



THE BUGLE 30



Newsletter of the American Civil War Round Table Queensland Inc.
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THE COCKLESHELL GIANT

The Confederate States' Ship *Teaser* was built at Philadelphia in Pennsylvania and purchased by the State of Virginia in 1861. The *Teaser* was merely a tiny 64 ton tugboat, assigned to naval forces on the James River with Lt. James Henry Rochelle commanding for Virginia's navy.

Upon secession, *Teaser*, all-be-it a small tug, became an important part of the Confederate States navy and continued to operate in Virginia's war ravaged waters.

With Lieutenant William A. Webb C.S.N. in command *Teaser* took an active part in the Battle of Hampton Roads from March 8th to March 9th 1862, (see *previous and earlier issues of The Bugle*) acting as a tender to CSS *Virginia* and receiving the thanks of Confederate States Congress for her gallant actions.



William A. Webb CSN

The only photographs we have of C.S.S. *Teaser* were taken by Mathew Brady after her capture and are of stunning quality, all are featured in this issue including a stereoscope (*later pages*) for those who can focus and see the image in 3D. The image above is of a scale model showing *Teaser* with her hot air balloon, a piece of equipment that would rate her as another Confederate innovation and history's first 'aircraft carrier.' You can clearly see her fore and aft cannon in this model.



Lt. William A. Webb was an American sailor and Mexican/American war veteran who resigned his commission after more than 20 years service with the U.S. to join the Confederate States navy. Webb was decorated for his service as Captain C.S.S. *Teaser* during the battle (1862).

On March 8th to 9th 1862, at the [Battle of Hampton Roads](#), the Confederate flotilla tried to break a blockade maintained by two wooden Union frigates, [USS Cumberland](#) and [USS Congress](#). The Union ships were escorted by some gunboats and backed by shore batteries. Buchanan wrote later: ***"The general order under which the gunboat squadron went into action required that, in the absence of all signals, each commanding officer was to exercise his own judgment and discretion in doing all the damage he could to the enemy and to sink before surrendering."***



To support C.S.S. *Virginia* in this action, Capt. John Randolph Tucker, commanding the James River Squadron, ran past the shore batteries to join the battle alongside CSS *Teaser* that he described as, ***"Puffing with all the energy of a short-winded tug."*** They arrived just as C.S.S. *Virginia* had managed to sink U.S.S. *Cumberland*. Their escape was miraculous, as they were under a galling fire of solid shot, shell, grape and canister, a number of which passed through the vessels without doing any serious injury, except to the accompanying *Patrick Henry*.

In this picture by Mathew Brady (left) we see *Teaser* amidships, revealing the damage from her boiler explosion that lead to capture. We are looking down the port side with the muzzle of her aft 32 pounder protruding ominously.

The Hampton Roads squadron had immediately joined in battle to support C.S.S. *Virginia*; one eye witness describes the event, ***"The little Teaser pushed her way in between the Patrick"***

Henry and Jamestown, and advancing close to shore fired her gun in face of a battery of sixty guns. Probably her insignificance saved her, for now every shot seemed concentrated upon Virginia."



An accurate lifesize scale model of the Virginia's forward gun deck showing her being fitted out.

The Confederate squadron now concentrated its fire on the U.S.S. Congress forcing its surrender. When Confederate ships, charged with accepting surrender and escorting the captured officers were fired upon by Union shore batteries, Buchanan ordered another boat to burn her, with Webb's *Teaser* as cover. When they were also fired upon, Buchanan then ordered his men to destroy U.S.S. Congress using... *"hot shot and incendiary shells."*

The arrival of *USS Monitor* the following day resulted in the world's first battle between ironclads. Neither *C.S.S. Virginia*, nor *U.S.S. Monitor* suffered major damage, however Monitor's arrival forced the Confederate fleet to eventually retreat without having achieved their aim of breaking the blockade. Webb was reported later as being slightly wounded during the battle.

Buchanan took pride in his gunboats, *"Their judgment in selecting positions for attacking the enemy was good; their constant fire was destructive, and contributed much to the success of the day."* The Confederate Congress also thanked Webb for his heroic achievements that day.



In 1863, Webb was ordered to Savannah where he commanded a squadron including the ironclad *C.S.S. Atlanta*. He was captured in June 1863 and imprisoned in Boston. When released, as part of a prisoner exchange in October 1864, he returned to action on *C.S.S. Richmond*. (This was subject to an earlier Bugle story by J. Ford.)

William A. Webb grew up in Virginia and joined the United States navy at an early age attaining the rank of Midshipman on January 26th 1838. His young wife Elizabeth Ann Webb endured the lonely and yet demanding life of a navy spouse.

On July 2nd 1845, Webb was promoted to Passed Midshipman. He served in the Mexican-American War on a 6-gun store ship *U.S.S. Southampton*. Webb departed from Norfolk in *Virginia* on February 7th 1847, travelling to the Pacific Ocean via Cape Horn, eventually reaching Japan in 1854. He was afterwards appointed ship's Master on October 9th 1853 and naval Lieutenant on June 12th the following year.

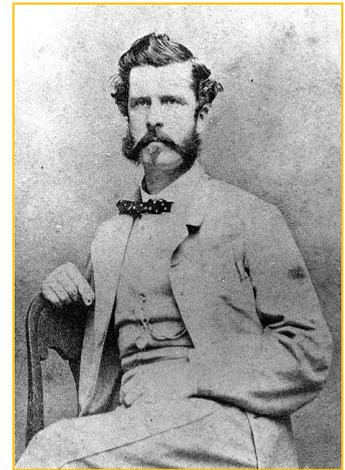
With Secession, Webb resigned his commission, May 17th 1861, enrolling in the Confederate Navy as First Lieutenant. He served at Fernandina in Florida in mid 1861 and then Richmond Station until 1862.

Above is the large aft mounted 6.4 inch rifled Parrot gun on the Teaser. Note the draft protector shield helmet for the fuse when the ship is steaming full ahead.

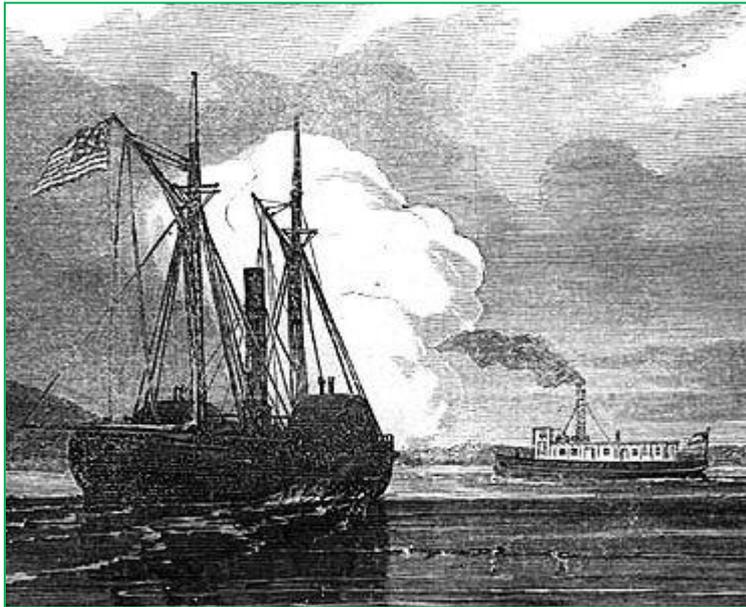
Early in 1862, First Lieutenant Webb was made commander of the armed gunboat [CSS Teaser](#). Prior to secession it was the property of the Virginia State navy and called [York River](#). The 64 ton, 80 by 18 foot tugboat was armed with 32 and 12 pounder rifled cannon. [CSS Teaser](#) was part of the James River Squadron, operating on the river from Norfolk. The squadron's chieftain was Flag-Officer Franklin Buchanan aboard the ironclad [CSS Virginia](#). The squadron consisted of 3 steamers (24 guns in all) and three supporting gunboats, each with one gun.

Teaser was a 'giant' in terms of its military firsts. It could be called the first "aircraft carrier," serving as a base for an observation hot air balloon. She also became a pioneer minelayer when ordered on June 17th 1862 to assist General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Under Lieutenant [Hunter Davidson](#), CSN, she was used by the Confederate Naval Submarine Battery Service to plant and service "torpedoes" (mines) in the James River.



Lt. Hunter Davidson



While engaging [USS Maratanza](#) on the James River, July 4th 1862, a Yankee shell blew up Teaser's boiler and forced her crew to abandon ship. When seized by Maratanza, the Teaser was carrying on board a balloon for aerial reconnaissance of enemy positions.

Taken into the U.S. Navy as [U.S.S. Teaser](#), soon after her capture she served in the Potomac Flotilla for much of the rest of the war, enforcing the blockade of Confederate territory, engaging shore batteries and supporting the Army. Periodically, Teaser left the Potomac to take part in operations on other rivers in the Chesapeake Bay region. Decommissioned in June 1865, following the end of hostilities, Teaser again became the civilian tug [York River](#).

After leaving Teaser, during 1862-1863, Webb was stationed at Charleston for "special duty," the term was typically used to denote activity of a secret nature. In this case Webb was made

commander of a "Special Expedition," a squadron of small boats manned by sixty officers and men. The squadron was stationed behind [Fort Sumter](#) in order to stop Union ships sneaking past obstructions. What made this flotilla unusual, and hence its title "special," was that boats were armed with [spar torpedoes](#), a highly controversial weapon of war that some considered "uncivilised." Webb assembled a squadron with a few cutters, numerous small canoes and skiffs, all armed with 20-foot long poles and 60 pound 'torpedo.' It was not at all uncommon to see a sailor, called to duty, rolling down to his boat with a 'quid' of tobacco in his cheek, a belly full of rum and a torpedo slung over his back; each torpedo had seven sensitive fuses that merely a light tap with a stick or blow from a stone was sufficient to explode and blow half the street down. These swaggering sailors were given a wide berth by all and sundry. While they didn't lack courage, they were lacking steamers and Capt. [John Randolph Tucker](#) ordered Webb to contact a local merchant to 'acquire' steamers, "Quietly and pleasantly if possible or seize them, if not."

Even though present when Admiral Du Pont's fleet crossed the Charleston Bar on April 6th 1863, Webb's squadron was not called into action that day. Eager to make use of the torpedoes, Tucker, General Beauregard and Webb hatched a plan on April 10th that would "Shake Abolitiondom to its foundation." They decided to attack each of the seven Union ironclads with three torpedo boats, but in the several days it took to organise extra boats required, Union ironclads had left Charleston and without knowing it, thwarted the carefully planned attack.

In May 1863, Webb replaced Tatnall as commander of the ironclad [C.S.S. Atlanta](#), launched in 1862 and as flag officer of the Savannah Squadron with the implied condition of his appointment being that he should "do something with her!" Webb proclaimed, "The whole abolition fleet has no terror for me." Considered by the citizens of Georgia to be the most powerful Confederate warship because of her fast speed (some 7 knots) and armament of four Brooke Rifled cannons, 'Atlanta' was however extremely difficult to manoeuvre; special difficulties were caused by a 16-foot draft in shallow waters surrounding Savannah. Another problem was a reduced airflow within the tightly armour plated roof, causing profound heat and humidity and extreme conditions for the crew. Atlanta was also hampered by numerous leaks and the ship's helm was difficult to steer being so unwieldy and she frequently bumped into sand banks along the side of the river.

Somehow Webb managed to marshal [C.S.S. Atlanta](#), stripping the vessel of unnecessary comforts including sanitation and ventilation and fully outfitting with weaponry. Webb had to deal with inexperienced sailors recruited from the Confederate army from around the mountainous regions of Georgia; his pilots arriving only two weeks before the ship engaged in the [Battle of Wassaw Sound](#).

Although beset by these problems, Webb was still excited about the prospects and he formulated ambitiously elaborate plans for **C.S.S. Atlanta's** first mission to clear the region of nearby Union forces. Webb was supposed to await reinforcements, Confederate Congress had voted to strengthen his squad with another ship that was still under construction, the ironclad **CSS Savannah**. Regardless, Webb steamed into action in **Wassaw Sound** against his orders on June 17th 1863. Escorted by two wooden steamers, **CSS Isondiga** and the **CSS Resolute** a percussion torpedo was attached to a large projecting ram that Webb later described: **"I knew it should do its work to my entire satisfaction, should I but be able to touch the Weehawken."**

The Union noticed Webb's bold move and dispatched Captain **John Rodgers** in the **USS Weehawken**, escorted by the **USS Nahant**. The Atlanta was suddenly aground again and swayed at an angle making it difficult to shoot. The USS Weehawken held fire until it was at 300 yards and then pounded the immobile ship, basically turning it into target practice. After receiving five of the Weehawken's 350-pound shots that knocked a hole in her casemate, crushed the pilot house and port shutter and severely wounded the pilots and several helmsmen, Webb was compelled to surrender. The "battle" lasted only a few minutes, and the Atlanta became the first Confederate ironclad to surrender to the Union. Webb told his crew: **"I most earnestly wish that it had happened otherwise, but Providence, for some good reason, has interfered with our plans."** Meanwhile, two boats charged with escorting Atlanta scurried upriver for safety. The USS Nahant had watched the action without firing a shot. Webb's behaviour on this occasion was gallant and seaman like, as much as when he carried the cockleshell gunboat Teaser into action on the James River. His stranded ship would have become a slaughter-pen under a few more of the Weehawken's shots.

When received, the news stunned the South and Webb faced criticism, even after the war from experienced naval officers. He was brave yes, but lacked good sense. Criticism also fell on Secretary of the Navy **Stephen R. Mallory** for his policy of replacing older officers with younger ones and for not more firmly opposing Webb in his decisions.

The CSS Atlanta suffered the sole fatality of the battle, as well as 16 wounded. 136 to 165 men were taken captive and moved to the ships **USS Cimarron** and **USS Oleander**. They travelled to **Fort Lafayette**, in New York harbour and arriving late June at **Fort Warren** on **Georges Island** in Boston Harbour.



William A. Webb, captive in Fort Warren



Union sailor showing U.S.S. Monitor in background

Fort Warren was a relatively modern jail where prisoners were registered and photographed. However, they were deprived of blankets, food, and clothing. Among the captive sailors, 12 deaths were due to injuries, pneumonia and dysentery caused by the poor conditions in which they were held. Three healthy crew members escaped and Webb was the first to gain parole on September 28, 1864, exchanged at Cox's Wharf, Virginia on October 18, 1864, he was soon fighting again on the James River, as Commander of **CSS Richmond** from October through November 1864. Webb was in command of the **Richmond**, when the **James River Squadron**, of which Richmond was a member during a routine patrol was surprised on the morning of October 22, 1864. The Union Army revealed their new battery at Boulware House, two miles from **Chaffin's Bluff**. To cover the retreat of the wooden vessels of the fleet, the flagship **Virginia II** approached the battery closely followed by the Richmond and **Fredericksburg** and effected the retreat upstream to **Chaffin's Bluff**. Though caught by surprise, this small action helped determine the effectiveness of ironclads. Casemates held against close rifled fire, and in the case of the **Richmond**, results were favourable: her armour withstood the fire though her smokestack was shot off.

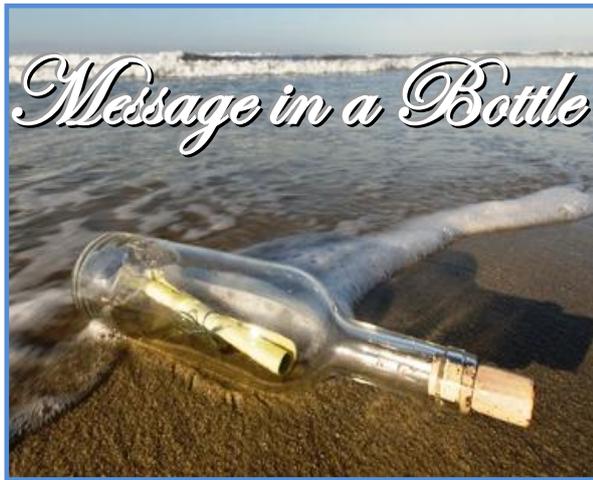
Because of declining health William A. Webb was subsequently relinquished of command. For this reason, as well as unspecified business matters, he left the Confederacy, in December, 1864, for England. While in London, he took the Oath of Allegiance before Francis A. Adams, the U.S. Consul in that city, on 31 May 1865 and left England the next month returning home to his native state of Virginia. By mid-1865, after the close of war, Webb was already back in Richmond, Virginia, and requested a pardon from President Andrew Johnson, that was approved shortly afterwards.

Deiss, Jonathan Webb. **"Webb's in the Military"**. http://www.webbdeiss.org/webb/webb_boys_w.html.

Register of Officers of the Confederate States Navy. Office of Naval Records and Library United States Navy Department. Mattituck, NY: J.M. Carrol & Company. 1983. ISBN 0-8488-0011-7.

J. Thomas Scharf (1996). **History of the Confederate States Navy: From the Organization to the Surrender of Its Last Vessel**. New York, NY: Gramercy Books. ISBN 0-517-18336-6.

David P. Werlich (1990). **Admiral of the Amazon: John Randolph Tucker, His Confederate Colleagues and Peru**. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia. ISBN 0-8139-1270-9.
Later USS Teaser (1862-1865)



Messages from Neptune's mailroom

BY ROBERT E TAYLOR



For centuries, bottles have floated desperate messages around the world, only to be washed up many years later on some unsuspecting shore. I have tossed a bottle into the Pacific Ocean from the swaying decks of SS Northern Star back in 1964. Later in 1972 I used a Greek Retsina bottle and threw it from R.H.M.S. Ellinis (ex SS *Lurline*) in approximately the same location, half way across the Pacific Ocean. Whether they were picked up, or form another layer of garbage on the Galapagos Islands, we'll probably never know but there is something rather romantic about communicating down the generations in this simple, yet highly unpredictable way.

The first recorded message in a bottle was released around 310 BC by the Ancient Greek philosopher Theophrastus as an experiment to demonstrate successfully, that the Mediterranean was formed by water flowing in from the Atlantic.

Columbus threw a sealed cask into a storm ravaged sea, fearful they wouldn't survive the tempest; he hoped it would convey his discovery of the New World to the Spanish Queen. Christopher Columbus, his ship and crew survived but the cask didn't, it was never found, perhaps it's still in Davy Jones' locker where many of these messages end up; a sort of "Nautical Lost Mail Room."

In the 16th century the English navy was sending orders ashore on the tide in bottles. Queen Elizabeth created an official position entitled, "**Uncorker of Bottles.**" I think I could have aspired to that job, however "**unofficial Uncorkers**" were executed, so perhaps it was a bit too risky a task for a novice like me, although I'm quite experienced at removing corks from bottles.



Columbas' proud ship Santa Maria (nick named La Gallega)



Perhaps one of the most unusual twists of Neptune's '**seamail**' was a bottle sent by a ship-wrecked Japanese sailor in 1784. It was found centuries later by a seaweed gatherer in 1935 on a beach near a little Japanese village called Hiraturema, the actual birth place of the same unfortunate sender, it makes you wonder at 'fate' or 'Kismet' as they often called it then. Many bottles were tossed into the sea in desperation by long lost castaways.

In a metaphorical way, the newsletter **The Bugle** is a bottle tossed into the mighty Internet ocean to "bob" around (no pun intended) on the waves and 'surf' its way to some lonely computer chip where it is hoped that someone with a like mind and interest will pick it up, open it and find within a treasure map to history.

Wherever we are in the world there is always a desperate need to communicate with friends and loved ones. The recent floods in Brisbane, the cyclone in north Queensland and the earthquake in Christchurch and now terrible earthquake and Tsunami in Japan; these are desperate moments when we need to communicate. When all else fails we resort to the next best thing, we *hit the bottle*. Well a stiff drink sometimes helps but the bottle itself can be put to better use once drained.

It is human nature to communicate in whatever way we can and ingenuity has us fashioning all manner of things into tools with which we can be heard, or at least read.

Photo # 306-ST-649-9 Lt. John F. Kennedy with other crewmen on board USS PT-109, 1943



One of the most famous S.O.S. messages, apart from RMS Titanic, wasn't delivered by either telegraph, 'bottle-post' or Neptune but by two Solomon Islanders, assisting an Australian Coast-watcher during World War 2, Sub Lieutenant Arthur R. Evans (*inset above.*) He was manning a secret observation post on Kolombangara Island's volcano, Mount Veve. Seeing the explosion (*from PT109*) he despatched the islanders to investigate. When they discovered the crew, and having poor English they advised a coconut be inscribed by ship-wrecked young naval Lt. John Kennedy. His torpedo boat PT109 had been sunk and the surviving crew marooned on Olasana island.



Kennedy's coconut

The message read ***"Nauro Isl. Commander. Native knows posit.' He can pilot. 11alive. Need small boat. Kennedy."*** The Solomon islanders Binku Gasa and Eroni Kumana proved better posties than Neptune and delivered the coconut to the P.T. base at Rendova and they were all rescued. That coconut is now in the Kennedy Museum. United States President John F. Kennedy later used the coconut as a paperweight, it was encased in wood and had a thick covering of transparent plastic. Incidentally my Irish, brother in law, Edward Kennedy, is a direct descendant, from the same village and family line as J.F.K. (*Just thought I'd drop a name.*)



J.F.K. (Lt. U.S. Navy)

The latest bottle revelation brings us back to the period we are all most interested in, The War Between the American States and for me it is more interesting because of my recent visit to the still battle scarred city of Vicksburg.

I have often fantasised about what I would ask a soldier, if I could communicate back over the years and he with me, never believing it ever possible.

There is one case where a Confederate soldier did talk verbally to us but we couldn't talk back. There was an old stone farmhouse, near one of the major battlefields, that was used as a field hospital. I heard this story many years ago but unfortunately cannot find a website to support it but the house had voices coming from the cellar, often late at night and especially on stormy nights. One voice was heard to say clearly, ***"When can I go home?"*** It was in a strong Southern drawl. Experts set to work and actually recorded the voice and I heard a recording of it back in the 80's at Radio New Zealand. It seems the rocks in the room are of silicate, the same substance that computer chips are made of and during the war, its theorised, a lightning strike nearby charged the rocks with energy just as a wounded soldier was asking the doctor painfully, when he could go home. It was recorded into the walls and plays back every time there is an electric storm. This is a fascinating kind of haunting, although not a true haunting, it is supported by scientific analysis, however while it gives credence to the saying ***"If the walls could only speak,"*** it doesn't fit our story because it is not a message in a bottle.

Can a soldier fighting in the War Between the States talk to us 150 years later? The answer is...they do all the time, you just need to know how to be responsive and listen.



A glass vial, stopped with a cork during the Civil War, has just been opened revealing a coded message that was to be delivered to the desperate Confederate commander in Vicksburg on the actual day the Mississippi city fell to Union forces 147 years ago. The dispatch offers no hope to doomed Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton: **"Reinforcements are not on the way!"** The encrypted, 6-line message was dated July 4th 1863, the actual date of Pemberton's surrender to Union forces led by Ulysses S. Grant that ended the Siege of Vicksburg in what historians say, was a turning point midway into the Civil War. The message is from a Confederate commander on the west side of the wide and deep Mississippi River that separated him from Pemberton.

While the vial containing this message was despatched to the Confederate general; he never received it. The little bottle sat undisturbed at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va., until an expert recently had it opened and decoded it. The message, had it been delivered, would have been received woefully by Pemberton but as we see, events overhauled all involved.

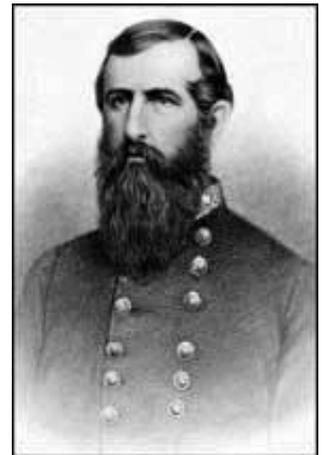
Museum of the Confederacy Collections Manager Catherine M. Wright says the writer was saying, **"I can't help you. I have no troops, I have no supplies, I have no way to get over there!"** Catherine adds, **"It was just another punctuation mark to just how desperate and dire everything was."**

The bottle is less than 2 inches (50mm) long, and remained undisturbed at the museum since 1896 when it was gifted by Capt. William A. Smith of King George County, who served during the Vicksburg siege. It was Catherine who decided to investigate the contents of the strange little bottle that contained a tightly wrapped piece of paper as well as a .38-caliber lead bullet and a white thread. **"Just sort of a curiosity thing,"** she says, **"this notion of, do we have any idea what this message says?"** Catherine Wright asked a local art conservator, Scott Nolley to examine the clear vial before she attempted to open it. Examining the bottle under an electron microscope he discovered that salt had bonded the cork tightly to the bottle's mouth, it had never been opened. He put the bottle on a hotplate to expand the glass, used a scalpel to loosen the cork, then gently plucked it out with tweezers. The sewing thread was looped around the 6½" X 2½" paper strip that had been folded to fit into the bottle. The rolled message was removed



Major General J.D. Walker CSA

and taken to a paper conservator, who successfully unfurled the message but it was coded and appears to be a random collection of letters that don't reveal themselves immediately. Eager to learn the meaning of the code, Catherine took the message home for the weekend to try and decipher it herself without success. She contacted a retired C.I.A. code breaker, David Gaddy and after several weeks he was able to crack the code. A navy cryptologist independently confirmed Gaddy's interpretation. Cmdr. John B. Hunter, an information warfare officer, says he deciphered the code over two weeks while on deployment aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. **"A computer could have unscrambled the words in a fraction of the time,"** he added. **"To me, it was not that difficult, I had fun and it took me longer than I should have."**



Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton

According to *The Civil War Times Illustrated*, the code is called a **"Vigenere cipher,"** a centuries-old encryption in which letters of the alphabet are shifted a set number of places so an **"a"** would become **"d"** - essentially, creating words with different letter combinations.

The Vigenere cipher was widely used by Southern forces during the war and the message writer was likely Maj. Gen. John G. Walker, of the Texas Division; William Smith, who donated the bottle, was under Walker's command. The full text of the message to Pemberton reads: **"Gen'l Pemberton: You can expect no help from this side of the river. Let Gen'l Johnston know, if possible, when you can attack the same point on the enemy's lines. Inform me also and I will endeavor to make a diversion. I have sent some caps (explosive devices). I subjoin a despatch from General Johnston."**

Catherine Wright says, *"The last line suggests a separate delivery to Pemberton. The date of the message clearly indicates the person writing it has no idea the city is about to surrender,"* Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, had 32,000 troops encamped south of Vicksburg but was prevented from assisting Pemberton by Grant's 35,000 Union troops. Like the forlorn hopes of the Alamo defenders, Pemberton hoped Johnston would eventually come to his aid. The message was dispatched during an especially terrible time in Vicksburg. Grant was unsuccessful in defeating Pemberton's troops on two occasions, so instead the Union commander decided to encircle the city and block the flow of supplies or support. **Sponsored Links** Many in the city resorted to eating cats, dogs and leather, soup was made from wallpaper paste. After a six-week siege, Pemberton could endure their suffering no longer and relented.

Vicksburg was so scarred by the experience of the siege and what came after it that the population refused to celebrate the 4th of July for the next 80 years. Some locals I met and talked to still ignore the day as it contains such bitter memories of persecution, death and destruction on a scale unimaginable to us in this modern age.

So what about that bullet in the bottle, did that have a more obscure message for Pemberton? Why was it there? Wright suspects the messenger was instructed to toss the bottle into the river if Union troops intercepted his passage. *"The weight of the bullet was enough to carry the corked bottle to the bottom,"* she says. For Pemberton, the bottle is symbolic of his lost cause: the bad news never made it to him. The Confederate messenger probably arrived at the river's edge, saw a U.S. flag flying from the Courthouse and, Wright concludes, *"He no doubt decided it was pointless and turned back with the bottle still in his pocket."*

We only have a one way communication with those old soldiers and cannot reach back to them, more's the pity but I still wonder what I would ask a Confederate soldier standing on Pickett duty on the ramparts of Vicksburg, if I could. Perhaps it would be, *"Do you think it has all been worth it?"* But then I think I also know his answer, so perhaps he is talking back to me, here in my mind.

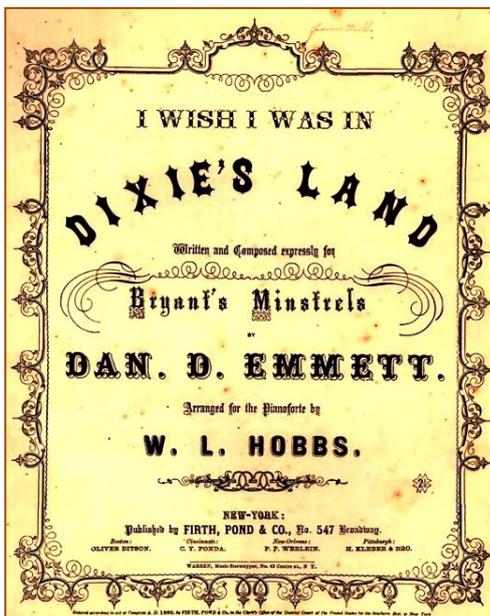
This story was inspired by an Associated Press article by Steve Szkotak.

Additional data Wikimedia and Wikipedia.

http://www.aolnews.com/2010/12/25/civil-war-message-in-a-bottle-opened-decoded/?icid=maing%7Cmain5%7Cd11%7Csec2_Ink3%7C33324&a_dgi=aolshare_facebook

The Kennedy Library <http://www.jfklibrary.org/>

<http://authorshive.com/2011/01/03/christopher-columbus/>



DIXIE : CREATION OF THE BATTLE HYMN

Data supplied by James Gray SCV

(William Kenyon Australian Camp No 2160.)

Everyone's heard the song "Dixie", also known as "I Wish I Was in Dixie" and "Dixie's Land"; and many have been led to believe it was written by Ohio-born Daniel Decatur Emmett, a member of a group called **"Bryant's Minstrels."** Unfortunately that is not fact but merely a myth created by an opportunist northerner. "Dixie" was a tune passed on to Daniel Decatur Emmett by a pair of Ohio African-American brothers and members of the Snowden family, whose parents were run-away slaves from the south. The Snowden's created the song "Dixie" and later collaborated with Emmett to professionally write the song for minstrel shows of that period.

It quickly grew amongst the black-faced minstrel shows of the 1850's and became famous throughout the United States. Today, "Dixie" is considered by some to be offensive and they link it to the act of singing in sympathy for the concept of slavery in the American South. The reality is the opposite, "Dixie" is an expression of Southern culture and heritage and a heart aching longing for the old South by former slaves.

Both Union and Confederate composers produced war versions of the song during *The War Between the States* 1861-65. Those variants standardized the spelling and made the song more militant, replacing the longing slave scenario with specific references to the conflict, or to Northern or Southern pride. Soldiers on both sides wrote endless versions of the song which often discussed the banalities of camp life: *"Pork and cabbage in the pot, it goes in cold and comes out hot,"* or, *"Vinegar put right on red beet, it makes them always fit to eat."* Others were more nonsensical: *"Way down South in the fields of cotton, Vinegar shoes and paper stockings."*

Aside from being written in standard English, the 'chorus' of "Dixie" was the only section not regularly altered. According to northern historians, minstrel show composer Daniel Decatur Emmett wrote "Dixie" around 1859. Over his lifetime, Emmett often recounted the story of his spontaneous composition of "Dixie", and details varied with each account,

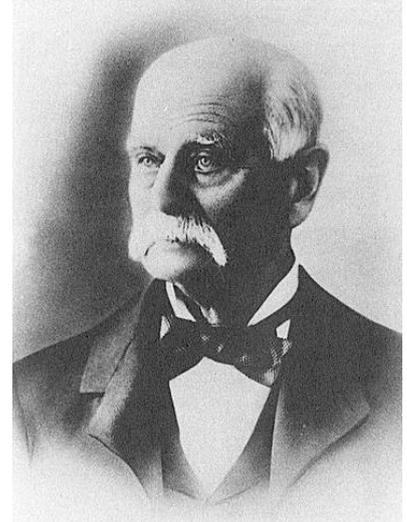


suggesting he was not being completely truthful. "*Dixie*" is the only song Emmett ever claimed to have written in a burst of inspiration; an analysis of Emmett's notes and writings show him to be a meticulous copyist, who spent countless hours collecting and composing songs and sayings for the minstrel stage. In 1872 *The New York Clipper* reports, "**Emmett's claim to authorship of 'Dixie' was and is still disputed, both in and out of the minstrel profession.**" Emmett said, "**Show people generally, if not always, have the chance to hear every local song as they pass through different sections of the country, and particularly so with minstrel companies, who are always on the look out for songs and sayings that will answer their business.**" He says he 'acquired' the song from someone else. On at least one occasion Emmett personally attributes "*Dixie*" to an unnamed Southern black man, some of his contemporaries admit the song is based on old African-American folk tunes.

Many Mount Vernon residents claim Emmett collaborated informally with a pair of black musicians named Ben and Lew Snowden. Those who remember the Snowden brothers describe them as "**informal**", "**spontaneous**", "**creative**", and "**relatively free of concern over ownership**" of their songs. The Snowden brothers were part of the **Snowden Family Minstrel Band** that was well known at the time travelling the region performing shows.

That Emmett might have met and played with these local celebrities is hardly surprising. It is well known that the grave marker for Ben and Lew Snowden, set in 1976 by a black American Legion post, reads, "**They taught 'Dixie' to Dan Emmett.**" Howard and Judith Sacks suggest the Ohio legend may in fact be off by a generation, and that Emmett could have collaborated instead with the Snowden parents, Thomas and Ellen. Daniel Decatur Emmett's grandparents owned a farm adjacent to the Snowden homestead and Emmett's father was one of few blacksmiths where Thomas Snowden could have taken his horses for shoeing.

An unpublished biography of Daniel Decatur Emmett, written in 1935 by a friend of the Emmett family. Mary McClane claims, "**Emmett visited Mt. Vernon several times from 1835 until the 1860s and toured the surrounding area giving fiddle performances.**" Scholars such as Clint Johnson, Robert James Branham and Stephen J. Hartnett all accept the claim of a black origin for the song "*Dixie*"; or at least allow for the possibility.



Daniel Decatur Emmett

Dixie became "**The Battle Hymn of the Confederacy**" and was looked upon characteristically, as a song of the South; even the hearts of the Northern people never grew cold to it. President Abraham Lincoln loved the song, and the day Dixie's South surrendered Lincoln asked a band to play "*Dixie*" for crowds gathered outside the White House. Today "*Dixie*" is said to be the most popular song in the country in spite of what some people think and say today.

When *Civil War* broke out, the marching song "*Dixie*" played no small part in it. At the inauguration of Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Montgomery, Alabama, February 18th 1861 "*Dixie*" was triumphantly played and as Southern soldiers marched into battle, they often marched as they sang "*Dixie*." Although the song was originally intended as harmless entertainment, when southern soldiers sang, "**In Dixie land I'll take my stand To live and die in Dixie,**" they undoubtedly believed and meant what the words said; to defend their land and homes to the death.

In later years, when there was grumbling over "*America*" as the National Anthem of the United States, it's reported that President Teddy Roosevelt made the sincere suggestion that the song "*Dixie*" be adopted instead.



Editor: Today, while the song *Dixie* remains a focal point for descendants of Confederate soldiers and for all Southern people, it also reflects the spirit of the South and brings the epoch closer to all interested in the period today. The music of the era, North and South, is a key to unlocking the emotions and feelings of people of the time, as important as historical books in helping to appreciate the event in a human and caring way. While those opposed to such historic whimsy want songs like *Dixie* banned, there is strong enough sentiment world wide, to prevent such sacrilege. While Jim Gray sent this story to me, it is found in varying forms on many websites, one below is recommended and the song is heard in one of the editor's favourite renditions by Tennessee Ernie Ford on 'Youtube,' also below. I find it remarkable that a Union song could cross the lines so easily and that it was the work of two former slaves who longed to be back in their loved Dixie Land. This tells me much more than even the song itself, it tells me about the feelings of African Americans who may have fled the tyranny of slavery but still longed for their loved homeland in The South.

Ben and Lew Snowden on the porch of their home

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dixie>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bd1oA47Ti0I>



Shenandoah, decommissioned she enters Mersey River 1865

CONFEDERATES DOWN UNDER

John King, formerly President of ACWRTQ and now a member of the NSW Round Table, donated a framed print of the Shenandoah entering Mersey River to surrender to British authorities. The crew were fearful of being hanged as pirates even though they fought legitimately under the battle ensign of the Confederacy. John presented the picture to Paul Hundley at the National Maritime Museum in Sydney. Sam Craghead of the Museum of the Confederacy spoke for an hour and Barry Crompton, of Melbourne's ACWRTA talked about Sydney's links with the War Between the States. John presented the print as a gesture from all Australian Round Tables. Thanks John, we are deeply honoured.

PAYMASTER CURTIS CSN. REST IN PEACE

In November 2010 a ceremony was held to re dedicate the grave of Confederate States Paymaster Richard William Curtis, who served on C.S.S. Georgia and C.S.S. Stonewall. He previously served on the Great Eastern on its early voyages to New York.

After the war, Richard Curtis came to Queensland, possibly to escape the rising fury of a vindictive Union looking to hang Confederate navy personnel as pirates. For this reason he may have kept his participation a secret and while he owned a plantation near a former Union soldier, James Latimer in Pimpama, who was also acting postmaster, it is possible he never revealed his war service to James for fear of persecution from America.

Richard rose to some success in Queensland working in various government agencies. Again his war service would have impacted on his career prospects and there is no mention of it.



Jack, Joseph, John and Ed with Robert Taking the photo



Duncan at the Waters' grave, Toowong

While employed by Queensland Railways, Richard became something of a celebrity at social functions. As he approached compulsory retirement age of 65, something was troubling him. Retrenched early, another temporary position was created until he was compelled to retire. Richard was given four months pay in advance and shown the door. The next day he was found dead in the Brisbane River with a 'wound to the head.' The fact that his grave was not marked may indicate poverty or it may reinforce belief he committed suicide that dark night in Brisbane. The Coroner's enquiry, reported in the press, doesn't mention suicide, only that he had a 'wound to the head.' It didn't describe the wound in any detail nor offer an opinion as to how this wound was received. I am of the opinion that Richard was unable to face the prospect of having no income or social significance; pensions didn't exist in those days, perhaps he shot himself and fell into the river.

The shame of suicide in those days was so great that many believed it negated your right to a Christian funeral service and grave marker. This is theory but it's fact that he died the day after being laid off by Queensland Rail and we have the documentation proving this.

The tragedy is that he was obviously affected by being laid off. His whole life and social activities relied on Queensland Rail' and he couldn't face life without it. What of the family? Most lived in Bundaberg or Townsville, there is no funeral notice and no mention of being survived by wife and children.

These issues matter not to members of A.C.W.R.T.Q. who laboured long and hard to finish clearing the grave on a very hot Sunday in February. The ground was covered in wet cement, white stones stamped in and then a thick scattering of stones completed the grave to leave it as one deserving of a man who played such a significant part in Confederate navy history. This is now the second grave in Toowong cemetery to honour Civil War veterans, the other is the grave of William Waters, Union navy. His grave was also located by A.C.W.R.T.Q. James Gray, now a member of S.C.V. Australia. Jim arranged for a headstone to be imported from America. A similar service was held for Waters with full military honours and a mixed colour guard.



R. Curtis (courtesy T. Foenender)

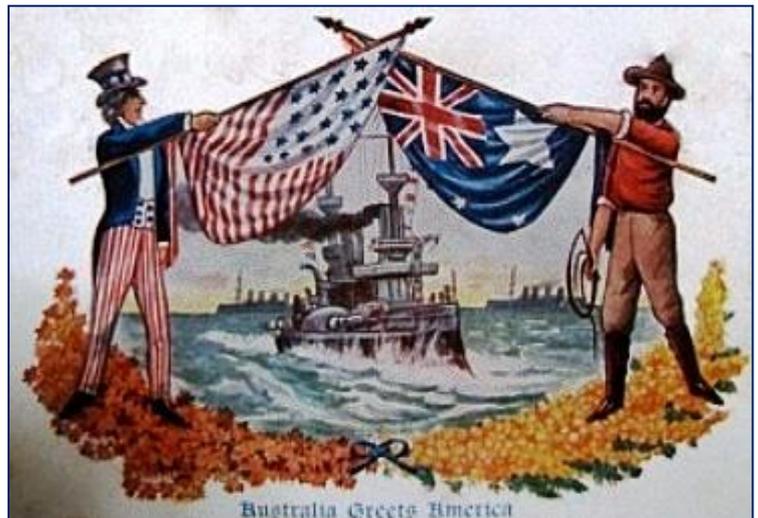
While the story of Richard William Curtis is not fully told we continue to delve and follow up on theories. Queensland Railways, now under private ownership, were most generous in researching their files and forwarding details of his employment over many years, up to the date of retirement. Because of the work of Australian researchers we now know a lot more about him, while in America his existence had been a mystery. Hopefully he can now be added to the annals of Confederate History both here in Australia and in America.



GREAT WHITE FLEET

There is a strong bond of friendship between America and Australia; it has been that way for a long time as this 1908 postcard (on the right) indicates. It is this friendship that feeds the interest in many of our members and we receive nothing but encouragement from our men and women 'fellows' in the U.S.

America's *Great White Fleet*, on its world cruise, caused much excitement in Sydney, with massive celebrations for the arrival of the United States Navy. In 1908 these celebrations were surpassed only by those conducted for Federation. The Prime Minister, Alfred Deakin, ignored Britain's concerns and overlooked protocol by inviting the Americans to visit.



Sixteen warships were a dramatic presence when they arrived in Australian waters. In Sydney, 80,000 people stood on South Head to watch as they entered Sydney Harbour. Crowds, parties, speeches and parades greeted the fleet at each port it visited.

Australia produced a bevy of post cards and special issue envelopes appeared, now highly collectable. They show an unusual patriotism for Australia that was just awakening its own individual national identity. However the yoke of England had not yet been cast off and on the card at left, while our Australian flag joins the American flag, it is King Edward who joins Teddy Roosevelt with the then Governor General Sir Henry Stafford who was Baron Northcote of Exeter. At least in the card above a stockman is depicted with whip in hand.



This year we celebrate 150 years since the War Between the States, the Sesquicentennial. It is a good time to reflect on the times, trials and tribulations, causes and effects. While war was certain in the minds of many at the time, the firing on Fort Sumter shouldn't have necessitated war.

President Jefferson Davis said, "*It is questionable whether war is ever justifiable except for defense and then, it is surely a duty.*"

The fort should have been abandoned and every effort made to find a peaceful solution; hot heads were in control and they thrust their States into conflict without appreciation of the ultimate cost. As the first shots fell on Sumter, Teaser was being purchased and would soon feature in fiery future engagements on waters around the beleaguered fort.



The Teaser's forward facing gun

No individual is free of blame in the matter of war, certainly the so called '*Great Emancipator*' Lincoln has a large share of it. When your home is invaded, surely duty comes above all else. This war was never justifiable but because of it, America is what it is today and America's character is richer; the American sense of home and duty more clearly defined. The war was too costly, far too devastating to human life and with suffering beyond anything humanly imaginable at the time and even today, it scarred the American people, those wounds have not yet healed...it's doubtful they ever will.



ACWRTQ & LOCAL TV CHANNEL 7

By Jack Ford

On 10th February 2011, the ACWRTQ was emailed by Channel 7 and asked to provide a segment for the locally produced Sunday evening current affairs program *The Great South East*. Initially, Channel 7 wanted the club to organise a Civil War era camp with drill sessions for Sunday 27th February but this date was unsuitable, as our blokes from the 19th Alabama Regiment (Army of Tennessee) had made plans for the weekend of the 26th-27th February. As well, it was just too short a notice for the ACWRTQ to organise a period encampment.

Finally, the weekend of 5 & 6 March was a date the club agreed to with the Channel Seven film crew. It was still only short notice (*just 3 weeks*) and then the problem was to find a suitable venue for the encampment. The club's 44th Georgia Regiment re-enactors hold drill sessions at the *Saga Vikings' Camp* at Petrie.



Wendi

Brenda

Leela

President of the ACWRTQ John Duncan utilised his connections with the Gold Coast Rifle Club (GCRC), to have the period camp set-up at the Belmont Rifle Range. Members began arriving at the GCRC clubhouse at Saturday lunchtime. The hardier reenactors established a hardcore camp (no tents) in the bush overlooking the clubhouse but persistent heavy rain (that had plagued Brisbane since November 2010) and the smell of BBQ steak & sausages brought everyone together and we all slept on the clubhouse verandah. Apparently my snoring is so loud that I can be used as a lure to attract any enemy into a night ambush! Brekkie was left over BBQ meat, cold rations but some very welcome hot coffee.



attendance were ACWRTQ members John Duncan and a descendant of *Civil War* veteran James Latimer buried in Pimpama Aidan Smith, amounting to 16 people attending this impromptu Belmont event.

With bushland settings situated along the banks of the Pine River, it was perfect for TV but unfortunately, Brisbane's January floods devastated the site. The Big Flood of 12th January had seen Pine River overflow its banks flooding the Saga Vikings' Camp and washing away years of hard work that had been put into building their log hut village! Next the club tried Fort Lytton where the annual *History Alive* event is held each Queen's Birthday long weekend. Being a national park, the Fort is open to the public, particularly every Sunday and the park ranger didn't want to have incorrect historical period re-enactment groups at the Fort while the public is around. Construction of Fort Lytton commenced in 1880, fifteen years after the end of the Civil War so the ACWRTQ did not fit the time period for re-enactment groups allowed to use the Fort on a Sunday.

The next morning the ACWRTQ put a small camp in an open grassed area that was bordered by trees and situated downhill from the clubhouse. Four 'A' frame tents were pitched and a cooking fire with pot and brazier were established for Channel Seven's filming. Wendi Keylar, Brenda & Leela Ford, wearing various styles of period fashion sat on camp chairs around the fire while the men drilled in the open field. Despite the limited amount of time that the club had to organise the camp, enough riflemen attended that a small drill squad was formed under the orders of 2nd Lieutenant Trace Scaff. The squad comprised Corporal Dave Huet, Colour Bearer Pete (Pops) Alexander, Privates Karl Slade, Ed Best, Greg Noonan, Joe Stark, Paul Norris, Greg Thurston, David Alixandr (sic) and me.

A Channel Seven film crew of five arrived just before 11.30 AM. Despite the fact that the *Civil War* segment on *The Great South East* will only screen for about 5-8 minutes, the actual filming went for about 3 hours and took up most of Sunday afternoon. They filmed inside one of the tents set-up for display purposes, filmed the marching, rifle and bayonet drill practices and conducted interviews. Despite Wendi protesting earlier in the morning that she didn't want to appear on TV, she gave an excellent account of *Civil War* re-enacting from a woman's point of view. Ed cannot wait to show Wendi's TV interview to his family in Georgia when they move there later this year.



On parade, Trace demonstrates musket drill.

GREAT SOUTH EAST

SUNDAY 5.30pm

Proudly brought to you by



Trace used tact and diplomacy to dilute some of the antics that Channel Seven wanted the re-enactors to perform. When asked by the film crew to have the men march up to the camp and then throw themselves at the women re-enactors, Trace told the film crew that such inappropriate behaviour would never happen in the 1860s. The compromise was that the squad marched to the camp, broke ranks without waiting for the command and then gorged themselves on the food and coffee that the women were offering. The film session ended up at the hardcore campsite with a last interview and then the program presenter fell in behind the squad as it marched down the dirt road leading to the clubhouse.

The ACWRTQ segment will be shown on *The Great South East* on **Sunday 29th May 2011** sometime between **6.30 and 7 PM**. While the club has no control on how Channel Seven decides to edit all of the footage, we hope that this popular local TV program will serve to provide a positive image of historical re-enactors to the Queensland viewing audience.



This excellent stereo picture of CSS Teaser is by Mathew Brady revealing the boiler explosion damage, you should practice using your eyes to achieve 3d viewing of this picture.



Shown as corporal, Joseph L. Pierce US army

CHINESE VETERANS. THE BUGLE EDITOR

China was a far cry from the turmoil of America during the War Between the States but many Chinese found their way onto its fiery battlefields. Vast fleets of sailing ships plied their lucrative trade and the advent of steam made China more and more viable, even without the Panama Canal to connect with eastern States of America. Panama Canal was on Abraham Lincoln's drawing board where after the war he had intentions of using freed blacks and ex black Union army soldiers, along with Chinese labour to dig the canal by hand. Before and during the war an army of Chinese were virtually worked to death building the railroad that brought the east and west together, some Chinese survivors straggled across to the east.

In an article, published by the American Armed Forces Press Service in April this year, Jim Garamone says researchers claim as many as 50 Chinese fought as soldiers during the war. This number ignores considerable numbers serving in the U.S. and Confederate navies during the conflict.

According to Jim Garamone, the first Chinese man arrived in 1815 in what was later to become the United States. A Chinese ship's cook settled in Monterey, California a Spanish province. This is not likely to be a true account of firsts as the British had Chinese as labourers and servants in pre independence days and they were most likely there but not considered in numbers from the early days of colonisation.

Mariners of the Eastern seaboard traded with China and American ships vied with European traders to bring back riches of the Orient and this is how Chinese first appear in the records of Massachusetts.

In 1845, Sargent S. Day, Captain of a square-rigged merchant ship called Cohota, left Shanghai in China bound for Massachusetts. Two days from port he discovers two half-starved Chinese boys on board. The older boy died but Day "adopted" the younger boy and named him Edward Day Cohota, after the ship they were on.

Edward sailed the world with Captain and Mrs. Day until the Captain retired to Gloucester, Massachusetts. in 1857. Young Edward attended school and the Day children treated him as a brother. With the outbreak of the *American Civil War*, Cohota joined the 23rd Massachusetts Infantry and fought in the Battle of Drury's Bluff near Richmond, Virginia on May 16th 1864, returning from battle with **"seven bullet holes thru' his clothes, none touching his flesh."**

At the Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia, June 3rd 1864, a Confederate Minie ball permanently parted Cohota's hair but he was not otherwise hurt. He stayed with the Army of the Potomac until the end of war. After the war, Cohota rejoined the Army and was stationed at Fort Randall, Dakota Territory, marrying he had six children and served in the Army for 30 years, all the while thinking he was a U.S. citizen, believing *Civil War* service qualified him for the right. Cohota didn't take out a second set of naturalization papers until after the Senate passed the racist Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and subsequently found he was not a citizen and couldn't become one.

Cohota died at **Battle Mountain Sanitarium for Veterans** in Hot Springs, S.D., in 1935.

Another Chinese soldier of the Union participated in the most famous battle of the Civil War -- the three-day Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Pvt. Joseph L. Pierce was aged 21 when he enlisted in the 14th Connecticut Infantry in August 1862. It's unclear how Pierce arrived in the United States, one story has it that his father sold him to a Connecticut ship Captain Amos Peck for \$6. Another story relates that his brother sold him for \$60, still another was that Peck picked up the lad, who was adrift in the South China Sea. Peck, a lifelong bachelor, turned the 10-year-old he called "Joe" over to his mother in Connecticut.



Unknown Chinese Union soldier

Young Joe went to school with the Pecks and formally became Joseph Pierce in 1853. He picked up the last name from President Franklin Pierce. At the time of his enlistment, Pierce was a farmer in New Britain, Connecticut and listed his height as 5 feet 5 inches, dark complexion with dark hair and black eyes. His birthplace was Canton in Kwangtung Province, China. Joe's regiment participated in the Battle of Antietam, Maryland Sept. 17th 1862. Suffering sickness during this time around Washington, Pierce was hospitalised for a while but later assigned to the Quartermaster's Department and then rejoined the 14th just in time for the Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia, May 1863.

The 14th had a distinguished role in the Gettysburg campaign. Gettysburg historian John Heiser says **"It fought on the north part of Cemetery Ridge on July 2nd and was one of the units that helped repel Pickett's Charge. The**

14th was primarily responsible for turning back Brig. Gen. James Pettigrew's North Carolina division." Today, you can see the 14th Memorial to the north of the grove of trees marking the High-Water mark of the Confederacy.

The 14th regimental history says that during Pickett's charge, Pierce appeared... *"pig-tail and all, the only Chinese in the Army of the Potomac."* We now know that he wasn't the only Chinese.

Cpl. John Tommy, of Company D, 70th New York fought with III Corps on July 2nd. Tommy was Chinese and from Canton. *"We don't know how he ended up in the United States,"* Heiser says, *"he lost both arms and legs during fighting around the Peach Orchard and died in hospital Oct. 19th 1863."*

A third Chinese soldier, Antonio Dardell, fought with Union troops at Gettysburg. *"He was taken as a child from China by a sea captain"* Heiser says, *"and enlisted Oct. 22nd 1862, in Company A, 27th Connecticut Infantry. He was from Clinton, Connecticut and the unit fought at the wheat field."* Little else is known of Dardell except that he was a tinsmith in civilian life and applied for a pension from the government in 1912.

Historians say there may be more Chinese soldiers but they are hard to detect because like today they often took American names. Another member of the 14th Connecticut Infantry, John Lee, may have been Chinese, or may have been no more Chinese than the Confederate commander at Gettysburg, Robert E. Lee.



1863 THREE DOLLAR GOLD

(PR66 Ultra Cameo)



B

y 1863 the *Civil War* threatened to disrupt distribution of 'proof coins to numismatic collectors, although history records mintages did persist in spite of war throughout the entire conflict.

In 1863, the same year Confederate forces reached Gettysburg and in the same state that houses the Philadelphia Mint, the city struck a full range of proof copper, silver, and gold coins, including the little-used three dollar gold denomination.



While the mintage was not high, this has meant the proof 1863 three dollar gold is a valuable rarity today regardless of condition.

Over a dozen Proofs survived from a stated production of 39 coins. Generally these are in higher grade levels and have a contrast in the cameos that is very attractive. Such coins are generally available only to buyers who have a great amount of patience and...money.

The patient buyer finds good reason to wait as it is truly a marvellous specimen, a fantastically contrasted coin with pale gold frost over the surface and gleaming yellow mirrors. While a copper spot appears off the corner of the "R" in LIBERTY on the headband and a lint mark curls through the lower reaches of "R" in DOLLARS on the reverse, post-striking defects are few and the overall visual appeal is magnificent. This is the *only* Ultra Cameo or Deep Cameo coin rated at PR66 in the combined certified population (1/11), and there are none finer.

Three dollar gold coins were minted from 1854 to 1889. Three dollar gold and one dollar gold coins were the first issues to depict an American Indian, or a portrait generally interpreted as being 'Indian.' Indeed, she is often referred to as 'Indian Princess.' This Proof three dollar gold coin, dated 1863, became news when auctioned on 13th Feb this year by *Ira and Larry Goldberg*, at *Crowne Plaza*, Beverly Hills. The Goldbergs auction was held just prior to the Long Beach (CA) Coin, Stamp and Collectible Expo, 15th to 17th February. Coins graded '65' or higher are gems. What would you pay for this magnificent memento of the war? It received at auction a magnificent \$51,750. Don't let those old coins slip through your fingers.



Special Note: Mrs Beeton's Grand Picnic is a coming together of 19th century enthusiasts at the SSAA Qld Sate Complex Millmerran, Queensland. The event date has been rescheduled to the weekend of the 5th 6th and 7th of August 2011. It is an event for enthusiasts only and not open to the general public. The ACWRTQ is cordially invited to immerse itself in the historical period.

Editor:

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Meetings: Coorparoo RSL. Third Thursday of the month. 7.30PM. All Welcome