipline this required was to be supplied by manuals such as Hardee's *Tactics* and the vigorous efforts of non-commissioned and junior officers. But many of these were friends or relatives of the men in the hometown companies in which they served. The local origin and makeup of most volunteer units had a poor effect on discipline; the men had elected their leaders, so volunteer officers were often wary of being strict with their troops. Early in the war this necessitated the removal or transfer of many volunteer officers, and in a few cases, the punishment of entire regiments.



Bucked and Gagged

Nor was the independent nature of volunteers and old loyalties easily overcome by discipline from Regular officers. Confederate Brig. Gen. Charles S. Winder had been an officer in the antebellum U.S. Army and was an officer in the Confederate army, leading 5 volunteer regiments. During the Second Bull Run Campaign he had 30 men from his brigade bucked and gagged at one time for straggling on the march. They took the corporal punishment badly: half of them deserted that night, the rest "swore Winder's next battle would be his last., They never had a chance to carry out their threat: Federals killed

Winder during the next battle.

Mutiny and threats of murder were not usual discipline problems. Straggling, drunkenness, fighting, dereliction of duty, theft, desertion, malingering, cowardice, bounty jumping, and insubordination were the common fare at courts-martial. Both Union and Confederate services made provisions for military courts and prescribed specific punishments for some offenses. But often, because of pressures of time, courts were not called in non-capital cases and commanding officers dispensed justice on the spot with some form of minor or corporal punishment. These included the Buck and Gag, walking guard duty carrying a heavy log instead of a rifle, being tied up by the thumbs, riding the "wooden mule" (a soldier was forced to sit for hours atop a narrow rail set high enough so his feet did not touch the ground), extra duty, fines, time in the guardhouse, and reduction in rank.

Cowardice, desertion, theft, sleeping on guard duty, treating with the enemy, spying, murder, and bounty jumping brought the hardest punishments. Execution by firing squad or hanging could be applied to all of these, but frequently cowards, thieves, and some deserters were branded (either on the face or the hip) and drummed out of camp in disgrace. In the artillery or cavalry, being tied for hours spread-eagled on a gun carriage wheel was common, and sometimes, when the culprit was hung horizontally, crippling. In both the army and navy, flogging had been outlawed several years before the war.

The hardest punishments could only be ordered by a court martial (a select board of 3 or more officers), and in the

case of a decision for execution, its vote had to show a 2-to-1 majority in agreement. Only the commanding general ordering the court or the U.S. or C.S. president could award a pardon.

At sea, limits of space and personnel prohibited some of the more curious corporal punishments and full court-

martial boards. the ship's captain dispensed justice in the forms Of fines, extra duty, time in the brig, confinement in single or double irons, confinement on bread and water, solitary confinement, or reduction in rank.

Officers could be, and frequently were, arrested and tried for any number of offenses, but most often their punishments amounted to fines, confinement to quarters, or assignment to an undesirable command. In those instances where a field officer was convicted of cowardice, his fate was nearly as ugly as an enlisted man's: he was publicly "read out of the army, his sword broken, his

buttons stripped from his uniform; then, he was drummed out of camp, often with a sign around his neck that read "Coward." Usually, in cases involving high disgrace, officers were expected to resign.

Combat discipline was imposed with force, in land assaults "file closers" with bayoneted rifles kept men in line and moving forward. Officers of the provost marshal waited in the rear to seize unwounded men leaving the field. At sea, marines kept shipboard peace and, if ordered to, kept men at their battle stations.

In the postwar years, amendments to service and enlistment regulations and revisions in the code of military justice were prompted by the disciplinary difficulties during the Civil War, and the bulk of the code was rewritten.



Carrying the Log

Source: "Historical Times Encyclopedia of the Civil War" Edited by Patricia L. Faust

Is the Red Nose from the Corset or Liquor?

by Heather Palmer

On first reading an 1867 article against tight lacing, a modern reader might think that the publication was unusually progressive. In fact, the article hid worse tyrannies than fashion could produce -- those of hiding real problems and of teaching women to blame themselves.

The Lady's Friend, although written almost entirely by men, diplomatically listed "Mrs. Henry Peterson" as publisher. The monthly ladies magazine first appeared in 1863 and had a brief career under the publishing house of Deacon & Peterson of 319 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In the issue of October 1867 (volume IV number 10), the column Editor's Department contained the article "Dress Versus Health".

The article sounds sensible as it begins by posing the question as to why women risk injury to their health by lacing so tightly that "every respiration is imperfect, and the most important vital organs are impeded in the performance of their sacred functions." A Mrs. R.B. Gleason of "the Elmira Water-cure" is quoted as speaking out against tight lacing, and of course there is the ever-necessary story of how a real woman has suffered: There is "the case, which we published in THE LADY'S FRIEND at the time, of a young lady placed at a boarding-school where a seven-

teen inch waist was the rule, and suffering infinitely in being brought within that compass. It seems the only singularity of her case was that she complained of the torture. Others took it as much a matter of course as women in China do the bandaging process that insures them a beautiful stumpy foot. The same reasons exist in both countries. As they are ladies not

necessitated to earn a living, they can do without health and strength -- genteel beauty they must have."

Had the article stopped there, it would stand as a rare voice arguing for women to choose health over popular standards of beauty. Unfortunately for the message of the piece, however, the article proceeds and so unlocks some doors often shut in

Victorian times:

"If girls knew the harm they do themselves by tight lacing, surely they would desist. They may not feel the effects now, but wait 'til they arrive at a more mature age. How many mothers have around them a family of poor, puny children, some of them perhaps crippled or deformed and for which they have only themselves to blame, having given way to the folly, to call it by no worse name, of tight lacing!" "For which they have only themselves to blame!"

In the nineteenth century in the United States a woman was judged by her peers on the basis of a very few things, chief among those criteria being her ability as a mother. Children born in American cities in 1867 suffered terribly from want of fresh foods, clean air and decent sanitation. Country children fared some better but their diets and

health were dependent on the seasonal conditions. By 1867 physicians knew of the debilitating effect of diet on a child's health, but the author of "The Lady's Friend" article chose to blame a woman and her supposed vanity if the children were "poor and puny". To add the "blame" of producing "crippled and deformed" children to tight lacing was not only also inaccurate, but cruel and helped to delay research by suggesting that the "solution" was already found.

The article goes on to mention that "if young ladies would devote a little more time to learning how to make a home happy and feed a family, and a little less time considering the ways and means to getting their waists 'just one inch smaller,' we should hear less of comfortless homes, and husbands driven to the club thereby..."

A neat bit of maneuvering there! In an effort to make herself more attractive to her husband a woman is therefore driving him away, so a man should not be blamed for being "driven" to attend club. It is his wife's fault! Another curious "closed door" opened by the article is the discussion of liver disease "caused by tight-lacing" and the statement that if women did not lace so tightly they would "also have fewer complaints of red noses... (both of which complaints dance attendance on tight lacing)." The mind numbing constrictiveness of women's lives in the mid-nineteenth century drove many women to alcohol -- a situation almost never acknowledged or discussed. It was publicly considered unthinkable that a woman would drink to excess. Symptoms of alcohol use, therefore, are here attributed to tightly laced corsets!

The cruelest sting comes at the end of editorial:

"Gentlemen do not admire it [tight lacing]. They gaze after it, as at a spectacle, but it is to wonder and to

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The Ladies' Knapsack.



Miss Sarah Harris
Civilian
Coordinator

My dearest readers, I do believe that the 7th MD brochure, linked on our wonderful website, is slightly out of date. And why do I bring this up, you may ask? It's now twice this year that I've received a phone call or message from one of our long retired members, Rick Boyle, telling me to get in touch with someone looking for Civilian War reenactors. The first time this year, from the Frederick County Parks and Rec department, and the second time from Pulling for Veterans. The call from Parks and Rec led to our attendance at a new (albeit somewhat rainy) event at Othello, and this most recent call led to participation in a wreath laying ceremony in Brunswick in December.

Brunswick is a large local hub for the railways, train stops, and train watchers, along with easy access to the Potomac River and the C&O Canal. Some of the houses in the 'original' part of Brunswick are well over 100 years old, and possibly older. The layouts of new additions and roadways make it very apparent that this is an old town that held on to a lot of its history while things were modernized around it. Nestled behind several older buildings that have been converted to more modern uses, is the Old Berlin Cemetery, which is where we gathered to participate in the ceremony. There's nothing flashy or fancy about this cemetery, but it is well cared for, and even includes a witness tree, as well as saplings and younger trees planted from the seeds of the witness tree.

This was the first year that Pulling

for Veterans, a local veterans support group, decided to include Civil War veterans in their wreath laying ceremony. Members from Pulling for Veterans were joined by local historians, Girl Scouts, and other locals at the ceremony to observe the ceremony. A brief history about the veterans was shared with the participants, and then members of the 7th, both infantry and civilian, participated in laying wreaths on each of the five veterans' graves. Taps was played at the end, by the great (great?) grandson of one of the veterans we recognized that morning. It was certainly an honor to be able to participate in this event, and thank you to Bill Hart, Mike Laferty, Kevin Harris and Joshua Harris for participating.



I might be biased, because I have two kids and it's hard to travel far with them, but I do enjoy these local little events that have been finding their way to the 7th MD. Our

current 7th MD brochure is from 2006, with the following contact information:

- A possibly outdated phone number for Jay
- Contact information for our retired Rick

And a dearly beloved member whom is no longer with us. I will admit that I am viewing the website from my cell phone, so I could be missing contact information that is more up to date somewhere on the website. But perhaps it's time to at least update our brochure with contact information. Or if we even mention on our website that we may be available to support local events. Just imagine what other opportunities could come our way for interesting and new events. I've enjoyed the new opportunities that came our way in 2024; here's hoping that 2025 will bring us some more.

(Editor's note: With this prompting I will be updating and possibly redesigning the 7th MD brochure. Any and all input would be welcomed.)



OUR CAMP JOURNAL



*Civil War Re-enactors;
America's Living Historians.*

Red Nose; Corset or Liquor?

(Continued from page 5)

blame. Of course there are exceptions. As a man is born of woman, a falsity in taste is liable to be handed down from mother to son; and we can nowhere find the headquarter of this fashion but in the fancy of women."

So if a man admires unnatural slenderness, it is still the fault of women -- it is the fault of the mother who reared him! Sadly, the original readers of "The Lady's Friend" were women who were rarely taught to read between the lines and who accepted much of what they saw in a

publication on face value. Period diaries and letters attest to the fact that women indeed blamed themselves (rather than their husbands, economic conditions or surroundings) if children were ill or if the husband preferred to be elsewhere than his home. Would that with the change in fashion from tight lacing to the natural look woman had ceased to take upon themselves so much blame!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Heather Palmer, has served as the Curator of three historic house museums and was also the Historian of Blair House, the President's Guest House. She lectures at colleges and publishes articles in the fields of 18th and 19th century women's lives, clothing and needlework, and in the area of material culture. She does freelance editorial work and writing

Cemetery Honors

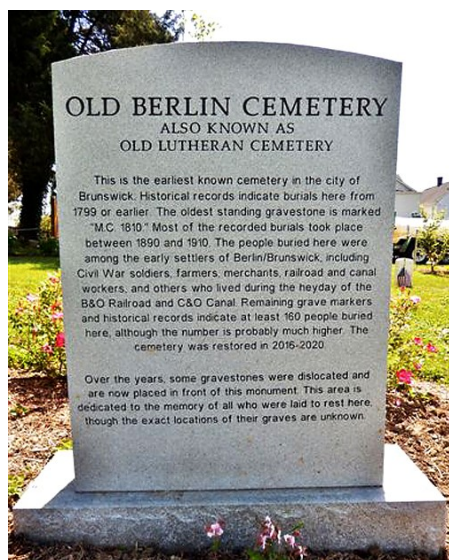
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months after he mustered out, he married a widow with two children, Barbara E. (Ball) Haller. He worked as a railroad repairer and later as a canal boatman. The couple had two children together. After the death of his first wife, Hezekiah married the widow Mary Jane Virts. He died August 13, 1909 at

the age of 65.

Henry Maylon Sigafoose (1829-1879)

Henry Maylon Sigafoose was born in Frederick County in 1829. In 1849 at the age of 20 he married Sarah C. Watkins with whom he had seven children. Henry was working as laborer when on August 17, 1862 at the age of 34 and with three young children at home, he mustered into Company H at Point of Rocks. Henry took French leave during the months of September and October, 1863, likely to be at home and help out with his family, perhaps earning some income during the harvest. He was AWOL again in January through April 1864. As an amateur soldier he likely considered being at home served a more suitable purpose than hanging around camp and drilling. After the war Henry worked as farm hand. Henry and Sarah eventually had seven children. Sarah died in the late 1860s. Henry died December 26, 1879 at the age of 50.



Left, the marker at the Old Berlin Cemetery in Brunswick, MD.

Above, a monument to the 1st Maryland Regiment Potomac Home Brigade stands on lower Culp's Hill in Gettysburg National Military Park overlooking Spangler's Spring.