

THE FUGELMAN



**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND
WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY
ASSOCIATION**

THE BLACK HAT BRIGADE---THE IRON BRIGADE

1861-1865

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PASS IN REVIEW	Pages 2-4
CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES OF THE COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATION	Page 4
REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES	Pages 4-7
ATTENTION TO ORDERS	Pages 7-8
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS	Pages 9-13
FROM THE CAMPS OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN INFANTRY	Pages 13-22
ARTILLERY	Pages 13-17
SKIRMISHERS	Page 17
2 ND WISCONSIN REGIMENTAL FIELD HOSPITAL	Page 18
CIVIL WAR MILESTONES	Pages 18-20
CHRISTMAS WITH THE IRISH BRIGADE	Pages 20-22
FIFTEEN MONTHS IN DIXIE	Pages 22-25
	Pages 25-60

PASS IN REVIEW

From the quill of Lt. Colonel Pete Seielstad



December, the month of shopping frenzy, long winter nights, and all-encompassing parties of comfort and joy. I hope as the year comes to a close you will find your loved ones close at your side and friends close by. Winter snows seem to be holding off a bit and few days less of snow shoveling are appreciated by me and maybe a few others.

At the Perryville event in October I participated in a meeting with other officers of the Federal commands that were present, these are the same men that have been leaders of many of the national events that we have attended. The result of the meeting was an agreement to cooperate with one another and move forward in creating a group of re-enacting units that will strengthen the hobby West of the Appalachians Mountains. In November, an official announcement was made. [Statement in this issue of the Fugelman] In this agreement, we will work together and improve the over-all experience of our hobby. As we begin, let us move forward and be the best on the field.

A word on Shiloh 2017: Registrations are now being accepted. It appears that each unit should register its men and mail in by Feb. 15, 2017. The fee is \$20 per man prior to 2/15/17 and \$25.00 after. The deadline for registration is March. The mailing address is Atlanta Campaign Inc. P.O. Box 1335 Dacula, GA 30019. If you are contemplating going to this event, please register early. I have learned from the event coordinator [Earl Zeckman] that signing on early is appreciated.

As the 2nd Wisconsin registers we will then have a head count and be able to plan our travel itinerary for the event. Our beloved travel agent, Dave Sielski will be more than happy if he has solid registration numbers.

When I receive additional information, I will pass it along to our membership.

As the holidays approach, I look forward to the sights, sounds and the Spirit of Christmas and the hope of a New Year. Let the great expectations for a joyful holiday be fulfilled for all of us.

Your obedient servant,

Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES OF THE COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATION

3rd Co.E Annual meeting Noon (Co.E)

Green Bay,WI.

17th Wreaths Across America (Co.K)

Milw/Madison, WI.

REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES

**FEDERAL COMMANDS WEST OF THE
APPALACHIANS FORM AN ALLIANCE OF
COOPERATION**

There seems to be a move to centralization of leadership in the larger national events for reenactors. Lt. Col. Seielstad sent the following dispatch to the Fugelman for our edification and consideration. A similar dispatch applicable to eastern theater operations also appears herein. It is hoped that the new organization will take steps to bind together the interests and willingness to cooperate on these larger events going forward.

November 7, 2016

PERRYVILLE, Ky. - On the very ground where Americans fought Americans over their discontent for each other, a group of Federal Civil War re-enactors put aside differences they might have and resolved to work together to strengthen the hobby west of the Appalachians by forming the Grand Armies of the Republic (GAR).

The goal of the pact is to preserve history and educate the public about the Civil War.

In the spirit of President Abraham Lincoln's words of binding up the nation's wounds, this group of re-enactors representing nine Midwestern umbrella organizations intend to mend hard feelings that have festered and eroded the re-enacting community.

In a hobby that has grown more divisive through the last two decades, punctuated by groups boycotting other's events for command and control, this newly formed group pledged to support one another's events and resolve differences without creating fissures that have weakened the hobby over the years, which has directly resulted in diluting the hobby.

The group also pledged to work with like-minded re-enacting groups with Confederate impressions.

The group plans to support regional and national events. Additionally, the group plans to cooperate to eliminate conflicting regional events that fall on the same weekend, which has the effect of weakening both events.

It is hoped that these efforts will bolster promising regional events, returning them to days when a thousand or more re-enactors attended these homegrown history lessons, which now often receive no more than living historians measured in the hundreds.

Participating organizations to date include; Army of the French Broad, Army of the Wabash, Black Hat Battalion (2nd Wisconsin), Cumberland Guard, Federal Cavalry Association, First Federal Division, Military Division of the Mississippi, Muddy River Battalion, Western Artillery Reserve, 1st Brigade Illinois Volunteers, and the 49th New York.

The GAR is focused on growth and welcomes additional, like-minded organizations to join. The GAR will be supporting, as well as in full Federal Command of the 2017 Shiloh event hosted by the Atlanta Campaign, Inc.

DISPATCH FROM EASTERN HEADQUARTERS

Lt. Col. Seielstad passed along the following dispatch from Bob Minton, for the edification of the members of the "Ragged Ass 2nd". As the 2nd Wisconsin travels east on occasion this information may have interest for our members.

GETTYSBURG, PA – November 19th, 2016

During the retirement dinner for Maj. Gen. Allen Baldwin (Commander, Army of the Potomac), Birney's Division Commander Brig. Gen. Michael Maffei held a brief meeting with the organization's staff.

During this meeting, Gen. Maffei outlined how much Birney's Division has continued to grow over the last couple of years. More units have been coming to the organization and this has kept the staff very busy at many levels. Due to this growth and the need for an officer to help oversee detailed daily operations, Gen. Maffei announced that Col. Paul Baltzer is being promoted to Brigadier General and assigned as the second in command of Birney's Division. Gen. Maffei will continue as the senior General working on the national level with other organizations and events.

Gen. Baltzer was chosen for his outstanding leadership abilities and dedication to the Division. He has served through the ranks up to Captain at the unit level of the 83rd Pennsylvania (Union)/2nd Florida (Confederate). He has previously served as the Brigade Commander overseeing all infantry operations of Birney's Division and units attached at specific national events. Currently he serves as Birney's 2nd Battalion Commander with troops in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. Gen. Baltzer has also held the role of overall Federal Commander at a number of events around the eastern area of the country.

During 2017, Gen. Baltzer will also continue to command 2nd Battalion as he works through the transition with a new battalion commander before the end of the year.

Paul lives in Albion, PA with his wife Brenda. A veteran of the United States Navy, he is a school teacher by profession and has served in other leadership roles within the Freemasons and the American Legion. Both of his sons Paul and John are Civil War reenactors.

SUBMITTED:

Col. Christopher Smith

Adjutant General. Birney's Division

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND SECRETARIAL REPORTS

As the calendar advances and the new reenacting season approaches it is time again to call on our members to pay their dues for 2017. It is

incumbent on the members of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry to pay their dues prior to the Association's annual meeting on January 29th, 2017. First, in order to be considered a member in good standing to participate in Company and Association events it is necessary to pay one's dues. Secondly, it is important that dues are paid in a timely manner so that Company secretaries can compose and complete their accurate rosters by the annual meeting of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association the last Saturday in January.

Company secretaries are called upon to complete their schedules of Company events and rosters of members at their earliest possible opportunity and get them to the Association secretary. This information must be provided prior to the Association annual meeting. It is a considerable effort to put together the Association roster and schedule, so the more time provided to the Association secretary the better it is for him to compile this necessary work. As a former company secretary this editor understands how frustrating it can be gathering the necessary information and getting it into an effective report for the Association. Just imagine the task for the Association secretary!

It is incumbent on everyone to see to these requirements at their earliest convenience. Please do so as soon as practical!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

On December 17th, 2016, the Wreaths Across America event will take place both in Madison, Wisconsin, and Milwaukee. The Madison event will take place at Forest Hills Cemetery. The Milwaukee event will take place at Woods National Cemetery. Both events begin promptly at 11:00 a.m.

These events are ceremonial in nature. A brief ceremony precedes laying wreaths on the graves of deceased veterans. It is an exhibition of honor on this special holiday to veterans who have served their nation. It is a moving ceremony well worth your time. Please wear your uniform and accoutrements for this special event!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS



H0, H0, H0, Merry Christmas! The officers of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association and *The Fugelman* want to take this opportunity to extend to all our members and your families our wishes for a very merry and memorable Christmas! May the joy of the holiday season be with all of you throughout the coming year!

As historians we tend to look at contemporary events through the eyes of what has gone before and gage our responses through the prism of what has gone before us and our forefathers. It alters our reaction to holidays and other special commemorations. We have just seen one of the most contentious elections in political history come to a conclusion. The Cubs won the World Series! When the Cubs won their last World Series there were still living veterans of the Civil War (the editor assumes most were Cubs fans as we all are today!) around. This editor tended to look at the most recent election in light of past elections like Jefferson in 1800 and Lincoln in 1860. It seems a reasonable assumption that many of my fellow reenactors did the same thing.

How many of you have taken a moment at Thanksgiving, Easter, or Christmas and thought to yourself how did the warriors during the civil war experience Christmas or other holidays? What was Christmas like on the home front during the four years of war? What was Christmas like in the camps?

This editor is going to share Christmas as likely experienced by the Tallman family in Janesville, Wisconsin, in the 1860's. Mr. Tallman was a



very wealthy man and so his holiday activities would have differed from others in his community.

In the weeks leading up to the Christmas celebrations Mrs. Emmeline Tallman would have prepared Christmas cards to be sent out to business associates, family members, and friends. Mr. Tallman was engaged in numerous business activities; as a lawyer, banker and land speculator, and was a community leader so there were many acquaintances to send holiday greetings.

The house would have come alive with decorations made up of evergreens, holly, ivy, bright colored berries and ribbons of reds and whites.

The Tallman home would have been a bee hive of activity as Christmas approached. The family had two live-in servants and between 5 and 7 day workers. They would have assisted in the preparation of meals as many guests would have visited the Tallmans during the holidays. Cookies, cakes and other confections would be prepared to serve visitors and guests.

Two young women lived in the house. The Tallmans' daughter "Gussie" (Cornelia Augusta) and their daughter-in-law, Nellie were active young women with a penchant for creating festive activities in the house. These young women loved to have parties and the holidays were a prime time for them to entertain in the Tallman house. There would have been music (Gussie played the piano) including brilliant Christmas carols, dancing and all kinds of merriment ringing through the house! Men and women would have flounced through the house in suits and multicolored dresses! Musicians would set up in the parlor and the library would be cleared for

dancing. The house would be ablaze with the dancing yellowish light from the oil lamp chandeliers.

On Christmas Eve, the family would have attended church services. The Tallmans were members of the First Congregational Church in Janesville and attended church regularly. The preachers message would likely focus on the birth of a savior and the meaning of that event for the lives of the contemporary worshippers. They would have given voice to Christmas hymns just as we do today!

Most families decorated their Christmas trees on Christmas Eve. The trees were decorated with handmade decorations including strands of popcorn, ribbons and paper decorations. It is likely, however, that the Tallmans put up their trees earlier because the house was a center of community celebrations and parties during the run-up to the holidays.

Today we continue to practice these same traditions. Our trees are lit up with purchased lights and beautiful decorations in reds, greens, silvers, golds and whites. We send out Christmas cards to friends and family members. A majority of us make the religious themes of advent and Christmas a central part of our celebrations. The beauty of Christmas music fills our homes and businesses during this special time of the year.

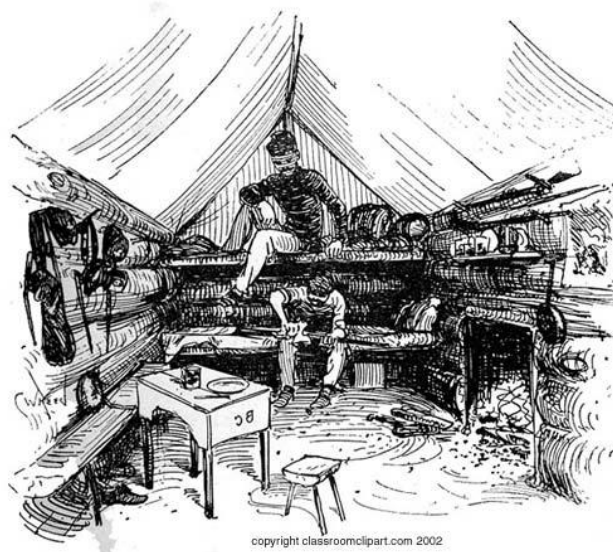
It is the hope of your officers and the newsletter that whatever your practices to celebrate Christmas that your Christmas is filled with merriment, love of family and friends, the beauty of decorations, the experience of awesome Christmas music, and the meaning of the birth of our Lord and Savior. Have a wonderful and safe Christmas and hold those who are dear to you close to your bosom!

The picture below is of one of the multiple trees that decorate the current Tallman House. This year the Rock County Historical Society had local businesses, families, social organizations, and individuals donate trees to decorate the house and promote their interests. The tree pictured below is the editor's favorite. It is a tree that was created to resemble a Victorian ball gown. It is creative and beautiful. Mrs. Tallan loved roses and her favorite roses were yellow roses. In a salute to Mrs. Tallman the tree pictured incorporated yellow roses! The picture below was taken by Gayle Dumke. I hope you enjoy the tree as much as I have well conducting holiday tours at the Tallman House.





**FROM THE CAMPS OF THE
COMPANIES OF THE SECOND
WISCONSIN**



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INFANTRY

COMPANY E

COMPANY E ANNUAL DUES

Membership dues are to be paid by January 1, 2017, or no later than the Association Annual Meeting, January 28, 2017. Dues should be paid to our Company Treasurer, Marvin Kostka. Association dues are \$20.00 for single Military Members, and \$30.00 for Members with more than one military member residing within a household — regardless of the number (college students whose permanent residence is the same household as the primary Military Member fall under the \$30.00 fee).

Company dues remain \$10.00 for Military and Associate Members. As has been done in the past, those who attended Wade House and turned their \$10 bounty ticket into Marvin, will have their total dues offset by that amount—any question, please contact Marvin. If there are any other questions, please contact a member of the Company Board—Dave Sielski, Marvin Kostka or Charles Bagneski.

COMPANY E ANNUAL MEETING

Company E will hold its annual meeting on December 3rd, 2016. The meeting is scheduled to begin at noon and last until roughly 3:00 p.m. The location of the meeting has changed from the usual location for the Company E annual meeting. This year the meeting will be held at the Neighbor Works building on the corner of Chicago and Jackson Streets in Green Bay. The address is 437 So. Jackson Street. The agenda for the annual meeting is set out below:

MEETING AGENDA

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- **Meeting Called to Order at Noon.**
 - **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**
 - **Discussion/Approval of Minutes of 2015 Company Meeting.**
 - **Welcome New Members & Guests and Announcements.**
 - **Administration of Oath to New Members.**
 - **President's Remarks.**
 - **Recruiting Report (and Web-site Update).**
 - **Treasurer's Report.**
 - **Secretary's Report.**
 - **Captain's Report.**
 - **Quartermaster's Report.**
 - **Discussion of duties and Election of Civilian Board-members (1-year terms): President, currently David Sielski, Treasurer, currently Marvin Kostka, Secretary, currently Charles Bagneski.**
 - **Discussion of Auxiliary Positions (Voluntary- no term): Recruiter, currently David Sielski, Quartermaster, currently Lisa Bagneski, Newsletter Editor, currently Charles Bagneski School Program Coordinator, currently David Sielski**
 - **Discussion of duties and Election of Military Positions.**
 - * **Current standing of Military Positions in Company E:**
 - ****Captain, currently Charles Bagneski. (End of 3-year term) First-Lieutenant, currently suspended. (3-year term) First-Sergeant, currently Robert Schwandt. (1 year left in 2-year term) Second-Sergeant, currently Scott Boesel. (1 year left in 2-year term)**

****Corporals, currently Scott Blood, Todd St. John, David Vargas and Patrick Kroll. (End of 1-year terms)**

- **Discussion of 2016 Season and other Old Business.**

- **BREAK.**

- **Discussion of Possible Events for 2017 Season:**

- * **2d Wisconsin Association Annual Meeting (January 28) * 1st (March), 2nd (April 22nd) and 3rd (Spring Muster?) Drills**

- * **Annual Spring Dinner/Dance (April 22nd)**

- * **Appleton (Edison) School Day (May 5th) * Appleton (Edison) School Day (May 12th)**

- * **Ashwaubenon (Valley View) School Day (May 19th)**

- * **Pinecrest Village Reenactment (Manitowoc) (May 20 - 21)**

- * **Merrill (Prairie River) School Day (June 2nd)**

- * **Heritage Hill Event (June 24 - 25)**

- * **Menomonee Falls (Old Falls Village) Event (July 15 - 16)**

- * **Copper Harbor (Fort Wilkins) Living History (July 29 - 30)**

- * **Grignon Mansion (Kaukauna) (July 29 - 30)**

- * **Wade House Event (September 23 - 24) * Coon Valley (Norskedalen) Event (October ??)**

- * **Oshkosh Trader's Fair (February 25 - 26) * Oshkosh Memorial Day Procession (May 29th)**

- * **Dinner With the Officers and Soldiers of the 2nd Wisconsin (Heritage Hill)**

- * **Shiloh National Event**

- * **Other Event Suggestions...**

- **Discussion of New Business: * 2d Wisconsin Association Annual Meeting—Company Event, Association Event, National Event, Election of Lieutenant-**

Colonel, Scholarship, etc... * Set date for 2018 Company Annual Meeting. * Other New Business...

• Meeting Adjourned.

Meeting begins at noon—lunch provided during Break.

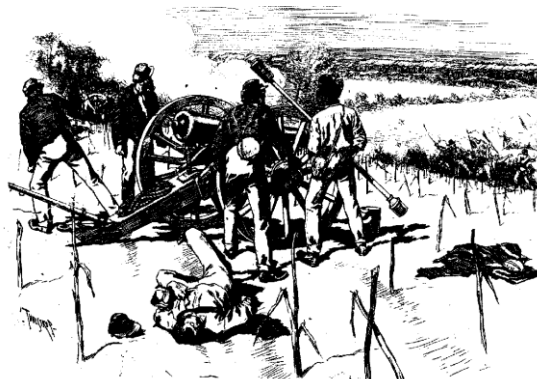
COMPANY K

Company K will hold its annual meeting on January 7th, 2017. This is a change from the usual date in November. Due to a multitude of scheduling conflicts it was thought necessary to change the date. The meeting will be held at the same venue as in the past several years.

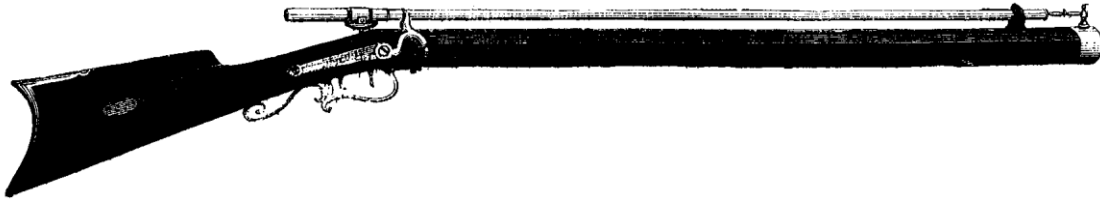
The Company K annual meeting will be held at the Lake Mills EMS building located at 306 East Lake Street, in Lake Mills, Wisconsin. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last until roughly noon. Attendees should park in the rear of the building.

Because of the late date for the Company K annual meeting it is imperative that members get their dues paid prior to the annual meeting. Please mail your dues to the Company treasurer, Pat Lynch, at your earliest convenience. You can mail your dues to Pat at 5830 S. 92nd Street, Hales Corners, Wisconsin 53130.

ARTILLERY



SKIRMISHERS



2d WISCONSIN REGIMENTAL FIELD HOSPITAL

DESCRIPTION OF CIVIL WAR HOSPITALS

The following article was submitted by Captain Stan Griaweski. The Fugelman is grateful for the effort on our readers behalf.

Civil War hospitals were either field or fixed general.

At the onset of war, abandoned buildings located near battlefields were converted into field hospitals. These buildings were poorly ventilated and unsanitary. Use of abandoned buildings became unacceptable after Shiloh in 1862 when tents were required.

A standard hospital tent held eight beds comfortably. Tents could be arranged and relocated and joined quickly with other tents. They were well ventilated, dispersing stench from pus and gangrene. Heating was controlled. Separate tents protected wounded from highly contagious diseases such as gangrene and smallpox. Hospital tents were initially identified with red flags. Yellow flags displaying a green H became the standard later in the war.

Field hospitals varied in size and staff. Field hospitals were originally identified by regiment with one surgeon and one assistant surgeon per hospital. Immediate treatment was provided for regimental members.

Wounded from other regiments had to find their assigned regimental hospitals. Valuable time and care was wasted during searches.

Jonathon Letterman's appointment as Medical Director Army of the Potomac in 1862 was a godsend to medical care. By late 1862 he replaced regimental hospitals with divisional hospitals. Divisional hospitals were much larger, located further behind rear lines and strategically located outside firing ranges. Staff now consisted of a surgeon in chief, three operating surgeons, nine assistant surgeons, a medical officer and soldiers and volunteers performing as nurses and stewards.

Divisional hospitals were paired with mobile field units set up on battlefields for retrieving wounded. Mobile units were easily broken down and re-established where needed. Administering emergency care was now possible. Mobile units made decisions from administering opiates to determining whether wounded should be transferred to divisional hospitals or left to die.

Permanent hospitals were constructed in municipalities for advanced care. Designed by Dr John Shaw Billings, permanent hospitals were frame constructed, 150' long, 25' wide and 12'-14' high. Permanent hospitals, accommodating approximately 60 beds, were fitted with numerous windows for proper ventilation. Standards for proper ventilation were proposed by Florence Nightingale. Units were arranged in rows or columns surrounding a central facility similar to an arc or grid. Records indicate construction of 431 hospitals. It is estimated only 204 were in operation at any one time.

Over two million Northern and Southern soldiers were treated in hospitals. Records further indicate a death rate of 10% for one million Northern soldiers. Statistics for Southern soldiers were similar, however, reporting techniques and missing records cast doubt upon these records.

The importance of women has been downplayed and overlooked. A perceived notion of mental and physical inferiorities barred women from medical field advancement. Women were either nurses performing medical duties in field hospitals or with medical and field duties such as care of livestock, cooking, serving food and cleaning weapons at regimental hospitals.

Women were looked down upon. A ridiculous selection process required nurses to be over thirty, plain looking, devoid of curls, bows and hoopskirts.

Women were considered a distraction and not capable of performing as well as men.

Surgeon General William Hammond proposed women were more docile and efficient than men. And more capable for improving morale. He believed in gentle healing. His proposals were rejected as unorthodox.

Male surgeons were also plagued by a complicated hierarchy. Originally, surgeons could only rise to the rank of major. By being outranked in hospitals, they were obligated to obey orders against their patients' best interests. Problems were created with unclear commands. Nurses were not able to receive crucial aid, instructions and supplies. Corruption existed. In one situation, nurses were required silence while surgeons and male nurses left the hospital to get drunk. Upon returning surgeons and nurses doctored (no pun intended) their reports.

Hospital standards implemented during America's Civil War stood for many years. In fact, these standards set a precedent for World War II military hospitals.

Source: <http://digitalmuseum.lookingforwhitman.org/category/civil-war-hospitals/>

CIVIL WAR MILESTONES

DECEMBER

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Dec. 1, 1864 | General Schofield arrives in Nashville, joining Maj. Gen. Thomas and they await an anticipated attack by Gen. Hood |
| Dec. 3, 1826 | Gen. George B. McClellan, USA, born |
| Dec. 5, 1839 | Gen. George A. Custer, USA, born |

Dec. 6, 1833	Col. John S. Mosby, CSA, born
Dec. 6, 1864	Salmon P. Chase nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court
Dec. 7, 1861	USS “Santiago de Cuba” removes Confederate agent James W. Zacharie from the British ship “Eugenia Smith” in the Gulf of Mexico
Dec. 7, 1862	Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas
Dec. 7, 1863	Jefferson Davis delivers a “State of the Confederacy Address”
Dec. 8, 1863	Lincoln makes proclamation of Amnesty & Reconstruction
Dec. 10, 1864	Sherman emerges at Savannah, Georgia
Dec. 13, 1862	Battle of Fredericksburg
Dec. 13, 1864	Fort McAllister surrenders
Dec. 15-16, 1864	The Battle of Nashville (Between Franklin and Nashville, Hood’s army virtually destroyed)
Dec. 19, 1814	Edwin Stanton, U. S. Secretary of War and one of the great war leaders in American history is born

Dec. 19, 1864	Lincoln calls for 300,000 volunteers to replace losses
Dec. 20, 1860	South Carolina secedes
Dec. 20, 1864	Gen Hardee evacuates from Savannah
Dec. 25, 1821	Clara Barton born
Dec. 25, 2016	CHRISTMAS DAY
Dec. 27, 1831	Brig. Gen. Lucius Fairchild, USA, born
Dec. 31, 1815	Gen. George Meade, USA, born

CHRISTMAS WITH THE IRISH BRIGADE

Near one of the huge fires a kind of arbor was nicely constructed of the branches of trees, which were so interwoven on one another as to form a kind of wall. Inside this, some were seated on logs, some reclining in true Turkish style. Seated near the fire was Johnny Flaherty, discoursing sweet music from his violin. Johnny hailed from Boston; was a musical genius, in his way, and though only fourteen years of age, could play on the bagpipes, piano, and Heaven knows how many other instruments; beside him sat his father, fingering the chanter of a bagpipe in elegant style. It is no wonder that most of the regiment were gathered around there, for it was Christmas Eve, and home-thoughts

and home-longings were crowding on them; and old scenes and fancies would arise with sad and loving memories, until the heart grew weary, and even the truest and tenderest longed for home associations this blessed Christmas Eve.’ (1)



SANTA DISTRIBUTES GIFTS TO UNION TROOPS; 1863 CARTOON FOR HARPER'S WEEKLY BY THOMAS NAST

Such was the scene at Camp California, Virginia for the 63rd, 69th and 88th New York on Christmas Eve 1861. This evocative account appears in David Power Conyngham's 1867 history of the Brigade and its campaigns. It is interesting to note that he dedicates nearly seven pages to describing the Brigade's activities that Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; none of the subsequent years receive anything like the same attention. Writing retrospectively, Conyngham is aware of what awaited these men in the

battles to come. It was to be their last 'innocent' Christmas, and many would not see another. The writer is clearly aware of this melancholy fact:

'No wonder if, amidst such scenes, the soldier's thought fled back to his home, to his loved wife, to the kisses of his darling child, to the fond Christmas greetings of his parents, brothers, sisters, friends, until his eyes were dimmed with the dews of the heart. The exile feels a longing desire, particularly at Christmas times, for the pleasant, genial firesides and loving hearts of home. How many of that group will, ere another Christmas comes round, sleep in a bloody and nameless grave! Generous and kind hands may smooth the dying soldier's couch; or he may linger for days, tortured by thirst and pain, his festering wounds creeping with maggots, his tongue swollen, and a fierce fever festering up his body as he lies out on that dreary battle-field; or, perhaps, he has dragged himself beneath the shade of some pine to die by inches, where no eye but God's and his pitying angels' shall see him, where no human aid can succor him. Years afterwards, some wayfarer may discover a skeleton with the remains of a knapsack under the skull. This is too often the end of the soldier's dreams of glory, and all "The pride, pomp and circumstance of glorious war." It is but a short transition from love, and hope, and life, to sorrow and death. Another Christmas, and many a New England cottage, and many a home along the Rhine and the Shannon, will be steeped in affliction for the loving friends who have laid their bones on the battle-fields of Virginia.' (2)

1862 would bring hard fought battles and horrendous casualty lists for the Brigade on fields in the Peninsula, Antietam and Fredericksburg. But this was all ahead of the men in 1861, and for now they enjoyed the music that the O'Flaherty father and son shared around the campfire. Jigs, reels and doubles were danced, and stories were told. Songs such as 'The girl I left behind me', 'Home, Sweet Home', 'The Rapparee', 'The Green above the Red' and 'Fontenoy' were amongst the favourites as the drink flowed. A bell was sounded to bring the Irishmen to midnight mass, which was celebrated that year by Fathers Willet and Dillon. Log benches had been prepared in front of the chapel tents, and the responses were delivered by Quartermaster Haverty and Captain O'Sullivan. Another mass followed the next day, Christmas morning, and was this time said in the open air. Following this the Irish returned to their camp to celebrate the remainder of the 25th.

Christmas 1862 found the Irish Brigade in a very different situation. Although the number of Regiments had by this time increased with the addition of the 116th Pennsylvania and 28th Massachusetts, the slaughter at Antietam and Fredericksburg had impacted greatly on the amount of men present. The latter battle had been fought as recently as 13th December, and must have been fresh in the minds of many as they rested in winter quarters at Falmouth, Virginia. St. Clair A. Mulholland of the 116th described the scene amongst his regiment: *'Christmas Day, 1862, was celebrated in the camp, many boxes of good things from home were received, and shared by the recipients with comrades less fortunate. Some of the boys were a little homesick, to be sure, but enough were sufficiently light of heart to drive dull care away. A large Christmas tree was erected in the centre of the camp, and peals of laughter and much merriment greeted the unique decorations, tin cups, hardtack, pieces of pork and other odd articles being hung on the branches. At night the camp fire roared and blazed, the stars shone above the tall pines, the canteen was passed around, and care banished for the hour. It must have been a sad Christmas, however, to those at home whose friends had fallen by Marye's Heights and Hamilton's Woods.'* (3)

Many of the men of the Irish Brigade would endure two more Christmas's of conflict. As each year passed, the numbers who had experienced the celebrations on that first Christmas at Camp California would grow ever smaller. Despite the constant hardships they faced, they always did their best to enjoy what represented an all too brief respite from the reality of war.

(1) Conyngham 1867: 77-78; (2) Ibid: 78-79; (3) Mulholland: 72

References

**Conyngham, David Power 1867. The Irish Brigade and its Campaigns
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Pennsylvania Volunteers in the War of Rebellion**

FIFTEEN MONTHS IN DIXIE,

OR

MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

IN REBEL PRISONS.

BY W. W. DAY.

CHAPTER XI.

MORTALITY AT ANDERSONVILLE.

**“Let’s talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs;
Make dust our paper, and with rainy eyes
Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth.
Let’s choose executors, and talk of wills:
And yet not so,—for what can we bequeath,
Save our deposed bodies to the ground?”**

KING RICHARD II.

**The number of prisoners confined in the Andersonville prison, all told,
was forty-five thousand six hundred and thirteen. Of these twelve
thousand nine hundred and twelve died there, or in other words two men
out of every seven who were confined in that prison died there, and the**

average length of time of imprisonment was only four months.

That this was largely due to causes within the control of the Confederate authorities I propose to show by the sworn testimony of one of their own men who was in a position to know, and speak authoritatively.

On the 6th day of August 1864 Surgeon Joseph Jones, of the Confederate army, was detailed by the Surgeon General to proceed to Andersonville, and investigate and report, upon the phenomena of the diseases prevailing there. His visit was not for the benefit of the prisoners, but for purely scientific purposes. His report, from which I quote, tells a story of such as no prisoner could tell, for, if any were qualified to make such investigation and report, they had no opportunity to do so.

These extracts from the above mentioned report are taken from "Andersonville," a book which I wish every civilized person in the world could read. This report was part of the testimony offered and accepted at the trial of Wirz, and is now on file in the office of the Judge Advocate General of the United States, at Washington.

"MEDICAL TESTIMONY."

(Transcript from the printed testimony at Wirz Trial, pages 618 to 639, inclusive).

“Dr. Joseph Jones for the prosecution.

By the Judge Advocate:

Question. Where do you reside?

Answer. In Augusta, Georgia.

Ques. Are you a graduate of any medical college?

Ans. Of the University of Pennsylvania.

Ques. How long have you been engaged in the practice of medicine?

Ans. Eight years.

Ques. Has your experience been as a practitioner, or rather as an investigator of medicine as a science?

Ans. Both.

Ques. What position do you hold now?

Ans. That of Medical Chemist in the Medical College of Georgia, at Augusta.

Ques. How long have you held your position in that college?

Ans. Since 1858.

Ques. How were you employed during the Rebellion?

Ans. I served six months in the early part of it as a private in the ranks, and the rest of the time in the medical department.

Ques. Under the direction of whom?

Ans. Under the direction of Dr. Moore, Surgeon General.

Ques. Did you, while acting under his direction, visit Andersonville, professionally?

Ans. Yes Sir.

Ques. For the purpose of making investigations there?

Ans. For the purpose of prosecuting investigations ordered by the

Surgeon General.

Ques. You went there in obedience to a letter of instructions?

Ans. In obedience to orders which I received.

Ques. Did you reduce the results of your investigations to the shape of a report?

Ans. I was engaged at that work when General Johnston surrendered his army.

(A document being handed to witness.)

Ques. Have you examined this extract from your report and compared it with the original?

Ans. Yes sir, I have.

Ques. Is it accurate?

Ans. So far as my examination extended, it is accurate.

The document just examined by witness was offered in evidence, and is as follows:

Observations upon the diseases of the Federal prisoners, confined in Camp Sumter, Andersonville, in Sumter county, Georgia, instituted with a view to illustrate chiefly the origin and causes of hospital gangrene, the relations of continued and malarial fevers, and the pathology of camp diarrhea and dysentery, by Joseph Jones Surgeon P. A. C. S. Professor of Medical Chemistry in the Medical College of Georgia, at Augusta, Georgia.

Hearing of the unusual mortality among the Federal prisoners confined at Andersonville, Georgia, in the month of August, 1864, during a visit to Richmond, Va., I expressed to the Surgeon General, S. P. Moore, Confederate States of America, a desire to visit Camp Sumter, with the design of instituting a series of inquiries upon the nature and causes of the prevailing diseases. Small pox had appeared among the prisoners, and I believed that this would prove an admirable field for the establishment of its characteristic lesions. The condition of Peyer's glands in this disease was considered as worthy of minute investigation. It was believed that a large body of men from the northern portion of the United States, suddenly transported to a warm Southern climate, and confined upon a small portion of land, would furnish an excellent field for the investigation of the relations of typhus, typhoid and malarial fevers."

Then follows a letter of introduction to the Surgeon in charge at Andersonville, and a letter to Gen. Winder asking permission to visit the Inner Prison, and an order of Winder granting permission. The report then proceeds.

“_Description of the Confederate States Military Prison Hospital at Andersonville, Number of prisoners, physical condition, food, clothing, habits, moral condition, diseases._

The Confederate Military Prison at Andersonville, Ga., consists of a strong Stockade, twenty feet in height, enclosing twenty-seven acres. The Stockade is formed of strong pine logs, firmly planted in the ground. The main Stockade is surrounded by two other similar rows of pine logs, the middle stockade being sixteen feet high, and the outer twelve feet. These are intended for offense and defense.

If the inner stockade should at any time be forced by the prisoners, the second forms another line of defense; while in case of an attempt to deliver the prisoners by a force operating upon the exterior, the outer line forms an admirable protection to the Confederate troops, and a most formidable obstacle to cavalry or infantry.

The four angles of the outer line are strengthened by earth-works upon commanding eminences, from which the cannon, in case of an outbreak among the prisoners, may sweep the entire enclosure; and it

was designed to connect these works by a line of rifle pits, running zigzag, around the outer stockade; those rifle pits have never been completed. The ground enclosed by the innermost stockade lies in the form of a parallelogram the larger diameter running almost due north and south. This space includes the northern and southern opposing sides of two hills, between which a stream of water runs from west to east. The surface soil of these hills is composed chiefly of sand with varying admixtures of clay and oxide of iron. The clay is sufficiently tenacious to give a considerable degree of consistency to the soil. The internal structure of the hills, as revealed by the deep wells, is similar to that already described. The alternate layers of clay and sand, as well as oxide of iron, which form, in its various combinations a cement to the sand, allow of extensive tunneling. The prisoners not only constructed numerous dirt huts with balls of clay and sand, taken from the wells which they have excavated all over those hills, but they have also, in some cases, tunneled extensively from these wells. The lower portion of these hills, bordering on the stream, are wet and boggy from the constant oozing of water. The stockade was built originally to accommodate only ten thousand prisoners, and included at first seventeen acres. Near the close of the month of June the area was enlarged by the addition of ten acres. The ground added was on the northern slope of the largest hill.

Within the circumscribed area of the stockade the Federal prisoners

were compelled to perform all the offices of life—cooking, washing, the calls of nature, exercise and sleeping.

During the month of March the prison was less crowded than at any subsequent time, and the average space of ground to each prisoner was only 98.7 feet, or less than seven square yards. The Federal prisoners were gathered from all parts of the Confederate States east of the Mississippi, and crowded into the confined space, until in the month of June, the average number of square feet of ground to each prisoner was only 33.2 or less than four square yards. These figures represent the condition of the stockade in a better light even than it really was; for a considerable breadth of land along the stream, flowing from west to east between the hills, was low and boggy, and was covered with the excrement of the men, and thus rendered wholly uninhabitable, and in fact useless for every purpose except that of defecation.

The pines and other small trees and shrubs, which originally were scattered sparsely over these hills, were, in a short time, cut down and consumed by the prisoners for firewood, and no shade tree was left in the entire enclosure of the stockade. With their characteristic industry and ingenuity, the Federals constructed for themselves small huts and caves, and attempted to shield themselves from the rain and sun and night damps and dew. But few tents were distributed to the prisoners, and those were in most cases torn and

rotten. In the location and arrangement of these tents and huts no order appears to have been followed; in fact, regular streets appear to be out of the question in so crowded an area; especially too, as large bodies of prisoners were from time to time added suddenly without any previous preparations. The irregular arrangement of the huts and imperfect shelters were very unfavorable for the maintenance of a proper system of police.

The police and internal economy of the prison was left almost entirely in the hands of the prisoners themselves; the duties of the Confederate soldiers acting as guards being limited to the occupation of boxes or lookouts ranged around the stockade at regular intervals, and to the manning of the batteries at the angles of the prison. Even judicial matters pertaining to themselves, as the detection and punishment of such crimes as theft and murder appear to have been, in a great measure, abandoned to the prisoners.

A striking instance of this occurred in the month of July, when the Federal prisoners within the stockade tried, condemned, and hanged six (6) of their own number, who had been convicted of stealing, and of robbing and murdering their fellow prisoners. They were all hung upon the same day, and thousands of the prisoners gathered around to witness the execution. The Confederate authorities are said not to have interfered with these proceedings. In this collection of men from all parts of the world, every phase of human character was

represented; the stronger preyed upon the weaker, and even the sick who were unable to defend themselves were robbed of their scanty supplies of food and clothing. Dark stories were afloat, of men, both sick and well, who were murdered at night, strangled to death by comrades for scant supplies of clothing or money.

I heard a sick and wounded Federal prisoner accuse his nurse, a fellow prisoner of the United States army, of having stealthily, during his sleep, inoculated his wounded arm with gangrene, that he might destroy his life and fall heir to his clothing.

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The large number of men confined in the stockade soon, under a defective system of police, and with imperfect arrangements, covered the surface of the low grounds with excrements. The sinks over the lower portions of the stream were imperfect in their plan and structure, and the excrements were, in large measure, deposited so near the border of the stream as not to be washed away, or else accumulated upon the low boggy ground. The volume of water was not sufficient to wash away the feces, and they accumulated in such quantities in the lower portion of the stream as to form a mass of liquid excrement. Heavy rains caused the water of the stream to rise, and as the arrangements for passage of the increased amounts of water out of the stockade were insufficient, the liquid feces

overflowed the low grounds and covered them several inches, after subsidence of the waters. The action of the sun upon this putrefying mass of excrements and fragments of bread and meat and bones excited most rapid fermentation and developed a horrible stench.

Improvements were projected for the removal of the filth and for the prevention of its accumulation, but they were only partially and imperfectly carried out. As the forces of the prisoners were reduced by confinement, want of exercise, improper diet, and by scurvy, diarrhea, and dysentery, they were unable to evacuate their bowels within the stream or along its banks, and the excrements were deposited at the very doors of their tents. The vast majority appeared to lose all repulsion to filth, and both sick and well disregarded all the laws of hygiene and personal cleanliness. The accommodations for the sick were imperfect and insufficient.

From the organization of the prison, February 24th, 1864, to May 22d, the sick were treated within the stockade. In the crowded condition of the stockade, and with the tents and huts clustered thickly around the hospital, it was impossible to secure proper ventilation or to maintain the necessary police. The Federal prisoners also made frequent forays upon the hospital stores and carried off the food and clothing of the sick. The hospital was on the 22d of May removed to its present site without the stockade, and five acres of ground covered with oaks and pines appropriated to the use of the sick.

The supply of medical officers has been insufficient from the foundation of the prison.

The nurses and attendants upon the sick have been most generally Federal prisoners, who in too many cases appear to have been devoid of moral principle, and who not only neglected their duties, but were also engaged in extensive robbing of the sick.

From the want of proper police and hygienic regulations alone it is not wonderful that from February 24th to September 21st, 1864, nine thousand four hundred and seventy-nine deaths nearly one third of the entire number of prisoners, should have been recorded. I found the stockade and hospital in the following condition during my pathological investigations, instituted in the month of September, 1864:

Stockade, Confederate States Military Prison.

At the time of my visit to Andersonville a large number of Federal prisoners had been removed to Millen, Savannah, Charleston and other parts of the Confederacy, in anticipation of an advance of General Sherman's forces from Atlanta, with the design of liberating their captive brethren: however, about fifteen thousand prisoners remained confined within the limits of the stockade and Confederate States

Military Prison Hospital.

In the stockade, with the exception of the damp low lands bordering the small stream, the surface was covered with huts, and small ragged tents and parts of blankets and fragments of oil-cloth, coats, and blankets stretched upon sticks. The tents and huts were not arranged according to any order, and there was in most parts of the enclosure scarcely room for two men to walk abreast between the tents and huts.

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Each day the dead from the stockade were carried out by their fellow prisoners and deposited upon the ground under a bush arbor just outside the southwestern gate. From thence they were carried in carts to the burying ground, one quarter of a mile northwest of the prison. The dead were buried without coffins, side by side, in trenches four feet deep.

The low grounds bordering the stream were covered with human excrements and filth of all kinds, which in many places appeared to be alive with working maggots. An indescribable sickening stench arose from these fermenting masses of human filth.

There were near five thousand seriously ill Federals in the stockade

and Confederate States Military Prison Hospital, and the deaths exceeded one hundred per day, and large numbers of the prisoners who were walking about, and who had not been entered upon the sick reports, were suffering from severe and incurable diarrhea, dysentery and scurvy. The sick were attended almost entirely by their fellow prisoners, appointed as nurses, and as they received but little attention, they were compelled to exert themselves at all times to attend to the calls of nature, and hence, they retained the power of moving about to within a comparatively short period of the close of life. Owing to the slow progress of the diseases most prevalent, diarrhea and chronic dysentery, the corpses were as a general rule emaciated.

I visited two thousand sick within the stockade, lying under some long sheds which had been built at the northern portion for themselves. At this time only one medical officer was in attendance, whereas at least twenty medical officers should have been employed.

* * * * *

Scurvy, diarrhea, dysentery, and hospital gangrene were the prevailing diseases. I was surprised to find but few cases of malarial fever, and no well marked cases either of typhus or typhoid fever. The absence of the different forms of malarial fever may be accounted for on the supposition that the artificial atmosphere of

the stockade, crowded densely with human beings and loaded with animal exhalations, was unfavorable to the existence and action of malarial poison. The absence of typhoid and typhus fevers amongst all the causes which are supposed to generate these diseases, appeared to be due to the fact that the great majority of these prisoners had been in captivity in Virginia, at Belle Island, and in other parts of the Confederacy for months, and even as long as two years, and during this time they had been subjected to the same bad influences, and those who had not had these fevers before either had them during their confinement in Confederate prisons or else their systems, from long exposure were proof against their action.

The effects of scurvy were manifested on every hand, and in all its various stages, from the muddy pale complexion, pale gums, feeble, languid muscular motions, lowness of spirits, and fetid breath, to the dusky, dirty leaden complexion, swollen features, spongy purple, livid, fungoid, bleeding gums, loose teeth, œdematous limbs, covered with livid vibices and petechiae, spasmodically flexed, painful and hardened extremities, spontaneous hemorrhages from mucous canals, and large, ill conditioned, spreading ulcers covered with a dark purplish fungus growth. I observed that in some cases of scurvy the parotid glands were greatly swollen, and in some instances to such an extent as to preclude entirely the power to articulate. In several cases of dropsy of the abdomen and lower extremities supervening upon scurvy, the patients affirmed that previously to

the appearance of the dropsy they had suffered with profuse and obstinate diarrhea, and that when this was checked by a change of diet, from Indian corn bread baked with the husk, to boiled rice, the dropsy appeared. The severe pains and livid patches were frequently associated with swellings in various parts, and especially in the lower extremities, accompanied with stiffness and contractions of the knee joints and ankles, and often with a burning feel of the parts, as if lymph had been effused between the integuments and aponeuroses, preventing the motion of the skin over the swollen parts. Many of the prisoners believed that the scurvy was contagious, and I saw men guarding their wells and springs, fearing lest some man suffering with scurvy might use the water and thus poison them. I observed also numerous cases of hospital gangrene and of spreading scorbutic ulcers, which had supervened upon slight injuries. The scorbutic ulcers presented a dark purple fungoid, elevated surface, with livid swollen edges, exuded a thin, fetid sanious fluid, instead of pus. Many ulcers which originated from the scorbutic condition of the system appeared to become truly gangrenous, assuming all the characteristics of hospital gangrene.

From the crowded condition, filthy habits, bad diet, and dejected depressed condition of the prisoners, their systems had become so disordered that the smallest abrasion of the skin from the rubbing of a shoe, or from the effects of the sun, or from the prick of a splinter, or from scratching or a mosquito bite, in some cases took

on rapid and frightful ulceration and gangrene. The long use of salt meat, oftentimes imperfectly cured, as well as the most total deprivation of vegetables and fruit, appeared to be the chief cause of scurvy. I carefully examined the bakery and the bread furnished the prisoners, and found that they were supplied almost entirely with corn bread from which the husk had not been separated. This husk acted as an irritant to the alimentary canal, without adding any nutriment to the bread. As far as my examination extended no fault could be found with the mode in which the bread was baked; the difficulty lay in the failure to separate the husk from the corn meal. I strongly urged the preparation of large quantities of soup made from the cow and calves heads with the brains and tongues to which a liberal supply of sweet potatoes and vegetables might have been advantageously added. The material existed in abundance for the preparation of such soup in large quantities with but little additional expense. Such aliment would have been not only highly nutritious, but it would also have acted as an efficient remedial agent for the removal of the scorbutic condition. The sick within the stockade lay under several long sheds which were originally built for barracks. These sheds covered two floors which were open on all sides. The sick lay upon the bare boards, or upon such ragged blankets as they possessed, without, as far as I observed, any bedding or even straw.

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The haggard, distressed countenances of these miserable, complaining dejected, living skeletons, crying for medical aid and food, and cursing their Government for its refusal to exchange prisoners, and the ghastly corpses with their glazed eyeballs staring up into vacant space, with the flies swarming down their open grinning mouths, and over their ragged clothes infested with numerous lice, as they lay amongst the sick and dying formed a picture of helpless, hopeless misery which it would be impossible to portray by words or by the brush. A feeling of disappointment and even resentment on account of the action of the United States Government upon the subject of exchange of prisoners, appeared to be widespread, and the apparent hopeless, nature of the negotiations for some general exchange of prisoners appeared to be a cause of universal regret and deep and injurious despondency. I heard some of the prisoners go so far as to exonerate the Confederate Government from any charge of intentionally subjecting them to a protracted confinement, with its necessary and unavoidable sufferings in a country cut off from all intercourse with foreign nations, and sorely pressed on all sides, whilst on the other hand they charged their prolonged captivity upon their own Government, which was attempting to make the negro equal to the white man. Some hundreds or more of the prisoners had been released from confinement in the stockade on parole, and filled various offices as clerks, druggists, carpenters, etc., in the various departments. These men were well clothed and presented a

stout and healthy appearance, and as a general rule, they presented a much more robust and healthy appearance than the Confederate troops guarding the prisoners.

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The entire grounds are surrounded by a frail board fence, and are strictly guarded by Confederate soldiers, and no prisoner, except the paroled attendants, is allowed to leave the grounds except by a special permit from the commandant of the interior of the prison.

The patients and attendants, near two thousand in number, are crowded into this confined space and are but poorly supplied with old and ragged tents. Large numbers of them were without any bunks in the tents, and lay upon the ground, oftentimes without even a blanket. No beds or straw appeared to have been furnished. The tents extend to within a few yards of the small stream, the eastern portion of which, as we have before said, is used as a privy and is loaded with excrements; and I observed a large pile of corn bread, bones, and filth of all kinds, thirty feet in diameter and several feet in height, swarming with myriads of flies, in a vacant space near the pots used for cooking. Millions of flies swarmed over everything and covered the faces of the sleeping patients, and crawled down their open mouths and deposited their maggots in the gangrenous wounds of the living and in the mouths of the dead.

Mosquitoes in great numbers also infested the tents, and many of the patients were so stung by these pestiferous insects, that they resembled those suffering from a slight attack of the measles.

The police and hygiene of the hospital were defective in the extreme; the attendants, who appeared in almost every instance to have been selected from the prisoners, seemed to have, in many cases, but little interest in the welfare of their fellow captives.

The accusation was made that the nurses, in many cases, robbed the sick of their clothing, money, and rations, and carried on a clandestine trade with the paroled prisoners and confederate guards without the hospital enclosure, in the clothing, effects of the sick, dying, and dead Federals. They certainly appeared to neglect the comfort and cleanliness of the sick intrusted to their care in a most shameful manner, even after making due allowances for the difficulties of the situation. Many of the sick were literally encrusted with dirt and filth and covered with vermin.

When a gangrenous wound needed washing, the limb was thrust out a little from the blanket, or board, or rags upon which the patient was laying, and water poured over it, and all the putrescent matter allowed to soak into the ground floor of the tent. The supply of rags for dressing wounds was said to be very scant, and I saw the most filthy rags which had been applied several times, and

imperfectly washed, used in dressing wounds. Where hospital gangrene was prevailing, it was impossible for any wound to escape contagion under these circumstances. The result of the treatment of wounds in the hospital were of the most unsatisfactory character, from this neglect of cleanliness, in the dressings and wounds themselves, as well as from various other causes which will be more fully considered. I saw several gangrenous wounds filled with maggots. I have frequently seen neglected wounds among Confederate soldiers similarly affected; and as far as my experience extends these worms destroy only the dead tissues and do not injure specially the well parts. I have even heard surgeons affirm that a gangrenous wound which had been thoroughly cleansed by maggots, healed more rapidly than if it had been left to itself. This want of cleanliness on the part of the nurses appeared to be the result of carelessness and inattention, rather than of malignant design, and the whole trouble can be traced to the want of proper police and sanitary regulations and to the absence of intelligent organization and division of labor.

The abuses were in large measure due to the almost total absence of system, government, and rigid, but wholesome sanitary regulations. In extenuation of these abuses it was alleged by the medical officers that the Confederate troops were barely sufficient to guard the prisoners, and that it was impossible to obtain any number of experienced nurses from the Confederate forces. In fact the guard

appeared to be too small, even for the regulation of the internal hygiene and police of the hospital.

The manner of disposing of the dead was also calculated to depress the already desponding spirits of these men, many of whom have been confined for months, and even for nearly two years in Richmond and other places, and whose strength had been wasted by bad air, bad food, and neglect of personal cleanliness.

The dead-house is merely a frame covered with old tent cloth and a few brushes, situated in the south-western corner of the hospital grounds. When a patient dies, he is simply laid in the narrow street in front of his tent, until he is removed by Federal negroes detailed to carry off the dead; if a patient dies during the night he lies there until morning, and during the day, even the dead were frequently allowed to remain for hours in these walks. In the dead-house the corpses lie upon the bare ground, and were in most cases covered with filth and vermin.

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The cooking arrangements are of the most defective character. Five large iron pots similar to those used for boiling sugar cane, appeared to be the only cooking utensils furnished by the hospital for the cooking of nearly two thousand men; and the patients were

dependent in great measure upon their own miserable utensils. They were allowed to cook in the tent doors and in the lanes, and this was another source of filth, and another favorable condition for the generation and multiplication of flies and other vermin.

The air of the tents was foul and disagreeable in the extreme, and in fact the entire grounds emitted a most nauseous and disgusting smell. I entered nearly all the tents and carefully examined all the cases of interest, and especially the cases of gangrene, upon numerous occasions, during the prosecution of my pathological inquiries at Andersonville, and therefore enjoyed every opportunity to judge correctly of the hygiene and police of the hospital.

There appeared to be absolute indifference and neglect on the part of the patients of personal cleanliness; their persons and clothing, in most instances, and especially of those suffering with gangrene and scorbutic ulcers, were filthy in the extreme and covered with vermin. It was too often the case that patients were received from the Stockade in a most deplorable condition. I have seen men brought in from the stockade in a dying condition, begrimed from head to foot with their own excrements, and so black from smoke and filth that they resembled negroes rather than white men. That this description of the stockade and hospital has not been overdrawn, will appear from the reports of the surgeons in charge, appended to this report.

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CONCLUSIONS.

1st. The great mortality among the Federal prisoners confined in the military prison at Andersonville was not referable to climatic causes, or to the nature of the soil and waters.

2d. The chief causes of death were scurvy and its results and bowel affections, chronic and acute diarrhea and dysentery. The bowel affections appear to have been due to the diet, the habits of the patients, the depressed, dejected state of the nervous system and moral and intellectual powers, and to the effluvia arising from decomposing animal and vegetable filth. The effects of salt meat, and an unvarying diet of corn meal, with but few vegetables, and imperfect supplies of vinegar and syrup, were manifested in the great prevalence of scurvy. This disease, without doubt, was also influenced to an important extent in its origin and course by the foul animal emanations.

3d. From the sameness of the food and form, the action of the poisonous gases in the densely crowded and filthy stockade and hospital, the blood was altered in its constitution, even before the

manifestation, of actual disease. In both the well and the sick red corpuscles were diminished; and in all diseases uncomplicated with inflammation, the fibrous element was deficient. In cases of ulceration of the mucous membrane of the intestinal canal the fibrous element of the blood was increased; while in simple diarrhea, uncomplicated with ulceration, it was either diminished or else remained stationary. Heart clots were very common, if not universally present, in cases of ulceration of the intestinal mucous membrane, while in the uncomplicated cases of diarrhea and scurvy, the blood was fluid and did not coagulate readily, and the heart clots and fibrous concretions were almost universally absent. From the watery condition of the blood, there resulted various serous effusions into the pericardium, ventricles of the brain, and into the abdomen. In almost all the cases which I examined after death, even the more emaciated, there was more or less serous effusion into the abdominal cavity. In cases of hospital gangrene of the extremities, and in cases of gangrene of the intestines, heart clots and fibrous coagulations were universally present. The presence of those clots in the cases of hospital gangrene, while they were absent in the cases in which there was no inflammatory symptoms, sustains the conclusion that hospital gangrene is a species of inflammation, imperfect and irregular though it may be in its progress, in which the fibrous element and coagulation of the blood are increased, even in those who are suffering from such a condition of the blood, and from such diseases as are naturally accompanied

with a decrease in the fibrous constituent.

4th. The fact that hospital gangrene appeared in the stockade first; and originated spontaneously without any previous contagion, and occurred sporadically all over the stockade and prison hospital, was proof positive that this disease will arise whenever the conditions of crowding, filth, foul air and bad diet are present. The exhalations from the hospital and stockade appeared to exert their effects to a considerable distance outside of these localities. The origin of hospital gangrene among these prisoners appeared clearly to depend in great measure upon the state of the general system induced by diet, and various external noxious influences. The rapidity of the appearance and action of the gangrene depended upon the powers and state of the constitution, as well as upon the intensity of the poison in the atmosphere, or upon the direct application of poisonous matter to the wounded surface. This was further illustrated by the important fact that hospital gangrene, or a disease resembling it in all essential respects, attacked the intestinal canal of patients laboring under ulceration of the bowels, although there was no local manifestations of gangrene upon the surface of the body. This mode of termination in cases of dysentery was quite common in the foul atmosphere of the Confederate States Military Hospital in the depressed, depraved condition of the system of these Federal prisoners.

5th. A scorbutic condition of the system appeared to favor the origin of foul ulcers which frequently took on true hospital gangrene. Scurvy and hospital gangrene frequently existed in the same individual. In such cases, vegetable diet, with vegetable acids, would remove the scorbutic condition without curing the hospital gangrene. From the results of the existing war for the establishment of the independence of the Confederate States, as well as from the published observations of Dr. Trotter, Sir Gilbert Blane, and others of the English navy and army, it is evident that the scorbutic condition of the system, especially in crowded ships and camps, is the most favorable to the origin and spread of foul ulcers and hospital gangrene. As in the present case of Andersonville, so also in past times when medical hygiene was almost entirely neglected, those two diseases were almost universally associated in crowded ships. In many cases it was very difficult to decide at first whether the ulcer was a simple result of scurvy or of the action of the prison or hospital gangrene, for there was great similarity in the appearance of the ulcers in the two diseases, so commonly have these two diseases been combined in their origin and action, that the description of scorbutic ulcers, by many authors evidently includes also many of the prominent characteristics of hospital gangrene. This will be rendered evident by an examination of the observations of Dr. Lind and Sir Gilbert Blane upon scorbutic ulcers.

6th. Gangrenous spots followed by rapid destruction of tissue appeared in some cases where there had been no known wound. Without such well established facts, it might be assumed that the disease was propagated from one patient to another. In such a filthy and crowded hospital as that of the Confederate States Military Prison at Andersonville, it was impossible to isolate the wounded from the sources of actual contact of the gangrenous matter. The flies swarming over the wounds and over filth of every kind. The filthy, imperfectly washed and scanty supplies of rags, and the limited supply of washing utensils, the same wash-bowl serving for scores of patients, were sources of such constant circulation of the gangrenous matter that the disease might rapidly spread from a single gangrenous wound. The fact already stated, that a form of moist gangrene, resembling hospital gangrene, was quite common in this foul atmosphere, in cases of dysentery, both with and without the existence of the disease upon the entire surface not only demonstrates the dependence of the disease upon the state of the constitution, but proves in the clearest manner that neither the contact of the poisonous matter of gangrene, nor the direct action of the poisonous atmosphere upon the ulcerated surface is necessary to the developement of the disease.

7th. In this foul atmosphere amputation did not arrest hospital gangrene, the disease almost invariably returned. Almost every amputation was followed finally by death, either from the effects of

gangrene or from the prevailing diarrhea or dysentery. Nitric acid and escharotics generally in this crowded atmosphere, loaded with noxious effluvia, exerted only temporary effects; after their application to the diseased surfaces, the gangrene would frequently return with redoubled energy; and even after the gangrene had been completely removed by local and constitutional treatment, it would frequently return and destroy the patient. As far as my observation extended, very few of the cases of amputation for gangrene recovered. The progress of these cases was frequently very deceptive. I have observed after death the most extensive disorganization of the structures of the stump, when during life there was but little swelling of the part, and the patient was apparently doing well. I endeavored to impress upon the medical officers the view that in this disease treatment was almost useless, without an abundant supply of pure, fresh air, nutritious food, and tonics and stimulants. Such changes, however, as would allow of the isolation of the cases of hospital gangrene appeared to be out of the power of the medical officers.

8th. The gangrenous mass was without true pus, and consisted chiefly of broken-down, disorganized structures. The reaction of the gangrenous matter in certain stages was alkaline.

9th. The best, and in truth the only means of protecting large armies and navies, as well as prisoners, from the ravages of

hospital gangrene, is to furnish liberal supplies of well cured meat, together with fresh beef and vegetables, and to enforce a rigid system of hygiene.

10th. Finally, this gigantic mass of human misery calls loudly for relief, not only for the sake of suffering humanity, but also on account of our own brave soldiers now captives in the hands of the Federal Government. Strict justice to the gallant men of the Confederate Armies, who have been or who may be, so unfortunate as to be compelled to surrender in battle, demands that the Confederate Government should adopt that course which will best secure their health and comfort in captivity; or at least, leave their enemies without a shadow of an excuse for any violation of the rules of civilized warfare in the treatment of prisoners.”

(End of witnesses' testimony.)

This was the testimony of a scientific medical officer, who was so thoroughly a rebel that he served as a private for six months in the Confederate army, and yet so humane as to condemn the barbarous treatment imposed on helpless men by such fiends as Winder and Wirz.

Let me call the readers particular attention to a few points in the testimony of Dr. Jones.

First. As to his charge of filthiness. He states the truth, as any ex-Andersonville prisoner too well knows, but he does not inform his Government as to the cause. He does not say that these men were turned, like so many swine, into the stockade, after being robbed of everything of value. That no cooking utensils were furnished, that not an ounce of soap was issued to the prisoners after May 1st, 1864. But he does tell us that water was scarce, and filthy beyond the power of description, he does tell how these men became dispirited by long confinement, by bad diet and worse drink, and by their filthy surroundings, and by the constant presence of death. What wonder that men under all these discouraging circumstances soon fell to the level of brutes? And yet all were not so filthy; all did not lose their instincts of manhood, but through all these discouraging surroundings, observed, as well as possible under the circumstances, the laws of health. Were it not so this story would never have been written.

Second. He speaks of hearing some of the prisoners exonerate the Confederate Government, and lay all the blame of their continued imprisonment on the Federal Government. There is too much truth in this statement to be pleasant to us as patriots, but let us see if these men were wholly to blame in this matter.

We had heard all sorts of discouraging rumors for the last ten months. The rebels had told us that Lincoln would not exchange prisoners unless

the negroes were put upon the same basis as whites. That was just and honorable in the Government, but it was death to us. The fact is that of all the forty-five thousand prisoners that I saw in Andersonville there were not to exceed a half dozen negroes, and they were officers' waiters. The rebels did not take negroes prisoners who were captured in arms, they killed them on the spot, and we knew it, but perhaps our Government did not.

For my own part I never exonerated Confederates for the part they took in cases where they might have done better. It is true that they could not furnish us such a quality of food as our Government furnished Confederate prisoners, but the excuse that they had not enough for their own soldiers is too flimsy as shown by the supplies that Sherman's men found in Georgia on that famous "March to the Sea" after we had been removed from Andersonville. And even if they were short of food, they had enough pure air and water, and enough land so that we need not have been compelled to drink our own filth, nor breathe the foul effluvia arising from the putrefaction of our excrements, nor be crowded at the rate of thirty-three thousand men on twelve acres of ground, as we were at Andersonville. There was wood enough so that men need not have been compelled to eat corn meal raw. There was no valid excuse for robbing men of their little all and then turning them into those prisons, to live or die, as best they could.

When we come to the part our Government took in this matter it is simply

this; General Grant was of the opinion that we could perform our duty as soldiers better in those prisons than we could if exchanged. Exchange meant giving a fat rebel soldier, ready to take the field, for a yankee skeleton ready for the hospital or the grave. Considered as a military measure I admit it was right; but considered from a humanitarian point, it was simply hellish.

Do you wonder that we thought our Government had forgotten, or did not care for us? And yet when the crucial test came, when life and liberty, food and clothing, were offered us at the price of our loyalty to our Government, our reply was “no, we will let the lice carry us out through the cracks, before we will take the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, we will accept death but not dishonor.”

Don't blame us if we were discouraged and disheartened, if we did growl at, and find fault with, a government which we imagined had deserted us in the hour of our greatest need; we were true and loyal after all, and if you had been placed in the same condition you would have done just the same.

Third. Dr. Jones in speaking of those prisoners who were paroled and were at work on the outside of the stockade says: “These men were well clothed, and presented a stout and healthy appearance, and as a general rule they presented a much more robust appearance than the Confederate troops guarding them.”

Why not? they had plenty of exercise, good water, fresh air, and enough food so that they could purchase their good clothes with the surplus which accrued after their own wants had been satisfied. They were naturally more robust men than those Home Guards, and their situation had enabled them to keep in a normal condition. Had the prisoners in the stockade received the same treatment as the paroled men who were at work outside of the stockade, they would have presented the same robust appearance, but that stockade and those guards could not have held us and the rebels knew it.

I have introduced the report of Dr. Jones for the benefit of a class of persons who are inclined to doubt the statements of ex-prisoners, and I submit that he tells a more terrible story than any of us can tell.