



The Texas Union Herald



Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Volume I, Issue #3
April 2016

Rattling Sabres

by
Glen E. Zook

This is the 3rd issue of The Texas Union Herald and, so far, the reaction, from Camp members and others (Department of Texas and National SUVCW officials), has been very favorable as indicated by E-Mail messages received so far. Frankly, I am very pleased by the comments received to date.

Most publications, newspapers, magazines, and so forth, have a "Letters to the Editor" section and I am going to add such to The Texas Union Herald. Of course, praises about this newsletter are going to be printed. However, suggestions, criticisms, etc. will also be printed. Since the vast number of comments are going to come in via E-Mail, the "Letters" title could be considered to be a misnomer. But, "Letters to the Editor" has been the name of such section for over 200-years and I am going to go with tradition for the title instead of something like "E-Mail Messages to the Editor"!

Requests for information, and other things, can also be included in this "Letters" forum. Camp #18 members, as well as anyone else, are encouraged to utilize this function and, if suitable for publication, those letters, or portions thereof, will appear in the newsletter.

Brother Don Gates is working on the monthly meeting program schedule. If anyone is interested in making a presentation, at a Camp #18 meeting, please contact him. Brother Gates' E-Mail address can be found in the Camp officers list posted in this newsletter.

So far, I am scheduled to present a program at the July Camp meeting. My topic will be Major Mahlon Loomis, United States Army Medical Corps. He was a dentist. However, his "claim to fame" has nothing to do with anything in the medical field. Finding out his place in history, before the July meeting, will be "an exercise for the student", a phrase that seemed to be used in a LOT of my college textbooks! Even when his endeavors are known, the relationship to the Civil War is not well known.

Since I am including persons outside of Camp #18 but within the SUVCW, I am starting to receive other camp's newsletters. Some of these newsletters are very basic and other newsletters are very elaborate and professional in appearance. Most, but not all, of these newsletters are single column. That is, everything is like a "normal" letter.

There are newsletters with very fancy formatting and all sorts of visual attractions. What I am attempting to have in the Texas Union Herald is a format that closely adheres to the publications that were around during the Civil War. Of course, being that this is a time frame 155 years after the war began and we are using an electronic means

of communications rather than the "olde tyme" print type newsletter.

The character font chosen is Arial and the point size chosen is 10. In my experience, Arial font is easy to read and the 10-point size is a good compromise between the ability to read the text and the number of words that can be printed in each column on the page.

Harper's Weekly was one of the primary publications during the Civil War. That publication had 4-columns per page. However, the size of each page was a "bit" wider than the 8.5-inch wide format of this newsletter. As such, 2-columns in this newsletter are only just a little bit wider than 2-columns in the newspaper. Therefore, I am "sticking" to the 2-column format.

It would be possible to add a little color to the background instead of being white to try to imitate various publications of the 1861 to 1865 period. The drawback to doing this is that a color would make things harder to read.

Photographs were not readily available for publication during the Civil War and drawings, provided by field correspondents, were used to illustrate the news reports. Today, we have the ability to include photos and, instead of using line drawings, as such, photographs are appearing in the newsletter.

Publishing of newsletters has come a long way in just the past 50-years. In the 1963 – 1964 time frame, I was publishing an alumni quarterly newsletter for my college fraternity (Alpha Nu Chapter Phi Kappa Sigma). That newsletter was printed using a Mimeograph machine with stencils cut using my high school graduation present, a Royal portable typewriter. These days, we have the ability to send a lot more information, in a considerably more attractive format, in seconds not having to rely on the United States Postal Service.

From time to time, I am going to include some of the illustrations that appeared in Harper's Weekly and other publications of the period to contrast with the modern photos that I hope come from the membership.

So far, the number of articles, photos, and so forth, that the membership is providing is, to be brief, dismal! I do have all sorts of articles from up to 20-years ago about the Civil War to keep the pages filled for some time. But, one of the primary uses for a newsletter is to get current information out to the Camp #18 membership. Please, forward any information that you may have including, but not inclusive of, upcoming events, current and past events photos, tidbits of information, articles on all sorts of subjects even remotely involving the Civil War or current events, and so forth.

I am "long winded" and can fill many pages with my observations, etc. But, that is not what the newsletter is intended to achieve. If only for the purpose of "shutting me up", please contribute to the newsletter. Until next time. . .

The Texas **Union** Herald

The Texas **Union** Herald is published monthly by the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**. For official business, including editorial and article submission, the mailing address is as follows:

Glen E. Zook
The Texas **Union** Herald
410 Lawndale Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080

E-Mail: texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net

Telephone: (972) 231-3987
(972) 231-5011

Articles, news items, features, and the like are welcomed for publication in **The Texas Union Herald**. Deadline is normally the 1st of the month of the cover date of publication. Submissions may be handwritten, typewritten, or submitted in any of the popular computer formats (Microsoft Word, Open Office, Word Perfect, and ASCII). Please contact the editor for details.

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Articles Needed!

If the members of the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18** do not want to be inundated with articles that were chosen by the editor (what he wants to see in the newsletter) then they need to start inputting items for inclusion in **The Texas Union Herald**. Tidbits about the Civil War, stories, articles, current news items, photographs, even commentaries are most welcome.

Don't worry if you are not an accomplished author. Get the idea onto paper (computer, etc.) and get it to the editor. He really can edit (rewrite, etc.) and you'll be surprised at just how well you can write!

If you have E-Mail capabilities, you can either include the information in the body of the message or put it in either Word format or ACSII ("txt") format. If, for some reason, you cannot do either, contact the editor to see if your particular word processor format can be handled.

If "hard" copy, make sure the copy is legible (can be read by someone else!). Typewritten, computer printed, even in Crayon on "Big Chief" tablet is acceptable. Just get the information in!

Even small (1 or 2 paragraphs) material, or photographs, can be used. That makes editing and publishing the newsletter easier since "fill" material is available for those little areas that seem to happen whenever an article is included in the publication.

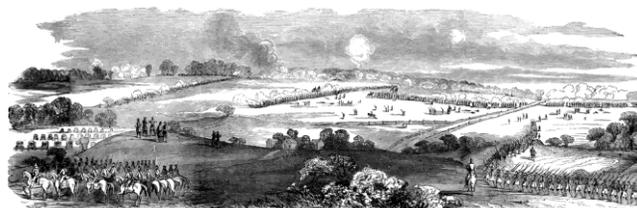
Mailing Address:

Editor
Texas **Union** Herald
410 Lawndale Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080

E-Mail: texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net

Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18 Camp Officers

Commander	Paul Ridenour paulridenour@tx.rr.com
SVC	John Schneider schneider1@sbcglobal.net
JVC	Brother Erder rerder@verizon.net
Secretary	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Treasurer	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Chaplain	Harold Sickler HaroldSickler@sbcglobal.net
Patriotic Instructor	Drake Peddie dmpeddie@aol.com
Graves Registration	Open
Historian	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Civil War Memorials	Open
Eagle Scout Coordinator	John Schneider schneider1@sbcglobal.net
Editor	Glen E. Zook gezook@sbcglobal.net texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net



Ridenour's Report:

Sorry I was unable to attend the March meeting. It was Spring Break at my job so I went on Spring Break to Galveston and Austin.

Don't forget that we have the Medal of Honor Parade on Saturday, April 9th. We are #37 in the parade, marching 8-10 people. I gave the details in an email to Drake Peddie and Don Gates. I will not be able to attend.

We also have a marker dedication on Sunday, April 24th at 2 PM, for Jehu E. Webb at the Long Creek Cemetery in Sunnyvale. Two things need to happen first. We need a marker that Don was going to order and we need permission from the cemetery association. I am still waiting on the cemetery association.

And lastly, we have 122+ Union soldier's grave markers to clean, scheduled for Sunday May 22nd at 2 PM, at the Greenwood Cemetery near downtown Dallas. Bring gloves and we will provide the rest of the materials.

See you at the April meeting.

Sincerely,

Paul Ridenour
Camp Commander

Regimental Colors

Traditionally and by regulation, a United States regiment of infantry had two colors: a national color which was after 1841 the stars and stripes, and a regimental color which bore the arms of the United States or some other device. Each Civil War Infantry regiment had two flags, by military definition these were called the regimental colors -- a national color and a regimental color. By "colors" is meant the national and the regimental flags that are carried by foot troops; by "standards" is meant the national and the regimental flags that were carried by mounted troops, and which are smaller than "colors." Colors and standards may be of either silk or bunting.

According to Civil War Army Regulations: "'Each regiment of Infantry shall have two silken colors. The first, or the national color, of stars and stripes, as described for the garrison flag; the number and name of the regiment to be embroidered with silver on the center stripe. The second, or regimental color, to be blue, with the arms of the United States embroidered in silk on the center. The name of the regiment in a scroll, underneath the eagle. The size of each color to be six feet six inches fly, and six feet deep on the pike. The length of the pike, including the spear and ferrule, to be nine feet ten inches. The fringe yellow; cords and tassels, blue and white silk intermixed.'" After February 1862 also inscribed upon the colors of the regiment were the names of the battles in which the regiment "have borne a meritorious part."

During the civil war a "stand of colors" for a regiment consisted of two flags, the stars and stripes and a state flag or banner. These two were borne side by side on the march and in the battle. They were each carried by a sergeant, called a "color sergeant," and were guarded by six or eight corporals, constituting what was known as the

"color guard." It was a great honor to be chosen for either of these positions, yet dangerous; for the enemy took particular pains in battle to shoot down the colors. Each regiment had a color company or a color guard, whose assignment was to bear the colors into battle and protect them. Each member of a color guard or company was selected for this position based on his courage and steadiness under fire, by the Regimental Commanders. The flags were carried by unarmed color sergeants, and accompanied by armed color corporals, who were instructed not to engage in combat unless the flags were in immediate danger of capture. The flags became the physical symbol of a units pride and courage, a rallying point in combat and the source of many heroic deeds in their defense.

The variety of colors among state regiments was very pronounced. Although the stars and stripes was often carried, the militia corps used state or local, rather than United States devices, as did most of the volunteers. These local colors are the more important, with a regimental pattern of a blue field that bore the state seal in the center along, with a scroll identifying the regiment and a ribbon or scroll that carried the state motto. If employed at all, these flags were generally carried early in the respective conflicts.

Public Service Announcement

Anyone who has not recently received a copy of "The Banner" (national newsletter of the SUVCW), please contact Brother Don Gates. He is compiling such a list to forward to National.

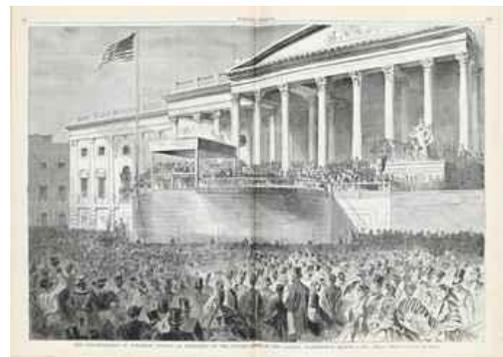
d_gates@verizon.net

April Meeting

The April 2016 meeting of the
Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18
SUVCW

Will be held on
Tuesday 19 April 2016

At the
Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.



The following is from a book entitled **Hill's Manual of Social and Business Forms** copyright 1886 and published in 1890. Although the title of the book does not suggest any connection what-so-ever with the Civil War, it contains much information about the battles of the Civil War, summarized by the persons who fought during the war. The volume is virtually a 4 year college course in one book, including all sorts of things like Government, proper writing forms, how to make public speeches, correct use of the English language, and many other topics. It covers all major battles of the Civil War and many of the minor skirmishes. All spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. are directly quoted from the original ("sic") and are not those necessarily used today.

Continued from last month

Battles of the Second Year of the War

This continues the excerpts from **Hill's Manual of Social and Business Forms** (copyright 1886, published 1890). All spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. are as appears in the original ("sic") and not necessarily those used today. The battles of the first year of the Civil War were published in the February and March editions of **The Texas Union Herald**.

Fight in South Carolina - In a cannon-fight at Fort Pickens, January 1, 1862, General Stevens, commanding a Union land force, advanced from Beaufort, and, with the assistance of the gunboats, captured the (Confederate) Coosaw batteries, held by General Bragg, losing 2 killed and 8 wounded.

Fight at Huntersville, W. Va. - January 4, 1862, the Union troops, under General Milroy, defeated a Confederate force at Huntersville, and captured \$80,000 worth of stores.

Battle of Prestonburg, Ky. - Fought January 10, 1862, between about 3,000 Unionists, under General Garfield, and about 2,500 Confederates, with three guns, under General Humphrey Marshall. Garfield, after fighting for several hours, and then being reinforced, finally routed the Confederates, whose loss was about 60 killed, besides prisoners, horses and stores.

A River Combat - Fought January 11, 1862, between two Union steamers and four Confederate boats, about 20 miles south of Cairo, Ill. The latter were compelled to seek refuge under the Confederate batteries at Columbus, Ky.

Battle of Mill Springs, Ky. - Fought January 19, 1862, between about 8,000 Confederates, under Generals Crittenden and Zollicoffer, and 3,000 Union troops, under Generals Thomas and Schoepf. The Confederates were defeated, with the loss of Generals Zollicoffer and Peyton, and 192 killed and 62 wounded, 8 cannon, 1,000 stand of arms, 1,700 horses and mules, a drove of cattle, 100 wagons, quartermaster's stores, etc. The Union loss was 39 killed and 203 wounded.

Capture of Fort Henry, Tenn. - General Grant, with a force of Unionists, and Commodore Foote, with 7

Union gunboats, formed an expedition which left Cairo, Ill., to reduce Fort Henry, on the Tennessee river, then in possession of the Confederates, under General Tighlman. On the 6th of February, 1862, without waiting for General Grant, who was detained by bad roads, Commodore Foote attacked the fort with his squadron. Within two hours General Tighlman unconditionally surrendered the fort, mounting 20 cannon, with barracks and tents, and about 130 prisoners. The Union loss was 2 killed and 37 wounded; the Confederates had 6 killed and 10 wounded.

Battle of Roanoke Island, N.C. - Fought February 8, 1862, between a Union expedition by land and sea, and the Confederate fortifications on the islands held by 2,000 men. The Union force consisted of more than 100 vessels and 11,500 troops, commanded by Commodore Goldsborough and General Burnside. The result was the capture of 6 Confederate forts, 40 guns, 2,000 Confederate prisoners, 3,000 small arms, ammunition, etc. The Union loss was 50 killed and 212 wounded, the Confederates had 5 killed and 18 wounded.

Battle of Fort Donelson, Tenn. - Fought February 15 and 16, 1862, between 20,000 Confederates, under Generals Pillow, Floyd, and Buckner, within the fort and its outworks, and about 20,000 Unionists under General Grant, assisted by Commodore Foote, with his fleet of gunboats. On the second day General Buckner unconditionally surrendered the fort, with between 12,000 and 15,000 prisoners, 40 cannon, and a large amount of stores. The Union losses included 321 killed, 1,046 wounded, and 150 missing. Floyd escaped with part of the Confederate force.

Battle of Fort Craig, N.M. - Fought February 21, 1862, between Union troops under General Canby and a Texan force. The Unionists were defeated with a loss of 62 killed and 162 wounded.

Captures on the Sea-coast - Commodore Dupont, commanding the Union fleet on the Southern coast, on the 4th of March, 1862, captured Brunswick, Ga., and Forts Clinch, Fernandina, and St. Mary's, Fla.

Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark. - Fought March 6, 7, and 8, 1862, between about 12,000 Unionists, under General Curtis, and 20,000 Confederates, under Van Dorn, Price and McCulloch, resulting in the defeat of the latter. The Unionists lost 203 killed, 972 wounded, and 176 missing. The loss of the Confederates was much greater.

The Fight at Hampton Roads - On the 8th of March, 1862, the Confederate steam war vessels Merrimack, Jamestown and Yorktown, attacked the Union fleet at Hampton roads, Va., destroying the Cumberland and Congress, and damaging several other Government vessels. Next day occurred the battle between the iron-clad Monitor (Union), commanded by Lieutenant Worden, and the Merrimack (Confederate), in which the latter was disabled. The Federal loss of men, killed and drowned, besides the vessels, was 224, and 62 wounded and prisoners. The Confederate loss was 6 killed and a number wounded.

Surrender of New Madrid, Mo. - The Confederates had fortified Island No. Ten, in the Mississippi river, a few miles above New Madrid, which was also fortified and defended by a Confederate force. Commodore Foote, with his river fleet of armed boats, and General Pope, with a land force, having threatened their works, the Confederates, March 13, 1862, evacuated New Madrid,

leaving 25 cannon, and military stores valued at \$1,000,000 in the hands of the Unionists.

Capture of Newbern, N.C. - Newbern was occupied by a Confederate force. On the 14th of March, 1862, General Burnside attacked the city with a fleet of gunboats and three brigades of Unionists. A four-hour's fight ensued, when the Confederates retreated, and the Unionists took possession of the city, with 69 heavy cannon and field-pieces, large quantities of ammunition, naval and military stores, steamers, vessels, etc., valued at \$2,000,000. The Union loss was 91 killed and 466 wounded, many mortally. The Confederate loss was not so heavy, they being under cover.

Battle of Winchester, Va. - Fought March 23, 1862, between Union troops, numbering 8,000 men and 24 cannon, under Generals Banks and Shields, and 13,200 Confederate infantry and cavalry, with 28 cannon, under Jackson and Garnett. After five hours' fighting, the Confederates were defeated, and retreated to Strasburg, followed by their victors. The Union loss was 103 killed, 441 wounded, and 46 missing. The loss of the Confederates was very large, 270 being buried on the field.

Battle of Pigeon Ranch, N.M. - Fought March 28, 1862, between 3,000 Unionists, under Colonel Hough, and 1,100 Texan Confederates; a drawn battle.

Battles of Pittsburg Landing and Shiloh - General Grant was encamped at Pittsburg Landing, on the Tennessee river, with 45,000 Unionists, awaiting reinforcements under General Buell. April 6, 1862, they were attacked by 40,000 Confederates, under Generals Johnston and Beauregard, and driven back to the river, with the loss of a number of prisoners. Next day, General Buell, with more Unionists, having arrived, the battle was resumed, lasting throughout the day. The Confederates, however, were finally defeated and driven to their fortifications at Corinth, Miss. The Confederates lost General A. S. Johnston. The Union loss is set down at 1,700 killed, 7,495 wounded, and 3,022 prisoners. The Confederate loss, as reported by Beauregard, were 1,728 killed, 8,012 wounded, and 959 missing.

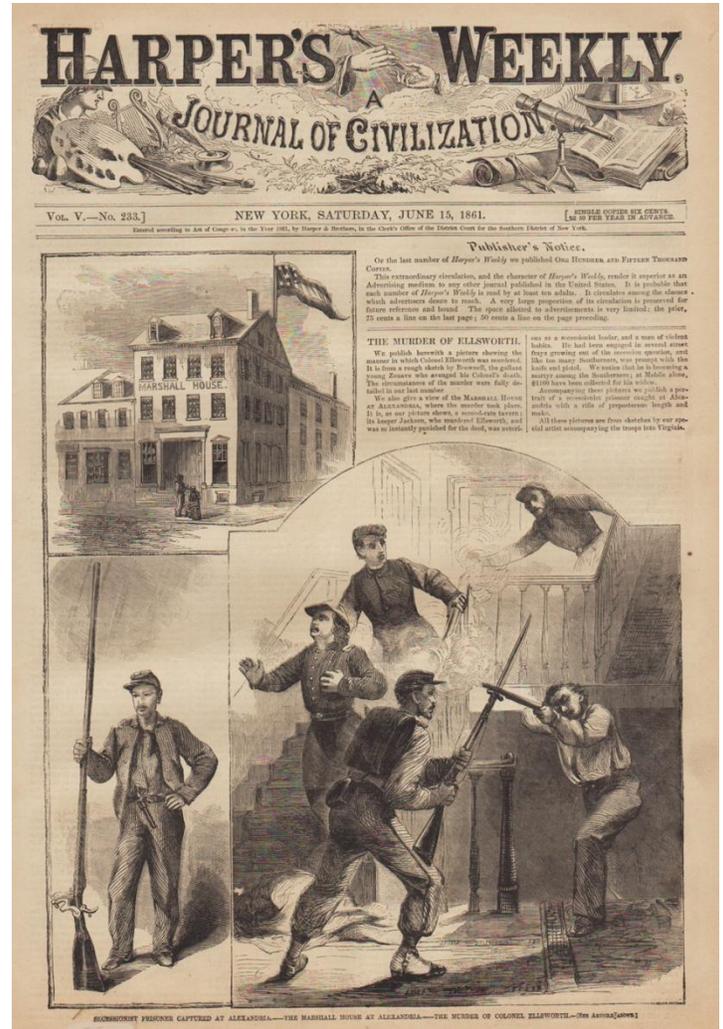
Capture of Island No. Ten - The Confederates having fortified Island No. Ten, in the Mississippi river, 10 miles above New Madrid, and so commanding a strong position, General Pope, with a force of Unionists, also secured another commanding position, just below the island. After several ineffectual attempts to dislodge him by the Confederate gunboats, on the 16th of March, 1862, Commodore Foote and his flotilla arrived to assist General Pope. The island was well fortified with earthworks and heavy cannon, and manned by 20,000 Confederates. The bombardment was so hot and heavy, however, as to seriously incommode the Confederates, and on April 8, 1862, the Unionists attacked them with such vigor that the works were carried. The result was the capture of 5,000 prisoners, 124 cannon, 5,000 stand of small arms, 2,000 hogsheds of sugar and a large quantity of clothing, tents, ammunition, etc.

Bombardment of Fort Pulaski, Ga. - Fort Pulaski, twelve miles from Savannah, occupied by the Confederates and defended by 128 cannon and mortars, was invested by 11 Union batteries, under command of General Gilmore. On the 10th of April, 1862, the bombardment of the fort began, and on the 11th the fort was unconditionally surrendered to the Unionists, who had lost 1 killed and 3

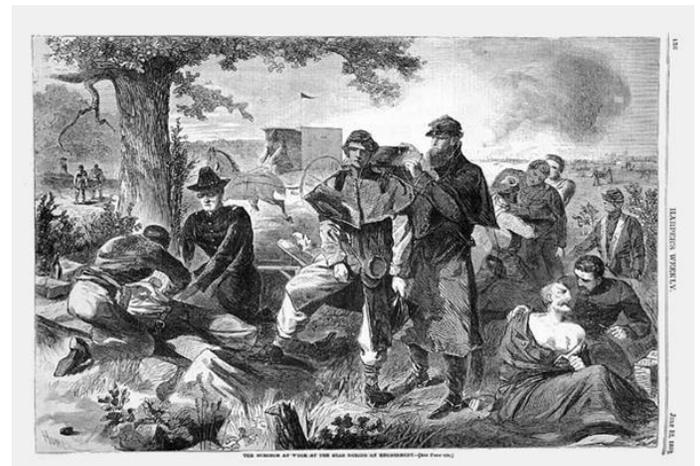
wounded. The Confederates had 5 wounded, and 380 prisoners were taken with the fort.

Capture of Huntsville, Ala. - On the 11th of April, 1862, General Mitchel, Unionist, occupied Huntsville, capturing 200 Confederate prisoners, 15 locomotives and a number of cars.

To be continued . . .



Harper's Weekly with the story about the murder of Colonel E.E. Ellsworth



A Naval Hero

by
Harry Dolbier

Born in New York State in 1818, John L. Worden won appointment as a midshipman in the United States Navy at age 15. The young sailor served three years in the Brazil squadron before studying at the Philadelphia Naval School and earning the rank of passed midshipman. Duty with the Pacific, Mediterranean, and Home Squadrons followed.

By 1861, Worden was a lieutenant and could look back on twenty-seven years in the navy. Slow promotion was a fact of life in those days, when advancement depended solely upon seniority and there was no retirement pay to encourage older officers to make way for the younger.

As the Southern states seceded, many officers left the navy to cast their fortunes with the rebels and the fidelity of many others was suspect.

When President Lincoln determined to reinforce Fort Pickens at Pensacola, he needed a man of unquestioned loyalty to carry the orders to the naval commander there. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles selected John Worden. Hostilities were not yet overt on April 7, when Worden started on his railroad journey through the Southern states, but he carefully observed everything he could along the way. The Confederate government learned of Worden's mission and on April 12 wired Colonel Braxton Bragg at Pensacola: "Lieutenant Worden, of U. S. Navy, has gone to Pensacola with dispatches. Intercept them."

Worden had taken the precaution of memorizing his dispatches and after being politely detained by Bragg, delivered his message. After Fort Pickens was reinforced, Worden started back North but the rebels arrested him at Montgomery on April 14 - their first prisoner of war.

Exchanged seven months later, Lieutenant Worden was assigned to John Ericsson's **Monitor**, under construction in New York. He commanded the revolutionary vessel during her trials, which revealed one problem after another with her machinery, armament, and handling characteristics. Nobody knew much about operating, navigating, or fighting this new kind of warship, but Worden concentrated all his mind and energy on the problems, and the **Monitor** was accepted for service just as the word came that the **CSS Virginia**, a rebel ironclad built on the hull of the scuttled **USS Merrimack**, was preparing to attack Federal ships at Hampton Roads, Virginia. The **Monitor**, still plagued with problems and still untried at sea or in battle, couldn't even get out of New York harbor unaided and had to be towed to Virginia. After a horrible voyage down the Atlantic coast, during which the crew speculated on whether they were more likely to drown or suffocate, Worden brought his ship into Hampton Roads on the evening of March 8, 1862, the same day that the **Virginia** in her debut sank the **USS Cumberland** and the **USS Congress**.

There was no time to lose. As soon as the **Virginia** appeared in the morning, Captain Worden, despite his own exhaustion and that of his men, drove the **Monitor** towards the Confederate ironclad. The two iron monsters circled, charged, and threw metal at one another without serious

damage to either ship. After three hours of battle, Worden put his eye to a small viewing slit in the iron bulkhead just as a shot from the **Virginia** fired from a range of about ten yards hit squarely on the peephole. Knocked senseless and bloody to the deck, he woke up in a moment to discover that the explosion had forced powder and tiny iron fragments into his face and eyes, completely blinding him. Crewmen carried the stricken captain, sightless and in intense agony, to his cabin, and Lieutenant S. Dana Greene assumed command. The battle roared on until the **Virginia** finally withdrew.

When President Lincoln heard that Worden had been brought to Washington he abruptly adjourned a cabinet meeting and hurried to the still blind officer. "Mr. President," said the lieutenant, "you do me great honor by this visit." Lincoln clasped the wounded man's hand and paused a moment. "Sir," he replied in humble tones. "I am the one who is honored."

Worden regained his eyesight, but for the rest of his life he carried the fragments of powder and iron in his face, giving it a curiously dark appearance.

The action at Hampton Roads earned Worden a special vote of thanks from Congress, and in February 1863 he was promoted to the rank of captain.

Recovered from his wounds, Worden was posted to the new, larger, monitor, **USS Montauk**. On January 27, 1863, he steamed up the Ogeechee River to Fort McAllister and engaged its batteries in a four hour artillery duel to investigate the effectiveness of ironclads against seacoast forts. The results were indecisive: The **Montauk** suffered little damage but failed to inflict much either. A month later Worden returned to the same spot and with a few well-placed shots destroyed the Confederate raider **Nashville**. As she withdrew down the Ogeechee, the **Montauk** struck a Confederate mine. Worden beached the ship, and soon discovered that despite a spectacular explosion, the damage was minor.

Still commanding the **Montauk**, Worden took part in Admiral Samuel Du Pont's naval assault on Charleston, April 7, 1863. The attack by seven monitors and two other ironclads quickly stalled, largely due the difficulty of navigating the ships through the harbor defenses. All afternoon the **Montauk** and her sisters exchanged fire with the shore batteries, and while neither side scored decisive damage, the Navy got the worse of it -- the **Montauk** alone took fourteen hits.. The pounding from the forts' artillery caused extensive structural damage even though the ships' armor could not be penetrated. The Yankees withdrew and Du Pont asked for the counsel of his captains. Worden expressed his belief that Charleston could "not be taken by the naval force now present," the other captains agreed, and Du Pont declined to renew the attack.

Recognizing Captain Worden's experience with monitor construction and use, the Navy Department next assigned him to shipyard work in New York developing new classes of ironclads. When the war came to an end, Worden continued with construction work. In 1868 he was raised to the rank of commodore and the following year appointed to command the naval academy. In 1872 came promotion to rear admiral. Admiral Worden commanded the European squadron for two years, then devoted his time to administrative work in Washington until he retired from the Navy in 1886 after a lifetime in the service of his country - 52 years. As special recognition, Congress voted him the

full sea pay of a rear admiral for the rest of life, which ended on October 18, 1897.

Throughout his long career John Worden proved himself not only a brave and effective officer, but one who could inspire respect and even affection in his subordinates — as when Lieutenant Greene of the **Monitor** wrote, "How I love and venerate that man."

Birthdays

A more inclusive list of Union General Officers', and other significant Union Army members, has been located. As such, several were missed for March and are being included in this April issue:

March Birthdays (continued)



Horatio G. Wright
6 March 1820



Adm. John L. Worden
12 March 1818



Isaac I. Stevens
25 March 1818



Samuel K. Zook
27 March 1821

April Birthdays



Lewis "Lew" Wallace
10 April 1827



David McMurtrie Gregg
10 April 1833



Henry W. Benham
17 April 1813



John Gibbon
20 April 1827



Alexander M. McCook
22 April 1822



Erastus B. Tyler
24 April 1822



Andrew J. Smith
28 April 1815





Lieutenant General Hiram Ulysses Grant
(Ulysses Simpson Grant)
27 April 1822



Colonel Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth
11 April 1837

D. W. Griffith's Civil War Films

by
Delmar H. Dolbier

Two of the biggest motion picture hits of all time are *THE BIRTH OF A NATION* (1915) and *GONE WITH THE WIND* (1939), both of which portray events of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Dozens of other Civil War pictures have been made, but the genre has gained a reputation as poison at the box office. From 1908's *SHERIDAN'S RIDE* through *THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE* in 1951 to the recent *GETTYSBURG*, few of these films earned blockbuster sums. Expensive to produce, their appeal often proved limited. During the first decade and a half of this century when the movies were in their infancy, Civil War pictures abounded. Curiously, neither the Revolution nor

the recent Spanish-American war provided any significant competition. Most of the early directors tried their hands at the genre, including the master of them all, D. W. Griffith.

David Wark Griffith, a son of old Kentucky, created the modern motion picture. At New York's Biograph studio, later with other companies and in independent production, Griffith pioneered the artistic use of motion picture techniques we take for granted today, including the close-up, the tracking shot, the lap dissolve, and cross-cutting.

Biograph, along with its many competitors, turned out several one-reelers (running about 12 minutes) every week. Griffith himself would often direct eleven or twelve of these pictures in a month. Shooting schedules of more than one or two days were rare. Fortunately, many of these pictures still exist -- in various states of preservation -- and a good many of them are available on video.

Eleven of the films Griffith made at Biograph dealt with the Civil War. These three present a fair sampling: *IN OLD KENTUCKY* (1909) - Two brothers go to war on opposite sides. As the family is celebrating the jubilant homecoming of the Union man, his defeated and bedraggled brother, clutching a blood-stained Stars-and-Bars, appears -- to receive an equal portion of their mother's love.

THE HOUSE WITH CLOSED SHUTTERS (1910) - A Confederate spy deserts and returns home frightened and drunk. His contemptuous sister takes his place and completes the mission, only to be captured and executed under her brother's identity. At the end of the film we see the wretched ex-spy confined to a house with closed shutters where his family has kept him for twenty-five years to prevent his disgrace from being known. One reviewer called this movie, "Depressing."

THE BATTLE (1911) - A coward is redeemed by the love of a pure woman and becomes a battlefield hero. The sensational battle scenes in this picture foretell Griffith's brilliant work in his masterpiece, *THE BIRTH OF A NATION*.

Griffith's other Civil War one-reelers are *THE GUERRILLA* (1908), *THE HONOR OF HIS FAMILY* (1910), *IN THE BORDER STATES* (1910), *THE FUGITIVE* (1910), *HIS TRUST* (1911), *HIS TRUST FULFILLED* (1911), *SWORDS AND HEARTS* (1911), and *THE INFORMER* (1912).

Griffith's cinematic Civil War culminated in *THE BIRTH OF A NATION* two years after he left Biograph. This controversial picture was a phenomenon at the time of its release and still stands as one of the great artistic achievements of the twentieth century -- albeit an ethically flawed masterpiece. An adequate discussion of the film requires more space than is available here.

The director revisited the Civil War one last time in his 1930 talkie *ABRAHAM LINCOLN*. By then Griffith had lost much of the control over his own work, and while the picture had modest commercial success, and contains a few superb scenes, overall it has little artistic merit.

We can assume that Griffith's early audiences included people who had witnessed the actual events on which his Civil War pictures were based -- veterans in their sixties or seventies. What did they think of Griffith's version of the War? If we only knew...

What is the attraction of these old movies to today's Civil War buff? Surely it doesn't lie in the melodramatic stories (brother against brother, father vs son, lovers parted, cowards redeemed) nor in the films' historical accuracy. In

all his pictures. Griffith always insisted on faithful reproduction of costumes, settings, and objects -- but he never let the historical facts stand in way of a good story.

Rather, it is the impression -- the look -- of these films that holds us fascinated. A Griffith Civil War picture looks as authentic to us in 1995 as a World War I newsreel.

The very crudity of the photography and the absence of sound that seem to be drawbacks are in fact the films' strongest features. You go to see a GETTYSBURG or a GLORY and marvel at the special effects -- the wonderful and terrible photography, the overwhelming sounds of battle, the realism of explosions, wounds, burning cities -- but you don't really feel you're there. Watching THE BATTLE or SWORDS AND HEARTS, on the other hand, might not make you believe you are there either -- but you could well get the impression that the cameraman was there -- Matthew Brady with a movie camera.

STROKING THE CAT

by
Harry Dolbier

When the shooting started, Abraham Lincoln knew he needed good generals. When the president reflected that he also needed to drum up strong political support for his war aims, his thoughts turned to the resident director of the Illinois Central Railroad, Nathaniel P. Banks.

To Nathaniel Prentiss Banks politics had always been a good way to make a living. No crusader, no devotee of a cause, Banks espoused whatever positions and supported whatever candidate appeared to have the best chance of prevailing. Following this practical approach, he became Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (1856 - 1857) and governor of Massachusetts (1858 - 1860).

Early in 1861, President Lincoln offered Banks a commission as major general of volunteers. Lincoln was not impressed with Banks' military experience, limited to militia service in his youth, but he was attracted to Banks' political influence in the New England states.

Banks' commission placed the former Speaker higher in seniority than any general except Winfield Scott, John C. Fremont, and George McClellan, all of whom disappeared from the scene before the war was over. Throughout the war, the Massachusetts political general held seniority over Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas, and all the other major generals, including Grant until Grant became lieutenant general. General Banks' military accomplishments failed to match his seniority.

After suffering defeat at the hands of Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley and losing again at Cedar Mountain, Banks sailed for New Orleans in November 1862 to relieve General Benjamin F. Butler as commander of the Department of the Gulf.

Corpulent Ben Butler, like Banks an influential Massachusetts politician, was an ardent abolitionist and a power in the radical wing of the Republican party who nursed a hatred for Southern people and Southern institutions.

General Butler hanged a Southerner for striking down the stars and stripes. He confiscated gold from New Orleans financial institutions and closed down churches whose ministers refused to pray for Abraham Lincoln.

Butler's most famous exploit was his proclamation that any Southern woman who insulted a Union officer would "be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation." This order was prompted by impertinent behavior towards Union officers by the ladies of New Orleans, including one Southern belle who dumped the contents of a chamber pot over the head of Flag Officer Farragut.

Some called Butler "Spoons" because he was alleged to steal the silverware when dining with Louisiana grandees, but there is no real evidence that he profited improperly from his position.

"Beast" Butler became the most hated man in the South, but his tyrannical rule of New Orleans was not entirely negative -- he earned grudging approval from some New Orleans newspapers for improving the city's deplorable sanitary conditions and suppressing the lawless element that had held the streets in its grip. Nevertheless, President Lincoln thought it best to replace Butler, and Nathaniel Banks, at the moment unoccupied, seemed a good choice.

Whoever commanded the occupation forces faced difficult problems of economic depression, foreign influence, race relations, a population unconvinced of ultimate Northern victory, and political division among nominal Union supporters.

Besides all the difficulties of civil administration, the occupation chief also commanded a field army battling powerful Confederate forces in Texas and Arkansas and struggling to dislodge the rebels from control of the Mississippi between Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

As the president had hoped, Banks' approach to these problems was more moderate than his predecessor's. "Since Butler had stroked the cat from tail to head," a Banks aide explained, "and found her full of yawl and scratch, it was determined to stroke her from head to tail, and see if she would hide her claws, and commence to purr."

Banks immediately released some of Butler's political prisoners and returned some improperly confiscated property. He sought without much success to improve relations with the churches by bringing in Yankee preachers. Aiding local Unionists in gaining control of the New Orleans school board, he was able to moderate the pro-Southern atmosphere in the public schools. As he had in Massachusetts, Banks sought and gained support from the working class.

The ladies of the Crescent City gave Banks no easier treatment than they had Butler, but the new commander's response was different. He and Mrs. Banks embarked upon a social program of balls, receptions, and concerts designed to "dance the fair Creoles to loyalty."

Banks was not all conciliation and sweetness. "Any...disturbance of the public peace," he proclaimed, "will be punished with the sharpest severity known to military law."

As field commander Banks gained scant success. His strength lay in his ability to focus all his considerable political skills on the problems of civil administration in occupied territory. Despite many defeats and disappointments, Nathaniel P. Banks left Louisiana with a new state government that was accepted, though certainly not loved, by the planter aristocracy, the Louisiana Democrats, and both the moderate and radical factions of the national Republican party.

Abraham Lincoln had found the right man for the job.

MILTON MURRAY HOLLAND

General Charles H. Grosvenor Civil War Roundtable

It was a crucial moment in time on that day in June of 1863, when young Milton Holland, an 18-year-old black boy from Albany, Ohio, joined the Union Army. It was crucial because the Civil War was still raging on after so many lives on both sides had already been lost, crucial because the North had finally decided to accept blacks among their military ranks, and crucial because it marked the beginning of a life of heroic proportions which continued long after the war was over. Who indeed was Milton Holland, and why did he figure so prominently in the history of Athens County and the annals of African-American history?



Let's begin at the beginning. Milton Murray Holland, a true reflection of the status of blacks at that time, was born a fair-skinned slave at or near Carthage, Panola County, Texas, on Aug. 1, 1844. He and his two brothers were purchased by a politically powerful and wealthy resident, Bird Holland, who had served as the secretary of state of Texas. For altruistic reasons which we may only conjecture, in the 1850s, Bird Holland send the three brothers north to Albany, Ohio, to receive

their education at the Albany Manual Labor Academy, a private academy established in 1847 whose educational philosophy is contained in the following statement made on April 28, 1849 in the Saturday Visiter. "By combining Manual Labor with study, we intend to rebuke the withering spirit of caste, and as far as our influence extends, make all forms of useful industry respectable, and furnish community with practical men and women instead of mere theorists."

The Academy forthrightly stated its egalitarian policy toward education in the following words: "Learning, although in its true nature democratic, has hitherto been limited to the few; but we desire to aid in extending its benefits to the many." In Frederick Douglass' Paper of April 29, 1853, it was noted that the institution sold shares of \$25 each "to all persons of good moral character (not slaveholders) ..." and "that students of both sexes and all colors are admitted to equal privileges."

This philosophy and these democratic practices in admissions were truly radical measures at this time in that very few institutions admitted either black or female students. The Academy further stated that, "The colored man, with a few honorable exceptions, has been denied the means of mental elevation, but we cheerfully accord to him all the rights of a common humanity, and intend assiduously to labor for his elevation."

And so we find among the 185 students listed in the Annual Catalogue of the Albany Manual Labor University, 1855-56, no fewer than 19 black students, including three from Houston, Texas, with the names of Holland: namely William, Johnson and Milton. With tuition ranging from \$2.50 to \$4 per term depending on the course of study, \$2.50 per term for room, and \$1.50 per week for board, one wonders how the brothers were able to afford their schooling. Did

their benefactor, emancipator and possible father provide for their well-being?

In a letter dated Jan. 11, 1853, which described the school to a minister in New York, W.S. Lewis on behalf of the Union Congregational Church of Albany noted the close relationship between the church and the school, describing them as "purely anti-slavery and anti-sectarian, being substantially on the same basis of the Oberlin Church." In describing the black population, Lewis wrote that "... we have had quite an accession of colored people from several different slave states and students, children of slave holders from Louisiana and Texas." As the Holland brothers were the only students from Texas, we can only surmise that the reference is to their paternity. It is also possible that the Holland brothers, like so many at the school, performed two hours of manual labor each day in order to defray expenses. Although we cannot determine the answers to these questions, we do know that later, as the Civil War began, Bird Holland, still in Texas, served in the Confederate Army and was killed at the Battle of Sabine Cross Roads.

At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Holland was only 16 years old, but when the first call for volunteer soldiers was made, he was "among the first boys of his school to throw down his books and respond to the call of his country." He tried to enlist in the Union Army immediately in April 1861, was rejected due to his race. It is ironic that it was not until 1862 that Secretary of War Stanton allowed black Americans to enlist in the military, albeit in separate units commanded by white officers and at less pay than white soldiers of equal rank. They also were not allowed to rise above the non-commissioned officer level.

Feeling the frustration of wanting to fight for freedom but being unable to enlist, a group of black men, with one or more Hollands possibly among them, formed a voluntary "colored military company" known as the Attucks' guard, so named because of Crispus Attucks, the first person (who also happened to be black) to be killed in the Revolutionary War. On May 1, 1861, this unit, headed by Captain Julius Hawkins, attaché of the U.S. District Court of Cincinnati, informed Ohio Governor William Dennison that "every man was ready to fight the Union's cause."

On May 15, 1861, the Attucks' Guards marched in Albany to the residence of Rev. J. Cable, where they were presented with a handmade flag by the black women of Albany and were acknowledged with an address by Rev. Thomas J. Ferguson, who later headed the first all-black school in Albany, the Albany Enterprise Academy, after the Albany Manual Labor University changed hands and restricted admissions to white students only. Despite their good intentions, the Attucks Guards services were refused.

Milton, undaunted, sought to serve his country in other ways. He therefore sought employment in the quartermaster's department and was an aide-de-camp of Colonel Nelson H. Van Vorhes, an officer in the 3d, 18th and 92d Ohio infantry regiments. Holland was finally able to fulfill his dream of enlisting in the Fifth Regiment of the U.S. Colored Infantry, Company C, Union troops in Athens on 22 June 1863. According to the records of the company descriptive book, Holland was physically described as being 18 years of age, five feet eight inches tall, with a yellow complexion, brown eyes and black hair. He listed his occupation as shoemaker, a trade he undoubtedly learned at the Albany Manual Labor Academy, and possibly

practiced while he served under Colonel Van Vorhes. Additional remarks include the fact that he was free before April 19, 1861, the date of the outbreak of the Civil War, and that he enlisted for a term of three years. He mustered in at Camp Delaware, Ohio, on July 23, 1863.

However, there was some confusion about which state the fifth colored infantry would serve under. Massachusetts was the first Union state to accept and recruit black soldiers, and had enlisted the aid of John Mercer Langston, later to become the first black congressman from Virginia, in forming the 55th Massachusetts Regiment, to be composed mainly of Ohio men. Governor David Tod of Ohio had been in communication with Langston earlier in 1862 when Langston initially approached him about blacks serving in the military. Tod informed him that "this is a white man's government; that white men are able to defend and protect it and to enlist a negro soldier would be to drive every white man out of the service," at which point Langston politely responded, "Governor, when you need us, send for us." In a letter to Joseph Mason of Albany (dated June 3, 1863), Governor Tod said that he was "only assisting Governor Andrews of Massachusetts to raise his Colored Brigade." However, Governor Tod, seeing the success of the Massachusetts recruitment, asked Secretary of War Stanton for permission to raise a colored regiment in Ohio, and on 22 June 1863, Governor Tod issued a statement to the people of Ohio in which he said, "An effort is being made to raise a Regiment of colored men in our state. A camp of rendezvous has been established at Delaware and everything is now in readiness to receive the troops.

Despite having received misinformation about monthly pay and allowances, the Fifth Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops was formed with 400 strong from every part of the state. Recruits from southern Ohio comprised fully 80 percent of the regiment, with those from Hamilton and Athens County providing the largest number. The leader of the Athens County company was one Milton M. Holland. Nevertheless, the arrival of the Athens County contingent to Camp Delaware is not a simple tale to tell. Since Massachusetts was the first state to accept blacks in the military and Ohio had not as yet consented to form a "colored regiment," Holland gathered forces to join the rank of that state which would accept their aid. Holland and his men were temporarily situated in an official camp on the fairgrounds of Athens County before their departure. When a white emissary of Langston arrived to inform them that they could indeed join the ranks of the Ohio regiment, Holland refused to meet with him, perhaps feeling that he could not trust the emissary or perhaps doubtful about the intentions of his own home state that had previously refused to have anything to do with their efforts. In any case, John Mercer Langston himself went to the Athens County Fairgrounds to convince Holland of the sincerity of the Ohio formation of colored troops. Before going to the fairgrounds, Langston met with E.H. Moore, a local banker, to ascertain just what the situation was before walking into the camp. Holland was described in the following terms:

He was a young colored Texan sent North and located as a student at that time in Albany He was by nature a soldier. He smelt battle from afar, and was ready at the shortest warning to engage in deadly conflict. At the time he was really a lad of about nineteen years of age, with all the fire of such youthful, daring nature as he possessed in blood and by inheritance. He was a young person of

remarkable native intelligence, good name, bearing himself constantly, even among his men, so as to win the largest respect and confidence. The promise of manly life and endeavor were apparent in his case on the most casual observation and contact.

The communication was highly successful. After an hour and a half, Holland and the 149 men he had recruited signed the rolls to go to Camp Delaware the next morning.

After four months time in which Holland was the drillmaster (possibly because of his leadership qualities and because of his previous association with Van Vorhes in the military), the regiment left Camp Delaware in November 1863, and went on to Norfolk, Virginia, where they gained assignment to the African Brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Edward S. Wild. Holland traveled with the regiment as first sergeant as they made several raids into North Carolina and then moved to Yorktown. While still in Norfolk, Holland wrote the following letter, dated Jan. 19, 1864, to the Messenger, Athens' local newspaper, whose editorship had been taken over by Van Vorhes during the latter years of the war. In it, Holland noted the following:

The regiment is organized, and has been in active service for three months....The regiment though young, has been in one engagement. The men stood nobly and faced the cowardly foe when they were hid in the swamp firing upon them. They stood like men, and when ordered to charge, went in with a yell, and came out victorious, losing four killed and several wounded, the rebel loss is large, as compared with ours. I must say of the 5th, that after twenty days of hard scouting, without overcoats or blankets, they returned home to camp, which the soldiers term their home, making twenty-five to thirty miles per day. Several of the white cavalry told me that no soldiers have ever done as hard marching through swamps and marshes as cheerfully as we did, and that if they had to follow us for any length of time it would kill their horses. During that raid, thousands of slaves belonging to rebel masters were liberated....Friends at home be cheerful...there is a brighter day coming for the colored man, and he must sacrifice home comforts if necessary to speed the coming of that glorious day. I will close my letter in the language of the immortal Henry—"Give me liberty, or give me death!"

The young Milton Holland seemed to truly believe in the veracity of these words as his military career went onward and the Fifth Regiment, US Colored Troops, became engaged in the thick of the action. Under the command of General Benjamin F. Butler, there was a series of raids and battles in the areas of Virginia and North Carolina. As the first Sergeant of Company C, Holland led an attack on the rebel strongholds at Bottoms Bridge (just outside of Richmond) and Petersburg, capturing the signal station and signal officers of the Confederacy. Thus, Company C began to distinguish itself from the rest of the regiment known as the Black Brigade, for excellence in the soldierly qualities of discipline and courage, were ranked as the most reliable men in the regiment and, according to Holland, "classed among the best grade of white troop." This same regiment had at first been rejected by another white general, General Smith, who had felt they were incapable of giving adequate service to the Union. He quickly changed his mind after seeing the troops in action.

In a second letter to the Messenger, dated July 24, 1864, Holland stated the following:

... Never have we seen a day, however disagreeable the weather might be, that we would not go to the assistance of our brothers in bondage, and sever the chain that bound them ... it is not the style of Black Warriors to allow themselves to be trifled with

Holland, sensitive and aware of historical events, pondered the following as he led the advance up the James River in May 1864 at daybreak:

Many things attracted our attention along the banks of the James ... one I might mention particularly, was the ruins of Jamestown, the spot where the curse of slavery was first introduced into the United States. A serpent that has inserted his poisonous fangs into the body of this government, causing it to wither in its bloom.

On Sept. 29, 1864, Company C saw perhaps its finest hour of glory in the war when they led the charge at New Market Heights near Richmond. According to sources of the time, "this charge was really the key that unlocked the door to Richmond, and paved the way for its capitulation." It was face to face, hand to hand combat. After all the regular (white) officers were either killed or wounded, four black sergeants took command of their companies, Milton Holland being one of them. All reports showed that the four "led gallantly and meritoriously through the day." Although wounded during the battle, Holland did not leave the field. Holland's regiment received the highest praise from General Grant, who personally rode over the battlefield. Because of their roles in taking over and leading the regiment to victory, Holland, along with the other three black sergeants, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, forwarded through President Lincoln, on April 6, 1865. The citation read, "Took command of Company C, after all the officers had been killed or wounded, and gallantly led it." During the Civil War, only 26 Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded, and two were won by black American men in Ohio, Milton Holland and Powhatan Beatty of Cincinnati, who also served in the same regiment. The names Petersburg and New Market Heights were inscribed on the Regiment's colors.

The Fifth Regiment continued fighting for the Union with a notable victory at Fort Fisher, North Carolina (January 1865) and action in various skirmishes that took place in North Carolina. On April 14, 1865, the regiment passed in review before General William Sherman in Raleigh. On Sept. 21, 1865, the Fifth Colored Regiment was mustered out of federal service. On Sept. 30, the Regiment arrived at Camp Chase in Columbus, where they received their final payment and discharge.

It is of interest to note that First Sergeant Milton Holland was never able to be promoted to a higher rank because of racial prejudice, even though he was called on to perform duties far beyond his rank and grade, having been on more than one occasion in command of his company. Had the situation been egalitarian, Holland would have been named captain of his company. In fact, Governor Tod was willing to commission Holland as a captain if he would go before the board as a white man and be reassigned to another regiment. Holland refused to deny his racial identity and declined the offer from the Governor. What, you may well wonder, happened to Athens County's only Congressional Medal of Honor recipient after the Civil War? On October 24, 1865, immediately following his discharge, Milton married Virginia Dickey, in Columbus, where they made their first home. Holland resumed his trade as a shoemaker, the vocation he had acquired while at the

Albany Manual Labor Academy. According to Holland's pension records, he resided in Columbus from October 1865 until April 1866, then for some unknown reason, moved back to Albany from April until October 1866, and returned to Columbus from October 1866 until June 1869.

His life changed radically, when through the good offices of the personal friend he made while on the fairgrounds of Athens, one Honorable John Mercer Langston, Congressman from Virginia, he was offered a clerkship at a salary of \$1,200 a year (a fairly high salary for the time) in the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington, D.C., on the recommendation of ex-President R.B. Hayes and General B.F. Butler, whom he so valiantly served under during the war. While doing his job in the U.S. Treasury Department, Holland studied law at Howard University and graduated in 1872, at which time he was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. Throughout his years in the nation's capital, Holland was extremely active in Republican politics, rendering "effective service for his party in nearly every state and national campaign...." Moreover, politics brought him back to Athens on several occasions, once to receive a "fine and beautiful gold headed cane...meant as a testimonial of the appreciation of Mr. Holland's many Republican friends of his political services in this part of the state and another time to give a speech on the Ohio University campus in October 1884.¹⁹ In the meantime, Milton Holland's older brother, William H., who had served in the Civil War in a Tennessee regiment and subsequently attended Oberlin College, returned to Texas State Legislature. William Holland is noted as the father of the bill creating Prairie View Normal, a school for black students, and the Texas Institute for Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Colored Youth where he was the superintendent for 11 years. There is no doubt that these two politically active brothers remained in communication throughout the years even though they lived in distant states. Milton Holland left the civil service in 1887 and opened a law office in Washington where he had a good practice, particularly in real estate endeavors.

Holland was active in other fields besides his law practice, becoming president of the Capital Savings Bank and secretary and general manager of the Industrial Building and Savings Company, two black-owned and operated business enterprises. He was described at the time in the following terms: "He is positive and business-like in his methods, quick and accurate in his mastery of details, untiring in his energy and fearless in his courage."

Because of his service to the Republican party, Senator John Sherman offered him the position of Chief of Division in the Second Auditor's Office at a salary of \$2000 per year, in which capacity he oversaw the accounts of the War Department and the West Point Military Academy. Holland, continuing in his spirit of doing what others had not done before, became a founder and first president of the Alpha Life Insurance Company, one of the first black-owned insurance companies in the nation, incorporated in 1892.

On a personal level, Holland, his wife and daughter, lived in, according to a report of the time:

... [A] large, beautiful frame structure, modeled after the plan of a French villa, with Mansard roof and spacious lawns surrounding the entire home. It is situated on Howard University Hill, commanding a fine view of the beautiful park surrounding National Soldier's Home....His home is nicely furnished, and the library is well filled with a choice selection of the best works of the best authors. His estimable wife

and daughter preside over their home with a charm of manners that make it the social rendezvous of their many friends

What happened to this daughter is unknown, for Holland declared in a statement to the Bureau of Pensions in 1906 that he had no living children.

In another ironic twist of racial history, Holland had a great deal of trouble in proving his honorable military service and obtaining his military pension from the federal government, but finally succeeded in receiving a \$12 per month payment which was later passed on to his widow. In applying for his pension, Holland cited deafness and impaired vision as disabilities.

In 1902 Holland and his wife retired to Silver Spring, Maryland, where they resided until his death at the age of 65 on May 15, 1910. According to his death certificate, the primary cause for his demise was listed as "neuralgia of heart." He was buried on May 18 in Harmony, Maryland. His wife of many years passed away on Sept. 18, 1915. Although it has been more than 75 years since Holland died, Athens County nor black America nor the Union itself will soon forget the contributions made by one of our most valiant Civil War heroes.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for sharing your very interesting newsletter!!

David McReynolds
Commander, Major William A. McTeer Camp No. 39,
SUVCW

Greetings Brother Zook,

Thank you for sending me a copy of the TUH. Great job! I would appreciate you sending me each future issue and any other Camp docs that you can get copies of. I am the Department Historian and would like to have your Camp represented faithfully in the archives.

I am also the Edward Lea Camp newsletter editor. Attached is a copy of our most recent quarterly issue. I would like to offer your Camp a page in our newsletter to share the news of your Brothers with our membership.

In C, F, & L

JVC Michael Lance
Newsletter Editor, Camp & Department Historian
Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea USN Camp #2 SUVCW
Houston, TX

Brother Zook:

I appreciate getting your newsletter. It is very interesting with a lot of informative articles. I especially like your plan to award a medal for camp members submitting news articles.

Thanks,
Bob Grim
robertgrimSVR@hotmail.com

April Meeting Program

The April meeting program will be about the Battles of Lexington and Concord, 19 April 1775. The "shot heard around the world"!

The Battle Cry of Freedom

Yes, we'll rally round the flag, boys, we'll rally once again,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

We will rally from the hillside, we'll gather from the plain,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

Chorus:

The Union forever, hurrah! boys, hurrah!
Down with the traitor, up with the star,
While we rally round the flag, boys,
Rally once again,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

We are springing to the call of our brothers gone before
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

And we'll fill the vacant ranks with a million freemen more,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

Officer's Report

During one of his battles in the West, it is said that an officer rode furiously up to U.S. Grant as he stood with his staff. Touching his cap in salute, he addressed the general in a heavy German accent, "Dscheneral, I wants to make vun report; Schwartz's battery is taken. "

"How was that?", said Grant.

"Vell, you see, Dschereral, die sczessionists come up in die front of us, und die sczessionists come up in die flank of us, and then die sczessionists come up in die rear of us, und Schwartz' battery vas took."

"Well, sir," inquired Grant, "you of course spiked the guns?"

"Vat!", cried the officer, "Schpike die guns, schpike die new guns! No! It would schpoil dem"

With a sharp look, Grank asked, "What did you do?"
"Do? Vy, we took dem back again!"

From the Newspapers

Week of 12 January 1862

Atlanta (Georgia) Intelligencer: Persons who have a great deal to say about shedding the last drop of blood are amazingly particular about the first.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: The Federals and Confederates have been firing back and forth at each other again at Fort Pickens (Florida). If they keep on, somebody might get killed.