

# THE FUGELMAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY  
ASSOCIATION

**THE BLACK HATS**

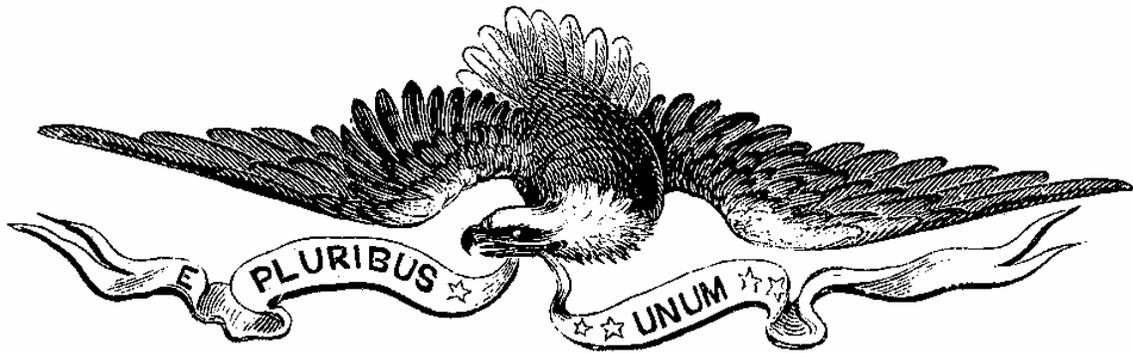
**THE IRON BRIGADE**

**VOLUME XVIII**

**ISSUE 12**

**DECEMBER, 2010**

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



## *PASS IN REVIEW*



This being the time of holiday cheer, let me take this moment to  
wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

This past year has been one of preparation. It seems to me we have had a 'lull before the storm'. This is the year we will begin our sesquicentennial observance of the American Civil War. It began long before Lincoln's election to the Presidency of the United States but the broad-spectrum of public thinking believes that the bloody conflict started at Ft. Sumter. We will have to educate others on the causes of the war as well as the war itself.

It is definitely a daunting task. Beyond slavery and states rights we will need to portray the population on the United States at a difficult crossroad. And we can do it. While we begin to portray the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in its infancy, we should take a look at the companies that made up the 2<sup>nd</sup>. What county did the men come from? What was the soldiers' trade before he enlisted? His family heritage plays an important role too. Before these men of the Iron Brigade took their place in history, they were more or less unknown. But once formed as a fighting unit on the stage of the Civil War, they changed the course of American history along with their brothers in arms. Take a moment and ponder the consequence of these farmers, store clerks and ordinary men. They have a story to tell and it's up to us to be sure to get it right.

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

**A SPECIAL DISPATCH FROM  
THE COMMANDER OF THE  
SECOND WISCONSIN  
REGIMENT**

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Officers and Gentlemen of the Second Wisconsin Vol. Inf.  
Association,

In September I announced that I would not seek re-election as president and Lt. Colonel of the association. Since that announcement I have been asked to reconsider. I have.

After receiving a signed petition by the entire battalion staff, I was simply humbled. The kind words in explanation of wanting to keep me on as Lt. Colonel in the form of a framed petition were very powerful. It also allowed me the opportunity to enjoy the respect of the regiment should I decide to not seek re-election. I have given it much thought and sought the blessing of my wife Virginia. This being understood; I will not seek the position of Association president.

I do however; ask to be placed on the ballot for Lt. Colonel. I would be truly honored to be on the field with my pards of the Ragged Ass Second.

Your Obedient Servant,  
Pete Seielstad

**It is heartening to learn of the decision by our Lt. Col., and the editor is sure that our members agree. This is reflected by the petition tendered to Lt. Col. Seielstad. The real measure of a leader can be measured by two separate but closely linked elements. First, is the conduct of the troops on the field. The Second Wisconsin has earned a reputation as one of the best regiments anywhere when we are at drill or in the heat of battle. This editor has served under Lt. Col. Seielstad since he began reenacting. He has served under his command of Union troops in a number of campaigns. One reason why there is so much respect for our commander is the way he inspires excellence in the troops!**

**It is also important to note that the knowledge base of our men is second to none as we discuss the life of the soldier and the history of the war with guests in our camps! This is the result of the leadership of the regiment, and the Company commanders. But the tone and success, as always, comes from the top. President Seielstad has been very generous with his time submitting a monthly "Pass In Review" for the newsletter. In that monthly column he often points to areas of improvement in our presentations.**

**The members of the Association are grateful for the service of Pete Seielstad as president of the Association. It is hard to understand the effort involved in holding such an office. The editor has had the privilege of working with a number of men who have served as president of Company K. The effort and time dedicated to matters that no one sees or experiences is awe inspiring. It must be a much more complicated and time consuming effort at the Association level. Thank you Mr. President for your effective leadership to the Regiment. Your efforts have been deeply appreciated.**

**It would be remiss not to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Seielstad for her unselfish sharing of her husband! The time, travel, and effort takes so much time away from the family. As valuable as Lt. Col. Seielstad is to our organization, her willingness to support that commitment deserves three cheers and a hearty thank you!**

## ***CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS***

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THE MIND OF  
**HARPER'S WEEKLY**  
A  
JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION

Vol. IV.—No. 205. NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1860. [Price Five Cents.]



CHRISTMAS-DAY, 1860

The *Harper's Weekly* cover above was the masthead for December, 1860. It would be the last year of peace in the country for four long, desperate years. The side panels reflect the traditional celebrations of the holiday as they were celebrated in the mid-nineteenth century. As James McIvor would note in his book on Christmas during the Civil War, during the antebellum years

Christmas was evolving into a special celebration that we would be able to recognize in 2010. He also was pointing out why the soldiers away from home for the holiday would feel especially lonely:

Part of what made the contrast of Christmas at home so great for these men was the way Christmas in America had begun, of late, to be the special holiday it would be for generations ever after—a holiday of family and home.

It hadn't always been that way. In the early years of America the Puritans had sternly disapproved of any Christmas revelry. The Massachusetts Puritan divine Cotton Mather preached from his Boston pulpit in 1712 condemning those who would "turn the grace of God into wantonness" with their Christmas celebrations. The Puritans pointed out that there was no scriptural authority for placing Christ's birthday in December; the early church had done so merely in an attempt to Christianize the pagan winter solstice holidays that were a feature of most agricultural societies. (McIvor, pps. 14-15)

When one reads Charles Dickens's story of Scrooge and Tiny Tim and the Cratchet family we can see the developing idea of the Christmas celebrations as practiced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Or the story *The Gift of the Magi* by Mark Twain. In Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* we see the rudiments of Christmas parties, a special meal with all the trimmings, and the giving of gifts, especially to the children. Twain's story is about a young married couple who sacrifice their prized possessions in order to buy a special gift for their beloved at Christmas.

Most of us, at least those with children or grandchildren, know the joy of anticipation as Christmas approaches and the excitement as the kids gather around the tree on Christmas Day—or as in the editor's home on Christmas Eve—to open their gifts. And so many of those early volunteers during the civil war were barely past being children themselves! By 1862 much of the enthusiasm and youthful sense of adventure that led them to volunteer was gone. But the memories of the Christmases they had shared at home remained a part of them.

Above all, this new Christmas that was slowly taking root in America was a holiday of, and for, children. It was a time not just to bring joy to children with surprise gifts of toys and candies; it was a time to celebrate the innocence of childhood itself and the sheltering morality of home and family against a troubled world. A popularizer of this new,

more innocent, more sentimental holiday invoked the purity of childhood that the spirit of Christmas celebrated: "Let the graces of childhood elevate our souls, and purify us of all contamination of anger and wrath . . . . Oh that we might all be like unto our children, to whom the invisible love of God is made manifest in the Christchild under the form of an innocent babe, like unto them in appearance, but descending from heaven with pleasant gifts." (McIvor, p. 18)

Many of us have probably experienced a Christmas where service in the military or jobs have kept us away on Christmas. It is safe to say that a special kind of emptiness filled our hearts because we weren't there to share the happiness of Christmas celebrations with our families. No less a personage than Robert E. Lee suffered the loneliness of being far away from home at Christmas. Lee loved his family dearly and missed them greatly when he was posted so far from home at Arlington House that he could not be home for Christmas.

Robert E. Lee missed any Christmas he was not home with his wife, children, and the extended family at Arlington House. He wrote sons Custis and Rooney at the 1846 Christmas, when he was away in the Mexican War, "I hope good Santa Claus will fill my Rob's stocking tonight, that Mildred's, Agnes's, and Anna's may break down with good things. I do not know what he may have for you and Mary, but if he leaves for you one half of what I wish, you will want for nothing!"

And when any of his sons were away from Arlington at Christmas when he was at the mansion, he wrote lengthy letters describing the holiday festivities, sometimes in mouth-watering language. "The children were delighted at getting back [on a visit] and passed the evening in devising pleasure for the morrow. They were in upon us before day on Christmas to overhaul their stockings . . . I need not describe to you our amusements, you have witnessed them so often; nor the turkey, cold ham, plum pudding, mince pies, etc., at dinner," he wrote Custis, at West Point during Christmas 1851. (Chadwick, pps. 60-61)

For the boys of '61 this sense of loss at being away from their homes was especially true. As the 1860's approached many of these lads had never been more than 10 miles away from their homes for any reason. The home and their family and their shared religious faith were the center of their lives. The result was that as the Christmas holidays approached the men in the ranks felt a heightened sense of isolation and loneliness.

There had been something undeniably childlike about the soldiers who had first gone off to war, so full of boyish

enthusiasm and a sense of adventure. They had almost seemed to be playing soldier at first—camping out, playing jokes, singing songs, raising hell. But now war's reality had caught up with them. The nostalgic longing for home, and the memories of the true childhood innocence of Christmases past, came flooding in at Christmastime 1862. A poem entitled "A Soldier's Christmas Eve" by an anonymous Northern soldier, published in the *Poughkeepsie Telegraph* on December 27, 1862, captured the longing for the bygone childhood innocence the Christmas now evoked in these men, who were no longer boys:

*In a Southern forest gloomy and old,  
So lately the scene of a terrible fight,  
A soldier alone in the dark and cold,  
Is keeping the watch tonight.  
As he paces his round he sees the light  
Of his comrades campfire, gleaming far,  
Through the dusky wood, and one bright star  
Looks down with a twinkle of light and love  
From the frosty sky that bends above.  
Large, clear and bright in the far-off skies  
It twinkles and glimmers there alone  
On the shepherd's wondering eyes.*

*As he watches it slowly, sweetly rise  
And his heart is touched by its gentle ray.  
And away, away  
His thoughts on the wings of fancy stray,  
He forgets the night with its frosty air,  
And cheerless blast, that every where  
Moans loud through the branches black and bare  
He is thinking now of the little band  
In his boyhood home, whose faces bright  
Are beaming with happiness as they stand  
Round the Christmas tree tonight,  
And he seems to join with the happy throng  
In each innocent game and mirthful song.*

*Ah! Vision as bright as fairy land!  
Like a broken dream, it will not stay,  
He raises his weather beaten hand  
And dashes a tear away.*

And from a Southern soldier, William Gordon McCabe, encamped with the Army of Northern Virginia, came a poem that expressed almost exactly the same sentiment. Entitled "Christmas Night of '62," it too spoke of Christmas past, Christmases from a simpler, more carefree time of life:

*The wintry blast goes wailing by,  
The snow is falling overhead;  
I hear the lonely sentry's tread,  
And distant watch-fires light the sky.*

*Dim forms go flitting through the gloom;  
The soldiers cluster round the blaze  
To talk of other Christmas days,  
And softly speak of home and home.*

. . .

My thoughts go wandering to and fro,  
Vibrating between the Now and Then;  
I see the low-browed home again,  
The old hall wreathed with mistletoe.

And sweetly from the far-off years  
Comes borne the laughter faint and low,  
The voices of long ago!  
My eyes are wet with tender tears.

I feel again the mother-kiss,  
I see again the glad surprise  
That lightened up the tranquil eyes  
And brimmed them o'er with tears of bliss,

As, rushing from the old hall-door,  
She fondly clasped her wayward boy—  
Her face all radiant with the joy  
She felt to see him home once more.

(McIvor, pps. 19-22)

In the first year of the war gifts from home were able to make their way to the armies in winter camps. As the war progressed, however, it was much more difficult to get packages to the troops as they moved further and further South. Still, the men in both armies did the best they could to make the holidays a special celebration. However, try as they might, it was impossible to capture the warmth and joy of those Christmases past that had marked their pre-war experiences. Now practical gifts were more important than good things to eat from home. If the foodstuffs they received weren't spoiled by the time they reached the camps, they didn't satisfy their needs such as gloves, socks, and other practical things to make their existence just a little more comfortable as in the case of the following soldier.

Even the few traditional delicacies the soldiers could lay their hands on this Christmas had a way of turning to ashes in their mouths. What had, the year before [1861], been a re-creation of the comforts of Christmas at home was now a mocking reminder of how utterly impossible it was for Christmas in an army camp to be anything like Christmas at home. "At the expense of one dollar and seventy-five cents, I procured a small turkey and had a Christmas dinner," wrote Union soldier John Beatty, "but it lacked the collaterals, and was a failure." Reuben Jones of the 19<sup>th</sup> U. S. Regulars received a Christmas box with a pound cake that his cousin Ann had baked, but what he appreciated far more was the practical gift of a pair of gloves from his brother. "Those

gloves bless your soul give me more comfort on the battlefield than \$10,000 would have," he wrote a couple of weeks after Christmas. "I slept in them I have worn them out already." (McIvor, pps. 10-11)

These feelings of both John Beatty and Rueben Jones were not limited to themselves. It was a feeling shared by most of the men in the ranks. After the bloody campaigns of 1862, these men anticipated the renewed struggle surely to come as winter turned to spring and campaign weather was once more upon them!

And so the soldiers who huddled about campfires in the trenches before Fredericksburg, or along the desolate shores of the Yazoo River, or outside of Nashville or Murfreesboro bracing for the battle whose first rumbles could already be heard, felt a nostalgic longing that went beyond a want of mince pies and eggnog. "A merry Christmas," said I to *myself*, for want of a larger family circle," lamented one soldier in a letter to his mother on Christmas morning. A few days later he mused to himself, "Family ties are never so close as in these days of separation and trial." (McIvor, p. 19)

In the following story, the 45<sup>th</sup> Tennessee reflects a not uncommon situation for rebel troops during the war. In the East the same situation existed in Jackson's Corps who were recruited from the Shenandoah Valley where they wintered. Many of Jackson's men simply walked away from the army to go home for Christmas. As the Battle of Stones River was looming, near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the 45<sup>th</sup> Tennessee found itself encamped near their homes. As a result they were treated with all kinds of good food and gifts for Christmas from their families who lived nearby. A member of the 20<sup>th</sup> Tennessee described how some of these good things were liberated from those lucky members of the 45th to be enjoyed by their comrades in the 20<sup>th</sup> regiment.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry, encamped at Murfreesboro, was better off than many of its fellow Confederate units since its members had been largely recruited from the immediate vicinity. The farms of Middle Tennessee had yet to suffer the depredations of war and blockade that had already beset much of the South, and many of the 45<sup>th</sup> had been given furloughs to visit their homes. They came back with home-baked pies and cakes.

But in the air of gloom and scarcity that filled the camp, the sudden appearance of these Christmas delicacies evoked more jealousies and hard feelings than goodwill toward men. The soldiers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Tennessee, who were not so fortunate, promptly hatched a plan to seize by force

and subterfuge some of the 45<sup>th</sup>'s windfall. A snowball fight was arranged between the two regiments. As one member of the 20<sup>th</sup> recounted, "A charge was ordered and the boys of the 20<sup>th</sup> mixed up with the 45<sup>th</sup> in their own camp and the battle waxed warm; and while about three-fourths of the 20<sup>th</sup> were waging war in the heart of the 45<sup>th</sup>'s camp, the other one-fourth was packing off into our camp whatever they could. When the fight was over the 45<sup>th</sup> did not have as near as many good things as they did when it opened; they even lost a large percent of their cooking utensils, and the best of their arms.

"In the thickest of the fight two large soldiers caught me and I was thrown into a ditch; one of them held me while the other nearly smothered me with snow, but I was doing my best to entertain them for I knew that some of our men were confiscating what they had." (McIvor, pps. 9-10)

Many of these young men would join the ranks of the dead or wounded shortly after this snowball "battle" in and around their encampment during the Battle of Stones River, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1862 through January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1863. Christmas is a time of hope, and it is certain that from the families and the soldiers themselves many a prayer wafted towards heaven for an end to the war and peace.

And it wasn't only the soldier boys who endured a sense of loss and separation during these Christmases during the war. The mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers at home missed their loved ones as much as anything! The lucky ones knew their sons, husbands, or other family members in the army were still alive. For far too many, there was the knowledge that their loved ones would never come home again to share the Christmas holiday with their family members. They were buried in far away places in unmarked graves in many cases. Some families would never know how or where their soldier boys died. That sense of loss had to be palpable at family gatherings during and after the war.

Civilians too had problems to overcome, and the Christmas season only heightened their concerns over shortages caused by the war. This was especially true in the South. The Federal blockade and the poverty resulting from having their men in the army impacted hard on their day-to-day existence. Thus as Christmas arrived it did not have all the charms of the antebellum celebrations they remembered from earlier times. One woman, lamenting on the fact that the children would have a sparse Christmas season wrote the following:

One Southern lady tried to make light of the hardships and shortages with a humorous poem that was printed in the December 1862 edition of the *Southern Illustrated News*. Santa Claus, she explained had simply fallen afoul of the Yankee blockade:

*This happened one Christmas I am sorry to write,  
Our ports are blockaded, and Santa to-night,  
Will hardly get down here; for if he should start,  
The Yankees would get him unless he was "smart."  
They beat all the men in creation to run  
And if they could get him, they'd think it fine fun  
To put him in prison, and steal the nice toys  
He started to bring to our girls and boys.  
But try not to mind it—tell over your jokes—  
Be gay and be cheerful, like other good folks;  
For if you remember to be good and kind,  
Old Santa next Christmas will bear it in mind.* (McIvor,  
pps 6-7)

At least one civilian was encouraged by the struggle and he set his pen to paper to create an ode to the struggle to preserve the Union by force of arms. The victory of Union arms as 1862 turned to 1863 gave hope that Federal forces might well subdue the rebellion. It has become a popular Christmas song, but many who sing its hopeful refrain for peace and good will to men have no idea of its origins.

It was in this season of renewed faith (following the Union victory at Murfreesboro) that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a Christmas poem, later set to music, that remains a popular carol still sung to this day. These days, it is mostly only the first verse, or first few, that are remembered:

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

But there were four other verses that Longfellow had originally written, which are now largely forgotten. They spoke directly to the events of the war that Christmas 1862 and of the renewal of faith in a time of terrible trial. The first of these verses evoked the cannon's roar now heard across the land: "And with the sound/The carols drowned/Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

And then Longfellow continued:

*It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

But then, the last verse brought a triumphant reaffirmation of the Christmas message. It was the message of universal peace, of God's love for mankind, and of simple, perhaps even childlike, hope:

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;  
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!  
The wrong shall fail,  
The right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

(McIvor, pps. 143-146)

As we approach Christmastide, 2010, your officers and comrades extend to you and your family their wishes for a happy, joyful holiday more reflective of those early antebellum Christmases than those awful years between 1861 and 1864. You are a fine bunch of men and deserve all those good things we associate with the Christmas season! May Santa Claus treat you and your family with all the rich blessings of this special holiday!

We pray for peace for our nation and the return of our soldiers safely to the bosoms of their families! In the name of that Christchild, whose arrival we celebrate, we ask that God bring healing to our nation and a return to prosperity. Let there be no more want among our people. And may he bless all our members and bring us a wonderful new year of campaigning in this sesquicentennial year commemorating 1861. **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

TO AS FINE A SET OF MEN THAT HAS EVER TROD THIS  
EARTH!!!

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Chadwick, Bruce. *1858: Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant and the War They Failed to See.*  
Sourcebooks, Inc., Naperville, Illinois (2008).

McIvor, James. *God Rest Ye Merry, Soldiers: A True Civil War Christmas Story.* Viking Press: New York, N.Y. (2005)

## **THE VIEW FROM THE RANKS**

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### **AN EVENT TO CONSIDER IN COLUMBUS, WISCONSIN**

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The *Gazette* received the following communication from Shelly Hlaban, our comrade in Company K and a member of Battery B, regarding an interesting opportunity to experience a little history and Christmas cheer Thank you Shelly for sharing this event with our members!

Saturday December 4, 11am-3pm. Wally and I will be tour guides (Docents) for the Holiday Home tour in Columbus, WI We will be at the former home of Governor James Lewis, who was one of four Wisconsin Governors during the Civil War. The Address is 711 West James St. Exit Hwy 60 off of Hwy 151. There will be four homes in Columbus open for tours that day. The Governor's home will have a String Quartet providing music.

Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving.....

Shelly and Wally

### **2010 HOLIDAY HOME TOUR**

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The bi-annual Holiday Home Tour will be held Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event is organized and hosted by Columbus Main Street. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 on the day of the tour. People can purchase tickets at the Columbus Visitor Center [128 West James St.], Farmers & Merchants Union Bank, Julie's Java House, Secret Garden Floral and Sharrow Drugs.

There are four homes featured on the tour this year. One of the beautiful homes is the Garwick residence at 711 West James St.

This 1854 Italianate is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built by James Lewis, who was the ninth governor of Wisconsin and the last Civil War governor. Gov. Lewis "made a substantial contribution to the northern cause at a time when morale was low and money was scarce." In 1854, he built the middle portion of this house where his family lived while the front portion was being built. The jog in Charles Street is due to his desire to protect the oak trees in his yard. The stone structure in the rear of the property was a grist mill built and operated by William Lewis. The house features many original pieces of furniture including a couch that was given to one of the maids as payment for a debt. The couch was later found in an auction, purchased and returned to the home. There is a maid and butler room on the third floor with a "secret" pass-through door between the two rooms. You will be dazzled by this fabulous old home. The Gleewud String Quartet will provide live music in this home during the home tour.

Another fabulous home is located at 522 South Charles St. - the Weycker-Haagensen Home. This stunning English Tudor was featured on "The Today Show" in 2009. It has a unique Batchelder fireplace, nine-foot ceilings, a screened porch and a custom designed kitchen. There are gleaming hardwood floors and gorgeous woodwork throughout the home. This home was built for the Walker family in 1925. The Walkers owned a local lumber yard. It was designed by a Madison architecture firm whose notable works include Breese Stevens Field, the Majestic Theatre and several buildings at the Vilas Zoo, as well as several Carnegie Libraries throughout Wisconsin. Around 1941 the Sharrow family purchased the home from the Walkers and raised their 13 children here. In the spring of 2004, the home caught fire from an overheated light socket in the front hall and sustained major damage. Steve and Tania Black purchased the burned out home and renovated it with the help of the original blueprints that survived the fire. This reconstruction effort was done with the assistance of many local trades and custom craftsman. The stained glass windows on either side of the front door were custom made to pay homage to the rebirth of the home after the fire. You will enjoy touring this wonderful Columbus home.

Sponsors of the Historic Home Tour are Carol Valley, the Hair Shoppe of Columbus, Napoli Italian Restaurant Pizzeria, The Poser Clinic LLC and Sweet! Cake Designs. Frey Carriage Works will be marking each home with a unique carriage on the front yard. Enjoy complimentary refreshments on the day of the tour at two new downtown businesses, The Snack Shack and Sweet! Cake Design.

Come celebrate this year's Historic Home Tour.

For more information, call Columbus Main Street at 623-5325.

# REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES

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## ONE LAST REMINDER THAT DUES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 1, 2011

*While many readers may be saying enough is enough already, The Fugelman thanks Dave Dresang for the following reminder that the due dates for dues is fast approaching. Soon spring will be on us and the roads will be drying and the campaign season will draw us onto the fields of honor. Part of being ready is the payment of our dues so that we are members of our individual companies, covered by insurance, and ready to fall in when the drums and bugles call.*

*Besides the call to pay our dues there is another important aspect to this communiqué from Dave. Note the status of officers who will be relinquishing their positions after long and honorable service to the Association. Any organization is only as strong or effective as its leadership. Think about what strengths you can bring to the Association and be prepared to serve if called upon to be a leader.*

Hello 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin members:

Yes, it is I, once again here to remind you that January 1<sup>st</sup> is right around the corner and your dues will need to be collected by that date.

I'm sure you are tired of hearing from me but it is important that you get the word and understand the due paying system.

I will (once again) go over it for you along with some other information for the upcoming annual meeting that you will need to know.

### **DUES:**

Association dues are:

\$20.00 for a single military membership

\$30.00 for a family membership (this replaces the \$8.00 per extra family membership) this includes those residing in the same household or if you have someone attending college, this does not include those family members that are on their own.

You need to pay your dues to your COMPANY TREASURER, please, try not to send it directly to the Association Secretary.

Your Company will need to maintain a record of who has or has not paid. The Company Treasurer will then forward the dues onto the Association Secretary for recording and once he has done that it will be forwarded onto the Association Treasurer.

There is a system to this madness, but it does work and work well, but only with your cooperation.

If you need further information, please contact your Company President first and if he cannot answer your question, comments or concerns, then please forward them to me at:

[ddresang@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddresang@sbcglobal.net)

## **FURTHER INFORMATION FOR THE UPCOMING ASSOCIATION MEETING:**

We have several positions up for election this year.  
Here is a list of those positions:

President: 3 year term (Present President Pete Seielstad)

Vice President: 3 year term (Present Vice President Terry Brown)

Treasurer: 3 year term (Present Treasurer Scott Frank 1 year left)

Corporate Secretary 3 year term (Present Secretary David Dresang Jr. 1 year left but stepping down January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011)

Lt. Col.: 3 year term (Present Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad)

Major of Infantry (Present Major Doug Rasmussen 1 year left)

Major of Artillery (Present Major Brant Doty 2 years left)

Appointed positions:

Quartermaster: (Present Quartermaster Tom Klas) non-elected

Association Secretary: (Present Association Secretary David Dresang Jr. stepping down January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011)

Please consider these positions anyone can run for office named above (with the exception of the appointed positions)

Your obedient and humble servant

David Dresang

Association/Corporate Secretary 2nd W.V.I.

Again, if you having any questions please contact me at:

ddresang@sbcglobal.net

## **WINTERIZE YOUR EQUIPMENT!**

*The Fugelman received the following dispatch from Dave Dresang. It is chock full of good advice. Thank you for passing this along, Dave.*

The season has ended, at least for most of us, we still have a couple of small activities but Coon Valley usually ends the reenacting season. We have the Green Bay Holiday parade coming up (and I encourage as many of you that can attend, please do so) This past season was wonderful (we'll not talk about Stevens Point) we've seen new events and the old and some that have started their second season. We again have shown that the rest of us care and are committed to what we do and to honor the boys from the past.

The great number of school events, the ability to teach our youth about this countries darkest history has been superb!

Now, the season has ended and it is time to sit back, relax and reflect on this past season, take a well deserved break, look at the pictures, read the articles from the newspapers, keep in touch with each other and think about next year. What can we do better, what

went right and wrong, look to improve your impression? We have that ability but our equipment does not!

Now is the time to prepare your equipment for the rest it deserves. You need to make sure that nothing gets put into storage unless you check it out thoroughly first.

Make sure (and it has been a record wet month for most of Wisconsin) your gear, especially your tent and blankets are dry, mold and mildew likes nothing better than wet gear that gets stored away without it being dried out first.

Check your equipment, and I mean ALL of it, even the smallest piece to make sure it is in good shape before storage: check for rips, tears, and holes in your clothing, if you have it, mend it! That way when the season starts you won't find yourself busy mending your items instead of using them.

Make sure your canteen is well dry. There are many ways of making sure it stays dry: one method, place rice inside, leave the cork out, turn it upside down, ask others (veterans) for their opinions, they may have better ideas. You don't want that first drink to be rusty or have something hiding inside and you drink it. I don't think anyone is that hungry!

If you find some equipment that basically has seen its better days, make a Christmas wish list and give those loved ones an idea of what you could or do need.

Most of all CLEAN your MUSKET/PISTOLS thoroughly! Don't let it sit to rust. Find a nice dry place to store it for the winter. You may even have powder residue at the bottom of the barrel, if you don't take care of it do you want it to harden during the winter? Take the time to take it apart, look at the lock plate, check the mechanism inside (springs, trigger, hammer and everything else) grease and lube it make sure it is rust free and works properly. Again, if you are not sure, check with a veteran, they will be glad to help you out! Please, don't let that part of your equipment just sit without your tender loving care, it is part of you and you need to take care of it!

Check every piece of your equipment, nothing like your mess kit getting rusty during the winter months: do you really want to eat with that?

You will have time to go over all of your equipment and if you do this your season next year will be off to a very good start!

Check everything in your haversack (creepy crawlies love to sneak in the middle of the night, especially in some of the areas we've set-up in) and your accouterments, your bayonet (this is the most neglected piece, I don't like seeing it rusty and you shouldn't either) any piece of equipment should be checked and not just tossed in the basement, garage and any other place without you

checking it first, but remember, your Musket□pistol is the one that can cause the most damage if it is not taken care of!

Thank you for a wonderful season and I look forward to seeing you on the battlefield real soon!

Your humble servant  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt David Dresang  
Co. E 2<sup>nd</sup> W.V.I.

## **MEMBERSHIP AND MEDICAL CARDS PLUS THE 2006 VERSION OF THE ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK**

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*The following dispatch from headquarters is another important communication for our members, especially the secretaries of the various companies. If you need a copy of the handbook please direct your requests to your company secretaries.*

It would be of great help to me if you could give me a number of Membership Cards that you will need for the 2011 season. This card should be handed out to all due paying members by the respective treasurer's and the member should be reminded that the cards should remain on themselves during each event.

It would also be of help if you could do the same for the Medical Cards, the only difference is this:

1.05 Medical Emergency Information Card.

Each member of the Association will voluntarily complete two (2) copies of the medical information card (found in Appendix B of this document). One copy is to be turned into and retained by the Commanding Officer. The second is to be laminated and carried on the reenactors' person at all times.

This comes straight from the Association Handbook.

I will need the number of cards BEFORE the Association annual meeting so I can hand out the cards at the meeting itself (unless you need to make other arrangements to me before hand).

Anyone (Company Officers or Civilian Board member) that needs a copy of the revised 2006 Association handbook will also need to contact myself. I can send it electronically to you (PDF file is required) or if you have problems opening it I can send you a hard copy.

I would like to point out to each Company Secretary that a provision has been made where all members are suppose to receive a copy of the handbook, this in turn will be your job. The handbook states:

### **HANDBOOK**

#### **5.00 Handbook**

The 2nd WVI will publish its policies, rules, and procedures in a convenient Handbook to be given to every member. Members will be expected to cheerfully and honorably abide by the Handbook. The Handbook will have the intent of creating a clear and understandable framework for how the Unit is to conduct itself in

order to avoid confusion, frustration, and double-standards. Further, it should be remembered that the Handbook is formulated and approved by the Unit as a whole, not by any single individual(s).

As Secretaries of each individual Company you will make sure that copies are available to your members that are also members of the Association and a member of the Association is one that pays dues (with the exception of Company H) you will need to bring this up and ask for those who wish a copy of the Handbook at your annual Company/Battery meetings (including Company H)

If you have questions (which I have no doubt questions will arise) please contact myself for clarification, comments, information that I have requested, or any doubt you may have.

I thank you and look forward to working with you on this part of membership.

Your humble servant  
David Dresang Jr.  
Association/Corporate Secretary

## **COMPANY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

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December 4, 2010      Company E annual Company meeting, Allouez WI

December 11, 2010      Company B Christmas Party, Onalaska, WI

## **COMPANY REPORTS**

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### **COMPANY B**

The Company B Christmas party is set for December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The location will be the Blue Moon Restaurant sited at 716 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North – Highway 35 across from the big Sunfish – in Onalaska, Wisconsin. The meal will be from the menu and dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m.

All members of Company B and the Venture Crew are encouraged to attend this event, a time of sharing memories from the last campaign and socializing amongst the men themselves. All

are invited to attend with a guest. Everyone is encouraged to wear the uniform, but it is discretionary.

If you plan to attend the dinner please contact John Dudkiewicz at [jjdudkie@charter.net](mailto:jjdudkie@charter.net) or call him at 608-783-7681.

## **SKIRMISHERS**

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The following information comes from Gary Van Kauwenbergh. Thank you for both your efforts and sharing the information with our readers!

1. Gary Van Kauwenbergh took the pains to add all the photos he was aware of from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry on the skirmishers web page. The editor took the time to check out the site and it is worth checking out. While there isn't much new here, it is all in one place and for some of our newer members they may not have had the opportunity to view these images. See [http://acwsa.org/Pages/Team%20Pages/2nd\\_wisconsin/2nd\\_wisconsin.htm](http://acwsa.org/Pages/Team%20Pages/2nd_wisconsin/2nd_wisconsin.htm)

Gary indicated that he avoided copyright infringement by using links to places that either own or have permission rather than using the images themselves. There are actually more images out there, but I didn't include them if they didn't cite the permission. The one I know is missing is the image of the 2nd Wisconsin color guard taken across from Fredericksburg. That image is owned by Mike Reed, and he's apparently pretty restrictive on it's use.

If anyone knows of additional images, please send the address to [garyvank@aol.com](mailto:garyvank@aol.com).

2. The skirmish schedule for the American Civil War Shooting Association is available at <http://acwsa.org/Documents/2011%20Schedule%20Draft.pdf>

3. The skirmish team's annual meeting will be on Saturday, February 12, 2011.

Gary

## **DECEMBER MILESTONES**

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Dec. 3, 1826

Gen. George B. McClellan, USA, born

Dec. 5, 1839	Gen. George A. Custer, USA, born
Dec. 6, 1833	Col. John S. Mosby, CSA, born
Dec. 8, 1831	Lt. Col. George H. Stevens, 2 <sup>nd</sup> WVI, born.
Dec. 8, 1863	Lincoln makes proclamation of Amnesty & Reconstruction
Dec. 13, 1862	Battle of Fredericksburg
Dec. 13, 1864	Fort McAllister surrenders
Dec. 20, 1860	South Carolina secedes
Dec. 25, 1821	Clara Barton born
Dec. 27, 1831	Brig. Gen. Lucius Fairchild, USA, born
Dec. 31, 1815	Gen. George Meade, USA, born

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## **SESQUICENTENNIAL CORNER**

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### **THE 150-YEAR WAR**

BY TONY HORWITZ

PUBLISHED: OCTOBER 30, 2010

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MY attic office is walled with books on Lincoln and Lee, slavery and secession. John Brown glares from a daguerreotype on my desk. The Civil War is my sanctum — except when my 7-year-old races in to get at the costume box. Invariably, he tosses aside the kepi and wooden sword to reach for a wizard cloak or Star Wars light saber.



***The Times is introducing a new online series that follows the Civil War as it unfolded. Read the first installment by Jamie Malanowski.***

I was born in a different era, the late 1950s, when the last Union drummer boy had only just died and plastic blue-and-gray soldiers were popular toys. In the 1960s, the Civil War centennial recalled great battles as protesters marched for civil rights and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. declared from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, "One hundred years later, the Negro still is not free."

Today the Civil War echoes at a different register, usually in fights over remembrance. Though Southern leaders in the 1860s called slavery the cornerstone of their cause, some of their successors are intent on scrubbing that legacy from memory. Earlier this year in Virginia, Gov. Robert F. McDonnell proclaimed April to be Confederate History Month without mentioning slavery, while the state's Department of Education issued a textbook peddling the fiction that thousands of blacks had fought for the South. Skirmishes erupt at regular intervals over flags and other emblems, like "Colonel Reb," whom Ole Miss recently surrendered as its mascot. The 1860s also have a particular resonance at election time, as the country splits along political and cultural lines that still separate white Southern voters from balloters in blue Union states.

But as we approach the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's election, on Nov. 6, and the long conflict that followed, it's worth recalling other reasons that era endures. The Civil War isn't just an

adjunct to current events. It's a national reserve of words, images and landscapes, a storehouse we can tap in lean times like these, when many Americans feel diminished, divided and starved for discourse more nourishing than cable rants and Twitter feeds.

"The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country." Those famous lines come from President Lincoln, delivered not in the Gettysburg Address, but on a routine occasion: his second annual message to Congress. Can you recall a single line from any of the teleprompted State of the Union messages in your own lifetime?

The Civil War abounded in eloquence, from the likes of Frederick Douglass, Walt Whitman, the Southern diarist Mary Chesnut and warriors who spoke the way they fought. Consider the Southern cavalryman J. E. B. Stuart, with panache, saying of his father-in-law's loyalty to the Union: "He will regret it but once, and that will be continually." Or Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, brutal and terse, warning besieged Atlantans: "You cannot qualify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it."

These and other words from the war convey a bracing candor and individuality, traits Americans reflexively extol while rarely exhibiting. Today's lusterless brass would never declare, as Sherman did, "I can make this march, and make Georgia howl!" or say of a superior, as Sherman did of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, "He stood by me when I was crazy, and I stood by him when he was drunk."

You can hear the same, bold voice in the writing of common soldiers, their letters unmuzzled by military censors and their dialect not yet homogenized by television and Interstates. "Got to see the elephant at last," an Indianan wrote of his first, inglorious combat. "I don't care about seeing him very often any more, for if there was any fun in such work I couldn't see it ... It is not the

thing it is bragged up to be.” Another soldier called the Gettysburg campaign “nothing but fighting, starving, marching and cussing.” Cowards were known as “skedaddlers,” “tree dodgers,” “skulkers” and “croakers.”

There’s character even in muster rolls and other records, which constantly confound the stereotype of a war between brotherly white farm boys North and South. You find Rebel Choctaws and Union Kickapoos; Confederate rabbis and Arab camel-drivers; Californians in gray and Alabamans in blue; and in wondrous Louisiana, units called the Corps d’Afrique, the Creole Rebels, the Slavonian Rifles and the European Brigade. By war’s end, black troops constituted over 10 percent of the Union Army and Navy. The roster of black sailors included men born in Zanzibar and Borneo.

Then there are the individuals who defy classification, like this one from a Pennsylvania muster roll: “Sgt. Frank Mayne; deserted Aug. 24, 1862; subsequently killed in battle in another regiment, and discovered to be a woman; real name, Frances Day.”

If the words of the 1860s speak to the era’s particularity, the bleakly riveting data of the Civil War communicates its scale and horror — a portent of the industrial slaughter to come in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Roughly 75 percent of eligible Southern men and more than 60 percent of eligible Northerners served, compared with a tiny fraction today, and more than one million were killed or wounded. Fighting in close formation, some regiments lost 80 percent of their men in a single battle. Three days at Gettysburg killed and wounded more Americans than nine years of war in Afghanistan and Iraq have. Nearly one in three Confederate soldiers died — a statistic that helps to explain the deep sense of loss that lasted in the South for over a century. In all, the death rate from combat and disease was so high that a comparable war today would claim six million American lives.

The Times is introducing a new online series that follows the Civil War as it unfolded. Read the first installment by Jamie Malanowski.

As horrific as these numbers are, they're made graphic by the pioneering photography of the Civil War. It's hard for us to conjure the Minutemen of 1775, but we can look into the eyes of Union and Confederate recruits, study their poses, see emotion in their faces. They look lean [and they were: on average, Civil War soldiers were 40 pounds lighter than young men today], but their faces are strikingly modern and jaunty.

Then we see them again, strewn promiscuously across fields, limbs bloated, mouths frozen in ghastly O's. When Mathew Brady first exhibited photographs of battlefield dead in 1862, The Times likened viewing them to seeing "a few dripping bodies, fresh from the field, laid along the pavement." Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. wrote that photographs forced civilians to confront the true face of battle — "a repulsive, brutal, sickening, hideous thing." We're spared this discomfort today, with the American dead from two ground wars carefully airbrushed from public view.

There's another great difference between the Civil War and every other war in our history: the ground itself, a vast and accessible Yosemite of memory that stretches across the South and to points beyond, from Gettysburg in Pennsylvania to New Mexico's Glorieta Pass. True, much of the Civil War's landscape has been interred beneath big-box malls and subdivisions named for the history they've obliterated. But at national parks like Shiloh and Antietam you can still catch a whisper of a human-scaled America, where soldiers took cover in high corn and sunken roads, and Lincoln's earthy imagery spoke to the lives of his countrymen.

In an electronics-saturated age, battlefield parks also force us to exercise our atrophied imaginations. There's no Sensurround or 3D technology, just snake-rail fences, marble men and silent cannons aimed at nothing. You have to read, listen, let your mind go. If you do, you may experience what Civil War re-enactors call a "period

rush” — the momentary high of leaving your own time zone for the 1860s.

You wouldn't want to stay there; at least I wouldn't. Nor is battle the only way into the Civil War. There are countless other portals, and scholars are opening them to reveal lesser-known aspects of Civil War society and memory. Know about the 11-year-old girl who convinced Lincoln to grow a beard? The Richmond women who armed themselves and looted stores, crying, "Bread or blood"? The "Mammy Monument" that almost went up in Washington a year after the Lincoln Memorial?

It's a bottomless treasure, this Civil War, much of it encrusted in myth or still unexplored. Which is why, a century and a half later, it still claims our attention and remembrance.

*Tony Horwitz is the author of "Confederates in the Attic" and the forthcoming "Midnight Rising: John Brown's Raid and the Start of the Civil War."*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/31/opinion/31Horwitz.html?pagewanted=2&\\_r=2&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/31/opinion/31Horwitz.html?pagewanted=2&_r=2&hp)

## **GENERAL SHERMAN GIVES THE PRESIDENT A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!**

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**SAVANNAH  
OURS**

**SHERMAN'S CHRISTMAS  
PRESENT.**

**Official Dispatches from  
Generals Sherman and  
Foster.**

**WHAT SHERMAN FOUND.**

**150 Cannon, 200 Cars and  
Locomotives, 3 Steamers,  
800 Prisoners, and 30,000  
Bales of Cotton.**

## **Twenty Thousand People in the City Quiet and Well Disposed.**

### **ESCAPE OF HARDEE'S ARMY**

The Rebel Iron Clads Blown  
Up and the Navy-Yard Burned

### **AN ALMOST BLOODLESS VICTORY.**

News from the Wilmington  
Expedition

War Department, Washington,  
Dec. 25--8 P.M.

[Official]

#### ***To Maj.-Gen. Dix, New York:***

A dispatch has been received  
this evening by the President  
from Gen. Sherman. It is dated  
at Savannah, on Thursday, the  
22d inst., and announces his  
occupation of the city of  
Savannah and the capture of  
one hundred and fifty guns,  
plenty of ammunition, and  
about 25,000 bales of cotton.  
No other particulars are given.

An official dispatch from Gen.  
Foster to Gen. Grant, dated on  
the 22nd instant, at 7 P.M.,  
states that the city of  
Savannah was occupied by Gen.  
Sherman on the morning of the  
21st, and that on the preceding  
afternoon and night, Hardee  
escaped with the main body of  
his infantry and light  
artillery, blowing up the iron-  
clads and the Navy-yard. He  
enumerates as captured 800  
prisoners, 150 guns, 13  
locomotives, in good order, 190  
cars, a large lot of ammunition  
and materials of war, three  
steamers and 33,000 bales of  
cotton. No mention is made of

the present position of  
Hardee's force, which had been  
estimated at about 15,000.

### **The dispatches of Gen. Sherman and Gen. Foster are as follows:**

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 22.

#### ***To His Excellency, President Lincoln:***

I beg to present you as a  
Christmas gift, the city of  
Savannah, with one hundred  
and fifty heavy guns and  
plenty of ammunition, and also  
about twenty-five thousand  
bales of cotton.

(Signed.) W. T. Sherman,  
Major-General

Steamer Golden Gate,

Savannah River, 7 P.M.,  
Thursday, Dec. 22.

#### ***To Lieutenant-General Grant and Major-General H. W. Halleck:***

I have the honor to report that  
I have just returned from  
General Sherman's headquarters  
in Savannah.

I send Major Gray of my staff  
as bearer of dispatches from  
General Sherman to you, and  
also a message to the  
President.

The city of Savannah was  
occupied on the morning of the  
21st. Gen. Hardee, anticipating  
the contemplated assault,  
escaped with the main body of  
his infantry and light artillery,

on the morning of the 20th, by crossing the river to Union Causeway, opposite the city. The rebel iron-clads were blown up, and the Navy-yard was burned. All the rest of the city is intact, and contains twenty thousand citizens, quiet and well-disposed.

The captures includes eight hundred prisoners, one hundred and fifty guns, thirteen locomotives in good order, one hundred and ninety cars, a large supply of ammunition and materials of war, three steamers and thirty-three thousand bales of cotton safely stowed in warehouses.

All these valuable fruits of an almost bloodless victory have been, like Atlanta, fairly won.

I opened communication with the city with my steamers today, taking up what torpedoes we could see, and passing safely over others. Arrangements are made to clear the channel of all obstructions. Yours, & c.,

(Signed) J. G. Foster, Major-General.

The Richmond papers of yesterday state that on the 23d twenty-six vessels of the Wilmington expedition had reappeared.

The dispatch of Gen. Bragg, as published in the Richmond papers, is as follows:

"Wilmington, Friday, Dec. 23.

V Twenty-six vessels of the Federal fleet reappeared this morning. There has been no change since last dispatch."

This is the latest intelligence received from that expedition.

Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/1222.html#article>

## **WASHINGTON POST PANEL DISCUSSES THE ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT SOUTH CAROLINA HAD THE RIGHT TO SECEDE**

**THERE ARE MANY VIEWS**, most of them with valid support, as to what actions led to the Civil War. The Kansas-Nebraska Act, the troubles in Kansas, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, John Brown's raid into Harpers Ferry, Calhoun's nullification arguments, the presidential election of 1860, and on and on! But there is little disagreement that the secession of South Carolina on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1861, set the nation on the road to war! Fort Sumter was just the culmination of secession for the Carolinians.

Everything that resulted in the armed struggle for the preservation of the Union would stem from this one action. The secession of South Carolina would be followed by the same actions by six more states by the first week in February. And we know that for those southern states that followed the action of South Carolina that they all agreed beforehand that there had to be concert of action if they were to be successful in their bid to leave the Union. The question, for a variety of reasons, persists to this day, did South Carolina have a legal right to secede? The Washington Post has created a blog site to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the War of the Rebellion. The following are the views of some respected historians on the issue.

## **CHANDRA MANNING: DID SOUTH CAROLINA HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO SECEDE?**

*BY CHANDRA MANNING*

*ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY*



MANNING

In a narrowly-defined sense, the answer to whether South Carolina had a constitutional right to secede from the Union depends on what one sees as the relationship between the Articles of Confederation and the United States Constitution. If one looks at the Constitutional Convention as what it professed [at least at first] to be, as a convention to improve, modify, and correct the Articles of Confederation, but not to reject it or the country created by the signatories to it entirely, then the Constitution prohibits secession, because the Articles of Confederation declared the Union to be "perpetual," and the "more perfect Union" invoked by the Constitution implicitly accepts and affirms the "perpetual" union dictated by the Articles of Confederation. Abraham Lincoln understood the relationship between the Articles and the Constitution that way, as did the United States Supreme Court in the 1869 *Texas v. White* decision. But not everybody did, or does. If one sees the Constitution as a complete rejection of the Articles of Confederation, with no carry-over, then the Constitution neither permits nor forbids secession.

Moreover, to many Americans in 1860 and 1861, constitutionality was not really what mattered most anyway. Many a Confederate soldier believed secession to be unconstitutional, but supported secession anyway because more than the Constitution, as he saw it, was at stake. Similarly, many Union soldiers might well have been able to concede a constitutional right to secede, but not believe that circumstances in 1860 and 1861 warranted invocation of that right

especially when the fate of representative government was at stake, which they firmly believed to be the case since the immediate catalyst for the secession of the first seven states was dissatisfaction with the results of a free and fair election.

In a larger sense, however, I believe that the United States Constitution is fundamentally unclear on secession; neither the "ayes" nor the "nays" have an airtight case within the text of the Constitution itself. What is more, if that question had been put to the Founders who framed and signed it, they would not have agreed among themselves. So it is not only that Americans in 1860 did not have a clear and unambiguous answer to the question of whether the Constitution permitted or forbade secession, they could not have one, because of the very process by which the Constitution had come to be. That deliberative process, with room for differing points of view, stands as one of the great legacies of the Constitutional Convention, and usually as one of its greatest achievements. Secession and subsequent civil war, however, represent the limits of that achievement, because in 1860 and 1861 deliberative process proved unequal to the crisis at hand.

## **CRAIG SYMONDS: DID SOUTH CAROLINA HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO SECEDE?**

*BY CRAIG SYMONDS*

*PROFESSOR EMERITUS AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY*



South Carolinians pointed out that to become a part of the Union, each State had to ratify the Constitution -- and do so voluntarily. Ratification did not take place by State government action -- the States had to call conventions to do so. Thus approval came not from the States, but from the people of those States. The southern argument was that since each State [or the people thereof] had voluntarily ratified the Constitution, they could also voluntarily UN-ratify it -- which is what the secession ordinance did. Advocates of secession argued that when that happened, the States re-assumed the status they had held prior to ratification -- as independent sovereignties. That is why South Carolina held a Secession Convention: to undo its earlier act. Presumably if ratification by convention is legal, then UN-ratification by convention is also legal.

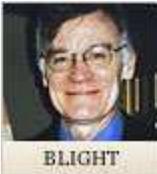
Abraham Lincoln's argument [and by extension that of the North] was that the Union was intended by the Founders to be permanent. The Articles of Confederation had stipulated that it was to be a "perpetual union," and the Constitution itself declared that its purpose was "to form a more perfect Union." In addition, Lincoln asserted in his Inaugural Address that "Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments." And even if the United States was "merely an association of states" as the South claimed, he did not believe it could be "peaceably unmade by less than all the parties who made it?" In other words, if all of the States agreed that South Carolina could depart in peace, then it could. But if the rest of the States withheld permission, then secession was illegal.

Each of these arguments is consistent and plausible. What determined the matter was the war. Lacking any precedent, if South Carolina made secession stick, then it was legal; if she lost her bid to secede by being defeated in war, then secession was not legal. Since the South lost, secession is not legal (Rick Perry notwithstanding).

## **DAVID BLIGHT: DID SOUTH CAROLINA HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO SECEDE?**

*BY DAVID BLIGHT*

*PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND DIRECTOR OF THE GILDER LEHRMAN CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SLAVERY AND ABOLITION AT YALE UNIVERSITY*



The idea of secession is rooted in the long American tradition of federalism and the doctrine of states' rights. But the answer to this question is an unqualified no. There was and is no "right" to secession from the Union. Diehard believers in John C. Calhoun's theory of the "concurrent majority," or in the doctrine of nullification [the alleged right of a state to reject or overtly repeal federal legislation within their borders] may claim a logical extension to the act of secession. And we have current day politicians who like to flirt with the language and threat of nullification, such as Governor Perry of Texas as well as many who apparently hope to repeal parts or all of the new health care bill. But there was no Constitutional right to secession in 1860-61, and there is none today.

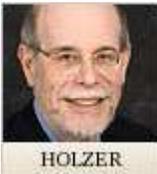
What the Southern states did have in their resistance to the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 was a "natural" right of revolution. That, indeed, is what they really did. They engaged in a revolution against the United States government as it was constituted. The right of revolution is, of course, one of the four first principles in Jefferson's Declaration of Independence. As Jefferson well knew, the leaders of the American revolution were rebels against Britain. And in any reasonable definition, that is therefore exactly what the Confederates were in 1860-61: rebels, or revolutionaries, against the United States. They were not exercising a right to state sovereignty, which is what they would argue during and well after the war, and as their defenders still do today. They were engaged in revolution, and in legal-constitutional terms, treason. Revolutions are won and lost; in this case, a second American revolution resulted in the expansion of human freedom and equality, and the reinvention of the U. S. Constitution, not, as the Confederacy sought, a society based on slavery and white supremacy.

Secession is not only a dead letter, but one might hope a dead spirit, in American political and Constitutional life. States' rights doctrine, however, is of course alive and well and thrives on our Supreme Court as well as in right wing politics. Its adherents, one can hope against hope, will learn some caution and wisdom from the disaster of 1861. One hopes that they will remember that the purpose of the 14th Amendment in the wake of the war and emancipation was to federalize the enforcement of the Bill of Rights within the states forever.

## **HAROLD HOLZER: DID SOUTH CAROLINA HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO SECEDE?**

*BY HAROLD HOLZER*

*AUTHOR OR EDITOR OF 36 BOOKS, MANY ON LINCOLN, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL FOUNDATION*



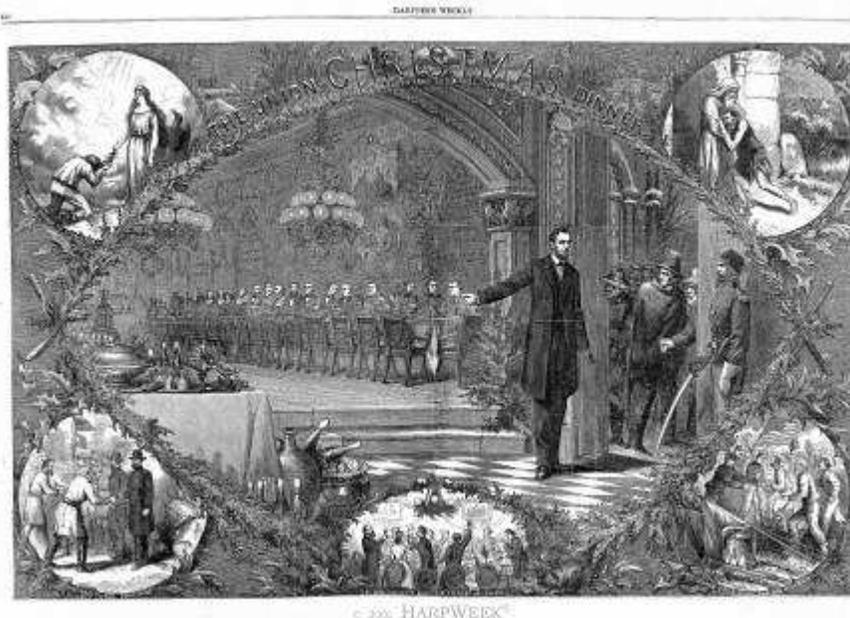
Constitutional experts have pretty much settled the argument about whether South Carolina — or any of the slave states — enjoyed the constitutional right to secede from the Union and form what Lincoln rightly called an "illegal organization," the Confederacy.

The answer — so powerfully echoed by the sacrifices of the 340,000 federal soldiers killed in the war to save the nation — is no. Nothing in the nation's founding documents, once ratified, anticipated or justified their nullification. Secession, as Abraham Lincoln put it, was "legally nothing."

No one ever gave more powerful or convincing voice to the argument for the sanctity and permanence of the Union. As Lincoln insisted in his 1861 inaugural address: "no government proper ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination." And then he added in words that did not require a law degree to comprehend: "Physically speaking, we cannot separate. We cannot remove our respective sections from each other, nor build an impassable wall between them. A husband and wife may be divorced, and go out of the presence, and beyond the reach of each other; but the different parts of our country cannot do this."

Lincoln eloquently elaborated on this theme in his Message to the July 4, 1861 special session of Congress. Secession, he argued, had compelled America to face "the question, whether discontented individuals, too few in number to control administration, according to organic law, in any case, can always, upon the pretences made in this case, or any other pretences, or arbitrarily, without any pretence, break up their Government, and thus practically put an end to free government upon the earth." In other words, he asked, was America "too weak to maintain its own existence?" Lincoln's answer was no. And what he did as a commander-in-chief to resist secession was wholly justified, I agree, by the Constitution he swore to preserve, protect, and defend, in perpetuity.

[http://voices.washingtonpost.com/house-divided/2010/11/did\\_south\\_carolina\\_have\\_a\\_cons\\_2.html](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/house-divided/2010/11/did_south_carolina_have_a_cons_2.html)



## The Union Christmas Dinner

*Artist: Thomas Nast*

As the Union military advanced across the South in December 1864, making Confederate defeat seem to be only a matter of time, artist Thomas Nast drew a holiday illustration betokening mercy for the vanquished and sectional reconciliation for the nation. Under the Christmas proclamation of "Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men," President Abraham Lincoln is the gracious host who generously welcomes the Confederates—President Jefferson Davis, General Robert E. Lee, and state governors—in from the cold, and gestures for them to return to their rightful seats at the sumptuous feast of the states. Seated at the table are the governors of the Union states, and on the wall behind them appear portraits of leading Union generals.

Framing the main banquet scene are four circular insets that convey the message that if the Confederacy will lay down its arms, surrender unconditionally, and be contrite, then the Union will be merciful and joyously welcome them back into the fold. Viewing them clockwise from the upper-left, the symbolic figure of Victory, backed by the American Eagle, offers the olive branch of peace to a submissive Confederate soldier; the forgiving father from the biblical parable embraces his wayward son, whose sorrow for his past rebellion prompts the father to honor his son with a celebratory dinner; under the tattered American flag, the ordinary soldiers of the Union and Confederacy reunite happily as friends and brothers *after* the Confederate arms and battle standards have been laid on the ground; and, General Robert E. Lee, the Confederate commander, bows respectfully and offers his sword in unconditional surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant, the commander of the Union troops. In the lower-center is a scene from a holiday table at which a Northern family drinks a toast to the Union servicemen.

The images of the illustration advocate firm commitment to the Union military policy demanding unconditional surrender of the Confederacy, and envision sectional reconciliation within the Christmas spirit of mercy and peace. More subtly, but just as importantly, the artist is supporting the Reconstruction policy of President Lincoln, who had been contesting with Congress for a year over the content and control of reintegrating the seceded states back into the Union. Written under the figure of Lincoln is a quote from the president's recent annual message to Congress on December 6, 1864, which refers to his Reconstruction program: "The door has been for a full year open to all." The sketch was probably almost completed by the time of Lincoln's address, with the quote added after the artist read the presidential message in the next

day's newspaper. On December 12, Nast was allowed to meet briefly with Lincoln, although a record of their discussion does not exist.

During the Civil War, President Lincoln's foremost task was to ensure military victory over the Confederacy, but he also began to consider the process for Reconstruction, or how to reintegrate the seceded states back into the political Union. He assumed that his executive powers under the Constitution, primarily as commander in chief and, secondarily through the presidential pardoning power, gave him the authority to establish Reconstruction policy with little Congressional assistance or interference. He did admit, however, that Congress had ultimate authority to approve a presidential Reconstruction plan because Congress had the constitutional power to seat or not seat representatives elected from the states (senators and congressmen). In formulating his Reconstruction policy, Lincoln realized the plan should not undermine Union military policy, and that it would need to appeal to Southern Unionists as well as to the diverse views of the Northern population. Thus, there were strategic and political limitations, in addition to the constitutional ones, upon presidential Reconstruction policy.

Lincoln did not have to theorize about the future because there was a real-world example of Reconstruction early in the war. Five days after the state of Virginia seceded from the Union on April 17, 1861, the 35 western counties of the state initiated the process for rejoining the Union. They soon set up an interim government, held elections for representatives and a plebiscite approving creation of a new state in the fall of 1861, drafted and ratified a state constitution in the spring of 1862, and Congress responded by granting West Virginia statehood in 1863. This process reinforced the president's assumptions that Reconstruction should be carried out quickly, and that it should be guided primarily by Unionists in the seceded states. Meanwhile, as the Union military gained Confederate territory in the South in 1862, Lincoln appointed military governors for Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

In December 1863, as the House was debating statehood for West Virginia, President Lincoln announced his Reconstruction plan to the nation. It offered a general amnesty to all white Southerners who would take an oath of future loyalty to the federal government and would accept the wartime measures dealing with emancipation. (High civil and military officers of the Confederacy, as well as those who mistreated black soldiers, were temporarily excluded from the general amnesty.) Whenever 10 percent of the number of a state's voters in 1860 took the loyalty oath, then those loyal voters could establish the state's new government. Lincoln's plan was weighted toward local control in the hands of Southern Unionists, while requiring they abide by federal emancipation policies. The president emphasized that his plan was open to change, and that he would listen to suggestions from Congressmen or anyone else with a practical alternative. The immediate reaction in Congress and the Northern press was almost universally positive.

Congressmen began to work on the details of Reconstruction, but became suspicious that the president was ignoring their efforts.

They were also concerned that the governments being established under Lincoln's plan in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee were curtailing the liberties of the freed slaves. The angry reaction in early 1864 was spearheaded by a small but influential group known as the Radical Republicans. Led by Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts and Representative Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania, these lawmakers had previously been critical of the president for being overly cautious on emancipation, the enlistment of blacks into the Union armed forces, and other wartime policies. As Lincoln's own treasury secretary, Salmon P. Chase, secretly worked to replace the president on the 1864 Republican ticket, the Radical Republicans formulated their own Reconstruction plan, the Wade-Davis bill.

Authored by Senator Benjamin Wade of Ohio and Congressman Henry Winter Davis of Maryland, the Wade-Davis bill passed Congress by a wide margin in July 1864, just after the Republicans renominated Lincoln. The Wade-Davis bill agreed with Lincoln's plan in the appointment of a provisional governor and a simple loyalty oath in the initial stage. Otherwise, the congressional measure was more stringent in almost every respect. Instead of requiring 10 percent to swear loyalty, it called for a majority; it then required that the electorate for a constitutional convention take an "ironclad" oath of never having fought against the Union; and it stipulated that the new state constitution must abolish slavery, disfranchise Confederate political and military leaders, and repudiate Confederate state debts. When all these conditions were met, then Congress would readmit the state to the Union. The Wade-Davis bill gave much more control to Congress and more protection to the freed slaves. President Lincoln dispensed with it by a pocket veto.

In August, the outraged sponsors of the bill responded with the Wade-Davis Manifesto in which they accused Lincoln of acting like a dictator and usurping Congressional authority over Reconstruction. This public spat came as Union military progress stalled and some Republicans talked of replacing Lincoln on the Republican ticket with General John C. Fremont. However, Atlanta's fall in early September 1864 and other Union victories on the field enabled Lincoln to win reelection handily in November. Nevertheless, when Congress reconvened in December, it refused to count the Electoral votes or seat the representatives elected from the three states reconstructed under Lincoln's plan.

In January 1865, with intense lobbying from President Lincoln, the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery passed Congress and was sent to the state legislatures for ratification. The harmony between the president and Congress over abolition did not extend to Reconstruction. Some historians have argued that during the months before his assassination in April 1865, the president was moving toward compromise with Congress. Other historians contend that the Lincoln's views on Reconstruction remained consistent throughout his presidency. After his death, both conservative and radical politicians would look back to Lincoln's ambiguous statements about Reconstruction in early 1865 to claim him as one of their own.

In his Second Inaugural Address on March 4, 1865, Lincoln expressed his sentiments about Reconstruction in the phrase "with malice toward none, with charity for all," implying a conciliatory policy, although not necessarily one without demands on the former Confederate states. His final public statement about Reconstruction came in remarks to a crowd on the White House lawn on April 11, 1865. He objected to grounding Reconstruction on constitutional theories—"pernicious abstractions"—about the status of the former Confederate states. (Unknown to his audience, he may have been reacting to a conversation earlier in the day with Salmon P. Chase, the new Supreme Court chief justice.) Lincoln defended his Reconstruction plan, but reiterated that it was open to change, and again promised to consider Congressional contributions. He also expressed the hope that the states would enact limited black suffrage—the first public statement in favor of black voting rights by an American president.

How Lincoln would have reacted to changing circumstances in the South, and to what extent he would have compromised with Congress over Reconstruction, will never be known. On April 14, 1865, assassin John Wilkes Booth mortally wounded Lincoln, who died the next day. The duty of administering Reconstruction fell to the new president, Andrew Johnson, a Southern Democrat who Lincoln had appointed as military governor of Tennessee before he became vice president. Johnson's Reconstruction plan would also be criticized by Congressional Republicans who would eventually take over the process.

Robert C. Kennedy

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/harp/1231.html>

## **A MATTER OF TREASON**

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**The following letter was issued in response to a request concerning the amnesty status of one General Robert E. Lee. The letter was provided by Bob Huddleston, a colleague on the editor's civil war chat site.**

In the years since the close of the Civil War, there has been much discussion over whether Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Alexander Stephens, Judah Benjamin, James Longstreet and other leaders of the rebellion were traitors. The pro-confederate elements like to point out that since no one was ever actually prosecuted for treason, one can assume that they were not traitors to their nation. It is not such an easy call, however. Political and military

considerations deeply effected the desire to punish the late rebels after the war. One large consideration was the terms of the surrender signed by General Lee in which the officers and men of the Army of Northern Virginia were granted pardons by U.S. Grant. General Lee was in fact charged with treason after the war. General Grant, who was still extremely popular with the people, would threaten to resign if Lee was prosecuted. He argued that his grant of pardons to Lee and others had to be honored. Jefferson Davis was also charged with treason and held a prisoner at Fortress Monroe for a period of time.

In Davis's case, it was determined that the location of the treason was either in Mississippi or Virginia. After much soul searching it was determined by Joshua Speed, U. S. Attorney General, and Joseph Holt, the assigned prosecutor, that the likelihood of a conviction in a civilian court in a former rebel state would probably fail; the case was simply dismissed.

The import of the following letter makes it clear that the U.S. government considered Lee a traitor and that certain restrictions were thus placed on his civil rights. The letter from Major General J. A. Ulio makes it clear that Lee's status was covered under certain amnesty provisions signed into law by President Andrew Johnson in 1868. There seems to be no doubt that Lee's actions were treasonous and that due to certain considerations he had never officially been pardoned for his treason.

A.G. 201

Lee, Robert E. (16 Jan 45) RO-R  
Mrs. Sam. A. Davis,  
235 South Jackson,  
Glendale 5, California.

Dear Mrs. Davis:

In response to your letter of 16 January 1945, herewith in a copy of my letter of 27 June 1936, regarding General Robert E. Lee, C.S.A. "In a proclamation dated May 29, 1865 (13 Stat. 758), President Johnson granted, with certain exceptions, amnesty and pardon 'to all persons who have, directly or indirectly, participated in the existing rebellion \* \* \*. Among the persons excepted from the operation of this proclamation were "3rd. All who shall have been military or naval officers of said pretended confederate government above the rank of colonel in the army or lieutenant in the navy;"5th. All who resigned or tendered resignations of their

commissions in the army or navy of the United States to evade duty in resisting the rebellion; "8th.

All military and naval officers in the rebel service, who were educated by the government in the Military Academy at West Point or the United States Naval Academy."

"Persons who sought to accept the benefits of this proclamation were required to take and subscribe to, maintain inviolate, an oath of allegiance prescribed therein.

"General Lee, although not included within the terms of this proclamation by reason of the above quoted exceptions, made application for a pardon which, however, appears never to have been acted upon by President Johnson. The required oath of allegiance did not accompany General Lee's application (War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol. XLVI, Part III, pp. 1275-1286).

"On July 4, 1868, President Johnson issued another proclamation of amnesty and pardon (15 Stat. 702) which was much broader in its application than that of May 29, 1865, in that it granted " \* \* \* unconditionally and without reservation, to all and to every person who directly or indirectly participated in the late insurrection or rebellion, excepting such person or persons as may be under presentment or indictment in any court of the United States having competent jurisdiction, upon a charge of treason or other felony, a full pardon and amnesty for the offense of treason against the United States, or of adhering to their enemies during the late civil war \* \* \*".

"No oath of allegiance or other act was required of those who were pardoned by the amnesty of July 4, 1868, above cited. "It would appear that this amnesty proclamation operated to pardon General Lee for the offense of treason for, so far as is known, General Lee was not under presentment or indictment upon a charge of treason or other felony.

"On July 13, 1868, nine days after the proclamation last above referred to, the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified by the last State necessary for its adoption. "The third section of this amendment materially restricted the political rights of former officers of the United States who had participated in the rebellion against them, unless relieved from such disability by a vote of two-thirds of each House of Congress.

"In a proclamation dated December 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 711), President Johnson proclaimed and declared" \* \* \* unconditionally, and without reservation, to all and every person who directly or indirectly

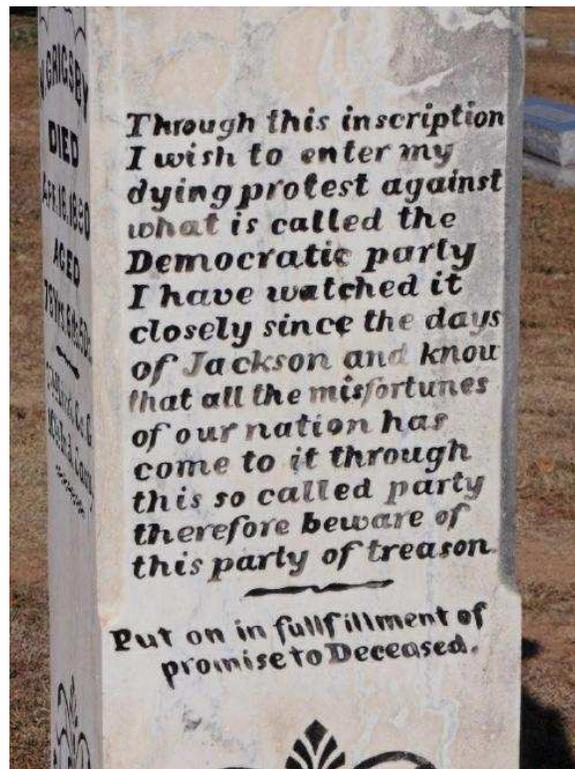
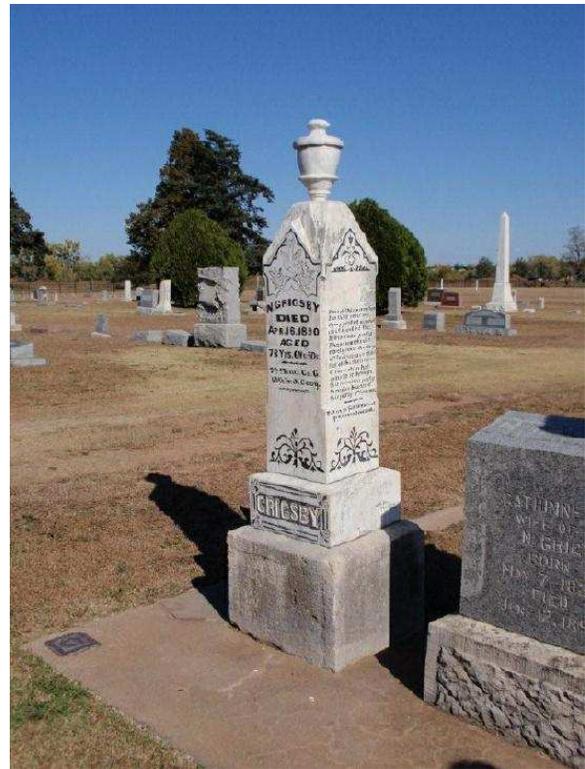
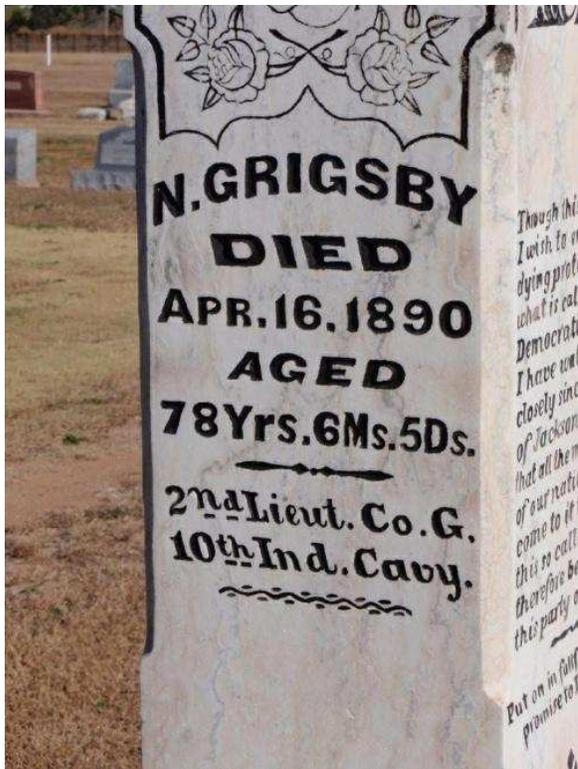
participated in the late insurrection or rebellion, a full pardon and amnesty for the offence of treason against the United States, or of adhering to their enemies during the late civil war, with restoration of all rights, privileges, and immunities under the Constitution and the laws which have been made in pursuance thereof.

"This proclamation following, as it did, the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment, was necessarily limited in its operation by the restrictions imposed by that Amendment upon the President's pardoning power. The proclamation was operative, however, to pardon General Lee for the offense of treason and restore all to his former constitutional rights, privileges and immunities except the right to hold certain offices. "Following General Lee's death, October 12, 1870, Congress, by the acts of May 22, 1872 (17 Stat. 142), and June 6, 1898 (30 Stat. 432), removed all political disabilities imposed by the 3rd Section of the Fourteenth Amendment.

"It seems clear that General Lee was in fact pardoned by President Johnson, if not by the proclamation of July 4, 1868, then certainly by that of December 25, 1868, and that any political limitations to which he was subject by the Fourteenth Amendment were removed by the act of June 6, 1898. "It is the opinion of the War Department that full and complete amnesty was accorded to General Lee by the several proclamations and acts of Congress above referred to, and that there remains no disability with respect to him upon which a further act of the Executive or of Congress could be operative even if he were still living."

Sincerely yours,  
J.A. ULIO,  
Major General,  
The Adjutant General  
By:

201 File, Old Records Division, Adjutant General's Office, 1917- ,  
RG  
407, National Archives Microfilm M-2063, Military Service Records  
of  
Robert E. Lee



<http://www.snopes.com/photos/signs/grigsby.asp#photo2>

**THE RED BADGE OF  
COURAGE  
BY STEPHEN CRANE**

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CHAPTER V. (CONT'D)

There was a consciousness always of the presence of his comrades about him. He felt the subtle battle brotherhood more potent even than the cause for which they were fighting. It was a mysterious fraternity born of the smoke and danger of death.

He was at a task. He was like a carpenter who has made many boxes, making still another box, only there was furious haste in his movements. He, in his thought, was careering off in other places, even as the carpenter who as he works whistles and thinks of his friend or his enemy, his home or a saloon. And these jolted dreams were never perfect to him afterward, but remained a mass of blurred shapes.

Presently he began to feel the effects of the war atmosphere--a blistering sweat, a sensation that his eyeballs were about to crack like hot stones. A burning roar filled his ears.

Following this came a red rage. He developed the acute exasperation of a pestered animal, a well-meaning cow worried by dogs. He had a mad feeling against his rifle, which could only be used against one life at a time. He wished to rush forward and strangle with his fingers. He craved a power that would enable

him to make a world-sweeping gesture and brush all back. His impotency appeared to him, and made his rage into that of a driven beast.

Buried in the smoke of many rifles his anger was directed not so much against the men whom he knew were rushing toward him as against the swirling battle phantoms which were choking him, stuffing their smoke robes down his parched throat. He fought frantically for respite for his senses, for air, as a babe being smothered attacks the deadly blankets.

There was a blare of heated rage mingled with a certain expression of intentness on all faces. Many of the men were making low-toned noises with their mouths, and these subdued cheers, snarls, imprecations, prayers, made a wild, bar- baric song that went as an undercurrent of sound, strange and chantlike with the resounding chords of the war march. The man at the youth's elbow was babbling. In it there was something soft and tender like the monologue of a babe. The tall soldier was swearing in a loud voice. From his lips came a black procession of curious oaths. Of a sudden another broke out in a querulous way like a man who has mislaid his hat. "Well, why don't they support us? Why don't they send supports? Do they think--"

The youth in his battle sleep heard this as one who dozes hears.

There was a singular absence of heroic poses. The men bending and surging in their haste and rage were in every impossible attitude. The steel ramrods clanked and clanged with incessant din as the men pounded them furiously into the hot rifle barrels. The flaps of the cartridge boxes were all unfastened, and bobbed idiotically with each movement. The rifles, once loaded, were jerked to the shoulder and fired without apparent aim into the smoke or at one of the blurred and shifting forms which upon the field before the regiment had been growing larger and larger like puppets under a magician's hand.

The officers, at their intervals, rearward, neglected to stand in picturesque attitudes. They were bobbing to and fro roaring directions and encouragements. The dimensions of their howls were extraordinary. They expended their lungs with prodigal wills. And often they nearly stood upon their heads in their anxiety to observe the enemy on the other side of the tumbling smoke.

The lieutenant of the youth's company had encountered a soldier who had fled screaming at the first volley of his comrades. Behind the lines these two were acting a little isolated scene. The man was blubbering and staring with sheeplike eyes at the lieutenant, who had seized him by the collar and was pommeling him. He drove him back into the ranks with many blows. The soldier went mechanically, dully, with his animal-like eyes upon the officer.

Perhaps there was to him a divinity expressed in the voice of the other --stern, hard, with no reflection of fear in it. He tried to reload his gun, but his shaking hands prevented. The lieutenant was obliged to assist him.

The men dropped here and there like bundles. The captain of the youth's company had been killed in an early part of the action. His body lay stretched out in the position of a tired man resting, but upon his face there was an astonished and sorrowful look, as if he thought some friend had done him an ill turn. The babbling man was grazed by a shot that made the blood stream widely down his face. He clapped both hands to his head. "Oh!" he said, and ran. Another grunted suddenly as if he had been struck by a club in the stomach. He sat down and gazed ruefully. In his eyes there was mute, indefinite reproach. Farther up the line a man, standing behind a tree, had had his knee joint splintered by a ball. Immediately he had dropped his rifle and gripped the tree with both arms. And there he remained, clinging desperately and crying for assistance that he might withdraw his hold upon the tree.

## **INFORMATION FROM THE 150<sup>TH</sup> REENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE OF FIRST BULL RUN**

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***Below you will find the language of the waiver form required by all reenactors to be sent with your payment of \$20.00 to attend this event. The actual form didn't transfer, but you can review the language yourselves.***

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## **JULY 23 AND 24, 2011 AT PAGELAND FARM**

### ***REENACTORS' RELEASE FORM & WAIVER OF RIGHTS***

**Mail with \$20 Payment**

**Prince William County/Manassas CVB  
attn. 150th Reenactment 10611 Balls Ford rd.  
suite 110 Manassas, Va 20109**

**In order to register you must also complete the 'Reenactor/Waiver Form.**

**Each registrant (military and civilian) must be listed. Any registrant that has not signed the waiver form sent in with registration will be required to sign such a form at reenactor Check -in on-site.**

**Please read this carefully as you are waiving certain legal rights by signing this Reenactors' Release Form.**

**See the rules for 150th Commemoration Reenactment of the Battle of 1st Manassas/Bull Run posted on the Web Site.**

By attending and participating in this reenactment, I recognize that there are risks attendant to this activity, including, but not limited to, open campfires, handling and use of black powder, discharge of small arms and cannons, the risk of injury attendant to movement of large groups of people, the presence and use of horses and/or other animals and risks associated with primitive camping.

I hereby assume any and all risks of danger occasioned by my presence and participation in any and all activities in any way related to the reenactment.

I further agree to release and hold harmless Prince William County/Manassas Convention & Visitors Bureau, their agents, assigns, employees, directors and officers, and members of the Mason-Dixon Alliance from any and all claims for property damage or personal injury of any kind, no matter how incurred, sustained during my presence at the reenactment or while on their properties.

I hereby grant to the Prince William County/Manassas Convention & Visitors Bureau, their licensees, successors, and assigns the rights to make use of my appearance, actions, voice, sounds and other attributes (collectively "Appearance") and any part of them comprising or related to my attendance of or participation in 1st Manassas Battlefield reenactment(s), related activities (e.g., camp activities, the dances, etc.) and visits to sites or facilities in the Prince William county area.

This grant shall be effective everywhere, perpetual, for an unlimited number of times, and shall include the rights to photograph, film, depict, reproduce, distribute, record, transmit, store, display, make derivative and edited works during the period July 19 – 25, 2011.

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**suite 110 Manassas, Va 20109**

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Contact Info of Participant Submitting Form:

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_