



# The Texas Union Herald



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

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## Rattling Sabres

by  
Glen E. Zook

I really wonder how many Camp #18 members actually read my editorials! I keep pleading for input from the Camp members and, with the notable exception of 4 individuals, I have received nothing! Last month, one of the past National Commanders in Chief took pity on me and submitted a couple of articles for publication.

The primary purpose of any organizational newsletter is to keep the membership informed of things happening within the organization. A secondary purpose is for entertainment. I certainly hope that the articles which have been published, so far, have been both informative and entertaining. But, there has been relatively little in the way of what is happening within the camp including the SVR unit.

Not that many members are able to attend the monthly meetings and, as such, have to rely on this newsletter for information on activities. I am certain that there are members who could participate in various activities who are unable to attend the monthly meetings. Activities held on weekends, and even on evenings other than the third Tuesday of the month, may fit the schedules of those persons. However, if those members do not know of the various activities, then they certainly cannot plan on attending!

I keep harping on the fact that one does not have to be an accomplished author to submit things for publication. Just getting the information to me is sufficient. Yes, I do prefer "polished" manuscripts. But, I can certainly edit, even rewrite, the article, news item, etc., and I never even hint that I have done so giving complete credit to the person who has submitted the information.

News items are not the only thing needed. Articles of a historical nature, about current things like visiting places that have interest to the Camp members, about uniforms, arms, inventions, and so forth, are always welcome. Even antebellum and postbellum happenings are certainly of interest to members of Camp #18. Photographs definitely are needed for publication.

I missed the February meeting. I was getting ready to go when I started coming down with "something". Not wanting to expose anyone else to "whatever", I stayed home. It ended up with a "touch" of the flu. I am allergic to all sorts of things including a number of vaccines. As such, I don't even think of getting a flu "shot". Both my internist and rheumatologist don't even think of getting out a hypodermic needle because it almost seems that even seeing one causes an allergic reaction!

One thing that I have been thinking about lately is what the Camp can do to increase membership. There has to be literally thousands of potential SUVCW members in Dallas, Collin, Denton, Grayson, Hunt, and Rockwall Counties. The number of residents who have come into this area from the Midwest and East is considerable. But, Collin, Denton, Grayson, and Hunt Counties were among those Texas Counties that voted to stay with the Union going against the majority during the vote for secession. As such, there can also be some long time historical families that have members who are also eligible for membership.

Years ago, like around two decades back, when the only SUVCW Camp in the area was the Lone Star Camp #1, we participated in a number of events including some in McKinney and even as far north as Sherman. We were able to increase the Camp membership by a fair number of individuals. Also, we did a number of living history presentations at various schools that got a number of the students interested who then took information home and got some of the parents interested in joining the SUVCW.

It has been well over 20-years since my last daughter graduated from Plano Senior High School. Therefore, I am not anywhere near as involved with the PISD as in the past (I served on the textbook selection committee as well as serving as a judge for the District Science Fair). However, I would believe that there would still be interest in having presentations at least at the elementary and middle school level giving the Union side of things. I suspect that the Confederate groups do presentations and I definitely believe that the Union needs to be represented!

There are festivals, like the Richardson Cottonwood Arts events or the Plano Balloon Festival, that might be appropriate for setting up a membership booth. Being a non-profit organization, we should have no problems getting a booth approved. Events such as those are well attended and definitely should be ripe for getting the word out about the SUVCW.

Having some, if not all, of the members manning the booth wearing Union uniforms should attract attention and should also garner a number of new members. In fact, getting the DUV involved would probably be to the benefit of both organizations since a lot of those attending the various functions are definitely of the female side of things!

It is dangerous when I get to thinking! But, I also definitely believe that we should do a lot more in the way of increasing Camp #18 membership and the things, that I have suggested, are just a start. I am sure that other Camp #18 members can come up with ideas and that we should take a good look at all of the potential endeavors.

Until next month . . . . .

# 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 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.

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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 4TH Year

(continued)

**Union Raids In Georgia** - In the latter part of July, 1864, General Sherman organized two cavalry expeditions to destroy the Macon railroad, which was a source of Confederate supplies. They consisted of General Stoneman, with 5,000 Union cavalry, and General McCook with 4,000 cavalry. Another object was to release the Union prisoners at Andersonville. Stoneman encountered a superior force of Confederates, who defeated him and took him and 700 of his men prisoners. McCook proceeded to the Macon railroad, but Stoneman failing to meet him there, he withdrew to Newman, Ga., where he fell in with a considerable force of Confederate infantry. Surrounding McCook's command they forced him into a battle, compelling him to fight his way out, which he did with the loss of 500 of his men. He then returned to the main army at Marietta. Substantially the raid was a serious failure.

**Chambersburg, Pa., Plundered and Burned** - July 30, 1864, a cavalry force under the Confederate General McCausland, entered Chambersburg, plundered the citizens, and burned about 250 buildings, at an estimated loss of \$1,000,000.

**Battle of Moorefield, W. Va.** - Fought August 7, 1864, between Union cavalry under Averill and a body of Confederate cavalry, the latter being defeated with the loss of all their artillery, 50 prisoners, many wagons and small arms. The remainder were driven to the mountains.

**Farragut's Fleet at Mobile, Ala.** - August 5, 1864, the Union fleet commanded by Rear-Admiral Farragut, commenced the attack in Mobile bay by blowing up and causing the evacuation of the Confederate Fort Powell, permitting the passage of 17 Union vessels into the bay. One had been sunk by the fort batteries; the Confederate was-vessel Tennessee surrendered after a sharp engagement, and her commander, Buchanan, was killed; another Confederate vessel was captured, and another was beached. On August 7, Farragut opened fire on the Confederate Fort Gaines, which contained 600 men. On the 8th this fort was surrendered by its officer. A co-operating Federal force, under General Granger, assisted in the reduction of another Confederate fort on August 23, leaving Farragut in control of the entrance of the bay.

**Sheridan In the Shenandoah Valley, Va.** - From August 9 to the 15th, 1864, General Sheridan's Union cavalry had several encounters of more or less severity with the Confederates under Early. Skirmishes occurred within

ten miles of Winchester; Sulphur Springs bridge, where Custer's Union cavalry was repulsed; near White Post, the Confederates retiring after a 3 hours' contest; at Newtown, which Early succeeded in holding' near Strasburg, Early retiring, and the Unionists occupying the town; at Berryville, where Mosby's force captured Sheridan's supply train, destroying a large number of wagons and driving off several hundred horses, mules, and beef cattle. Sheridan's force, August 15, 1864, retired to Charlestown.

**Battle at Deep Bottom, Va.** - Fought August 16, 1864, between the Federal forces and a superior number of Confederates, the former being obliged to retire, though without heavy losses.

**Fights on the Weldon Railroad, Va.** - August 18, 1864, the Unionists made an advance upon this road, in order to cut off the enemy's supplies, but were driven back by the Confederates. A sharp fight followed, and the lost ground retaken and fortified. Next day the fight was renewed and the Union lines were broken. This battle cost the Unionists about 3,000 men, a great proportion being taken prisoners. On the 21st the Confederates made another vigorous attempt to dislodge the Unionists from the road, but were repulsed with a severe loss: the Unionists suffered but slightly in comparison.

**Battle of Ream's Station, Va.** - Fought August 25, 1864, between the Union corps under Hancock and a heavy force of Early's Confederate army, the latter being the attacking party. Both sides fought desperately, and Hancock withdrew from Ream's station, having lost 9 cannon and 3,000 men killed, wounded and taken prisoners. The Confederates lost 1,500 killed and wounded. This battle gave the Confederates repossession of the Weldon railroad southward, although the track had previously been destroyed by the Unionists.

**Kilpatrick's Raid in Georgia** - General Kilpatrick of Sherman's Union army, with 5,000 cavalry, August 18, 1864, broke the track of the West Point railroad, near Fairburn, and then struck the Macon road, near Jonesboro. Here he encountered a heavy force of Confederates, under Ross, but maintained possession of the road for several hours. Finding himself likely to be over-whelmed by numbers, he retreated, made a circuit and again struck the road at Lovejoy's station. Here he was once more menaced by the Confederates. Making a charge upon them, capturing 4 cannon and a number of prisoners, he retired to Decatur, without having very seriously broken up the Macon railroad.

**Battle of Jonesboro, Ga.** - Fought August 31, 1864, between a force under Howard, of Sherman's Union army, and a heavy force of Confederates from Hood's army, under Hardee, and Lee's command. The conflict in front of Jonesboro lasted two hours, when the Confederates withdrew to their fortifications. Their loss, as officially reported by Hood, was 1,400 killed and wounded. The Union losses were comparatively light. On the first of September General Davis, with a body of Union cavalry, attacked the Confederate lines at Jonesboro, carrying their fortifications, and the Confederates effected their escape southward. In the meantime, the Unionists were busily engaged in destroying the Macon railroad.

**Raiders in Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky** - The Confederate cavalry under Wheeler, after breaking the Union railroad and destroying property at Adairsville and Calhoun, Ga., August 14, 1864, demanded the surrender of

Dalton, then occupied by less than 500 Unionists under Colonel Laibold. This was refused, and Wheeler sharply attacked Laibold's position, but the latter having been reinforced next morning. Wheeler was driven off. Wheeler then passed into Tennessee, and formed a Union with Forrest and other raiders; but the whole were driven from the State by the Union forces under Generals Rousseau, Steadman and Granger. September 4, 1864, the famous Confederate guerrilla, John Morgan, was surprised and killed near Greenville, Tenn., by a Union force under General Gillem, his band being dispersed or captured. September 8, 1864, the Confederate raider, Jessie, and 100 of his men were captured at Ghent, in Kentucky.

**Surrender of Atlanta, Ga.** - The grand object of Sherman's Union expedition to Atlanta was achieved on the night of September 1, 1864, by the Confederate General Hood and his forces evacuating the city and its fortifications. Before leaving, he blew up seven trains of cars and destroyed other property. General Slocum, of the 20th Union Army corps, occupied the city September 2, and it then became the headquarters of the Federal army in Georgia. Hood withdrew to Macon.

**Battle of Winchester, Va.** - Fought September 19, 1864, between a heavy force of Confederates under Early, in position near Winchester, and Union troops under Averill and Sheridan. The fight lasted from noon until five o'clock in the evening, when the Confederates retreated, pursued by Sheridan's troops. Union loss 653 killed, 3,719 wounded, and 618 captured. Confederate loss about 6,000 - 2,000 wounded were found in the hospitals at Winchester, and about 3,000 were taken prisoners.

**Battle of Fisher's Hill, Va.** - Fought September 22, 1864, between Sheridan's Union army and Early's Confederate troops, who were intrenched at that point. A flanking movement and a general charge along the Confederate lines compelled the latter to evacuate their fortifications, the Unionists pursuing them through the night. Early's loss was about 300 killed and wounded, and also 1,100 prisoners, 16 cannon, with his camp equipage, wagons, horses, small arms, and ammunition. Sheridan's loss was about 300 men. By the 29th of September, the Confederates had been driven from the Shenandoah valley.

**Battle of Pilot Knob, Mo.** - The Confederate General Price, with a force estimated at 10,000 men invaded Missouri, from Arkansas, September 23, 1864, raiding the country with apparently but little opposition. On the 26th Price attacked the little town of Pilot Knob, then occupied by a Union brigade under General Ewing, but was repulsed in all his attempts with severe losses. Price then occupying Shepherd's mountain, in that vicinity, Ewing blew up his magazine and retired to Harrison's station, where he intrenched. Price closely pursued him, breaking up the railroad, but Ewing finally escaped to Rolla, with little loss, from the dangers that surrounded him.

**Price Defeated** - During the month of October, 1864, the Confederate General Price committed various depredations in Missouri, although harassed and watched by Union forces under several commanders. October 25, when on the Fort Scott (Kas.) railroad, Price was beaten with serious loss. On the 26th, at Mine Creek, his Generals Marmaduke and Cabell, with a large number of their men, were captured; and he was defeated also at Des Cygnes, Kas., on the 27th, and on the 28th at Newtonia. This ended the invasion of Missouri. Price lost 10 cannon, a large number of small arms, 1,958 prisoners (besides his killed,

wounded and deserters), and nearly all his trains and plunder. His defeat was caused by the exertions of 7,000 Union cavalry, whose total losses in killed, wounded and mission, were less than 350.

**Battle of Allatoona, Ga.** - On the 5th October, 1864, a strong force of Confederates, under General French, unsuccessfully attacked the small Union garrison under General Corse, with a loss of 2,000 men, killed and captured. Union loss 700 men, over one-third of the entire command. General Corse was wounded in the face.

**Battle of Thoms' Brook, Va.** - Fought October 8, 1864, between Union cavalry, under Generals Merritt and Custer, and the Confederate cavalry divisions of Generals Rosser and Lomax. The latter were defeated and driven twenty miles, with the loss of about 330 prisoners and several cannon. The Union loss was less than 100.

**Battle of Cedar Creek, Va.** - Fought October 19, 1864, between Sheridan's Union army (he being temporarily absent, but returning before the fight was over), and Early's Confederate forces in the valley of the Shenandoah. The latter were the attacking party, but their assault was steadily met, after the first panic by the Unionists, who subsequently repulsed and routed their foes. During the first part of the battle it is estimated that the Unionists lost 1,300 prisoners, 20 cannon, considerable camp equipage, ambulances, wagons and medical supplies. Before the close of the contest the Unionists, it is estimated, captured and recaptured the following: 1,254 prisoners, 48 cannon, 398 horses and mules, 65 ambulances, 50 wagons, 15,000 rounds of artillery ammunition, 1,580 small arms, 10 battle-flags, harness, medical stores, etc. The Confederates lost about 3,000 men in killed, wounded and prisoners. The Unionists lost 5,990, including 2,000 temporarily missing, and a large number of officers. But the victory, though gained at heavy loss, was considered decisive for the Unionists.

**Bombardment and Capture of Plymouth, N.C.** - Commodore Macomb, with 7 Union gunboats, began bombarding the Confederate stronghold of Plymouth, N.C., October 29, 1864. The attack lasted until the 31st, when a Union shell exploded the Confederate magazine, and soon afterwards the Union commander took possession of the place without further resistance.

**Sherman's March from Atlanta to Savannah, Ga.** - On the 1st of November, 1864, the Confederate force under Hood in Georgia was estimated at 35,000 infantry and 10,000 cavalry. About this time Sherman arranged the details for his expedition from Atlanta to the sea-coast through the Confederate State of Georgia. The Union army for this enterprise comprised 60,000 infantry, 5,500 cavalry, and between 60 and 70 pieces of artillery. On the 14th of November the storehouses, depot buildings and machine shops covering 200 acres in the city of Atlanta, were burned by the Unionists, and but little more than the dwellings and churches of the place survived the flames. On the 15th of November the advance guard of the expedition left Atlanta, followed on the next day by the main army.

**Battle Near Morristown, Tenn.** - Fought November 13 - 14, 1864, between General Breckenridge, with a Confederate force estimated at 3,000 strong, and General Gillem, with 1,500 Unionists and 6 cannon. The latter were routed losing several hundred prisoners and artillery. Gillem then escaped, with the remainder of his force, to Knoxville.

**Battle of Hollow-Tree Gap, Tenn.** - Four miles from Franklin, Thomas' Union cavalry overtook Hood's retreating Confederate army, November 17, 1864, and attacked it in front and rear, capturing 413 prisoners and three battle-flags.

**Another Battle at Franklin, Tenn.** - Hood's Confederate army then fell back to Franklin, but Johnson's division of Thomas' Union army repulsed them on the Harpeth river bank, and Union cavalry took possession of the town, capturing the Confederate hospitals, containing more than 2,000 wounded men, 200 of whom were Unionists. Hood was still pursued after leaving Franklin, but escaped into the interior of Georgia, with but little additional loss.

**Battle of Griswoldville, Ga.** - Fought November 22, 1864, between a detachment of Kilpatrick's Union cavalry (from Sherman's army) with a brigade of Union infantry, and about 5,000 Confederates, mostly militia, with some of Hardee's corps. The latter were the attacking party. The fight was brief but sanguinary, and resulted in the retreat of the Confederates, who left more than 300 of their dead on the field, and lost more than 2,000 in wounded and prisoners. The Union loss was about 40 killed and wounded.

**Occupation of Milledgeville,** the Capital of Georgia - Sherman's Union army occupied Milledgeville, November 23, 1864. The Confederate legislature, in session there, hastily adjourned, and the citizens were panic-stricken. The Unionists burned the magazines, arsenals, depot-buildings, various factories, store-houses, containing large amounts of Confederate public property, and about 1,700 bales of cotton. Private property was everywhere respected. Railroads were generally torn up and destroyed.

**Capture of Fort McAllister, near Savannah, Ga.** - The fort was manned by about 200 men, Confederate infantry and artillery, and lay in Sherman's way to the objective point of his expedition, the city of Savannah. December 13, 1864, the fort was carried, in a single assault, by nine regiments of Unionists. On the same day Sherman was enabled to communicate with the Union naval squadron at the mouth of the Ogeechee river, under Admiral Dahlgren and General Foster.

**Capture of Savannah, Ga.** - A demand from the Union General Sherman upon the Confederate General Hardee, who then occupied Savannah, for the surrender of the city, November 17, 1864, was refused. Sherman, therefore, prepared to carry the place by a military and naval assault. Hardee, recognizing the exigencies of the times, evacuated the city on the night of November 20, first destroying the Confederate war vessels in the harbor; and thus Sherman's expedition successfully terminated. Hardee's command moved toward Charleston, S.C.

**Results of Sherman's Expedition from Atlanta to Savannah** - Sherman's Union army brought with them to Savannah 15,000 slaves, more than 1,000 prisoners, 150 cannon, 13 locomotives in good order, 190 railroad cars, a very large supply of ammunition and other war material, three steamers and 32,000 bales of cotton, besides achieving national benefits growing out of the success of his expedition.

**Hood in Tennessee and Alabama** - The Confederate General Hood, who had retired before Sherman's Union army to Gaylesville, in North-eastern Alabama, visited Jacksonville, and thence proceeded

northwesterly toward the Tennessee river, watched by the Union forces under General Thomas. The Confederate troops began their northward march about November 20, 1864, approaching Pulaski, Tenn. At this point, General Schofield and General A. J. Smith concentrated their Union forces, on learning of Hood's approach. The latter moved directly upon Gaynesboro, thus flanking Schofield, who fell back to Columbia, and being pursued by Hood, retreated to Franklin.

**Battle of Spring Hill, Tenn.** - Hood, with his Confederate army, attacked Schofield's Union cavalry November 29, 1864. A fight ensued in which Schofield lost less than 300 men, and then he retreated to Franklin, 18 miles from Nashville. Here he formed his lines in a strong position and prepared for battle with Hood.

**Battle of Franklin, Tenn.** - Fought November 30, 1864, between Schofield's Union force, consisting of two army divisions, commander by Generals Stanley and Cox, and two corps of Hood's Confederates army, under Generals Lee and Cheatham. The fight was extremely hot, the Confederates making repeated charges upon the Union batteries; but the Confederates were finally repulsed, and Schofield was reinforced by General Smith's corps. The Union loss was 189 killed, 1,033 wounded, and 1,194 missing. Hood's loss was 1,750 killed, 3,800 wounded, and 702 taken prisoners.

**Skirmish at Overall's Creek, Tenn.** - Fought December 4, 1864, at the blockhouse, occupied by a Union force and Bates division of Cheatham's Confederate corps, the latter attacking the former, and using artillery. The Union General Milroy coming up with infantry, cavalry and artillery, attacked the Confederates and drove them off.

**Battle Near Murfreesboro, Tenn.** - Fought December 5, 6, and 7, 1864. General Rousseau and about 8,000 Unionists were occupying Fortress Rosecrans, and were approached by two divisions of Lee and Cheatham's Confederate corps, with 2,500 of Forrest's Confederate cavalry. The Confederates hesitating to attack the fort, General Milroy, with seven regiments of Union Infantry, was sent out to engage them. He found them a short distance off, posted behind rail breastworks. A fight ensued, in which the Confederates were routed, with the loss of 30 killed, 175 wounded, 207 prisoners, and two cannon. On the same day Buford's Confederate cavalry entered Murfreesboro and shelled it, but were speedily driven out by a regiment of Union infantry and a section of artillery.

**A Union Raid in Virginia** - By orders from General Grant, December 6, 1864, a Union force of 20,000 men, with 22 cannon, proceeded down the line of the Weldon railroad, with instructions to destroy the road and penetrate the enemy's country, capturing such points and supplies as should come in their way. The weather was bad, but the expedition, which was absent a week, was mainly successful. Some opposition was encountered, but the entire loss of the Unionists did not exceed 100 men. They destroyed 3 railroad bridges, burned Sussex Court-house, and brought in a few prisoners.

To Be Continued

# Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain And the 20th Maine

by  
Dr. Ralph Widener

In early June, 1863, Lee, with victories at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, was determined to try once again to take the war to the North. He shifted his base from the Wilderness to Culpepper on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. From there he moved up the Shenandoah Valley with three large infantry corps of three divisions, along with "Jeb" Stuart's cavalry division, which was given a surprising check at Brandy Station on June 9th.

General Hooker - once he learned what Lee was doing, moved fast, starting the Army of the Potomac northward from Stoneman's Switch on what was to become the hardest forced march the army had ever seen.

Chamberlain's regiment still belonged to the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division, now under Brigadier General James Barnes. It consisted of the 20th Maine, the 16th Michigan, the 44th New York, and the 83rd Pennsylvania. Commanding the brigade was Colonel Strong Vincent, an able, gallant officer to whom Chamberlain became strongly attached, and for whose impoverished widow he did many acts of kindness after the war was over. Vincent moved the brigade upriver, Chamberlain's men first guarding the United States Ford on the Rappahannock River, and then Ellis Ford. On June 13th, the 20th Maine left for Morrisville where Vincent's Brigade took its position in the 1st Division's line of march. The next day, the entire Fifth Corps moved out, going as far as Catlett's Station, at which point the 1st Division joined the Corps. By rapid marching, the Fifth Corps moved past Manassas Junction to Gum Spring, and by way of Aldie to the Potomac River, which it crossed on a pontoon bridge at Edward's Ferry. It bivouacked on Ballinger's Creek near Frederick, Maryland, on June 27th.

At Frederick, where the Corps rested on the 28th, Hooker received the order which removed him from the command of the Army of the Potomac, and gave that command to General George G. Meade of the Fifth Corps. Once on the road, Hooker had not done badly, keeping his corps in liaison and maintaining his balance, ready to pivot if Lee should try to slip through the mountain walls. On the other hand, he was suffering from one of McClellan's faults, that of grossly overestimating the size of Lee's army despite the fact the reliable intelligence received on the 26th reported Lee across the Potomac with a force inferior in size to the Federal Army (73,000 to 115,000). Hooker was also beginning to display the paralyzing hesitancy that afflicted him at Chancellorsville. Convinced that he could spare no troops to cover Harper's Ferry, and, at the same time, be ready to face Lee, he asked to be relieved of his command. Lincoln had had enough. Meade became his successor.

Chamberlain never came to know Meade, even after the war, as well as he knew Grant, whom he liked and respected, or Sheridan, whom he respected but could not like unreservedly. Though he was sometimes impatient with Meade's reluctance to move faster, he appreciated him for his sturdy character and utter devotion to duty. To Chamberlain, Meade was no Lee in ability, and no McClellan in popularity, but he knew Meade would do his very best at Gettysburg. That "best", however, would not have been

enough if the bronzed, now lean-to-the-bone, sturdy-legged, often profane enlisted men had not begun to realize that, though leaders might come and go, it was they, the men in the ranks, who would have to do the fighting and win the battles. This writer can attest to the fact that this certainly was the case during the second World War.

Meade's orders were to cover Washington and Baltimore, and both cities, as well as others in the North were worried because Lee's troops were pushing up through the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania, and had already seized Chambersburg and Carlisle, causing civilians to flee the area. However, the Confederate occupation was about as orderly and considerate as any army has ever undertaken. Citizens were treated with courtesy, a Texan merely saying to a Pennsylvania woman who had defiantly pinned a United States flag across her front, "Take care, Madam, for Hood's boys are great at storming the breast-works when the Yankee colors is on them."

The only real worry Lee had was just where the Federal army was at any particular moment. He could blame Stuart for this, as his "eyes and ears" had left his screening operation to ride completely around the Union army. But from General Longstreet's favorite scout, Lee learned that Meade now commanded the Federal army, and that there were Federal troops in the Gettysburg area. He sent word to Generals Richard S. Ewell and Ambrose Powell Hill who were advancing on Harrisburg to turn around and join him at Gettysburg. To one of his officers, Major General Isaac R. Trimble, he said: "When they hear where we are, they will make forced marches to interpose their forces between us and Baltimore and Philadelphia. They will come up, probably through Frederick, broken down with hunger and hard marching, strung out on a long line, and much demoralized when they reach Gettysburg. I shall throw an overwhelming force on their advance, crush it, follow up the success, drive one corps back on another, and by successive repulses and surprises before they can concentrate, create a panic and virtually destroy their army."

Lee was amazingly accurate. The Federal corps were scattered, and there would be plenty of marching to do. On the evening of June 30th, the First Corps under General John F. Reynolds was bivouacked five miles north of Emmitsburg; the Second Corps under Hancock at Union town; Dan Sickles' Third Corps between Emmitsburg and Taneytown, where Meade had his headquarters; the Fifth Corps under General George Sykes, at Union Mills; General John Sedgwick's Sixth Corps at Manchester; the Eleventh, under General Oliver Howard, north of Emmitsburg; and the Twelfth Corps, under General Slocum, at Littlestown. There were full cavalry divisions at Hanover and Manchester.

Meanwhile, Chamberlain and the 20th Maine had been stirring up the dust of the Virginia and Maryland roads. Between June 26th and the 30th, they had marched 81 miles, taking off the 28th to rest. By this time in their army experience the men knew enough about marching to keep up the pace. Furthermore, Chamberlain had the knack of holding them together. He rested them frequently and, though criticized for doing so, always brought them in on time, and in condition to fight. Nor did he waste their energy marching and countermarching to form camp. He would send an officer ahead to reconnoiter the ground, then, on the basis of the officer's report, he would decide the particular maneuver which would place the troops in the

proper order for camp. His weary men never forgot such consideration.

Around noon on July 1st, the 20th Maine crossed into Pennsylvania. Near Hanover, they noticed corpses of men and horses where Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick had hit "Jeb" Stuart hard on the Confederate leader's ride around the Union Army. At half past four, the Corps halted, and the 20th Maine, having marched twenty-six miles that day, stacked arms for the nightly bivouac, and scurried for water and fence-rails. But their fires were hardly started when they were ordered to get ready to march again because of a Union disaster ahead of them. A. P. Hill's Confederate soldiers had pushed back Union soldiers into Gettysburg and their headquarters on Cemetery Hill. At six o'clock, the Corps hit the road again, sixteen miles from Gettysburg. About one o'clock in the morning, the column halted by the side of the road for a rest of three hours; then assembled again at four in the morning without coffee or breakfast and marched the remaining miles into Gettysburg, halting a short distance from the woods skirting Culp's and Wolf's Hill.

In the late afternoon of July 1st, Lee expounded on his intention of hitting the enemy the next day along Cemetery Hill and the ridge extending southward if Ewell failed to dislodge the Union forces east of Cemetery Ridge. General James Longstreet, Lee's First Corps Commander, strongly objected to the plan put forth by Lee, proposing instead that the Confederate Army should move around Meade's left flank, thereby placing itself between Meade and Washington, and compel Meade to attack it in a position of the Confederates' own choosing. But, Lee was adamantly opposed to Longstreet's suggestion.

Lee had planned to initiate his attack the next morning, but the Confederate forces needed for the attack were not in place. One of them, General Evander Law and his Alabamians, had been on the road without a break since three o'clock in the morning, a great march of twenty-four miles in nine hours, and they were tired. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain was to see that they had little rest that day.

Four remarkable developments occurred in the course of the morning and early afternoon of July 2nd. One was favorable to the Union: the arrival of the advance guard of the Sixth Corps at two o'clock after its thirty-five mile march from Manchester begun the late previous evening. A second development was Geary's unauthorized departure from Little Round Top for Culp's Hill without Sickles making any attempt to fortify Little Round Top. Southern possession of it would make the whole Union battle line impossible to hold, but for hours, except for a Signal Corps detail there, the Union army forgot it. The third development was the strange confusion in the cavalry command that induced Pleasanton to withdraw Buford's troopers who were guarding Meade's left flank without sending any detachments to replace them. There was, therefore, no Federal force to the left of Sickles' Third Corps, and Sickles became uneasy. Furthermore, he did not like the fact that his part of Cemetery Ridge was scarcely a ridge at all and that there was too much space between Hancock's corps and his own for him to occupy the Round Tops. He began, instead, (the fourth development), to look with favor on the higher ground a half-mile west which extended from a rock-outcropping known as Devil's Den on his left along a series of low hills, little ravines, and patches of woods to a peach orchard on the right.

Feeling the absence of Union cavalry, Sickles threw

a small body of U. S. Sharpshooters out on a skirmish line supported by an infantry regiment. When they uncovered a strong group of Confederates in the woods west of the Emmitsburg Road, Dan Sickles made his famous decision. Between one and three o'clock in the afternoon, he moved his entire Third Corps in battle order with his caissons and batteries of artillery rolling along, his flags streaming, and his drums beating, down the slope, across the level ground, and up into his new position. Second Corps men watched in admiration and amazement. Brigadier General Andrew Humphrey's right division faced to the northwest, and Brigadier General David Birney's left division extended from the Peach Orchard on the right to Devil's Den on the left.

Finding Sickles in a position where they expected no one was shocking to Longstreet's division commanders, McLaws and Hood. When scouts sent out by General Law reported that it would be easy to skirt around the rear of Round Top, seize the entire Federal wagon train, and fall on Meade's left flank and undefended rear, Law eagerly went to Hood with the proposal that he do precisely that. Hood agreed with Law and hastened to Longstreet, entreating him to adopt Law's suggestion. Although this is what Longstreet had wanted to do, he knew Lee wanted an attack up the Emmitsburg Road and that it was too late to change the plan.

The guns then opened up between three-thirty and four o'clock on July 2, 1863, and, not long afterward, Hood ordered Law's brigade forward.

The regiment which ultimately took position on the right of Law's brigade was the tired and thirsty 15th Alabama under Colonel William C. Oates, and this regiment was to exert an all-important role in the destiny of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. Oates ordered two men from each of his eleven companies to fill the canteens of the regiment at a well nearby. While the detail was at work, the attack order arrived and Oates was not able to wait for his water detail, which, on trying to rejoin the regiment, was captured. Though Oates was to swing between the Round Tops, a number of U. S. Sharpshooters from Sickles' command forced him to change his attack. Accompanied by a large part of the 47th Alabama, he went straight up the south and west sides of Round Top, dislodging the Sharpshooters but grieving to see his men suffering from exhaustion, heat, and especially, a lack of water. He therefore, gave them a ten-minute break, which made possible Chamberlain's day of glory.

It was while the Fifth Corps was on the road that General Warren observed a terrifying sight: the Confederates were within grasp of occupying Little Round Top which might well defeat the entire ability of the Union forces to do anything. At once, he sent for help. Colonel Strong Vincent read his message and said he would take his brigade there without delay. Warren had hardly finished speaking when Hood's division overran Devil's Den. Evander Law's brigade, filling the air with the high-pitched Rebel yell, came pounding along Plum Run toward Little Round Top. Fortunately, Strong Vincent was almost there, and, in his brigade was the remarkable Bowdoin College professor whose Maine regiment was for a few minutes at least, thanks in large part to his leadership, to determine the result of this greatest battle of the American Civil War.

To Be Continued

## 2017 Dues

The dues, this year, for a current member are **\$44.00**. Additional family members are \$33.00 each and a junior member is \$10.00. Please pay by check and make them payable to: "SUVCW Camp 18". You can give your check to Don Gates at an upcoming meeting or mail them to:

Don Gates  
1205 Balboa Circle  
Plano, TX 75075

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### March Meeting

The March 2017 meeting of the  
Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18  
SUVCW

Will be held on

Tuesday 21 March 2017

At the

Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

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The Frontiersman

by

Harry Dolbier

To many Civil War commanders, the war years represented the high point of their lives and defined how history would remember them, good, bad, or indifferent. For others, their wartime experiences were but additional incidents in lives filled with exciting and important endeavors. One of the latter was brevet Brigadier-General Christopher Carson.

The man known to history and legend as Kit Carson was born in Kentucky and grew up in Missouri. At 17 he left his job as an apprentice saddler to join a party of hunters bound for Santa Fe, then in Mexican territory. Young Carson willingly accepted the menial tasks that came his way and soon earned his place as an accepted and valuable member of the party. By the time he reached Santa Fe, Carson knew he had found the way of life he wanted to follow.

Hunting, trapping, and guiding others through the Southwest and the Far West from his base at Taos, Carson came to know and understand much of the Rocky Mountains, the Great Basin, and California. In 1842 the celebrated "Pathfinder," General John C. Fremont, met Carson, and after coming to know and respect the frontiersman, employed him as a guide. Together, Fremont and Carson opened up much of the Far West during the next four years, and the two played a role in California's short-lived prelude to statehood, the Bear Flag Republic. General Fremont was skilled in publicity as well as pathfinding, and his published accounts of his travels and adventures found a wide readership in the East. Through these reports the name of Kit Carson became known throughout the country as an example of the rugged, resourceful, and heroic frontiersman.

From all contemporary accounts, Kit Carson was indeed as rugged, resourceful, and heroic as the stories made him out to be. In addition, unlike many of his fellow mountain men, he led an exceptionally clean life and his integrity was beyond question.

When Civil War erupted in April of 1861, Kit Carson resigned his post as federal Indian agent for Northern New Mexico and offered to help organize the New Mexico volunteer infantry. Although the territory of New Mexico officially allowed slavery, geography and economics made the institution so impractical that there were only a handful of slaves within its boundaries. The territorial government and the leaders of opinion all threw their support to the Union.

Overall command of Union forces in the Department of New Mexico fell to Colonel Edward. R. S. Canby of the Regular Army's 19th Infantry, headquartered at Fort Defiance. Carson, with the rank of colonel of volunteers, commanded the third of five columns in Canby's force. Carson's command was divided into two battalions each made up of four companies of the First New Mexico Volunteers, in all some 500 men.

Early in 1862, Confederate forces in Texas under General H. H. Sibley undertook an invasion of New Mexico Territory. Their goal was to conquer the rich Colorado gold fields and thus deprive the Northern war machine of a valuable resource and direct it instead to Southern coffers.

Advancing up the Rio Grande River, Sibley's command clashed with Union forces at Valverde on February 21, 1862. The day-long battle ended when the Confederates captured a Union battery of six guns and forced the rest of Canby's troops back across the river with losses of 68 killed and 160 wounded. Colonel Carson's column spent the morning on the west side of the river out of the action, but at one o'clock, Canby ordered them to cross, and Carson's battalions fought until ordered to retreat. Carson lost one man killed and one wounded.

Colonel Canby had little or no confidence in the hastily recruited, untrained New Mexico volunteers, "who would not obey orders or obeyed them too late to be of any service." However, in his battle report he did commend Carson, among other volunteer officers, for his "zeal and energy."

After the battle at Valverde the Confederates advanced northward, occupied and looted Albuquerque and Santa Fe, but then met defeat at the hands of the Yankees in the Battle of Glorietta Pass. The rebels retreated back to Texas and there were no more clashes between North and South in New Mexico Territory.

The Union army was not unemployed, however. Colonel Canby and most of the regular troops went east, but for Carson and his New Mexico Volunteers Indian troubles occupied their full attention.

The new commander of the District of New Mexico, Brigadier-General James H. Carleton, ordered Carson to lead an expedition against the Navajo Indians, who continued to resist the white invasion of their land. The Navajos should be told, Carleton instructed Carson, "You have deceived us too often, and robbed and murdered our people too long, to trust you again at large in your own country. This war shall be pursued against you if it takes years, now that we have begun, until you cease to exist or move. There can be no other talk on the subject."

Colonel Carson pursued the Navajo across much of New Mexico. There were no pitched battles and only a few

skirmishes, for Carson's principal tactic was to destroy or capture the Navajos' crops and animals. In this effort he was aided by other Indian tribes, long-standing enemies of the Navajos, chiefly the Utes. Carson was pleased with the work the Utes did for him, but felt some irritation when they went home in the middle of the campaign, having collected what they thought was sufficient booty.

Carson also had difficulty with his New Mexico volunteers. Troopers deserted and officers resigned. Carson urged Carleton to accept two resignations he was forwarding, "as I do not wish to have any officer in my command who is not contented or willing to put up with as much inconvenience and privations for the success of the expedition as I undergo myself."

In 1864, the Navajos surrendered and were marched off to a reservation.

General Carleton in October 1865 recommended that Carson be awarded the brevet rank of brigadier-general, "for gallantry in the battle of Valverde, and for distinguished conduct and gallantry in the wars against the Mescalero Apaches and against the Navajo Indians of New Mexico."

When the Civil War ended, and with the Navajo campaign successfully concluded, Carson left the army and took up ranching in Colorado. He died there in 1868, but the legend of Kit Carson continued to grow through the years as dime-novels, comic books, movies and television recounted (and invented) the frontiersman's many exciting adventures.



16 March 1822 John Pope



23 March 1818 Don Carlos Buell

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A Civil War Battle In Brazil  
by  
Harry Dolbier

The United States sloop-of-war Wachusett lay at anchor in the harbor of Bahia, Brazil, on the evening of October 4, 1864. Her captain, 50-year old Commander Napoleon Collins, was enjoying a turn about the deck in the tropic dusk when his attention was drawn to a trim two-funneled ship standing into the harbor. Collins took up his glass and trained it on the approaching steamer, taking in her lines and the details of her rigging. Although the vessel displayed no name or national ensign, Collins felt a grim suspicion. If this was the ship he thought it was, he had just been handed a marvelous stroke of good fortune.

As soon as the stranger dropped anchor, Collins sent his longboat to investigate.

"What ship is that?" came the hail from the boat.

"Confederate States Ship Florida. What is your ship?"

"Her Britannic Majesty's Ship Curlew," answered the officer in the boat, which quickly pulled away.

For months Commander Collins had been scouring the Caribbean and the South Atlantic for the rebel commerce-raiders playing havoc with Yankee shipping. Now, like a gift from heaven, one of the worst of the lot had fallen into his hands.

As a destroyer of United States shipping, the 191-foot-long Florida stood second only to the famed Alabama. Now on her second wartime cruise, the Florida had burned or sunk eleven American ships. Two others she had released in exchange for their captains' surety bonds payable to the Confederate government after the war. Earlier in the war she had destroyed thirty-seven Yankee merchantmen and bonded nine more. By October 4, the Florida had been continuously at sea for 64 days. She was running short on coal and provisions and her engines were tired.

As soon as he learned that a rebel cruiser had entered the harbor the United States Consul in Bahia, Thomas F. Wilson, hastened aboard the Wachusett to confer with Commander Collins. The two men soon agreed

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## March Birthdays



2 March 1828 Jefferson C. Davis



4 March 1836 John Buford



8 March 1831 Phillip Sheridan

that the paramount objective was to put an end to the destructive career of the Florida.

They came up with a two-pronged approach. First Wilson addressed himself to the president of Bahia Province, Antonio Joachim da Silva Gomes, demanding that the Florida be denied use of the port. "The vessel in question is not commissioned by any recognized government whatever," he wrote, "and her officers and crew...are not subject to any international or civilized law, and are consequently not entitled to the privileges and immunities conceded to vessels navigating under the flag of a civilized nation." He further demanded that Silva Gomes detain "the piratical cruiser" for violating Brazil's sovereignty in April of 1863 when, the consul alleged, the Florida and the Alabama had destroyed American ships in Brazil's territorial waters.

Silva Gomes responded to Wilson the same day and turned down his demands. He informed Wilson that the Imperial government of Brazil recognized in the Confederate States "the character of belligerents," which was not the same thing as recognizing them as an independent nation, but did require Brazil to afford their warships humanitarian assistance. In regard to detaining the Florida for previously violating Brazilian sovereignty, he stated that even if the case were proved, it did not lie within his powers to take such an action.

Consul Wilson then proceeded with the second part of the plan. He addressed a letter to Lieutenant Charles Manigault Morris, the Florida's captain, in which he challenged Morris to fight the Wachusett on the open sea. If Morris accepted the challenge, Wilson wrote, he would do all in his power to speed the repair and reprovisioning of the Florida.

Lieutenant Morris refused to accept delivery of Wilson's note because it was addressed to "Sloop Florida," rather than "C.S.S. Florida." Morris of course knew what was in the letter and presumably, had he considered the proposed duel to be in his best interests, he would have overlooked the alleged insult on the envelope.

Both his initial efforts having failed, Consul Wilson repaired on board the Wachusett for further consultation with her commanding officer.

Meanwhile, President Silva Gomes pledged his cooperation to Lieutenant Morris, granted him a forty-eight hour stay, and suggested he shift his anchorage so that the Brazilian corvette Dona Januaria should lie between him and the Wachusett. Under international law ships of belligerents were forbidden to engage in hostilities in waters of a neutral power and could not leave port within twenty-four hours of each other. Violators were punished by having their vessels seized by the neutral power -- if it was able to do so.

Morris shifted his anchorage, the provisioning and repairs proceeded, and all remained peaceful in Bahia Bay. The crew of the Florida was granted long-awaited liberty, and on the afternoon of October 6, the captain, four other officers, and half the crew went ashore to enjoy the opera and other attractions of the port until the next day.

At three o'clock in the dark, still morning of October 7, the Wachusett built up a full head of steam, slipped her cable, charged past the Dona Januaria, and bore down on the Florida. The vessels were anchored about five-eighths of mile apart, and by the time the Florida's lookout spotted the Yankee steamer pounding towards her and called out the alarm, it was too late. The Wachusett rammed into the

Florida's starboard quarter. The huge projecting beak at the Yankee ship's prow smashed through the bulwarks, brought down the mizzen mast, and sent the main yard crashing to the deck.

His intention, Commander Collins later wrote, was "to strike her full amidships, without firing a shot of any kind or a loud word being spoken, and if we succeeded in sinking her to back off and go quietly to sea." But no significant damage was done to the raider's hull, and Collins soon saw that his enemy was not going to sink.

Lieutenant Thomas K. Porter, the duty officer aboard the Florida, reached the deck a moment before the collision. He rallied the reduced crew and opened fire with small arms. The Yankees returned fire, but no one was wounded on either side.

As the undamaged Wachusett reversed engines to disengage from the Florida, her executive officer, Lieutenant-Commander L. A. Beardslee, apparently in a panic, shouted, "Stand by to repel boarders." There were in fact no boarders, nor at the moment any opportunity for boarders to approach the Wachusett. Beardslee then caused two broadside guns to be fired. Since the two ships were perpendicular, the cannon shots had no effect other than to alert the Brazilian authorities that serious business was being transacted in their harbor.

After backing off a hundred yards, Collins hailed the Florida and demanded a surrender.

"I will let you know in a few minutes," Porter temporized.

Collins was having none of that. "Surrender at once or I will blow you out of the water!"

A few minutes later Porter climbed aboard the Wachusett and surrendered his sword and his ship's ensign to Commander Collins while a beaming Consul Wilson looked on.

Quickly, a prize crew boarded the Florida, secured the 58 rebel crewmen and their 12 officers, and made a hawser fast to the foremast. The Wachusett headed for the harbor mouth towing her captive. By this time the Brazilian navy was fully alert and the Dona Januria set out in pursuit. She fired at the Wachusett, but to no effect. Joined by two other vessels, the Dona Januaria pursued her quarry out to sea. The chase continued until noon, when it became apparent that Collins, having crowded sail on both his vessels, was going to escape.

On November 11 Collins brought the Wachusett and her prize into Hampton Roads, Virginia. The Florida was stripped of her safe, instruments, and other valuable articles, and the prisoners were packed off to Fort Warren in Boston.

The Brazilian government protested vigorously, and there was little that Secretary of State William H. Seward could say in response. There was no denying that officers of the United States had violated the sovereignty and neutrality of Brazil in the most blatant fashion. Seward informed the Brazilians that President Lincoln had ordered Commander Collins to face a court martial and that Consul Wilson would be dismissed. Further, the United States Navy would offer Brazil the "amende honorable," a formal twenty-one gun salute in Bahia harbor.

Napoleon Collins stood before his court martial aboard the U.S.S. Baltimore on April 7, 1865. The charge was "Violating the territorial jurisdiction of a neutral government." Collins entered a guilty plea, and his only statement to the court was, "I respectfully request that it

may be entered on the records of the court as my defense that the capture of the Florida was for the public good."

The court returned the inevitable guilty verdict after a few minutes of deliberation. The sentence was harsh: dismissal from the navy. Secretary Welles, on September 17, 1866, disapproved the sentence without comment and instructed Collins to await orders. Reinstated and promoted, Collins rose to command the South Pacific Squadron as a rear-admiral.

As part of their reparations, the Brazilians wanted the Florida, and they had a good case. But before a final decision was reached, fate intervened and the Florida sank at anchor after a U.S. Army transport ran into her. The navy court of inquiry concluded, "There is nothing to show that the collision was designed, or that it was anything more than one of the common accidents which occur in a crowded roadstead."

If Commander Collins' attack on the Florida had worked, she would have been deliberately sunk with at least some appearance of an accident. Ironically, her end came when she accidentally sank under circumstances arousing suspicion of a deliberate act.

## Enlistments and Deaths

From the Civil War

The following information is from a pamphlet entitled *Medicine of the Civil War*, published by the National Library of Medicine. There is no copyright notice or date on the publication.

### Enlistments\*

Union .....	2,893,304
Confederacy.....	1,406,180

### Deaths

Union	
In battle .....	110,070
Disease .....	224,586
Accidents, suicide, etc. ....	24,872

Total 359,528

### Confederacy

In battle .....	94,000
Disease, etc. ....	164,000

Total 258,000

Grand Total 617,528

\* Reducing these figures to the standard three-year enlistments, Union strength at 1,556,678 and Confederate strength at 1,082,119.

## Wounds and Sickness (Union)

### Wounds

Of the 246,712 cases of wounds reported in the Medical Records by weapons of war, 245,790 were shot wounds and 922 were sabre and bayonet.

### Sickness

Of 5,825,480 admissions to sick report there were:

### Cases Deaths

75,368	typhoid	27,050
2,501	typhus	850
11,898	continued fever	147
49,871	typho-malarial fever	4,059
1,155,266	acute diarrhea	2,923
170,488	chronic diarrhea	27,588
233,812	acute dysentery	4,084
25,670	chronic dysentery	3,229
73,382	syphilis	123
95,833	gonorrhoea	6
30,714	scurvy	383
3,744	delirium tremens	450
2,410	insanity	80
2,837	paralysis	231

A breakdown of the Confederate wounds and sickness is not available.

The following is a consolidated statement of articles of medical and hospital property carried with the Army of the Potomac across the Rapidan (May 4, 1864).

Acacia, Ammonium carbonate, Collodion, Whiskey, Sulfuric acid, Ammonia water, Ferric chloride, Brandy, Tannic acid, Spirits of Ammonia, Mercury pills, Lead acetate, Tartaric acid, Silver nitrate, Morphine, Potassium arsenite, Ether, Camphor, Olive oil, Potassium iodide, Alcohol, Cantharides, Castor oil, Quinine, Alum, Chloroform (35 quarts), Turpentine, Liquid soap, Opium, Squill.

The following were normally carried in a Confederate Medicine Wagon:

Acetic acid, Arsenic oxide, Digitalis, Opium, Adhesive plaster, Assafoetida, Ether, Quinine sulphate, Alcohol, Columbo, Hydrochloric acid, Rhubarb, Aloes, Copaiba, Hyoscyamus, Senna, Ammonia water, Creosote, Morphine sulfate, Sugar, Sulfuric acid.

## Fugitive!

by  
Harry Dolbier

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865 remains one of the most baffling incidents in American history, filled with mysteries, strange coincidences, and enigmatic figures.

One aspect of the case, the flight and capture of John Harrison Surratt, accounts for at least its fair share of unanswered questions.

When the war broke out, eighteen-year-old John Surratt abandoned his studies for the Catholic priesthood at St. Charles College in Maryland and entered the

Confederate service as a courier and sometime spy. During the next four years he smuggled information out of Washington and traveled often between Richmond and Montreal, where the rebel secret service operated under the tolerant eye of the British government.

In the course of his clandestine activities, Surratt met John Wilkes Booth and introduced the famous actor into his mother's boarding house in Washington, where the handsome star soon became a frequent and welcome visitor to the pro-Southern Mrs. Surratt, her family and boarders.

After his capture in 1866, Surratt freely and proudly admitted that he played an active role in Booth's plan to capture President Lincoln and exchange him for thousands of Confederate prisoners-of-war, but he adamantly denied any prior knowledge of the murder plot. The government believed otherwise, publishing bulletins, reward posters, and indictments that consistently linked his name with Booth's as those of the principals in the crime.

Whether Surratt was in Washington on April 14, the day of the assassination as witnesses testified or in Elmira, New York, as other witnesses swore, there is no doubt that he registered as John Harrison at the St. Lawrence Hall hotel in Montreal early in the afternoon of April 18. He did not stay long enough to sample the accommodations; a Canadian banker and Confederate agent named Porterfield picked him up that same afternoon and sheltered him in his home. Four days later, Porterfield arranged with a man named Joseph Du Tilly to transport Surratt, alias Charles Armstrong, in his cart to the village of St. Liboire, about 40 miles from Montreal. In St. Liboire Du Tilly turned his passenger over to Father Charles Boucher, the local Roman Catholic priest. Sojourning with Boucher ostensibly for his health, Surratt mostly stayed in his room, but sometimes went hunting, alone or with others. After twelve days, Boucher later testified, Surratt revealed his true identity to him.

Surratt stayed with Father Boucher in St. Liboire for nearly three months, until too many parishioners began gossiping about the padre's mysterious, possibly female, guest. Boucher then turned the fugitive over to the care of his friend and colleague, Father La Pierre, who secreted the fugitive in his father's house in Montreal for the next two months. It was during his stay with old M. La Pierre that Surratt learned of his mother's arrest on a charge of conspiring to murder Abraham Lincoln. He later claimed that his contacts in Washington kept assuring him there was nothing to worry about, right up to July 7, when Mrs. Surratt was hanged in Washington's old arsenal grounds. Not then and not for the rest of his life did Surratt ever assert his mother's innocence.

In September the two clergymen, Boucher and La Pierre, escorted Surratt aboard the steamer Montreal and delivered him to the S.S. Peruvian at the Quebec docks and commended him to the care of the ship's surgeon, Dr. Lewis McMillan. On September 15 the Peruvian steamed down the St. Lawrence bound for Liverpool, carrying a passenger known as McCarty, Surratt with colored eyeglasses and dyed hair.

Surratt and his protectors were not as clever at concealment as they may have thought they were. No sooner had the Peruvian sailed from Quebec than John F. Potter, the United States Consul-General in Canada, informed Secretary of State William H. Seward that Surratt

had left Canada for Liverpool with the intention of proceeding to Rome.

While crossing the Atlantic, Surratt spent many hours regaling Dr. McMillan with lurid tales of his wartime adventures, showing the doctor his revolver and vowing he would know what to do if captured. Eventually he couldn't resist telling McMillan his real name

The Peruvian docked in Liverpool on the 25th, and passenger McCarty made his way into the city, where he was soon lodged in the oratory of the Church of the Holy Cross, an accommodation frequently used by American Catholics visiting Liverpool. Two days later, U.S. Vice-Consul A. Wilding cabled the State Department from Liverpool that Surratt was either in that British port or was expected soon.

Fathers Boucher and La Pierre may have trusted Dr. McMillan to look after their protege', but after Surratt's revelations during the voyage, the physician thought it wise to tell the authorities what he knew. He provided an affidavit to Mr. Wilding, who then reported to Washington that it was almost certain that Surratt was staying at the Church of the Holy Cross, and he needed instructions and authority to do something about it. In reply Wilding received the following wire from W. Hunter, acting secretary of state: "I have to inform you, that, upon a consultation with the Secretary of War and the Judge-Advocate General, it is thought advisable that no action be taken in regard to the arrest of the supposed John Surratt at present."

Surratt stayed in Liverpool long enough to collect some money sent to him from Canada, then departed via London and Paris for Rome. In Rome he took up residence in the English College, a Catholic institution, under the protection of its head, Father Neane. In April 1866, Surratt enlisted in the Papal Zouaves, part of the army of Pope Pius IX. The fugitive was now known as John Watson.

His concealment was short-lived. Another soldier in the Zouaves, a French-Canadian named Henri Beaumont de Ste. Marie, who had met Surratt in Maryland in 1863 recognized his old acquaintance at the town of Sezze. Surratt acknowledged his identity to his fellow Zouave, asked him to keep the secret, and told him, "We have killed Lincoln, the nigger's friend."

On April 21, Ste. Marie reported Surratt's whereabouts to Rufus King, the United States minister to the Papacy. King relayed the news to Washington.

Unlike the similar situation a few months earlier in Liverpool, this time the State Department instructed its representative to seek custody of the fugitive Surratt. There was no treaty of extradition between the United States and the Papal States, so early in November Minister King presented the issue to the Papal Secretary of State, Cardinal Antonelli, in the form of a request. It was contrary to Vatican policy, the cardinal replied, to turn over suspected criminals when there was a possibility of the death penalty. In view of the unique nature and gravity of this case, however, the Pope had agreed to give up Surratt.

Cardinal Antonelli thereupon ordered Surratt's arrest and promised to deliver the prisoner to Mr. King in Rome.

Lieutenant-Colonel Allet, commanding the Zouave Brigade at Velletri, received orders to arrest John Watson "and have him conducted, under secure escort, to the military prison at Rome." On November 7, Captain De Lambilly arrested Surratt without incident while he was on leave at Veroli and lodged him in the local guardhouse

before moving him to Rome the next morning. At 4:00 a.m. on November 8, six Zouaves led Surratt from the prison. As the party neared a hundred-foot deep ravine just outside the prison's entry gate, Surratt made a sudden break and leapt over the stone wall at the edge of the precipice. He fell some thirty-five feet and landed on a rocky outcropping, where his fall was broken to some extent by the refuse that had accumulated there. The Zouaves immediately fired their rifles over the edge and hastened in pursuit their fleeing prisoner. They were soon joined by 50 reinforcements. None of them ever saw John Watson again.

Later that day, Surratt, still in his Zouave uniform, showed up in Naples. Questioned by the police, he told them he was an impoverished Englishman who has escaped from a Roman regiment where he had been under arrest for insubordination. Naples was part of the kingdom of Italy, hostile to the Papal States, and the Neapolitan authorities were not interested in returning any deserters to the enemy. At his own request, Surratt was lodged in the Naples jail for three days, after which he asked to be taken to the British consulate, where he claimed protection as a Canadian.

On the evening of November 11, Surratt, alias John Agostina, boarded the steamer Tripoli, bound for Alexandria, Egypt, his third-class fare paid by "some English gentlemen." Word that Surratt was aboard the Tripoli reached United States Consul William Winthrop at Valletta, Malta, but when the steamer called at that port, Winthrop was so hampered by local red tape that Surratt continued his voyage unmolested.

The fugitive was not so fortunate when the Tripoli docked at Alexandria on November 23. Along with 77 fellow third-class passengers, Surratt was detained aboard in quarantine. Four days later, United States Consul-General Charles Hale came aboard the Tripoli and confronted Surratt, who now insisted his name was Walters. Hale was not taken in, arrested Surratt, and reported the capture to the secretary of state. Seward asked the navy to send a ship to Alexandria, and on December 21, 1866, Consul-General Hale turned John Surratt over to the captain of the corvette U.S.S. Swatara for transportation to Washington. When he was arrested in Alexandria, Surratt possessed no more than five francs and his tattered Zouave uniform.

Taken ashore and deposited in the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, Surratt faced a different prospect than did his mother and seven other defendants when they were tried by a military commission in 1865. Such proceedings were illegal, the United States Supreme Court declared in an 1866 decision, *ex parte Milligan*, ruling that the military authorities had no right to try civilians in areas where the civil courts were operating. John Surratt's fate would be decided by a jury of twelve citizens in the criminal court of the District of Columbia.

The trial, before Judge George P. Fisher, lasted 62 days, and a team of first-rate lawyers managed the defense of the indigent Surratt, presenting 98 witnesses. The prosecution's case, buttressed by 108 witnesses, failed to convince more than four jurymen, and a mistrial resulted.

Surratt remained in the Old Capitol Prison until released on \$25,000 bail. The district attorney, reassessing his strategy, dropped the murder charge and went ahead with a new arraignment for conspiracy and treason. Surratt's lawyers successfully argued that the

statute of limitations had run out on these charges. The government abandoned further legal action, and Surratt took up a quiet private life in Baltimore, where he worked as a clerk for a shipping company, married, and raised a family. Other than one attempt at lecturing on his part in the Lincoln plots, the public heard no more from John H. Surratt until his obituary appeared in 1916.

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Excerpts from:

## Medicine of the Civil War

A pamphlet published by the  
National Library of Medicine

Casualties during the Civil War are often evaluated in terms of trauma and death resulting from battle-field wounds and accidents. In truth, the major killer of the War between the States was sudden and uncontrollable disease.

Statistics of morbidity and mortality related to casualties of the Confederate Armies are relatively scarce. Many records of the Medical Corps of the Confederacy were destroyed in the Richmond fire. Among the Northern troops, deaths from disease, both infectious and noninfectious, were about double those resulting from wounds. From the available data, it may be assumed that statistics for the Confederacy were comparable.

Attrition from infectious diseases decimated troops, delayed some campaigns, and indeed, prevented others from even starting. In almost every unit of both the Union and Confederate Armies, there were, eventually, cases of dysentery, malaria, measles, typhoid fever, smallpox, tuberculosis, and other diseases.

### Care of the Wounded

During the first actions of the war, some wounded men were inadvertently left on the battlefield for as long as two days before being moved for treatment. The injured were first transported by untrained litter bearers, who used discarded gates, doors, window frames, ladders, and other objects as improvised litters. The walking wounded often carried the disabled to the rear.

In the fierce fighting of the battle of Gettysburg - probably the bloodiest of the war - such was the efficiency of administration that, after each day, not one of the fallen was left on the ground. This rapidity of action was in sharp contrast to the tardy removal of casualties during earlier battles. The ambulance trains moved the casualties to field installations, and after treatment there were taken as soon as possible to general hospitals.

At Gettysburg, almost every division had its own hospital, grouped according to Army Corps. These hospitals were strategically located near creeks to provide badly needed water.

The enormity of the task which confronted the field surgeon is sharply delineated in this passage from a report of Surgeon John H. Brinton on April 6, 1862, written during the battle of Shiloh:

"The mass of wounded in Sunday's fight, who received the attentions of the surgeon had dragged themselves, as best they might, to the high bluffs between the middle and hospital landings . . . . A limited amount of hay had been obtained from the transports and this, littered on the earth, served as a bed for those most grievously hurt

. . . . The weather was terrible, the rain incessant, and the mud was almost knee deep. The medical officers of the command labored faithfully and all that was possible was done to alleviate the horrors of that fearful night . . . "

### Surgery in the Field

The wounded soldier who received medical attention in the field (and base hospital) had still to run the considerable risk of surgery. After ambulance facilities were available, field hospitals were sometimes overwhelmed by major battle casualties. The limited number of surgeons worked around the clock and haste and neglect were unavoidable under such circumstances.

Anesthetics, generally chloroform, were available, but there was no notion of aseptic procedure. As W. W. Keen recalled some years later:

"We operated in old blood-stained and often pus-stained coats . . . with undisinfected hands . . . We used undisinfected instruments . . . and marine sponges which had been used in prior pus cases and only washed in tap water."

Nearly all wounds became infected. In the case of chest or abdominal wounds, surgeons probed with their fingers, prescribed morphine and tried to stop external bleeding. Otherwise there was little that could be done. Death within three days from hemorrhage and / or infection was the normal result. The average Union mortality from gunshot wounds of the chest was 62 percent of cases and from wounds of the abdomen, no less than 87 percent. By way of contrast, only about 3 percent of all American wounded failed to survive in World War II.

The chances for survival following an injury to the extremities were better though not good. Joints were resected and limbs amputated with alarming frequency, often in an attempt to prevent the spread of infection. It was usually the ensuing infection which caused death. The so-called "surgical fevers" included tetanus, erysipelas, hospital-gangrene, and septicemia.

### Ambulance Corps

The original organization of the medical service offered inadequate provision for the removal of the great numbers of casualties from collecting points to hospitals in rear echelon areas. On September 7, 1862, in a letter to Secretary of War Stanton, Surgeon General William A. Hammond requested the formation of an ambulance corps. The corps, complete with animals, personnel, and supplies, was first established under the guidance of Dr. Johnathan Letterman, Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac.

On the Confederate side, the task of transporting the wounded was complicated by the difficulty of running supplies and equipment through the Northern blockade of Southern Atlantic ports and the lower Mississippi River.

As in the North, the duties of Confederate surgeons included supervising the moving of the wounded from the battle lines to facilities in the rear. Toward the end of the war, the entire transportation system of the Confederacy, including their ambulance organization, collapsed for want of the necessary equipment and supplies.

### Hospitals

The hospitals of the Civil War varied from crude, quickly constructed regimental receiving stations near the battle lines to well-staffed and fully equipped general hospitals at the rear capable of handling thousands of casualties.

At the outset of the war, a mere handful of surgeons and administrators was available for the immense task of organizing, staffing, and supplying the vast medical complexes required by both sides. Public schools, abandoned buildings, factories, warehouses, churches, and private homes were all utilized as medical care facilities.

In the South, the Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond was the largest military hospital of its time. Dr. James B. McCaw was appointed medical director of this enormous complex, completed in early 1862. It had a capacity of 6,000 beds, and treated 76,000 patients.

The Northern States, with their more numerous facilities, had Carver, Stanton, and Campbell Hospitals, located in or near Washington. Dozens of others were scattered throughout the Union States, convenient to transportation facilities by rail or water. In the summer of 1864, a period of high casualties, hospitals as far from the eastern front as New York and Boston, and as far west as Louisville, St. Louis, and Cincinnati received the sick and wounded.

### The Role of Women

At the outbreak of hostilities, it became evident that corollary assistance would be needed to support the troops. In the North, the United States Sanitary Commission, a civilian organization, evolved from this need. Originally organized by women in most of the large cities in 1861, the general intent of the Commission was to assist the government in the care of the troops. The Commission provided temporary shelters, clean bedding, wholesome food, and other services for the men.

In the South, there were many women's aid societies, but none approached the scope of operation of the Sanitary Commission. The principal activities of these groups in the Confederacy paralleled those of the Commission; in addition, they helped run medical supplies through the Northern blockade, and took the ailing into their homes. In general, however, the South lacked the resources and organization to match the efforts of the Northern groups.

Among the many dedicated women on both sides engaged in this type of service were Clara Barton, founder of the National Red Cross, and Louisa May Alcott, the famous author, who served as a nurse. Sally Louise Tompkins of the South maintained the Robertson Hospital in Richmond, Va. and was commissioned a captain in the Confederate States Army.

