



The Texas Union Herald



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

Volume I, Issue 9, October 2016

Rattling Sabres

by
Glen E. Zook

So far, no photographs to be included in this issue of the newsletter. I have been promised some, but, those have not come through. Please, and this is my monthly nag, get me photographs, articles, "blurbs", announcements, and so forth so that the information can be included in the newsletter. The primary purpose, of the newsletter, is to get information to the members of Camp #18. The historical articles, although very informative, are secondary.

I try to get the newsletter "put to bed" on the first of each month. However, I keep hoping for some input from the Camp #18 members and have held this issue for a few more days. Unfortunately, no such luck! I know that there is information "out there" and I am imploring people to take a minute to get the information to me. There are certain Camp #18 members who have contributed a number of items for this newsletter and to those persons I am definitely thankful!

Of course, one doesn't need to be a Camp #18 member to contribute things for publication. The Texas Union Herald is distributed not only to camp members, but is also E-Mailed to quite a few officials in the Department of Texas, other Departments, and to the national officials of the SUVCW. I encourage those persons to contribute to the newsletter.

Most, but not all, of the historical articles that I have been including in the newsletter were written, decades ago, by members of the old Department of the Southwest and were previously published in the newsletter of that Department or in the newsletter of Lone Star Camp #1 that "morphed" into the Department newsletter. Since I was the editor / publisher of that newsletter, I have, in my files, these articles already in a format that makes it easy to reprint.

True history doesn't change! But, there are always those persons who try to change it! Interpretations of such do change and there are those people who conveniently do eliminate certain happenings and who deliberately do change things to suit their political agenda. Over the years, unless historians, and others, constantly fight against this revision of history, the actual information will be lost and replaced with politically correct (correct for the politicians of that time period) "barf" which, unfortunately, will probably be carried forth as fact for future generations.

Things like slavery being "the" cause of the American Civil War is paramount. Information on blacks

actually serving in the ranks of Confederate forces is another. The real reason for Lincoln issuing the Emancipation Proclamation and Lincoln's published, during the time, beliefs about the black man are often distorted to suit "modern" political correctness.

Slavery was "a" cause of the Civil War. However, "States Rights" and the punishing tariffs that were put on imported goods (to protect the growing industrial concerns of the North) by Congress, were the more direct causes of the war.

Although, generally, blacks were "second class citizens" (at best) in the South, quite a number of blacks did serve in various southern armies with a fair number actually bearing arms against the North. When such persons were captured and asked why they were fighting against the Union, they replied that "their" homeland had been invaded and they were fighting for their "homeland"!

Lincoln was in favor of repatriating blacks to Africa to such locations as Liberia, a country that was established by freed slaves from the United States. Liberia was initially settled in the 1820s and became, officially, a country on 26 July 1847. He agreed to the establishment of black Union regiments because such units would reinforce the number of troops that would be available to counter Confederate forces.

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued to keep Great Britain and France from coming, openly, to the aid of the Confederate States of America and not for the reason of freeing all slaves. The proclamation only affected the portions of the country that were not occupied by Union forces.

Especially in Great Britain, there was a strong anti-slavery movement and those persons wielded considerable power in Parliament. By freeing the slaves in the South, Lincoln counted on the anti-slavery movement keeping Great Britain, and to a lesser degree, France, from offering direct military aid to the Confederacy.

October Meeting

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

Will be held on
Tuesday 18 October 2016

At the
Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

The Texas Union Herald

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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 ASCII ("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.

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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 3rd Year (continued)

Battle of Grenada, Miss. - Fought 17th of August, 1863, between a Union expedition sent out by General Hurlbut, under Lieutenant-Colonel Phillips, of the 9th Illinois mounted infantry, and a Confederate force of 2,000 men under General Slimmer, who occupied Grenada. The Confederates were so hardly pressed by the attacking party that they fled in confusion, leaving behind an immense quantity of ordnance and stores. These, with the depot, the machine-shop, the railroad track, 57 locomotives, and more than 400 cars, were destroyed by the Unionists.

The War in Arkansas - August 22, 1863, the Union force under General Blunt, numbering 4,500, attacked 11,000 Confederates under General Cooper, in the Indian Territory, and compelled the latter to retreat to Red river. On the same day, Union cavalry under Colonel Woodson, successfully attacked numerous Confederate guerrilla bands in Arkansas, capturing the Confederate general, Jeff Thompson, with his entire staff. On the 29th of July, 1863, the Confederate army under General Price, then in Arkansas, was severely pressed by the Union forces under General Steele. The same day, Steele's advance under General Davidson, drove 3,000 Confederates, under Marmaduke, out of Brownsville and across the Arkansas river. September 1, 1863, General Blunt defeated the Confederates under Cooper and Cabell, and captured Fort Smith, Ark. The same day the Confederates evacuated Little Rock, and General Steele occupied it September 10, 1863.

Quantrell's Raid - A force of Confederate guerrillas, numbering 350, collected in Cass county, Mo., under the leadership of Quantrell. In the dead of night, August 25, 1863, they unexpectedly attacked the town of Lawrence, in Kansas, set it on fire, burned 182 buildings to the ground, destroying \$2,000,000 of property; killed 145 persons, including helpless women and children, and wounded 591 citizens, many of them mortally. Soon afterwards, the guerrillas having departed, the citizens organized a force, commanded by General James H. Lane, and pursued the marauders to Grand River, Mo. There, when attacked, the murderers dispersed in various directions, but about 80 of them were slain.

Occupation of Knoxville, Tenn. - The Confederate General Buckner, evacuated Knoxville, leaving behind a considerable quantity of quartermaster's stores, with other valuable property, and General Burnside, with his

Union force, occupied the place September 3, 1863, to the delight of the inhabitants.

Battle at Sabine City, Texas - Fought September 8, 1863, between the Confederate force occupying the fortifications of the town and the 19th Union army corps under General Franklin, with 4 Union gunboats. The fight was quite severe, but resulted in the repulse of the Unionists and the loss of 2 of their gunboats.

Affairs at Chattanooga, Tenn. - After the battle of Stone river, at the beginning of 1863, the Confederate army under Bragg occupied Chattanooga. September 8, 1863, when Rosecrans and his Union army approached, the Confederates abandoned the place, and, on the 9th, Crittenden's division of the Union army occupied it. Bragg's army having been reinforced by Longstreet, managed to drive the Unionists out of Chattanooga, while Rosecrans attempted to force the Confederates from their threatening position in that vicinity. The result was the battle of Chickamauga.

Affairs at Cumberland Gap, Tenn. - This narrow pass, which separates Kentucky from Tennessee, and became an important point during the civil war, was occupied early in the contest by the Confederates, then by the Unionists, and again by the Confederates. September 9, 1863, General Burnside's Union army recaptured it, with 2,000 prisoners and 14 cannon, from General Frazer.

Battle of Chickamauga, Tenn. - Fought September 19 and 20, 1863, between about 50,000 Confederates, under Bragg, who began the contest, and about 55,000 Union soldiers, besides cavalry, under Rosecrans. The cavalry and about 10,000 of Bragg's infantry were not, however, long in the action. At the close of the first day both armies occupied nearly the same position that they did in the morning. The battle occupied the whole of both days, and resulted in defeat and the retreat of the Unionists to Chattanooga. The Union loss was 1,644 killed, 9,262 wounded, and 4,945 prisoners. The Confederate loss is estimated at not far from 18,000 men.

A Cavalry Defeat - Confederate under Wheeler, which had come north of the Tennessee river for the purpose of operating against Rosecrans' Union army, encountered Union forces October 9, 1863, at Farmington, Tenn., and near Shelbyville, Ky., and was defeated, with considerable loss, at both points.

Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tenn. - General Thomas, who succeeded Rosecrans in command of the Union army, was practically besieged by the Confederates at Chattanooga. A battle was fought November 24, 25, and 26, 1863, at this point, between about 80,000 Unionists, under Grant, who had partially raised the siege and reinforced the garrison, and about 50,000 Confederates under Bragg. The latter's army occupied strong positions above Chattanooga, on Lookout mountain at the south and Missionary ridge on the east. Hooker, with 10,000 Unionists, went to Lookout mountain to assail the Confederate left. Sherman, Sheridan, and other Union commanders, with their several divisions, stormed and carried the Confederate redoubts, as did Hooker those on Lookout mountain. The Confederates fled from a galling fire from their own cannon, and were vigorously pursued. The Union losses were 757 killed, 4,529 wounded, and 330 missing. The Confederate loss in killed and wounded did not, probably, exceed 4,000 killed; but the lost 6,142 prisoners, 40 cannon, and 7,000 stand of small arms. This battle ended the war in Tennessee for a year.

The Storming of Knoxville, Tenn. - Under instructions from superior officers, General Burnside prepared for a vigorous defense of Knoxville. The second division of the 23rd army corps under General Julius White, and other troops, was to co-operate with Burnside. November 14, 1863, a fight occurred in the vicinity between General White's command and the Confederates on Huff's hill, in which the Confederates were dislodged with considerable loss on both sides. November 16, another severe fight occurred near Knoxville, between the 23rd and 9th Army corps, with artillery, and a Confederate force at Campbell's station, but the Unionists were obliged to retreat, which they did in good order, although hotly pursued. On the 17th a close siege of Knoxville began, which terminated, November 28, in an attempt of the Confederates to carry the fortifications by storm, commanded by General Longstreet. The assault, however, was repulsed with do much vigor, that, in connection with the defeat of Bragg at Missionary Ridge, the Confederates deemed it advisable to raise the siege. Longstreet, therefore, retreated, followed by Burnside's forces, while another army, under Foster, started from Cumberland Gap to cut off their retreat. The number of Unionists engaged in this siege was about 12,000; their loss was less than 50; the loss of the attacking party was about 500.

machine shops, lumber and flour mills were destroyed. Near Decatur a skirmish occurred in which the Confederates were repulsed with the loss of 5 killed and three prisoners. The expedition marched more than 400 miles in 24 days, liberated 10,000 slaves, and brought away an immense amount of booty. The estimated losses of the Unionists during this raid were 50 men killed and wounded and about 100 prisoners. The Confederate losses in killed and wounded were considered much larger, and in deserters and prisoners were estimated at more than 600.

Escape of Union Prisoners - February 9, 1864, a large number of Union prisoners escaped from the Confederate Libby prison, at Richmond, Virginia.

Battle of Plymouth, N.C. - Fought February 17, 1864, between about 10,000 Confederates, under General R. F. Hoke, and about 1,500 Unionists, under General Wessel. who occupied Fort Williams, one of the defenses of Plymouth. Six times the Confederates assaulted this stronghold without capturing it, but on the fourth day, after fighting six times his own force, Wessel gave up the unequal contest and surrendered.

Battle of Olustee, Fla. - Fought February 20, 1864, between a Union force of about 4,500 infantry and 400 cavalry, with 20 cannon, under General Seymour, and an estimated Confederate force, under General Finnegin, of 3,000. The fight lasted three and a half hours, and resulted in the retreat of the Unionists before a superior force to Barber's station. Union loss 2,000 men, besides artillery, ammunition and wagon trains. Confederate loss about 1,000 men.

A Raid on Richmond, Va. - February 28, 1864, a Union cavalry expedition, under General Kilpatrick, started from the army of the Potomac to liberate Union prisoners at Richmond. After several skirmishes, March 4, 1864, Kilpatrick withdrew from the raid, having destroyed a large amount of Confederate property in the vicinity. Colonel Ulric Dahlgren had command of a branch expedition of Union cavalry in another direction, which also destroyed a large amount of property; but on the third of March, his command fell into a Confederate ambush, and he lost his life, and a large number of his men were taken prisoners.

Capture of Fort de Russey, La. - March 15, 1864, a large Union force under General Mower, of Smith's Red river expedition, stormed this formidable fortress of the Confederates. The veterans, however, after a short but sturdy fight, carried the fort, capturing 12 cannon, 2,000 barrels of powder, a large supply of army stores and ammunition, with 325 prisoners.

Surrender of Union City, Tenn. - March 24, 1864, between the Confederate force under Forrest and 500 Unionists under Hawkins, who occupied the place. The latter repulsed the attacking party several times, but at length surrendered.

Battle at Paducah, Ky. - Fought March 25, 1864, between 6,000 confederates under Forrest, Buford, Harris, and Thompson, and the 40th Illinois regiment under Colonel S. G. Hicks, numbering 655 Unionists, assisted by some Union gunboats. Hicks made a stand at Fort Anderson and repelled several attacks and refused to surrender. Three more attacks were then made on the fort, but were repulsed with heavy losses each time, Thompson being killed. The Confederates retired next day, having suffered an estimated loss of 300 killed and from 1,000 to 1,200 wounded. The Union loss was 14 killed and 46 wounded.

Battles of the Fourth Year of the War

Battles Near Newbern, N.C. - February 1, 1864, a Confederate force, estimated at 15,000, attacked a small number of Union troops, under General Palmer, at Bachelor's creek, an outpost of the Unionists at Newbern. The latter, finding themselves outnumbered, fell back in good order, with only a slight loss, although the fight was severe, and they were pursued by the Confederates. Next morning a Confederate force in boats boarded the Union gunboat Underwriter, which had run aground and, after a sharp struggle, captured her with about on-third of her crew. Engineer Allen and a part of the crew of the gunboat, rose up against the crew of the Confederate barge that was carrying them off, overcame them and rescued the commander and crew, bringing them safely into port.

Battle at Stevasburg, Va. - Fought all day, February 6, 1864, between the second and third corps of the Union army, under General Sedgwick, and a Confederate force. The Unionists withdrew, having lost 200 men in killed and wounded.

Sherman's Raid in Mississippi - February 3, 1864, General Sherman, with a Union force of 25,000 men, marched from Big Black river on a grand raid through the Confederate State of Mississippi, returning to Vicksburg, March 4, 1864. At messenger's station there was a sharp skirmish with a Confederate force, resulting in a Union loss of 12 killed and 35 wounded, and a much larger one on the part of the Confederates. At Canton Sherman's troops captured artillery, ammunition and prisoners. Jackson, Brandon, Morton, and Meridian were visited, with some opposition, but with loss to the Confederates. A meridian the Unionists remained seven days, destroying Confederate stores, ammunition and public buildings, the arsenal, hotels, etc. Other places visited by the Unionists were Enterprise, Marion, Quitman, Hillsboro, Lake station, Decatur, Bolton and Lauderdale springs. At these places railroad property,

The Peninsula Campaign Summer, 1862 (Continued)

Excerpted from the booklet Richmond Battlefields published by the Division of Publications, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 1961, reprinted 1992.

Lee Takes Command

Lee immediately began to reorganize the demoralized Southern forces, and put them to work digging the elaborate system of entrenchments that would eventually circle Richmond completely. For this the troops derisively named him the "King of Spades." But Lee was planning more than a static defense. When the time came these fortifications could be held by a relatively small number of troops, while he massed the bulk of his forces for a counteroffensive. He was familiar with and believed in Napoleon's maxim: " * * * to maneuver incessantly, without submitting to be driven back on the capital which it is meant to defend * * * ."

On June 12 Lee sent his cavalry commander, Gen. J. E. B. ("Jeb") Stuart, with 1,200 men, to reconnoiter McClellan's right flank north of the Chickahominy, and to learn the strength of his line of communication and supply to White House. Stuart obtained the information, but instead of retiring from White House the way he had gone, he rode around the Union army and returned to Richmond on June 15 by way of the James River, losing only one man in the process.

It was a bold feat, and Stuart assured his chief that there was nothing to prevent his turning the Federal right flank. But the daring ride probably helped McClellan more than Lee. Alerted to the exposed position of his right flank and base of supply, McClellan withdrew his whole army south of the Chickahominy, with the exception of Gen. Fitz-John Porter's corps, which stretched from Grapevine Bridge to the Meadow Bridge west of Mechanicsville. On June 18 he started the transfer of his enormous accumulation of supplies with the shipment of 800,000 rations from White House to Harrison's Landing on the James River. After Jackson's success in the Shenandoah Valley at Cross Keys and Port Republic, it was becoming apparent even to McClellan that McDowell probably never would join him, in which case he wanted his base of operations to be the James rather than the York River.

Meanwhile, pressure from Washington for an offensive movement against Richmond was mounting. But because of the wettest June in anyone's memory, McClellan was having trouble bringing up his heavy siege guns, corduroying roads, and throwing bridges across the flooded Chickahominy swamps. As one bedraggled soldier wrote: "It would have pleased us much to have seen those 'On-to-Richmond' people put over a 5 mile course in the Virginia mud, loaded with a 40-pound knapsack, 60 rounds of cartridges, and haversacks filled with 4 days rations."

Also, McClellan believed erroneously that the Confederates had twice as many available troops as he had. Consequently, his plan of action, as he wrote his wife, was to "make the first battle mainly an artillery combat. As soon as I gain possession of the 'Old Tavern' I will push them in upon Richmond and behind their works; then I will

bring up my heavy guns, shell the city, and carry it by assault."

The Seven Days Begins

McClellan's plan probably would have succeeded had Lee been willing to stand still for it. But the Confederate commander did not intend to let McClellan fight that type of warfare. As he wrote to Jackson: "Unless McClellan can be driven out of his entrenchments he will move by positions under cover of his heavy guns within shelling distance of Richmond." It was almost as if Lee had read McClellan's letter to his wife.

Lee's plan to drive McClellan away from Richmond was bold and daring, and strategically brilliant. He would bring Jackson's forces down from the valley quickly and secretly to turn McClellan's right flank at Mechanicsville. At the same time Gen. A. P. Hill's division would cross the Chickahominy at Meadow Bridge, turn east and clear the Federal forces from Mechanicsville, thereby opening the Mechanicsville Turnpike bridge for D. H. Hill and Longstreet's troops to cross. Then, in echelon, the four divisions would sweep down the north side of the Chickahominy, annihilate Porter's corps, capture the supply base at White House, then turn and destroy the rest of the Union army. With Jackson's forces and other reinforcements from farther south, Lee would have about 90,000 men, the largest army he would ever command in the field.

To protect Richmond, he planned to leave about one-third of his army, under Generals John B. Magruder and Benjamin Huger, in the entrenchments around the city to hold back the main part of McClellan's force, about 70,000 men, from marching into the Confederate Capital. If this force started to withdraw, then Magruder and Huger would attack.

Lee apparently believed that McClellan would try to retreat to his base at White House, or failing that, would retire back down the peninsula. He assured Jefferson Davis that "any advance of the enemy toward Richmond will be prevented by vigorously following his rear and crippling and arresting his progress." The strategy was just about perfect, but, unfortunately for Lee, the tactics were not.

On the morning of June 25 the Seven Days began with the advance of Hooker's division along the Williamsburg road at Oak Grove, preparatory to a general advance McClellan planned for the next day. But Hooker ran into strong opposition from Huger's troops, and when McClellan received intelligence of Jackson's approach, Hooker was ordered back. McClellan wired Washington: "I incline to think that Jackson will attack my right and rear." He had delayed too long - the next day Lee wrested the initiative from him.

To Be Continued

The Confederate Almanac

by
Delmar H. Dolbier

The Confederate States Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge, for the year 1865.

Being the first year after bissextile or leap year, and the fifth of the independence of the Confederate States. Volume IV. Compiled by H. C. Clarke, Mobile, Alabama.

This gaudy announcement graces the title page of a slim booklet found among the war souvenirs that Sergeant Ward S. Dolbier, Company D, 28th Maine Regiment brought home. The Confederate Almanac's 96 yellowed pages, soft and fragile now, offer an intriguing glimpse at the last days of the Confederacy without the slightest hint that those last days might be imminent.

With a plain paper cover, the pocket-sized Almanac measures about four and a half by seven inches. The ninety-sixth page is damaged, almost crumbled away, but appears to end with "Errata" and a colophon, suggesting that it is indeed the end of the book.

There is no selling price marked, nor is an exact publication date given. The booklet was published in Mobile, the last major city of the Confederacy to fall to Federal troops. Although Admiral Farragut won the battle of Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864, and put the port out of business, it wasn't until April 12, 1865, three days after Lee surrendered, that Union forces under Major General Canby entered the city itself, putting an end to the printing of any more Confederate Almanacs.

In its fact-filled pages, devoid of illustrations, the Confederate Almanac presents a compendium of agricultural and astronomical information, staple fodder of almanacs over the years:

-- Monthly calendars (that look very much like their counterparts in today's Old Farmers Almanac).

-- Movable feasts of the Church.

-- Eclipses for the year 1865.

-- Historical records (a capsule narrative of United States history from the Revolution through the ratification of the Constitution, followed by a list of presidential election results 1789-1860).

-- The Great Solar Eclipse.

-- Horses and Cattle in the World.

-- The Creeds of the World.

Many of the Almanac's features and articles remind us of how different the world was in 1864:

-- Glancing at "The Governments of the World", we see no Germany, but the Almanac lists 27 nations in Central Europe such as Prussia, Bavaria, Hesse-Cassel and Lippe-Schaumburg - each with its king, prince, grand duke, landgrave, or elector.

-- "Aspects of the Planets" details the best times for viewing the known members of the solar system: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Herschel.

Most of the demographic data, except for that dealing with the Confederate government and armed forces, was extracted from the United States census of 1860, but the Almanac contains a number of facts not readily available elsewhere and offers a unique view of official as well as everyday life in the last days of the Confederacy:

-- Did you know that was the Examiner in the Confederate Department of Justice was one Americus Featherman?

-- that the Secretary of the Navy earned a salary of \$6,000?

-- that a letter could be mailed to any point within the Confederate States at the rate of ten cents for the first half ounce? The franking privilege was extended only to official letters of the Post Office Department, but letters written by "any officer, musician, or private in the army" could be sent without prepayment if the recipient paid the postage. The same arrangement applied to correspondence from members of Congress.

-- "The New Tax Law" lays out the levies for various types of businesses and occupations. Among those one might not at first associate with the Confederacy, but not overlooked by the tax assessor, each Circus was to pay \$100 annually and \$10 for each performance. "Jugglers and other persons exhibiting shows" were charged \$50

"Bowling alleys and Billiard rooms" were to pay "\$40 for each alley and table registered". In a curious grouping of occupations "Livery Stable keepers, Lawyers, Physicians, Surgeons, and Dentists" each were assessed \$50. "Farmers, planters, and graziers" paid taxes in kind after reserving a specified amount for themselves, they were required to turn over a percentage of their crops and animals to the government.

Of greatest interest perhaps is the Almanac's presentation of facts about the War from the Southern perspective:

-- The compilers admit that the Alabama was sunk by the Kearsage and that Atlanta was evacuated by Hood's army and occupied by Sherman's. They list, for the first three years of the war, five pages of Confederate victories as against two pages of Federal victories. They include as Confederate victories Pittsburg Landing, Sharpsburg, and Gettysburg. (Perhaps they felt that any battle from which a Southern army escaped more or less intact should count as a victory.) At any rate they couldn't find a way around listing Vicksburg and Chattanooga in the Federal victory column.

-- Another interesting section of the Almanac is the "Diary of the War", a day-by day account of battles, skirmishes, and military movements. The diary, continued from the previous year's edition of the Almanac, begins with a gloomy entry for September 9 - 10, 1863 "Battle of Little Rock, Arkansas. Gen. Price's army defeated by Gen. Steele after a desperate resistance -- 1000 Confederates captured, with a large amount of stores. Federal loss, 90 killed and wounded; Confederate loss, 89 killed and wounded." The diary usually refers to the enemy as "Yankees" or "Yankee forces" or "Grant's Yankee army", while another feature, the "Chronological Table of Battles and Engagements" calls them "Federalists".

-- The last entry in the war diary is dated October 13: "Fight near Milton, Florida, the Yankees defeated with a loss of 40 killed and wounded. Grant massing his forces near Richmond, a great battle expected before Richmond. Battle expected between Hood and Sherman in Northern Georgia".

And so the compilers continue stoutly to present their Southern view of the facts, never for a moment even hinting that Volume IV could possibly be the final edition of the Confederate Almanac.

Note: The Herschel noted in this article is actually the Planet Uranus.

Songs From the Civil War

by
Glen E. Zook

There are literally thousands of songs that were written during and/or about the Civil War. Many of those had, depending on which side one fought, or area of the country one came from, varying lyrics. Also, many of the same songs had different titles. This short article is only presented to give the lyrics of just a few of those songs as learned over the years by the author.

The Cruel War

The cruel war is waging, Johnny has to fight.
I want to be with him from morning to night
I want to be with him, it grieves my heart so
I want to go with you

No! My love, no!

I'll tie back my hair, men's clothing I'll put on
And pass as your comrade, as we march along
I'll pass as your comrade, no one will ever know
Won't you let me go with you

No! My love, no!

Tomorrow is Sunday, Monday is the day
Your captain will call you, and you must obey
Your captain will call you, it grieves my heart so
Won't you let me go with you

No! My love, no!

Oh, Johnny! Oh, Johnny! I feel you're unkind
I love you far better, than the whole of mankind
I love you far better, than words can 'er express
Won't you let me go with you

Yes! My love, yes!

When Johnny Comes Marching Home

Guns and drums and drums and guns
Ha-roo! Ha-roo!
Guns and drums and drums and guns
Ha-roo, Ha-roo
Guns and drums and drums and guns
Guns and drums and drums and guns
And we'll all drink stone wine
When Johnny comes marching home

When Johnny comes marching home again
Hurrah! Hurrah!
We'll give him a royal welcome
Then Hurrah! Hurrah!
Men will cheer! Boys will shout!

The ladies' they will all turn out
And we'll all feel gay when
Johnny comes marching home

Oh when the war had just begun
Hurrah! Hurrah!
Young Johnny answered the fife and drum
Hurrah! Hurrah!
In eighteen hundred and sixty-one
That is when the war begun
And we'll all raise Hell
When Johnny comes marching home

In eighteen hundred and sixty-two
Hurrah! Hurrah!
Both sides were falling too
Hurrah! Hurrah!
In eighteen hundred and sixty-three
Old Abe set the slaves free
And we'll all drink stone wine
When Johnny comes marching home

In eighteen hundred and sixty-four
Hurrah! Hurrah!
They called for a million more
Hurrah! Hurrah!
In eighteen hundred and sixty-five
They stopped rebellion's strife
And we'll all raise Hell
When Johnny comes marching home

You've never heard such jubilee
Hurrah! Hurrah!
We'll give the hero three times three
Hurrah! Hurrah!
The men will cheer! The boys will shout!
The ladies will all turn out
And we'll all drink stone wine
When Johnny comes marching home

The old church bell will peal with joy
Hurrah! Hurrah!
And we'll welcome home our darling boy
Hurrah! Hurrah!
The laurel wreath is ready now
To place upon his loyal brow
And we'll all raise Hell
When Johnny comes marching home

When Johnny comes marching home again
Hurrah! Hurrah!
We'll give him a royal welcome then
Hurrah! Hurrah!
The men will cheer! The boys will shout!
The ladies' aide will all turn out
And we'll all feel gay
When Johnny comes marching home

Young Johnny has gone for a soldier

Civil War Medley

Chorus:

Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Twelve riders in the noon
Seven show red, the rest are dead
But the first Battalion's home.
Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Richmond is their doom
There's a hundred dead at Richmond
Three hundred dead at Gettysburg
A hundred more we never found
But the first Battalion's home

Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Two young brothers on their way
Two young brothers on their way
Two young brothers on their way
One wore blue, the other wore grey

Chorus

Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Grim reaper watches as we march by
Grim reaper watches as we march by
Grim reaper watches as we march by
Must be someone's time to die

Chorus

Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
One was gentle one was kind
One was gentle the other was kind
But though you're gentle or you're kind
Cannon ball don't pay no mind

Chorus

Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Two girls waiting by the railroad track
Two girls waiting by the railroad track
For their darlings to come back
One wore blue, the other wore black

Chorus

Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Voom va va voom va va voom voom voom
Oh run to your homes, Virginia gals
Fix you hair in pins
Give them a royal welcome
But don't ask them where they've been

Chorus

CIVIL WAR STAMPS

by
Delmar H. Dolbier

In June 1995 the U. S. Postal Service issued the latest in a long line of stamps paying tribute to personalities and events of the War Between the States.

This handsome issue of Civil War stamps reproduces a set of twenty full-color engravings, many copied from familiar photographs, representing in even-handed fashion icons of both the Union and the Confederate sides. As the advertising says, "130 years later, the north and the south are divided only by perforations." The stamps were available at most post offices.

The subjects of the 1995 issue range from the obvious -- Lincoln and Davis -- to the obscure -- Stand Watie, the South's only American Indian general, and Confederate nurse Phoebe Pember. In a happy innovation, the postal service has printed a capsule explanation of the subject on the back of each stamp.

The twenty stamps, printed side-by-side on one sheet headed by a large decorative panel, depict sixteen people and four battles. Postal Service officials chose the battles to include one definitive Confederate victory, Chancellorsville, and one clear win for the Union, Gettysburg. The outcomes of the other two engagements, Shiloh and the Monitor-Merrimac duel, were more ambiguous.

With meticulous impartiality, the designers give us three generals from each side. Most people asked to name the two top generals on either side would probably first respond with Grant and Sherman, Lee and Jackson. Picking number three on either side might create some interesting discussion. The Postal Service decided on Winfield Hancock and Joseph E. Johnston. David Farragut represents the Federal navy and Raphael Semmes the Confederate.

In equitable fashion the Postal Service included a Northern woman, Clara Barton, and a Southern woman, Mary Chestnut. African-Americans are represented by the likenesses Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, but Hispanics and Asians are absent, as are people with disabilities, though the designers might have used John B. Hood instead of Joe Johnston and satisfied this category. The new set of stamps makes a splendid addition to the list of Civil War subjects on U. S. stamps, a list that dates back to April 14, 1866, when Abraham Lincoln became the first Civil War figure to appear on a stamp. Secretary of War Stanton's portrait was printed on an 1871 issue, and Grant and Sherman were first pictured in 1888.

Of particular interest to the Sons of Union Veterans is the three-cent commemorative issued in 1949 to honor the Grand Army of the Republic. This rose-colored stamp, marking the final encampment of the GAR, shows an aged veteran in GAR campaign hat in the foreground with his youthful counterpart of 1863 standing in his shadow. Two years later, the same design, this time printed in gray, reappeared on a three-cent stamp recognizing the final reunion of the United Confederate Veterans.

During the Civil War centennial the Post Office produced a special stamp each year, featuring Fort Sumter in 1961, Shiloh in 1962, Gettysburg in 1963, The Wilderness in 1964, and Appomattox in 1965.

No one knows what martial exploits the Confederate post office might have glorified on its stamps. The Confederacy died before commemorative postage stamps were invented. Of the ten Confederate stamps designed from 1861 through 1863, five carried the likeness of Jefferson Davis, following the lead of United States stamps which had often pictured the first president, George Washington. Departing from the custom of the United States, the Confederate Post Office did not refrain from portraying a living person on its stamps. The other Confederate stamps honored Washington, Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, and John C. Calhoun.

Portraits of all our deceased presidents have appeared on U. S. stamps, so Union veterans Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Benjamin Harrison, and William McKinley have all been commemorated. A number of other people who served in the war or who were closely associated with wartime events have been postal subjects, though not necessarily in recognition of their Civil War activities -- such Americans as Winfield Scott, William H. Seward, Horace Greeley, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sojourner Truth, and Montgomery Blair.

Commemorative stamps have featured not only people but also events of the Civil War. In addition to the battles mentioned above, U. S. stamps paid homage to the Thirteenth Amendment in 1940, the Gettysburg Address in 1948, the Emancipation Proclamation in 1963, West Virginia statehood also in 1963, and the dedication of the Confederate Memorial at Stone Mountain, Georgia, in 1970. In 1984 the Postal Service offered a stamp promoting "A Nation of Readers." It was illustrated with the famous photograph of Abraham Lincoln reading to his young son, Tad.

As you can imagine, the United States government was in no hurry to honor former Confederates by putting their pictures on stamps. By 1936 feelings had evidently cooled enough to allow the issuance of a four-cent stamp showing Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson as part of an Army-Navy commemorative set. The designers sidestepped the problem of selecting a third Southern general, but on another stamp in the set they joined Grant and Sherman with Phil Sheridan. The Army-Navy set paid homage to the Union navy with images of Farragut and David Dixon Porter, but included no rebel sailors.

Once the ice was broken, Lee proved a popular subject, appearing with George Washington on a 1949 commemorative of Washington and Lee University, and on the 30 cent stamp in the Liberty issue of 1954.

Throughout the years other Civil War notables, not all of them well known to the public, have been the subjects of postage stamps. John Ericsson, designer of the Monitor, was featured on a five-cent stamp in 1926. In 1983 a four-cent stamp honored Carl Schurz. And women have not been slighted -- Dorothea Dix, Julia Ward Howe, and Dr. Mary Walker have all been singled out for postal recognition. Even the fictional Civil War got into the act with a 1986 one-cent stamp showing Margaret Mitchell, and a colorful 1990 commemorative that reproduced a movie poster advertising *Gone With the Wind*.

There is no danger that the well of colorful characters from Civil War days will run dry. Ben Butler, Belle Boyd, Professor Thaddeus Lowe, Dan Sickles, (add your own favorite) have yet to be honored. For 130 years now, the postal authorities have run a wonderful Civil War stamp program. Let's hope they stick to it.

October Birthdays



Jeremiah C. Sullivan
1 October 1830



Robert C. Schenck
4 October 1809



Robert Gould Shaw
10 October 1837



Irvin McDowell
15 October 1818



Edward O. C. Ord
18 October 1818



Daniel Sickles
20 October 1819