



THE FUGELMAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

THE BLACK HAT BRIGADE---THE IRON BRIGADE

1861-1865

VOLUME XXIV

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

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PASS IN REVIEW

From the quill of Lt. Colonel Pete Seielstad



Our campfires are now cold as the dead of winter but our home fires blaze brightly as we share our holiday with family and friends. I hope this commentary will find you all well and in good spirits as you fight the elements of winter.

A few things have come across my desk or were received on the telegraph wire. First, which came by total surprise, was the end of Boscobel's Muskets and Memories event.

Marie Leifhelt (event chair) sent this notice, *"The time has come to confirm the rumors of the demise of the Muskets & Memories Civil War Era Reenactment & GAR heritage Encampment in Boscobel, WI. It has been a marvelous 23 years - thanks to the World's Greatest Committee, the City and Citizens of Boscobel, the Civil War Re-enactors, Supporters, Spectators, Sponsors - the list could go on forever - everyone contributing to make this the best Civil War Era Reenactment in the Upper Mid-West."*

Thank you Everyone.

With Highest Regards,

Marie Leifheit

I asked around and found that the problem was like that of so many other event committees, volunteers step down due to age or other obligations and no one stepped up to replace them. As a result, even though the Boscobel event was not declining, their workers were.

To Marie, Ken, Mike and Gary and all the others who offered their time and talents to Boscobel's Muskets and Memories, it is a sad day for the American Civil War re-enactors here in the Tri-state area of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. Many friends and memories have been made at this event. It is we who should be thanking you. On their behalf: THANK YOU!

Another item has occurred to me during the last few days of November.

As we commit to preserving our American history we must never let our guard down when it comes to protecting the artifacts that have survived through history. Preserving historical artifacts is a 24/7 job. We all hold things dear to us that have lent meaning to the lives of our family. Photos of loved ones, a letter in 1943 to your father's sweetheart who became your mother, a grandfather's uniform from 1917. These items find their way into the family trunk and are stored in a less-than-desirable location such as an attic. Like a family heirloom, save for the want of public interest that is often short-lived, an American Civil War relic finds its way out of sight and mind of the public. What then?

It's a great thing when an item from the past is found and preserved and all take time to cheer and applaud those who have come to the "rescue". But what happens next? Such is the case of the La Crosse Light Guard flag. After twenty years in the care of the La Crosse Historical Society, the flag is now in jeopardy of being without a home. After being moved twice, we are left to wonder what kind of care was provided in its transportation and now in its storage and protection. Then comes the question of perpetual care for this La Crosse artifact. As individuals we cannot be everywhere to provide protection and security but working together we can find a solution to the problem. It may be in the best interest of the Light Guard flag to allow others to take the reigns; people that have the facilities and funding to protect and preserve an important part of La Crosse history. *(I would offer an exceptional location at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison.)* Correct action now will preserve for the next generation a direct connection with the men and women of La Crosse County and their role in

the American Civil War through this truly on-of-a-kind artifact.

I continue to look forward by understanding the past.

Your obedient servant,

Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS



JANESVILLE: In the weeks ahead all of us will be focused on the traditions and activities surrounding the Christmas holidays. Most of the things we will do would have been familiar to our ancestors. So let us take a journey back to 1862 and experience the Christmas holiday as our predecessors did so long ago.

There are months to go before the celebratory Christmas festivities will actually begin in earnest. Gift giving has become an integral part of the holiday, especially for children. In the evening tide Mother sits knitting hats, scarves, and mittens for her daughters. For her sons she is sewing a new suit of clothes for church for the older son and a replica of the uniform

worn by Father in the army for the youngest boy. In camp Father is carving a wooden sword and rifle for the last born son and saving to buy a watch for the oldest boy. Dad has purchased material to be sent home for Mother to sew dresses for the girls. Christmas gifts at this point in history tend to be handmade items, something useful or decorative for the recipient. As Christmas approaches Mother will make cookies, pies and cakes for friends and other family members. Commercialization of Christmas was a decade away. However, Mother would purchase candies and fruits for the children and use them to decorate the Christmas tree.

The family didn't forget Father in preparing for Christmas. Mother and the children created Christmas cards to send to the front. They would also make cards to send to family and friends. The history of the Christmas card indicates that the first one was designed by a man named J. C. Horsley for a man named Henry Cole. Mr. Cole wanted to do something different than his usual Christmas letter to acquaintances in 1843. The idea caught on and became a very popular Christmas tradition by the 1860's.

As the holidays approached it was time to decorate the house for Christmas. Evergreens, berries, holly, ivy, and ribbons would be used to decorate the house, mantle, and table. Mother would also use candles to brighten the decorations. Mistletoe would make its appearance as a decorating material. The tradition, already observed in the mid-nineteenth century, was that a person must kiss someone standing under the mistletoe! Long live tradition!!

Candles were an integral part of the Christmas decorations in Victorian homes. Mother would create an advent wreath for the family. On the wreath there would be four candles. These would symbolize belief, good fortune, love, and peace. The lighting of these candles was to illustrate that the Christ child brought light into the darkness of the world. This was, no doubt a significant concern during the War of the Rebellion with so many men gone into the armies and the death and destruction caused by the fighting. Another use of candles was the tradition of placing a candle in the windows of the home during the 12 days of the Christmas festival. The candle in the window was a sign that travelers could find food and shelter in that home. Another use of candles was on the family Christmas tree. In fact, candles were such an important part of the Christmas celebrations that merchants often handed out candles to their customers.

Music, especially Christmas carols, would ring out in churches as their congregants prepared to celebrate the arrival of the Christ child! The beauty and inspirational nature of these hymns were (and are) proof of the divinity of the Great Father in Heaven. Only divine inspiration could account for the beauty of these hymns. Even today our churches ring out with these amazing homages to the Christ child! Caroling was also a tradition during the mid-19th century. This was a tradition that developed in England and soon found its way to America. Mother would join with a group from her church, along with the older children, and go from neighbor to neighbor singing those wonderful songs of the Christmas season.

Of all the Christmas traditions the most lasting and central symbols of the holiday was Santa Claus! The concept of Santa came from a number of antecedents. To the Dutch he was known as St. Nick. England had a similar symbol of Santa called Father Christmas, to Germans there was Kris Kringle, and in Norse and German mythology there was the Yule Elf. Father and Mother's children eagerly awaited the arrival of Santa, as did all children did during the war years. Every child was encouraged to go to sleep on Christmas Eve to await the arrival of Santa who brought their gifts to put under the Christmas tree.

The character of Santa that we all recognize came from drawings by the cartoonist Thomas Nast. Beginning in 1864 Nast published a number of drawings (especially in Harper's Weekly) of the person known as Santa. These drawings would take over the imagination of generations of children and become the accepted image of the jolly old man himself! Below you will find the most famous drawing of Santa by Nast and a cover for the 1865 Harper's Weekly picturing the Christmas holiday. The last drawing is of Santa visiting soldiers in Union camps bringing holiday cheer to the soldiers. Children would be the center of the holiday by the mid-nineteenth century.





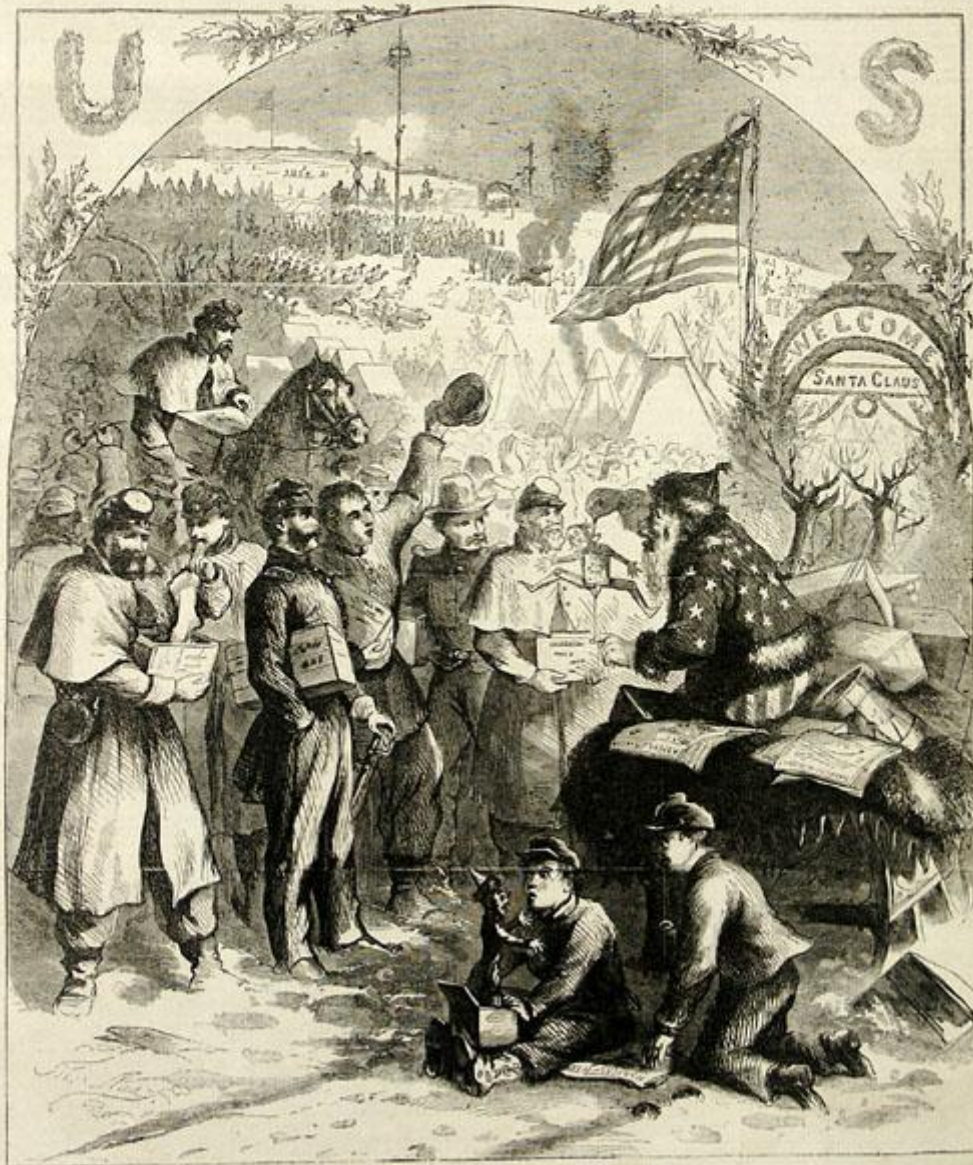
HARPER'S WEEKLY.

A JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION.

Vol. VII.—No. 314.]

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1863.

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SANTA CLAUSE IN CAMP.—[See Page 4.]

Next to Santa Claus the most significant symbol of the Christmas season was the Christmas tree. The Christmas tree had been a tradition in Germany for a very long time. The use of the Christmas tree exploded across America in 1850 when an etching of a Christmas tree in Windsor Castle appeared in the United States. Early on Christmas trees were decorated with tinsel, ribbon, paper chains, cookies and candies, wax angels and other figures, and candles. Most folks followed the practice of setting up their Christmas trees on Christmas Eve. Besides the decorations usually used to decorate trees small gifts would also be hung on the trees. Larger gifts would be placed under the tree. By the 1870's glass ornaments would make their appearance. This was part of the commercializing of Christmas that was developing in America in the later part of the 19th century.

This editor was quite surprised by the fact that what we would now call artificial Christmas trees existed as far back as 1845 in Germany. Originally these trees were called Goosefeather trees. These trees were made from branches or wire and covered with feathers dyed green to give the appearance of a pine tree. Actually, goose, turkey, or ostrich feathers were used to create these trees.



Then there is the Christmas feast. This tradition goes back to the Middle Ages. Initially the tradition called for serving mince pies. Originally

these pies included meats but by Victorian times meat had disappeared from these pies. Since the arrival of the Victorian period the Christmas feast was composed of beef and goose. Wealthier families developed the process of serving turkey for this special meal. (This gives a different meaning to the purchase and delivery of a turkey to the Cratchet family in Dicken's "A Christmas Carol". The turkey for a Christmas meal would have been something for wealthy families and not middle class families like the Cratchets. This makes Scrooge's proffering a turkey a special gift!)

Finally, although this isn't in the realm of Christmas tradition, there is a civil war Christmas story that bears retelling at this point. One of America's pre-eminent literary stars as the civil war began was Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The year 1861 was a tragic one for Longfellow. In a home accident his wife Fanny's dress caught fire and she died of her injuries. Longfellow's son, Charles, without his father's permission had joined the Union army. Charles was severely wounded at the battle of New Hope Church in 1863. The weight of the death of his beloved wife and his son's wounds oppressed Longfellow. On Christmas Day, 1863, Longfellow sat down to write a poem in the hopes that he could improve his mood. That poem was titled "I Heard The Bells Of Christmas Day". Eventually the poem would be set to music and become a Christmas favorite. But in that process the two stanzas tied to the civil war disappeared. Below is the entire poem. Note the final stanza which suggests hope in a time of despair!

I HEARD THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS DAY

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day

Their old, familiar carols play,

And wild and sweet

The words repeat

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,

The belfries of all Christendom

Had rolled along

**The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to Men!**

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

**Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!**

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

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

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:

“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;

The Wrong shall fail,

The Right prevail,

With peace on earth, good-will to men.”

<http://emergingcivilwar.com/2011/12/13/i-heard-the-bells-on-christmas-day/>

And so as the Christmas holiday arrives the newsletter and all your officers (including company and Association officers) want to take this opportunity to wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas. No matter your own traditions, whether they reflect those of our ancestors, or are new ones, we hope that this holiday season is bright with celebration and love. May you and your families be safe, happy and blessed this Christmastide.

CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES OF THE COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATION

December

5th	Co.E Annual meeting Noon (Co.E)	Green Bay,WI.
12th	Wreaths Across America (Co.K)	Milw/Madison, WI.

REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

FIRST CALL: The annual meeting of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association is scheduled for January 30th, 2016. The meeting will commence the consideration of its published agenda beginning at 9:00 a.m. The location of the meeting will be the same as last year, the Community Congregational Museum at 206 College Avenue, Fox Lake, Wisconsin.

The *Fugelman* would encourage all our members to take part in this meeting. Every business meeting of any group is important. That is true here as well. The Association schedule will be approved. Consideration of the National event and Association Maximum Effort events will also be set. There will be other issues that will set the tone and direction for our hobby as we proceed into the future. Your voice is an important element of that process.

COLLECTION OF ANNUAL DUES

Another reminder that the time has arrived (and grows short) for the payment of your annual dues for 2016. The collection of dues is required to be completed by the 1st of January. Many companies collect the bulk of their dues at their annual meetings. If you don't attend the annual meeting of your company you should mail your dues to the Company treasurer at your earliest convenience.

The newsletter would also remind the company secretaries and treasurers to send the company roster of members and schedule of events to Dave Sielski, the Association secretary, before the annual meeting of the Association (see above).

BOSCOBEL EVENT FADES INTO THE PAST!

It is with a feeling of loss that this editor passes along the announcement that the Boscobel civil war reenactment (25 years this event had been presented to the public) will no longer be held.

This has always been the best event on our calendar. All of our long time members no doubt have terrific memories of this event. The event was always very well organized and usually offered new challenges to make the event fresh and enjoyable for the reenactors. Another factor that made this event special was the way the community embraced the event and its participants. It is uncontested that the members of the community went out of their way to make reenactors feel welcomed when we came there!

The editor was aware that there was a possibility the event was in trouble. The organizers were looking for people to step up and take on the arduous work of organizing an event like this one. It was clear that if others were not willing to take on these tasks the event could end. Over the years Marie Leifheit has kept the editor informed of the event and other activities surrounding the Boscobel event. It would be remiss not to extend hearty thank you for the years we have been in contact.

The editor would like to thank Lyle Laufenberg for passing along the announcement from Marie Liefheit announcing the cancellation of the event.

DISPATCH TO HEADQUARTERS FROM THE ORGANIZER OF THE OLD WORLD WISCONSIN EVENT

The following dispatch was received at Headquarters and Lt. Col. Seielstad has requested that it be published to the troops. This was a well organized event that offered an enjoyable weekend for reenactors. It is a loss to see this event disappear.

Gentlemen and Friends:

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you with official confirmation that the *Gone for a Soldier* program at Old World Wisconsin has been suspended and will not take place in 2016. Taking into account the logistical and economic necessities to hosting such a significant event, as well as existence of another large-scale event at the Old Wade House, the board of historic sites in Madison in consultation with the site director have determined to take the site's Civil War programming in a different direction.

This decision in no way reflects the abilities with which you so ably executed everything I asked of you. I have been intensely proud to lead this event for the past three years and it is through your efforts that Civil War commemoration at the museum will live on, albeit in a different form. Instead of hosting one large event each year, we are in the early planning stages of developing a more intimate approach to living history. In the future, living histories will be carried out by invited Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, and Medical groups to portray specific Wisconsin units. We will make a particular effort to represent units with strong ethnic heritages, such as the Wisconsin 15th and 26th. These small-unit operations will take place on 3-4 weekends each season. More information on this new direction will be disseminated as details are determined.

On a personal note, I wish to thank you and all of your men and women for their dedication over the past three years. I could not have asked for a better team to work with in bringing the past to life and I look forward to collaborating with you all more in the future, both professionally and on the field of Honor. I remain...

Your Humble and Obedient Servant,

-Ryan Schwartz

Coordinator, Gone for a Soldier (2013-2015)

Old World Wisconsin Historic Site

A LETTER HOME FROM A COMPANY E SOLDIER

Fall Campaign of September

Dear Sally,

I hope all is well with you and the family. This letter should bear witness that I still resyd this syd of the sod. Once again another change of season, another

expedishun south to the hollows of Greenbush, another go around on the grist mill. In my near countless campaigns into these parts I have yet spyd rebel fortificashuns so stout.

The force we arrayd against those works had a familiar smell; the K&B boys, our lads from Co E and a contingent of self proclaimd pig farmers from Illinois! With a battery on the hyts and a few dandy mountd cavaliers, the grand ball awaitd only the trumpets call of our esteemd esquires.

Follown the fanfare of the cannons and the dance of the sabers by the cavalry, the infantry was orderd forward for the main event. Like an ugly man seekn a spot on a dance card, we got shot down – it was carnage! As the first assault began to waver the rebs counterattackd on our ryt. You may say they swept the floor with us! We reformd behind the artillery where upon the rebs returnd to the hole from whence they came. Sometimes the best way to deal with vermin is to find the hole it comes out and go in after it.

While we awaitd a second go at the rebs our ambulance corp was busy buildn the butcher's bill. You had to admire their ardor! Our brother Ebenezer got his self slytly wounded and while being transportd by stretcher he unfortunately exceeded the girth gradient of said implement. The resultn pile up, as poor Eb recalld, made him regret his vast foragin skills!

The final assault followd a ferwent cannonade traind on the vermin hole and nearby cannon. They really lit them up! We advancd with the Illini pork platoon on the ryt. They had the honors of rewtn up the breech. We followd en mass with the coup de gras!

Entern the reb works it was plain, we had good cess in not delayn the attack. Given another day or so we would have needed a month of Sundays, tons of 12 lb ordanance and legions of cannon fodder to have stormd these fortificashuns. Its hard to respect traitors, but me hats off to this marvel of engineering. Co E will return to Ft Howard for winter quarters. Pa shoud no ill effects from his health issues and was still pitchn into the fray. Ole Eb should recover from his wounds, but he may be emotionally scarrd from that stretcher mishap.

*Your Brother
Stephan*

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA EVENTS

MADISON

The Wreaths Across America event on Madison, Wisconsin, will take place on Saturday, December 12th, 2015. The first ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m., but participants are asked to arrive at 10:30 a.m. Everyone will muster at Section 35 of Forst Hills Cemetery. Following the initial ceremony the group will march to Union Rest for an additional ceremony. It is expected that there will be a bugler present and there is planned 3 rounds rifle salute so bring ammunition and caps. Everyone is welcomed to participate, including civilians for this event.

Bill Raftery wishes to express his appreciation to those who come to this special event!

MILWAUKEE

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

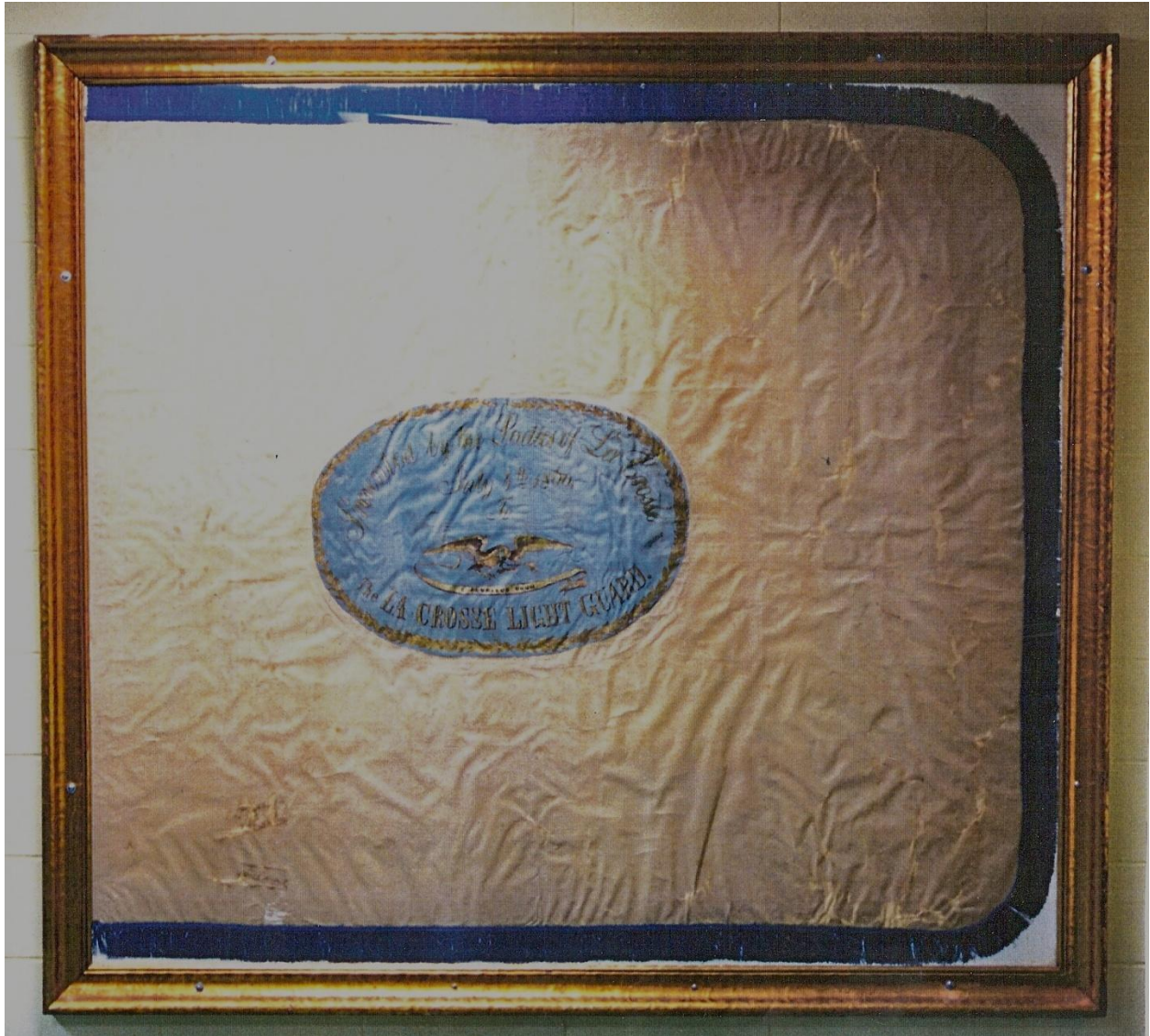
INFANTRY



COMPANY B

THE LIGHT GUARD FLAG

Below is a photo of the Light Guard (Company B) flag as it was found hanging on the wall in the basement of Post #52 of the American Legion. The flag was taken down and professionally preserved, reframed, and then returned to its previous location. From there it was next placed in the Swarthout Museum in LaCrosse from 1994 through 2013. It has now been placed in storage at the LaCrosse Historical Society after having been relocated twice. *The Fugelman* thanks Pete Seielstad for sharing this with our readers.



COMPANY E

COMPANY E ANNUAL MEETING

On December 5th, 2015, Company E will hold its annual meeting at the Allouez Center in Green Bay. The meeting is set to begin at noon. There will be a break for lunch mid-way through the meeting. This meeting is a very important one as it will determine the leadership and schedule for the

Company for 2016. Everyone should make an effort to attend and lend your views in the decision making process!

Below is the agenda for the meeting as it was included in the Company E newsletter.

AGENDA

- ☐ **Meeting Called to Order at Noon.**
- ☐ **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**
- ☐ **Discussion/Approval of Minutes of 2014 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.**

(1 year left in 3-year term)

First-Lieutenant, currently suspended.

(3-year term)

*****First-Sergeant, currently Robert Schwandt.***

(End of 2-year term)

*****Second-Sergeant, currently Scott Boesel.***

(End of 2-year term)

*****Corporals, currently Scott Blood, Todd St. John, David Vargas and Lucas Wright.***

(End of 1-year terms)

☐ **Discussion of 2015 Season and other Old Business.**

☐ ***Report of musket(s) and equipment purchased and sold during the 2015 Season, and disposition of the balance of funds set aside in 2015 for the purchase of equipment to be used by new members.***

☐ **BREAK.**

☐ **Discussion of Possible Events for 2016 Season:**

☐ **2d Wisconsin Association Annual Meeting (January 30)**

☐ **1st (March 5th), 2nd (April 9th) and 3rd (Spring Muster?) Drills**

☐ **Annual Spring Dinner/Dance (April 9th)**

☐ **Appleton (Franklin) School Day**

☐ **Appleton (Charter) School Day**

☐ **Merrill (Prairie River) School Day**

☐ **Ashwaubenon (Valley View) School Day**

☐ **Heritage Hill Event**

☐ **Menomonee Falls (Old Falls Village) Event**

☐ **Copper Harbor (Fort Wilkins) Living History**

☐ **Wade House Event**

☐ **Coon Valley (Norskedalen) Event**

☐ **Oshkosh Trader's Fair**

☐ **Oshkosh Memorial Day Procession**

☐ **Grignon Mansion (Kaukauna)**

☐ **Other Event Suggestions...**

☐ **Discussion of New Business:**

☐ ***Final Report of Charity March.***

☐ ***2d Wisconsin Association Annual Meeting—Company Event, Association Event (Perryville?), Scholarship, etc...***

☐ ***Set date for 2017 Company Annual Meeting.***

☐ ***Other New Business...***

☐ **Meeting Adjourned.**

Meeting begins at noon—lunch provided during Break.

DIRECTIONS: Take Highway 172 to the Webster Street exit and turn towards Heritage Hill State Park. Continue straight until you reach Allouez Avenue. Proceed across Allouez Avenue on Webster for one more block and turn right. The Allouez Community Center will be directly to your left. Park in the back.

COMPANY H

COMPANY H REPORT

by Tony Vranicar, First Sergeant, Company H

Company H finished out 2015 with a resounding effort at Kearney Park near Fresno, California, on October 25th. This event had the highest unit turnout for the year, with ten rifles in line, plus officer, Captain John Vranicar. Of these, five were potential new recruits. The only remaining activity for the year is nomination for unit leadership positions. Elections will be held in January, and ballots will be counted at the first event of the year, at Fort Point in San Francisco on January 30th, 2016.

The highlight of the year for many of us was the Civil War Days in Virginia City, Nevada. Company H lent support of arms to our compatriots there, at the invitation of the Comstock Civil War Reenactors. Virginia City has a bona fide Civil War era pedigree. As you may well know, Virginia City was the site of the Comstock silver strike, the largest discovery of silver ore in the United States up to that time. Like most mining boom towns, the encampment of 1859 mushroomed into a city of 15,000 in the space of three years. It is situated at an elevation of 6,200 feet, half-way up the side of Mt. Davidson in the high desert east of Reno. The silver and gold from the mines made some people extremely rich, built a good portion of San Francisco, and helped fund the Union cause during the Civil War. In addition to providing much needed revenue to the federal government, Nevada played a key role in securing President Lincoln's nomination for a second term in 1864. Its application for statehood was expedited to provide additional votes for Lincoln. The proposed state constitution was delivered to Washington by telegraph, which took two days of continuous

transmission to complete. Nevada was under martial law for the duration of the Civil War due to anxiety over Confederate sympathizers in the mining towns and possible risk to outbound shipments of precious metals.

So much for the history lesson. The event scenario consisted of an ambush of a Virginia & Truckee steam train carrying passengers and troops and a shipment of silver bullion. (The original V&T rail line was not completed until 1869, but who's going to quibble about that?) Passengers rode in the covered cars, and troops on the open flatcar, along with two breech-loading cannon. When the train arrived at Gold Hill, it was attacked by an opposing force of infantry and artillery, and a lively and ear-splitting skirmish ensued. After sufficient powder was expended, troops re-embarked and the train steamed back to Virginia City. There were two battles per day, with Confederate and Union alternating as train riders and ambushers.

This was a high-fun, low-maintenance event: hardly any marching, meals in town, conviviality in the saloons after dark, and accommodations in local hotels for those inclined to leave the tent at home.

Photos:

- 1. Company H at Kearney Park, Fresno, CA**
- 2. Virginia City & Mt. Davidson, Nevada**
- 3. Engine No. 29 of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad, arriving at Virginia City**
- 4. Union troops and artillery on the flatcar, headed for battle**
- 5. Union troops at Gold Hill**



Figure 1 Photo #1



Figure 2 Photo #2



Figure 3 Photo #3



Figure 4 Photo #4



Figure 5 Photo #5

COMPANY K

A dispatch for members of Company K was received by The Fugelman from Old World Wisconsin. This is a low key event that should be enjoyable for company members. If you can pitch in to assist with this event contact 2nd Sgt. Schwartz and let him know of your availability. Certainly he will appreciate your service!

27 November 2015

**From the Desk of the 2nd Sergeant
Near Mukwonago, WI**

To my gallant Comrades and Friends:

In keeping with the spirit of Old World Wisconsin's renewed approach to Civil War living history, the invitation has once more been extended to us to establish a winter bivouac at the museum during its annual Old World Christmas program. The event is scheduled to take place on two weekends, December 5-6 and December 12-13 from 10:00-5:00. A firepit, coffee, and hot chocolate will be provided by the museum.

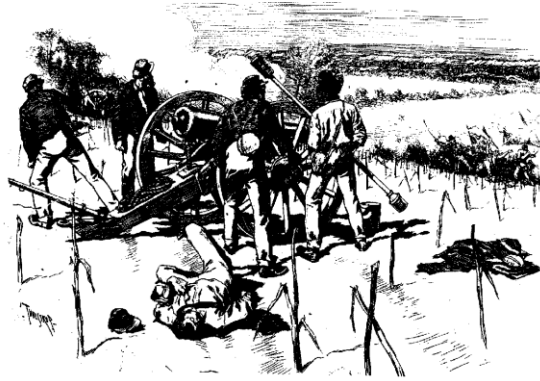
Ideally, this bivouac should be manned by two men per day. Due to the late notice, the impression for this program will be that of the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteers returning home on leave after reenlisting in 1864. Greatcoats and winterwear will be the order of the day, and plan to bring rations to cook as well. If you are interested and able to attend this program on any or all of the four dates listed above, please contact Ryan Schwartz at RPSchwartz1863@gmail.com as soon as possible.

As in previous years, the objective will be to present a 1st Person impression of soldiers returning home for the first time in several years, rather than our usual 3rd Person approach. Please plan accordingly. Any questions may be directed to the email address listed above.

Your Obedient Servant,

**-Ryan Schwartz
Co. K, 2nd WI Inf. Vol's.**

ARTILLERY



Lyle Laufenberg sent the photos below from the Veterans Day event at the State Capitol in Madison. Pvt. John Decker from Company K, Surgeon from the Second Wisconsin Stan Graiewski, and Lyle Laufenberg from Battery B represented our unit at the ceremony. Well done, Fellas!!







SKIRMISHERS



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, 2015	CHRISTMAS DAY
Dec. 27, 1831	Brig. Gen. Lucius Fairchild, USA, born
Dec. 31, 1815	Gen. George Meade, USA, born

**CIVIL WAR RAMBLINGS – DONELSON,
SHILOH, CORINTH, PILLOW, NASHVILLE**
Gary Van Kuuwenbergh

The last marksmanship competition of the 2015 shooting season took me to Eva, Tennessee which is between Nashville and Memphis. My wife and I took some time to visit both cities, and stopped at number of Civil War sights along the way. I'm sure we've got members who've spent more time at these places than we did, but I thought I'd write some short notes for those that haven't. This is more a travel log than a history lesson, and I'm listing the sites we visited in the chronological order that they occurred.

The Mississippi River has changed, and both Fort Henry and Island Number 10 are now underwater. There are overlooks at these sights, but neither made our itinerary.



Fort Donelson: Our first stop was Ft. Donelson and the nearby Dover Hotel where its surrender document was signed. Ft. Donelson was one of Grant's first victories. This earthen fort was built by the Confederates to control the river. The most interesting parts of the park are along the shore where the majority of the construction was done and most of the fighting took place. Don't look for a lot of flat ground here. The soldiers stationed here had a lot of ridges and valleys to cope with, making both attack and defense from land side difficult. The main cantonment area was situated in a large valley near the riverbank. The current visitor center is being replaced with a larger, more accessible one with razing and construction starting in December 2015. The Dover Hotel touts itself as one of the most 'original' CW structures remaining, and has displays and a movie inside.



SHILOH: Grant continued his quest for control of the Mississippi by targeting the railroad crossing at Corinth, MS. He used a landing about 30 miles away at a place that would become known as Shiloh to stage his forces. Confederate forces unexpectedly attacked him there. Shiloh battlefield impressed me with both the size and the pristineness of the park. It's large and, except for the monuments, intact. It's a lot of flat topography with

heavily wooded areas punctuated by large fields. You can take the driving tour two ways. The first is using the park brochure that takes you to all the stops in one loop, but out of chronological order. The second is by buying a CD that takes you to the same stops, but in the sequence the events occurred. The visitors' center is good, but not great. There's a great animated map of the battle at <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/shiloh/maps/battle-of-shiloh-animated.html>



CORINTH: It took the Union forces weeks to recover from the actions at Shiloh and move onto Corinth. Taking the railroad crossroad there severely hurt the Confederates ability to transport men and supplies. There's not a lot of the original earthworks left from the battle or the occupation, but they have an outstanding modern visitor center. Besides the relics and movies inside the center, there's a fantastic memorial outside that alone is worth the trip. It's basically a timeline of the entire war with red granite blocks representing the War's major battles piled in a waterway. The size of the blocks represents the number of casualties, with the Western theater battle blocks piled on one side, and Eastern theater ones on the other. Black granite stones on the sides of the waterway show the years. For more information on the monument see:

<http://www.nps.gov/shil/learn/historyculture/upload/water%20feature%2003.pdf> . The Corinth railway crossroad is still active today, and located downtown. If you want a picture of it, you need to encroach on railroad property a couple hundred feet.



FT. PILLOW: is still there, but the course of the Mississippi has moved away from it, so you need to imagine how things used to be there. Nathan Bedford Forrest's men gave no quarter to the African-American artillerymen, nor the cavalry units made up of men from the Memphis area that sided with the Union. He distained both equally. Forrest's culpability for the massacre is still debated today, but Fort Pillow is significant, because what happened there ended prisoner exchanges, and prompted equal pay for African American soldiers. The ravines and ridges landscape I found at Ft. Donelson is even more pronounced here. It has a small but nice visitor center with a very well done film on the battle. There are not a lot of bridges across the Mississippi in this area, and going there will take you about 30 miles off the main roads. In route, your only shopping opportunities will be two small 'Grocery and Bait' stores. Don't leave the beaten path if you're low on gas or hungry.



NASHVILLE: After the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson, the Confederates determined Nashville was no longer defensible, and abandoned the city. The Battle of Nashville did not occur until Sherman was preparing for his march to the sea, and the CSA was trying to distract him by attacking. There is a driving tour of the battle sites in Nashville: <http://www.bonps.org/tour/images/brochure01.pdf> . We passed a number of the stops on the tour while seeing other sights in Nashville. The plaques we saw were in urban areas, describing things that weren't there anymore. With limited time, we skipped doing the whole tour. However, if you stand on the steps of the Capitol building, which is atop the biggest hill in the city, with a copy of this map, you can follow what went on.

We took about two weeks to do this trip, and saw lots of other things along the way, but I'll save recounting the Elvis sightings and BBQ

recommendations for later. It was a great trip, but two weeks is about my limit for being on the road these days, and I was glad to come home after our vacation.

HUMANITY AND HOPE IN A SOUTHERN PRISON

BY PETER COZZENS

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For more than the obvious reasons, Civil War soldiers in both armies despised military prisons. Not only were the inmates held against their will, but the hunger, filth, vermin, rampant disease, overcrowding, brutal treatment and soul-crushing ennui made prison camps slaughterhouses of slow death. Andersonville, the infamous Georgia prison, was the ultimate abattoir; during the summer of 1864 nearly one in three Union inmates died. In other Confederate prisons, the average mortality rate was 15.5 percent; in Union prisons, 12 percent.

There was one remarkable exception: the virtually unknown Cahaba Federal Prison, 15 miles southwest of Selma, Ala. At Cahaba, the mortality rate was just 3 percent, a lower death rate than that among American prisoners in German stalags during World War II. According to federal figures, only 147 of the 5,000 prisoners interned at Cahaba died there.

What made Cahaba unique among Civil War prisons? Simple humanity. The prison commandant, Col. Henry A. M. Henderson of Kentucky, understood Northerners. He had graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University and the Cincinnati Law School. Shortly after graduation and finding his true calling in the church, Henderson became a Methodist minister. When he assumed command of Cahaba in July 1863, a month after it opened, he pledged to run the prison with as much compassion as discipline and good order permitted.

Henderson didn't have a lot to work with. The prison was built around a partly completed, 15,000-square-foot cotton warehouse in the town of Cahaba on the west bank of the Alabama River. Within its brick walls, 250 rough-timber bunks, capable of sleeping two men each, were built one atop of the other. An unfinished roof left 1,600 square feet in the center exposed to the elements. Confederate prison authorities built a 12-foot-high wooden

stockade around the warehouse, with allowance made for a small outdoor cooking yard. The prison's official capacity was 500; by the time Henderson arrived, it already had climbed to 660, with latecomers compelled to sleep on the dirt floor of the warehouse.

The Kentuckian's first order of business was to improve sanitary conditions. Drinking water came from an artesian well that emptied into an open gutter, which in turn flowed 200 yards through town before entering the northwest corner of the stockade. In his effort to depollute the water supply, Henderson had a willing ally in the prison surgeon R. H. Whitfield. Making his case to the Medical Department, Whitfield said the water, in its course from the well to the stockade, "has been subjected to the washings of the hands, feet, faces, and heads of soldiers, citizens, and negroes, buckets, tubs, and spittoons, of groceries, offices, and hospital, hogs, dogs, cows, and filth of all kinds from the streets and other sources." Whitfield's graphic plea did the trick; quartermasters installed pipes to replace the open ditch, and clean water flowed into the prison.

To ensure it remained that way, the latrines – closed outhouses, not open filth holes in the center of camp, as at Andersonville – were built at the southeastern corner of the prison, where the water exited. Consequently, dysentery was almost unknown at Cahaba; the majority of prisoners who died there seem to have entered the prison already in a weakened state.

Those who fell ill were well cared for at the prison hospital, located in a rambling, two-story hotel called Bell Tavern that the Confederacy had commandeered to serve both the guards and the prisoners. Whitfield treated Northerners and Southerners with equal consideration. Men died in the Bell Tavern hospital, but not for want of care.

Neither did they die for want of effort by Henderson, who in the autumn of 1864 found himself commandant of the most overcrowded of all Civil War prisons. That summer the Union's commanding general, Ulysses S. Grant, halted prisoner-of-war exchanges. As a result, Cahaba's population surged to 2,151 in October, a number 600 percent above the prison's capacity (Andersonville ran 330 percent above capacity at its peak). Each man had only 7.5 square feet to call his own; those at Andersonville had 35 square feet of space, albeit squalid, per man.

Despite the ban on exchanges, Henderson bypassed his own chain of command and proposed to the Union district commander, Maj. Gen. Cadwallader C. Washburn, a special exchange of 350 of Cahaba's most debilitated inmates. Cadwallader forwarded the request, along with a letter praising Henderson's management, but General Grant denied the appeal.

Henderson persevered. With winter drawing near and the prisoners poorly clad, he suggested to Washburn that the federals send a truce ship up the

Alabama River to Cahaba with supplies. Henderson and Washburn overcame the reservations of their superiors, and in December a Union steamboat offloaded 2,000 uniforms, 4,000 pairs of socks, 1,500 blankets, medicine and mess tins.

Henderson had done his best. But with overcrowding came a drop in rations, an inevitable course in a South scarcely able to feed its own troops by then. Prisoners wanted food more than supplies. Most of them bartered their new clothing to guards in exchange for victuals, and, reported Henderson sadly, the prisoners “were left with the same scanty clothing and ragged blankets in a climate particularly severe in winter.”

Homesickness and ennui could kill men as effectively as disease, so Henderson and his subordinates did what they could to keep the men’s minds occupied. “Every day on the arrival of the mail, one of them would bring in a late paper, stand up on a box and read the news,” recalled Sgt. Melvin Grigsby of Wisconsin. “In many other ways, such as procuring writing material and forwarding letters for us, they manifested such kindly feeling as one honorable soldier will always manifest toward brother soldier, enemy though he may be, in misfortune.”

Prisoners at Cahaba also were blessed with their own angel of mercy: Amanda Gardner, whose well-appointed home stood just outside the prison compound. There was no doubting her pro-Confederate convictions; Ms. Gardner had lost one of her two sons to Yankee bullets at the First Battle of Bull Run. But she had a reputation, a prison guard told Sergeant Grigsby, “of being one of the kindest-hearted and most intelligent women in town.” Soon after Cahaba opened, she began sending gifts of food that her young daughter slipped through cracks in the stockade walls with the connivance of friendly guards. When winter came, she cut every carpet in her home into blankets to “relieve the suffering of those poor prisoners.”

Most beneficial to prisoner morale was the generous use she made of a superb book collection her uncle had bequeathed her. Prisoners had only to send a note by a guard to Gardner or her daughter to borrow a book from library. At Andersonville prisoners scuffled over dog-eared back issues of Harper’s Weekly to alleviate the tedium. At Cahaba inmates enjoyed finely bound copies of the classics and a wide assortment of recent novels, as well as works of history, philosophy, science and poetry. Word of Gardner’s kindness spread beyond the prison walls to the Union lines; when a federal cavalry detachment realized they had captured her remaining son, they paroled him through the lines to her care.

Despite the best intentions of Henderson and Gardner, life at Cahaba was not easy. By late 1864 the average daily issue of rations fell to 12 ounces of cornmeal, 8 ounces of often-rancid beef and occasionally some bug-infested

peas. Prisoners were not starved, but they were hungry enough that thoughts of food permeated their dreams. "The same experience was often repeated," remembered an Illinois cavalryman, Jesse Hawes. "Go to the bed of sand at 9:00 p.m., dream of food till 1:00 or 2:00 a.m., awake, go to the water barrel, drink, and return to sleep again if the rats would permit sleep."

The rat population grew apace with that of the prisoners until they became a plague. They burrowed through the warehouse and swarmed over the cooking yard. "At first they made me nervous, lest they should do me serious injury before I should awake," said Hawes. "But after several nights' experience that feeling was supplanted by one of irritation that they should keep waking me up so many times that at length became nearly unbearable."

Harder yet to bear were lice, from which no prisoner was free. An Illinois private said that after his first night at Cahaba his uniform was so infested that it "looked more like pepper and salt than blue." Hawes agreed. Lice "crawled upon our clothing by day, crawled over our bodies, into the ears, even into the nostrils and mouths by night."

To compound the prisoners' misery, in early March 1865 the inmates of Cahaba faced a natural disaster of the first order. For several days rain had pounded the prison and inundated the surrounding countryside. On March 1 the Cahaba River, north of town, overflowed its banks. Water raced through Cahaba and swept into the stockade. Latrines backed up, and by nightfall prisoners found themselves waist-deep in ice-cold, fetid water.

Unfortunately for them, Colonel Henderson was no longer at Cahaba. With the war winding down, General Grant had relented on prisoner exchanges. Confederate authorities detailed Henderson to organize exchanges at a neutral site in Vicksburg, leaving the prison under the command of Lt. Col. Samuel Jones, a mean-spirited martinet who once threatened to run Ms. Gardner out of town because of her "sympathy for the damned Yankees." Refusing an appeal from his own guards to permit the prisoners to seek refuge on high ground outside the stockade until the waters receded, Jones left the federals shivering in the water for three days. Then, as the water finally drained from the stockade, he told the incredulous inmates that they were to be paroled immediately. The war was all but over.

For four weeks steamboats plied the Alabama River with prisoners. Most were taken to Vicksburg, where they mingled with the skeletons in blue from Andersonville. Some 4,700 Union prisoners awaited transportation home. Some 1,100 were sick, nearly all of whom were from Andersonville. The Cahaba men, reported Union department commander Napoleon T. Dana, were in "excellent health."

But not for long. On April 24, the long months of humane work by Henderson ended in unspeakable tragedy. The Union paddle steamer Sultana left Vicksburg crammed with 2,000 Union prisoners, more than half of them Cahaba men. The Sultana had faulty boilers and a legal capacity of 376 passengers. Three days after setting off up the Mississippi three of the four boilers exploded, and the Sultana sank. Three-quarters of the men onboard died.

General Dana took care to see that no harm came to Henderson while he was at Vicksburg, assigning a detachment of Indiana cavalry to act as the colonel's personal bodyguard. After the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, not even a well-meaning Confederate like Henderson was safe within Union lines. So Dana spirited him across the Mississippi River into a camp of Texas Rangers.

Henderson went on to live a long and productive life. He served two terms as superintendent of public schools in Kentucky before returning to the clergy. The Reverend Doctor Henderson was pastor of the Jersey City, N.J., Methodist Church when on May 11, 1883 its most prominent member, Mrs. Hannah Simpson Grant, passed away. Her son, Ulysses S. Grant, entrusted funeral arrangements to Henderson and asked him to prepare an appropriate eulogy. It was a high tribute to Henderson's character indeed that the former commanding general of the Union army would place such trust in the one-time commandant of a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp.

Henderson died in Cincinnati in 1912. Obituaries incorrectly said he had been a Confederate general, omitting any reference to his duty at Cahaba. Not that it mattered. After the 1865 flood the county seat moved from Cahaba to Selma, and by the turn of the century Cahaba was a ghost town; the warehouse prison demolished for the bricks. The horrors of Andersonville and notoriety of its commandant Henry Wirz would forever remain etched in American memory; memories of Col. Henry A. M. Henderson's humanity were buried with the good reverend.

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http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/04/24/humanity-and-hope-in-a-southern-prison/?_php=true&_type=blogs&ref=opinion&r=1

THE TALLMAN HOUSE IN JANESVILLE



If Abraham Lincoln really slept in all the places he was reputed to have spent the night, wags say he would have had to have lived to be more than 100 years old.

But the nation's 16th president really did spend two nights in Janesville's beautiful Italianate Tallman House on Oct. 1 and 2 in 1859, the only documented stay in a Wisconsin home.

Lincoln, who grew up in a modest log cabin in Kentucky, surely must have been impressed with the Tallman House, which was built in 1857 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was one of the grandest homes in the region in the mid-1800s. Sixty feet tall and built of Cream City brick and limestone, it has massive front doors made from black oak and lovely trim

under the eaves. It cost \$42,000 (paid for in gold), which the Rock County Historical Society says is the equivalent of \$2 million now. Docents say it is one of the best examples of how the upper crust lived in the mid-19th century.

Lincoln wasn't originally scheduled to stay in the house, Rock County Historical Society docent Joanna Morris told me on a recent tour. William Tallman, a wealthy Janesville lawyer and land speculator who bought nearly 4,500 acres in Rock County in the early 1850s, had gone with a friend to hear Lincoln deliver a campaign speech in Beloit. They were so impressed with him that Tallman asked the future president to come to Janesville to speak and stay at the Tallman home for one night.

According to legend, Lincoln missed his early morning train after the first night because he couldn't find his boots and was too shy to leave his room in his stocking feet. So he ended up going to church with the Tallman family and took the train the next morning to Chicago.

Inside the huge doors, Morris — a Janesville native — led me into the large central hallway. Off to the left is the drawing room where she said prominent guests like Lincoln would have first been shown when they entered the home. It is a large room, even by today's standards, with a 16-foot-tall ceiling.

Directly across the hallway is the parlor, only slightly smaller and a bit less formal. Like the drawing room, it is furnished with period pieces — nearly all of them owned by the Tallman family. William and Emeline Tallman both died in 1871 and this room is presumably where their bodies would have been laid out for public viewing.

The third large room in the main square structure that is the front of the house was called the library. It was about 18-by-18 and, oddly, contained no books. Perhaps a better name for it would have been the "reading room," Morris noted.

Across from the library is the formal dining room, which was used for meals with special guests and dinners — known today as lunch — which were served around 11 a.m. and ran to about 1 p.m. Breakfast and supper were lighter meals. The family also had a less formal dining room at the back of the house.

Upstairs, the beautiful home has four large bedrooms, including a master bedroom that had sinks with running water and a walk-in closet, both state-of-the-art for their time. The house also had piped-in gas to light its many rooms.

Two of the bedrooms were for the family's children and the third was the guest room where Lincoln stayed. The 6-foot-long bed where he slept

remains and is in perfect condition. Lincoln was 6-foot, 4-inches tall and I figured he would have slept with his feet drawn up.

But Morris said in that era, people slept in an inclined position or even sitting up "because they believed they'd choke if they slept on their backs, and that's the main reason for tall headboards and footboards."

The house also had running water in a separate bathing room with a large tub. William Tallman, Morris said, had this room built because he did not like bathing in the kitchen in a narrow tub where the only privacy was a curtain. The home also had an indoor privy (a three-holer) at the back of the house on the second floor. Running water carried away the waste to the Rock River, just down the hill. That was a good thing for the two live-in servants, she said, because their rooms were only a few feet from this bathroom.

Another small room on the second floor is decorated in what curators believe Tallman's law office in downtown Janesville would have looked like in the 1860s.

What I found most interesting, in addition to the servants' modest but pleasant bedrooms, was the basement where they spent their workdays. The brother and sister, Irish immigrants John and Eliza O'Connor, and the local staff they supervised, toiled in these rooms. They included a full kitchen, a washing room, a dairy room and a storage room for the food grown on the farm the Tallman family owned. The basement also had a dumb waiter for moving food and dishes from the kitchen to the first floor. That meant the staff didn't have to navigate the steep stairs with meals — or Mrs. Tallman's fine China.

William and Emeline Tallman's offspring continued to live in the home until 1915. It was later abandoned, Morris said, and nearly lost to history. The family gave it to Janesville in 1950, with the condition that it be used as a museum.

More information: The Tallman home (also known as the Lincoln-Tallman House) is run by the Rock County Historical Society, which offers tours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday from June 1 to Dec. 30. Tours begin at \$8 for adults.

For details, call (608) 756-4509 or see rchs.us/tallman-tours.

For other ideas for things to see and do in Janesville, see janesvillecrrb.com.

Getting there: The home is at 426 N. Jackson St. in Janesville, about 75 miles southwest of Milwaukee via I-43 and Highway 14.

Brian E. Clark is a Madison writer and photographer.



A hallway inside the Lincoln-Tallman House.

**Built in 1857, the home cost \$42,000, equivalent to \$2 million now,
and it was one of the most opulent homes in the region at the time.**



A staircase leads to the second level of the Lincoln-Tallman House in Janesville.

<http://www.jsonline.com/features/travel/tallman-house-in-janesville-a-19th-century-masterpiece-b99603826z1-338845982.html>