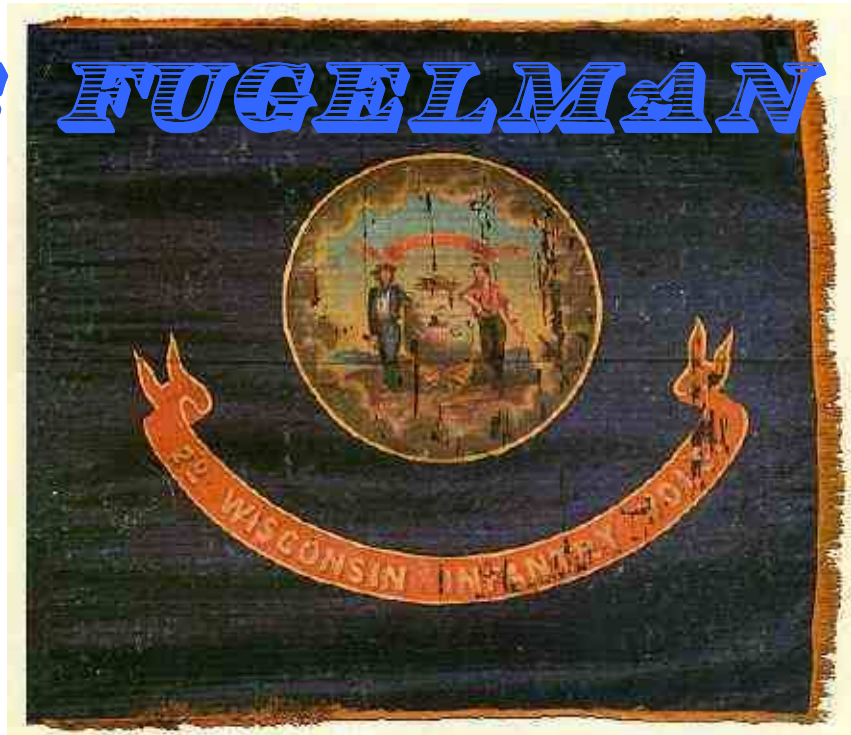


THE FUGELMAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

THE BLACK HAT BRIGADE
THE IRON BRIGADE
1861-1865

VOLUME XVIII

ISSUE 6

JUNE, 2010

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

PASS IN REVIEW

This month in place of a message from Lt. Col. Seielstad, the editor has decided to use this space to address a problem with the May issue of the newsletter. Apparently a lot of folks didn't get the newsletter for May. Whatever the problem was, hopefully it was a temporary hiccup and not an ongoing problem. It was a long newsletter and that may have been part of the problem, as at times long documents will falter in the process of sending them out to recipients. If one of the newsletter hasn't arrived by the first of the month please let your company contacts know so they can pass it along to the editor. To some degree the date of publication may precede the first of the month due to the calendaring of events. It should always be there by the 3rd of the month at the latest.

NEWS FROM THE CAMPS OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN REGIMENT

COMPANY CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES

June

- 4th Battery B School Day Woods Hospital Milwaukee WI
- 5th-6th Company E & K Reclaiming Our Heritage, Woods
Hospital Milwaukee WI
- 5ht-6th Skirmish Team 66th NC & 2nd WI Skirmish Appleton, WI
- 18th-20th Battery B Sauk City Reenactment Sauk City WI
- 19th-20th Company B Adams MN Reenactment (hosted by Co. H 1st
South Carolina Inf.)
- 26th-27th Company E Heritage Hill Reenactment, Allouez WI

BATTERY B



The following communication was received by the newsletter from Lyle Laufenberg of Battery B. As one familiar with the rigors of academia the editor understands the effort it takes to accomplish this amazing feat. On behalf of all of the Association we extend the heartiest congratulations on the acquisition of Dr. Sobottke's Doctorate degree!

On behalf of the members of the Association we also extend our congratulations on the publication of his article in *North & South*. The editor looks forward to taking a gander at the article. And thank you, Lyle for passing along this news item.

As many of you know, our News Correspondent, **Tom Sobottke**, earned his Doctorate this past year. He recently learned that an article of his was accepted for *publication in the next issue* of North & South magazine. It should be out on the newstands in

early June. Look for Vol.12, 3, with a picture of a Confed officer by a river bank, and Tom's article title "A Moral View of the Civil War" above the N&S title. Barnes & Noble usually carries it, and the cost is \$6.99; hopefully it'll be out by the VA event, so Tom can autograph for you.

This is especially heartening as Tom suffered a fall-on-ice concussion in February, and has had a rough spring so far, being off work until a few weeks ago. Our thoughts and prayers go to Tom and his family, along with the Battery's congratulations!
Truly - *Cedat Fortuna Peritas* (Skill is better than luck.)

Your Obed't Serv't, Lyle Laufenberg

COMPANY K

On May 21, 2010, Company K conducted its annual school day event at Blue Mound State Park. The day began in a thick fog and a cold drizzle, but as the day progressed the weather improved and was generally quite comfortable! 2,196 student and 245 teachers and parents attended the event, for a total attendance of 2,441. There were a goodly number of friends who assisted in the event, some of them our comrades from the Second Wisconsin Vol. Inf. Assoc. Battery B was there as well. General Grant and Mrs. Grant were on the field. President Lincoln greeted the students and visited with them throughout the day.

To those who are members of the Association that joined us for the massive undertaking, please accept our grateful thank you for your presence. We could not have accomplished this event without your assistance and Company K is forever grateful for your participation. I know Gary VanKauwenbergh was there and the editor had hoped to say hello to one of *The Fugelman's* biggest supporters, but the pace of activity and setting up a station on the freedmen's bureau made it impossible.

This huge endeavor was organized by Lynn Wirl and Ugi Pirocanac. The event was a huge success and the credit goes to these two individuals!

The accompanying photos were provided by our comrade Lyle Laufenberg from Battery B.



Company K's school day

The Battery B station at



Figure 1 Student drill in the early morning fog



Figure 2 students learn the art of civil war drill

SESQUICENTENNIAL CORNER

A CIVIL WAR MOVIE FROM THE WRITER AND DIRECTOR OF THE MOVIE “WICKED SPRING”

LionHeart Films is currently working on a new movie entitled “Bascom Home Guard”. A brief description of the movie appears below from their website.

Written by Kevin R. Hershberger
Story by John D. Pagano & Kevin R. Hershberger

Based on actual events. Set in 1864 as Sherman’s Union Army burns its way across Georgia, a small village of women, left alone after the war has taken all of their sons and husbands, forms their own militia company, with pitchforks and rusty flintlocks, to defend their town. Sherman’s men do march into town, and the women must make a stand and defend themselves and their families, like the patriots of 1776. A new classic American story of defending home and family.

Kevin Hershberger will direct the movie. He wrote and directed the movie “Wicked Spring” which some of our readers have probably enjoyed. Among his other credits was a Korean war short film entitled “The Nest” which aired on PBS. Hershberger

also worked on such large budget movies as "Glory", "Gettysburg" and "The Patriot".

Back in September 1999 Kevin produced and directed a 60-minute Civil War musical concert film for the 2nd South Carolina String band. In the summer of 2008, a 'special edition' of this musical film will be released on DVD. In December 2002, Kevin worked on the music video for the legendary Bob Dylan's "Cross the Green Mountain."

It appears the production is in its early stages of production according to the information on its website.

<http://www.lionheart-filmworks.com/kevinbio.html>

TCNJ PROFS SAY THEY'VE SOLVED CIVIL WAR MYSTERY

**SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010
CURT YESKE
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES**

EWING -- A literary mystery that has lingered since the Civil War has apparently been solved by a pair of professors from The College of New Jersey.

Their findings ended up as a new book, "A Secession Crisis Enigma," by Daniel Crofts, a professor of history who turned to David Holmes, professor of statistics, while looking for an answer to a longstanding question.

They wanted to determine who was the author of "The Diary of a Public Man," which was published anonymously in four installments in the 1879 "North American Review."

Crofts said the diary was really a memoir because no one could have been at all of the places the author purported to be at the time. The diary gave verbatim accounts of secret conversations of incoming President Abraham Lincoln and other significant figures in the government such as William H. Seward, Lincoln's secretary of state; Stephen Douglas, a wealthy political rival to Lincoln; and others in the tense weeks before the Civil War started.

Historians have struggled without success to name the diary's author and determine its authenticity, according to Crofts.

Crofts became interested in the topic in the early 1970s when one of his students, Ryan Christiansen, suggested that William Henry Hurlbert, an unconventional journalist, was the author. That piqued Crofts' interest, and the research project began.

"It was a long time before I could get a handle on what we (Christiansen and Crofts) had discovered," he said. "It was only after I was able to get to the Library of Congress that I was able to put the pieces together."

He needed to have his analysis confirmed, and for that he sought the help of Holmes, an authority in "stylometry," a statistical analysis of literary style.

"What we did was compile the little words used in everyday writing," said Holmes. "If you compile the use of them, they become sort of a print of the writer. It works pretty well."

To be certain, investigators must compile a sizable number of words, which is virtually impossible to do manually. Holmes used four undergraduate students to help collect the data and prepare it for statistical analysis on a computer.

"There were other contenders," said Holmes. "We quickly eliminated, and got it down to three or four. Samuel Ward and William Hulbert were the finalists. Some people argued for Ward but we felt strongly it was Hulbert.

"What it came to was my (statistical) analysis confirmed his (literary) analysis," Holmes said about his and Crofts' work.

The diary's content alone was cause for seeking the authorship, said Crofts.

"The diary purports to give us a behind-the-scenes glimpse of what people were saying to each other in the months leading up to the Civil War and chief among them was Abraham Lincoln in the week before and week after he became president.

"It catches a moment that quickly became covered in blood as the diary attempts to show the efforts to keep the peace."

<http://www.nj.com/news/times/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-19/1272087973218600.xml&coll=5>

INTERESTING READING FROM THE PERIODICAL *NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*

Magazines were a very popular form of entertainment and enlightenment in antebellum America. One of the more widely read magazines was the *North American Review*. The following excerpts come from the above discussed writings found in the "Diary of a Public Man".

Here are some highlights from the articles that appeared in *North American Review*:

* **Stephen Douglas** tells the author that **Abner Doubleday** is Ben Wade's creature and that Doubleday (and Wade) incited **Major Anderson's** evacuation of Fort Moultrie in favor of Sumter.

[Remember that Doubleday writes Lincoln questioning Anderson's loyalty later during the Sumter crisis.]

* **Douglas** explains that "**Wade** and that gang are infuriated with **Seward's** coming into the Cabinet, and their object is to make it impossible for **Lincoln** to bring him in." The move from Moultrie to Sumter – and its ratcheting up of Charleston's outrage – is seen as sabotaging moderation, hence **Seward's** usefulness.

* **Douglas** holds **Buchanan** to be duplicitous and cowardly: "He likes to have the people deceived in him – he enjoys treachery, sir, enjoys it as other men enjoy a good cigar..."

* **Thurlow Weed**, **Seward's** Richelieu, comments on a New York politician, "Do I know him personally? I should rather think I do. I invented him!"

* **Weed** says of abolitionist **Horace Greeley** that he was a Northern secessionist who thought he could be elected president of a rump republic.

* **Winfield Scott** tells **Lincoln**, before the inauguration, that Italian assassins were after him.

* **Douglas** tells the author that **Scott** runs **Seward** and **Scott** himself is run by the **Blairs**, who were "moving heaven and earth to get control of Mr. Lincoln's Administration."

* **Douglas** says the **Blairs** are cooperating with the **Radicals** in Washington and New York, to remove **Seward** from consideration.

* **Douglas** says **Lincoln** "is eminently a man of the atmosphere which surrounds him."

* The author runs into **Stanton** on the street after **Lincoln's** arrival: "It is impossible to be more bitter or malignant than he [Stanton] is; every word was a suppressed and a very ill-suppressed sneer..." Stanton slimes Lincoln.

* The author thinks **Lincoln** "more tightly" held by **Chase** than by **Seward**.

* He writes on 2/28/61, "Half an hour with Mr. **Lincoln** today, which confirms all my worst fears. I should say he is at his wit's end."

* The **Radicals** already constitute a "rule or ruin" faction before the administration is formed.

* **Sumner** calls **Cameron** a "political Judas" before he is appointed. He has an obtuse interview with the author, trying to get him to talk with **Lincoln** against **Cameron**. **Sumner** warns that the combination of **Seward** and **Cameron** might produce a negotiated settlement instead of a complete separation from the South.

* The author is "mortified" by the heavy-handed security surrounding **Lincoln's** inauguration. He says the country has become a Latin American republic. He says **Douglas** held **Lincoln's** hat.

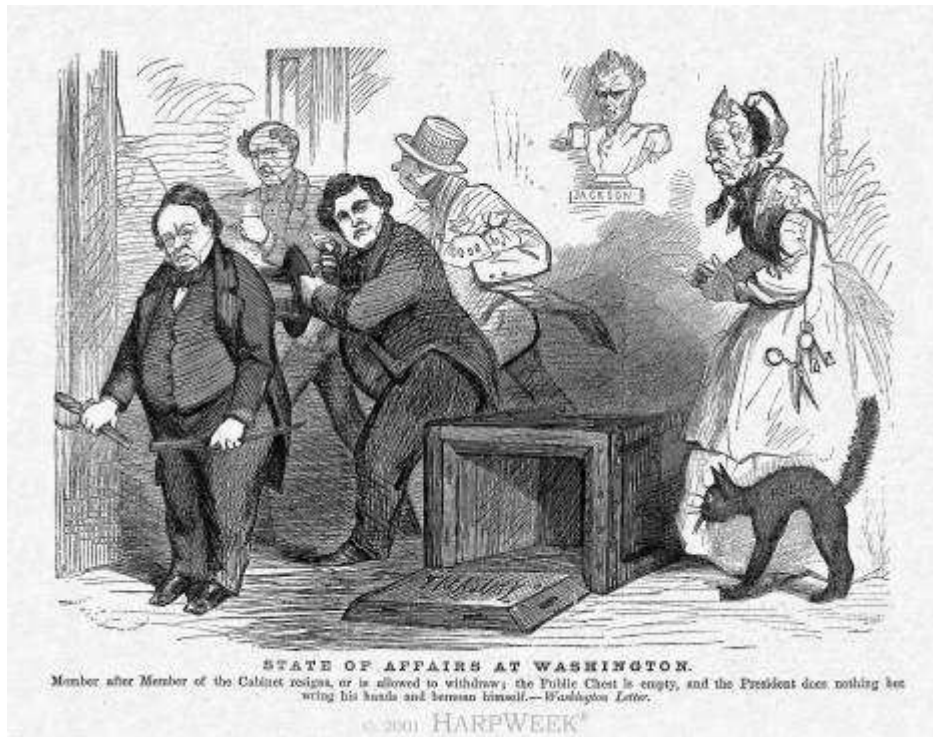
* He repeatedly returns to the **Radicals'** formula that labels the US Constitution "a covenant with death and an agreement with Hell." (Isaiah 28:18, "And your covenant with death shall be annulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand when the overflowing scourge shall pass through.")

JUNE MILESTONES

June 1, 1862

R. E. Lee appointed Commander of the army in Virginia

June 1, 1864	The Battle of Cold Harbor
June 2, 1815	General Philip Kearney—U.S.—born
June 2, 1864	Battle of Cold Harbor
June 3, 1808	Jefferson Davis born
June 3, 1864	Battle of Cold Harbor
June 5, 1863	J. E. B. Stuart hosts Grand Review of his cavalry
June 6, 1862	Memphis surrenders
June 8, 1861	Tennessee formally secedes
June 9, 1863	Battle of Brandy Station
June 12, 1862	Stuart begins his ride around McClellan's army
June 15, 1864	Petersburg campaign begins
June 17, 1861	Thaddeus Lowe demonstrates hot air balloon
June 23, 1865	Last formal Confederate surrender
June 25, 1862	Seven Days Campaign begins
June 26, 1864	Stoneman begins Atlanta raid
June 27, 1864	Battle of Kennesaw Mountain
June 30, 1864	Early marches towards Washington, D.C.



"STATE OF AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON"

Member after Member of the Cabinet resigns, or is allowed to withdraw; the Public Chest is empty, and the President does nothing but wring his hands and bemoan himself. - Washington Letter.

Artist: John McLenan

This *Harper's Weekly* cartoon by John McLenan addresses the Cabinet crisis of President James Buchanan [1857-1861], which occurred as Southern states seceded from the Union prior to the Civil War.

After Republican Abraham Lincoln's election as president in November 1860 and before his inauguration in March 1861, seven slave states in the South seceded from the Union (four more would join them once the Civil War began). During that lame-duck interval, the White House was occupied by Democrat James Buchanan, who argued that while secession was unconstitutional, the federal government did not have the authority to prevent it. As the nation unraveled while Buchanan dithered, several members of his cabinet resigned.

Secretary of the Treasury Howell Cobb resigned shortly after Lincoln's election to return to his home state of Georgia and urge its secession. Secretary of the Interior Jacob Thompson resigned when his home state of Mississippi seceded. Secretary of State

Lewis Cass resigned when Buchanan failed to reinforce Fort Moultrie in South Carolina. Secretary of War John Floyd of Virginia, already under suspicion for financial improprieties, resigned when the president refused to remove Major Robert Anderson as commander of Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

In this cartoon, the four resigning cabinet members are (left to right): Cass, Floyd, Cobb, and Thompson. Note that all the men but Cass, who breaks his sword in disgust, abscond with funds from the empty public treasury, particularly Thompson, who carries at least two bags of money. The bachelor president is caricatured as widow (as he often was) wringing her hands over the matter, while the public, as a cat, arches its back in anger. On the wall is a bust of a scowling General Andrew Jackson, the former Democratic president who forced South Carolina to back down on its threat to secede from the Union in 1833.

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/harp/0112.html>

RED BADGE OF COURAGE

By Stephen Crane

CHAPTER I (CONT'D)

He had grown to regard himself merely as a part of a vast blue demonstration. His province was to look out, as far as he could, for his personal comfort. For recreation he could twiddle his thumbs and speculate on the thoughts which must agitate the minds of the generals. Also, he was drilled and drilled and reviewed, and drilled and drilled and reviewed.

The only foes he had seen were some pickets along the river bank. They were a sun-tanned, philosophical lot, who sometimes shot reflectively at the blue pickets.

When reproached for this afterward, they usually

expressed sorrow, and swore by their gods that the guns had exploded without their permission. The youth, on guard duty one night, conversed across the stream with one of them. He was a slightly ragged man, who spat skillfully between his shoes and possessed a great fund of bland and infantile assurance. The youth liked him personally.

"Yank," the other had informed him, "yer a right dum good feller." This sentiment, floating to him upon the still air, had made him tempo- rarely regret war.

Various veterans had told him tales. Some talked of gray, bewiskered hordes who were advancing with relentless curses and chewing tobacco with unspeakable valor; tremendous bodies of fierce soldiery who were sweeping along like the Huns. Others spoke of tattered and eternally hungry men who fired despondent powders. "They'll charge through hell's fire an' brimstone t' git a holt on a haversack, an' sech stomachs ain't a-lastin' long," he was told. From the stories, the youth imagined the red, live bones sticking out through slits in the faded uniforms.

Still, he could not put a whole faith in veter- ans' tales, for recruits were their prey. They talked much of smoke, fire, and blood, but he could not tell how much might be lies. They persistently yelled "Fresh fish!" at him, and were in no wise to be trusted.

However, he perceived now that it did not greatly matter what kind of soldiers he was going to fight, so long as they fought, which fact no one disputed. There

was a more serious problem. He lay in his bunk pondering upon it. He tried to mathematically prove to himself that he would not run from a battle.

Previously he had never felt obliged to wrestle too seriously with this question. In his life he had taken certain things for granted, never challenging his belief in ultimate success, and bothering little about means and roads. But here he was confronted with a thing of moment. It had suddenly appeared to him that perhaps in a battle he might run. He was forced to admit that as far as war was concerned he knew nothing of himself.

A sufficient time before he would have allowed the problem to kick its heels at the outer portals of his mind, but now he felt compelled to give serious attention to it.

A little panic-fear grew in his mind. As his imagination went forward to a fight, he saw hideous possibilities. He contemplated the lurking menaces of the future, and failed in an effort to see himself standing stoutly in the midst of them. He recalled his visions of broken-bladed glory, but in the shadow of the impending tumult he suspected them to be impossible pictures.

He sprang from the bunk and began to pace nervously to and fro. "Good Lord, what's th' matter with me?" he said aloud.

He felt that in this crisis his laws of life were useless. Whatever he had learned of himself was here of no

avail. He was an unknown quantity. He saw that he would again be obliged to experiment as he had in early youth. He must accumulate information of himself, and meanwhile he re- solved to remain close upon his guard lest those qualities of which he knew nothing should ever- lastingly disgrace him. "Good Lord!" he repeated in dismay.

After a time the tall soldier slid dexterously through the hole. The loud private followed. They were wrangling.

"That's all right," said the tall soldier as he entered. He waved his hand expressively. "You can believe me or not, jest as you like. All you got to do is to sit down and wait as quiet as you can. Then pretty soon you'll find out I was right."

His comrade grunted stubbornly. For a moment he seemed to be searching for a formidable reply. Finally he said: "Well, you don't know everything in the world, do you?"

"Didn't say I knew everything in the world," retorted the other sharply. He began to stow various articles snugly into his knapsack.

The youth, pausing in his nervous walk, looked down at the busy figure. "Going to be a battle, sure, is there, Jim?" he asked.

"Of course there is," replied the tall soldier. "Of course there is. You jest wait 'til to-morrow, and you'll see one of the biggest battles ever was. You jest wait."

"Thunder!Thunder!" said the youth.

"Oh, you'll see fighting this time, my boy, what'll be regular out-and-out fighting," added the tall soldier, with the air of a man who is about to exhibit a battle for the benefit of his friends.

"Huh!" said the loud one from a corner.

"Well," remarked the youth, "like as not this story'll turn out jest like them others did."

"Not much it won't," replied the tall soldier, exasperated. "Not much it won't. Didn't the cavalry all start this morning?" He glared about him. No one denied his statement. "The cav- alry started this morning," he continued. "They say there ain't hardly any cavalry left in camp. They're going to Richmond, or some place, while we fight all the Johnnies. It's some dodge like that. The regiment's got orders, too. A feller what seen 'em go to headquarters told me a little while ago. And they're raising blazes all over camp--anybody can see that."

"Shucks!" said the loud one.

The youth remained silent for a time. At last he spoke to the tall soldier. "Jim!"

"What?"

"How do you think the reg'ment 'll do?"

"Oh, they'll fight all right, I guess, after they once get into it," said the other with cold judgment. He made a fine use of the third person. "There's been heaps of fun poked at 'em because they're new, of course, and all that; but they'll fight all right, I guess."

"Think any of the boys 'll run?" persisted the youth.

"Oh, there may be a few of 'em run, but there's them kind in every regiment, 'specially when they first goes under fire," said the other in a tolerant way. "Of course it might happen that the hull kit-and-boodle might start and run, if some big fighting came first-off, and then again they might stay and fight like fun.

But you can't bet on nothing. Of course they ain't never been under fire yet, and it ain't likely they'll lick the hull rebel army all-to-oncet the first time; but I think they'll fight better than some, if worse than others. That's the way I figger. They call the reg'ment 'Fresh fish' and everything; but the boys come of good stock, and most of 'em 'll fight like sin after they oncet git shootin'," he added, with a mighty emphasis on the last four words.

"Oh, you think you know--" began the loud soldier with scorn.

The other turned savagely upon him. They had a rapid altercation, in which they fastened upon each other various strange epithets.

The youth at last interrupted them. "Did you ever think you might run yourself, Jim?" he asked. On concluding the sentence he laughed as if he had meant

to aim a joke. The loud soldier also giggled.

The tall private waved his hand. "Well," said he profoundly, "I've thought it might get too hot for Jim Conklin in some of them scrimmages, and if a whole lot of boys started and run, why, I s'pose I'd start and run. And if I once started to run, I'd run like the devil, and no mistake. But if everybody was a-standing and a-fighting, why, I'd stand and fight. Be jiminey, I would. I'll bet on it."

"Huh!" said the loud one.

The youth of this tale felt gratitude for these words of his comrade. He had feared that all of the untried men possessed a great and correct confidence. He now was in a measure reassured.

THE CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA 1860- 1865!

BY JAMES H. AND JAMES A. DUMKE

CHAPTER THREE

With the election of Abraham Lincoln as the sixteenth president in November events seemed to gather a momentum of their own. Six weeks after the election South Carolina passed an ordinance of secession, making good its threat to leave the Union if Lincoln and the Republicans won the election of 1860. This wasn't, however, some quixotic act on the part of South Carolina's political leaders. Nicolay and Hay argue compellingly in their multi-volume biography of Abraham Lincoln, that there were elements of disunion from the very early period of our national development. As Hay and Nicolay point out, the actual ratification of the Constitution was a close thing. Secessionist movements would arise

sporadically as time passed, but they remained primarily unpopular among the citizens. The whole dynamic would begin to change significantly in 1854, with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. From the mid-1850's and the battle for Kansas as either a free or slave state it became a common view in the slave states that their cherished institution of slavery was under threat from an anti-slavery Northern populace. As evidence of this rising influence of secessionist leaders Nicolay and Hay offered the following letter from Virginia—yes the slave-holding state of Virginia—Governor Henry Wise. The impetus of the letter was the pending presidential contest of 1856. A well known abolitionist, John C. Feemont, was the Republican nominee for this office. While it was possible that Fremont could win the election, it was not probable. And yet here, four years before the election of 1860, was a call for Southern slave states to act in concert to nullify, if necessary, a national election if they disliked the outcome!

RICHMOND, VA., Sept. 15, 1856.

DEAR SIR: Events are approaching which address themselves to your responsibilities and to mine as chief Executives of slave-holding States. Contingencies may soon happen which would require preparation for the worst of evils to the people. Ought we not to admonish ourselves by joint council of the extraordinary duties which may devolve upon us from the dangers which so palpably threaten our common peace and safety? When, how, or to what extent may we act, separately or unitedly [sic], to ward off dangers if we can, to meet them most effectually if we must?

I propose that, as early as convenient, the Governors of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee shall assemble at Raleigh, N.C., for the purpose generally of consultation upon the state of the country, upon the best means of preserving its peace, **and especially of protecting the honor and interests of the slave-holding States.** I have addressed the States only having Democratic Executives, for obvious reasons.

This should be done as early as possible before the Presidential election, and I would suggest Monday, the 13th of October next. Will you please give me an early answer, and oblige,

Yours most truly and respectfully,

HENRY A. WISE. (Nicolay & Hay) (Emphasis added)

Fortunately, from the Southern view, Buchanan was elected President in 1856. There would be no secession crisis. Buchanan was viewed as a man sympathetic to the slaveholding states and of a conservative bent that would not threaten the power and influence of the South in the national government. As the 1860 election approached only one factor had changed. It appeared likely this time around that a Republican candidate would win

the national election. Abraham Lincoln was a moderate who had clearly stated that he did not want to attack slavery in the states where it currently existed. However, he was adamant that Congress had the power and must prohibit the expansion of slavery into the Federal territories. Lincoln was viewed as hostile to the interests of the slave-owning class and that was sufficient to create a basis for those secessionists to promote secession from the Union.

This new opportunity arose in the slavery agitation, beginning with the repeal of the Missouri Compromise in 1854, and ending with the election of Lincoln. During this six years' controversy, disunion was kept in the background because the pro-slavery party had continual and sanguine hope of ultimate triumph.

It did not despair of success until the actual election of Lincoln, on the 6th of November, 1860; consequently, even in the Southern States, as a rule, disunion was frowned upon till near the end of the Presidential campaign, and only paraded as an evil to be feared, not as a thing to be desired.

This aspect, however, was superficial. Under the surface, a small but determined disunion conspiracy was actively at work. It has left few historical traces; but in 1856 distinct evidence begins to crop out. There was a possibility, though not a probability, that Fremont might be elected President; and this contingency the conspirators proposed to utilize by beginning a rebellion. A letter from the Governor of Virginia to the Governors of Maryland and other States is sufficient proof of such an intent, even without the evidence of later history.

Thus, even before the election was held, the Governor of South Carolina, William Gist, sent out a circular letter by couriers to the "cotton states" seeking concert of action. South Carolina realized that if that state went out of the Union alone it could easily be crushed and secession defeated. The relevant plaintive call for joint action is highlighted in the copy of the letter immediately below. It is also important to note the date of the letter, October 5, 1860, almost exactly one month before holding the election.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

UNIONVILLE, S.C., Oct. 5, 1860.

His EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR MOORE.

DEAR SIR: The great probability, nay almost certainty, of Abraham Lincoln's election to the Presidency renders it important that there should be a full and free interchange of opinion between the Executives of the Southern, and more especially the Cotton, States, and while I unreservedly give you my views and the probable action of my State, I shall be much pleased to hear from you; that there may be concert of action, which is so essential to success. Although I will consider your communication confidential, and wish you so to consider mine so far as publishing in the

newspapers is concerned, yet the information, of course, will be of no service to me unless I can submit it to reliable and leading men in consultation for the safety of our State and the South; and will only use it in this way. It is the desire of South Carolina that some other State should take the lead, or at least move simultaneously with her. She will unquestionably call a convention as soon as it is ascertained that a majority of the electors will support Lincoln. If a single State secedes, she will follow her.

If no other State takes the lead, South Carolina will secede (in my opinion) alone, if she has any assurance that she will be soon followed by another or other States; otherwise it is doubtful. [Emphasis added] If you decide to call a convention upon the election of a majority of electors favorable to Lincoln, I desire to know the day you propose for the meeting, that we may call our convention to meet the same day, if possible. If your State will propose any other remedy, please inform me what it will probably be, and any other information you will be pleased to give me.

With great respect and consideration,

I am yours, etc.,

Wm. H. Gist. (Nicolay & Hay)

Did the call for disunion meet with success? It must be said that it did. Within a month after Lincoln's election the 7 cotton states in the deep South had seceded. The foundation was laid for secession a decade or more before 1860. Political leaders, especially in South Carolina, had worked hard for this result. In fact, John C. Calhoun, a South Carolinian, espoused a theory of states' rights that would result in a presidential response. Calhoun was tremendously influential on the political climate of his native state. As the nation debated the future of slavery in a democracy, Southerners' views on preserving slavery in the confines of the old Union turned deeply pessimistic. This was particularly so in South Carolina! Lincoln's personal secretary, John G. Nicolay, saw South Carolina as a state, given its aristocratic politics, where the seeds of rebellion could take root and be nurtured into treason against the Union. In Nicolay's book *The Outbreak of Rebellion*, first published in 1881, he described South Carolina in the following manner:

The State of South Carolina, in addition, had been little else than a school of treason for thirty years. She was, moreover, peculiarly

adapted to become the hotbed of conspiracy by the fact that of all the States she was least republican in both the character of her people and the form of her institutions. She was exclusive, aristocratic, reactionary; had a narrow distrust of popular participation in government, and longed for the distinctions of caste and privilege in society. (Nicolay, p. 3)

On December 20th, 1860, South Carolina became the first Southern state to secede. On January 9, 1860, Mississippi became the second state to leave the Union. Florida followed suit on January 10, 1861. Alabama joined the list of states leaving the Union on January 11th, 1861. Georgia would secede on January 19th, Louisiana on January 26th, and Texas on February 1st. Virginia called for a secession convention on February 13th, 1861. The Virginians saw their future closely aligned with their sister slave states. The strength of Unionism in the Northwest part of the state delayed the process, however.

On February 4, 1861, delegates from the seceded states traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, to attend the Montgomery Convention. There in Montgomery these delegates formed the Confederate States of America. The delegates took the U. S. Constitution as the model for the founding document of what they hoped would be a new nation on the world stage. The only modifications to that sacred document made by the delegates was to enhance the role of slavery, making it paramount in importance and permanent in its existence. Although the C.S.A. constitution elevated the role of individual states in the governmental structure, it did make the union of seceding states permanent!

In the North citizens watched developments with deep concern. The current President, James Buchanan seemed unequal to the challenges created by the crisis. Buchanan stated publicly that secession was unconstitutional, but he also said that there was no power under the Constitution to punish those who seceded or to prohibit secession! Lincoln was only the President-elect with no power to act independently of Buchanan. While the question on everyone's mind was "what are we to do?", Lincoln remained silent. Lincoln was concerned that whatever he might say could be misconstrued or misstated by one group or another as the crisis deepened. Lincoln also believed that there was a strong pro-union sentiment in the South and he wanted to say nothing to jeopardize their ongoing support. He hoped that time might calm passions and alleviate the crisis. A favorite pastime for modern day pro-confederates is to argue that Lincoln wanted the war and thus provoked the crisis to reach his policy of subjugating the South. What is clear is that the crisis rushed towards a violent clash Lincoln was reactive and the secessionists were pro-active! One must ask oneself, what could Lincoln have done to end the crisis or avoid the coming war? Ultimately the answer was short of adopting Southern independence as a *fait d'accompli* and recognizing the

confederacy there was nothing Lincoln could have done to satisfy the South! If he had adopted this policy he would have been pilloried in the North and probably been impeached for violating his Constitutional oath.

Southern belligerency had manifested itself long before Lincoln would be sworn into office on March 4th, 1861. In the South forts, arsenals and mints belonging to the Federal government had been seized by the rebels. Nowhere was this spirit of belligerency and determination more evident than in Charleston, South Carolina.

On December 16th, the date Francis Pickens was elected governor of South Carolina and even before he was sworn into office the next day, he wrote what has to be one of the most curious missives in U. S. history to President Buchanan! David Detzer describes that letter thusly:

Francis Pickens was not so patient. After his election on December 16, and even before his official inaugural the next day, he wrote a remarkable letter to his friend President James Buchanan. This note was an accurate mirror of the new South Carolina governor—bombastic and ill-informed. Robert Barnwell Rhett had told Pickens that the guns of the Federal forts were no longer pointing seaward, they had been turned and were now trained directly on Charleston. Perhaps he believed it. Rhett was quite unsophisticated in things military, so he may have misinterpreted the goings-on at the three forts, where workmen were indeed muscling a few cannon into position. Or, maybe Rhett was simply hoping to stir things up, to initiate some incident. Pickens opened his letter to the president: "I am authentically informed that the forts in Charleston harbor are now being thoroughly prepared to turn, with effect, their guns upon the interior and the city." He was, he added, particularly concerned about Fort Sumter, that federal soldiers might try to man it. "I would most respectfully, and from a sincere devotion to the public peace, request that you allow me to send a small force, not exceeding twenty-five men and an officer, to take possession of Fort Sumter immediately, in order to give a feeling of safety to the community." Pickens told Buchanan that putting Carolina militiamen in Fort Sumter should be no problem. "There are no United States troops in that fort whatever, or perhaps only four or five. (He was being typically casual and vague, but he wanted to be sure of his facts, any reasonable knowledgeable citizen of Charleston would have informed him there were only two, Lieutenant Snyder and an ordnance sergeant.) "If Fort Sumter could be given to me as Governor, . . . then I think the public mind would be quieted, under a feeling of safety." Pickens closed his note snippily, "If something of the kind be not done, I cannot answer for the consequences." Pickens, reputedly smart enough, had written a letter that had as much charm as a colicky baby. He was often socially inept, but he had just proved himself to be asinine. (Detzer, pps. 95-96)

There, a Federal garrison occupied Fort Moultrie. Out in the harbor itself lay an unfinished fort named Sumter. Soon that name would be on

everyone's lips. By December, 1860, the garrison was under the command of a Kentuckian named Robert Anderson. Although he a former slave-owner Major Anderson would remain loyal to his oath and his nation. Recognizing the adverse political climate and the rising threat of violence to his small command Major Anderson arranged to move his troops to the more defensible fortress on a man made island in the harbor known as Fort Sumter. Major Anderson had a reasonable basis for his decision. Anderson's officers had observed small groups of men apparently studying the fortifications. On December 17th, 1860, that concern became grave when the following article appeared in the Charleston *Mercury*. Along with the description, in detail, of the layout of the fort was a detailed drawing of the fort itself!! Without notifying his superiors Major Anderson began to secretly plot the removal of his men to the more defensible fort, Fort Sumter, on an island in the harbor.

17 December 1860, *Charleston Mercury*

The silent energy with which work is now being pushed forward upon the fortifications erected for the protection of the harbor of Charleston, is something at once new and extraordinary. To keep the readers of the *Mercury* fully posted in regard to events transpiring around them, we present below an interesting account of these active operations of the Federal authorities. It is proper, however, that the people of Charleston should know that the Executive of the State is fully cognizant of all that is going on in relation to these forts, and that their honor and defence is safe in his keeping. Until late in the past Summer, the defences of Fort Moultrie have remained in an unfinished condition; the sand of the beach, piled up by the wind against the south walls, had rendered them easily accessible almost by a single leap, and the empty guns were suffered to gaze out in harmless majesty upon the noble bay. A fortnight has worked a marvelous change.

Fort Moultrie is an inclosed water battery, having, a front on the south, or water side, of about 300 feet, and a depth of about 240 feet. It is built with salient and reentering angles on all sides, and is admirably adapted for defence, either from the attack of a storming party or by regular approaches. The outer and inner walls are of brick, capped with stone, and filled in with earth, making a solid wall 15 or 18 feet in thickness. The work now in progress consists in cleaning the sand from the walls of the fort; ditching it around the entire circumference, and erecting a glacis; closing up the postern gates in the east and west walls, and, instead, cutting sally-ports, which lead into strong out-works on the southeast and southwest angles, in which 12-pounder howitzer guns will be placed, enabling the garrison to sweep the ditch on three sides with grape and canister. The northwest angle of the fort has also been strengthened by a bastionette, to sustain the weight of a heavy gun which will command the main street of the island. The main entrance has also been better secured, and a trap-door, two feet square, cut in the door for ingress and egress. At this time, the height of the wall, from the

bottom of the ditch to the top of the parapet, is 20 feet. The ditch is from 12 to 15 feet wide at the base, and 15 feet deep. The nature of the soil would not seem to admit of this depth being increased, quick-sand having been reached in many places. The work on the south side is nearly finished. The counterscarp is substantially built of plank, and spread with turf. The glacis is also finished. It is composed of sand, and covered with layers of loam and turf, all of which is kept firmly in place by the addition of sections of plank nailed to uprights sunk in the sand, and crossing each other at light angles -- making squares of about 10 feet each. The purpose of the glacis, which is an inclined plane, is to expose an attacking party to the fire of the guns -- which are so placed as to sweep it from the crest of the counterscarp to the edge of the beach. On the north side, all the wooden gun cases have been placed close together on the ramparts, apparently for the purpose of securing it against an escalade, but possibly as a screen for a battery of heavy guns. A good many men are engaged in clearing the ramparts of turf and earth, for the purpose of putting down a very ugly-looking arrangement, which consists of strips of plank 4 inches, wide, 1 1/2 inches thick, and 6 or 8 feet long, sharpened at the point, and nailed down, so as to project about 3 feet horizontally from the top of the walls.

A noticeable fact in the bastionettes to which we have above alluded is the haste in which one of them has been built. The one completed is formed of solid masonry. In constructing the other, however, a framework of plank has been substituted. Against the inside of this wooden outwork loose bricks have been placed. Both bastionettes are armed with a small carronade, and a howitzer pointed laterally so as to command the whole intervening moat by a crossfire.

In the hurried execution of these extensive improvements, a large force -- about 170 men -- are constantly engaged. Additions are daily made to this number, and the work of putting the post in the best, possible condition for defence, is carried on with, almost incredible vigor.

A few days ago Col. GARDNER, who, for years, had held the post of Commandant, and whose courtesy and bearing had won the friendship of all who knew him, was relieved in the command by Maj. ROBERT ANDERSON, of Kentucky. Maj. ANDERSON received his first commission as Brevet 2d Lieut. 2d Artillery, July 1, 1825; was acting Inspector-General in the Black Hawk war, and received the rank of Brevet-Captain August, 1836, for his successful conduct in the Florida war. On Sept. 8, 1847, he was made Brevet-Major for his gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Molino del Rey.

The other officers are: Capt. ABNER DOUBLEDAY, Capt, T. SEYMOUR, Lieut. T. TALBOT, Lieut. J.C. DAVIS, Lieut, N.J. HALL -- all of the First Regiment Artillery.

Capt. J.G. FOSTER and Lieut. G.W. SNYDER, of the Engineer corps.

Assistant Surgeon S.W. CRAWFORD, of the Medical Staff.

The force, under these gentlemen, consist of two Companies of Artillery. The companies, however, are not full, the two comprising, as we are informed, only about seventy men,

including the Band. A short time ago, two additional companies were expected, but they have not come; and it is now positively stated that there will be, for the present at least, no reinforcement of the garrison.

While the working men are doing wonders on the outside, the soldiers within are by no means idle. Field pieces have been placed in position upon the green within the fort, and none of the expedients of military engineering have been neglected to make the position as strong as possible. It is said that the greatest vigilance is observed in every regulation at this time, and that the guns are regularly shotted every night. It is very certain that ingress is no longer an easy matter for an outsider, and the visitor who hopes to get in, must make up his mind to approach with all the caution, ceremony and circumlocution with which the allies are advancing upon the Capital of the Celestial Empire.

Fort Sumter is a work of solid masonry, octagonal in form, pierced on the north, east and west sides with a double row of port-holes for the heaviest guns, and on the south or land side, in addition to openings for guns, loop-holed for musketry, stands in the middle of the harbor on the edge of the ship-channel, and is said to be bomb proof. It is at present without any regular garrison. There is a large force of workmen -- some one hundred and fifty in all -- busily employed in mounting the guns and other wise putting this great strategic point in order. The armament of Fort Sumter consists of 140 guns, many of them being the formidable ten-inch "Columbiads," which throw either shot or shell, and which have a fearful range. Only a few of those are yet in position, and the work of mounting pieces of this calibre in the casements is necessarily a slow one. There is also a large amount of artillery stores, consisting of about 40,000 lbs. of powder, and a proportionate amount of shot and shell. The workmen engaged here sleep in the Fort every night, owing to the want of any regular communication with the city, The wharf or landing is on the south side, and is of course exposed to a cross fire from all the openings on that side.

Castle Pinkney is located on the southern extremity of a narrow slip of marsh land, which extends in a northerly direction to Hop Island Channel. To the harbor side the so-called castle presents a circular front. It has never been considered of much consequence as a fortress, although its proximity to the city would give it importance, if properly armed and garrisoned. From hasty observation, we find that there are about fifteen guns mounted on the parapet; the majority of them are eighteen and twenty-four pounders. Some "Columbians" are, however, within the walls. There are also supplies of powder, shot and shell. At present there is no garrison at the post; the only residents are one or two watchmen, who have charge of the harbor light. Some thirty or forty day laborers are employed repairing the cisterns and putting the place generally in order.

This concludes our sketch of the present aspect of affairs at the three forts, which were meant to be, and which should always remain, at once the pride and the safeguard of our city.

(http://www.topreventtheeffusionofblood.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=5)

In the dead of night on December 26th, 1860, Anderson moved his men and all the supplies he could muster out to the fort. The governor of South Carolina raised hell over Anderson's move and viewed it as treachery. Almost immediately, under direction from Governor Pickens, militias were formed and batteries began to crop up surrounding Fort Sumter sitting isolated in Charleston Harbor! Those guns were arrayed for offensive operations and were trained on Fort Sumter.

In Washington D.C., President Buchanan was at a loss as to how to respond to these actions. There had existed a temporary truce, both sides in essence indicating they would maintain the status quo in Charleston. Governor Pickens had signalled the Buchanan administration that the action by Major Anderson was a breach of their trust. Anderson, on the day following the removal to Sumter, responded by a query from the Secretary of War as to whether he had indeed moved troops into Fort Sumter. On December 27th, 1860, Anderson sent the following telegram to officials in Washington.

Charleston, December 27, 1860.

The telegram is correct. I abandoned Fort Moultrie because I was certain that, if attacked, my men must have been sacrificed, and the command of the harbor lost. I spiked the guns and destroyed the carriages to keep the guns from being used against us. If attacked, the garrison would never have surrendered without a fight.

(Signed) Robert Anderson,

Major First Artillery.

Hon J. B. Floyd, Secretary of War.

It soon became clear that without reinforcements and supplies Anderson's small garrison would be unable to sustain themselves for long at Fort Sumter. As the month of December, 1860, reached its climax Anderson found himself in a precarious situation. Surrounded, running low on supplies, with too few men to defend the Fort if attacked and facing a situation where the leaders of South Carolina were becoming more violent and threatening. Francis Pickens was impatient and wanted Fort Sumter, with its symbolic representation of the presence of the Federal government, turned over to state authorities! The stage was set for a confrontation that would ignite a great civil war!

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