THE CHARGER

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

April 2023 **Vol. 47, No. 8**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

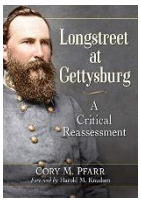
President – Lily Korte
Vice President – Bob Pence
Past President – Mark Porter
Treasurer – Jimmy Menkhaus
Secretary – Gene Claridge
Historian - Dan Ursu
Director - Ellen Connally
Director - Richard Hronek
Director - Hans Kuenzi
Director – Steve Pettyjohn
Director - Michael Wells
Director - Dan Zeiser

Webmaster - Paul Burkholder
Website:
http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com

Editor: D. Kent Fonner
E-mail Editor at dkfonner@gmail.com

MEETING: Wednesday, April 12, 2023

SPEAKER: Cory M. Pfarr, an associate editor of *North and South Magazine* and author of *Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment.* He also has a new book on Longstreet at Gettysburg soon to be released titled *Righting the Longstreet Record at Gettysburg: Six Matters of Controversy and Confusion.*



PROGRAM: "My Own Movement on My Own Responsibility:" The Saga of Lafayette McLaws' Commentary on Longstreet at Gettysburg

LOCATION: The Holiday Inn Independence at 6001 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio 44131, off US Interstate 77

TIME: Social Hour at 6:00 PM and Presentation at 7:00 PM

For reservations email:
ccwrtreserve@gmail.com or call 440-449-9311. To ensure a dinner is reserved for you, the reservation must be made by Wednesday, April 5, 2023, a week before the meeting.

Website:
http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com

Like us on FACEBOOK!

President's Message

Spring, at long last, has come to Cleveland, and April brings with it another meeting of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. In addition to our regular meeting on the second Wednesday of the month, we have a second Roundtable event coming up in April this year, though it is not Civil War-related, strictly speaking. William Vodrey has organized a tour for Roundtable members of the Harding Home and Museum in Marion, Ohio, through the Ohio History Connection. Please RSVP to him by April 14 if you will be attending. The tour will start at 10am on April 22, so be sure you leave early enough to make it to Marion by then. We are hoping to have more social and educational outings like this to locations within Ohio in the future, as a sort of mini-supplement to our traditional field trips. (Speaking of which, although it's still a few months away, you can contact Bob Pence now if you are interested in going to his field trip to Manassas/Bull Run in September.)

Not to bring up Zoom yet again, as I'm sure everyone is sick of hearing about it by now, but I have heard that some people who tried to attend our recent meetings via Zoom reported that the connection was bad and that they were unable to view the meeting because they kept being repeatedly kicked out due to bandwidth issues. We are trying to troubleshoot whether this is an issue caused by our connection, or if it is a problem with the users on the other end. As our April speaker will be joining us via Zoom, we are hoping this may be less of a problem this month, but as our May speaker should be in person, the same issues may reemerge. Please let us know about any issues you may have encountered when trying to attend one of our meetings over Zoom. Conversely, if you have had no problems with our Zoom broadcasts, let us know about that as well. The more information we have, the easier it will be for us to figure out where the problem lies.

Hannah and Ben Holbrook

Last month's meeting was an exciting one for a variety of reasons, not least of which was the last-minute substitution of presenter! Our originally scheduled speaker, Christian McWhirter, was unable to make the drive from Illinois due to an injury suffered the day before, so the two musicians, Hannah and Ben Holbrook, who were originally scheduled to provide musical accompaniment to Dr. McWhirter's presentation, took over the lecture aspect of the evening as well. Hannah did a terrific job doing a deep dive into the origins of the traditional Civil War-era song known as "Brother Green" or "The Dying Soldier", and the Holbrooks gave a mini-concert at the end of the evening, culminating in a singalong to "The Battle Cry of Freedom". (Huzzah!)

While some Roundtable members had previously expressed skepticism to me when

I mentioned my plans to devote a meeting during my presidency to music in the Civil War, everyone that I heard from after the March meeting greatly enjoyed it. There's nothing wrong with a little variety, and the depth and breadth of Civil War history means that you can easily spend as much time delving into separate subjects as you spend discussing an individual person like Abraham Lincoln or an individual battle like Gettysburg. Speaking of Gettysburg, that is what we will be turning to for our April meeting. Speaker Cory M. Pfarr, author of two books on Longstreet at Gettysburg (one of which will be published later this year), will be examining the relationship between Lafayette McLaws and James Longstreet, and the former's commentary on the battlefield performance of the latter at Gettysburg. Given that Longstreet-bashing turned into something of a national pastime among former Confederates in the years after the war's end—and even on into the 21st century!--it will be interesting to learn why McLaws refrained from joining.

Please email ccwrtreserve@gmail.com to RSVP for the meeting at least a week in advance. We have three dinner options again this month, with chicken, salmon, and eggplant parmesan entrees all being available. You are also welcome to attend the meeting without purchasing a dinner, if you choose.

Hope to see everyone there!

--Lily Korte

The Editor's Desk

IMAGES! Anyone born since the mid-twentieth century first learned about the American Civil War through visual images burned into our conscious and sub-conscious minds. My earliest memories of the war were given to me by Hollywood. Rod Serling introduced me to a lonely country road passing a damaged plantation house where a bitter woman watches a stream of wounded CSA soldiers stagger by until one stops to rest a while with her on the porch. They talk and watch until the woman sees her husband in the crowd. She rushes to him, but he refuses to stay, begging her to come with him down the road. She will not go. She does not understand. The soldier on the porch seems to see things clearly now and follows the rest of his companions. The woman stands alone in the road until a final figure appears, Abraham Lincoln, who convinces her that he is the last man walking the road and that she should walk with him to its destination.

There are other images. "Johnny Shiloh," Walt Disney's Ohio drummer boy, runs away from home to serve Mr. Lincoln with his friends in the local militia. Fess Parker leads a group of Yankee soldiers to steal a train behind enemy lines in "The Great Locomotive Chase." John Wayne leads a Union cavalry raid deep in the South in a John Ford movie, "The Horse Soldiers."

The Three Stooges get into the act in a Hollywood short where Moe, Larry, and Curley become Yankee spies with Curley dressed as a Southern belle. Even Bugs Bunny has a run in with Yosemite Sam as a CSA officer in a hilarious cartoon now, no doubt, too politically incorrect for current viewers. Of course, there are many more. TV and movies during the Civil War centennial years are full of such images.

Since that time in my younger life, I have read millions of words written by both participants in the war and those historians who came along later to explain what those participants witnessed. Someone once said that each generation must write its own history. I suppose that is true because the images change for each new generation. That is not necessarily a bad thing. Each of us must view the past through our own lens. I wish "The Charger" to be a lens that provides a variety of images for the present and future generations. In this issue, there are several images to consider—high flying spy balloons, a forgotten ante-bellum seaside resort, an old general deserving better treatment for his post-war career, and lost coins that tell a tale of their own about life in the 1860s. Enjoy these images, but please take time to share some of your own. We all still have much to learn from each other's perspective.

2023 Dick Crews Memorial Debate posted on the Roundtable's Website

The annual Dick Crews Memorial Debate took place at the February 8, 2023 Roundtable meeting. This year's topic was "Who was the best political general of the Civil War?" William Vodrey again served as moderator, and four members of the Roundtable presented arguments in favor of political generals whom each of them picked as the best. Charles Patton argued in favor of Edward Ferrero, Bob Pence in favor of John A. Logan, Kent Fonner in favor of John C. Breckinridge, and Paul Burkholder in favor of Benjamin Butler. Each of the debaters made a creative and compelling case. The arguments that each debater presented at the meeting are now posted on the Roundtable's website and are well worth reading

(https://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com/the-great-debate-of-2023/).

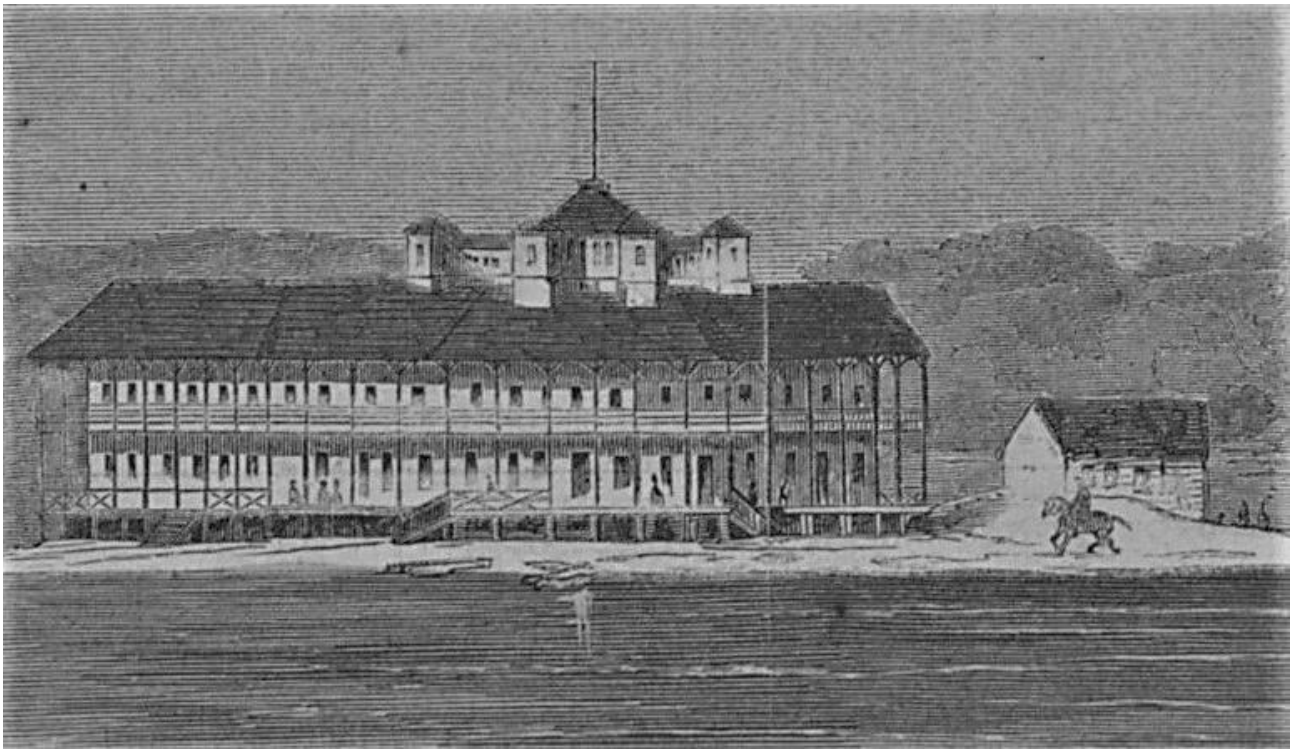
Some Upcoming Civil War Events in Ohio

Ohio Civil War Show, Mansfield, OH, May 6-7, 2023
ohiocivilwarshow.com

Century Village Civil War Encampment
Dates: May 27-28, 2023
Location: Century Village Museum
14653 E Park St., Burton, OH 44021

Civil War Reenactment at Hale Farm & Village
Dates: August 12-13, 2023
Location: Hale Farm & Village, 2686 Oak Hill Rd, Bath, OH

CIVIL WAR HISTORY DAY:
Civil War encampment and reenactment at Mishler Mill.
Date: June 17, 2023
Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: 381 Main Street, Smithville, OH 44677



The Moultrie House

Doubleday's Revenge

By © Brian D. Kowell 2022

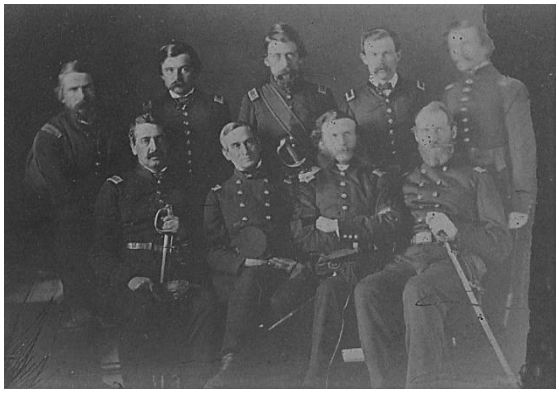
If you stand on the ramparts of Fort Moultre, South Carolina, and look down the beach west of the fort's massive guns, in the direction of Mount Pleasant, there once stood a luxurious beachfront hotel one hundred and sixty-two years ago. In the evening, with a little imagination, you might see its bright lights and hear the sound of music and laughter of the well-to-do people dancing at one of its extravagant balls, or sitting along its wide veranda, or strolling along its sandy beachfront.

On July 8, 1850, the Moultrie House was opened. It "was a large, first class wooden hotel near shore, on Sullivan's Island….It was kept open during the summer and was a favorite resort for planters and others, to enjoy the fresh sea- breeze, and the beautiful drive up the beach at low tide."[i]

The Moultrie House was the first resort in the area where people came to escape the swarms of disease carrying mosquitoes – the summer perils of living inland. The sea breezes were a

refreshing alternative to the hot, humid Low Country. Designed by architect Edward C. Jones at a cost of $35,000, it boasted "luxurious accommodations for two hundred people."[ii]

According to Charleston historian, John B. Irving, the building was two storied, 256 feet long and 40 feet wide. It had a front piazza 16 feet wide and a back piazza 10 feet wide. There were attached wings on either side of the main building. The east wing was 100 feet long and 35 feet wide containing a succession of rooms on the first floor that were linked by large folding doors, which when opened formed a huge grand ballroom. The west wing was 90 feet long and 20 feet wide with multi-paneled floor to ceiling windows. Behind the hotel were outbuildings which included the kitchen, two large cisterns, and a windmill which pumped water to the building. The hotel "combined comfort with pleasure" as it boosted, a large bath house for ladies, four billiard tables and three bowling saloons. "Anyone who was anyone" stayed there, and the hotel soon gained national attention.[iii]

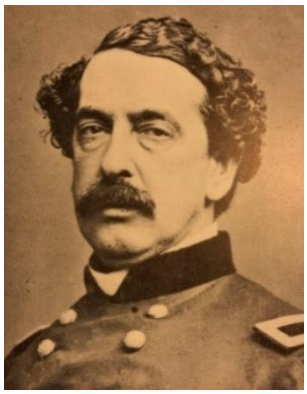


Officers of Fort Sumter with Capt. Abner Doubleday
Seated first in the front row, left, next to Major Anderson

The glory days of the Moultrie House came to an abrupt halt in 1861 as the election of Abraham Lincoln as President prompted South Carolina to secede from the Union. A conflict between the Federal forces and the secessionists seemed inevitable. The city of Charleston was proving to be a dangerous place for the Union garrison stationed at Fort Moultrie. The southerners denied the garrison access to supplies, food, and reinforcements. The locals treated the Federal soldiers with contempt. When Captain Truman Seymour went to the Charleston armory for friction primers he was met by an angry crowd, threatened with violence, and turned away.[iv]

But no one was more hated in Charleston than Captain Abner Doubleday. He was forty-two years old and a career army officer. He had graduated from West Point 24th in the class of 1842. He had fought in Mexico, the Seminole Wars and on the plains in Texas. He had served at a number of Atlantic Coast posts and was now second in command to Major Robert Anderson at Fort Moultrie. The tea-totaling, non-smoking captain had enjoyed a cup of tea at the Moultrie House back in friendlier days, but no more. "Charleston at this period was far from being a pleasant place for a loyal man".[v]

"I became quite unpopular in Charleston," wrote Doubleday [pictured here], "partly on account of my anti-slavery sentiments, but more especially because some very offensive articles" he had written which appeared in Northern papers. These found their way into newspapers all over the country. As a result, he was eyed with suspicion and reviled for his abolitionist leanings.[vi]



Doubleday did not mind repeating loudly that he was the only officer at Fort Moultrie who favored Lincoln's election and who spoke out in his letters in very clear terms against slavery. Obviously, this did not make him too popular in the parlors of the Moultrie House. He soon received a letter warning him that if he were caught in Charleston, he would be tarred and feathered.[vii]

Tensions were rising as Secessionist forces began patrolling around Fort Moultrie day and night. Doubleday told Anderson that they could not defend the fort as the houses around them looked down into Moultrie and there were rumors of two thousand riflemen detailed to shoot from these commanding positions when word is given. Major Anderson decided to secretly abandon Fort Moultrie and move his men to unfinished Fort Sumter. During the night after Christmas, after spiking the forts guns, the Union garrison rowed across Charleston Harbor to Fort Sumter.[viii]

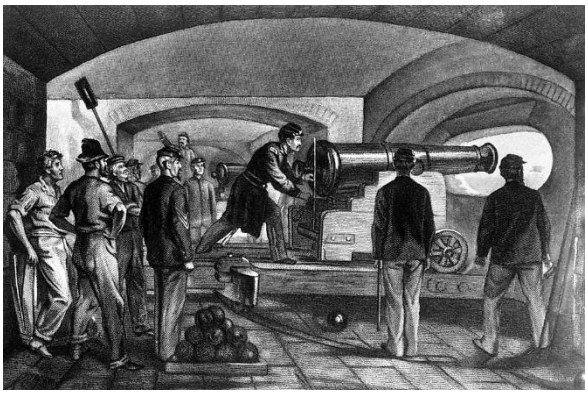
"The next morning Charleston was furious. From December 26 until April 12", Doubleday remembered, "they busied themselves in preparing for the expected attack, and our enemies did the same on all sides of us." Doubleday soon learned that the new commander of the southern forces at Fort Moultrie was fellow West Pointer Roswell Ripley. Doubleday had known him at the academy as he was in the class ahead of Ripley. Although born in Ohio and raised in New York, Ripley "took pains to denounce [his fellow New Yorker] as an Abolitionist, and to recommend that [Doubleday] be hanged by the populace as soon as [he was] caught"[ix]

On April 12, 1861, at 4:30 in the morning, nineteen different Southern batteries opened fire on Fort Sumter. The garrison in the fort did not immediately respond. The men had roll call in the bombproofs and then had breakfast of pork and water. At 7 a.m. Anderson ordered Doubleday to divide the company into three details to man the guns in shifts. Their targets were to be the batteries on Morris Island and Sullivan's Island.[x]

Captain Doubleday sighted and fired the first Federal shot in retaliation at around 7:30 a.m. "In aiming the first gun fired against the rebellion," he wrote, "I had no feeling of self-reproach for I fully believed that the contest was inevitable, and not of our seeking." It was frustrating for Doubleday as his fire had little effect on Fort Moultrie or the floating battery off Sullivan's Island. One participant recorded that "Doubleday's men were not in the best of temper. They were irritated at the thought that they had been unable to inflict any serious damage on their adversary" while the rebel shots were slamming into Sumter. Then Doubleday spied the Moultrie House. "Since the rebel occupation of Fort Moultrie," he recorded, "this hotel had been used as a depot and barracks for the troops in the vicinity." But its Palmetto flag had been removed just before the bombardment began. The southerners would later contend that the Moultrie House

was being used as a hospital and was flying a yellow flag. Through his glass he could see many spectators on the beach and piazza watching the duel between Sumter and Moultrie. “I saw no reason why the mere lowering of the flag should prevent us from firing at them,” wrote Doubleday.[xi]

Doubleday went on: “Just before the attack was made upon us….I aimed two forty-two pounder balls at the upper story. The crashing of the shot, which went through the whole length of the building among the clapboards and interior partitions, must have been something fearful to those who were within. They came rushing out in furious haste and tumbled over each other until they reached the bottom of the front steps, in one withering, tumultuous mass.”[xii]



A Gun at Fort Sumter

Captain James Chester of the Third Artillery remembered it differently. As he saw it, the two shots from the forty-two pounders struck the beach in front of the astonished spectators and bounded over their heads slamming into the Moultrie House. They both agreed that “the spectators scampered off in a rather undignified manner.”[xiii] Even a newsman reported that, “a party of gentlemen were setted [sic] in the parlor, watching the fight.” When the balls hit the second story “the gentlemen scattered miscellaneously.”[xiv]

To Doubleday, the sight of people plunging out of the hotel in undignified haste was a small but satisfying repayment for the many discourtesies he and his men had suffered for months. When Captain Seymour came to relieve Doubleday, Seymour in a joking manner asked him, “What in the world is the matter here, and what is all this uproar about?” Doubleday replied, “There is a trifling difference of opinion between us and our neighbors opposite, and we are trying to settle it.” Some Charleston newspapers “discoursed upon the barbarity of firing on a hospital.”[xv]

On Sunday, April 14, Major Anderson arranged to surrender the fort to General Beauregard. As the Confederates concluded the negotiations and before the Federals boarded the waiting *Isabel* to take them to the waiting Union fleet, a Carolinian officer took Doubleday aside. He asked him why he had fired on the Moultrie House. “Not caring to enter into a discussion at that time,” Doubleday recorded, “I evaded it by telling him the true reason was that the landlord had given me a wretched room there one night, and this being the only opportunity that had occurred to get even with him, I was unable to resist it.” The southern officer must not have been a fan of the

proprietor of the hotel since he laughed heartily and said, 'I understand it all now. You were perfectly right, sir, and I justify the act."[xvi]

So, what happened to the Moultrie House? Sullivan's Island soon became an island fortress as more and more fortifications were erected. Confederate soldier Gus Smythe wrote, "All the houses up to the church have been torn down and batteries erected on their sites….A very heavy battery from the Moultrie House extended along the beach…." This was Forts Beauregard and Bee. The Moultrie House was left standing and continued to be used as a barracks and sometimes hospital. After the war the Moultrie House was destroyed. "Today no vestige remains of the once great hotel and the site has reverted back to dunes and thickets of myrtle groves."[xvii]

---

[i] Doubleday, Abner, *Reminiscences of Forts Sumter and Moultrie*, *1860-1861*, New York, 1876.
[ii] Miles, Suzannah Smith, "The Last Resort", *Charleston Living Magazine*, May – June 2016. https://charlestonlivingmag.com/the-last-resort.
[iii] Irving, John B. a promotional pamphlet referenced in Charleston Living Magazine.
[iv] Doubleday, Abner, "From Moultrie to Sumter", *Battle and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. I,* ed. Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarance Clough Buel, New York, Thomas Yoseloff, Inc., 1959. p.42.
[v] Jones, Meredith, "In Memorium of Abner Doubleday, 1819-1893", *New York Monuments Commission for the Battles of Gettysburg, Chattanooga, and Antietam, Commemorative Address*, Albany, New York, 1918. p.64. Gates, Arnold, "Abner Doubleday" entry, ed. Faust Patricia, L., *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War*, New York, Harper & Row, Publishers, 1986. p.224.
[vi] Doubleday, Abner, *My Life in the Old Army: Reminiscences of Abner Doubleday*, ed. Joseph E. Chance, Ft. Worth, Texas Christen University Press, 1998. p.195.
[vii] Barthel, Thomas, Abner Doubleday: A Civil War Biography, Jefferson, N.C. & London, McFarland & Co., Inc. Publishers, 2010. Pp56-58, 67.
[viii] Doubleday, Abner, "From Moultrie to Sumter", *Battles and Leaders, Vol. I*, pp 42-46.
[ix] Doubleday, Abner," From Moultrie to Sumter", *Battles and Leaders, Vol. I*, pp 42-46. Doubleday, *Reminiscences of Forts Sumter and Moultrie*, pp.161-162
[x] Meredith, Roy, *Storm Over Sumter*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 1957. p. 170.
[xi] Doubleday, *Reminiscences of Forts Sumter and Moultrie*, p.161.Swanberg, W.A., *First Blood: The Story of Fort Sumter*, New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1957. pp. 306, 329. Jones, Katherine M., *Heroines of Dixie*, Indianapolis & New York, 1955. p. 18. Chester, James, "Inside Sumter in '61", *Battles and Leaders, Vol. I, p*.68. In his article titled Captain James Chester contends that the Moultrie House was flying a yellow flag denoting its use as a hospital at the time. He also states that two sergeants aimed and fired the guns from Sumter without officer approval. Rosen, Robert N., *Confederate Charleston: An Illustrated History of the City and the People During the Civil War*, Columbia, South Carolina, University of South Carolina Press, 1994. p.70
[xii] Doubleday, *Reminiscences of Forts Sumter and Moultrie*.
[xiii] Chester, James, *Inside Sumter in '61*. p. 68
[xiv] *New York Herald*, April 13, 1861.
[xv] Doubleday, *Reminiscences of Forts Sumter and Moultrie*, p. 162
[xvi] Ibid. pp.161-162
[xvii] Smythe, Agustustine T., Smyrhe Family Papers, Smythe-Stoney-Adger Collection, Charleston, S.C., South Carolina Historical Society. Miles, Charleston Living Magazine, May-June 2016. https://charlestonlivingmag.com/the-last-resort.

The Postwar James Longstreet

By Dennis Keating

Of all the major Confederate generals who survived the Civil War, James Longstreet had perhaps the most difficult time until his death in 1904. Unlike most other former Confederate officers, Longstreet took the position that the defeated South should accept this and cooperate with the Republican administrations and their Reconstruction policies. He made this public in a June 8, 1868 letter, for which he was much reviled. Allying with Republicans, Longstreet became decried by many White Southerners as a "Scalawag."

Settling in New Orleans as a businessman, in March, 1869, newly-elected President Ulysses Grant appointed him the Surveyor of Customs for New Orleans. In 1870, in addition he was appointed as the Adjutant General of the state militia and President of the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad. He later resigned from these posts but became commander of the New Orleans militia and metropolitan police force (which included many African-Americans). With two contending factions claiming the governorship, in March, 1874, the White League, mostly composed of former Confederate soldiers, attempted to overthrow the Republican-led government of New Orleans by force. Longstreet led the resistance but was captured. Grant then sent in federal troops to restore order and the legal government. Despite this political turmoil, he still held the office of President of the New Orleans Levee Commission of Engineers. Longstreet and his family left in 1875 for a home in Gainesville, Georgia.

Joshua Chamberlain, Dan Butterfield, James Longstreet, and Dan Sickles at Gettysburg Reunion in 1888

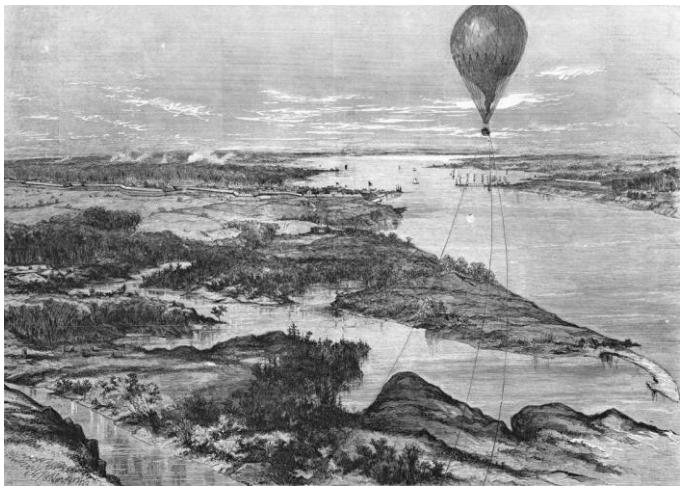
In September, 1878, President Hayes appointed him Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue but he left that post in January, 1879, to become Postmaster of Gainesville. In May, 1880, President Hayes next appointed him the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey but that only lasted until the following Spring when Longstreet returned to the U.S. and was appointed by President Garfield to be the U.S. Marshal for Georgia. He held this post until he was removed after the election of Democratic President Cleveland in 1884. Longstreet then lived on his Georgia farm. In 1889, his house burned down and his wife (and mother of his ten children) died. In 1897, he remarried to a 34 year-old Georgia state librarian and Republican President McKinley appointed him as U.S. Commissioner of Railroads. So, his affiliation with the postwar Republican Party saw him receive federal posts by Union Civil War Generals and Republican Presidents Grant, Hayes, Garfield, and McKinley.

All this time, he was mostly ostracized in the South because of the Lost Cause campaign initiated by Jubal Early in 1872, laying the blame for the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg on Longstreet's failure to fully carry out Lee's plans on the second and third days of the battle. This was reinforced by Lee's artillery chief William Pendleton's claim that Longstreet failed to attack as ordered by Lee at sunrise on July 2 (an unsubstantiated claim). The famed Southern historian of Robert E. Lee and his commanders Douglas Southall Freeman also blamed Longstreet for the Confederate defeat. So, while Longstreet was still respected by his former soldiers in public appearances, he was not otherwise held in the same respect as other former Confederate leaders. Longstreet published his Memoirs in 1896. It was not until July 3, 1998, that an equestrian statue of Longstreet was dedicated on Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg.

References

Stephen W. Sears. "General Longstreet and the Lost Cause" American Heritage (February/March 2005): https://www.americanheritage.com/general-longstreet-and-lost-cause

Jeffrey D. Wert. *General James Longstreet: The Confederacy's Most Controversial Soldier* (Simon & Schuster: 1993)



Union Balloon Corps operating near Yorktown, VA

Civil War Spy Balloons

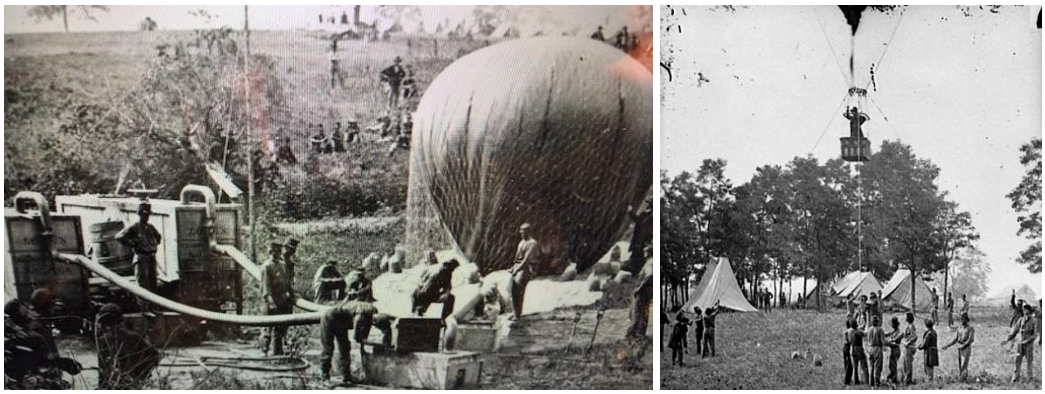
By ©Brian D. Kowell 2023

Look up in the sky. What do you see? A bird? A plane? A spy balloon? Recently a Chinese spy balloon was seen crossing our skies, only to be later shot down by an F-22 fighter jet. Using balloons to spy are not unique to the Chinese. Their use dates to the 18th century.

The American Civil War saw both sides use balloons. They were employed in the Eastern and Western theaters as well as along the southern coast. The North, with their greater resources, predominated the field, or should I say skies. The balloons and their operators were civilians employed by the military under the Bureau of Topographical Engineers. Not being officially in the army, this would cause command problems in the future. Also, if downed behind enemy lines the operators risked being treated as spies.

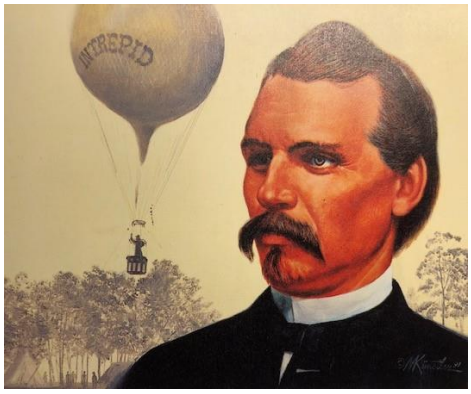
The balloons were used for reconnaissance. They collected intelligence by divining the enemy's position, areas of strength, movements, and estimated size of forces. They were also used to direct fire control for land or water-borne batteries. There is no record of them being used as weapons, dropping projectiles on the enemy. Confederate General E.P. Alexander would write that "skilled observers in balloons could give information of priceless value."[xviii]

There were multiple balloons with colorful names such as *Intrepid*, *Enterprise*, *Excelsior*, and *Eagle* to name a few. They were similarly constructed and varied in sizes. The largest balloons would take approximately three hours to inflate. Below each balloon was suspended a basket to carry from one to five men. Each was accompanied by portable hydrogen-producing equipment in horse drawn wagons. Iron filings were mixed with sulfuric acid in the tanks to produce hydrogen, which was then run through rubber hoses filling the balloons. They were usually tethered by multiple ropes, which helped control them. There were at least three recorded instances of the balloons being on a ship or flatboat, thus becoming one of the first aircraft carriers.[xix]



U.S. Balloon Corps inflating balloon and using as an observation platform

The civilian aeronauts were intrepid men such as John La Mountain, John Steiner, the brothers James and Ezra Allen and John Starkweather, among others. The most famous was the thirty-three-year-old, New Hampshire-born Thaddeus Sobieski Constantine Lowe. He was described as six foot one, well-proportioned with massive shoulders. He had fair skin, an aquiline nose, strong chin, and piercing blue eyes. He wore his thick black hair long, and it contrasted with his auburn mustache. In 1854 he decided to study and practice aeronautics and built his first balloon in 1858. He had plans to cross the Atlantic by balloon. On a test flight overland from Cincinnati to the South Carolina coast in 1861, he landed to much fanfare in Unionville, South Carolina. Packing his equipment on a train, his plan was to head to Columbia, the state capital, before continuing on to Washington. He arrived in Columbia April 22 one week after the firing on Fort Sumter. Unfortunately, he was arrested at the station platform as a spy and accompanied to jail "by a lusty throng of ardent secessionists" threatening to "tar and feather the damn Yankee" or to hang him from the nearest tree. He was saved by some professors from South Carolina College who knew of his exploits in aeronautics. They vouched that he was not politically connected and was subsequently released.[xx]



Thaddeus Lowe and his balloon, "Intrepid"

He traveled to Washington and demonstrated his balloon to President Lincoln. Using strong field glasses and accompanied by a trained telegrapher, he demonstrated that intelligence could be rapidly transmitted from the balloon to any distant telegraph station. In the absence of telegraph, intelligence could be relayed via signal flags. The President gave him a letter of introduction asking General Winfield Scott to see him.[xxi]

When General George B. McClellan replaced Scott, Lowe gained his confidence, even making an ascension with him. Other officers would follow McClellan like McDowell, Porter, Heintzelman, and Custer. As a reporter who accompanied Lowe on a later ascension wrote: "He…counted the number of tents in each encampment and fort…the whole force may be easily ascertained. The lines of fire dotted over the surface of the earth may be traced with precision from a balloon with a strong glass."[xxii]

Because of Lowe's relationship with these officers, a jealous rivalry between La Mountain and Lowe soon proved to be embarrassing and troublesome. Like two quarreling schoolchildren being sent to the principal's office, they met with General Fitz John Porter to broker a truce. Porter told La Mountain that: "It is his [General McClellan's] wish that all balloons shall be

under the superintendence of Mr. Lowe. Upon this basis if you can come to an understanding with Mr. Lowe, it may be of interest to yourself and the service." As one historian pointed out, he might as well have suggested that La Mountain come to an understanding with General Beauregard or President Davis. As a result, McClellan ordered La Mountain dismissed from the service[xxiii]

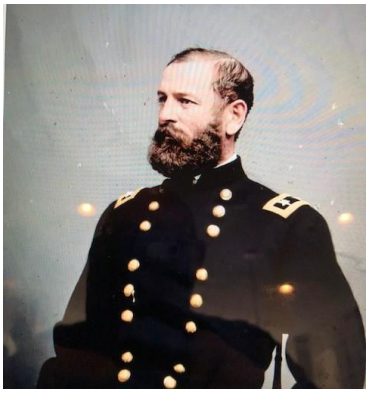
Soon Lowe's balloons were a familiar sight along the Potomac line. His balloons took observations of the Confederates positioned on Munson's and Upton's Hills, within sight of Washington, making detailed sketches of what they saw. While photography from the balloons was discussed, historian F. Stansbury Haydon concluded that there is no reliable documentation to substantiate its use in balloons during the Civil War. General James Longstreet complained of "floating balloons over our heads." A soldier in the 53rd North Carolina scrawled in his diary, "We see the Yankee balloon every day reconnoitering our lines." General P.G.T. Beauregard issued orders for his men to take precautions to "prevent the enemy from discovering by balloons…our advanced commands and outposts. No lights should be kept at night except absolutely necessary [and] tents…ought to be pitched under cover of woods." Beauregard also ordered dummy cannon (Quaker guns) constructed and extra fires lit to deceive the Yankee eyes in the sky. He asked authorities in Richmond for a balloon with no success. Eventually he obtained one from "private sources" but it proved defective.[xxiv]

On September 8, 1861, Lowe made an ascension from Arlington. He remained aloft all day and remained aloft after sunset. While aloft he noticed a powerful fixed light appear on Munson's Hill, and a second appearing near Upton's Hill. These signal lights were answered by a similar light emanating from the windows of a house in Washington. He didn't know what the lights could mean, until he casually mentioned them at Federal headquarters. It was later discovered Captain E. P. Alexander, chief signal officer with Beauregard's army, had established the system to transfer messages from Washington to Beauregard's army.[xxv]

The spy balloons were becoming irritating and a nuisance. Lacking modern technology like F-22 fighter jets with laser-guided missiles, the Confederates had to resort to artillery and rifle fire to try and bring the balloons down. They positioned cannon as close as they could and tried shooting them down. On the afternoon of August 29 near Arlington, Lowe's balloon received its baptism of fire. "We sent a rifle shell so near old Lowe, " one Confederate wrote, "and his balloon came down as fast as gravity could bring him." Lowe ascended again and, despite solid shot and shell whizzing by, was successful reaching an altitude high enough that the anti-aircraft shells couldn't reach him. Throughout the war, anytime a balloon was seen, Confederates vainly sought to bring it down. While some shells came close to the baskets and through the netting, this occurred most often on initial ascent and last stages of descent. Shots meant for the balloons fell into adjacent areas, sometimes thickly populated with troops. Generals Stoneman and Heintzelman were almost hit by these errant shells, and General Slocum's cookhouse was destroyed near his headquarters just as breakfast was being prepared, scattering the cooks and kettles. McClellan was almost hit by a 64-pounder at Yorktown. In February 1863 Private David Hogen of the 13th New Hampshire Infantry was on sentry duty "when a shell aimed at Lowe instead hit a cesspool near Hogan covering him with the unpleasant contents. Hogan was not

injured but a fellow soldier noted that his clothes and appetite are utterly ruined." Despite their attempts, no balloons were shot down during the war.[xxvi]

Lowe got his revenge. On September 24 at Fort Corcoran, he telegraphed from his balloon to Union batteries below, directing their fire against the Confederate batteries. He recorded that he "made such an accurate fire the enemy was demoralized."[xxvii] Meanwhile, on March 27, 1862, aeronaut John Steiner was also acting as an artillery spot from his balloon the *Eagle*, for the Union mortar boats and ironclads in Fleet Commander Andrew Foote's bombardments at Island Number 10.[xxviii]



General Fitz John Porter was one of Lowe's greatest supporters and accompanied the aeronaut on many observations. On April 11, 1862, with the Union army confronting the Confederates along the Warwick line on Virginia's Peninsula, Porter was anxious to see the latest Confederate positions. Lowe was not to be found. In a hurry, Porter decided to make his own reconnaissance. James Allen, one of Lowe's assistants, said he would take the general up. With the impatient Porter already in the car, Allen was about to climb in when the single rope tethering it to the ground snapped "with the sound of a pistol" and up shot the balloon.[xxix]

Once the balloon reached a certain height it leveled off. Alone, the surprised Porter remained calm and through his powerful eyeglass examined the rebel lines. Unfortunately, the prevailing winds carried the balloon well behind the rebel lines. When he finished, Porter threw some of the sandbags used for ballast over the side. When the balloon rose to 2,000 feet, it caught a current that floated him back over Union lines. To reach the gas valve to descend, he had to precariously balance with his feet on the edge of the basket and holding onto a rope with one hand, opened the valve with the other. The balloon jerked and Porter lost his grip and landed half in the basket.

Porter dragged himself back into the basket with the balloon rapidly descending. The basket was swinging to and fro as the balloon was growing limp and he neared the trees. As the balloon crashed into a tree, Porter grabbed a bough and held on with his arms and legs as the balloon collapsed around him. He had landed in General David Birney's camp, and his troops soon rescued the exhausted and relieved Porter.[xxx]

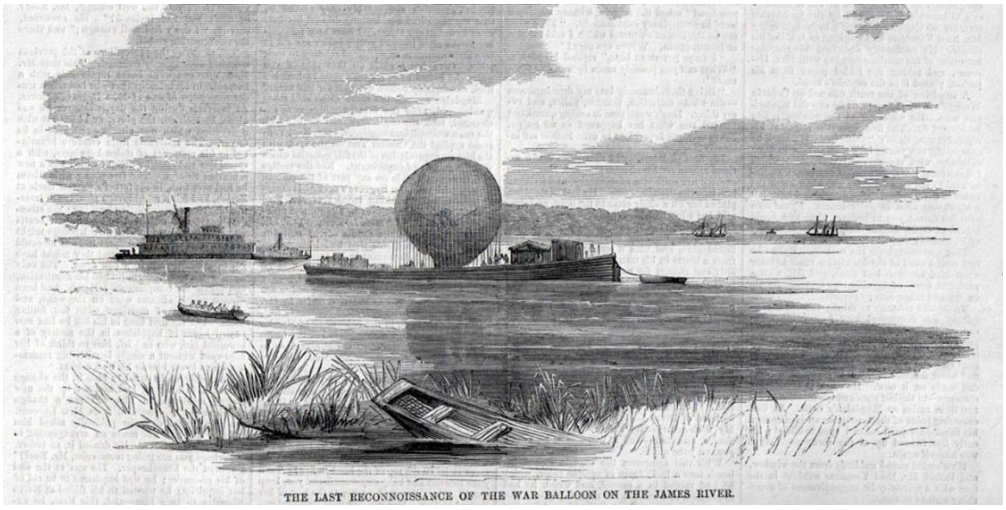
This was one of the few instances of "free aerial reconnaissance" during the Civil War and it was totally unplanned. Upon investigation of the incident, it was determined that the causative factor was the use of just a single rope to tether the balloon. Porter found out later that a sergeant of the 50th New York Engineers who helped on Lowe's ground crew had had some sharp words with his captain the night before. As the captain usually accompanied Lowe, the sergeant had smeared the rope with acid from the batteries weakening the rope.[xxxi]

When he heard of Porter's harrowing adventure, McClellan wrote to his wife Ellen assuring her "it was a terrible scare [and] you may rest assured of one thing; you won't catch me in the confounded balloon, nor will I allow any other generals to go up in it."[xxxii]

By this time the Confederates had a balloon of their own. It was made by Captain Langdon Cheeves in the spring of 1862 in Savannah, Georgia. The Captain purchased 40-foot lengths of multi-colored dress silk and sewing them together and varnishing when done, produced the famous "Silk Dress Balloon." Its official name was the *Gazelle*. The balloon was shipped to Richmond and forwarded to General Johnston's Warwick line. John Randolph Bryan, one of General John Bankhead Magruder's aides, volunteered to go up to spy on the Yankees. Unfortunately he knew "absolutely nothing about the management of it."[xxxiii]

On Bryan's second flight, like Porter, the tether line broke. He remembered: "the balloon jerked upward by great force for about two miles or so it seemed to me. I was breathless and gasping and trembling like a leaf from fear… "[xxxiv] He was blown over the camp of the 2nd Florida Regiment, who mistook him for a Yankee balloon and sent friendly fire at him. The balloon began to drop rapidly toward the York River. Bryan, thinking he would have a watery landing, quickly stripped off his clothes and boots. Just before touching the water a sudden gust blew the balloon to shore and he landed rather hard near an apple orchard. It was Bryan's last flight.[xxxv]

During the Seven Days' Campaign, Lowe's balloons were headquartered at White House Landing so they could be used overland or up the York River to spy on the Confederates. For the Confederates, the *Gazelle* was turned over to Lieutenant Colonel E.P. Alexander. He was directed by General Robert E. Lee to spy on the Union forces. The balloon was inflated at the Richmond Gas Works and transported on a flatcar along the York River railroad into position. Despite having issues with heights, Alexander followed orders. He witnessed the battle of Gaines' Mill from above and, without a telegraph, had to descend each time to report. When McClellan retreated to Malvern Hill, Alexander and the balloon were transferred to the *C.S.S. Teaser* on the James River to spy. Unfortunately, on July 4th, before Alexander could reach General Lee to report from the James River, the *Teaser* had run aground and was attacked by the *Monitor* and the *Maratanza*. Alexander had to swim for shore while the ship's captain, Hunter Davidson, kindled a fire to blow up the boilers. With the Yankees closing in, he quickly followed Longstreet. But the fire never reached the ship's boilers and the ship was captured and towed off along with the *Gazelle*.[xxxvi]



CSA Balloon "Gazelle," manned by Edward Porter Alexander

U.S. Balloon Corps Camp, Falmouth, VA

Lowe continued to use his balloons at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. One Confederate officer wrote that "Especially did we find the balloons of the enemy [giving us] constant trouble [and forced us to make] some precautions in efforts to conceal our marches." For example, when Jubal Early's Division marched from the Rappahannock line on their way to Gettysburg, they marched at 1:00 a.m. to avoid the prying eyes of the balloonists. Later balloonists near Bank's Ford discovered the "disappearance of two corps on the Confederate left; a line of dust near Salem Church" west of Fredericksburg confirming the enemy was moving toward Culpeper.[xxxvii]

With the loss of McClellan and Porter as his advocates, and with budget constraints, the War Department disbanded the Balloon Corps in August 1863. Lowe had resigned earlier that May. Lowe was receiving the equivalent to a colonel's pay of $30 per week, and when Captain Cyrus Comstock, who was assigned to oversee the Balloon Corps, cut Lowe's pay to $10 a week. James and Ezra Allen took over for two months before the Corps was disbanded. As for the Confederates, Beauregard remained an advocate of balloon reconnaissance. He used a balloon operated by Charles Cevor during the siege of Charleston until it was lost in 1863 and employed another balloon that watched General Benjamin Butler's Army of the James bottled up at Bermuda Hundred.[xxxviii]

General E. P. Alexander would later write: "I have never understood why the enemy abandoned the use of military balloons in 1863, after having used them extensively up to that time. Even if observers never saw anything, they would have been worth all they cost for the annoyance and delays they caused us in trying to keep our movements out of sight,"[xxxix] An observation balloon on Little Round Top is an interesting "what if" to ponder how it might have affected Lee in ordering Longstreet's march on the second day of Gettysburg.

During the Civil War, balloon technology was in its infancy. Just the same, it showed that controlling the skies could have a profound effect on warfare. Balloons were used for reconnaissance during the two World Wars with success, but were replaced later with U2 spy planes and satellites. It would be 162 years after the Civil War when a Chinese spy balloon would traverse our continent and be shot from the sky.

[xviii] Alexander, E.P., Fighting for the Confederacy: The Personal Recollections of General Edwin Porter Alexander, ed. Gary Gallagher, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill & London, 1989. P.119. www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/civil-war-ballooning.

[xix] The best treatises on Civil War Ballooning are: Haydon, Stansbury F., *Military Ballooning during the Early Civil War*, The John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland, 1941, (re-print 2000), Evans, Charles M., *War of the Aeronauts*, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 2002, and Scott, Joseph C., "The Infernal Balloon: Union Aeronautics in the American Civil War", in *Army History, no. 93* (Fall 2014) p. 6127. Some of the rubber hoses, gum packing and other similar rubberized materials were purchased from Goodyear Tire & Rubber, Belting and Packing Company, Akron, Ohio. *Lowe Papers, MS,* John Hopkins Library, p. 254. Hayden, p. 250.An argument can be made that the first such aircraft carrier was used when John La Mountain flew a balloon tethered to the stern of the armed transport *Fanny* in Hampton Roads off Fortress Monroe on July 27, 1861. The conversion of the *U.S.S. George Washington Parke Custis* to specifically carry balloons and inflating equipment can be classed as the first aircraft carrier on November 1861. John Stiner used his balloon the *Eagle* to help direct the Union's mortar division at Island No. 10 on March 25, 1862.

[xx] Haydon, *Military Ballooning*, pp. 160-166, 258-268, 278. Lowe's MS Memoirs, p.59.

[xxi] The telegrapher was employed by the American Telegraph Company owned by the father of General Daniel Butterfield. It was later renamed AT&T. President Lincoln's Card to General Scott, Lowe Collection, U.S. National Museum, No. 30915-L. facsimile Hayden, Plate XIX.

[xxii] *Commercial Advertiser*, New York, August 17, 1861.

[xxiii] Hayden, *Military Ballooning*, pp.143 -153. National Archives, MS Letterbook of the Army of the Potomac, February 19, 1862. I, pp. 671-672, entry 1408. www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/the-rivalry-of -the-aeronauts-civil-war-balloon-reconnaissance.htm. Evans, Charles M., "The Rivalry of the Aeronauts: Civil War Balloon Reconnaissance". Essential Civil War Curriculum is Copyright 2013, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech. Beaumont, Frederick E.," On Balloon Reconnaissance: As Practiced by the American Army," paper read at Chatham, UK, Nov. 14, 1862. Reprinted as *Military Ballooning, 1862*, Aviation Press, Middlesex, England, 1967.

[xxiv] Longstreet, James, *From Manassas to Appomattox: Memoirs of the Civil War in America,* J.B. Lippencott Company, Philadelphia, 1896. p.60, Leon, Louis, *Diary of a Tar Heel Confederate Soldier,* Charlotte, North Carolina, 1913. P. 29. Jordan to Longstreet, September 2, 1861, MS Letterbook, 1st Corps, p. 124 Beauregard Papers. Hayden, *Military Balloons*, p.330, 217. The unpredictable weather effecting the jostling of the basket made it virtue impossible to take a quality photo with the required exposure time. Roman, Alfred, *Military Operations of General Beauregard in the War Between the States, 1861-1865, Vol. 1*, De Capo Press, NY, Reprint, 1994. P.136.

[xxv] Alexander, *Fighting for the Confederacy*, p. 55. Roman, Alfred, *Military Operations of General Beauregard in the War Between the States, 1861-1865 Vol. 1*, DeCapo Press, NY, 1994, Reprint p.153. *New York Herald,* December 10, 1861. A powerful telescope borrowed from Charleston was given to Confederate signal officer E.P. Bryan of Maryland who was send to Washington in disguise and ordered to find a room with an available window to install himself and transmit intelligence.

[xxvi] E.P. Alexander to his Father, September 8, 1861, MS Mackall Collection, Library of John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. *New York Times,* August 30, 1861. *Boston Journal* August 30, 1861. www.history net.com/gas-balloons-view-from-above-the-civil-war-battlefield. 6/12/2006. From an article by Ben Fenton, *America's Civil War*, September, 2001. Visited 2/18/23. Hayden, *Military Balloons*, pp.203-204, 342-343. Despite erroneous reports in Southern newspapers, no balloons were shot down during the war.

[xxvii] Lowe, Thaddeus, "My Balloons in Peace and War", Transcribed by Augustine Lowe Brownbeck, unpublished manuscript, National Aeronautic and Space Museum, Washington, D.C., 1936. P. 80

[xxviii] Haydon, Military balloons, pp. 394-397.

[xxix] Evans, Charles M., *War of the Aeronauts*, "Unplanned Flight of General Fitz John Porter, April 11, 1862", Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA., pp.181-183

[xxx] Ibid., www.marinersmuseum.org/2020/11/up-up-and-away-civil-war-ballooning-in-hampton-roads. John Quarstein. There is also a YouTube about the incident. https://www.hmdb.org On General Porter's equestrian statue in his home town of Portsmouth, New Hampshire on one of the bas reliefs depicts his famous balloon ride of April 11, 1862.

[xxxi] Snedden, Robert Knox, *Eye of the Storm: A Civil war Odyssey*, Charles F. Bryan, Jr. & Nelson D. Lankford, editors, The Free Press, New York, London, Toronto, Sydney, Singapore, 2000. Entry April 12, 1862 pp. 45-46. Haydon, *Military Balloons*, p.118, 128.John La Mountain, along with Colonel Clinton G. Colgate of the 15th New York Engineers, had the first unharnessed flight from General Franklin's headquarters at Cloud's Mill on October 4, 1861. He flew behind Union lines over the Capitol in Washington as a demonstration. Colonel Clinton G. Colgate of the 15th New York Engineers accompanied La Mountain later on an untethered flight.

[xxxii] Sears, Stephen, ed., *The Civil War Papers of George B. McClellan 1860-1865*, Houghton Mifflin hardcourt, NY, 1989. P. 235

[xxxiii] Alexander, E. P., Military Memoirs of a Confederate, Charles Scribner's Son, 1907. P.172. Alexander, E.P., *Fighting for the Confederacy*, pp.116-119."Captain Langdon Cheeves Jr. and the Confederate Silk Dress Balloon", ed., J.H. Easteby, *The Southern Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. 45, No, 1,* Jan. 1944, published by the South Carolina Historical Society. pp. 1-11.

[xxxiv] Bryan, John Randolph, "Balloons Used for Scout Duty in CSA", *Sothern Historical Society Papers, Vol. 33*, April, 1914. P.33. The name "Silk Dress Balloon" was coined by General James Longstreet. In his article, "Our March Against Pope" in *The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine, XXXI (Feb. 1886),* pp.601-602, he incorrectly said that word went out to collect all the silk dresses in the Confederacy to make the balloon.

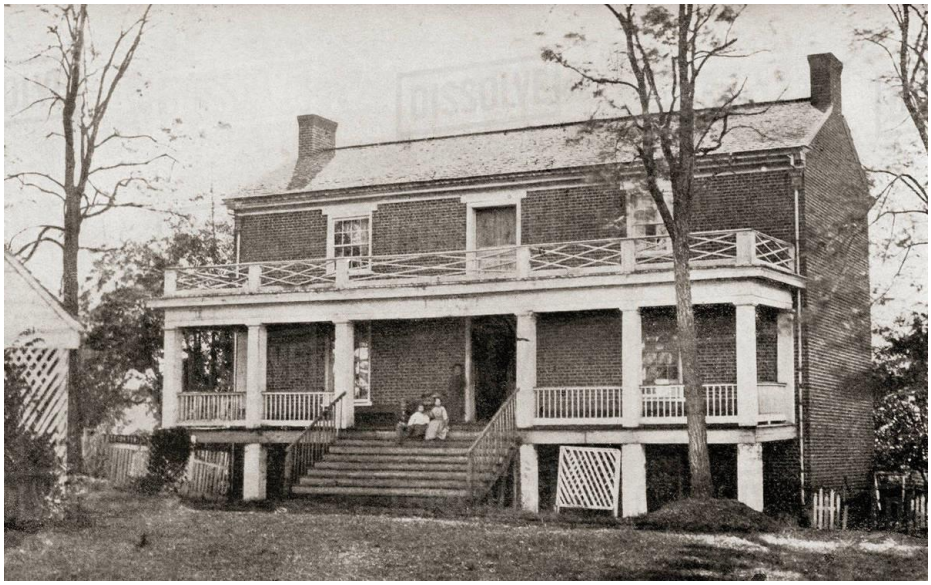
[xxxv] Bryan, pp.34-35.

[xxxvi] Alexander, *Fighting for the Confederacy*, pp. 116-119. Keeler, William Frederick, *Aboard the Monitor: The Letters of Acting Assistant Paymaster William Frederick Keller, U.S. Navy*, Robert W. Daley, ed., Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, MD, 1962. P. 184, letter to his wife Anna, July, 1862. Pieces of the Gazelle can be seen at the American Civil War Museum site https://acwm.pastperfectonline.com.

[xxxvii] Alexander, E.P., *Military Memoirs of a Confederate*, p.173. Mingus, Scott L. & Eric Wittenberg, *If We Are Striking for Pennsylvania: The Army of the Potomac's March to Gettysburg, Vol. 1, June 3-21, 1863*, Savas Beatie, California, 2022. p.9.

[xxxviii] Fenton, Ben, *America's Civil War*, Sept. 2001. Haydon, *Military Balloons*, pp.291-307. Grant, Ulysess S., *Papers of Ulysess S. Grant,* ed. John Y. Simon, Illinois University Press, Vol. 12, p.38 Comstock was assigned to oversee the Balloon Corps when it was transferred to the control of the Quartermasters Department.

[xxxix] Rhees, W.J., "Reminiscences of Ballooning in the Civil War", Chautauquan, (New York) Vol, 27, 1890. P.261



The McLean House at Appomattox Courthouse, VA

Some More Civil War Coinage

By Patty Zinn

In past articles, I have written about the three cent piece (or Trime) and Civil War Tokens. In this edition, I would like to delve a bit deeper into each of these and provide an overview of the Two-Cent Piece.

As we dig deeper into the history of the 3c piece, we find that the Trime was originally minted in silver (9 parts silver and 1 part copper) from 1854 -1858, but the coin's design did not provide a strong strike. The weak strikes encouraged the mint to change the design. From 1859 – 1873, Trimes were still struck in silver, though only those minted in the years 1859 – 1862 typically ended up in circulation. In 1865, the Civil War had ended, but silver and gold were still being hoarded by the public. Newly minted silver coins were kept in Treasury vaults, not released to the public, to prevent hoarding and profiteering. The mint developed a new solution to the hoarding and weak strike issues – the use of a nickel-alloy, which was not a hoarding metal and had little to no melt value. Thus, from 1865 – 1889, Trimes were produced in a nickel alloy, which also lead to a stronger design strike by the mint. While not the shortest of mintage years (that would be the 20c piece), it was one of the shortest.

A Store Card for G.L. Marvin Stove & Grate Depot, Cleveland, and a brass Patriotic Token

Our cursory overview of Civil War Tokens left much history still to be unwrapped. During the Civil War, due to the shortages of coins, private companies endeavored to produce a token which could be used as a penny in their establishments. There were two primary types produced: Patriotic Tokens and Store Cards. Patriotic Tokens were much as you would suspect, with the words "Army", "Our Navy", or depictions of cannons, flags, Indian Heads or Liberty Heads on the coins. To ensure they would not be confused with actual US Pennies, many bore the words "Not One Cent." Store cards were the same concept, produced, however, for individual stores or businesses. The store or business name was stamped into the coin, as well as sometimes what they sold. In our collection, we have one from Pittsburgh Dry Goods and another from Wright's

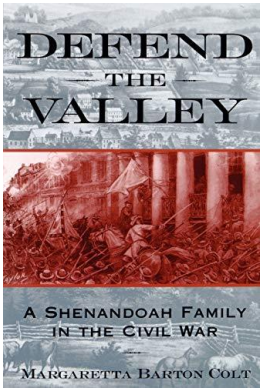
in Cincinnati. It is estimated that there are still 25 million Civil War tokens in existence. These were produced and distributed mostly in the Mid-West and North East.

Two Cent Piece

Another interesting mintage during this time period was the Two-Cent Piece. Two-Cent Pieces were minted 1864 – 1873, with a shield on the obverse topped by the words "In God We Trust" and the reverse has the word "2 cents" surrounded by a wreath and words "United States of America". It was a copper coin, again, making it unattractive to hoard. The problem was that, post-Civil War, its use in the marketplace was limited. The coin was later replaced in popularity by the nickel.

I hope you enjoyed this short introduction to some lesser-known coins and tokens used during the Civil War years.

Book Reviews



Colt, Margaretta Barton. *Defend the Valley: A Shenandoah Family in the Civil War*. First published in 1994 by Crown Publishers, Inc. New York, New York. Oxford University Press: New York, New York, 1999 (ISBN # 0-19-513237-8).

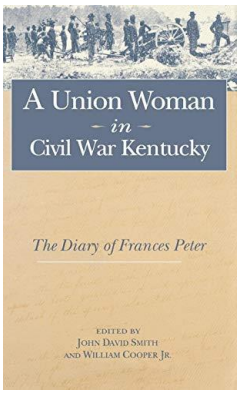
By this time, I had begun to think I would read most of the great Civil War accounts and diaries. *Defend the Valley*, however, is in my opinion one of the great accounts of what a family undergoes when living in the path of invading armies and faced with destruction of property and life. I highly recommend it for any history buff going to Winchester and through the Shenandoah Valley. Another *Gone With the Wind*, only true to life and in the nonfiction category, it follows the Barton and Jones families from before the war, during it, and relates what

became of them afterwards. The book also recounts how they struggled to save their beloved estate "Springdale" which still stands on the Valley Turnpike (Rt. 11) just south of town and can be seen today as one passes by and looks carefully. The book begins with the discovery of old diaries written by members of the family in 1894 and 1896. These diaries were written by Randolph and Robert Barton for their children in order that they would never forget the family and what it had gone through during the Civil War. In 1994, Margareta Barton-Colt, after reading through the old diaries, decided to edit and publish them. They open with accounts of life in the Valley before the War—accounts of their schools, and how they saw the big city of Washington D.C., and what people's thoughts were on secession and slavery. Views which changed as time went on, including what they thought about forming a separate nation. Several chapters mention the farms which existed then such as Oak Hill, Sunnyside, Carybrooke, Vaucluse, Belle Grove, and Springdale, including how these estates fared during the War when crops were destroyed by marching armies and how taxes still had to be paid and families fed and why these estates, many of which had been in families for generations, had to be relinquished afterwards. One of the most touching chapters dwells on the family itself. In 1861 they were a family of twelve living at Springdale and in Winchester itself. By 1865 only four children and their aged mother survived. Four died of T.B during the War, and five sons were killed while serving in the Confederate Army—Charles Barton killed at Kernstown, David killed at Fredericksburg, William killed at Mine Run, and Francis Jones (adopted son) killed at Gaines Mill. The Civil War devastated the family. Accounts of meeting Yankees on the road to Winchester, hiding Confederate soldiers in the cellar and nursing wounded soldiers of both sides are very vivid. I was particularly impressed by how they picked up and continued after the War ended. Robert and Randolph left the devastated area around Winchester which changed hands seventeen times and moved to Baltimore where life continued. They became lawyers and wrote these diaries in the 1890s. Only one, Bolling Walker Barton, stayed in Winchester. After the family home "Springdale" was sold he also became a lawyer. He became involved in local politics and his name is proudly inscribed on a plaque honoring the original investors in the George Washington Hotel which still stands as a luxury hotel in Winchester today. Although the Barton name has not survived in Winchester, the family descendants still meet once every other year and celebrate their accomplishments and their history. The sign designating Bartonville still stands on the Valley Turnpike just south of town where the road branches off to Barton's Mill. The diaries of Robert and Randolph Barton still exist and are in the possession of the family.

The book is definitely a work of love. The author carves out a family history by meeting long lost relations all before any online help was available. A splendid book with many maps, photos, and a diagram of their family tree which I found helpful when reading. Maps of Winchester and the Shenandoah Valley are helpful. All in all the book is put together well, is well illustrated, and is a great account of one family's experiences during the American Civil War. I would highly recommend it.

Although it may be out of print it can be purchased at the Civil War Museum in Winchester, and online at The American Book Exchange.

—Paul Siedel



John David Smith and William Cooper, Jr., Editors. *A Union Woman in Civil War Kentucky: The Diary of Frances Peter* (The University Press of Kentucky: Lexington, KY), 2000

Frances Dallam Peter was barely eighteen years old when the Civil War started. Her father, Dr. Robert Peter, chaired chemistry and pharmacy for the Medical Department of Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky. Frances Peter, therefore, was a young lady with access to the middle-class social circles of wartime Lexington. Her diary, written during the period from January 1862 to April 1864, provides not only the routine stories of social gossip, rumors, and military affairs, but she also clearly details the divisions brought to her community by the Civil War in Kentucky. Her father and her family were Unionists. During the war, Dr. Peter served as a United States Army surgeon for troops stationed near Lexington. One of the family's nearest neighbors, Henrietta Morgan, was the mother of famed Confederate cavalryman and raider, John Hunt Morgan. Frances suffered from epilepsy, so she observed much of the war from her window facing the "Little College Lot," now called Gratz Park. From her vantage point, she observed both the Union soldiers camped in the Lot and, later, the occupation of Lexington by Morgan and his cavalry in October 1862. While enjoying their stay in Lexington, it seems that Morgan's men also made camp on the College Lot.

Portions of Frances Peter's diary were originally published in a limited edition in 1976. Smith and Cooper have produced a revised and expanded edition that includes much new material not found in the earlier publication. An introduction provides much needed background on Ms. Peter, her father, and her family. The diary is fully annotated with extensive and detailed notes by the editors. In addition, there is a wonderful index that makes it easy to research the contents of the diary. Frances Peter was a sophisticated and intelligent young woman who provides insights into the difficult relationships between Unionists and Confederates in a divided city and state.

--Kent Fonner

Main Street in Antebellum Lexington, KY