November 2014
Volume 24
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Monument to the 9th NJ Infantry, New Bern, North Carolina

“The 9th NJ Infantry and the Bermuda Hundred Campaign”
Presenter: Member Walt Lafty

Our November Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2014
7:30 pm
6:15 pm for dinner (all welcome – make reservation!)
Radisson Hotel
Route 1 @ Old Lincoln Highway
Trevose, PA


Call Rose Boyle at 215-638-4244 for reservations by November 13. Dinner Price $24.00
You are responsible for dinners not cancelled by Monday morning November 17.
In This Issue

- Media alert – a new Lincoln film makes a short engagement
- Paula Gidjunis shares late news on the preservation front
- A recap of October’s meeting by Larry Vogel
- Hugh Boyle with some book gift suggestions and a review of a unique Lincoln book
- Paula Gidjunis and John Shivo were out Around Town at a special event
- A look ahead to the Winter/Spring semester at the Civil War Institute
- A Thanksgiving Vignette from Larry Vogel
- Walt Lafty shares some family history, and ties in some of Andy Waskie’s research
- Off the Wall with Bernice Kaplan, and Charles Dickens’ connection to the Civil War
- Rich Jankowski shares a recent visit to the Crescent City
- A 21st century Gettysburg Address
- Commemoration of the Sesquicentennial with events of November 1864

Searching for – and Finding – His Roots

Our November presentation by Walt Lafty will focus on the service of the 9th New Jersey Infantry Regiment during the Bermuda Hundred Campaign of 1864. Walt’s great-great-grandfather, Lewis Murphy, served in that regiment.

For the last 30 years, Walt has been an amateur genealogist. About 10 years ago, he uncovered three direct ancestors who served in the Civil War. With that information and a lifelong interest in history, he began studying and participating in Civil War history.

Since that time, Walt has joined various groups dedicated to preserving the memory of those ancestors and Civil War history. Those groups include: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Delaware Valley CWRT, Bucks County CWRT, and the G.A.R. Museum and Library.

Walt was born, raised, and currently lives in Philadelphia. After enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1968, he served 13 months in Vietnam with the 45th Military Intelligence Company and with the Combined Intelligence Center Vietnam (CICV). He became a Philadelphia Firefighter in 1975 and retired in 1999 to take a position with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB). With the PLCB, he is a supervisor within the Bureau of Alcohol Education (BAE).

In 1996 at age 45, Walt earned a B.A. in Psychology from Holy Family University after eight years of part time courses. Walt is married with three children, one stepchild (deceased), and 10 grandchildren.

It is hard to believe that it is November already, but it is here, and that means our annual award night. Like all other years we are excited about the award winners for this year. Each year the members of the board of directors of this round table evaluate and decide who will be the winner of our Award of Merit. They have always chosen outstanding people who not only serve the Civil War community but preserve the heritage of the Civil War for future generations. The 2014 winner of that award is Robert Hicks of the Mütter Museum and the College of Physicians. Robert’s dedication to bringing information and education of medicine in the Civil War has been a rewarding experience for all. He is a sought after speaker on that subject, and his reputation goes beyond our local area. I look forward to handing Robert that award at this month’s meeting.
The other award given out that night is the “President’s Award” given to a member of this round table who has shown dedication to our mission of Information, Education, Preservation and Fellowship. The award this year goes to Walt Lafty. Walter has given his time and energy to the mission of the round table. Walt is the “Yes Guy” who is always willing to help and be part of our efforts to build our round table and to work on preservation projects for the legacy of the men who fought the war. He is active in many phases of the Civil War community. We are proud that he is one of us and look forward to his reception of the President’s Award. So I eagerly look forward to being with all of you for a wonderful night.

Hugh Boyle
President

Brain Teasers

NOVEMBER BRAIN TEASERS

1 – What did Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis and Henry Clay all have in common?

2 – What was William Henry Fitzhugh Lee’s nickname?

3 – On the Peninsula McClellan had 177 what?

(Answers in next month’s newsletter!)

ANSWERS TO THE OCTOBER BRAIN TEASERS

1 – How many Union soldiers were executed for desertion? – 141
2 – Who was president on the day Robert E. Lee died? – U.S. Grant
3 – Where was Libby Prison located? – Richmond, Virginia

Member News

Congratulations to our October book raffle winners, Matt Bruce, who won both the dinner book and a second book at the meeting, John Voris, and Jack Kauffman.

Pete Romeika is a busy man. He will be presenting a program on a CompuServe Civil War Forum tour to Leesburg, Point of Rocks, Balls Bluff, Monacacy, and Ft. Stevens to the Villanova Civil War Forum on November 19 at the American Legion Hall in Wayne. Pete also had the opportunity to preview the William Glackens exhibition during the last workshop at the Barnes Foundation on November, and he highly recommends the exhibition which runs through February 2015. And finally, Pete spent last weekend visiting his daughter and grandchildren in Greenwich.

Walt Lafty was treated to the ultimate compliment, or was he? Dressed in CW garb to give a first-person presentation recently to his niece’s 7th and 8th grade students at St. Mark’s Elementary School in Bristol, Walt was asked by his student escort to the classroom if he had really fought in the Civil War - and he was serious! Other than that, Walt reports the kids at the presentation asked some really great questions!!

Kudos to Herb Kaufman and Hugh Boyle, for executing a marvelous trip to Annapolis, Maryland, on Saturday, October 25. Obviously, our travel mavens spent a great deal of time and energy to make it a perfect day. Even the weather gods cooperated by providing us with absolutely gorgeous weather.

----- Bernice Kaplan
**FUTURE MEETINGS**

**DECEMBER 9**
Annual Holiday Dinner
Austrian Village, Rockledge

**JANUARY 20**
Del Val Discussion Night
Topic to be Determined

**FEBRUARY 17**
Del Val President Hugh Boyle
Congressman Lincoln

**MARCH 17**
Mütter Museum Director,
Dr. Robert Hicks
“The Awful Harvest of Gettysburg,
and the Remarkable Year at
Turner’s Lane”

**APRIL 21**
Member William Vosseler
“General George ‘Rock of
Chickamauga’ Thomas - The
No-Apologies Tour”

**MAY 19**
Historian Jane Peters Estes
“The Battle of Gettysburg - Where
Were the Women”

**JUNE 16**
Member Paula Gidjunis
“A Country Worth Fighting For - A
History of the 128th
Pennsylvania Volunteer
Infantry”

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**Upcoming Events**

**November 15, 2014 – Saturday – 10:00 am – Remembrance Day in Gettysburg** – General Meade & his Generals and the veterans of the Battle of Gettysburg Honor/Dedication Ceremonies during the Remembrance Day Observance. Please meet at the Humphreys Monument along Steinwehr Ave. at 10:00am; then proceed to the Meade Equestrian Monument at 10:30am for traditional honor ceremonies and wreath layings. Contact Jerry McCormick at (215) 848-7753 or gedwinmc@msn.com for info.

**December 5-7, 2014 - Friday-Sunday – Starr Tours “Cowboy Christmas” with Jane Peters Estes** – Includes the Illumination at Antietam National Battlefield, Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Rural Heritage Living History Museum, Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, the Miller House, Johnathan Hager House & German Christmas Celebration as well as a Cowboy Christmas Dinner & Show. $439.95 pp/double Starr Tours - 800-782-7703. Jane says she would love to see some familiar faces on the bus!!!

**December 31, 2014 – Wednesday – 11:30 am - Annual General Meade Birthday Celebration**
– Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia – Parade and ceremony at 12 noon at General Meade’s gravesite. All are asked to gather at the Gatehouse at 11:30AM. A champagne toast and reception will follow the program. A tour of the historic cemetery will be offered (weather permitting). This year marks the 24th anniversary of the Meade birthday celebration by the General Meade Society. For directions, call: 215-228-8200 Laurel Hill Cemetery. For info call Dr. Andy Waskie at 215-204-5452.

**January 17, 2015 – Saturday – 11:30 am – Luncheon Honoring Michael Cavanaugh** – Adelphia Restaurant, 1750 Clements Bridge Road, Deptford, NT 08096. Tickets available $40.00. Contact Rich Jankowski. Jediwarrior11@verizon.net; 856-904-5481
THE BETTER ANGELS – A Film About Young Abe
By Bernice Kaplan

While I was at the Philadelphia Ritz Theatre on Friday, November 7, I happened to glance at their updated film calendar. Among the upcoming films, I saw that a new film about Abraham Lincoln will be shown for one week, starting Friday, November 21 at one of the three Ritz Theatres.

THE BETTER ANGELS, written and directed by A.J. Edwards, a disciple of the screenwriter director Terrance Malik (who produced the film), tells the story of young Abraham Lincoln's difficult childhood. It is set in the Indiana woods, in 1817, when Abe (portrayed by new actor Braydon Denney) is only 8 years old. The United States is 40 years old and "raw". Men, women and children alike struggle with nature and disease to survive in remote log cabins. THE BETTER ANGLES examines young Abe's family, the hardships that defined him, the tragedy that affected him forever, and the two women who "guided him to immortality." According to one review, A. J. Edwards creates "breathtaking visual and narrative poetry" to show the Lincolns' world. Historical accuracy is given close attention in this beautiful black and white film. Also starring in the film are Diane Kruger, who portrays Sarah Lincoln, Jason Clark who is Thomas Lincoln and Brit Marling as Nancy Lincoln.

Check newspapers and the Ritz website www.Landmarktheatres.com for more information. The film will probably be shown at the Ritz at the Bourse, 400 Ranstead St. (next to the Bourse Building – it has an adjacent parking garage). Phone number for Ritz at the Bourse is 215-440-1180 or 81. I called the Bourse and they expect to have the film, but the manager suggested that folks call in advance because dates and locations are subject to change. At this point, I have no idea what other theater in the area will be showing the film. From what I read, the film has a limited distribution.

GETTYSBURG CLEAN-UP – NOVEMBER 1

Our Fall Gettysburg Adopt-a-Position cleanup was scheduled for Saturday November 1st. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and we got rained out. Matt Bruce, John Shivo and I decided to try again on Sunday the 2nd. We managed to do a little bit of cleanup, but the wind prevented us from picking up those pesky fallen leaves. Hopefully our spring cleanup will work out better.

Matt, John and I made the best of the bad weather and visited Monocacy battlefield outside Frederick, Md. We explored all the major sites. Going back to Gettysburg, we ignored the major highways and took scenic roads leading to Westminster, the site of the Union Supply Depot during the battle of Gettysburg.

GETTYSBURG EVENTS

The Gettysburg Heritage Center (GHC) is busy with upcoming events, and finishing up the new exhibit space scheduled to open in early November. Remember, admission is free until the end of the year! http://www.gettysburgmuseum.com

November 19th is the 151st anniversary of Lincoln presenting his Gettysburg Address. There are many events planned in Gettysburg to honor this anniversary. Check out on this website a list of events. http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/230
ICONIC MUSEUM CLOSES

The National Museum in Gettysburg closed on November 2nd. Cliff Arquette, known for his TV character Charlie Weaver, started the museum in 1959. Its historical items will be auctioned at the Inn of Gettysburg on Baltimore St. 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 21, and Saturday, Nov. 22. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. both days of the auction. A preview will also be held from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at the 1863 Inn of Gettysburg.


BRANDY STATION PRESERVATION

The Civil War Trust is in the process of restoring Fleetwood Hill at Brandy Station. Brandy Station is the site of the largest cavalry battle on American soil. This is from the Trust’s website: “The demolition plan, approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, which holds a conservation easement on the property, begins with the removal of all modern structures on the property, including two houses, a detached garage, two in-ground pools and a pool house. The Trust worked closely with the seller, who vacated this summer after a negotiated period of tenancy, to find ways of reusing elements of the modern buildings where possible. An aluminum barn on the property, for example, has already been removed for use by the local 4-H club.”


NEW BATTLE APPS

Have you checked the latest FREE battle apps from the Civil War Trust? These apps are great aids on the battlefield. Check it out here:

http://www.civilwar.org/battleapps/

PRESEVATION EFFORTS FOR REVOLUTIONARY AND WAR OF 1812 SITES

The Civil War Trust (CWT) announced on Veterans Day a new initiative, “Campaign 1776”. Taking their many years of experience preserving Civil War battlefields, the CWT will now expand this protection to Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites. For more information check out www.civilwar.org

Support Preservation by Donating Books and Magazines

By Herb Kaufman

This year has been a banner year in terms of our well known and valuable magazine and book sales.

Therefore, we need your donations of books and magazines! Please check around at home. Do you have any Civil War related, other history or biography magazines and books that are gathering dust? Do you have any books or periodicals that you really have not used for a while? Please consider donating them to the round table.

Your donations are a WIN-WIN-WIN for you, other round table members and our outstanding Preservation Committee. You get the opportunity to donate your no longer needed books and magazines to a worthy cause, other members get an opportunity to purchase books at a fraction of the original cost, and the money donated goes directly to our preservation efforts. With your kind donations EVERYBODY WINS!

So, check your bookshelves, look in the closet, and look under the bed. Please bring unwanted books and magazines to a round table meeting. We can also arrange for you to drop them off at my home if that is more convenient. With your help we hope to continue to have great future book sales and raise funds for our preservation efforts.

All funds raised through your donations are directly used for the preservation of our Civil War battlefields and historic sites.
“I Spy” – Civil War Style
By Larry Vogel

The October meeting of the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table featured a presentation on “Secrets and Spies” by our own Herb Kaufman. Herb stepped up to the plate when the scheduled speaker, unexpectedly and unfortunately, had to cancel due to illness. I knew that Herb was well versed on the subject as I had already seen this presentation a year or so ago at my local library in Lower Makefield Township.

Herb began by defining a spy. He said that the 1862 definition of a spy is, “that of a person sent into an enemy camp to inspect their works, ascertain their strength, watch their movements and secretly communicate intelligence to the proper officer.”

Herb said that many Civil War generals did not like or trust spies, but on many occasions had to use their information. He quoted Major General John Gibbon, ”The spy is well known to all armies. He is a useful character, despised by all, even those whom he serves …”

Spies in the Civil War generally were not in uniform, and if they were caught were subject to immediate execution.

Herb then proceeded to use Power Point to describe many famous incidents and spies. One of the most famous incidents, which has been portrayed several times on film, is Andrew’s Raid, or as it is more commonly referred to as the Great Locomotive Chase.

The Great Locomotive chase occurred on April 12, 1862, in northern Georgia. Volunteers from the Union Army, led by civilian scout James Andrews, commandeered a train and took it northward toward Chattanooga, Tennessee, doing as much damage as possible to the railroad as they went. When they realized that the train was stolen, the train’s conductor, William Fuller, and two other men, chased the stolen train, first on foot, then by handcar.

Since the raiders stopped occasionally to damage the tracks and create mayhem, pursuers eventually were able to catch up with them. Finally, just short of Chattanooga, with the locomotive out of fuel, Andrews’ men abandoned the General and scattered. Andrews and all of his men were caught within two weeks.

All the prisoners were tried in military courts. Andrews was hung on June 7. On June 18, seven others were also hanged. Private Jacob Parrot was awarded the first Medal of Honor issued in the Civil War for being part of the mission.

Herb then moved on to one of America’s most famous spies, Allan Pinkerton. Pinkerton was instrumental in ferreting out and helping to stop the plot to kill Lincoln, before he was inaugurated. On the other hand Pinkerton was one of McClellan’s chief spies. He constantly told McClellan that there were many more rebels in the field than there were, causing McClellan to be too cautious when entering into or continuing a battle. Of course Allan Pinkerton went on to even greater exploits after the war.

Herb then gave us an extensive list of spies with a little information about each one. Here is a brief sampling.

Rose Greenhow – She used her womanly wiles to extract information from northern generals and politicians at Washington parties. She was
credited by Jefferson Davis of ensuring victory at First Bull Run, with the information she provided.

Timothy Webster - He was one of the best of Pinkerton's agents. He was the first spy in the American Civil War to be executed. Timothy Webster climbed the gallows in Richmond, Virginia at Camp Lee. After the initial attempt to hang Webster failed, he was helped to the gallows again and was heard to say, "I suffer a double death!" before being killed on the second attempt. He also has three grave stones. So one can say he was killed twice and buried three times.

Kate Warne - She also was a Pinkerton agent and one of a handful of woman spies in the Civil War.

George Sharp - He assumed the intelligence role for Joe Hooker that Pinkerton had performed for McClellan. His estimates of enemy troop strength proved to be far more accurate than those of his predecessor. He also headed the Bureau of Military Information.

Grenville Dodge - He was Grant’s Intelligence Chief in the Western Theater. He created an effective intelligence gathering network which later proved vital to Grant’s operations and was a precursor to the modern Intelligence Corps of the United States Army.

Sarah Emma Edmonds - She served as a spy and also portrayed a man named Franklin Thompson. She wrote extensively about her experiences disguised as a spy during the war.

Lafayette Baker - He replaced Pinkerton as head of the Union Intelligence Service.

Pauline Cushman - She was an actress and a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War. By the end of the war in 1865 she was touring the country giving lectures on her exploits as a spy.

Belle Boyd - She was a Confederate spy in the Civil War. She operated from her father’s hotel in Front Royal, Virginia, and provided valuable information to Confederate general Stonewall Jackson in 1862.

During the course of his talk Herb apologized several times, due to the speed that he was doing his presentation because he was trying to squeeze a lot in in the compressed time that he had. So apropos to that, I will apologize for not summarizing every spy that Herb discussed, so as to fit this summary in to the space allotted, but once again, the DVCWRT was treated to a great presentation on the Third Tuesday of the month.

The Book Nook

By Hugh Boyle, Book Editor

It’s that time of year when you start to look for or get ready to ask for a good book for a gift. Just looking at the image in the Book Nook logo will tell you [if you didn’t know already] what my interest in reading is. Of course it’s Abraham Lincoln. So watching what has been released and is now stacked on my night stand I have some suggestions for you.

After Lincoln, How the North Won the Civil War and Lost the Peace by A.J. Langguth, tells the story of that time after Lincoln was assassinated, including the troubles of Andrew Johnson and the administrations that followed. It gives insight to the characters of the time of Reconstruction. Simon & Schuster. $28.00

Lincoln’s Gamble by Todd Brewster describes the tumultuous six months that gave America the Emancipation Proclamation and changed the course of the Civil War, and how Lincoln doubted
his principals, fought with his generals and doubted his own cabinet. Scribner $27.00

**Founder’s Son** by Richard Brookhiser explores how the long shadow of the Founding Fathers shaped Lincoln’s words and decisions. Basic Books, $27.99

**Lincoln and the Power of the Press, The War for Public Opinion,** by Harold Holzer, addresses Lincoln’s relationship with the press and how he used it to help steer the huge issues of the day. Simon & Schuster $37.50

And here is one a little off the Lincoln path, but about one of my favorite people.

**American Queen** by John Oller relates the rise and fall of Kate Chase Sprague, the Civil War belle of the North and a Gilded Age woman of scandal. De Capo Press $25.99

There will be more in-depth reports of these later.

**Happy Reading!!**

**Mysteries of the Lincoln Assassination**
**By Michael Hunt**

Reviewed by Hugh Boyle, Book Nook Editor

Yes, there are more books on the Lincoln assassination and author Michael Hunt has a few of his own. This book on the mysteries takes a look at the many, many events of that fateful night in 1865. It looks at the question that you might ask about that night, the people and why they did what they did, or more often why they did not do something. It is a small book and in fact the books pages are not numbered. It is jam packed with question after question, with what Michael Hunt gives as an answer or a reason and possible explanation. If the event is suspicious, Hunt asks why and gives his reason.

Here are some of the questions.
- Why did General Grant renege on the invitation to Ford’s theater?
- Why was Parker absent from his post?
- Why was Parker never punished?
- Was Booth killed in violation of orders?
- Why have Atzerodt target Andrew Johnson?
- Was Booth’s plan really to topple the Government?
- Why were Booth and Herold permitted to cross over the Navy Yard bridge?
- Was Stanton a conspirator or just inept?
- Was Booth really killed at the Garrett Farm?
- When did Booth break his leg?

These are just ten of the pages of questions and possible answers. To some the book may seem unnecessary, only raising questions that can never be answered. But those who are deeply interested in the assassination will read over every question with eagerness.

I found the book interesting, but not compelling. Michael Hunt has published the book on his own and it retails for $19.99.

Abraham Lincoln and the Founding Fathers
by Paula Gidjunis

John Shivo and I attended the Town Hall at the Constitution Center with author Richard Brookhiser as the centerpiece. This is one of a series of Town Halls being presented this fall. Brookhiser wrote a book entitled *Abraham Lincoln, Founders’ Son*. This book is a biography of Lincoln’s struggle to carry on the work of the Founding Fathers.

Brookhiser has written 11 books, including those on James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and George Washington. Judge David Wecht who sits on the Pennsylvania Superior Court served as the interviewer.

Some of the points Brookhiser made:

Lincoln was our least “formally” educated President, but he was self-educated and most likely grew up on the writings of the Founding Fathers.

Lincoln believed that the Founding Fathers intended for slavery eventually to be eliminated because they prevented it from spreading by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787.

Some people believe that Lincoln had no foreign policy during the war. Brookhiser said that Lincoln mainly left this to his Secretary of State, William Seward, and that both of them were expansionists.

Lincoln’s humor during his life was important and he took his cue from the Founding Fathers who were themselves humorous. Lincoln also got his storytelling ability from his father who was a good storyteller.

Lincoln was a fatalist and believed if someone wanted to kill him, there was nothing he could do about it.

That the incident at Ft. Stevens could have happened but no definitive proof exists other than that from Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Lincoln was very concerned about the Constitution and very procedural. He was very careful when issuing the Emancipation Proclamation.

We found the topic interesting but cannot comment other than on what occurred as neither of us has read this book, but hope to in the future.
elective courses is required to receive the certificate. Call (215) 884-2218 to register or for an application for the certificate program. Registration can also be done online at www.manor.edu/cont-ed/civil-war/courses.php

Class hours are 6:30 till 8:30 pm. Manor College is located at 700 Fox Chase Road in Jenkintown, PA.

* Indicates Core Course  
** Indicates Elective Course

**Death of an Army: The Franklin-Nashville Campaign – 6 hrs – When William T. Sherman marched from Atlanta to the sea in November 1864, his recent opponent, John Bell Hood, marched in the opposite direction. Hood’s quixotic scheme to recapture Tennessee ended tragically for his army – which was gutted at Franklin, where six Confederate generals died, and disintegrated at Nashville.  
DATE: Mondays, Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 1  
TIME: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm 
SESSIONS: 3  
FEE: $79  
INSTRUCTOR: Jerry Carrier

Our Spring Semester will begin on January 7, 2015, with six courses, two of them new. Full details will be included in the December issue of Case Shot & Canister, but here is the list of classes and dates:

**Events of 1865 (NEW) – 6 nights – January 7-28, February 4-11

**Assassinated Presidents and Their Medical Treatment (NEW) – 3 nights – February 19-26, March 5

**Charleston, Cradle of Secession – 3 nights – February 25, March 4-11

**The Appomattox Campaign – 3 nights – March 9-23

**Medicine in the Civil War – 4 nights – April 3-27, May 4

*The Lincoln Assassination – 6 nights – April 9-30, May 7, May 21 (no class May 14)

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**Civil War Vignettes**

**Lincoln Starts a Tradition**

By Larry Vogel

Every year the president of the United States pardons a turkey at Thanksgiving so that at least one turkey will survive to see December. When did this unusual custom start? Well like many of our customs it started way back in the Civil War Era.

Thanksgiving was created in part due to the hard work of Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of Godey’s Lady’s Book. She lobbied Congress for many years to create a specific day upon which to celebrate a Thanksgiving holiday. Finally Abraham Lincoln’s proclamation in 1863 created an official holiday. (As a side note, Sarah is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia.)

As it happens, a young turkey was delivered to Pennsylvania Avenue in the summer of 1863. It was intended to grace the table of the White House, but like many animals that came near or in the White House, it became a pet of ten-year old Tad Lincoln. The turkey was named Jack and it became so tame that he followed Tad everywhere.

Tad eventually found out that Jack was to be the main course for the first Thanksgiving celebration. Hysterically, Tad burst into a cabinet meeting with tears streaming down his face, Tad stuttered out the sad story to his Dad, pulling on Lincoln’s coat sleeve and pleading for some sort of intervention from his father concerning the eventual fate of the fowl. The little boy made his case most skillfully. He compared Jack to the soldiers who were pardoned every day in that very same office, and surely the turkey had not offended nearly as much as a soldier accused of desertion!

Lincoln, a notorious pushover for all children, but especially his own, was recorded as hugging his small son tightly, then reaching across the big oak desk for a blank card. Upon it he wrote: “By order of the President of the United States, Jack the turkey is to be spared from execution.”
So there you have it, by the way, the main course for the White House Thanksgiving dinner that year was ham and roasted chicken.

Civil War Ambulance Service of the Philadelphia Volunteer Fire Companies

By Walt Lafty

The fire company in the above photo is close to my heart. My great-great grandfather Michael Lafty was a member of the Good Will Fire Company during the 1850’s and 1860’s up to March 15th 1871, the day the City of Philadelphia began a paid department. Good Will Fire Company, re-designated as Engine 17, was housed at the SW corner of Juniper and Race streets until 1926. A new station was built at 1328 Race street (SE corner of Juniper & Race) which was also Fire Headquarters. It was that building in which I had my interview to become a Philadelphia Firefighter in 1975. Engine 17 was put out of service in 1972 but the building remained as Fire Headquarters until the new Fire Administration building was opened in 1976 at 3rd & Spring Garden streets.

To remember the “Good Will” provided by all of the volunteer firefighters during the Civil War, I have reprinted pages 78 and 79 from the book “Philadelphia and The Civil War: Arsenal of The Union” by Anthony Waskie, PhD. Most of our readers know Dr. Waskie as Andy and/or General Meade. He has graciously given his permission for this re-write:

Benevolence of Volunteer Firemen

No one responded more promptly to the country’s call in April 1861, and throughout the war, than the members of the volunteer fire companies of Philadelphia. At that time there were eighty-seven volunteer companies in existence. Firemen were numerous in all of the regiments recruited in the city, and some entire commands were composed of firefighters, including the greater part of the 23rd PV, “Birney’s Zouaves,” and the entire 72nd PV, or Baxter’s Philadelphia “Fire Zouaves.” The firefighters were also well represented on the many warships built and manned in Philadelphia.

Even those who remained at home contributed significantly to the war effort. They volunteered for the Home Guard and the Emergency Militia but continued to fight fires in the city during the war and offered the use of their horses for any emergency service. Twice in the course of the war, at the request of Fire Chief David M. Lyle, the Hibernia Engine Company sent its powerful steam engine, with a detail of men, to Fortress Monroe and Washington for use of the military.

The first organization of Philadelphia firemen who served in the field was Captain William McMullen’s
“Rangers,” a company recruited from the Moyamensing Hose Company for the three months’ service under General Robert Patterson in the spring of 1861.  

The total number of Philadelphia firemen who served in the Union army between 1861 and 1865 is estimated at approximately eleven thousand. 

A noteworthy accomplishment of many of the fire companies was the volunteer ambulance service they established. With money subscribed by the firemen and their friends, thirty-five ornate ambulances were built and maintained at the firehouses. These vehicles were kept in constant readiness for use. Upon the arrival of hospital ships or trains filled with wounded and invalid soldiers, the electronic call “9-G” was sent out and repeated and bells were rung in the fire towers, and immediately, the ambulances sped for the riverfront or the depots. As an example of their service, in the five days before Christmas 1862, the ambulances carried 2,500 patients from the Citizens’ Volunteer Hospital alone to other hospitals throughout the city. 

A great rivalry existed between the fire companies in the decoration of their handsome vehicles. In fact, even after the war, the old ambulances were kept as venerated souvenirs, displayed at exhibitions and pulled in parades.  

When the casualties of battle were brought to the city in great numbers, the firehouses became temporary hospitals. Many of the dead of the 72nd PV Regiment who fell at Antietam and Gettysburg were exhumed from graves on the fields where they had fought by their brother firemen and given burial in the home cemeteries. 

In Lossing’s History of the Civil War is a report that Philadelphia ambulances carried to the hospitals over 120,000 sick or wounded soldiers without cost.

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**OFF THE WALL**

Another Entry From the "We Can Find a Civil War Connection in Just About Anything" School of Thought -

The Poet Frost - Confederate Antecedents?  
by Bernice Kaplan

The land was ours before we were the land’s.  
She was our land more than a hundred years 
Before we were her people. She was ours  
In Massachusetts, in Virginia,  
But we were England’s, still colonials,  
Possessing what we still were unpossessed by,  
Possessed by what we now no more possessed.  
Something we were withholding made us weak  
Until we found out that it was ourselves  
We were withholding from our land of living,  
And forthwith found salvation in surrender.  
Such as we were we gave ourselves outright  
(The deed of gift was many deeds of war)  
To the land vaguely realizing westward,  
But still unstoried, artless, unenhanced,  
Such as she was, such as she would become.

The poem above entitled THE GIFT OUTRIGHT was published in 1942 and was delivered at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy on January 20, 1961 by the archetypal "New England Poet" Robert Frost (1874-1963). Why am I writing about Robert Frost and what is his connection to the American Civil War? 

On December 9, 2013, I was in Cape May, New Jersey for a three-day Charles Dickens Extravaganza. Among the events offered were three lectures by Dr. Eliot Engel, an eminent university professor, author, playwright and indefatigable humorist/lecturer. Dr. Engel’s final presentation was: “Frost at Christmas: The Cold Genius of Robert Frost.” Dickens and Frost had very little in common except that both had
fathers who Dr. Engel described as being “feckless.”

Well, I was glad to have the opportunity to learn more about the legendary poet Frost. I was amazed to hear that Frost, who I always regarded as the quintessential New Englander, was born in San Francisco, California and spent the first 11 years of his life there. Frost’s parents had relocated from the east coast less than a year before his birth on March 28, 1874. Even more mind-boggling for me was that William Frost, Jr., Robert’s father, a descendant from an old New England family, was a staunch Copperhead and southern sympathizer who insisted on naming his first son, Robert Lee, in honor of the Confederate Civil War hero, Robert E. Lee. And when his wife was giving birth, William Frost, known for his reckless and truculent behavior, had threatened to kill the doctor if anything occurred to either his wife or the baby.

William Frost, Jr. was born in Kingston, New Hampshire in 1850 and pursued a classical course at Lawrence, Massachusetts High School. A compulsive, extremely intelligent man, he was rebellious towards his family and their beliefs. When William was a teenager he embraced strong pro-Southern causes and ran away from home determined to join the Confederate Army. Apparently, he made it as far as Philadelphia where he was caught by the police and returned to his infuriated parents. William at one time had told a friend: “I am touched by [Robert E.] Lee, so noble in character, so brilliant and punishing a smiter in the field, but so lost in the larger things of statesmanship and strategy.” Much to his disappointment, William was refused admission to West Point. However, he did go on to Harvard where he graduated with honors and achieved fame and notoriety for his partying and gambling. After graduation he went to Lewistown, Pennsylvania, where he became principal of a private school and soon after fell in love and married an attractive Scottish lass, Isabelle Moodie, who was a teacher at the school.

In San Francisco, Will worked for the San Francisco Bulletin and as an avid Democrat, he worked on three presidential elections, and even tried to enter the political arena by running for Congress in California. In 1882 former Union General William Rosecrans defeated Will Frost for this position at the Democratic state convention in San Jose. Will frequently would go on drinking binges and display violence towards his family. In 1885, 34-year old Will, ill with tuberculosis, died, leaving his wife and two young children (Robert had a younger sister Jennie) penniless. Will’s parents paid for the family’s traveling expenses back to Massachusetts. Years later Robert Frost characterized his father as a “patriotic Fourth-of-July American: a great celebrator of Independence Day, but too ambitious in politics and intransigent toward his political enemies.”

As a young boy in San Francisco, Robert preferred playing in the streets than attending school. He and his gang of friends would taunt the poor young Chinese immigrants. These early and frequent contacts induced a longtime baseless contempt for Asian culture expressed in his poem “Kitty Hawk” which appeared in his final volume of poetry IN THE CLEARING (1962).

Robert Frost, winner of four Pulitzer Prizes for his poetry, was a brilliant, complicated man. He supported states’ rights, hated President Roosevelt, strongly opposed labor unions, minimum wage, social security and Medicare insurance. However, Frost admired the young senator from Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy and was a great fan of his 1957 Pulitzer Prize winning book, PROFILES IN COURAGE. During his 85th birthday press conference in March 1959, Frost proclaimed that Kennedy would be the next President of the United States. This was about 10 months before Senator Kennedy officially announced his candidacy for president.

Robert Frost was selected to participate in the Kennedy inauguration thanks to the intervention of
Stewart Udall, a congressman from Arizona who was intimate with Kennedy and who had met Frost in 1959. The Kennedys had expected the 87-year-old poet to recite THE GIFT OUTRIGHT, the poem which appears at the beginning of this article. However, Frost composed FOR JOHN F. KENNEDY: HIS INAUGURATION. Weather and other conditions initially did not bode well for Frost. There was much snow on the ground; it was very cold and Frost was tired from listening to the many speeches that preceded him. When Frost got up to speak, the intense sun glare made it very difficult for him to read his new poem, which he had not memorized. Frost stammered and despairingly uttered “I’m not having a good light here at all. I can’t see in this light.” Vice President Lyndon Johnson ran up across the platform to help Frost. Meaning well, Johnson pulled off his tall silk hat and attempted to create a shadow. However, the shadow was too dark, making the words even more difficult for Frost to see. Frost in his moment of glory, grabbed Johnson’s hat, saying “Here let me help you” and waved the vice president out of the way. The rejuvenated poet went on to recite by memory THE GIFT OUTRIGHT. The crowd reacted with a thunderous ovation.

Robert Frost was a very controversial man. Professor Engle stated in his lecture that Frost was very jealous, arrogant and small-minded man. “He was a great poet” said Engle, “but not a very nice man.” Lawrance Thompson, Frost’s official biographer, vilified him in three massive volumes. Among the topical subheadings in his volumes are: “Anti-Intellectual,” “Baffler-Teaser-Deceiver,” “Brute,” “Hate,” “Self-Centeredness,” and “Vindictive”. However, there are other biographers who disagree. One of the writers with a dissenting opinion is Jeffrey Meyers who wrote a very comprehensive biography entitled ROBERT FROST.

Confederate Hall in New Orleans

Article & Photos by Rich Jankowski

On our last ballpark tour we ventured to New Orleans to see a Zephyrs game. We finally were able to visit Confederate Hall, the Civil War Museum on Camp Street that opened its doors in January of 1891. The last two times we planned to visit, weather and conflict prevented us. The Hall houses one of the largest collections of Confederate memorabilia in the country. The building is known as the “Battle Abbey of the South” because of the elaborate stained glass windows and church-like architecture. Its mission of “collecting, preserving, interpreting and exhibiting authentic historical material of the American Civil War,” makes it a National Treasure and worthy of support.

Memorial Hall has 140 flags in its collection including the Washington Artillery flag that adorned President Davis’s coffin; the First Florida Infantry flag and the Sixth Louisiana flag. The museum has an active flag restoration program like the one in Harrisburg. There is a variety of uniforms at the museum displaying the difference in color, material and ranks over the course of the war. The weapons display shows the evolution of armaments used during the war from rifled muskets, cannons, and swords to early hand grenades. The personal
items such as field eating utensils, sewing kits and a chess set all had emotional stories behind them.

The Special Exhibit was on the Red River Campaign fought in 1864 in North and Central Louisiana between General Nathaniel P. Banks and Admiral David Dixon Porter against General Richard Taylor (son of Zachary Taylor and brother-in-law of Jefferson Davis). It includes artifacts used by the soldiers during the campaign including uniforms, weapons and flags as well as photographs.

I was surprised after touring the museum when chatting with John Bangs, a volunteer at the museum, to learn he was aware of happenings in Philadelphia. When he saw Old Baldy on my card he inquired about the location of the head. He knew of its journey over the last 30 years and the closing of the Pine Street Museum. When I informed him it was now at the GAR, he replied “isn’t that where it used to be?” Seeing my New Jersey 150th shirt, he asked about Joe Bilby. I was impressed that this man in New Orleans was current on Civil War Events in our area. It really is a small community.

The Museum is open Tuesday-Saturday 10-4 and is $8 for adults. It is located at the corner of Camp Street and Andrew Higgins. The website is http://confederatemuseum.com/.

Other attractions in the area are the Ogden Museum of Southern Art next door and the National World War II Museum across the street. We were unable to visit these venues because our son Joe had his break abridged by snow day make-up causing us to reduce our stay in New Orleans. We did get to spend time at City Park the next day before departing. It contains the Botanical Gardens, an open-air Sculpture Garden, the New Orleans Museum of Art, Carousel Gardens and City Putt. We had Po-Boys at Mahony’s on Magazine Street before visiting the museum. It is a throwback to the old neighborhood Po-Boy shops of New Orleans.

If Lincoln Gave his Gettysburg Address today…
Submitted by Jack Lieberman

…..it might look something like this!

How far we have come in 150-years! ... or is that after 150-years, how far have we gone!!!
On November 4, Nathan B. Forrest’s cavalry and two captured Union boats move up the Tennessee River to Johnsonville and attack the Union supply depot there causing major damage.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America meets in Richmond on November 7, while Jefferson Davis publicly urges Hood to seek out Sherman and defeat his army.

On November 8, Lincoln defeats Democrat George McClellan to serve a second term. Andrew Johnson, a unionist from Tennessee, is his Vice President.

On November 9, Sherman orders the resumption of the Union advance into Georgia. Thomas is to defeat the army of Hood while Sherman plans to advance north to assist Grant in his defeat of Lee, beginning the famous - or infamous - March to the Sea.

On November 11, Union troops in Atlanta and Rome destroy anything that could be of use to the Confederacy before they leave. In Atlanta all buildings except churches and a few houses are destroyed.

General Sherman sends his last message to General Thomas in Nashville, Tennessee on November 12. He will be out of communication with the North until December 13.

On November 14, Lincoln accepts the resignation of MG George McClellan and promotes Sheridan to the rank of Major-General.

On November 16, Sherman’s army of 60,000 men leaves Atlanta. They carry 20 days rations from the city’s supplies. Facing Sherman’s large army is 20,000 Confederate troops with few supplies.

On November 17, Davis denounces any Southern state that considers an individual peace with the Union. Concerned about Georgia, he contacts the state’s senators directly.

On November 22, Sherman’s army enters Georgia’s state capital, Milledgeville, burning and looting the city. Fighting also occurs at Griswoldville in the state.

On November 23, General William J Hardee is given command of the army opposing Sherman.

On November 29, Hood’s Army of Tennessee fails to defeat the Union army at Spring Hill, Tennessee, when Hood’s senior officers fail to communicate with one another.

On November 30, six Confederate generals are killed at the Battle of Franklin.
Thanksgiving, November 24, 1864
“United We Stand” – Thomas Nast
in Harpers Weekly, December 3, 1864

Delaware Valley
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