



The Texas Union Herald



Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume I, Issue 7 August 2016

Rattling Sabres

by
Glen E. Zook

I tend to start on the next edition of The Texas Union Herald just as soon as the previous month's edition has gone to bed ("gone to bed" is an old newspaper term meaning that an edition / issue has been printed). As such, I may ramble all over the place with my comments.

Since Camp #18 members, the local SVR unit, and members of the re-enactors group are participating in 4th of July parades and events, I sincerely hope that there will be quite a number of photographs provided for this August edition. The large number of photographs, that appeared in the July edition, have gathered quite a number of favorable comments and I hope that the number of photographs, provided by Camp #18 members and others, continues to be great so that interest, in this publication, does not diminish. Each edition is E-Mailed and, as such, there are no additional costs to expand the "mailing list". Therefore, I have already added numerous Department and National officials to the distribution and I can add others who are interested in receiving the newsletter. From the comments received, The Texas Union Herald is gaining a very favorable notoriety within the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War family.

I am always pleading for Camp #18 members, and anyone else who so desires, to submit articles, tidbits, photographs, and any other information, to be published in this newsletter. Yes, I have quite a number of historical articles that were previously published in the old Camp #1 and the (old) Department of the Southwest Lone Star Unionist newsletter that are between 15-years and 20-years old which have not been read by the vast majority of present SUVCW members to draw from. But, news about current events is most certainly welcome as well as articles written on historical topics including visits to historical locations. Articles about the Mexican War and the Reconstruction after the Civil War are certainly appropriate as well as articles about the war itself.

Continuing into the month of July, I am led to understand that most of the Camp #18 members participated in 4th of July celebrations as Sons of the American Revolution members and not SUVCW members. I would have thought that there would still have been some members who are not members of the SAR that would have participated as SUVCW, SVR, or as re-enactors in various 4th of July activities.

I am still hoping that there will be information from various SUVCW members who visited, on vacation, places

that had some significant part in the Civil War or that had some significant part with someone who served in the Civil War.

The National Encampment is scheduled for 11th August through 14th August in Springfield, Illinois. There are several Camp #18 members going and I definitely hope that there will be numerous photographs, as well as news items, available from that event. If not, then I strongly suggest a trip behind the woodshed conducted by the remaining Camp #18 members in honor of those who did attend the encampment!

At the last moment, Brother Don Gates has come through with photos of the rededication of the Treue der Union monument. The events leading up to the reason for this monument was the subject of the July presentation by Brother John Schneider. On the Confederate side, this battle is known as the Battle of the Nueces.

At the July meeting, Brother Gates informed the Camp of problems, the Department of Texas is having, with a former SUVCW member Danial F. Lisarelli. This situation is not new having started, almost 20-years ago, with the (old) Department of the Southwest.

The situation started with the Houston area Camp and spread to the entire Department. Things finally came to a head during the period that I was the Department Commander. As such, I have, in my files, considerable documentation concerning the situation and there is further documentation available from the Houston group. I sincerely hope that, after 20-years, things will be finally settled. However, I am definitely not holding my breath!

Getting back to Camp #18 activities, Commander Ridenour is leading another headstone cleaning of the 86 known Union headstones at the Greenwood Cemetery, in Dallas, beginning at 10:30 AM on Sunday 7 August 2016. The only thing you need, besides yourself, are a pair of gloves. If it rains, then the cleaning will be rescheduled.

As summer grows to a close, I certainly hope that more Camp #18 members will be attending the monthly meetings. The attendance has not been that great the past few months. I know that various activities happen during the summer with vacations and such. However, school will again be in session and vacation activities are coming to an end. Therefore, the excuses, for not attending the meeting, should cease to exist.

The August 2016 meeting of the
Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18 SUVCW
Will be held on
Tuesday 16 August 2016 At the
Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

The Texas **Union** Herald

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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



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.

Battles of the Second Year of the War

Battle of Maysville, Ark. - Fought October 22, 1862, between 10,000 Unionists, under General Blunt, and 7,000 Confederates. After a severe action of an hour's duration, the latter were totally routed, with the loss of all their artillery, a large number of horses, and a part of their garrison equipments.

Battle of Labadie, La. - Fought October 27, 1862, between a party of Confederates and a Union force. The latter won the field, with a loss of 17 killed and 74 wounded.

Fight at Garrettsburg, Ky. - Fought November 11, 1862, between Unionists under General Ransom, and Confederates under General Woodward. The latter were defeated.

Battle of Kinston, N.C. - Fought November 17, 1862, between 6,000 Confederates, under General Evans, and a Union force under General Foster. After a fight of five hours the Confederates were defeated with the loss of 11 cannon and about 400 prisoners. The Union loss was about 200 killed and wounded. This fight and several other encounters of more or less importance occurred during a ten-days' expedition of General Foster from Newbern to Goldsboro, for the purpose of cutting off railroad communication between Richmond, Va., and Charleston, S.C. He appears to have been successful.

Battle of Cane Hill, Ark. - Fought November 28, 1862, between 2,000 Unionists (cavalry and artillery), under Generals Blunt and Heron, and 2 regiments of Confederate cavalry. After a sharp skirmish the latter retreated to Van Buren, leaving their killed and some of their wounded on the field. The Unionists followed them to Van Buren, and completely routed them there, capturing 100 prisoners, 4 steamers, a large quantity of corn, camp equipage, mules and horses. The Confederates retreated, leaving behind 600 wounded and sick soldiers.

Skirmish near Charleston, Va. - Fought December 2, 1862, between Unionists and Confederates. The latter were defeated, with a loss of 70 killed and wounded and 145 prisoners.

Battle of Prairie Grove, Ark. - Fought December 7, 1862, between about 7,000 Unionists (infantry and artillery), under General Heron, reinforced by about 5,000 more and 24 cannon, under General Blunt, and 28,000 men of Hindman's Confederate army, with 18 cannon, under Marmaduke, Parsons, Frost, and Rains. The Confederates were defeated with a loss of more than 2,000 killed and

wounded, and during the succeeding night retreated from the field. The Union army lost 495 killed and 500 wounded, including upward of 40 field and line officers.

Fight at Hartsville, Tenn. - Fought December 7, 1862, between Morgan's Confederate cavalry and a brigade of Unionists of Dumont's command, under Colonel Moore. After an hour's fight, the brigade, consisting of the 104th Illinois, the 106th and 108th Ohio, part of the 2d Indiana cavalry and a battery, surrendered to the Confederates and were paroled. The Unionists also lost 55 killed.

Battle of Fredericksburg, Va. - December 11, 1862, the Union army, under Burnside, began the bombardment of Fredericksburg, then occupied by the Confederates under Lee. During this bombardment Burnside transferred 100,000 of his men across the Rappahannock, in front of Fredericksburg. December 13, the battle was fought, Burnside bringing about 32,000 men into action, under Sumner, Hooker and Franklin. Lee had of his 80,000 troops only about 25,000 in the fight, under Jackson and Longstreet. The Unionists, after a severe contest, were repulsed. Their losses were 1,152 killed, 9,101 wounded, 3,234 missing. The Confederates lost only 595 killed, 4,061 wounded, and 653 missing.

Skirmish at Zurich, Va. - Fought on the 13th of December, 1862, between Unionists and Confederates, the latter being defeated, with the capture of a portion of their force.

Capture of Baton Rouge, La. - On December 14, 1862, a part of General Banks' command, under General Grover, took peaceable possession of Baton Rouge, the capital of the State, the Confederates having evacuated the town.

Capture of Holly Springs, Miss. - December 19, 1862, the Confederate general, Van Dorn, with several thousand cavalry, invested Holly Springs, which was then occupied by the Unionists. Once in, after a feeble resistance by the Unionists, they destroyed and carried off public and private property valued at nearly \$5,000,000. They then evacuated the town.

A Raid into East Tennessee - A notable cavalry raid was made into East Tennessee, beginning December 21, 1862, by the Unionist General Carter, with about 1,000 men. They were gone from Winchester, Ky., 20 days, during which, without tents, they marched 470 miles (170 in the enemy's country); burned 2 important railroad bridges across the Holston and Wautaga rivers; damaged 10 miles of track; had 2 skirmishes with the Confederates; captured 400 prisoners, 700 stand of arms, and a train of cars with a locomotive, besides a considerable quantity of stores, and returned with the loss of 2 men killed and 8 others wounded, captured or missing.

Skirmish at Dunfires, Va. - Fought December 23, between the Unionists, under General Sigel, and a party of Confederates. The latter were repulsed.

Battle of Davis' Mills, Miss. - Fought Between the Confederates, under Van Dorn, and a small force of Unionists, under Colonel Morgan, of the 25th Indiana regiment, December 21, 1862. After a severe conflict the Confederates retreated, leaving their dead and wounded on the field.

Second Siege of Vicksburg, Miss. - December 27, 1862, General Sherman attacked the advanced works of the Confederate defenses, about six miles from Vicksburg, on the Yazoo river. At the same time the gunboats attacked the Confederate batteries on Haines'

Bluff. December 28, the Unionists drove the Confederates from the first and second lines of defense, and advanced to within 2 1/2 miles of Vicksburg. December 29, the Confederates attacked General Sherman with their whole force, and drove him back to the first line of defense. December 30, after burying their dead and transferring their wounded to transports, the Unionists abandoned the siege, General Sherman returning to camp at Milliken's Bend. The Union loss was about 600 killed, 1,500 wounded, and 1,000 missing.

Battles of Stone River, Tenn. - Fought December 31, 1862, and January 1, 2, 3, 1863, between 43,400 Unionists under General Rosecrans, and 62,490 Confederates under Hardee, Polk, and Kirby Smith. The main attack of the Confederates was made December 31, on General Rosecrans' right, commanded by General McCook. This Union division was driven back four miles, and lost 26 cannon, but being reinforced from the left and center, the Confederates were in turn repulsed and the lost ground regained. Confederate attacks were made on the Federal lines January 1 and 2, but were repulsed. On the night of January 3, the Confederates retreated. The Union losses were 1,553 killed, 7,000 wounded, and 3,000 prisoners. The Confederate loss is estimated at 10,000 in all.

Battle of Parker's Cross Roads, Tenn. - Fought December 31, 1862, between 7,000 Confederate cavalry, under Forrest, with 10 cannon, and a body of Unionists under Generals Dunham and Sullivan. After a sharp fight, the Confederates retreated, losing their cannon, 500 horses, caissons, ammunition, small arms, wagon, camp equipage, and more than 1,000 men killed, wounded, or taken prisoners.

Battles of the Third Year of the War

Battle of Galveston, Tex. - Fought January 1, 1863, between a Confederate force of 3,000 men, under General Magruder, and the 300 Unionists who occupied the town. At the same time the Confederate batteries and 2 steamers attacked the Union blockading fleet in the harbor. After a contest of several hours, the small Union force on shore and the Union steamer Harriet Lane were captured by the Confederates. The Union vessel Westfield was blown up to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy, and Commodore Renshaw perished with her. The Confederates captured, also, a large quantity of arms, ammunition, etc. The Unionists lost 25 killed.

Fight at Springfield, Mo. - Fought January 7, 1863, between a force of Confederates, and a force of Unionists under General Brown, who held the place and defeated the Confederates. The place contained a large quantity of stores owned by the Unionists, whose loss in the defense was 17 killed.

Battle of Arkansas Post, Ark. - Fought January 10 and 11, 1863, by the Union river fleet under Admiral Porter, and the Union land forces under General McClernand, against the Confederate force who held the post. On the second day the fortifications were carried by the Unionists. The Confederate loss was about 200 killed, 4,500 prisoners, about 4,500 stand of arms, and 20 cannon. The Unionists lost about 100 killed and 500 wounded.

A Naval Battle - January 10, 1863, two Confederate iron-clads, undertook to break up the Union blockade at Charleston, S.C. Two Union vessels were

seriously injured, and the inner line of the fleet disturbed. Otherwise the attack was a failure.

Capture of Transports - January 12, 1863, three Union transports and a gunboat surrendered to the Confederates on the Cumberland river, Tenn.

Battle at Bayou Teche, La. - Fought January 15, 1863, between a party of Unionists and the Confederate force which held the place. The latter were captured, and the Confederate gunboat cotton was destroyed.

Battle at Sabine City, Tex. - Fought January 20, 1863, between Confederates and 2 vessels of the blockading squadron. The latter were captured, and 1 was destroyed.

Third Siege of Vicksburg - January 22, 1863, General McClernand resumed the Union siege of Vicksburg, Miss., and work was renewed on the Union cut-off canal at that point. The Union ram, Queen of the West, ran the blockade at Vicksburg, February 2, but was afterwards captured by the Confederates. February 13, the iron-clad Indianola also ran the blockade, and was captured by the Confederates. February 18, 1863, the Union gunboats began to shell Vicksburg, but without accomplishing anything.

Fight at Fort McAllister, Ga. - Fought between the Union iron-clad Montauk, sailed by Commander Worden, and 3 wooden gunboats and a force of Confederates in the fort. Two unsuccessful efforts were made, January 27 and February 1, 1863, to capture the fort. February 27, the Confederate steamer Nashville, while attempting to run the Union blockade, got aground and was destroyed by the fleet.

Battle of Blackwater, Va. - Fought January 30, 1863, between a force of Confederates, under General Pryor, and the Union army, under General Peck and Cocoran. After 2 severe engagements, the Confederates were repulsed, with a Union loss of 24 killed and 80 wounded.

Skirmish at Rover, Tenn. - Fought January 31, 1863, between a party of Unionists and another of Confederates, the latter being defeated with a loss of 12 killed and 300 wounded.

Battle Near Middletown, Tenn. - Fought February 2, 1863, between Stokes' Union Tennessee cavalry and a Kentucky Union regiment and a Confederate camp. The camp was captured, the occupants dispersing.

Fight at Bradyville, Tenn. - Fought March 1, 1863, between 2,300 infantry and cavalry, under General Stanley, and a force of about 800 Confederate cavalry. After a sharp skirmish the latter were routed and driven more than three miles, some of them being cut down as they ran.

Skirmish at Eagleville, Tenn. - Fought March 2, 1863, between a brigade from the regular Union army and a force of Confederates, in which the latter were routed.

Skirmish Near Thompson's Station, Tenn. - Fought March 5, 1863, between 7 regiments of Union soldiers, with a battery, under Colonel Coburn, and a force of Confederates, numbering 30,000 men, under Van Dorn. Overcome by superior numbers, after an unequal struggle, Coburn surrendered, part of his command escaping safely. The Unionists lost 100 killed, 300 wounded, and about 1,200 prisoners. The Confederates admitted a loss of 140 killed and 450 wounded.

To be continued

Ridenour's Report

Brothers,

At tonight's meeting (July), we decided to clean the 86 Union headstones at the Greenwood Cemetery in Dallas again on August 7th at 10:30 AM. I know some of you have church and that's ok. I am out of church by 09:30 and we wanted to clean them before it gets too hot. Please join us if you can. You only need to bring gloves. If it is raining, it will be canceled. Some of us may eat lunch afterwards at Hook, Line, and Sinker, less than a mile away.

I will send out a reminder a few days before the 7th.

We are also planning on having a Union marker dedication for Jehu Webb in September in Sunnyvale, possibly sooner, and on a Saturday or Sunday at around 2 PM, or possibly later. We will also check to see when the Cowboys are playing. Most of us are busy on Saturday mornings. I will get back with you when we have a date.

Sincerely,

Paul Ridenour, Camp Commander

Letters to the Editor

Many thanks, Brother Zook!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

William J. Andrews, PhD
PCC, PDC, & Historian, Oklahoma Department, Sons of
Union Veterans of the Civil War
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Good job. Lots of photos!

Paul Ridenour

Bro. Zook,

Once again, a great newsletter! Thank you for your fine efforts to keep everyone informed! Love the photos and historical articles. Thanks for sharing.

Michael Lance
JVC – Edward Lea Camp #2

Brother Glen

That's a lot data in one issue. Thanx for sharing. I have to pull teeth to get items out of my Camp Brothers..

Regards

David Demmy, Sr.
Executive Director SUVCW

The Three Volley Rifle Salute

by
Larry Johnson

In ancient times when soldiers were armed with swords, spears, and axes, armies fought at close quarters in tightly-packed mass formations. Once combat began, the line of contact between the two armies soon became a scene of carnage. Surviving soldiers in the follow-up ranks found themselves unable to fight because the bodies, blood, and gore littering the ground made finding a secure footing impossible. One, or both, armies would then request a truce so the bodies could be removed. Once this grim task was accomplished, one side would have its archers shoot a volley of arrows to signal they were ready to resume the battle. The other side would launch a return volley when they too were ready. The first side the fired the third volley, which meant they had seen the enemy's signal, and the battle would continue. Thus, three volleys were fired over the bodies of the dead.

This custom evolved in various forms through the centuries and by the time firearms replaced bow and arrows, most European armies had adopted the practice of firing three volleys from muskets, and later, from rifles, to honor their fallen. Today rifle salutes are fired by all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces at military funerals and ceremonies honoring deceased veterans.

The protocol of rifle salutes call for three volleys to be fired by a squad of riflemen. A squad is defined as their, or more, men. There is no requirement for a specific number of rifles or number of rounds fired. Police departments, veterans' organizations, and even active duty military units normally employ seven riflemen when performing the three volleys' ceremony in the mistaken belief they are firing a 21-gun salute. They are not! Gun salutes are fired by artillery pieces, rifle salutes are fired by an unspecified number of rifles. Few people today are aware of this distinction and the error firing three volleys by seven rifles and calling it a 21-gun salute continues to be perpetuated.

The 21-Gun Salute

by
Larry Johnson

Before the appearance of gunpowder, ships fought each other by ramming and/or boarding an enemy vessel. Artillery was originally employed against castles and fortifications and could not go to sea until naval architects learned to design, and build, ships large and strong enough to carry cannons. The first warships are with cannons set said in the 14th Century, ending close combat at sea, and forever changing the role of naval power. Medieval warships mounting a dozen, or more, cannons represented what was a fearsome amount of firepower in their time, and when one of these ships entered a foreign port, it would fire all its guns to signal it was entering the port with guns unloaded and that its intentions were peaceful. Maritime nations quickly saw the threat posed by these new types of ships and began building shore batteries to defend against them should their intentions not be peaceful. The shore batteries, once constructed, soon began to reciprocate with

the ships, firing all their guns in return to welcome the visiting ship. This practice eventually became the customary way for naval vessels to salute the flag of a friendly port and for the host nation to salute the flag of a visiting ship in return. The practice is still in use today.

As ships grew bigger, and the number of guns increased, firing all the ship's cannons became impractical. But, the number of guns to be fired was an item of contention because different nations had varying practices. At the end of the 17th Century, a common type of warship carried 42 guns, 21 guns on each side, and a broadside fired sequentially from 42-gun frigate became the sun salute of several countries. By the 18th Century the British had become the world's dominant sea power and the British Navy compelled weaker nations to salute the British flag with 21 guns. Yet not all countries complied. In 1818 the young United States selected 21 guns for its National Salute not due to British influence but because there were 21 states in the Union at that time. This has varied slightly over time but was settled for good in 1875.

Today a 21-gun salute is the Nation's highest honor and is fired (by artillery pieces, not rifles) only for the flag, and by extension, the Nation, and the President, Ex-President, and President elect. Other officials, including the Vice President, receive fewer guns according to protocol rank. The 21-gun salute **is not**, and never has been, a funeral honor despite the widespread belief to the contrary. Neither is there any truth to the popular story that the 21-gun salute was derived from the sum of the digits in 1776.

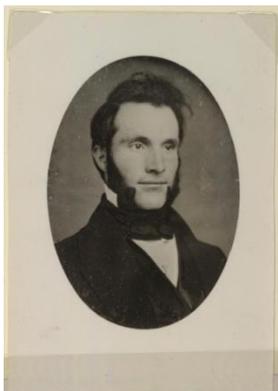
Major Mahlon Loomis

by
Glen E. Zook, K9STH

Radio Communications During the Civil War!

Yes, radio, rather wireless, communications were available during the Civil War. Unfortunately, this was ignored by the high ranking officers of the Union Army!

The purpose, of this article, is to refresh, and expand, the information that I presented at the May, 2016, meeting of the Colonel E. E. Ellsworth, Camp #18, Department of Texas, SUVCW. Of course, for those members who were not present at the meeting, this will be new information.



Mahlon Loomis

Mahlon Loomis was born on 26 July 1826 in Oppenheim, New York, a son of Professor Nathan Loomis who has been reported as associated with Professor Benjamin Peirce of Harvard University in the founding of the American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac. When he was 10-years old, his family moved to Springvale, Virginia. In September 1848, he started studying dentistry in Cleveland, Ohio. While completing his dentistry studies, he taught school in Cuyahoga, Ohio. By the summer of 1849, he was proficient in dentistry and returned to Virginia to practice as a traveling dentist.

On 28 May 1856, he married Achsah Ashley in West Springfield, Mass. Then, a few months later, in November, Loomis moved to Washington, D.C., where he set up a permanent dentistry practice.

Mahlon was fascinated with electricity even trying to increase plant growth using electricity from batteries. Then, according to his journal, on 15 August 1858, he started experimenting with wireless communications.

In 1861, in the early months of the Civil War, Loomis volunteered and was awarded a commission as a major in the Army Medical Corps. He was "stationed" in Washington where he remained for the entire war.

Loomis tried various combinations of wires, and other apparatus, and by late 1862 was experimenting with wires held aloft by kites and was communicating over a distance of several miles. Then, on 20 February 1864, he wrote, in his journal, that he had "worked out" a system that was capable of communicating across oceans and great distances on land. On 21 July 1864, he created a drawing of the apparatus that he had been successful of communicating over a distance of at least 14-miles.

Sometime, probably in late 1862 or early 1863, Loomis demonstrated his system to the "Army brass". Unfortunately, they were not interested in this "new fangled" system. Although rejected by the Army, he kept experimenting and in November 1864 he made another demonstration to the Army. Again, his apparatus was given little notice even though the range, of the system, had been increased considerably over Loomis' previous demonstrations.

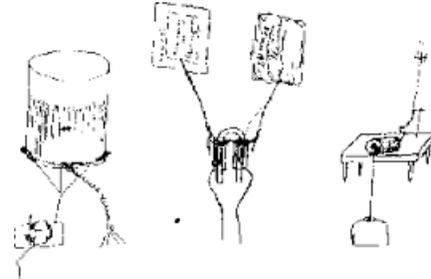
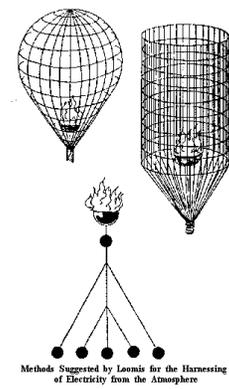
Loomis continued his experiments throughout the war and beyond. In October 1866, he demonstrated his system to a number of dignitaries including several Members of Congress. This demonstration took place in the Blue Ridge Mountains and communications were reliable at a range of over 15-miles. Because of this demonstration, some of the Congressmen started the process of awarding Loomis Federal funds to continue with his experiments. However, the bill languished for several years.

During 1868, Loomis demonstrated his system to more Members of Congress and a number of eminent scientists this time communicating over 18-miles. These demonstrations resulted in a renewed push for funds for continuing the experiments. In January 1869, another bill was introduced which included awarding Loomis \$50,000 in funds to expand his system. That bill languished, in Committee, until May of 1872 when it was amended to remove the financial award but did give Loomis permission to form a corporation and sell stock. Finally, in January 1873, the bill passed the Senate and was immediately signed into law by President Grant.

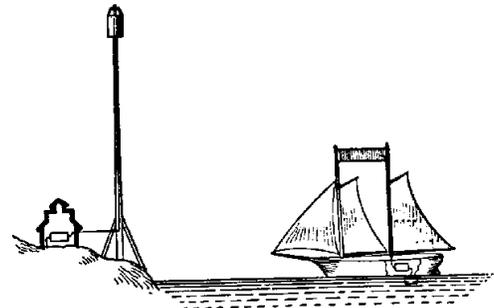
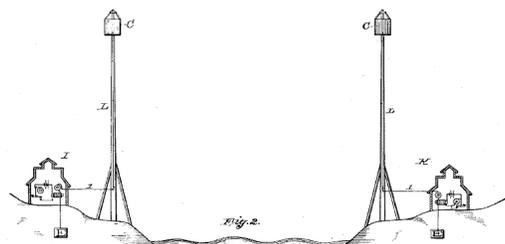
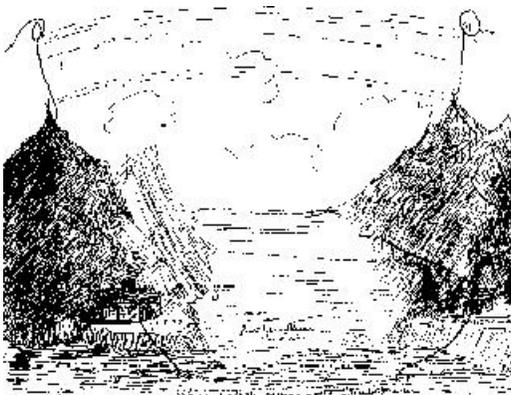
Unfortunately, the financial condition of the country was such that Loomis was unable to acquire that much

money. However, he did continue to experiment and by the late 1870s, he had installed two wooden towers, slightly over 20-miles apart, with steel masts for antennas, that provided continuous communications for 24-hours a day over several months before the towers were dismantled.

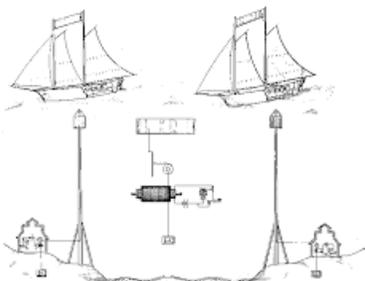
On 30 July 1872, United States patent #129,971 was issued to Mahlon Loomis for his wireless communications system.



There still exists, in the United States Patent Office, the sketches that Loomis provided for his application:



And a number of other diagrams.



Had the United States Army adopted Loomis' apparatus, one can only imagine how instantaneous communications would have benefitted the commanders. Imagine what having basically instantaneous communications from scouting parties, such as cavalry detachments, instead of taking an hour, or even considerably longer for the information to arrive. Having instantaneous communications with commanders in the field allowing redistribution of troops in minutes instead of hours could have helped the Union Army.

Although Loomis' system was rudimentary, it did work. Had it been adopted, by the Union Army, I believe that further refinements would have soon been made that would have vastly improved the performance.

The telegraph worked wonders with fast time communications. But, having radio communications would have given the Union Army a very distinct advantage over the Confederate forces.

Several of Loomis' experiments utilized balloons to support the wire antennas. During the Civil War, there were definitely means of generating hydrogen gas to fill lighter than air balloons and small sized generators were easy to manufacture. Cavalry scouting parties could gather information, fill a balloon in a very few minutes, and then elevate the wire antenna to communicate with headquarters. As such, information on enemy troop movements, etc., could be dispatched in just a very short period of time instead of taking up to several hours before a rider could make his way to headquarters if he made it at all!

Loomis did not understand the Physics principles that made his invention work. For example, the concept of the "tuned circuit" was discovered by him by the fact that he discovered if the lengths of the wires attached to the kites / balloons (antennas), were the same, the performance, of the apparatus, was improved by a substantial amount. Having the lengths identical caused the transmitting and receiving apparatus to be "tuned" to the same frequency. This, in turn, considerably improved the sensitivity of his system which then improved the range by a significant amount.

Although his experiments were successful, Loomis did not benefit in any financial rewards. He put, basically, all of his financial means into his work and the result was that he died broke, at his brother's home, in Terra Alta, West Virginia, 13 October 1886.

For those who believe that Marconi invented wireless (radio) communications: Marconi invented absolutely nothing! Every one of Marconi's patents were voided in favor of previous work by others!

In 1885, a patent, #350,299, was issued to Amos Dolbear, a Physics professor at Tufts College which was virtually identical to the system patented by Marconi. This patent kept the Marconi Company from operating in the United States until the patent rights were purchased by Marconi!

Another experimenter was Nathan Stubblefield of Murray, Kentucky. He devised a huge coil attached to an early telephone-like mouthpiece. By grounding his equipment, he was able to communicate actual voice communications without wires. Stubblefield patented his "Vibrating Telephone" in 1888 when Marconi was an adolescent boy. Congress visited Stubblefield's demonstration in January 1902 and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch carried a full-page article on the miraculous experiment. A bill was introduced in Congress to appropriate \$50,000 for development of Mr. Stubblefield's work. But something happened. The money was never forthcoming. The market went bad; Black Friday ruined many; fires and other bad luck forced Stubblefield to give up. He died a penniless and starving heartbroken farmer at his Murray, Kentucky home in 1928. A small roadside historical marker indicates his resting place, and nearby Murray State University houses his meager effects. The museum has a model of the curious coil and phone apparatus.

There were other inventors who had working apparatus before Marconi including Sir Oliver Lodge and Reginald Fessenden. Fessenden was broadcasting voice,

and music, on the St. Lawrence River when Marconi was barely able to send International Morse Code over just a few miles!

There are those who say Nickoli Tesla invented wireless communications. But, Loomis, and Dolbear, had working systems before Tesla came onto the scene.

Basically, at least to me, Loomis definitely claims the title as to the inventor of wireless (radio) communications!



The only surviving items of Loomis' apparatus

Attention to Orders



**Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War**

Office of the Commander-in-Chief
70 Curtis Drive, East Berlin, PA 17316

July 5, 2016

GENERAL ORDER – 20 Memorial Day Policy

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

On May 1868 General John A. Logan, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, proclaimed "Decoration Day" to be observed annually. The first observation was held on Saturday May 30, 1868. The reason the 30th of May was chosen is still unclear, and debated even today. The first use of the term Memorial Day was recorded in 1882.

On June 28, 1968, the American People, through their elected representatives in Congress, passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. This moved Memorial Day from its traditional May 30 to a three-day weekend. Memorial Day is now the last Monday in May. The law became effective in 1971 and all 50 States have adopted these changes. Since 1968 (48 years), the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have attempted to have Memorial Day restored to the pre-1968 traditional May 30 with no success.

Therefore, at the 2016 National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Springfield, Illinois, there will be a proposal, and vote, to adopt a policy that recognizes the date of Memorial Day, as that day approved, by the Congress of the United States in the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968. Prior to the vote, three advocates on each side shall be allowed to speak briefly to the matter. Following the debate, the vote will be recorded and the decision will become policy.

Ordered this 5th Day of July 2016.

ATTEST /s/ Jonathan C. Davis, PDC
National Secretary

/s/ Eugene G. Mottorff
Commander-in-Chief



**Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War**

Office of the Commander-in-Chief
70 Curtis Drive, East Berlin, PA 17316



July 6, 2016

GENERAL ORDER – 21 SUVCW Scholarships

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

This year's Scholarship Committee (Brother's John Ertell, Douglas Fidler, Gene Turner and Theodore Zemen), have met and based on their excellent academic records, endorsements and other criteria, selected two of our Brothers to receive scholarships this year:

Brother Ian M. Cuevas, Shiloh Camp No. 2, Department of Nebraska,

Brother Michael Sweet, Gillman E. Sleeper Camp No. 60, Department of New Hampshire

Letters of notification and congratulations, containing further instructions, have been mailed to the recipients. I congratulate both recipients and wish them great success in their chosen fields of study.

I also wish to thank the members of the Scholarship Selection Committee for their time and consideration in this very important task.

Ordered this 6th Day of July 2016.

ATTEST /s/ Jonathan C. Davis, PDC
National Secretary

/s/ Eugene G. Mortorff
Commander-in-Chief



**Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War**

Office of the Commander-in-Chief
70 Curtis Drive, East Berlin, PA 17316



July 20, 2016

GENERAL ORDER – 23 New International Camp and Acting CinC

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

On July 21, 2016, I will depart on a visit to London, England for the purpose of delivering and presenting a Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charter to the new Ensign John Davis Camp No. 10 of London, England. I congratulate the first Camp Commander, Brother Peter John Collins of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom and the fifteen members of this new Camp.

I also wish to recognize the long-term efforts of Brother Douglas Fidler and Brother Loran Bures who worked to establish this camp and continue the general expansion of our Organization. I'm sure our Banner Editor is planning a spread about the international Davis Camp in the Fall edition that will have more detailed information.

For the duration of absence from the United States (July 21-25), I authorize Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Donald Martin to perform the duties of Acting Commander-in-Chief.

Ordered this 20th day of July 2016.

ATTEST /s/ Jonathan C. Davis, PDC
National Secretary

/s/ Eugene G. Mortorff
Commander-in-Chief



**Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War**

Office of the Commander-in-Chief
70 Curtis Drive, East Berlin, PA 17316



July 15, 2016

GENERAL ORDER – 22 New IRS Requirements

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Any organization which did not file a form 990, 990EZ or 990N before July 8, 2016 must now file a form 8976 with the IRS and pay a \$50 fee. This particularly applies to new camps. This form is in addition to requesting to be included in our group ruling and in addition to filing the 990N as required. If the new form is not filed by Sept 8, 2016 or within 60 days of the formation after July 6 2016, there is a penalty of \$20 per day for late filing.

The entire ruling is available on the IRS website. Any questions or concerns about these new requirements should be directed to the National Treasurer.

Ordered this 15th Day of July 2016.

ATTEST /s/ Jonathan C. Davis, PDC
National Secretary

/s/ Eugene G. Mortorff
Commander-in-Chief



**Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War**

Office of the Commander-in-Chief
70 Curtis Drive, East Berlin, PA 17316



July 25, 2016

GENERAL ORDER – 24 Return of CinC

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

As laid out in General Order 24, I have returned from London, England, and am resuming the duties and responsibilities of Commander-in-Chief. I wish to thank Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Don Martin for standing-in for me during my absence.

I am pleased to report the Chartering Ceremony, and first official meeting of the Ensign Davis Camp 10 of London England was very successful. More information on our International Camp will be published in the future.

Ordered this 25th day of July 2016.

ATTEST /s/ Jonathan C. Davis, PDC
National Secretary

/s/ Eugene G. Mortorff
Commander-in-Chief



**Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War**

Office of the Commander-in-Chief
70 Curtis Drive, East Berlin, PA 17316



July 26, 2016

GENERAL ORDER – 25 Reinstatement of Department of Iowa

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Having filed outstanding National Annual Reports, the Department of Iowa is hereby reinstated.

Ordered this 26th Day of July 2016.

ATTEST /s/ Jonathan C. Davis, PDC
National Secretary

/s/ Eugene G. Mortorff
Commander-in-Chief

Department Order No. 6

SERIES 2015-2016

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Texas**

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
2914 Shoreside Dr.
Pearland, TX 77584

Appointments:

The following Brothers are hereby appointed to serve as members of the Nominating Committee for the twentieth annual Department Encampment.

Gen. J.J. Byrne, Camp #1 Brother Brian Glass, PDC
Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea, USN, Camp #2 Brother Stephen Schulze, PDC
Col. E.E. Ellsworth, Camp #18 Brother George Hanson, PDC
Brother Stephen Schulze, PDC is appointed to serve as chairman of this committee.

The Nominations Committee is to meet, consult, and make its recommendations to the Encampment for Department Officers for the 2016-2017 term of office. The Department Officers to be elected are:

Department Commander
Department Senior Vice Commander
Department Junior Vice Commander
Department Secretary/Treasurer
Department Council Members (3)

The Nominating committee will also make its recommendations for delegates and alternates to the National Encampment to be held in Springfield, Illinois, August 11-14, 2016.

Ordered this 16th Day of May, 2016

By Order of:

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Don Gates, Secretary Treasurer
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Order No. 5

SERIES 2015-2016

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Texas**

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
2914 Shoreside Dr.
Pearland, TX 77584

Announcement of the Annual Department Encampment:

The *Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research*, in Houston, Texas has been selected as the site for the twenty-second annual encampment of the Department of Texas. The encampment will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2016.

Registration for the encampment will be between 10:00 and 10:30 AM at Carriage House meeting facility located on the grounds of the Library. The Library is located at 5300 Caroline St, Houston, Texas 77004.

A luncheon meal during the encampment will be provided to all registered members and guests.

The encampment will start promptly at 10:30 AM. There will be a break for lunch. The afternoon session should be complete by 2:00 PM.

Ordered this 16th Day of May, 2016

By Order of:

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Don Gates, Secretary Treasurer
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Order No. 7

SERIES 2015-2016

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Texas**

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
2914 Shoreside Dr.
Pearland, TX 77584

Appointments:

The following appointments are made for the duration of the twenty-first annual Department Encampment:

Guard Brother William Pollard Camp #2
Guide Brother Michael Lance Camp #2

Ordered this 16th Day of May, 2016

By Order of:

Dr. Stevenson T. Holmes, Commander
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Don Gates, Secretary Treasurer
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Meeting Minutes of Meeting

Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

May 17, 2016

Commander Ridenour called Camp #18 to order at 7:10 PM. In attendance were Brothers Erder, Gates, Harper, Johnson, Sprague and Zook.

Brother Johnson offered an opening prayer. Commander Ridenour led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and The American Creed.

Introduction of Guests and New Members:

There were no guests or new members.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Brother Gates reported that the minutes from the April meeting had been published in the camp newsletter and forwarded to all for comment or corrections. Brother Gates noted that no comments or corrections were received. Brother Gates moved that the minutes be accepted as printed. The motion was seconded by Brother Zook and it was carried unanimously.

Brother Gates read the Treasurer's report for April. There were no comments or corrections. Brother Gates moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read. The motion was seconded by Brother Zook and it was carried unanimously.

Patriotic Minute/ Camp Monthly Program:

None

Guest Speaker:

Brother Zook presented a power point talk on Major Mahlon Loomis who some credit with the invention of radio communications.

Old Business:

Commander Ridenour reminded everyone of the upcoming date to begin cleaning headstones at Greenwood Cemetery. He noted that the cleaning was schedule for 2 PM – 4:30 PM on Sunday May 22, 2016. Commander Ridenour urged everyone to attend.

Commander Ridenour indicated that he is still working on rescheduling the dedication of the Jehu E. Webb grave in Long Creek Cemetery in Sunnyvale.

New Business:

Brother Gates talked about the up-coming Department Encampment in Houston, on June 4th. He urged everyone to attend if possible.

SVR/1st US Business:

No Report.

Closing Announcements:

The next month meeting will be on Tuesday, July 18, 2016.

There being no further business before the camp, Commander Ridenour declared the meeting closed at 8:14 PM.

Closing Benediction:

Brother Johnson conducted the Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Don Gates, PDC
Secretary/Treasurer

Meeting Minutes of Meeting

Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

July 19, 2016

Commander Ridenour called Camp #18 to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Brothers Erder, Gates, Johnson, Peddie, J. Schneider, Sprague, Swafford and Zook.

Brother Johnson offered an opening prayer. Patriotic Instructor, Drake Peddie, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and The American Creed.

Introduction of Guests and New Members:

There were no guests or new members.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Brother Gates reported that the minutes from the May meeting had been forwarded to all for comment or corrections. Brother Gates noted that no comments or corrections were received. Brother Gates moved that the minutes be accepted as printed. The motion was seconded by Brother Sprague and it was carried unanimously.

Brother Gates read the Treasurer's report for May & June. There were no comments or corrections. Brother Gates moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read. The motion was seconded by Brother John Schneider and it was carried unanimously.

Patriotic Minute/ Camp Monthly Program:

None

Guest Speaker:

Brother John Schneider presented a power point talk on Treue der Union also known to confederates as the Battle of the Nueces.

Old Business:

New Department Commander Chuck Sprague talked about the up-coming National Encampment in Springfield, on Aug 11- 14. He also spoke about the Department Encampment and his election.

Brother Gates updated the camp with information on the problem the Department was having with a former member named D. Lisarelli.

New Business:

Commander Ridenour indicated that he is wants to reschedule the dedication of the Jehu E. Webb grave in Long Creek Cemetery in Sunnyvale for a time between September and October.

Commander Ridenour reminded everyone of the upcoming date for round two of the project to clean headstones at Greenwood Cemetery. Dates were discussed and the cleaning was schedule for 10:30 AM on Sunday August 7, 2016. Commander Ridenour urged everyone to attend. Brother Peddie brought up the idea of a bronze plaque for the cemetery. Brother Gates suggested if the wording and size could be determined he would be happy to get quotes.

Brother Zook requested 4th of July pictures for the up-coming newsletter. He also presented decorations to brothers Ridenour and Johnson for their past contributions.

Brother Peddie suggested that Department Commander Sprague and Brother Gates stop on their way to Springfield and visit the Fairview cemetery in Denison and take a few pictures of the GAR Monument.

Brother Peddie also suggested that some thought might be given to what could be done about the monument in Louisiana and the idea of selecting a site that could be used for a common Department Encampment site.

SVR/1st US Business:

No Report.

Closing Announcements:

The next month meeting will be on Tuesday, August 16, 2016.

There being no further business before the camp, Commander Ridenour declared the meeting closed at 8:05 PM.

Closing Benediction:

Brother Johnson conducted the Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Don Gates, PDC
Secretary/Treasurer

August Birthdays



Johnny Clem

13 August 1851



Thaddeus S. C. Lowe
20 August 1832



William Cogswell
23 August 1838



Emory Upton
27 August 1839



Theodore Harvey Barret
27 August 1834



Fitz John Porter
31 August 1822

Turkey-Shoot On The Ogeechee

by
Harry Dolbier

The first hint of a winter dawn crept across the still waters of the Ossabaw Sound on the Georgia coast to reveal the dim outlines of four small ships.

"Five-eighteen," said John Worden, pocketing his watch. "Light enough. Let's get going."

Bells tinkled in the cramped engine room of the ironclad monitor U.S.S. Montauk and Stephens, the chief engineer, set the two trunk engines to slow-ahead.

Worden, captain of the Montauk, stepped out on deck to check the positions of his gunboat consorts, Seneca, Wissahickon, and Dawn. As the ships moved out of the sound and into the Ogeechee River, the 46-year-old skipper told the pilot, "Keep a sharp lookout for torpedoes. We knew where they were yesterday, but the rebs could have planted more during the night."

It was Saturday morning, February 28, 1863. An hour's slow steaming upstream through the morning mist brought the small fleet to a line of obstructions stretched across the river. Worden ordered, "Stop engines," and carefully checked the flotilla's position. Ahead to port lay Fort McAllister, an earth-work fortification on Genesis Point, a dozen miles south of Savannah. Worden had been trying to destroy the fort for the last month without success, but today he had a different goal. To starboard, some 1,200 yards across an intervening spit of land, waited his prey -- the Confederate steamer Nashville, loaded to the gunwales with cotton for the European market.

The Nashville had been a thorn in the Federal side since early in the war when, as a Confederate naval vessel, she had taken two prizes in the Irish Sea, then run the Union blockade to deliver \$100,000 worth of military supplies to Beaufort, North Carolina. Sold to private interests for service as a blockade-runner, the Nashville then embarked on the lucrative business of taking cotton out of Southern ports and bringing war materiel back in, relying on her superior speed to elude the Yankee cruisers.

Bottled up in the Ogeechee for eight months since her last exploit, the Nashville had repeatedly tried to slip out to the open sea. The threat of a resumption of her blockade-running career plus the possibility that she might return to her commerce-raiding depredations (armed as she was with two twelve-pounder guns), caused authorities in Washington and newspapers throughout the Northern States to demand her capture or destruction.

Now all hope of escape for the rebel ship had disappeared. Last night Gibson of the Seneca reported to Worden that the Nashville was aground near Fort McAllister, stranded in Seven-Mile Reach.

As soon as Worden was satisfied he could get no closer to his target, he ordered, "Let go the anchor."

Worden trained his telescope on the Nashville, her upper works visible over the tree-covered spit of land that separated the two vessels. Still aground and with no means of defense, the side-wheeler lay like a trussed miscreant awaiting execution.

"Signal the gunboats to engage the fort," ordered the captain.

"Aye-aye, sir."

"Mr. Geraud," Worden called to the gun turret below the pilot house.

"Sir!"

"You can get her range now."

A moment later the Montauk lurched from the blast of the 11-inch smoothbore as Acting Master Pierre Geraud sent the monitor's first shot screaming towards the hapless Nashville. Fifteen minutes later the 15-inch gun spoke.

Geraud continued to fire both guns at the Nashville while the gunners of Fort McAllister hurled their missiles at the Yankee ships. The gunboats fired back at the fort while the Montauk concentrated all her attentions on the grounded steamer.

At about eight o'clock, Worden noticed a morning fog rapidly approaching the scene of action. Within moments the monitor was wrapped in a mist so heavy that Worden could see no further than 25 yards in any direction.

"You've got the target, Mr. Geraud. Keep firing. She's not going to move and neither are we."

The Montauk kept up its ponderous rate of fire -- each gun could fire once in seven minutes.

After an hour the fog began to lift. "Target in sight, Captain."

Worden lifted his telescope and brought it to bear on the Nashville. After a moment he snapped the instrument shut and said, "She's well afire. The crew's left her. She'll burn to the waterline unless she blows up first. Cease firing, Mr. Geraud."

"Make a signal to the gunboats. Up anchor and get underway. No need to give the rebs any more target practice than we have to. Damage report?"

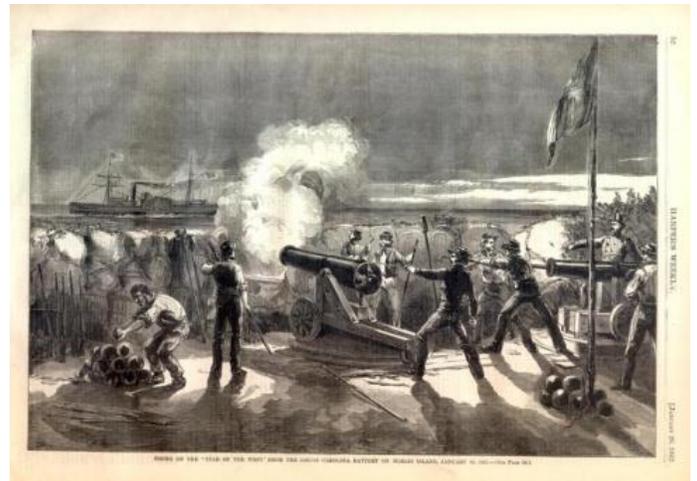
"They hit us with five shots from the fort," reported Paymaster Sam Browne. "No damage whatever, sir."

As the Montauk and her escorts chugged back down the Ogeechee a huge blast shattered the Georgia morning. The Nashville had exploded.

"There goes a fortune in cotton that won't do the rebs any good, sir."

"And a high seas raider that won't do us any harm."

Worden turned and gazed astern. Nothing remained of the Nashville but a cloud of black smoke rising slowly through the still, heavy air, dissipating, fading, like the dream of Southern independence.



Treue der Union



View of Ceremony



Artillery Crew



Brother Thomas Fires Salute



Brother Gene Addresses Attendees



BSA Fires Salute