

# THE FUGLEMAN



The Newsletter of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association

**THE BLACK HATS  
IRON BRIGADE  
1861-1865**

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**VOLUME XVIII**

**ISSUE 7**

**JULY, 2010**

FU-GEL-MAN: A well-drilled soldier placed in front of a military company as a model or guide for others.

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## *PASS IN REVIEW*

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Figure 1 Lieutenant Colonel Pete Seielstad

In this month of May I have attended 2 class room presentations and conducted an all day school presentation about the Civil War at a nearby school district. This is just me. Throughout the Second Wisconsin Association, we have what would seem to be countless school presentations and demonstrations. I reached out to

approximately 200 kids this month. Other sister companies have reached far more than that. In fact I would believe in total, the Second Wisconsin Association has reached over a couple of thousand. Were there more? It would be good to know how many school kids we have shared our knowledge with about the American Civil War. If someone knows, please post it in the Fugelman.

The thought here is this: We as a dedicated group of individuals take the time to impart some knowledge about the American Civil War to another generation. To this dedication I salute the members of the Second Wisconsin Association. Well done! Carry on.

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

## **NEWS FROM THE COMPANY CAMPS**

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### **COMPANY B PHOTOS FROM RECENT EVENTS**



Company B at the La Crosse Oak Grove Cemetery GAR lot,  
Memorial Day 2010



**Scott Sontag and John Dudkiewicz of the Association with the Wisconsin Regimental Band at Elmbrook Historical Society event, in May**



**2nd Wisconsin Battalion at Spring Muster 2010.**

## **COMPANY K MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS**

The following photos were taken by our comrade from Battery B, Lyle Laufenberg at the Company K Memorial Day event at Forest Hills Cemetery in Madison, Wisconsin. Lynn Wirl took the picture of the Monona Memorial Day Parade which took place shortly after the Forest Hills activities.

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT OF THE EVENTS OF MAY 31, 2010**

On Memorial day Company K once again gathered at Forest Hills Cemetery in Madison, Wisconsin. The morning looked threatening, but there was no hint of rain during the ceremonial events. The Company assembled and shortly before 8:00 a.m. marched to the grave site of Colonel Lucius Fairchild. At that location the Company was asked to allow the reading of a letter written by Colonel Fairchild. The lady's name was Dale and she is a friend of the Fairchild family. The letter came from a cache of documents that are being indexed for future disposition and has previously been unpublished. The letter was addressed to the men of the Second Wisconsin upon Fairchild's leaving the army after his wounding at Gettysburg. Given the location, the purpose and the words, the letter was a moving reminder of the bond formed by men who served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin and their commander. It was a tribute to the sacrifice of all these men and the record of achievement they acquired as a unit!

The editor spoke to the lady following the activities and I provided my e-mail. Hopefully she will remember to send me a transcription of that letter in the near future.

President Craig Mickelson read a short message to the Company. It was a particularly eloquent speech addressed to veterans of all wars. Following the reading of this speech the Company marched to Union Rest for the ceremony at that location. Following the ceremonies at Union Rest and a crisp volley by the men, the troops left the cemetery for the Memorial Day Parade in Monona.



**Company K at Col. Fairchild's grave and the lady who read his moving letter**



Visitors place flower petals on the graves of Union Veterans



Company K in Monona Parade

## **BATTERY B COMMEMORATES MEMORIAL DAY AND A HISTORICAL EVENT**

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**On Memorial Day Battery B was involved in a special event near Brooklyn, Wisconsin. The event was more than the traditional salute to veterans who have served this nation. Following President Lincoln's call for troops, the men of Wisconsin flocked to the defense of their country. A liberty pole was erected on a high hill creating a site for mustering in men from Green County. A new flag pole was erected marking that historical site. The men who volunteered to fight for the Union marched from this location to Janesville and Evansville to march off to the war.**

**The flag which had flown from this hill had been torn down by protesters in the 1960's and never replaced. Private citizens donated their time, talents and money to replace the flag pole and begin the process of creating a public park in this place. Private funds were raised to provide lighting so the flag can fly proudly 24 hours a day! It was reported by Battery member Lyle Laufenberg that three television outlets covered the event. The sites for viewing these reports can be found at <http://www.channel3000.com/news/23750282/detail.html>>**

<<http://www.wkowitz.com/Global/story.asp?S=12571923>>



**Figure 2 Lyle Laufenberg at the cannon for days events**



**Figure 3 The members of Battery B at Liberty Hill**



Figure 4 The wonderful ladies of Battery B

Battery B is celebrating the announcement of the engagement of Dale M. and Andrea Klein. Their picture is at the left. Congratulations from your comrades from the Second Wisconsin Regiment and our hopes for a great future together!

*The Fugelman* thanks Lyle Laufenberg for his photos and report on this event.



## **COMPANY E AT HERITAGE HILL EVENT**

The photos of Company E at their Heritage Hill event in Allouez, Wisconsin were provided by Dave Dudkiewicz to Lyle Laufenberg and on to the newsletter. The photos come from the *Green Bay Press Gazette*.



Figure 5 CALIB FLORY OF CO. E AT HERITAGE HILL EVENT



[http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=U0&Dato=20100627  
&Kategori=GPG01&Lopenr=6270804&Ref=PH](http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=U0&Dato=20100627&Kategori=GPG01&Lopenr=6270804&Ref=PH)

## **COMPANY CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES**

**JULY**



**10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> \*Seminole Valley Farms Cedar Rapids IA\***

- **Association National Max effort event\* John Dudkiewicz contact person**

**17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Company E & Battery B Old Falls Village Reenactment, Menominee Falls WI**

**17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Skirmish Team, 56<sup>th</sup> VA at Bristol, WI**

**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Company H Duncan Mills Reenactment, Duncan Mills CA**

**\*Company Max effort event\***

**31<sup>st</sup> -1<sup>st</sup> Company E Copper Harbor Living History, Copper Harbor MI (UP)**

## ***REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES***

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### **JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS**

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On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1776, the Continental Congress, sitting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, voted to adopt a document drafted by a committee composed of James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and Ben Franklin. The committee formulated the concepts, but Thomas Jefferson, a delegate from the colony of Virginia, put those ideas into a written format. On July 4<sup>th</sup> the delegates to this Congress gathered to sign the document and announce the decision to the waiting public. It is difficult from our 21<sup>st</sup> century perspective to recall the risk assumed by these men in Philadelphia in 1776. That declaration was an act of treason. If the coming struggle for independence had failed they would have been wanted men

subject to execution if captured by the British after their failed rebellion.

Young Americans flocked to militia and army units to fight for this vague concept of independence. In truth, no one knew what would come after these British colonies achieved their independence from England. It was indeed a work in progress. The same could be said of the secessionists in 1860. They were traitors who had only a vague concept of what would follow their efforts to create a new nation. It is interesting, especially in light of contemporary politics, to note that the secessionists adopted a constitution that was a duplicate of the one they had lived under for seven decades. The only changes were the addition of articles to protect their beloved institution of human bondage! They knew that whatever government would follow had to preserve the institution of slavery. Fear of the unknown, it drove the South to secede. They feared what Lincoln MIGHT do in regards to slavery. In 1776 many of the American colonists opposed the idea of independence as a result of that same type of fear. But men were willing to sacrifice to assure their freedom and the nation built on that independence. In subsequent generations Americans were willing to suffer and die to preserve the nation created in 1776. Three hundred and thirty thousand men would die between 1861 and 1865, to preserve that nation created in 1776. And 300,000 were willing to fight and die to divide that nation for the sake of maintaining a slave based government. That government would be aristocratic and to a degree anti-democratic, setting aside the concepts of equality and participatory democracy suggested by Jefferson in his declaration.

The theory espoused in the document was taken from John Locke's *Two Treatises on Government*. But it wasn't the words, but the principles that sparked the imaginations and hopes of those men in Philadelphia and future generations of Americans. Jefferson wrote: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."*

Every American is familiar with the phrase "all men are created equal". We also know at the time Jefferson drafted this document that phrase most likely was limited to property owning white men. It did not include Native Americans, those of African descent, immigrants, or women. However, the intent of those words was only the beginning. By the time of the Civil War the Declaration of Independence had become the American Creed. Men like Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln breathed a new life into Jefferson's words. As time passed, the concept of equality began to expand. Lincoln, and others, would argue that blacks were human beings imbued by their creator with the very same rights to life, liberty and happiness. Later, much later, women would be included in this view. Over the decades it continued to

expand. Its real impact has been on the role of democratic government.

If one was a Southerner in 1860, the words about consent of the governed and actions that caused a destruction of the purposes of civil government were a legitimate basis for rebellion, as claimed by Jefferson. The question must be asked is what actions by the Federal government or the impending Lincoln administration would destroy a government established by the majority of American voters in a legitimate national election. And wasn't the true measure of consent of the governed majoritarian government? Without the destruction of the rights of a minority did they really have a sufficient basis to argue that their consent to the established government was wanting? There had been an election conducted with all the required legal formalities. Lincoln had won the election, and thus the right to govern. After all, the U. S. Constitution contained a Bill of Rights to protect the rights of the minority, and they remained in force in 1860. And history has confirmed that none of the rights of Southerners had been threatened or denied.

The only real path to true freedom was participation in the political process. Lincoln, by the end of the war, recognized that the only assurance of equality was the ability to participate in the political process. As the war wound down he saw that blacks had earned the right to political citizenship and its necessity as a tool to protect their freedoms granted during the war. This is what he meant when he spoke at Gettysburg of government "of the people, by the people and for the people". It is the one legacy of

the Civil War and its aftermath that has had the most significance to all Americans. It has been a long and difficult struggle that continues to this day. But it is one that we can all be proud of in its impact at home and abroad!

If there is a sacred holiday in the United States, it is what this editor grew up calling Independence Day, but is now most commonly called simply July 4<sup>th</sup>. While many speakers on this holiday will argue that the results were pre-ordained, there was really no such guarantee. Only blood, suffering and sacrifice has made the hopes of the founding fathers come to fruition. It has taken courage and imagination to achieve the progress and advancement of the United States. As Civil War historians you carry the burden of remembrance of the costs of freedom. Many of you as veterans have also carried the weight of defending that freedom. Many of you will participate in parades or other ceremonies commemorating this holiday. Thank you for your service as veterans and to all of you for serving this nation by sharing its history and meaning to future generations who will carry the dreams and goals of America deep into the 21<sup>st</sup> century! Have a safe and thoughtful Independence Day!!!

## **JULY MILESTONES**

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July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863

The first day of the Battle of Gettysburg.  
The I Corps arrives on the field to engage a

	superior force of Johnnies on McPherson's Ridge
July 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 1863	The second day of fighting at Gettysburg
July 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1863	The third day of the Battle of Gettysburg and Lee's assault on the Union center is smashed
JULY 4, 2010	INDEPENDENCE DAY
July 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1863	Gen. Grant accepts the surrender of Vicksburg
July 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1801	Admiral David G. Farragut, U.S., born
July 9 <sup>th</sup> , 1863	Port Hudson surrenders to Union forces
July 13 <sup>th</sup> , 1821	Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, C.S.A., born
July 9 <sup>th</sup> , 1861	Union forces secure what will become West Virginia
July 18 <sup>th</sup> , 1863	Battle of Fort Wagner, where the 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts proved beyond a doubt that black troops could fight
July 21 <sup>st</sup> , 1861	Battle of First Bull Run where the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin first saw the elephant
July 24 <sup>th</sup> , 1885	Union Commander and former president Gen. U. S. Grant dies
July 29 <sup>th</sup> , 1862	The rebel commerce raider <i>Alabama</i> sails out of England
July 30 <sup>th</sup> , 1864	The Battle of the Crater

## **SESQUICENTENNIAL CORNER**

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The following item comes from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum's members website. If you have not been to Springfield, it is worth the trip and time. History drips from the city where Lincoln rose from a poor unpropertied lad into the president of the United States. New Salem, Lincoln's home after he left his family to strike out as an adult. There is Lincoln's home, his law office, the remarkable Old Capitol building where Lincoln

gave his "House Divided" speech, the Lincoln tomb and of course the Lincoln museum and presidential library. There is much more to see of course. It is well worth the trip. This editor has been there so many times and each time the experience is a wonder!

From June 15th to August 15th: It's happening before your very eyes, it's everywhere, it's 7 days a week ... and best of all it's FREE! This summer, History TRULY Comes Alive in Downtown Springfield!

For the first time ever, the entire historic downtown and surrounding historical sites will be brimming with live performances and fun activities that will completely transport you back in time to the Springfield Abraham Lincoln knew and loved. Featuring storytelling and interaction with costumed interpreters, period musical performances, and even appearances by Mr. Lincoln himself, this is one trip to the past you won't want to miss!

Listen, for instance, as Abe gives his heartfelt first Inaugural Address on the steps of the Old State Capitol. Or put yourself and your kids at the hub of Civil War action at the authentic Medical Encampment Reenactment. Don't be surprised if you find yourself lunching next to a couple of nineteenth century ladies at their favorite bistro in the afternoon. Then, catch a fly ball at a vintage-style base ball game. And to top off the perfect day, let a refreshing scoop of ice cream melt on your tongue as the sun sets over Downtown Springfield.

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## **PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ANNOUNCED**

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The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) is again sponsoring an annual amateur photography contest. Entrants may submit photographs in four categories. Grand prizes are free registration for annual conferences and seminars. Deadline is Aug 31. Details and rules: [www.civilwar.org/photocontest](http://www.civilwar.org/photocontest).

## **CIVIL WAR POLITICAL MOVIE ON HOLD FOR THE TIME BEING**

From time to time this editor has followed the progress on the proposed Steven Spielberg movie to be based on the best selling book *Team Of Rivals*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin. On May 10, 2010, there was a posting on Spielberg's website stating that the project has been delayed as a result of script delays. Thus there is no possibility of beginning the filming this year. Liam Neeson is slated to play Abraham Lincoln and Holly Hunter is to play the role of Mary Lincoln.

## **RARE PHOTO OF SLAVE CHILDREN FOUND IN NC ATTIC**

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**BY NICOLE NORFLEET, ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER NICOLE NORFLEET, ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER – THU JUN 10, 4:22 PM ET**

**RALEIGH, N.C.** – A haunting 150-year-old photo found in a North Carolina attic shows a young black child named John, barefoot and wearing ragged clothes, perched on a barrel next to another unidentified young boy.

Art historians believe it's an extremely rare **Civil War-era** photograph of children who were either slaves at the time or recently emancipated.

The photo, which may have been taken in the early 1860s, was a testament to a dark part of American history, said Will Stapp, a photographic historian and **founding curator** of the National Portrait Gallery's photographs department at the Smithsonian Institution.

"It's a very difficult and poignant piece of American history," he said. "What you are looking at when you look at this photo are two boys who were victims of that history."

In April, the photo was found at a moving sale in Charlotte, accompanied by a document detailing the sale of John for \$1,150, not a small sum in 1854.

New York collector Keya Morgan said he paid \$30,000 for the photo album including the photo of the young boys and several family pictures and \$20,000 for the sale document. Morgan said the deceased owner of the home where the photo was found was thought to be a descendant of John.

A portrait of slave children is rare, Morgan said.



"I buy stuff all the time, but this shocked me," he said.

What makes the picture an even more compelling find is that several art experts said it was created by the photography studio of Mathew Brady, a famous 19th-century photographer known for his portraits of historical figures such as **President Abraham Lincoln** and Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Stapp said the photo was probably not taken by Brady himself but by Timothy O'Sullivan, one of Brady's apprentices. O'Sullivan took a multitude of photos depicting the carnage of the Civil War.

In 1862, O'Sullivan famously photographed a group of some of the first slaves liberated after Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Such photos were circulated in the North by abolitionists to garner support for the **Union during the Civil War**, said Harold Holzer, an author of several books about Lincoln. Holzer works as an administrator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Most of the photos depicted adult slaves who had been beaten or whipped, he said.

The photo of the two boys is more subtle, Holzer said, which may be why it wasn't widely circulated and remained unpublished for so long.

"To me, it's such a moving and astonishing picture," he said.

Ron Soodalter, an author and member of the board of directors at the Abraham Lincoln Institute in Washington, D.C., said the photo depicts the reality of slavery.

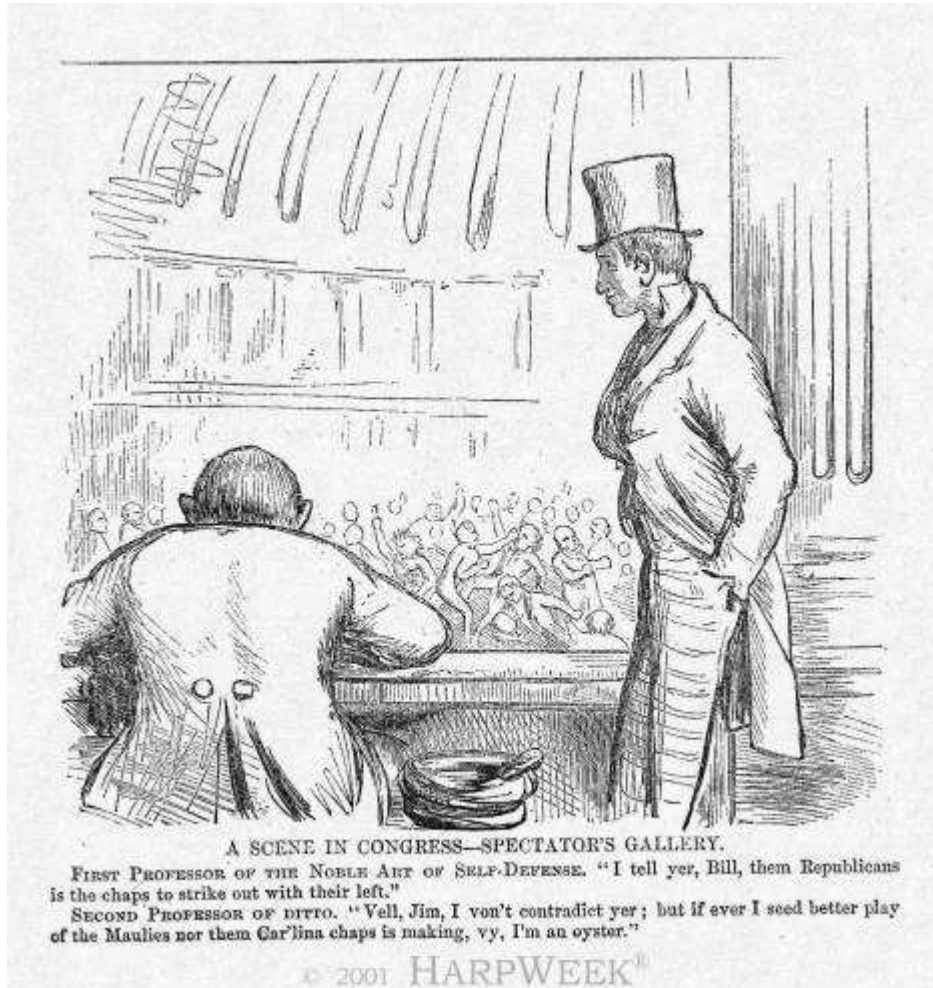


"I think this picture shows that the **institution of slavery** didn't pick or choose," said Soodalter, who has written several books on historic and modern slavery. "This was a generic horror. It victimized the old, the young."

For now, Morgan said, he is keeping the photo in his personal collection, but he said he has had an inquiry to sell the photo to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He said he is considering participating in the creation of a video documentary about John.

"This kid was abused and mistreated and people forgot about him," Morgan said. "He doesn't even exist in history. And to know that there were a million children who were like him. I've never

seen another photo like that that speaks so much for children.”



## "A Scene in Congress - Spectator's Gallery"

First Professor of the Noble Art of Self-Defense. "I tell yer, Bill, them Republicans is the chaps to strike out with their left."

Second Professor of Ditto. "Vell, Jim, I von't contradict yer; but if ever I seed better play of the Maulies nor them Car'lina chaps is making, vy, I'm an oyster."

Artist: artist unknown

This *Harper's Weekly* cartoon by an unknown artist dramatizes a free-for-all fight on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives over the contentious issue of slavery in Kansas.

The debate over the expansion of slavery into the Western territories, particularly Kansas, pushed the issue of slavery to the forefront of national politics, intensifying mutual distrust and scorn between the free North and the slave South. In 1854, in an attempt to spur population growth in the Western territories in advance of a transcontinental railroad, Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois introduced a bill to establish the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. In order to gain Southern support, the bill stipulated that slavery in the territories would be decided by the territories' electorates (popular sovereignty). Controversy over the Kansas-Nebraska Act fatally injured the Whig party and led to the organization of the Republican party.

In the Kansas territory, a miniature civil war—known as Bleeding Kansas—erupted over the issue of slavery. In May 1856, a proslavery group attacked the free-soil town of Lawrence, stealing and destroying property. In response to the "sack of Lawrence," radical abolitionist John Brown and his followers assaulted a pro-slavery settlement at Pottawatomie Creek, killing five men. By the end of 1856, nearly 200 Kansans had been killed and property worth \$2 million has been damaged or destroyed.

The rivalry in the Kansas territory between pro- and anti-slavery factions resulted in the establishment of two territorial legislatures, each claiming legitimacy. On December 21, 1857, anti-slavery voters, who constituted the vast majority, boycotted a popular referendum on a proposed slave-state constitution, which therefore passed. On January 4, 1858, pro-slavery voters likewise boycotted a popular referendum on a proposed free-state constitution, which therefore also passed.

President James Buchanan, a Northern supporter of slavery, chose to back the pro-slavery constitution, which he sent to Congress for approval on February 2, 1858. For the next several months, the Lecompton constitution (named for the site of the pro-slavery legislature) was the center of heated controversy on Capitol Hill. Opposition was led by Senator Douglas, who considered the unrepresentative vote to have been a perversion of his notion of popular sovereignty.

During one late-night session of the House (about 2:00 a.m.), Republican Galusha Grow of Pennsylvania crossed the aisle to the Democratic side to confer with some Northern Democrats. Democrat Lawrence Keitt of South Carolina yelled at Grow to "go back to your side of the House, you Black Republican puppy!" Grow flung back a derogatory comment about slave drivers. The two men began scuffling, which caught the attention of their congressional colleagues who joined the fight like two baseball benches emptying for an all-out brawl on the diamond. One journalist-witness reported that little damage was done because the congressmen suffered "from want of wind and muscle," but Congressman Alexander Stephens of Georgia feared that it could have easily escalated to a serious bloodbath.

This cartoon presents the Grow-Keitt spectacle studiously commented on by two "professor[s] of the noble art of self-defense" (the second, a German American), as if they were analyzing a boxing match.

On March 23, 1858, the Democratic-majority in the Senate approved the admission of Kansas as a slave state. On April 1, however, enough Northern Democrats joined with the Republicans to defeat the Lecompton constitution. The issue returned to the Kansas territory, where the pro-slavery constitution was overwhelmingly defeated. In January 1861, Kansas finally entered the Union as a free state.

Robert C. Kennedy

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/harp/0220.html>

## **THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE**

BY STEPHEN CRANE

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### CHAPTER II.

THE next morning the youth discovered that his tall comrade had been the fast-flying messenger of a mistake. There was much scoffing at the latter by those who had yesterday been firm adherents of his views, and there was even a little sneering by men who had never believed the rumor. The tall one fought with a man from Chatfield Corners and beat him severely.

The youth felt, however, that his problem was in no wise lifted from him. There was, on the contrary, an irritating prolongation. The tale had created in him a great concern for himself. Now, with the newborn question in his mind, he was compelled to sink back into his old place as part of a blue demonstration.

For days he made ceaseless calculations, but they were all wondrously unsatisfactory. He found that he could establish nothing. He finally concluded that the only way to prove himself was to go into the blaze, and then figuratively to watch his legs to discover their merits and faults. He reluctantly admitted that he could not sit still and with a mental slate and pencil derive an answer. To gain it, he must have blaze, blood, and danger, even as a chemist requires this, that, and the other. So he fretted for an opportunity.

Meanwhile he continually tried to measure himself by his comrades. The tall soldier, for one, gave him some assurance. This man's serene unconcern dealt him a measure of confidence, for he had known him since childhood, and from his intimate knowledge he did not see how he could be capable of anything that was beyond him, the youth. Still, he thought that his comrade might be mistaken about himself. Or, on the other hand, he might be a man heretofore doomed to peace and obscurity, but, in reality, made to shine in war.

The youth would have liked to have discovered another who suspected himself. A sympathetic comparison of mental notes would have been a joy to him.

He occasionally tried to fathom a comrade with seductive sentences. He looked about to find men in the proper mood. All attempts failed to bring forth

any statement which looked in any way like a confession to those doubts which he privately acknowledged in himself. He was afraid to make an open declaration of his concern, because he dreaded to place some unscrupulous confidant upon the high plane of the unconfessed from which elevation he could be derided.

In regard to his companions his mind wavered between two opinions, according to his mood. Sometimes he inclined to believing them all heroes. In fact, he usually admitted in secret the superior development of the higher qualities in others. He could conceive of men going very insignificantly about the world bearing a load of courage unseen, and although he had known many of his comrades through boyhood, he began to fear that his judgment of them had been blind. Then, in other moments, he flouted these theories, and assured himself that his fellows were all privately wondering and quaking.

His emotions made him feel strange in the presence of men who talked excitedly of a prospective battle as of a drama they were about to witness, with nothing but eagerness and curiosity apparent in their faces. It was often that he suspected them to be liars.

He did not pass such thoughts without severe condemnation of himself. He dinned reproaches at times. He was convicted by himself of many shameful crimes against the gods of traditions.

In his great anxiety his heart was continually clamoring at what he considered the intolerable slowness of the generals. They seemed content to perch tranquilly on the river bank, and leave him bowed down by the weight of a great problem. He wanted it settled forthwith. He could not long bear such a load, he said. Sometimes his anger at the commanders reached an acute stage, and he grumbled about the camp like a veteran.

One morning, however, he found himself in the ranks of his prepared regiment. The men were whispering speculations and recounting the old rumors. In the gloom before the break of the day their uniforms glowed a deep purple hue. From across the river the red eyes were still peering. In the eastern sky there was a yellow patch like a rug laid for the feet of the coming sun; and against it, black and patternlike, loomed the gigantic figure of the colonel on a gigantic horse.

From off in the darkness came the trampling of feet. The youth could occasionally see dark shadows that moved like monsters. The regiment stood at rest for what seemed a long time. The youth grew impatient.

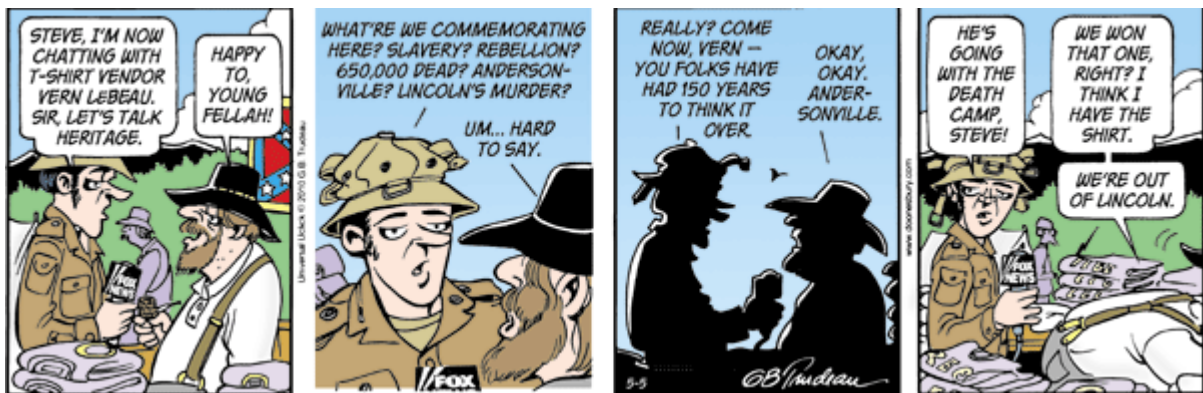
It was unendurable the way these affairs were managed. He wondered how long they were to be kept waiting.

As he looked all about him and pondered upon the

mystic gloom, he began to believe that at any moment the ominous distance might be aflame, and the rolling crashes of an engagement come to his ears. Staring once at the red eyes across the river, he conceived them to be grow- ing larger, as the orbs of a row of dragons advancing. He turned toward the colonel and saw him lift his gigantic arm and calmly stroke his mustache.

At last he heard from along the road at the foot of the hill the clatter of a horse's galloping hoofs. It must be the coming of orders. He bent forward, scarce breathing. The exciting clickety-click, as it grew louder and louder, seemed to be beating upon his soul. Presently a horseman with jangling equipment drew rein before the colonel of the regiment. The two held a short, sharp-worded conversation. The men in the foremost ranks craned their necks.

<http://www.arcamax.com/doonesbury>



## THE CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA 1860-1865!



## CHAPTER FOUR

On December 28, 1860, President Buchanan met with commissioners from South Carolina whose mission was to arrange the transfer of federal property to the State authorities. The meeting was, to say the least, contentious. Early in the secession crisis, and in order to buy time, Buchanan had agreed that if South Carolina took no threatening actions against the forts or troops garrisoned in Charleston Harbor the federal government would leave things as they presently stood there. The move by Major Anderson to Fort Sumter, while fully justified by the circumstances created by the state authorities, was viewed by South Carolina as an aggressive act tantamount to war. Feelings were running high in South Carolina and the commissioners accused Buchanan of treachery. They demanded that Buchanan order Anderson to return to Fort Moultrie, which ultimately would have led to bloodshed, sooner rather than later. Buchanan was being pressed too hard by the commissioners from South Carolina. Either in ignorance or arrogance they took an impolitic tone and made demands that even Buchanan could not in good conscience grant. One of the demands required Buchanan to order Major Anderson to return his command to Fort Moultrie and surrender Fort Sumter to South Carolinian officials.

The following day Buchanan met with his cabinet. The discussion was rolling back and forth, leading nowhere, when the commissioners' reply arrived. It was as though an unpleasant odor had entered the room. The reply was pompous and insulting. Even as feckless as Buchanan had been lately, he was affronted by its tone. The document reviewed how conciliatory the president had been heretofore about the garrison, returning the muskets to the arsenal, for example. Yet now, with the garrison moved to Sumter, when "Major Anderson waged war," Buchanan had refused to disavow the action and order him out of the fort, even though the move was "a hostile act in the highest sense." By doing nothing about this, "you have probably rendered civil war inevitable." The commissioners added: "Be it so. If you choose to force this issue upon us, the state of South Carolina will accept it." (Detzer, pps. 143-44)

David Detzer relates a description of this meeting in his book *Alliance*

On the afternoon of December 28 Buchanan had a grueling two-hour session with the commissioners. They expressed their outrage about Anderson's move. They reminded the president that he had guaranteed – on his honor as a gentleman, the commissioners insisted – that there would be no changes in the federal forts in Charleston Harbor. They pressed him. Buchanan finally snapped back at them: You push me too hard, he said. You don't even give me time to say my prayers, and I always ask God's advice before I make any important State decisions. (Detzer, p. 140)

Buchanan felt pressured by the demands of the commissioners. He was a chief executive who relied heavily on the advice of his cabinet. In fact, the approach taken by the so-called commissioners was actually being counterproductive. Even Buchanan could be pushed too hard. Buchanan had been a pro-Southern sympathizer for decades. He admired Southerners and when he was elected president he surrounded himself with cabinet officers and advisers who were either Southerners themselves, or were sympathetic to Southern concerns. But despite his Southern leanings, Buchanan was a strong Unionist who believed secession was unconstitutional. The offensive and belligerent tone of the commissioners' demands. They were harsh and disrespectful of the office Buchanan held!

In the next couple of days Buchanan worked on a written response to the demands by the representatives of the state of South Carolina. Buchanan struggled to find what he considered the right tone for his response to the representatives from South Carolina. Buchanan, as was his usual practice, took his response to the cabinet for their suggestions. The cabinet split on the response. Some thought it was too aggressive and others thought it was too conciliatory.

Apparently Buchanan tried desperately to find some middle course. He would not remove troops from Charleston, but he seems to have felt that it might still be possible to get Anderson back to Fort Moultrie if the South Carolina people would make a few concessions, and he tried to make it clear the Congress, rather than the President, had final control over Federal property in a seceded state. All in all, nobody in the cabinet approved of what he had put on paper except for Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Toucey, who liked the middle of the road even better than President Buchanan liked it. The Southerners thought it too harsh and the Unionists thought it

too weak, and the cabinet meeting was filled with discord.  
(Catton, p. 163)

In the days following the arrival of the new year of 1861, if one could shake off the fog of their celebrations, most Northern citizens must have felt a strong sense of consternation and worry. South Carolina had seceded from the Union and was claiming status as an independent nation. It was clear by the second week of January that Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi also considered themselves independent sovereignties, having joined South Carolina in breaking away from the Union. The primary cause for concern, however, were the events taking place in Charleston, and specifically at Fort Sumter and Washington D.C.

In Washington President Buchanan had dealt with irate self-styled commissioners who represented South Carolina. They were there to negotiate the surrender of all Federal property within the jurisdiction of the State. What angered the commissioners from the state was the move by Major Robert Anderson and his command to Fort Sumter. These so-called commissioners accused Buchanan of violating an agreement to maintain the status quo in Charleston Harbor and in their mind the move by Major Anderson violated that agreement. President Buchanan saw the matter differently. The aggressive actions of the state government constituted a threat to the garrison. As Anderson indicated in his telegram to Secretary of War Floyd, he had moved his men into Fort Sumter because Fort Moultrie was in essence indefensible to a land based assault and if attacked, as seemed reasonable when one viewed the correspondence and actions of the militia units flooding into Charleston, his command was at risk. These actions contravened the essence of Buchanan's agreement to maintain the status quo in Charleston with the state authorities, in the view of Floyd, the commissioners, and authorities from South Carolina.

While the debate raged in the cabinet other events were occurring that would impact events in Charleston Harbor. General Scott, who had been debilitated by his infirmities and working in New York City for the past few weeks, returned to Washington D. C. His absence had allowed Buchanan, and his cabinet, to work around the General-in-chief. In contemporary terms he had been

kept out of the loop. But now he was in Washington and determined to take charge of military concerns. General Scott realized that in order to hold Fort Sumter it was critical that reinforcements and supplies be sent to the command in Charleston Harbor as quickly as possible. To the end, General Scott began making plans to send troops and supplies to the fort. The first problem was the view by General Scott that 10,000 reinforcements would be needed to secure the fort. However, the regular army only numbered around 17,000 men and officers and they were scattered around the country, mostly in the Western territories. It would be impossible to raise that number of troops and transport them to Charleston.

General Scott did not let the facts paralyze his ability to act. He began gathering what reinforcements he could, rented a ship, and started gathering supplies. When the time came, preparations would be in place to hold Fort Sumter.

Two other circumstances complicated General Scott's efforts to meet the crisis in Charleston Harbor. The first, and most immediate, was the fact that Washington City was awash in Southern sympathizers and spies. The process of planning the relief of Fort Sumter was snarled with the need for secrecy. History confirms that despite his best efforts officials in South Carolina were fully aware of the plans to relieve Fort Sumter. Thus the efforts to raise a handful of militia and supplies, and even the ship rented for the operation were well known in Charleston. The second issue was more difficult to weigh. With Lincoln elected, but not to be inaugurated until March 4, 1861, Scott needed to gauge what policy might be adopted by the new administration when it took office. What Lincoln might do was entirely unclear. In Springfield, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln was maintaining a period (what Harold Holzer would call the interregnum) of silence on what his policy might be towards these recalcitrant states claiming to have seceded from the Union of States. The president-elect was also quiet on the issue of what to do about Federal property seized by rebels in the South, and specifically Fort Sumter. Both Lincoln and Scott wanted to keep their options open for the immediate future. Therefore, Winfield Scott decided to press forward with a

limited effort to sustain the garrison at Fort Sumter until some specific policy would be determined upon.

A transport ship, *The Star of the West*, was chartered and 200 militia troops assembled. Supplies were loaded aboard and all was in readiness.

In one of the unusual circumstances of a building civil war there were pro-Southern men in Washington, and indeed in Buchanan's cabinet that were providing information to the South Carolina authorities. As a result a flood of reports were sent South indicating the plans of General Scott in regards to his plans to relieve the garrison in Fort Sumter.

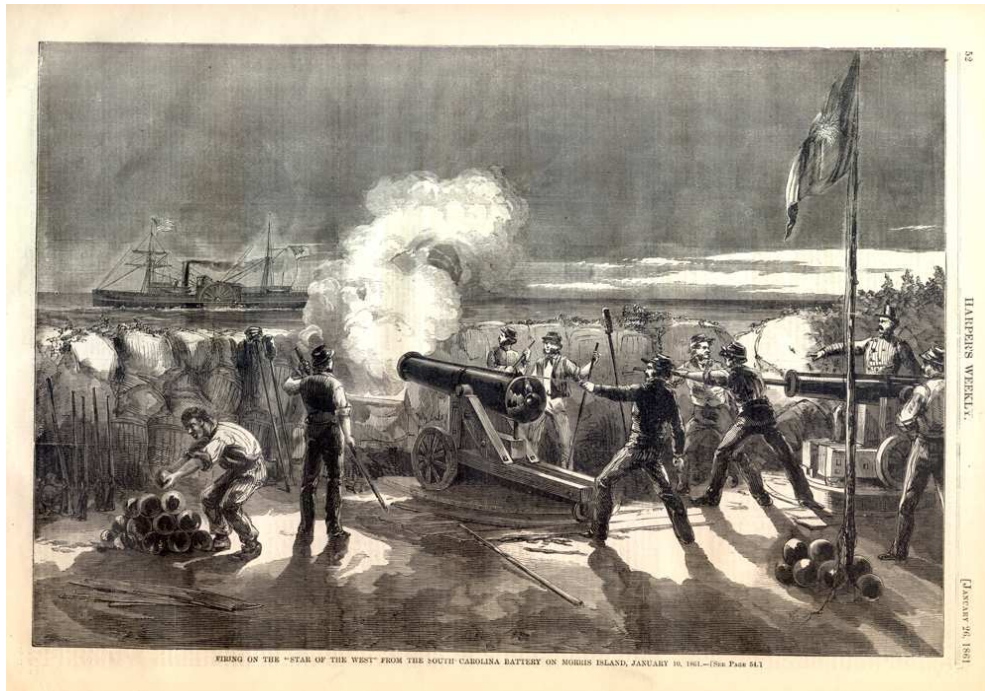
On January 6 began a flurry, then a blizzard of reports about the *Star*. The *Mercury* that day received some information and reported, "Despatches from New York say that the steamer *Star of the West*, of the Panama Line, coaled up yesterday with unusual celerity. The rumor is that she is to carry troops to Charleston, but this is ridiculed at the Steamship Company's Office." . . . .

Tuesday, January 8, more reports flooded in. Secretary of the Interior Thompson had finally learned the truth and wired down at five that afternoon. The indefatigable Louis T. Wigfall [a sitting United States Senator—Ed.] telegraphed Pickens that the *Star* was likely coming, and that she should be expected at any hour. Both of the city's major papers announced in their early editions that the *Star* was definitely steaming toward Charleston. The *Mercury* story began: **UNITED STATES TROOPS HASTENING FROM ALL POINTS SOUTHWARD. THE STAR OF THE WEST, WITH REINFORCEMENTS FOR ANDERSON, DUE HERE TODAY.** The city grew feverish. By midafternoon people were peering out to sea. Some had spyglasses, others simply stared with goosebumped anticipation. (Detzer, p. 154)

Thus the South Carolinians were prepared to meet an effort to resupply and reinforce the command isolated in Fort Sumter.

The *U.S.S. Brooklyn* was assigned to escort the vessel and they arrived off Charleston Harbor on January 8, 1861. *Harper's Weekly* carried the following first hand description of what happened when the attempt to relieve Fort Sumter was initiated.

The **January 26, 1861** edition of *Harper's Weekly* featured the following illustration, showing the First Shot of the Civil War. The first shot was fired on January 10, 1861. It was fired by the South Carolinians on Morris Island. They fired on the Union Ship "*Star of the West*" as it attempted to reinforce Major Anderson at Fort Sumter.



Harper's Weekly, January 26, 1861

### THE FIRING ON THE "STAR OF THE WEST."

WE publish on page 52 a fine illustration of the firing on the Star of the West from the Morris Island Battery, Harbor of Charleston, on 10th January, 1861. The event was mentioned in our last Number ; and it is only necessary to say here that she was on her way to Fort Sumter with men and supplies for the reinforcement of Major Anderson. The captain of the Star of the West, by name M'Gowan, gives the following account of the event:

"When we arrived about two miles from Fort Moultrie—fort Sumter being about the same distance—a masked battery on Morris Island, where there was a red Palmetto flag flying, opened fire upon us—distance, about five-eighths of a mile. We had the American flag flying at our flag-staff at the time, and, soon after the first shot, hoisted a large American ensign at the fore. We continued on under the fire of the battery for over ten minutes, several of the shots going clean over us. One passed just clear of the pilot-house. Another passed between the smoke-stack and walking-beams of the engine. Another struck the ship just abaft the fore-rigging, and stove in the planking; and another came within an ace of carrying away the rudder. At the same time there was a movement of two steamers from near Fort Moultrie—one of them towing a schooner (I presume an armed schooner)—with the intention of cutting us off. Our position now became rather critical, as we had to approach Fort Moultrie to within three-fourths of a mile before we could keep away for Fort Sumter. A steamer approaching us with an armed schooner in

tow, and the battery on the Island firing at us all the time, and having no cannon to defend ourselves from the attack of the vessels, we concluded that, to avoid certain capture or destruction, we would endeavor to get to sea. Consequently, we wore round and steamed down the channel, the battery firing upon us until their shot fell short."

A reporter of the Evening Post, who was on board, describes the scene:

" On we go; the soldiers are below with loaded muskets, and the officers are ready to give the word if there is anything to do. Now it is broad daylight, and we are making directly into the guns of Fort Moultrie, whose black walls are distinctly visible. The little steamer at our right is burning a signal light aft, and is making all possible head-way up the harbor. Now we discover a red Palmetto flag at our left on Morris Island, a little village called Cummings Point, and apparently but little more than a mile from Fort Sumter.

" 'Is it possible that those fellows have got a battery off here?' asks one.

" No,' answers another, ' there is no battery there.'

"But there is. It is now a quarter past seven, and we are about two miles from Forts Sumter and Moultrie, which are equidistant from us, and, suddenly, whiz-z! comes a ricochet shot from Morris Island. It plunges into the water and skips along, but falls short of our steamer. The line was forward of our bow, and was, of course, an invitation to stop. But we are not ready to accept the proffered hospitality, and the captain pays no attention to it, except to run up the stars and stripes at the mast-head—a garrison flag which was on board. A moment of anxious suspense, and bang! goes a heavy cannon from the same masked battery. The shot falls short of us a hundred yards or more, and bounds clean over our vessel aft, nearly on a line with the head of a sailor, but luckily a little above it.

" On we go, and—whizz ! again goes the smaller gun first fired, and another ricochet shot skips along the water and falls short of us.

" ' Booh !' exclaims the captain ; ' you must give us bigger guns than that, boys, or you can not hurt us.'

"On we go, without heeding the compliments of our Charleston friends. Another moment and bang! again goes the heavy gun. The ball now strikes our ship in the fore chains, about two feet above the water. A seaman was holding the lead to take the soundings, and the ball struck directly under his feet. It is not surprising that, under the circumstances, Jack was strongly inclined to take to his heels, and he begins to scramble up with might and main, when the captain assures

him that there is no danger, one ball having struck so near him; on the principle, I suppose, that lightning never strikes twice in the same place. Jack, reassured, patiently takes his place and drops the lead again.

"The ball, fortunately, was too far spent to go through the side of our vessel, although it left an honorable scar.

The battery continues to play upon us, and a huge ball comes clean over us, near the wheel-house. We are not yet within range of the guns of Fort Moultrie, and yonder is a cutter in tow of a steamboat, preparing to open fire upon us. A moment longer, and we shall be in range of these three batteries. The gunners on Morris Island are growing confident; if they get the right range they will send a shot through our side, scattering death and destruction. Moultrie, directly in front, will bring her heavy guns to bear, and will drive their deadly missiles into our bow, while the cutter will open on our right.

" Why does not Major Anderson open fire upon that battery and save us? We look in vain for help; the American flag flies from Fort Sumter, and the American flag at our bow and stern is fired upon, yet there is not the slightest recognition of our presence from the fort from which we look for protection. The unexpected battery on Morris Island has cut off all hope of escape by running the vessel aground near Sumter and taking to the boats. Is it possible that Fort Sumter has been taken by the South Carolinians? If it has not, why does not Major Anderson show that he will protect us, or at least recognize us in some way ? To go within range of the guns of Fort Moultrie is to expose vessel, men, and stores to almost instant destruction, or to capture by the enemy.

" " Helm out of port!" shouts the Captain, and the Star of the West is turned about without any great loss of time, as you may well imagine. We turn without accident, and steam away, with the stars and stripes still floating, and the battery still playing upon us by way of a parting salute."

A person who was on Morris Island at the time of the firing thus describes the excitement:

"The shots were fired by the Citadel Cadets, under command of Major Stephens, who has thus had the honor, which he so much coveted, of opening the impending conflict. Major Stephens is at the head of the State Military Academy, which occupies the Charleston Citadel. He is apparently about thirty-five years of age, with rather thin black hair, black and heavy beard, and large black eyes. He is about the medium size, of lithe form, with quick, nervous motions. His guns were directed at the steamer with scientific accuracy, and even the shot which failed to strike the ship fell very near her. Her flag was pulled down, and she immediately retreated. She was struck certainly three times, and perhaps five. The last shot which took effect was fired after she had turned to go out. The steamer was seen to shoot forward with a jerk



the instant this shot struck her. Two balls were seen to strike her hull; one just forward of her wheel-house, the other upon the larboard quarter.”

<http://civilwargazette.wordpress.com/2008/01/09/satr-of-the-west-fired-upon-in-charleston-harbor/>

There can be no doubt that the firing on the *Star of the West* was an act of war. The South Carolinians would argue that the act of sending troops and supplies to Fort Sumter was the initial act of hostility that justified the action of unleashing the guns on the ship. It seems clear that there was no threat of imminent harm to the civilians or the militia units arrayed around the harbor with their guns trained on Fort Sumter. The *Star of the West* was an unarmed civilian ship. After determining that Buchanan would not order Major Anderson to return his command to Fort Moultrie the state cut off the ability of Anderson to obtain supplies from the city of Charleston. The effort to reprovision and reinforce the fort was more in the line of self defense, from the standpoint that the fort was under a direct threat from the South Carolinians who were encircling the fort with cannons and militia troops. There was no return fire and the ship turned away after receiving fire. Major Anderson would have been entirely justified in directing his guns on the batteries firing on the *Star of the West*. However, Anderson did not rise to the bait and withheld his fire.

In the South there was concern that the actions of the South Carolina state government threatened the secession movement. If the Federal response was to attack South Carolina she would be isolated and to a degree unprepared to defend herself. If the secessionists in South Carolina were to suffer a setback it could weaken efforts to create a Southern coalition of rebellious states. Precipitous action by South Carolina could undermine the secessionists in other states and leave them vulnerable to Federal efforts to retake the facilities already seized in other locations and states.

There also can be no doubt that the feeble effort to aid Major Anderson emboldened the South Carolinians. Governor Pickens was determined to capture Fort Sumter and he increased his efforts to accomplish that goal.

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