THE CHARGER

THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

April 2026 CCWRT Founded 1956 Vol. 50, No. 8

MEETING – April 8, 2026

PROGRAM – "Civil War Medicine"

SPEAKER—Dr. Fred Marquinez, Medical Oncologist and a Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at Northeast Ohio Medical University, was born in Akron and raised in Kent, Ohio. In addition to his civilian positions in medicine, Dr. Marquinez is a Flight Surgeon and the Commander of the 179th Medical Group in the 179th Cyberspace Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, United States Air Force.

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 7:30 PM

For reservations email: ccwrtreserve@gmail.com. To ensure dinner is reserved for you, the reservation must be made by Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Website:
http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com

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President's Message

Battlefield Preservation at Chattanooga Alongside Army Training Camps and the WAC's

Molly Sampson was the speaker at the March Civil War Roundtable meeting. She is an enthusiastic World War Two historian and Museum leader whose research explores the intersections of gender, social, and military history with a particular focus on the Woman's Army Corps, WAC, and its vital contributions during World War Two. Sampson has presented her work at prominent conferences including the RAF Museum conference and the Society of Military History annual meeting.

She has also brought her expertise beyond academia, curating the exhibit of the "Triple Victory of the Six Triple Eight Unit," an all-African American Female Battalion, and serving as an historical consultant for the documentary, "Two Wars No Mail, Low Morale," and a Tyler Perry film, "The Six Triple Eight." She is now the Executive Director at the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum Association.

Molly Sampson started her presentation by talking about the strategic importance of the Civil War Battle at Chickamauga, 1863, which prodded Confederate General Braxton Bragg, despite his unfavorable reputation to challenge the advance of the Union Army by moving his forces northward. Combat unfolded in dense woodland and rugged terrain, complicating coordination and often resulting in chaotic close-range combat and engagements. On the second day of combat, miscommunication led to vulnerabilities in the Union Line, which Confederate forces swiftly exploited, causing a general federal retreat toward Chattanooga.

However, Union Troops mounted a notable and determined defense on Snodgrass Hill and Horseshoe Ridge, standing firm in the face of adversity. Major General George H Thomas organized defensive positions that held off repeated Confederate assaults, allowing much of the Union Army to withdraw in a relatively orderly fashion, his actions earned him the enduring nickname, The Rock of Chickamauga.

Sampson explained, although the Confederates achieved a tactical victory, the Union Army regrouped in Chattanooga and subsequent campaigns later that fall would shift the balance of power in the Western Theater. Casualties were staggering, approaching 35,000 killed wounded or missing, making Chickamauga one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

Molly said, "We have spent too much time on this, let us fast forward a few months to May of 1864, I am including this [picture] one because it has some special meaning dear to my heart. In 1864, a Sargeant who later made Captain with Company H, from Illinois, there were these sharp shooters who went on top of Lookout Mountain, very nice place up there, they marched at 9:00 AM across Chickamauga Battlefield, camped at 5:00 PM saw where the hard fighting was at Chickamauga, 'saw some of the heads of our

boys were cut off and stuck on staffs', and I'm including this one because this is my triple Great Grandfather who is writing about this battle in his diary."

She further said, "I have my middle name because of him," this is just showing that not even a year after the battle, a matter of months, they are choosing to go not from Chattanooga to Rossville and follow the train lines, but they're going to Lookout Mountain to the Chickamauga Battlefield and marching from there. To show them what had happened and if this is not the most effective use of morale and an esprit de corps, I will be shocked because you get more threads if you read more of the diaries of the soldiers.

In 1864 and 1865 memorialization began with actions like this, yes it got a lot heavier, a lot stronger in the decades following the Civil War, the preservation of Chickamauga Battlefield in the late 19th century was not inevitable, it was driven largely by Civil War Veterans who believed the ground where they had fought should be protected and interpreted for future generations.

One of the most influential figures was Henry Van Ness a union veteran of the battle who later devoted significant energy to Battlefield Preservation and to shaping how the conflict would be remembered. Molly explained, Van Ness, Boynton and other veterans envisioned preserving not just monuments but the terrain itself, the fields, wooden bridges, and road networks that shaped the course of the battle. With their campaign they gained traction at a time when reconciliation between former Union and Confederate soldiers was becoming an important part of national memory.

Veterans from both sides worked together, to promote the idea of a "federally protected military parks." Because many former Civil War officers were now serving in Congress, the proposal found influential supporters in Washington.

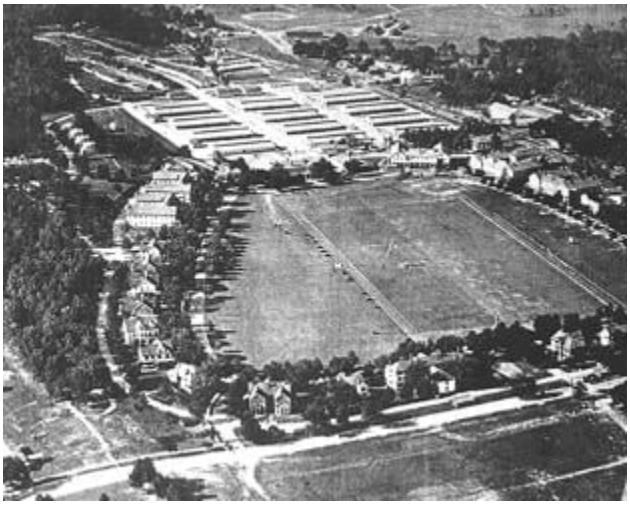
After several years of lobbying and planning Congress passed legislation establishing Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in 1890. President Benjamin Harrison signed the bill into law creating the first national military park in the United States. This concept of preservation is maybe not what we think of as preservation, part of the way they slid it through Congress was that these National Military Parks would be used to train future soldiers.

It was not just what we think of today as we visit Battlefields, where it is a passive experience, this was active military training, the battlefields first major reuse as a modern military training center came during the Spanish American War. In April of 1898, the Army began establishing what become Camp George H. Thomas named in honor of the Union General, who is remembered for his stand at Chickamauga during the Civil War. The first regular Army unit to arrive was the 25th infantry regiment, an all-Black segregated regiment who entered the park on April 14th. Within days Major General John R Brooke arrives to take command of the growing encampment.

As the United States formally declared War on Spain the number of troops at Chickamauga increased rapidly. Regular Army forces initially brought the camp strength to several thousand men, but by mid-May volunteer regiments from across the states increased that number. Samson showed us another picture where the Second Nebraska began to arrive and swelling of the population dramatically. By the end of mobilization more than 72,000 soldiers had passed through the camp. Training at Camp

Thomas was rigorous and often uncomfortable. Soldiers rose before dawn for drills and field exercises followed by inspections and evening dress parades.

Infrastructure struggled to keep pace the rapid influx of troops tents was overcrowded often housing 70 and 90 men in small canvas shelters without flooring. These conditions combined with poor sanitation contributed to widespread illness within the camp. By August 1898 concerns about health and overcrowding led the Secretary of War to order the camp's gradual closure. Sampson showed us another picture and said, "Again, maybe not the most preservation minded Army in charge of the Civil War Battlefields. In 1902 we have the creation of Fort Oglethorpe, this is the formal establishment of a permanent military camp between 1902 and 1904.



Fort Oglethorpe

In 1905 we have the 12th Cavalry arriving they say four years before being sent to the Philippines from Fort Oglethorpe. We can see from another picture, more of the buildings of Barnhart Circle, the band barracks, these are houses that still exist. Two of those are still in existence they were built in 1909. The troops were sent to the Mexico border in 1911 during the Mexican revolution, and to Colorado in 1914 in response to the Ludlow massacre, it was a riot because of mining conditions that ended up impacting the local civilians. The 11th cavalry was sent there as a peacekeeping mission, and they finally left for Oglethorpe in 1916 during the Mexican punitive expedition which is just in time to lead us into World War One.

Sampson explained in World War One the camp expands beyond Barnhart Circle, in those formal buildings by early 1917 the international situation had deteriorated to the point that American involvement seemed increasingly likely. German submarine attacks on shipping and the revelation of diplomatic efforts the conflict helped shift public opinion toward intervention when Congress declared War in April.

The army suddenly faced the enormous task of training and equipping a rapidly expanding military force at that time. The War Department still administered Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park because the army had already used mobilization during the Spanish American war. It turned into these landscapes again as practical training grounds

At Chickamauga three major encampments were established, Camp Gordon McLean named after a trainee who was killed there in 1917 in a training accident, Camp Forest named after Nathan Bedford Forrest renamed Greenleaf. Camp Forest focused mainly on engineer training; Camp Warden McLean functioned as a training Center for reserve officers and future President Eisenhower even served there for a few months as a training officer. Camp Greenleaf, however, was the largest

installation and supported the army's medical training operations. Across the battlefield temporary barracks, hospital structures, roads and trenches and you can even see some of the trenches yet today the number of men who trained during World War One was similar in size to the US army who fought there in 1863.

In another picture soldiers are literally digging trenches into the Civil War battlefield, not our concept of preservation. Of the three World War One camps at Chickamauga, this camp was by far the most expansive and the most influential established in 1917. It served as the army's primary training Center for medical personnel preparing for overseas duty.

The camp emphasized practical instruction of soldiers from the realities of wartime medical service. Training programs covered the organization of field and evacuation hospitals, sanitation and trench environments, and the coordination of casualty transport from the front lines to medical facilities. The curriculum also reflected the technological transition taking place within the military at the time both motorized ambulance systems and traditional animal drawn transport. Specialized courses addressed veterinary care and dental services, and who reinforcing the army's growing recognition that Modern Warfare required a broad and coordinated medical infrastructure.

On a more somber note, Fort Oglethorpe was also the site of a POW Camp. Beginning in 1917 the War Department confined captured German Merchant sailors as well as civilians classified as enemy aliens or suspected of disloyalty under wartime legislation, such as the Espionage Act, at its height the camp held several 1000 men. The installation was enclosed by barbed wire fencing and guarded by military personnel.

On July 4th, 1919, the 6th Cavalry returns from their service overseas in France to Norfolk, VA and they immediately depart overland to head to Fort Oglethorpe. Stationed there for the next 23 years, this is the longest the 6th Cavalry is stationed at any place in their history, and it is the longest any one unit was at Fort Oglethorpe.

After World War II, the National Park Service assumed management of Chickamauga Battlefield in 1933. In 1935, they constructed the Visitor Center, which remains standing to this day. Molly noted that when viewing images of Chickamauga, one should refer to Barnhardt Circle. This area serves as the headquarters company on National Park land, with the stables located north of Barnhardt Circle. A rail line passes through this region, and part of the building dating back to the Civil War era still exists.

Because of the depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps created as part of the

New Deal Established in 1933, the CCC was designed to provide employment training and structural for unemployed young men while simultaneously improving public lands and infrastructure at Ft Chickamauga

Molly told us before WW2, The US army says, hey you guys can start testing out new vehicles, they get to evaluate the early Jeeps at Chickamauga, which is more of what we think of when we think of a World War Two Era Jeeps.

The attack on Pearl Harbor happens December 7th, 1941, a date which will live in infamy. On December 8th we declare War on Japan and in return Germany and Italy declare war on the USA. The 6th Calvary actually was headed to a Polo match; on December 7th, the army sends a messenger after them to catch them in route and say you have to come back right now! The polo match is cancelled.

The people stationed at Chickamauga Battlefield never get back to that polo match and they quickly are sent to overseas service. They went to Camp Blanding, Florida and then Fort Jackson, SC and from there they head overseas they served with distinction under Patton, they become a mechanized reconnaissance group. The third cavalry arrives continuing this theme of Cavalry units from Chickamauga Battlefield, Fort Oglethorpe also becomes the official Induction Center for the greater Chattanooga area.

Ms. Sampson also talked about her research on the WACS, “We have a large influx of draftees coming in at Chickamauga battlefield. Bigger changes are coming to the army and Military service.

Mollie played a news reel recording produced by the Army before WW Two. “There goes one of those women who wants to join the army, some people say, she is crazy, it is a waste of time. This is a man’s war this is what people were saying when the second world war started.”

What can a woman do in a war, was a common question? What sort of jobs are open to women? The short answer, X-ray technicians, inspectors of army meat, teachers, schooling our soldiers, blacks are classification experts in civilian life, why not let the army use those services? Not all people were in favor of their daughter going off to War. “This is a man's war or is it? there are 239 more jobs identified for women by a Senate Committee.

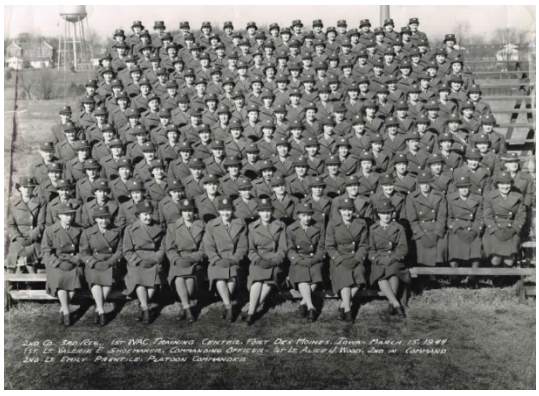
General Eisenhower said, in many instances Blacks do the work of two men, the army needs all the men they can get, you do not want Generals fighting a war with one hand tied behind their backs! Listen to the women of the United Nations they too have some ideas about women in service, the English with that calm courage, the Canadian and Australian woman who served by the thousands during World War one and two. This is from the official history of 3rd WAC training center. World War Two brought a new type of soldier to the Fort Chickamauga for training on the grounds consecrated by the dead of the Civil War. Where soldiers of the Spanish American and World War One had been camped. The women of America were trained for noncombatant jobs in the Army of the United States.

Congress enacted the WAC ACT, imposing several restrictions such as the absence of free mail and ambiguities regarding overseas deployment and POW protection, which introduced logistical complexities. The initial group of trainees arrived ahead of schedule due to the expedited preparation of the training center. Training commenced at the South Post and the area formerly used by the civilian conservation camp.

Chattanooga, and Chickamauga town are marked on a map we are shown by Samson, the South Post housed most of the WACs and contained three main training regiments for the Third WAC Training Center.

The 20th training regiment, while being the smallest number was actually the last one to be created at Ft. Oglethorpe, It was in operation from June 1944 to June 1945, Seventy-eight companies cycled through those twelve regiments receiving basic training and twenty-seven of those happened in the last year of the war as part of the medical technician training efforts.

They operated from January 1943, that first group of WACS 'would have been part of the 21st through June 1945 on the South Post. They organized twenty-three training companies within the regiment training a total of 39,384 women and the 22nd Training Regiment operated through February 1943 to June 1945 on the North Post. July 1943, the WACs dropped that auxiliary status, finally the women are officially in the army. This is the 21st training Regiment on the South Post.



The WACs are filling the time in class with extra hours and army orientation, indoctrination customs and courtesies, organizations, they put a lot of effort into teaching women how the army worked and how it is structured. They also spent more time in drill almost double the time in drill as the men and more time in physical training because it was thought women were not robust enough for army life. They needed to build up their endurance. Also, my other favorite ceremonies and parades, 12 hours for the women, 0 hours for the men.

Other training courses in the north post including the cooks and bakers' school and motor transport school were both on the north post officer candidate school moved from the first white training center at Fort Des Moines, IA to Fort Oglethorpe in the summer of 1943. This extended field service training, better known as overseas training, moved from Fort Des Moines to the original commandant of the WAC training center

The WACs have medical technician training that started early in the war but became a heavy focused in 1945 to the point, 85% of women being recruited by January 1945 are being recruited for medical technician training, to prepare for soldiers coming

home from overseas. The Army realized that we do not need to send women overseas anymore to fill in support roles we need to start preparing for everyone to come home and work on rehabilitation. There is a recruiter school, the most famous graduate of the recruiter school at Fort Oglethorpe was Grace Thorpe, the daughter of Jim Thorpe the athlete.

The other notable picture is, if you look at the women in the class this is integrated, we have two black WACs serving in the officer candidate school. The army was segregated and therefore the WAC was also segregated smaller training courses like this would be integrated.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt visited in April of 1943, we were shown a photo of the Chickamauga visitor center, Oviedo C Hobby the Director of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, sitting in the back seat with the President, it was a bit of a surprise visit they announced it publicly day of, the post was given a 24 hour warning to then mobilize the 10s of thousands of people there.

Mary Churchill also visited in September of 1943 she was serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service as a subaltern and her father Winston Churchill might be famous, that's Mary Churchill there and she is examining the WAC uniforms. There was a lot of back-and-forth visits between the ATS and the WAC because when the WACs were creating the women's army auxiliary corps we plagiarized what the British were doing, the only thing we changed really other than uniforms was we did not draft women.

The WACKS were very aware of the history of Civil War; Sampson had a photo of Grant and Lee finally coming to peace. You have Lieutenant Grant and Lieutenant Lee shaking hands over one of the guns and then there is the Florida monument with an unnamed WAC. In April of 1944, the first woman to become a commandant of our army training center was Lieutenant Colonel Elizabeth Strayhorn, assumes command of the third black training center from Colonel Howard Clark who had been serving as an interim after the Hobart Brown left.

We also had Puerto Rican and Hawaiian WAC's who came through basic training in 1943. The War Department opened up recruiting for Asian WACs, and they recruited 58 women origin from Hawaii, and they went straight from Hawaii to Fort Oglethorpe for basic training. Then women from Puerto Rico we had some Puerto Rican women who joined the WAC before this, but you had to be able to pay your way from Puerto Rico to Miami, because that was the closest induction center.

In September 1944 they organized a Recruiting Drive sending recruiters down to Puerto Rico. The WAC interviewed hundreds of women from the island, they picked 200 and they came up from Puerto Rico to Miami and then by rail from Miami to Fort Oglethorpe. Then the Chattanooga Daily Press almost exclusively called them Senoritas in every news article for the next month.

What is interesting about the Puerto Rican WACs, after you go to basic training you graduate, you get your duty assignment or you get picked for additional training, officer candidate school, etcetera. The Puerto Rican WACs were not scattered. They left basic training and they all went as one unit to the point of embarkation in New York and they were assigned there to work as sensors and sort mail.

Let us not forget that Fort Oglethorpe is in the Jim Crow south. Our introduction included the Six Triple Eight Unit, which has become the most famous Unit of the Women's Army Corps. They did their overseas training at Fort Oglethorpe. Before they got there we had Black WACs assigned to the station hospital at Fort Oglethorpe just off the North Post and one of the women was arrested in November of 1944, Beatrice Jackson. She was a private first class and she was arrested for crossing the color line on a bus from Chattanooga to Fort Oglethorpe. She was found guilty; she was fined $75 and due to her ranking that was more than a month's worth of pay. She was also sentenced to serve 60 days in the workhouse. This story hit the national wires. There are even articles from Ohio papers reporting on it. at that point, Howard Clark is head of the entire Post, "Straight Horns" in charge of the training center, but he is heading the whole Post, because Jackson is out of training, assigned to the station hospital, he's her overarching commander, and he says, I see no reason why I should get involved. "They knew what was expected of them and they were told to follow the Jim Crow rules in the South."

We realized that the war is ending hopefully in December 1944, they announced that the third WAC training center is going to close and everything is going to get moved back to the first WAC training center. Now there are 5 WAC training centers in total we are down to two. The 1st and the 3rd and they are talking about closing the third CO and moving everything to Iowa they rescinded that in January 1945

That was when the push for the medical technician training happened and all of that happened at Fort Oglethorpe, they announced closing again in May of 1945 and the training center was officially deactivated on July 20th, 1945.

Women of the Six Triple Eight

VE day ended an emergency reserve. They only existed for the duration of the war and six months; we are reaching at least part of the six months. Fort Oglethorpe stays operational not as a WAC training center, it becomes a demobilization center for returning servicemen, not for long, decommissioned with the final flag dropped at retreat on New Year's Eve 1946, the Fort was decommissioned, the post is closed.

Sampson explained, orders are issued to tear everything down and put the camp back to how it was, and they did it, the Army way! They took down the wood and honestly they did not even take down the wood, I met a gentleman who had been in the 6th Calvary went overseas and came home using the GI bill to build his house and he said his garage was built with lumber recruited from the WAC barracks. There were lots of stories about town, they basically just took down the wood and left everything else.

If you visit Chattanooga, you may see the footings of one of the WAC barracks, it was to be removed, but it is not done because after decades of ignoring the fact that women were there, the National Park Service is finally recognizing that the WAC training center was there. The largest Wack training center of all is #5 and they have added these two signs as of April 2024 and you can see the handy little map and this one is nice because it tells you where you are in the park.

Molly had a photo from 2024, that gentleman is the grandson of Elizabeth Strayhorn, his grandmother was the first female commandant of any training center, this was from our first event in 2019. This is the original photo in front of the visitor center, and this is our recreation with Brian Autry one of the park Rangers who has become a leading champion for the Women's Army Corps history.

Questions from the CCWRT members

Q>> Who is the highest-ranking WAC officer?
MS >> the highest rank of any member of the WAC, women's army auxiliary corps or women's Army Corps was Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby, director of the WAC was the only Full Bird Colonel and in Betty Vandal's memoirs, she talks about going to England in October 1942 accompanying Oveta Culp Hobby and all of the British officers are asking how many women are under her command?
She goes well I am authorized for up to 100,000 they are like why aren't you a General? We would not have any Women Brigadier Generals in the US Army until 1970, during Korea and much of Vietnam. We kept women at lower field ranks became the first Secretary Education and Welfare say she is a Full Bird Colonel to salute her and give her the same respect. Yes and the reason she got that secretary position is because of how closely she worked with Eisenhower during the war.
They had a wonderful working relationship between the two and back to Vandal her book is great. Its letters home to her parents and extra memoirs and between she talks about going overseas. They meet with Eisenhower and Beetle Smith and Mike keeps holding the doors for them, but he outranks them, they should be holding the doors for him. He goes you are women first; I cannot get over this and there is a lot of anecdotes about that of the push and pull between gender norms and how women should be treated in terms of social etiquette versus army structure.
Part of that is because of how WAC were assigned to units. It is not until late 1944 that you start getting women in Battalions, they

were not allowed to be formed under tables of organization, and equipment because that inherently meant combat. They were assigned as casual replacements for most of the work and they would be in small groups. One of my favorite units to talk about is the WAC detachment, forward echelon communication zone.

It was 49 illicit WAC, 5 WAC officers, and they were the first group of WACS to go to France after D-Day. They landed on D DAY plus 38, kind of an odd and small unit number, but they were there to set up a camp, to help more WACS pass from England into the continent.

Q>> Great talk thanks you, when FDR visited do you know where he stayed, did he stay on site or did he stay somewhere else?

MS>> He did not stay overnight, he was driving through and he was headed to Warm Springs, he passed through briefly and went back to Warm Springs, arrived at Chattanooga by rail.

Q>> How many Black WACS went through Fort Oglethorpe?

MS>> I do not know offhand. I know for sure 855 through training you would have to do some digging to get numbers of officer candidates versus the specialist training. Just for reference across the course of the war,1942 to 1945, 150,000 women served

Peak strength was 99,628 in January of 1945. the total number of Black Women serving women's Army Corps was a little over 6,000. There was a 10% rule in place that had been established by the army in the 1920s, the army war college because they did not have polo and bowling and everything to keep them busy they were doing all of these studies and a lot of them were heavily based on eugenics.

They did a study for the employment of negro troops and basically came out that black soldiers should not be allowed to have their own officers, they needed white male officers to tell them what to do, because, the report said, they did not have the same mental capacity of the other soldiers. They also established that the proportion of Black soldiers in the US army should be at the same rate as the general population at large and they picked 10.6%. That is became the 10% rule and if you look at the first WAC training class in July of 1942 Charity Adams was part of that group, the number of women was 440 kinds of a strange number, but it is 400 white WAC 40 black Wacks and other races just did not exist.

You start seeing other races pop up later in the war when Puerto Rican was considered a race but not in the beginning of the war. Women were assigned based on who was signing them up them up. as to what your race was, one member of the six triple eight whose father had been a Buffalo soldier and her mother was Mexican was allowed to pick her race, whether she wanted to be white or black and she chose to be listed as Black. That is how she ended up in a segregated unit

The first white training center was Fort Des Moines, IA also a Cavalry Post, which is where the joke about moving the horses out of the stable and moving the women in started. The second WAC training centers, this is my favorite just because of how it started with the book, Little House on the Prairie. I did not know the winters were miserable in Iowa, September winter comes early that year and at this point the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps is still in the early days.

They have not gotten all of their uniforms they just got summer uniforms. They do not have winter uniforms yet and its now winter. They get a rush shipment of men's overcoats that none of them fit. There's a really great illustration in the first WAC memoir to be published of a WAC and one of these

overcoats and she looks like Dobby from Snow White and seven dwarfs and they're wearing those they're layering all of the civilian clothes they brought with them with their uniforms and nobody's in any semblance of a regulation, they are getting pneumonia because it is so cold.

They are telling the Quartermaster like hey we need we need the winter uniforms. The Quarter masters RESPONDS, there is a war going on and I have men to take care of, who are like in North Africa. They are my priority, calm down. In order to achieve this, we need a second training center. They are going where we can pick a training center that we do not need winter uniforms, Daytona Beach, FL the third white WAC training center, Fort Oglethorpe, the 4th Black training center was Fort Sevens, Mass mostly a medical training center before that became a large hospital section after it closed in June of 1944. Then the fifth white training center also kind of hilarious was terrible idea was located at 3 separate locations, Ruston Polk, and Monticello and if you did a loop between the three it would be 100 miles.
Now we will point out it was also a POW camp; I do not know about you guys but if I enlisted in the army as a volunteer and they put me in the same tar paper shacks they were putting POWs in I would be a little mad. It was only open for three months they shuttered it and moved everybody to Fort Oglethorpe after that

Q>> Was the camp affected by the Spanish flu or any other pandemics
MS>> yes so Spanish flu did hit not as heavily as you see some of the other camps, nothing at the rates you saw in Kansas but yes it was hit and there was,

Q>>I was curious if Native American women segregated and were they allowed even prior to the Indian citizenship act of 1924
MS>> I cannot answer about the army nurse corps which would have been the only army organization that allowed women before 1942, but there was no segregation for Native American women. Grace Thorpe, I mentioned earlier honestly her Native American heritage. the fame of her father was tokenized, they used it as an advertising thing and the fact that she became a recruiting officer, they usually tried to push minority women out of being recruiting officers, they wanted the pretty middle class white women as the recruiting officers because they were trying to fight the slander campaign.

Q>> How many WACS went to Europe as opposed to the Pacific?
Th Pacific was the last place to get WACS almost 5,000 WACS were assigned to the Pacific because north Africa also received WACS Europe receive over 10,000 WACS.

~Judge Charles Patton

CCWRT DISPATCHES

**THE CCWRT 2026 FIELD TRIP*

The CCWRT 2026 Field Trip will be September 17-20, 2026. We will be

traveling to the Shenandoah Valley to study the 1862 Valley Campaign. Check the CCWRT website and your CCWRT emails for details and registration information.

*EMERGING CIVIL WAR SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR BEST CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

We have been informed that Emerging Civil War is asking for nominations for the 2026 CWRT of the year. Accordingly, officers and directors of the CCWRT have started to collect information and records to complete a nomination application. The deadline for the application to the Emerging Civil War Symposium is May 1, 2026. Any CCWRT member who has any suggestions regarding the nomination application should contact any officer or director to see that his/her idea is passed on to the nomination application committee. We are all proud of our roundtable here in Cleveland, so we should make our best effort on the application.

*JOHNSON'S ISLAND PARK DAY

This year's Park Day event at the Johnson's Island Civil War Prison site will be **Saturday, April 11 from 9:00am-3:00pm**. Please note that this Park Day is not in line with the American Battlefield Trust's national day of observation.

Park Day Volunteers Gathering and Burning Brush
At Johnson's Island Two Years Ago

The Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island hope you can join them this year and spread the word to get others involved!

Click here to register by April 5

Please make sure to register if you plan to attend. Having the number of attendees allows the FDJI to better plan for volunteer tasks and lunch.

The FDJI will send out additional information closer to the event to all who register. If you are unable to register using the link, you can also email them at jicwmp@gmail.com. For any questions, please feel free to contact them through this email or call Amanda at 260-494-7468 or Brandi at 734-347-8783.

*CCWRT MEETINGS DINNER COST INCREASE FOR 2026-2027

Due to rising food costs, the Holiday Inn has periodically raised dinner costs to the Roundtable since we began meeting there in 2021. Most of these costs have been absorbed by the Roundtable, and we have been able to keep the dinner charges to members unchanged since 2019 when we met at Judson Manor. While that charge to members has remained steady, we have run monthly deficits to keep the meal cost at $35.00. For the past year the Executive Committee has focused on these costs and has taken proactive steps to minimize these deficits including menu selections, Holiday Buffet elimination, and recouping dinner costs from last-day member cancellations. While this has had a positive impact, we continue to face deficits that do not allow us to balance our costs. As a result, the Executive Committee has agreed to raise the dinner charge from $35.00 to $40.00 effective with the start of the next program year beginning September 2026. Additionally, we likely would need to charge an additional fee for special occasions such as the Holiday Buffet

should we wish to reinstate it. Should that be the case, it would be announced in advance. We believe this step is necessary to maintain our financial health while providing beneficial programs for our Roundtable.

~Gary Taylor, Treasurer

The Editor's Desk

THE LAND OF LINCOLN—or Springfield, Illinois, even in 2026 appears to be a tranquil city. Patty Zinn and I made a trip there the last week of February. We were both impressed by the lack of traffic on the streets, even though Springfield is the state capital and the Legislature was in session. Of course, I presume things are busier in the summer months as tourists come to town to explore the Lincoln sites.

Patty had never been to Springfield before, and it had been more than fifty years since I had been there for a Civil War reenactment in 1975. Along the drive from Westlake, Ohio, we stopped at Dwight, Illinois, on Old Route 66, to have supper at the Old Route 66 Diner. This year is the hundredth anniversary of the road that connects Chicago to Los Angeles, and businesses along the route are already celebrating. In the parking lot we were greeted by a mural depicting the construction and history of the road, and the Dwight, IL, 1920s Texaco Station was easy to spot from the diner. It was a fun way to start our journey. As darkness came to the Prairie, however, in the distant horizon, we could see the flashing red lights on the turbines of a huge wind farm, a stark reminder of the 21st century.

In Springfield, we stayed three nights at the Carpenter Street Hotel. Within a mile or so of the various Lincoln sites near the Illinois State Capital Building, the Carpenter was a convenient headquarters for our explorations. There was plenty of parking and the staff was diligent and courteous. Just around the corner, not far, was a nice midwestern diner, "Lulu's," that had a great breakfast menu. One morning, we got to share the diner with an Illinois legislator.

The Lincoln Home in Springfield, Illinois

The Old Illinois State Capital Building where Lincoln served and gave his "House Divided" speech was undergoing renovations. We, nevertheless, took the opportunity to visit the other nearby sites. When I was in Springfield decades ago, the Lincoln House was a state historic site. It is now a National Park. There is a great visitor's center, and the house and a block or so around the site is being preserved as an 1860s era town plot. An NPS ranger or volunteer gives tours of the Lincoln home,

which includes some original Lincoln furniture pieces and several items from the Lincoln era that represent furnishings the Lincolns had in their home.

In addition, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library was near our hotel. It is operated by the state of Illinois and is impressive. While you are there be sure to catch the "Ghosts of the Library" show that gives a brief introduction to the Lincoln Presidential Library. One display that caught my attention was an animated map titled "The Civil War in Four Minutes." Each second on the map represented a week of real time. With each second, the map changed to show how territory in the country changed hands between the US government and the CSA. Major battles were indicated by tiny explosions on the map. The chilling part, however, was the counter on the side of the map which indicated the mounting casualties each passing week. It was a sobering display.

We spent some time at the Oak Ridge Cemetery, on the edge of town. Of course we stopped at the Lincoln Tomb, but while we were there, we also visited Lincoln's original burial site (the center of a post-Civil War plot to steal Lincoln's body), the Illinois GAR burial plot and memorial mound, and the various veteran war memorial sites on the cemetery grounds.

Illinois GAR Mound at Oak Ridge Cemetery with
Bronze 12 Pound Field Gun Half-Buried Muzzle Down

The Lincoln New Salem State Historic Site, where Lincoln first settled in Illinois, was about a twenty-minute drive outside Springfield. The park is located where New Salem once stood before it was abandoned in the 1850s. State archeologists and the Civilian Conservation Corps uncovered many of the original building foundations in the 1930s. The village has been reconstructed, and visitors can now walk the land once walked by young Abe Lincoln. Although the buildings are kept closed in the winter, the grounds and Visitor's Center were open. There were several interesting displays in the Center, including a case that contained Lincoln's surveying chain and some of his other surveyor's equipment.

The Civil War in Four Minutes
Located in the Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library

Finally, we made a couple more stops in Springfield that were not far off the beaten

path and worth some time. If you are a bird watcher, then you should take time to visit the Adams Nature Preserve, owned and operated by the Illinois Audubon Society. We also had a pleasant time touring the Illinois State Military Museum, located in an old supply building on the edge of the Illinois National Guard Camp Lincoln. The museum has displays from the various wars fought by Illinois soldiers from the frontier militia through Desert Storm and the more recent Worldwide War on Terrorism. The volunteers who run the museum are happy to spend time with visitors. They seem knowledgeable and freely answer any questions.

Scene from "Ghosts of the Library," a Presentation
At the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library

We made our way home to Westlake by way of Fort Wayne, Indiana. If you are in that area, be sure to check out the Hyde Brothers Booksellers shop. In addition to the four store cats that roam the place, they have an inventory of 150,000 books, including a large selection of classic and rare Civil War titles. I found a multi-volume naval history of the war by Virgil Carrington Jones that had eluded me for years. Also, if you like Italian food, do not pass up Salvatori's in North Fort Wayne. *Arrivederci!*

Uniforms of Illinois Soldiers Through Various Wars
Illinois State Military Museum

A Springfield, Illinois, Todd Family Stone

On our trip to Springfield, Illinois, "the land of Lincoln," Patty Zinn and I saw most of the usual sites, but when we visited Lincoln's Tomb at the Oak Ridge Cemetery, we discovered a grave site that piqued my curiosity. We were driving through a quiet section of the cemetery, and as I looked out the window, I saw a tall obelisk monument with the name Todd carved near the bottom and a plaque identifying the graves of John Todd, M.D., and his wife Elizabeth. Neither of us had ever heard of Dr. Todd. I suspected that he was a relative of Mary Todd, but I had no idea of the relationship. The Todds were a wealthy family from the Lexington area of Kentucky. The family patriarch, Levi Todd, was a Revolutionary War veteran and one of the founders of Lexington. He was the father of eleven children, including Mary's father, Robert Smith Todd. Levi Todd eventually farmed a large tract of land with thirty-nine slaves, built the first brick house in Fayette County, Kentucky, that he named "Ellerslie," after the small Scottish village that was the Todd family ancestral home. He practiced law, served twenty-seven years as the Court Clerk for Fayette County, was a delegate to Kentucky's statehood conventions, took over command from Daniel Boone of the Kentucky state militia and was awarded the rank of Major General, and served as

one of the first trustees of Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky.

In addition to Mary Todd's father, Robert, Levi's children included an aspiring medical student, John Todd. Like his brother Robert, John Todd (born April 27, 1787) was an early graduate of Transylvania University, eventually receiving a medical degree from the Medical University of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (now the University of Pennsylvania), in 1810. During the War of 1812, Dr. Todd served as Surgeon General of Kentucky's troops. After the war, he returned to practice medicine in Lexington. For a short time, he resided in Bardstown, Kentucky, but in 1817 he moved his family to Edwardsville, Illinois.

Being a strong supporter of the Whig Party, Dr. Todd was appointed Register of the United States General Land Office in Springfield, Illinois, by President John Quincy Adams in 1827. He held that office until he was dismissed in 1829, following the election of Democrat President Andrew Jackson. Todd remained in Springfield, practicing medicine, even serving, in 1840, as the first president of the Illinois State Medical Society. He died on January 7, 1865, and his wife, Elizabeth Smith Todd, followed him less than two months later.

Dr. John Todd

Dr. Todd was the de facto patriarch of the Todd family in Springfield. The doctor developed a large and thriving medical practice, although he never grew as wealthy as might be expected. According to the 1860 census, Todd owned $2000 in real estate and $500 in personal property (Lincoln, by comparison, owned $5000 in real property and $12,000 in his personal estate). He was a liberal and generous man who often failed to pursue payment for his services from those who could afford to pay and too often forgave the debts of those who could not afford payment. It was said that Dr. Todd was ever ready to do a good deed for a neighbor and that his door was open to all, and all could expect a heart-felt welcome.

Mary Todd and her sisters loved their Uncle John! On a November day in 1842, when Abraham Lincoln and Mary decided that they were going to get married that very evening, she rushed to her Uncle John's house. "Uncle," she excitedly cried, "you must go and tell my sister that Mr. Lincoln and I are to be married this evening." Then she turned to her cousin, Elizabeth Todd, and hurried her out the door to help do some shopping. It was then up to Uncle John Todd, the affable medical doctor, to smooth over family indignation about the unexpected suddenness of the announcement and the lack of time to properly prepare a marriage celebration. His diplomacy and advocacy for Mary's cause prevailed, and he soon had everyone in good humor.

When Civil War approached, Dr. Todd made it clear that he was a strong Union man, despite his connections with a wealthy, Kentucky, slave-owning family. In 1823-1824, he campaigned tirelessly to keep slavery from being introduced into Illinois. His own relationship with that "peculiar institution," however, was somewhat complicated. His household was served by an African American indentured servant named Betsy. Like many people living in the border states between North and South, Dr. Todd advocated for gradual emancipation and colonization of freed slaves to Africa.

When Patty and I visited New Salem the next day after our exploration of Oak Ridge Cemetery, I told the woman manning the desk in the Visitor's Center about our discovery of the Todd monument. She had never heard about the stone or Dr. Todd. It seems that many people in Springfield know that Mary Todd came to the city from her family's home in Kentucky to live with her sister, Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's husband, Ninian Wirt Edwards, an important Illinois politician. Few remember, however, Mary's uncle, Dr. John Todd, who first arrived in the infant prairie town to pave the way for her destiny.

~Kent Fonner

Lt. Col. William Merrill, with left hand on map, and his fellow Cartographers of the Army of the Cumberland

Lines Drawn in War: Cartographers, Cameras, and the Civil War Landscape

By Don Iannone

The American Civil War is often remembered through movement. Armies advance, lines break, and commanders maneuver across contested ground. Beneath these visible actions lay a quieter discipline that made such movement possible. Cartographers, working as topographical engineers, surveyors, and mapmakers, translated uncertain terrain into usable knowledge. Their work shaped strategy, influenced outcomes, and helped define how the war would be remembered. These men did more than record geography. They interpreted it. In doing so, they imposed order on chaos, sometimes accurately, sometimes imperfectly, but always with consequence.

The Cartographer's Role in Civil War Armies

Cartographers were essential to both Union and Confederate military operations. Their primary task was to gather and represent geographic information such as roads, rivers, elevations, vegetation, and settlements. These features were not merely descriptive. They were tactical.

The Union benefited from the prewar establishment of the U.S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers, staffed largely by West Point graduates trained in mathematics, engineering, and surveying.[1] These officers conducted reconnaissance, prepared maps, and advised commanders on terrain. Their work was integrated into planning at every level of command.

The Confederacy began the war with fewer resources and limited access to reliable maps. Early in the conflict, Southern leaders recognized that existing cartographic knowledge was inadequate.[2] Efforts were made to organize mapping bureaus and gather geographic intelligence, often under difficult conditions and with limited equipment.[3]

In both armies, cartographers frequently operated near the front. They observed terrain under fire, interviewed local residents, and created sketches that were later refined into working maps. These maps guided troop movements, identified defensible ground, and allowed separated units to coordinate across unfamiliar landscapes.

Terrain and the Nature of the War

The Civil War was deeply shaped by terrain. Success often depended on understanding the land as much as on leadership or numbers. Armies rarely moved as a single mass. They advanced along multiple roads and required careful coordination. Without accurate maps, units could become lost, delayed, or exposed.[4] This challenge was especially acute for Union forces operating in Southern territory, where local knowledge often favored Confederate defenders.[5] Cartographers attempted to bridge this gap. They gathered information from observation, existing surveys, and civilian sources. The resulting maps were often incomplete, but they provided a framework for decision making in an environment defined by uncertainty.

Training and Background

Civil War cartographers came from diverse backgrounds. Many Union officers were formally trained at West Point, where instruction in topography and engineering prepared them for technical service.[6] These men brought a level of precision and discipline to mapmaking that reflected their education.

Others entered the field through informal means. Jedediah Hotchkiss, one of the Confederacy's most important mapmakers, had no formal training. A schoolteacher by profession, he developed his skills independently.[7] His success demonstrates that practical experience and careful observation could rival formal instruction. This range of training contributed to variation in map quality. Some maps were highly detailed and accurate. Others relied on estimation or incomplete data. Yet even imperfect maps could be decisive when no better information was available.

Jedediah Hotchkiss and the Shenandoah Valley

Jedediah Hotchkiss remains the most celebrated Civil War cartographer. Serving under Stonewall Jackson, he was tasked with mapping the Shenandoah Valley, a region central to Confederate operations. Jackson instructed him to prepare a map showing all points of offense and defense.[8] The result was a detailed and highly functional representation of the valley's terrain. It enabled Jackson to move rapidly and unpredictably during the Valley Campaign of 1862.[9] Hotchkiss's work illustrates the direct connection between cartography and military success. His maps did not simply describe the landscape. They allowed commanders to use it effectively.

Union Cartographers and Ohio Connections

The Union produced a number of distinguished cartographers and engineers, many with ties to Ohio and the broader Midwest. Gouverneur K. Warren, a West Point–trained engineer, played a critical role in reconnaissance and mapping; his keen understanding of terrain at Gettysburg led him to identify the strategic importance of Little Round Top, a position central to Union success.[10] Cleveland S. Rockwell, though born in Connecticut, worked within Northern engineering networks that included Ohio officers. His coastal surveys strengthened the Union blockade by improving its ability to intercept Confederate shipping.[11]

Ohio itself contributed a substantial corps of technically trained officers who served in mapping and engineering roles. The state's educational institutions and its deep involvement in the Union war effort made it a consistent source of such expertise, while Cleveland's role as a center of commerce and communication supported the production and circulation of maps for military and civilian use. This contribution is evident in figures such as Orlando M. Poe of Navarre, Ohio, who served as chief engineer in the Army of the Tennessee and produced maps and fortifications that shaped campaigns

from Vicksburg to Sherman's march, and William E. Merrill, who carried out similar reconnaissance and engineering work in the Western Theater.

Ohio soldiers in the field depended on these efforts. Letters and diaries from Ohio regiments frequently reveal a close attention to roads, elevations, and movement, reflecting a reliance on cartographic knowledge even when that information was incomplete.[12]

Cartographers and Photographers

One of the most intriguing aspects of Civil War documentation is the relationship between cartography and photography. While these disciplines were distinct, they often complemented one another. Photographers such as Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner, and Timothy O'Sullivan captured images of battlefields, fortifications, and landscapes. These photographs provided visual records that could be used to confirm or refine cartographic work.[13]

Timothy O'Sullivan, in particular, had experience as both a photographer and a survey assistant. After the war, he participated in western surveys where photography and mapping were closely integrated.[14] His Civil War photographs, though limited in scope compared to later work, reflect an emerging connection between visual documentation and geographic analysis.

Photographs helped cartographers understand features that might be difficult to capture in sketches alone. They provided detail on terrain, structures, and the aftermath of battle. However, photography had limitations. Exposure times and equipment constraints meant that images were often staged or taken after the fighting had ended. As a result, maps and photographs offered different kinds of truth. Maps emphasized structure and movement. Photographs captured moments and physical reality. Together, they contributed to a more complete understanding of the battlefield.

The Consequences of Imperfect Maps

Inaccurate maps could create serious vulnerabilities. Early in the war, both sides suffered from a lack of reliable cartographic information. Existing maps were often outdated or incomplete, missing critical details such as minor roads or changes in terrain.[15] These deficiencies could lead to misdirected movements and coordination failures. Units might arrive late to a planned engagement or advance along exposed routes. In some cases, commanders made decisions based on incorrect assumptions about the

landscape. Even later in the war, when mapping had improved, uncertainty remained. Cartographers worked under pressure and often relied on estimation. Errors were inevitable. A slight misjudgment in elevation or distance could alter the effectiveness of artillery or the timing of an attack. These vulnerabilities highlight the importance of cartographic accuracy. They also underscore the limits of knowledge in wartime. Maps could guide action, but they could not eliminate uncertainty.

Cartography and the Postwar Record

The influence of Civil War cartographers extended far beyond the battlefield. Their maps became foundational documents in the effort to record and interpret the war. The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion relied heavily on wartime maps. These maps, often revised and standardized, shaped how battles were described and understood. In many cases, they became the authoritative representation of events.

Hotchkiss's maps provide a striking example. After the war, Union authorities recognized their value and incorporated them into official materials.[16] This adoption reflects the degree to which cartographic accuracy could transcend sectional divisions.

At the same time, the process of publication introduced a sense of finality. Field sketches that had once been tentative were transformed into clean, authoritative images. Uncertainty was reduced. Complexity was simplified. In this way, cartographers helped construct Civil War memory. Their work influenced historians, veterans, and the public. The lines they drew became part of the narrative of the war itself.

Conclusion

Civil War cartographers occupied a position of quiet but profound influence. They did not lead charges or command armies, yet their work shaped both action and interpretation. Through their maps, they made the landscape legible. They enabled movement, guided strategy, and influenced outcomes. After the war, they helped define how events would be remembered. Their work was never purely objective. It reflected training, judgment, and the limitations of perception. The maps they produced were interpretations as much as representations. The Civil War was fought across fields and rivers, but also across lines drawn by human hands. In those lines, the war found direction, and later, meaning.

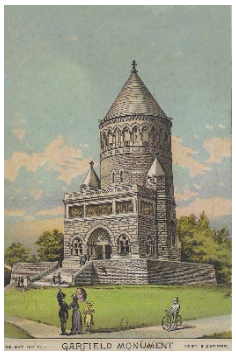
How to Learn More

- For readers interested in exploring Civil War cartography further, several resources offer valuable insight:
- Earl B. McElfresh's *Maps and Mapmakers of the Civil War* provides a comprehensive overview of cartographic practices and figures.
- The Library of Congress houses the Hotchkiss Map Collection, available online and in person, offering detailed examples of Confederate mapping.
- The National Park Service provides accessible biographies and battlefield studies that highlight the role of terrain.
- The Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland contains regional materials that illuminate Ohio's contribution to the war, including maps and personal papers.
- Visiting preserved battlefields such as Antietam or Gettysburg allows one to see firsthand the terrain that cartographers attempted to capture.

Engaging with these materials reveals not only the technical skill involved in Civil War cartography but also its enduring significance.

Notes

1. Earl B. McElfresh, *Maps and Mapmakers of the Civil War* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1999), 15–18.
2. Ibid., 30–32.
3. Clara LeGear, "The Hotchkiss Collection of Confederate Maps," Library of Congress.
4. McElfresh, *Maps and Mapmakers of the Civil War*, 42–45.
5. Ibid., 50–55.
6. Ibid., 18–22.
7. Brandi K. Oswald, "Jedediah Hotchkiss: Mapmaker of the Confederacy," National Archives.
8. Jedediah Hotchkiss, quoted in Library of Congress.
9. National Park Service, "Jedediah Hotchkiss."
10. McElfresh, *Maps and Mapmakers of the Civil War*, 120–125.
11. *Civil War Correspondence Collection*, Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections, Ohio University Libraries; see also George Benson Fox Letters, Cincinnati History Library and Archives; Earl J. Hess, *The Union Soldier in Battle: Enduring the Ordeal of Combat* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1997), 63–68.
12. Ibid., 210–215.
13. William A. Frassanito, *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time* (New York: Scribner, 1975).
14. Martha A. Sandweiss, *Print the Legend: Photography and the American West* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002).
15. McElfresh, *Maps and Mapmakers of the Civil War*, 60–65.
16. Ibid., 243–245.



Lakeview cemetery has announced these coming 2026 Civil War events:

Walking Tours: May 20 (1 PM), July 22 (10:30 AM), August 29 (1 PM)
Presentation: May 31 (3 PM)

Garfield & Friends: July 2 (10 AM), September 19 (1 PM)
http://lakeviewcemetery.com/EVENTS.

"Don't You Know Cousin Sally Ann?"

By Brian D. Kowell ©March 2026

"My God, has the army dissolved?" – Gen. Robert E. Lee said to Gen. William Mahone as they stood together on a nearby bluff overlooking Little Sailor Creek. Lee watched in horror as nearly a quarter of his army, 7,700, soldiers was captured by the Union army. Among those captured were eight Confederate generals. One was Lee's son, G.W.C. Lee. The others were Richard S. Ewell, Joseph Kershaw, Montgomery Corse, Dudley M. Du Bose, James P. Smith, and Seth Barton.[1]

The eighth general was Eppa Hunton. Born near Warrenton, Virginia, Hunton had been a schoolteacher before becoming an attorney of law before the Civil War. He was a staunch secessionist and was a delegate to the Virginia Secession Convention where he argued for Virginia to leave the Union. When war commenced, he was elected colonel of the 8th Virginia Infantry. He fought in most of the eastern battles from Bull Run to Sailor's Creek and was promoted to brigadier general after Pickett's charge at Gettysburg where he was wounded. He was frequently absent during the war due to wounds or because of suffering from a fistula – the "pain and physical exhaustion" causing him more than once to fall from his horse.[2]

General Eppa Hunton

The captured generals were soon herded to City Point and transferred to Washington. There they would be put aboard a ship and transported to New York for their final destination by train to Fort Warren Prison in Boston. General Eppa Hunton wrote in his autobiography that at 9:30 p.m. on April 14, 1865, "We left Washington for Fort Warren, Boston Harbor."[3]

The next morning when they docked in New York City to board the train for Boston, the Confederates learned of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln the night before. Hunton said that at every train stop on the way to Boston, when it was discovered that the train carried Confederate generals, angry crowds formed with cries of "Hang them!" When the Confederate prisoners arrived in Boston, Federal authorities were concerned for their safety and quickly placed them in hacks and rushed them to the wharf without incident. Boarding a steamer, the generals were taken to the prison in the harbor.[4]

Once in Fort Warren, the officers were broken up into large communal cells. Hunton said that, "Our mess consisted of seven: General Ewell; General Kershaw; General Corse; General Barton; General Wilson; General DuBose; and myself. The other higher-ranking officers were in an adjoining cell, but had free had access between the cells.

One afternoon Hunton was asleep on his bed when "he was aroused by an unusual commotion and found twelve Confederate officers holding a meeting" in his mess's cell. He discovered the meeting was called by Gen. Ewell who proposed writing a resolution that they had no complicity in Lincoln's assassination and sending it to the Federal authorities, thinking that their resolution would help in their quick exchange.

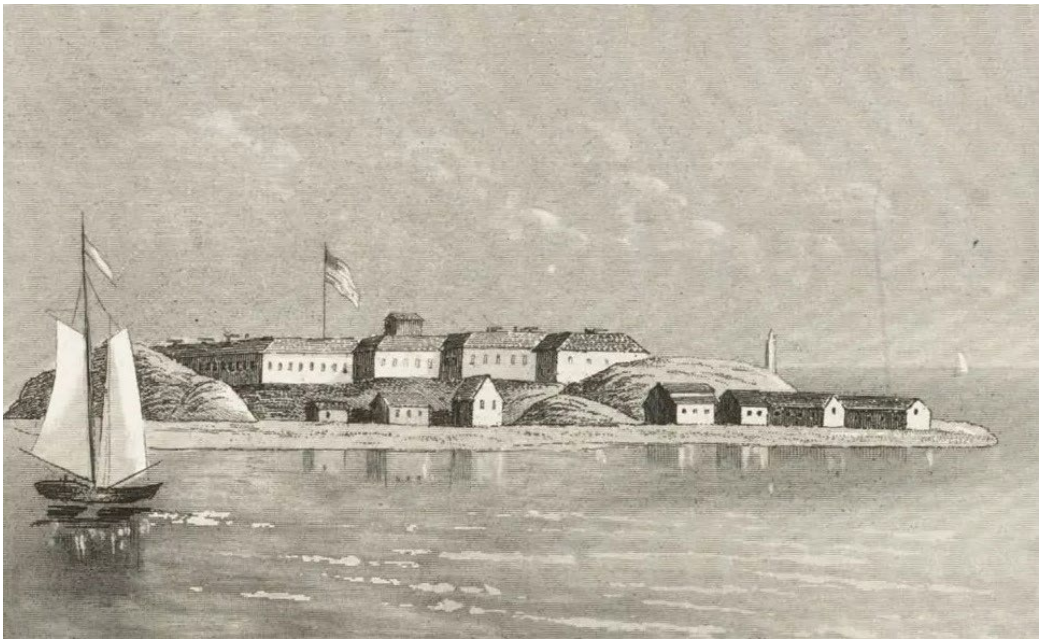
Hunton, now awake, was vehemently opposed to the resolution, arguing that as Confederate officers and gentlemen of honor they did not have to put forth this resolution. They were not assassins. Hunton argued so strongly that the resolution failed.

Hunton did not have much respect for Ewell and thought Ewell had become soft. Hunton said, "I never thought General Ewell was a valuable officer after the loss of his leg [at the Battle of

Second Manassas due to amputation], and the acquisition of a wife [his first cousin Lizinka Brown]."[5]

Once the resolution was defeated, turning to Ewell, Hunton asked, "Where the leg he lost at Second Manassas was buried? I wish to pay honor to that leg, for I have none to pay to the rest of his body."[6]

Interestingly, Boston was not without Confederate sympathizers. A Mr. Clifford and a Rev. Dr. Richard H. Slater were two such men. Not much is known about Mr. Clifford other than that before the war his daughter made frequent visits to Richmond. More is known about Rev. Dr. Slater. He was the founder of Boston's Church of the Advent and his wife, Abigail Wheeler Woods Slater, had ties to Richmond. Her sister, Cora Semmes Ives, was married to Col. Joseph Christmas Ives who was the chief engineer on Jefferson Davis's staff.[7]



Fort Warren, Boston, circa 1860

Both Clifford and Slater frequently sent food and correspondence to the generals at Fort Warren. Hunton said that Dr. Slater's daughter addressed a letter to the generals:

> "Dear Rebel Friends,
>
> I am going down the bay on Thursday, and shall look out for my Rebel Friends at Fort Warren and wave my handkerchief to them; and oh, if I could only take you all aboard and convey you with me to liberty, how happy I would be."[8]

On that Thursday, the prisoners spent the day along the ramparts of the fort watching each passing ship. Late afternoon they spied a vessel passing close and saw the little handkerchief waving in the hands of one of its passengers. Hunton said, "We gave as fine a 'Rebel Yell' as ever was heard."[9]

When Hunton and the other generals were finally released upon taking the oath of allegiance in the summer of 1865, they were invited to stay at the Clifford home. The next day Clifford drove them to the Slaters'. There they found the walls in the Mrs. Slater's chambers decorated with photographs of Confederate generals. Wine and cakes were served and they met Dr. Slater's daughter, Mary Williams Slater. Mary was described as a "very handsome young lady," with strong feelings for the South. She later married Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens's younger half-brother Linton Stephens.[10]

Holding up her wine glass, young Mary asked Hunton if he would drink a toast with her. Hunton readily agreed. Mary said, "Here's to Cousin Sally Ann."

Hunton, confused, replied, "My dear Miss, I don't know your Cousin Sally Ann, but if she is a cousin of yours, here's to her."

Mary laughed heartily and asked, "You don't know Cousin Sally Ann?"

Hunton replied, "No, indeed."

She laughed again then said, "Don't you know 'C.S.A.?"

It finally dawned on Hunton that this was how the sympathizers of the North safely toasted the Confederate States Army.[11]

Hunton returned to Virginia and continued his law practice and became involved in politics. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served four terms. When a Senate seat became vacant due to a death, he was appointed and then elected for a second term. He lived until the age of 86, dying in 1908, and was buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. But during all those years up to his death, he never forgot Cousin Sally Ann.[12]

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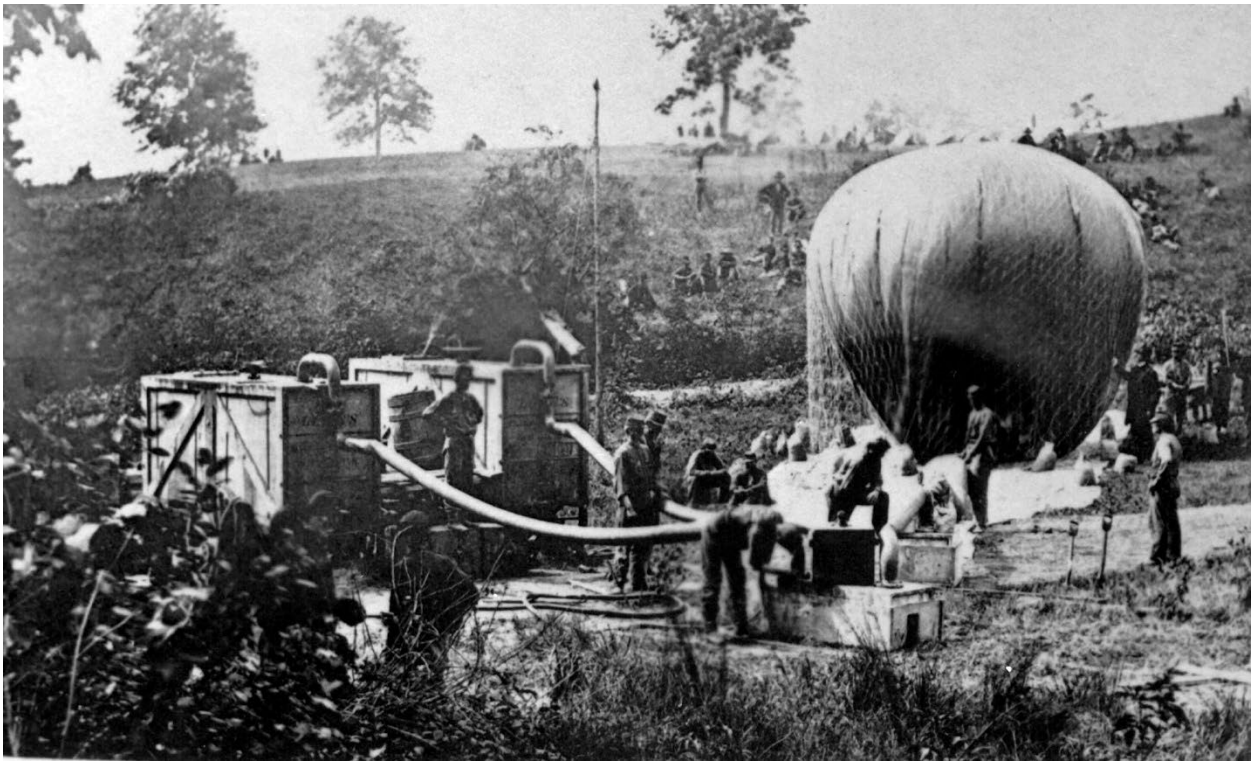
[1] Humphreys, Andrew A., *The Virginia Campaign of 1864 and 1865: The Army of the Potomac and the Army of the James,* New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1883, pp. 374. 384.
[2] Hunton, Eppa, *Autobiography of Eppa Hunton*, Richmond, VA: The William Byrd Press, Inc., 1933, pp. 62, 74, 103. www.my.clevelandclinic.org/health/disease/fistula. Fistula: Definition, Types & Causes
[3] American Battlefield Trust. "10 Facts: Sailor's Creek, April 6, 1865." 10 Facts: Sailor's Creek | American Battlefield Trust Hunton, *Autobiography,* p. 130.
[4] Hunton, *Autobiography*, p. 130.
[5] Ibid. pp. 97 & 137. Pfanz, Donald C., *Richard Ewell: A Soldiers Life*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998, p. 235.
[6] Hunton, *Autobiography*, pp. 137-138.
[7] GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY - IVES FAMILY PAPERS: COLLECTION DESCRIPTION
[8] Ibid. pp. 138-139. Richard Henry Salter (1847–1909)
[9] Hunton, *Autobiography,* p.139.
[10] Ibid. pp. 140-141. Mary Williams Salter Stephens (1839-1914) - Find a Grave Memorial Linton Andrew Stephens (1823-1872) - Find a Grave Memorial
[11] Hunton, *Autobiography*, p. 140.
[12] Hollywood Cemetery, Eppa Hunton - Hollywood Cemetery



Civil War Balloons

By Dennis Keating

The Union's use of air balloons for reconnaissance began with a meeting on June 11, 1861, arranged by Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase between President Lincoln and Thaddeus S. C. Lowe. Establishing a balloon corps headed by Lowe had been suggested to Chase by Murat Halstead, Editor of the Cincinnati Daily Commercial. On April 20, 1861, Lowe had flown his balloon from Cincinnati heading to Washington only to have it land off course in South Carolina, where he was accused of being a Northern spy. On July 17, 1861, Lowe demonstrated his proposal to have the Union army use observation balloons (and also send telegrams from the observers in balloons to army commanders below) to Lincoln. His Enterprise balloon, tethered to the ground, floated 500 feet in the air. An impressed Lincoln authorized the creation of a Balloon Corps within the Union Bureau of Topographical Engineers. Lowe as chief aeronaut was funded on August 2, 1861, and the first military balloon was ready by August 28, 1861. The Union fleet eventually consisted of the Union, Intrepid, Constitution, United States, Washington, Eagle, and Excelsior. Powered by hydrogen, they were able to reach up to 5,000 feet in the air. Lowe had a competitor in John LaMountain, who was supported by General Ben Butler at Fort Monroe, Virginia. He was the first to fly a balloon freely to gain intelligence for the Union army. However, he lost a balloon, had difficulty obtaining equipment, and was dismissed by McClellan on February 19, 1862.

Union balloons were first used in George McClellan's 1862 Peninsula campaign, first by the Intrepid at the siege of Yorktown and then at the battle of Fair Oaks. On April 11, 1862, Major

General Fiz John Porter ascended for a look at the Confederate fortifications at Yorktown but lost control of the balloon from its tethering on the ground. It eventually floated back over the Union lines. McClellan wrote to his wife that he would not allow other generals to go up in the balloon. Lowe claimed:

"I found it difficult to restore confidence among the officers as to the safety of this means of observation on account of this accident…but the explanations and personal ascensions I made, gradually secured a return of their favor."

The Confederates were forced to try to conceal their positions to avoid aerial observation. The Confederacy also countered with its own balloon, fired with hot air. It was first launched on April 13, 1862. The Intrepid was later captured at the Gaines farm during the Seven Days battles. The Confederacy could only launch two balloons, and the Gazelle was captured on July 4, 1862.

After McClellan's dismissal, Lowe ran into conflicts with his army superior with reduced funding, including pay cuts. Still suffering from malaria contracted during the Peninsula campaign, Lowe resigned on May 8, 1863, after the battle of Chancellorsville. The Union's Balloon Corps was disbanded in August 1863. The Confederacy's E. Porter Alexander (who had ridden the Gazelle shortly before its capture) wrote:

> "I have never understood why the enemy abandoned the use of military balloons. Even if the 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 their sight."

On May 31, 1962, the centennial anniversary of the battle of Fair Oaks, a monument for the Civil War balloonists was dedicated outside Richmond. It listed the names of 48 Unionists and 13 Confederates who participated in the balloon experience during the Civil War. Its inscription read:

> "On the field where a century ago, a battle raged as one of these pioneers served aloft."

That pioneer was Lowe, who observed Confederate troops moving from Richmond to Fair Oaks and notified McClellan.

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Deep Bottom on the James River during the Civil War

Goldrush at Deep Bottom

By Brian D. Kowell © October 2025

The evening of June 22, 1864, found a lull in the fighting at Deep Bottom, Virginia. The area showed signs of destruction. The once fine-looking mansions that overlooked the James River had been destroyed by the Navy over a month earlier. Now only their chimneys remained near the pontoon crossing.

Taking advantage of the peace, soldiers boiled coffee, and sat talking or smoking, while others were bathing near the crossing. Still others were seen trying to run down a rabbit.[13]

Two drummer boys from the 10th Connecticut Infantry decided to try fishing. They wandered down a ravine near the chimneys with their poles and shovels. “They were hunting for fish worms,” recorded Private Charles O. Poland, Co. B, 142nd Ohio.[14]

Digging at the edge of the ravine, the spade of one of the boys struck something solid. As they dug further, they could see it was a big lidded-pot, and the boys’ excitement got the better of them. Instead of keeping the find to themselves until they knew what they had, they blurted out in astonishment for all to hear.

Soon men from the nearby 1st Connecticut Light Battery and the 10th New York Infantry rushed to see what the commotion was about. They began helping the drummer boys unearth their pot. Removing the lid they “found a large pot full of gold and silver coins.”[15]

A shout went up from the crowd. Muscling the two drummer boys out of the way, the older men leaped at the treasure. Greedy hands grabbed at the prize "dividing its contents among themselves, according to who could grab the most the quickest."

Soon the pot was empty. It is unclear if the two drummer boys got any of the coins. As one soldier from the 1st Connecticut Battery said, "Some comrades got their share and Comrade Sloan still prizes as a souvenir a French gold coin which he got from the jar." Estimates ranged from $500 to $6,000 were in the pot.[16]

Word of the gold find raced through the camps. "Like the rush of gold seekers to Cape Nome or the Klondyke, the soldiers lost no time in going to the riverside and digging for treasure. They sifted the sand, they searched under stones and tree roots, looked in crotches of the tree branches, and spent all their leisure time in the vain search for treasure, vain, because that jar was the only treasure found," recalled Corporal Herbert W. Beecher of the 1st Connecticut Light Battery.[17]

Men plunged shovels into every auspicious-looking mound or plot of fresh earth. Some even opened a grave. Private Hiram T. Peck of the 10th Connecticut Infantry recalled, "The coffin was broken into, and a fellow of greater credulity than was really called for under the circumstances, explored the same with his hand, but did not succeed in bring anything to light except a few stained rags in which the body was buried ."[18]

Gold fever soon subsided. The soldiers were distracted when they watched and cheered as the pontoon bridge opened, allowing the *USS Baltimore*, carrying General Grant, President Lincoln, General Butler, and Admiral Lee, to pass on an inspection tour up the James River.[19]

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[15] Ibid.

[16] Beecher, Herbert W., *History of the First Light Battery Connecticut Volunteers, 1861-1865, Personal Records and Reminiscences, the Story of the Battery from Its Organization to the Present Time. 2 vols.* New York, A.T. De La Mare Ptg. And Pub. Co., 1906. Vol. 2 p. 500. #11 - History of the First Light Battery Connecticut ... v.2. - Full View | HathiTrust Digital Library . Poland, Diary entry of June 22, 1864. Horn, *Lee Besieged*, p. 40. The price of gold per ounce today ia $4017.00. Gold Price Today | Gold Spot Price Charts | APMEX® $500.00 in 1864 would equal today $10,636.00 and $6000.00 would equal $136,891.26. How much is a dollar from the past worth today?.

[17] Beecher, *History of the First Light Battery Connecticut Volunteers*, p. 500.

[18] Peck, Hiram T., *Army Journal: A Private Record of Life in the Federal Service during the Great Rebellion*, New Haven, n.p., 1874. Horn, *Lee Besieged*, pp. 40-41.

[19] Horn, *Lee Besieged,* p.154.

FINIS!