



THE BUGLE 35

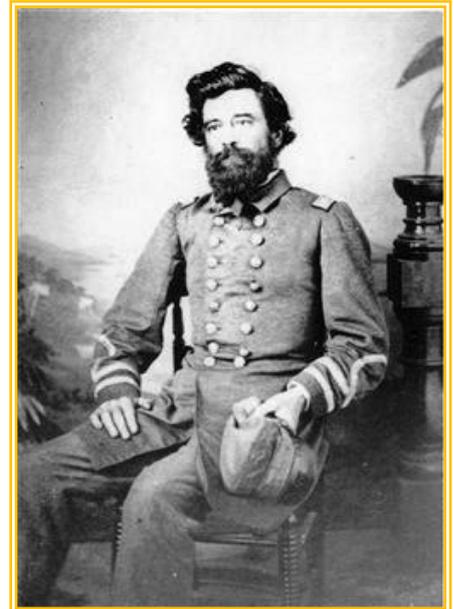


Newsletter of the American Civil War Round Table Queensland Inc.
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JOHN MAFFITT CSN-THE BRAVE BATTLER



Bob Maffitt, seen on the left, re-enacting his Great Grandfather, is a member of the *Cape Fear and Brunswick Civil War Roundtable*. Bob is known as *'The Ambassador'* because of his work greeting tourists and welcoming them to the city of Wilmington, North Carolina and relating its colourful history, he wears the title with honour. *"My Great Grandfather,"* Bob says, *"was Captain John Newland Maffitt, of CSS Florida, while his son was ensign on board CSS Alabama. I have family connections in Australia who are also connected to Captain Maffitt. I thought that, by putting my family's story in your newsletter, The Bugle, people in Australia might be interested to read it."*



Hopefully a copy of this issue will find its way to the doorstep of one of Bob's relatives in Australia and prompt them to join our ACWRTQ in Brisbane. The ACWRTQ encourages members and people world-wide to share their stories; for many of us in Australia, these are often stories so far untold. *Captain Maffitt* is a legend and we are very familiar with his courageous exploits but there is something magical about hearing the story from a descendant and not some cobweb covered journal, or cranky *'Yankee'* researcher. Bob spent 20 years in the U.S. Army and was Supervisor and Instructor with Air Defence, attaining the rank of Sergeant. He too has had an interesting and adventurous life; must be in the genes.



Bob's Great Grandfather, *John Maffitt*, was literally born to the sea, on a ship bound for New York City; his parents were emigrating from Ireland. *Reverend John Newland Maffitt* and his wife *Ann* settled with their son in *Connecticut*. At the age of 5, *Maffitt* was adopted by his uncle, *Dr. William Maffitt* and they moved to *Fayetteville, North Carolina*. As a young midshipman, *John* entered the U.S. navy in 1832. Only 13 when first serving aboard *USS St Louis* in the West Indies, renown for its pirates down the centuries. *John* was later posted to the *Pensacola Navy Yard* where, in 1835, he was assigned to the famed *USS Constitution*, serving as an aide to *Commodore Jessie Elliott* in the Mediterranean. His adventurous service aboard *Constitution* would later inspire *John* to write the book *Nautilus; Cruising under Canvas*, published 1871.

The *Constitution* (seen on previous page) is truly a remarkable vessel. A 44 gun frigate nicknamed “*Old Ironsides*,” she was destined for the scrap yard in 1830, when **Oliver Wendell Holmes** wrote his poem and used that name. It so stirred up public interest that plans were made to restore the old ship. She had no ‘*iron sides*’ being all wood, although **Paul Revere** had hand-forged some of the copper bolts and metal parts on her. Over many years in existence, there is not much that is original on board but she is fully restored **and still sailing**. The photograph of her, was taken in 2010 while celebrating the 213th anniversary. **U.S.S. Constitution** didn’t see service during the *Civil War* and instead was secured in **New York** as a cadet ship, to keep her safe for the duration; by this time she had become an icon of American Independence. Britain’s great equal to this ship, **The Victory**, upon which my own ancestors sailed, is said to be lacking proper maintenance and is rotting and collapsing in her dry dock. **A national and international shame!!**

Maffitt served on numerous vessels, each famous in its own way but by 1841 he was aboard the frigate **USS Macedonia** as its acting Master. Two years later, with the **U.S. Coast Survey** he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Some fourteen years in the hydrographical survey saw **Maffitt** become expert on the waters of **Nantucket, Massachusetts, Wilmington, Charleston and Savannah in Georgia**. A channel in **Charleston Harbour** still bears his name. The skills he learned there would be put to good use later in the War Between the States.

In 1857, **Maffitt** was placed in command of the brig **USS Dolphin** and ordered to capture pirates and slavers in the West Indies; on 21 August 1858, *Dolphin* captured the slaver **Echo** with 318 Africans on board and sent her into **Charleston**; the liberated slaves were later all sent back to Africa. *Dolphin* returned to Norfolk on 22 December 1860 and laid up at the Navy Yard there. Fearing she might fall into the hands of Confederates *Dolphin* was burnt on 21 April 1861 by Union forces.

Maffitt was commander on **USS Crusader** in 1859 and continued his assignments to suppress Slavers in the West Indies until 7 February 1861. With the onset of war, **Maffitt** resigned a U.S. commission to become 1st Lieutenant in the Confederate navy. He was naval aide to General Robert E. Lee, who was then preparing coastal defences in Savannah. **Maffitt** would soon find a new use for his extensive knowledge of the South’s waterways.



Confederate naval uniforms display a fouled anchor emblem on the sleeve.

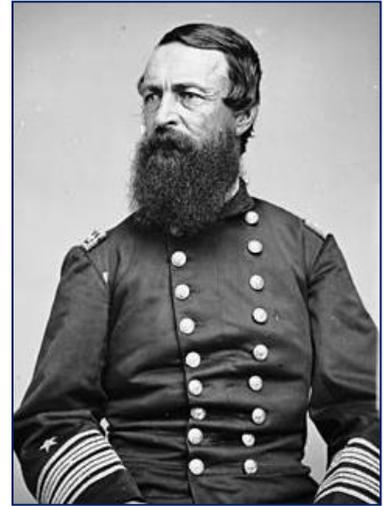
In 1862 he was sent to take the helm of a civilian steamer **Cecile** and run the blockade to bring urgently needed supplies into the Confederacy. **Maffitt** also commanded the ship **Nassau** effectively, quickly earning a reputation for his achievements. On promotion to Commander, **Maffitt** took the cruiser **CSS Florida** out to sea for the first time, skilfully avoiding the blockade again at **Mobile**. Such was his service on **Florida** that he earned a reputation second only to the irascible **Raphael Semmes** of **CSS Alabama**. **Maffitt** was **Florida**’s first commanding officer and he took her through the difficult stages of outfitting; unfortunately it was during this period most of the ship’s company was struck with yellow fever, eventually even **Maffitt** came down with the disease in Cuba, a disease that would catch up with him in later life.



C.S.S. Florida slashes the seas. A painting from the era by Samuel Waters.

Still very ill and feverish, the Commander bravely sailed his ship from **Cardenas** in Cuba to **Mobile** in Alabama. With the way into the port blocked by Union warships, **Florida** received a hail of projectiles from blockaders but defiantly raced through them to anchor beneath the protecting guns of **Fort Morgan**. The bombardment was so severe and damage to **Florida** so great, that **Maffitt** didn’t return to sea for more than three months. To prevent his escape, the Union Navy increased the blockading force near **Mobile**.

Taking aboard stores and gun accessories, along with added crew members, *Maffitt* waited for a violent storm before setting out on 16 January, 1863. With clever tactics he outmanoeuvred and lost six pursuing blockaders. When *Florida* so blatantly eluded the blockade, **U.S. Admiral, David Dixon Porter** later said, *"During the whole war, there is not a more exciting adventure than this escape...the gallant manner in which it was conducted excited great admiration. We do not suppose there was ever a case where a man...displayed more energy or bravery."* Praise indeed from such an illustrious enemy, (seen on the right.)

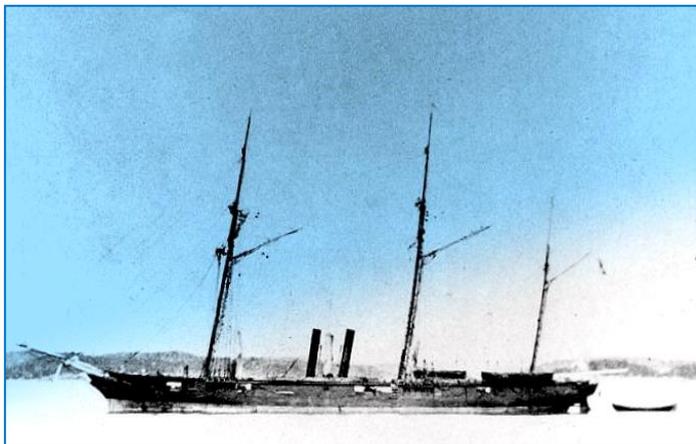


After 'coaling' at **Nassau**, *CSS Florida* spent 6 months off North America, South America and West Indies; calling at neutral ports, all the while making captures and eluding the large Federal squadron sent out to pursue her. During this period, *Maffitt* acquired the nickname **"Prince of Privateers."** This title is ludicrous; all Confederate navy personnel were branded in the same way and threatened with hanging when caught, yet all were naval officers, not privateers. This attitude of the U.S. is an indication of the barbaric treatment often handed out to many legitimate soldiers and sailors who were prisoners of war. *John Maffitt* was certainly a **Prince of the Seas**, under his command, **C.S.S. Florida** captured 23 ships in 8 months, all in the name of the Confederacy. Far from being a pirate, *John Newland Maffitt* took pride in being always a gentleman in the truest Southern sense and treated his captors with dignity and respect. When *Florida* intercepted a Yankee giant clipper **Jacob Bell**, *Maffitt* sent over a boarding party to determine what to do with the vessel. In his journal he says, *"February 12th, 4PM, made a prize of the ship 'Jacob Bell' of New York. Her tonnage was about 1,300 and she is esteemed one of the most splendid vessels out of New York, trading with China. A message came that the captain had ladies aboard and his wife was on the 'eve of confinement' (Editor: having a baby) Sent Dr Garretson on board to investigate and that the ladies must leave the ship as I was determined to burn it. The ladies came aboard and with tons of baggage, I surrendered the cabin. The party consisted of Mrs Frisbee (Captain's wife) Mrs Williams, whose husband is a customs officer at Swatow in China; a lad, Louis Frisbee and another son of a missionary from Rhode Island now stationed in Swatow. Passengers and crew amount to 43 persons. Jacob Bell had a cargo of choice tea, camphor, 'chow-chow' etc valued at \$2,000,000 or more. We took such articles as we required and on the 13th set her on fire. Mrs Frisbee was a very quiet, kind hearted lady. Mrs Williams, I fancy, is something of a tartar, she and Captain Frisbee were not on terms. They remained in possession of my cabin for five days, when I put the entire party on board the Danish brig 'Morning Star' bound for St Thomas. If they speak unkindly, such a thing as gratitude is a stranger to their abolition hearts."*



Union signallers keep a sharp eye for an elusive *Maffitt*.

Maffitt probably knew of the many instances in the past where women were treated with respect, afforded every comfort but were full of tales of woe and abuse when they reached a neutral port. This was mentioned more than once by **Midshipman Morgan** in his account, **Recollections of a Rebel Reefer**, covered in an earlier issue of *The Bugle*. These malicious reports acted to fuel the myth of them being pirates and resulted in the violent retribution unfairly meted out by the Federal government without fair justice.



CSS Florida anchored in the port of Brest, 1864.

In an interview with **Illustrated London News** in **Brest**, *Maffitt* says, *"We only make war with the United States' Government and respect little property. We treat prisoners of war with the greatest respect. Most of those captured have spoken well of us. To be sure, we have met with some ungrateful rascals; but you meet with those the world over. The last prize we took was the 'Anglo-Saxon,' which we took in the English Channel the other day; in mid-channel, about sixty miles from Cork. She had coal on board, and we burnt her.*

The pilot was a saucy fellow and maintained he was on his piloting-ground and insisted on being landed in an English port but we could not do that. I brought him and 24 men here and sent

them to the English Consul. If the pilot has any just claim upon us, it will be settled by the Confederate Government. That's not my business, my business is to take care of the ship."

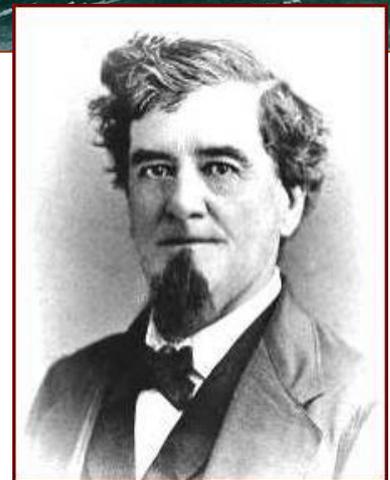
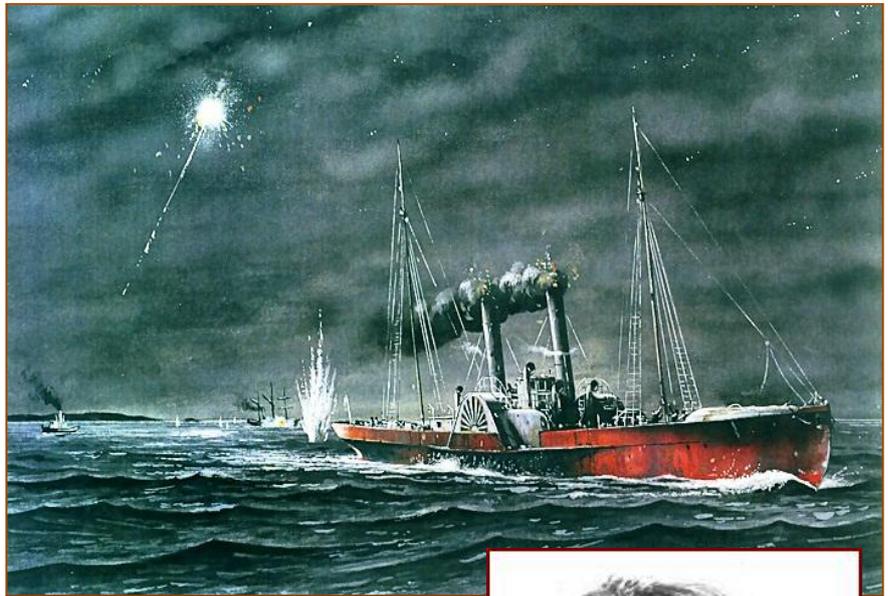
Ill health, due to the lingering effects of yellow fever forced him to relinquish command of *Florida* at *Brest* in France on 12 February 1864. *Maffitt* was promoted to Captain 31 May 1864, "**For gallant and meritorious conduct in command of the steam sloop *Florida*.**" The ship would later be captured in a neutral port illegally by Union Navy forces. The same port used by C.S.S. *Alabama* and *Georgia*. It is easy to surmise, that had *Maffitt* been in command, *Florida* would never have been so casually taken.

Not one to give up, on return to the South, *Maffitt* took command of blockade runners *Florrie* (named after his daughter) and *Lillian*. After a brief tenure as commander of the ironclad **C.S.S. *Albemarle***, where the ship dominated the ***Roanoke River*** and approaches to *Plymouth* in North Carolina, he returned to *Wilmington* to command the blockade runner **C. S. S. *Owl***, in which he was to make some of the last and most spectacular runs into *Wilmington* and *Galveston*. The painting below of *Owl* scooting away from the blockading fleet, is indicative of his nightly runs. Daring and yet so well controlled; because of his immense knowledge of tides and water ways, he was able to go where pursuers couldn't, or even dare and in almost total darkness. It is difficult to analyse a man like *Maffitt*; his courage is obvious but his sense of duty and honour was paramount and is what so propelled him; such devotion to one's country is rare these days but not uncommon in the South then.

On 3 October **C.S.S. *Owl*** escaped back to sea from *Wilmington*; the blockaders wounded her captain and several crewmen but nine shots failed to stop them, and *Owl* arrived in *Bermuda* on 24 October with a large and valuable cargo of cotton.

Under cover of darkness, knowing the waters like the back of his hand, *Maffitt* made several more successful runs through the Union blockade in the gallant *Owl* before war ended. During his service to the Confederacy, the "**Brave Battler *Maffitt***" repeatedly ran the blockade to carry much needed supplies and capture or destroy more than seventy prizes estimated to be worth then, \$10 to \$15 million dollars.

When *Bob Maffitt* steps out onto a *Wilmington* street to attend re-enactments, wearing a replica of his Great Grandfather's uniform, he has some pretty big boots to fill. Strange as it seems, the charisma of the man seems able to reach down these 150 years to place a hand on the shoulder of his descendent and fill him with the same sense of honour and duty to his country. That's an interesting inheritance of war.



Editor's Footnote:

Thanks to *Robert Maffitt* for his assistance in writing this story. When war ended, *John Maffitt* refused to surrender his ship to Federal authorities and instead sailed to Britain to relinquish command. *Captain Maffitt* apparently had no desire to return to a defeated South and remained in England. However, in 1868, North Carolina beckoned and the seafarer settled on a farm he called "*The Moorings*," located on the sound at *Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover County*.

He married his third wife, *Emma Martin*, in *Wilmington*, November 1870. The couple had three children, *Mary Read*, *Clarence Dudley*, and *Robert Strange Maffitt*. *Emma* helped her husband write several magazine articles



and the novel, *Nautilus*; or, *Cruising under Canvas*. Published in 1871, it described three years of Maffitt's early life in the United States Navy. Maffitt died of liver disease, an inheritance of his yellow fever, on 15 May 1886, and was buried in *Wilmington's Oakdale Cemetery*. (All pictures this issue restored by the Editor.)

On 5th May 2010, the *Honourable Mike McIntyre* of North Carolina, rose from his bench in the U.S. House of Representatives and delivered a statement in Recognition of Captain Maffitt,



“Madam Speaker, it is with great honour and pleasure that I rise and ask you to join me in recognising one of North Carolina’s great historical figures... A sure leader of his time, Captain John Newland Maffitt serves as an example across generations, by acting as a man of courage, of duty and a man devoted to serving his homeland...”

I ask colleagues to stand with me in recognition of a man North Carolina and the United States should be

proud to call their own.”

- Sources: <http://civilwarnavy150.blogspot.com/2010/08/john-newland-maffitt-former-us-naval.html>
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Newland_Maffitt_\(privateer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Newland_Maffitt_(privateer))
<http://users.wowway.com/~jenkins/ironclads/captains.htm>
<http://www.csnavy.org/jnm.htm>
http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/exhibits/civilwar/explore_section4l.html
<http://ahoy.tk-jk.net/MaraudersCivilWar/CSSFlorida.html>



ACWRTQ CHRISTMAS PARTY 2011



Standing: Joseph, Barry, Nicky, Carmel, Jack and Brenda. Squatting: Dave and Harley. Seated: Sylvia, Aidan and Robert
 Inserted: Like a cartridge in a barrel, John Duncan, President ACWRTQ.

Members gathered at John Duncan's residence in Mount Cotton, to enjoy the festive season and swap notes; ran a fund raising series of raffles and partook of some steak, salad and a wide variety of tasty condiments put on by John's wife Carmel. Dave sang some wonderful renditions of old songs from the war, including *I am a Rebel Soldier*, and the original version of *Aura Lee*. Too many 'old' members were obvious in their absence, so come on guys and gals we need you with the ACWRTQ to help make it more of a social hub. 2012 Membership is now due.



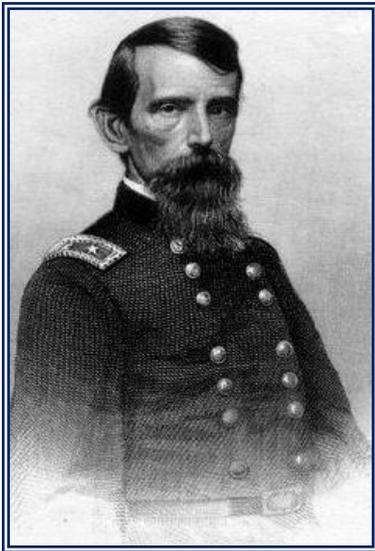
WINCHESTER'S CLASH OF PERSONALITIES, ARMIES AND SUBTERFUGE.

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anuary 1st 1862.150 years ago the city of Romney in Virginia (*now West Virginia*) traded hands between the Union and Confederate armies no fewer than 10 times during the War Between the States; this assumes occupying forces spent at

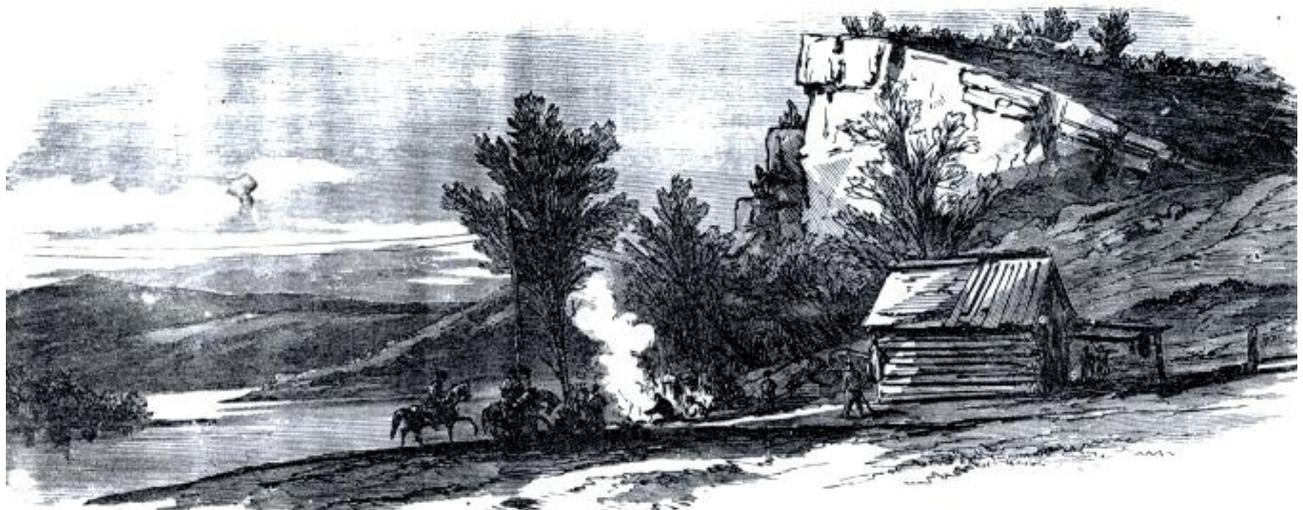
least one night in town. Oral tradition and an exaggerated state historical marker, claims the town changed hands 56 times. The story of the '*small*' town is symbolic of the many military campaigns that swept through western Virginia and later through the new state of West Virginia. The battles would range far and wide and spread out through the year. A later picture reveals that the so called '*small*' town had some significant buildings.

It was April 1861 that the *Committee of Safety* met to draw up plans in preparation for the coming war. By May, the *Hampshire Guards* and *Frontier Riflemen* left Romney to join other Virginia regiments at *Harper's Ferry*.



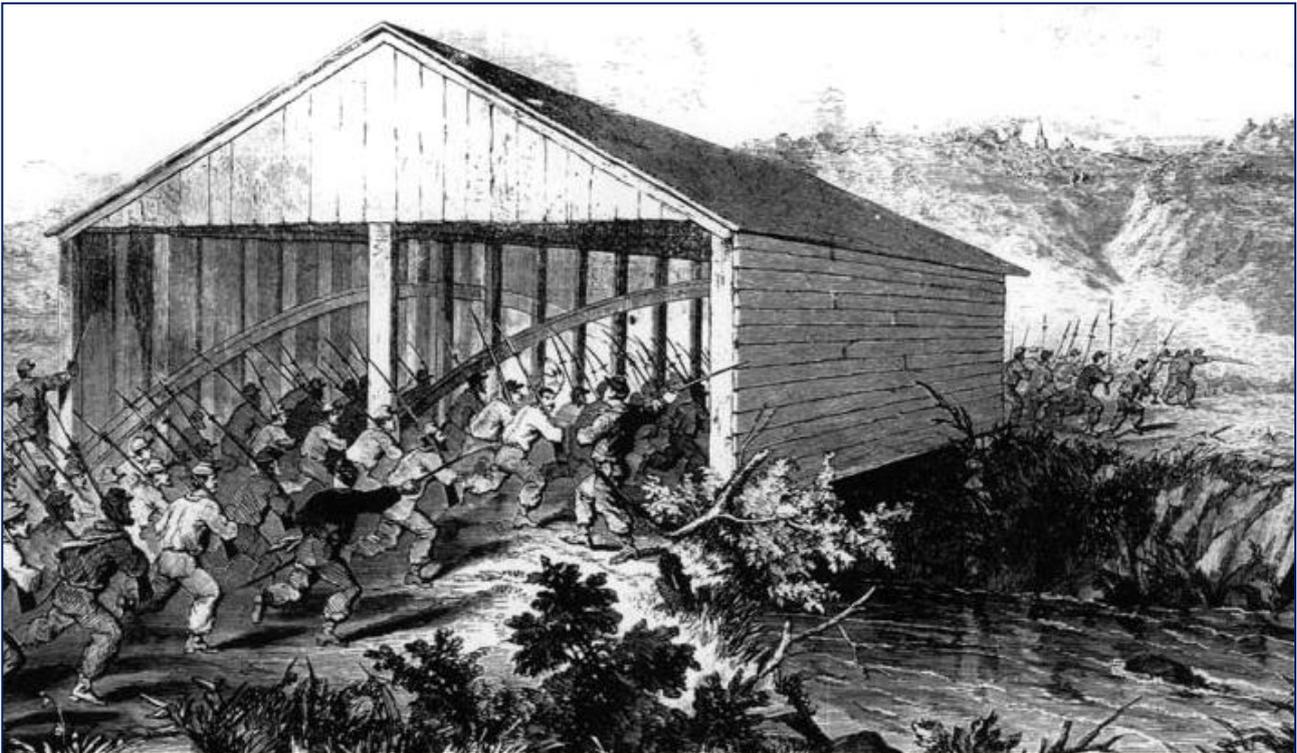
Colonel (Lew) Lewis Wallace was in command of the *11th Indiana Zouaves* and brought his men through *Mechanicsburg Gap* to capture the bridge at Romney and occupy the town for a few hours in June. The next day Colonel A. P. Hill occupied the town and so began a see-saw series of actions around Romney. Hill ordered Colonel John C. Vaughn of the *3rd Tennessee* to attack Federal forces at *New Creek* on 18 June. While Captain Turner established Headquarters of the *7th Virginia Cavalry* at "*Camp Washington*" on the George W. Washington farm north of Hanging Rock near "*Wire Bridge*," Colonel A. C. Cummings, of Jackson's Command at First Manassas, occupied Romney in July.

Federals attacked Romney 23 September; General Lee advised that Federals were withdrawing from Romney but after feigning an attack through *Mechanicsburg Gap*, Federals launched their main attack from *Hanging Rock*. Confederates under Colonel Angus McDonald gave way to the stronger force but retook the town the following day sending a disorganised enemy retreating across *South Branch Bridge*.



Hanging Rock

The confusion over territory gains and losses continued until *Major General Thomas Jackson*, promoted on 7 October 1861, was given command of the newly formed *Valley District* of the *Department of Northern Virginia*. He arrived to establish command headquarters at *Winchester* on 4 November and immediately requested command of all forces in the valley and along the *Allegheny Ridges* south of *Winchester*, formerly under *General Robert E Lee*. Although not fully assembled until Christmas 1861, he was also given *Brigadier General William W. Loring's* Division. Meanwhile, *Jackson* assembled all local cavalry forces into a new regiment under the command of *Colonel Turner Ashby* and then ordered *Ashby's* force to conduct raids to destroy sections of the *Chesapeake and Ohio Canal*.



Indiana Zouaves cross the bridge at Romney

Jackson had conceived of a grand scheme to retake control of western *Virginia* by conducting a large expedition along the **Potomac River Valley** that runs across the State's northern boundary. On 20 November, 1861, he wrote to the War Department proposing the expedition to *Romney*, Virginia. The commander of the department not only endorsed the proposition but to ensure its success, he also approved the return of **The Stonewall Brigade** that fought so valiantly under Jackson's command at **First Manassas** (*Bull Run*) and was then serving in the **Army of the Potomac**.

Forces assembled against the Union now numbered 11,000 men, short of the 15,000 he desired to conduct the operation but regardless, Jackson proceeded with the expedition. Opposing him was **Banks' 5th Corps** in Frederick, Maryland, they were busy patrolling the *Potomac* from **Harpers Ferry** to **Williamsport**. Additionally, **Rosecrans** had 5,000 men under **Brigadier General Benjamin F. Kelley** posted at *Romney*. Rosecrans had his own plans to capture what he thought was the lightly defended town of *Winchester* that he intended fortifying and holding as a base of operations to threaten Confederate positions at *Manassas Junction* (*Bull Run*.)

Jackson left *Winchester* on 1 January with a force of about 9,000 men, under very warm spring-like weather, unusual conditions for the time. He left 2,000 to guard *Winchester* and the surrounding area. During the first night of the expedition, a severe winter storm set in bringing snow, sleet and ice. One Confederate officer described it, "**The road was almost an uninterrupted sheet of ice, rendering it almost impossible for man or beast to travel, while by moonlight, beards of the men, matted with ice, glistened like crystals.**"

Despite these extreme conditions, Jackson pressed on and occupied **Bath**, recently evacuated by **Brigadier General Frederick W. Lander**. Lander's forces retreated to *Hancock* to prevent Jackson crossing the river. Jackson, forever a keen artillery man, decided to conduct a bombardment that destroyed a section of the **Baltimore and Ohio Railroad** and then marched on to *Romney*. The scene was now set for an incident in history that stands as one of the most intriguing events of the war.

While en-route, **General Kelley** was also advancing towards *Romney* and made a reconnaissance-in-force towards *Winchester*, encountering Jackson's leading militia at **Hanging Rock Pass**, he easily defeated the Southerners and captured two artillery pieces. Despite this advantage, **General Kelley** nervously retreated from *Romney* 10 January and Jackson was able to enter and occupy the town four days later. From here, Jackson planned his next step, an advance to *Cumberland* in Maryland. Fate had other plans for Jackson, severe winter weather hampered the morale of his troops who were more accustomed to much warmer regions in the South. He cancelled plans, leaving **Loring's Division** to occupy *Romney* while a despondent Jackson returned to *Winchester* on 24 January with his old **Stonewall Brigade** and **Ashby's Regiment**.

Although his ambitious goal of recapturing the western part of *Virginia* wasn't achieved, Jackson succeeded in both thwarting Union attacks on *Winchester* and in clearing his new *Valley District* of all Federal forces. Jackson also



T. J. Jackson
MGen

effectively used *Winchester* as a depot, headquarters and a springboard for various raids against the *Baltimore and Ohio Railroad*. All in all, it looked pretty good for the South but then things started to go **really** wrong.

Late in January, something rather bizarre occurred that has been called '**An Insurrection.**' Discontented officers in *Loring's Division* wrote a letter of petition to the **Confederate Secretary of War** in *Richmond*, resulting in an order from the *Secretary to Jackson*, telling him to withdraw *Loring* from *Romney* on grounds that his position was exposed to possible isolation by Federal forces. *Jackson* reluctantly complied with the order but was angry over the interference from *Richmond* and filed charges of court martial against *Loring*; then, remarkably, he resigned his commission. In a letter to **Governor John Letcher**, *Jackson* asks to be transferred to the position of *Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute* in *Lexington*. It was only under pressure from his former commander, **General Joseph E. Johnston** and from *Governor Letcher*, that *Jackson* withdraws his resignation. Charges against *Loring* are dropped and all non-Virginia forces, along with *Loring*, were reassigned out of the *Valley District*, reducing *Jackson's* effective force to about 4,000 men. **A serious error!** General *Loring* will feature in a future issue.



The battered remains of Romney

The reduction has a direct impact on *Jackson's* ability to defend lower *Shenandoah Valley*, compelling him to evacuate *Winchester* on 9 March in the face of superior forces under Union **Maj. Gen. Banks**,^[3] despite having prevented *Rosecrans's* goal of taking *Winchester* in January or February 1862. The '*insurrection*' of *Loring's Division*, along with political interference and *Loring's* subsequent reassignment, led to the disastrous and inevitable easy seizure of *Winchester* by *General Banks* in March. It wasn't until *Jackson* was reinforced with more disciplined and seasoned troops from **Major General Richard S. Ewell's Division**, that he would be able to retake the initiative in the *Shenandoah Valley*. The South learned to try and control its politicians but divisions like this, throughout the war, would continue to hamper the South and eventually lead to its destruction.



The 13th regiment, Massachusetts Infantry January 1862.
(Painting, courtesy United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.)

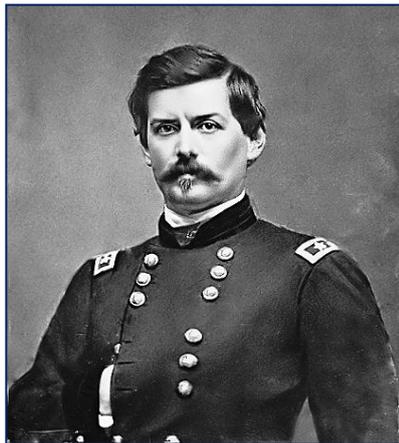
Editor: Note the man doing the hard work with lumber is an African American, in lightly clad clothing.

This painting (*previous page*) is oil on canvas, depicting the **13th Regiment, Massachusetts Infantry**. The work of **Henry Bacon**, it reveals a snow bound **Camp Jackson, in Williamsport, Maryland** 1 January 1862. The same snow and freezing conditions were hampering **Stonewall Jackson's** troops at the time. **Corporal Henry Bacon** belonged to **Company D** of the 13th. He was later a war correspondent for **Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly**. Bacon was constantly sketching scenes in camp that would later serve as inspiration for his paintings. Writing home, a friend of Bacon, drummer **Sam Webster** said, "**Bacon is an artist with black curly hair and handsome eyes that lots of girls are falling in love with.**" Bacon was later wounded at **Second Bull Run** and received an honourable discharge from the military late in 1862.

The men in the painting, originally published in a book called '**Civil War Art**,' all looked too handsome to the book's author, who criticised it for this reason plus the fancy red blankets. The author reveals an acute lack of knowledge, the 13th **Massachusetts** had red blankets as standard issue and all the men were selected for their neatness in appearance, good health, manners and high standing in society. It is thought **Bacon** was capturing his old comrades and possibly used photographs to ensure accurate likeness. One writer speculates that we may also see **Sam Webster**, of **Company D**, with his drum. He was a Virginian Unionist and in January, joined the 13th at **Williamsport**, putting aside his drum and carrying a rifle.

In 1866, **Bacon** travelled to Europe and studied art to become very skilled at painting. He spent later years travelling the Nile River Valley in Egypt, painting water colour desert scenes of Bedouins and caravans, as well as the great pyramids.

So began the New Year 1862-150 years ago at the time of this publication. Remarkably, names that would soon become synonymous with the conflict emerged in these first two months. With **Fort Sumter** and **Bull Run**, east of the **Mississippi** still hurting, west of the mighty river wasn't much better. **Missouri** hadn't seceded but a confusion of armies vied for control of it. With **Wilson's Creek** in August 1861 and the later siege and capture of **Lexington** in October and several smaller engagements, the Confederates seemed to always have the upper hand. A disgruntled Union dismissed the west and focussed on the east; for many this meant Virginia, as mentioned earlier in this story and which introduced us again to **Stonewall Jackson**.



Following the debacle of **Bull Run**, **McDowell** had to be replaced and Lincoln appointed a young **Major General George B. McLellan**; fresh from success, in what was to become West Virginia, "**Little Mac**," as he was soon known, radiated confidence and pushed all the right buttons. Dedicating his efforts, he built his **Army of the Potomac** into the best trained and equipped army America had ever witnessed, numbering more than 100 thousand men. They trained...and trained...and trained... throughout the winter and into spring 1862. **Lincoln** became impatient.

While '**Little Mac's**' **Army of Potomac** trained, there was action in the west, in **Tennessee** and decisive action it was. While the "**Anaconda Plan**" saw the blockade of Southern ports, it allowed the Union to slowly strangle the South into submission. **The Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers** were Confederate lifelines, flowing across **Kentucky**, south into **Tennessee** and **Alabama** to empty into the **Ohio River** at **Peducah**. They also provided a natural passage for invasion by Union troops, gunboats and transports.

Fort Henry was the Confederate answer to this immediate threat on the **Tennessee** and **Fort Donelson** on the **Cumberland River**. But by February 1862, neither was complete and ready for action. At this opportune time, a rising young Yankee named **Ulysses S. Grant**, whose only experience in this war was a minor skirmish at **Belmont, Missouri** in November. Here comes **Grant** and seizes **Peducah** and immediately begins his move towards the forts up river with about 15 thousand men. **Fort Henry** on the **Tennessee** was so vulnerable that it quickly fell, even before **Grant's** arrival. So he marched 12 miles overland to attack **Fort Donelson**. However this fort wasn't such a pushover and **Grant** did what **Grant** will always do, he sent wave after wave of men and gunboats, into heavy fire. After several costly assaults and being surrounded, the fort's reluctant commander **Simon Bulivar Buckner** asked **Grant** for terms. **Grant** is said to have replied, "**No terms with traitors by God! No terms! Unconditional Surrender!**" This soon became his nickname, "**Unconditional Surrender Grant.**" This battle was highlighted in the previous issue of **The Bugle** (#34) to illustrate the re-enactment being held in February and the portrayal of **Grant** by one of our regular correspondents in America, **Dr Curt Fields**.

In a single stroke, control of these vital rivers was lost and Confederates were forced to abandon middle and west **Tennessee**, including its weak foothold on **Kentucky**. **Grant** was the man of the moment and would thereafter have victories and a growing legion of ghosts gallop with him. Now **Grant** turns his attention to the mighty **Mississippi**, where the **Grim Reaper** would enjoy a fine harvest. (See: **Escape of Flag and Forrest. This issue.**)

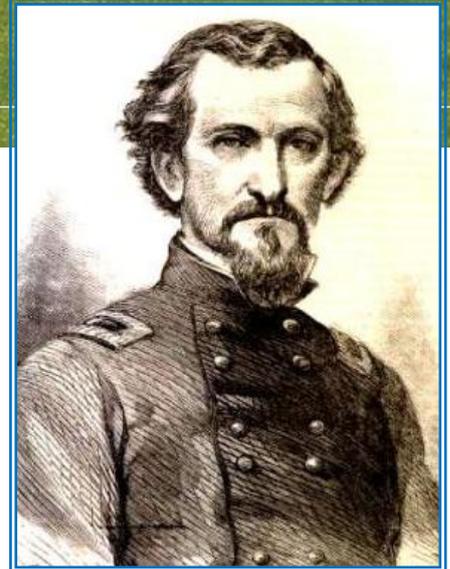


Dr Curt Fields as Grant



Brigadier General Zollicoffer

Mill Springs



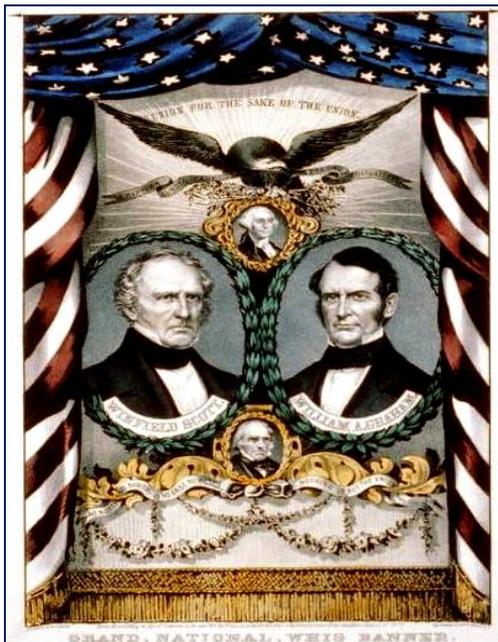
BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS

Felix Kirk Zollicoffer's grandfather George, was a captain in the Revolutionary army. The family moved to America from Switzerland and an ancestor was *Rodolphus II* in 1528. As a young man, *Zollicoffer* worked on his family's plantation before attending *Jackson College* in Columbia, Tennessee. Becoming interested in the newspaper business at 16, Zollicoffer took up work with a newspaper in Paris, Tennessee and by 1835 was named "*State Printer*."

Born 19 May 1812, *Felix Kirk Zollicoffer*, apart from being a talented newspaperman, was a three-term United States Congressman from Tennessee, an officer in the United States Army and a Brigadier General with Confederates during the American War Between the States. He led the first Confederate invasion of eastern Kentucky and was killed in action at the [Battle of Mill Springs](#) 150 years ago at the time of researching and writing this story.

Zollicoffer, who suffered severe short sightedness, earned the dubious distinction of being the first Confederate General to give his life in the Western Theatre of war and America lost a leading writer and statesman who could have gone on to contribute much to his country.

Zollicoffer edited Alabama's *Mercury newspaper* in Huntsville, while enjoying the reputation of State Printer he still gave it up to volunteer for army service in 1836 to serve as a Lieutenant in Florida's *Second Seminole War*. On his return home in 1837 *Felix Zollicoffer* became owner and editor of the *Columbia Observer* and the *Southern Agriculturist*, by 1843 he was also editing the *Republican Banner*, a state propaganda tool of the "*Whig Party*". This thrust *Zollicoffer* into political circles and he was soon named *Comptroller of the State Treasury* where he served from 1845 to 1849. He seemed inexhaustible and also took over the mantle of *State Adjutant General*.

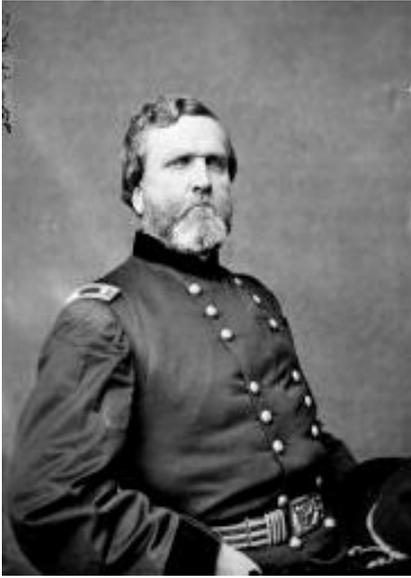


Felix *Zollicoffer* involved himself more and more in politics and seemed to have a natural penchant for it when he became delegate in the *State Senate* 1849, and delegate to the *Whig National Convention* in 1852, supporting the candidacy of the aging *General Winfield Scott*. It seemed a logical course for him to be elected Whig to the 33rd United States Congress and re-elected as candidate of the *American Party* to the 34th and 35th National Congress (4th March 1853 to 3rd March 1859). War drums were sounding, *Zollicoffer* was a man to lead and wouldn't tolerate fools lightly, he won respect in anything he undertook but during the first campaign, he fought a duel with John Marling, editor of the rival *Nashville Union* newspaper.^[2] Both men were wounded in the duel and Marling went on to become U.S. Minister to Guatemala where he died. After this, *Zollicoffer* seemed to lose his drive for politics; he declined to be candidate for renomination in 1858 and retired to private life. He strongly supported fellow Tennessee moderate *John Bell* for president in the 1860 elections.

With war clouds threatening and firebrand Tennesseans pushing to secede, *Zollicoffer*, a staunch supporter of States Rights, served on a Washington D.C. peace convention in 1861, trying to find a way to prevent impending war. Personal feelings about *State's Rights* didn't influence him, he was against secession and certainly not in favour of his country going to war with itself.

When Tennessee seceded, duty called and *Zollicoffer* offered his services to the *Provisional Army of Tennessee*. Despite only having brief combat experience he was appointed Brigadier General 9 May 1861, by *Governor Isham Harris*.^[3] It's not what you know but who you know.

On 9 July, Felix transferred to the Confederate States Army with the same rank and given command of a department within the **District of East Tennessee** 1 August. Towards the end of July 1861, Harris ordered **Zollicoffer** and 4,000 raw recruits to Knoxville to suppress East Tennessee resistance to secession, appointing him command of the **District of East Tennessee**.^[4] On 17 September he led a force of 5,400 men from Tennessee through the **Cumberland Gap** along **Wilderness Road** attempting to seize eastern Kentucky. As we read in earlier editions of **The Bugle**, Kentucky had declared neutrality in the conflict, a neutrality violated by a rather over enthusiastic and religious zealot, **Major General Leonidas Polk**, when he invaded early in September.^[5]



Union Brig Gen George H. Thomas

After winning the first Confederate victory in the commonwealth, at the relatively minor **Battle of Barbourville**, **Zollicoffer** suffered a reversal at the subsequent **Battle of Wildcat Mountain** and was forced to retreat back into rural eastern Tennessee, an area unsympathetic to the Confederate cause.

Zollicoffer treated peaceful Unionists fairly but imposed harsher measures after Union guerrillas burnt several railroad bridges in November. Although **Zollicoffer's** main responsibility was to guard **Cumberland Gap**, in November 1861 he advanced westward back into south eastern Kentucky to strengthen control in the area around **Somerset**. He found a strong defensive position at **Mill Springs** and decided to make it his winter quarters. After fortifying the area, especially both sides of the **Cumberland River**, On 8 December, he was superseded by the arrival of **Maj. Gen. George B. Crittenden**, who assumed command of the department but retained **Zollicoffer** as commander of the **1st Brigade**.

With orders to drive the Confederates across **Cumberland River** and break up **Crittenden's** army, Union Brigadier General **George H. Thomas** left Lebanon and slowly marched through rain-soaked country, arriving at **Logan's Crossroads** 17 January, where he waited for **Brig. Gen. Schoepf** to join him. Two days later, **Gen. Thomas** attacked **Crittenden** and **Zollicoffer** in the **Battle of Mill Springs**.

Early on a cool Kentucky morning, two similar-sized contingents of Confederate and Union soldiers (roughly 4,000 effectives each) met on the battlefield in south-central Kentucky, west of **Somerset**. **Mill Springs** enjoys several names depending what side you were on, **Fishing Creek** if Confederate and **Logan's Cross Roads** if Union. The southern bank of **Cumberland River** at **Mill Springs** was a bluff and a strong defensive position, whereas the northern bank was low and flat.



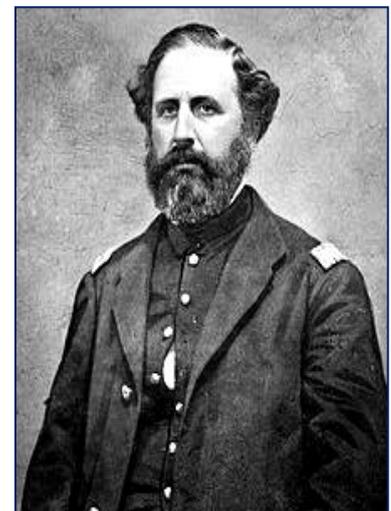
Zollicoffer, revealing his inexperience in tactics, chose to move most of his men to the north bank where they would be closer to nearby Union troops, incorrectly assuming that it was more defensible.

Both **Crittenden** and **Albert Sidney Johnston** were alarmed at his error and ordered **Zollicoffer** to relocate south of the river but he couldn't comply. With insufficient boats to cross the unfordable river quickly, he was afraid the brigade would be caught by the enemy strung out halfway across.

Zollicoffer's men were soon routed from the field. Some accounts claim that Union **Colonel S. Fry** shot **Zollicoffer** as the battle waned. **Zollicoffer** had inadvertently wandered into Union positions, thinking they were Confederate soldiers in the gathering darkness. Alarmed at what he assumed were Confederates firing on his men, he rode up and insisted they stop firing. He was struck several times by enemy bullets and died from his wounds.

Colonel Fry had led his regiment into action 19 January; as company battled company the line became confusing, resulting in a couple of gaps in both the Union and Confederate lines. A steady rain contributed to the confusion, as did the men's lack of experience.

Zollicoffer, who always suffered from acute short sightedness, tried to rally his men but accidentally rode into the gap and right up to **Fry's** regiment. Still not aware of his error he addressed **Colonel Fry**, ordering him to stop firing.



Speed S. Fry as Colonel

Zollicoffer's aid came riding from the woods attempting to warn his commander that he was in the midst of the enemy and fired a warning shot. Fry immediately raised his pistol and fired at *Zollicoffer*, who fell dead while his aide was wounded. A debate exists to this day over who actually fired that fatal shot.



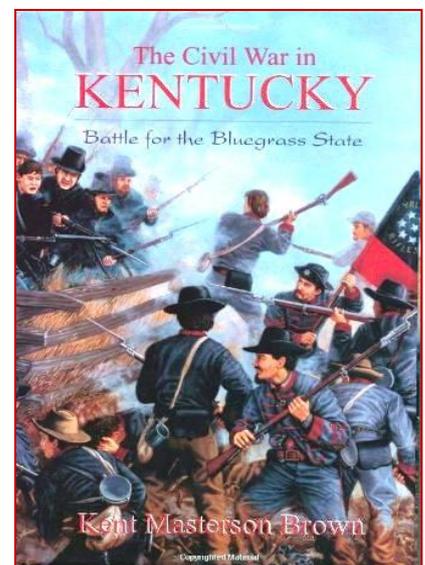
Perhaps the most famous of the illustrations of Zollicoffer's last moments at the Battle of Mill Springs

Fry never actually claimed responsibility for the shooting but many reports and paintings at the time give full credit to him. However, there were members from three different Union regiments standing nearby who also fired. Whether or not Fry was the sole person to shoot *General Zollicoffer*, the Confederates were so outraged that they accused him of murder. Confederate units were chased, under fixed bayonets, by *Thomas'* men ten miles from the battlefield, all the way back to the river and forced to fight a vicious rearguard retreat across it under heavy fire. *Thomas* prepared to cross the river in pursuit but there was no rush, *Crittenden's* force had withdrawn and a significant number of his men simply left the unit and went home. With *Johnston's* right flank destroyed, *Ulysses S. Grant* could now concentrate on his centre.

Left on the field, an act that is unthinkable in the army, Federals respected *Zollicoffer's* body; he was embalmed by a Union surgeon and eventually returned to Tennessee where he was finally interred in the *Old City Cemetery* in Nashville. The book illustrated on the right, is recommended reading on this and other battles for Kentucky.

Sources:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_Zollicoffer#cite_note-1
<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/chron/civilwarnotes/zollicoffer.html>
http://blueandgraytrail.com/event/Battle_of_Mill_Springs
 National Geographic, *Eye Witness to the Civil War* by Neil Kagan and Stephen G. Hislop



THE CARTOON WAR-GRAPHIC NOVELS

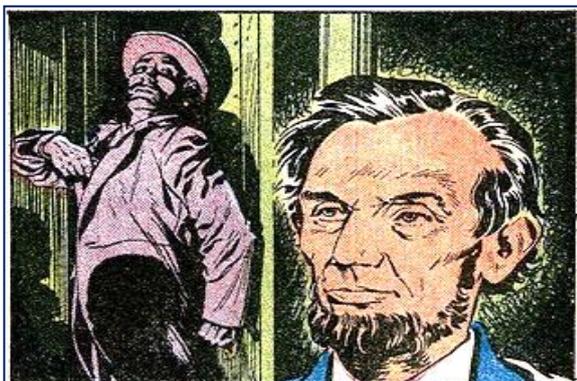
BY DR. JACK FORD ACWRTQ



B

londie is a cartoon that appeared in the “Comics” section of a recent (November 2011) issue of *The Courier Mail*. That a Civil War reference is used as part of the humour, assumes the target audience (i.e. Americans) know enough about the war to get the joke. As this comic strip is syndicated worldwide, it also serves to remind other readers about the *Civil War*, even in faraway Queensland, Australia.

Blondie first appeared as a newspaper comic strip in 1930, just eight years before the last large reunion of Union and Confederate veterans held at Gettysburg.



SILENTLY, HE OPENED THE DOOR AND STEPPED IN, HIS WEAPON COMING UP TO AIM! NOBODY WAS AWARE OF HIS ENTRANCE! BOOTH MOVED ALONG THE WALL, TO GET A CLEAR SHOT.

Around mid-August every year, when the *Royal Brisbane Exhibition* (“*The EKKA*”) is held, my wife and daughter attend, usually on Wednesday, *The People’s Day* public holiday. As I now use a walking cane, I don’t attend due to the crowds. My family bring home a show bag containing a *Phantom* comic as this brings back my childhood memories of when show bags always contained one. They brought me an issue that features an interesting take on how *John Wilkes Booth* was killed on 26 April 1865 at *Garrett’s Farm*, near Port Royal, Virginia. Released in 1999, it was called *Lincoln’s Murder* and published in Europe and Australia.

While *The Phantom* began as a newspaper comic strip in the USA in 1936, it didn’t reach Australia until 1948. It was and still is, issued by *Frew Publications*, a Sydney company. *The Phantom* sells more comic books than any other title in Australia and is the longest continuous comic book title to have a print-run here.

Two comic book titles from the 1960s-80s, *The Haunted Tank* and *Jonah Hex* had *Civil War* references. *The Haunted Tank* was a DC Comics title produced from 1961 to 1987. *The Haunted Tank*, a US Army M3 Stuart light tank commanded by *Sergeant Jeb Stuart*, the comic is set during World War Two. The ghost of Confederate cavalry General *James Ewell Brown* (“*Jeb*”) *Stuart* haunted the tank. The ghost only appears to his namesake, while usually offering tactical advice. Near the end of the war, the tank crew upgrade to an M4 Sherman tank and bizarrely, the tank’s commander *Jeb Stuart* is then advised by **two** ghosts – one Confederate General and one Union General in William Tecumseh Sherman!



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Jonah Hex was another comic from the DC stable, produced from 1971 to 1985. *Jonah Hex* fought for the South during the *Civil War* but most of the stories are either set in the post-*Civil War* period or some *Mad Max II*-style science-fiction future. *Jonah* was usually drawn wearing a Confederate Army uniform and hat (not a kepi.) His face is scarred from a tomahawk branding inflicted on him by the Apaches. The film *Jonah Hex*, starring *Josh Brolin* and *John Malkovich* was released in 2010. With the current revival of comics (now called *graphic novels*) in the mainstream market (i.e. on sale again in newsagencies,) then perhaps these two titles may appear again as re-issues.

These excerpts represent just one story found in an Australian-produced (title unknown) comic of the early

1970s. The story is entitled *Strange Orders* and details the **Battle of Shad Mountain**.

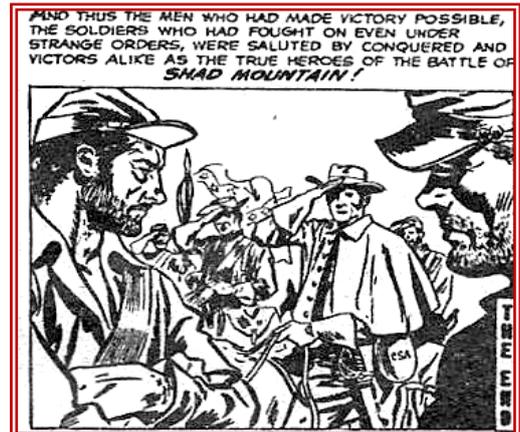
Editors note: The comic book pages are badly yellowed with age but I have attempted to clean the age away as revealed in the first and last images. Ordered to attack a fort that seemed impossible to take, the orders are obeyed, begrudgingly, but unknown to the soldiers they were a diversion for a cavalry raid to the rear and in true comic book form, the cavalry come to the rescue in the nick of time.



Most likely a reprint, it's taken from a US comic. **The Battle of Shad Mountain** is pure fiction. The British *Commando* war comics, first published in July 1961, have expanded beyond their original concentration on World War II stories. Issue No.3501 entitled *Renegade Raider* told the story of the Confederate cruiser/merchant raider *Carolina* that kept sinking ships after the *Civil War* had ended. This comic derived its plot from the operations of the *Shenandoah* during April to 6 November 1865. Australia printed a number of war comics during the 1970s. One title was about the Confederate

partisan rangers of Mosby's Raiders (1863-65.) Entitled *The Grey Ghost* it

was a local reprint of the 1958 *Dell* (US) comic. It concluded that **Colonel John Singleton Mosby** (1813-1916) was the influence for the formation of US Army Ranger battalions in World War II. Strangest of all is *Captain Confederacy* produced in 1991 by Epic Comics. This science-fiction comic is set in an alternate universe where the South secedes successfully. Set in the twentieth century, the superhero *Captain Confederacy* becomes a Black American woman. Not surprisingly, only 4 issues were made.



Escape of Flag and Forrest



T

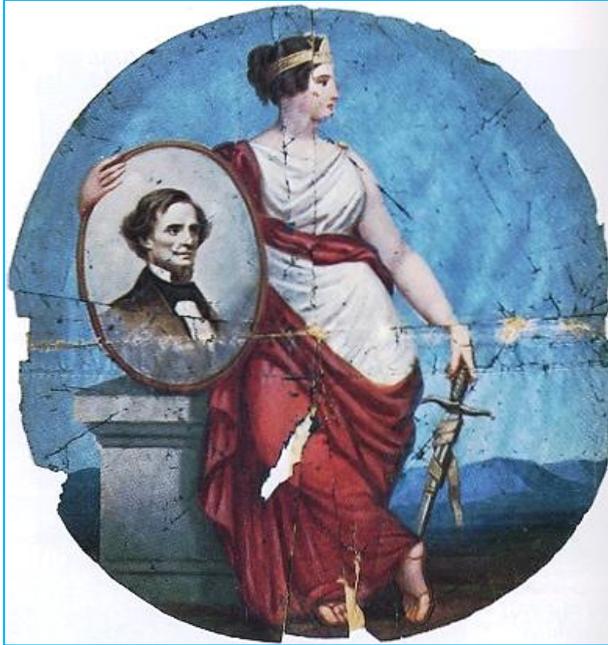
he battles around **Fort Donelson** are worthy of a little more discussion for two main reasons, not the least being Nathan Bedford Forrest's disapproval of plans to surrender the Fort when there was still a chance to fight their way out. With **Brig. Gen. Gideon J. Pillow** and **Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd** eager to slip away, they handed command over to **Lt. Gen. Simon Bulivar**

Buckner who, because of the ludicrous position the men had been put in by "*Strange Orders*" of incompetent officers, was determined to surrender. What looked like turning a retreat into victory, with the Union in disarray, these two Generals, **Pillow** and **Floyd**, bungled their commands and failed to take advantage of an opportunity to evacuate, opting instead to withdraw back into **Fort Donelson**.

Union morale was restored by the return to the field of **U.S. Grant** who calmly issued orders that put the Union back in control. **Nathan Bedford Forrest** was amazed to learn of the plan to surrender and protested that Federals were not in control of the right flank by



the river and that the way was still open. His scouts had braved the freezing conditions and reported there was no resistance there and what was thought to be campfires were in fact brush fires set alight by earlier battles. *Lt. Gen. Buckner* believed the men could not survive the icy waist deep water needed to wade through and determined to seek surrender terms. That night, the two bunglers *Pillow* and *Floyd* crept away and *Forrest* with his entire cavalry, accompanied by possibly a thousand infantry, disappeared into the night. *Forrest* didn't lose a single man: he correctly knew that soldiers could endure much worse and survive. These were early days and *Buckner*, who would one day be the Governor of Kentucky, not wishing to see the men suffer more, accepted what he called, "**Grant's ungenerous and unchivalrous terms.**" *Buckner* became the first Confederate General to surrender an army in the War Between the States.



The other story of note to spring from this battle at *Fort Donelson*, apart from the heroic and triumphant gun engagement for the South, where Union gunships were smashed to pieces, is that of a Confederate colour bearer of the **14th Mississippi Infantry Regiment, Andrew S. Payne**, who was taken prisoner and who decided not to let the enemy take his flag; many a brave soldier had died fighting under it. The flag was beautifully hand painted and had been presented to the *The Shubuta Rifles* by a group of patriotic Southern women. Before the prisoners were shipped off to *Camp Douglas*, near Chicago, *Payne* cut out the centre of the flag and stitched it into the lining of his tunic. He carefully preserved the emblem that had an image on both sides; *Lady Liberty*, dressed in a toga holding a large picture of *Jefferson Davis* in one hand and a beribboned sword in the other. On the reverse was an eagle with its claws gripping a snake that had invaded a nest of eaglets in magnolia branches. Safely concealed in his coat, the flag was still there when he and most of the *Fort Donelson* prisoners were exchanged in October 1862 and sent back to Mississippi. It was there at last, a triumphant *Payne* returned the flag to his regiment. He had kept his secret, his honour and his solemn duty as a colour bearer right to the end.



Above is an extremely rare picture of Confederate prisoners of war at *Camp Douglas* after their capture at *Fort Donelson*. Many pictures of prisoners show them reluctantly posing, these soldiers were obviously proud to come together for the portrait. It is very likely that Colour bearer *Payne* is amongst them.

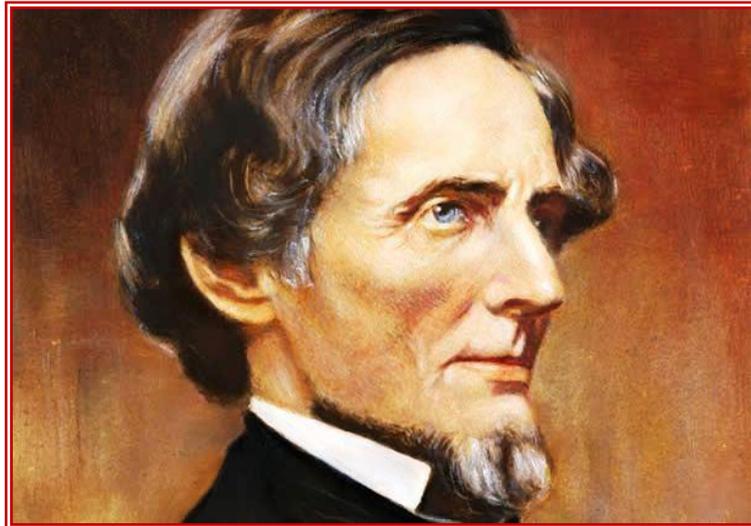
Sources: *Kraig McNutt* a contributor to *The Bugle* and who has put a tribute to the ACWRTQ on his website:

<http://battleoffranklin.wordpress.com/category/flag/>

Eye Witness to the Civil War by National Geographic: Page 109

The Civil War, Time Life Books Alexandria, Virginia. *The Road to Shiloh*: Pages 94 and 99.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Fort_Donelson



FINAL STITCHES IN THE FLAG FEBRUARY 1862

Timeline following Fort Donelson.

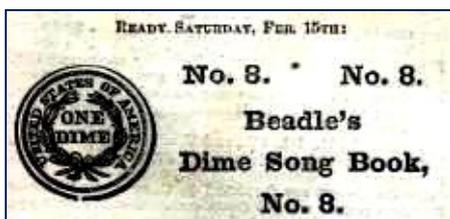


On 18 February there was much celebration in Washington DC when news reached the capital of the surrender of Fort Donelson. Meanwhile the First Congress of the Confederate States of America was meeting in Richmond. While there was disaster in the west, another engagement in New Mexico on 21 February proved a victory for the South in the **Battle of Fort Craig** where Confederates went up against a much larger Union force and captured six artillery guns.

Jefferson Davis was already feeling the heavy burden of responsibility as President of the Southern States. He had reluctantly accepted the role and was sworn in as President in 1861 but on 22 February 1862 he was inaugurated at the first Confederate Congress as its first and only President of the Confederate States of America. When inaugurated provisional President a year earlier he told the assembled crowd, *"We have resorted to the remedy of separation and henceforth our energies must be directed to conduct our own affairs and promote the perpetuity of the Confederacy. If a just perception of mutual interests permits us peacefully to pursue our separate political career, my most earnest desire will have been fulfilled."* Davis obviously didn't want war. The word 'provisional' was removed after his formal election to an optimistic six year term in November 1861. The government had been fully formed and its capital moved to Richmond in Virginia. At his 1862 inauguration, the new President resolved not to deliver a message of doom and gloom, noting that his inauguration coincided with the birth date of George Washington, Davis's inaugural speech highlighted the parallels between a revolution fought by the **Founding Fathers** and 'revolution' represented by the Confederacy. His remarks enthralled the audience and drew great cheers. His carefully measured words were quickly spread by Southern newspapers. One was the **Daily True Delta** of New Orleans, Louisiana. New Orleans was an important Confederate city that would fall to Union forces a mere two months after Davis's inauguration. A copy of Jefferson Davis's inaugural address was printed by the **Daily True Delta** on 23 February, 1862. It can be read in full on the following blog/website:

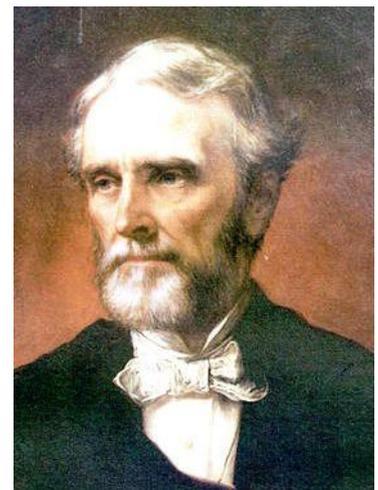
<http://www.newsinhistory.com/blog/confederate-president-jefferson-davis%E2%80%99s-inaugural-address>

"The first year in our history has been the most eventful in the annals of this continent. A new government has been established and its machinery put in operation over an area exceeding seven hundred thousand square miles...our Confederacy has grown from six to thirteen States, Maryland, already united to us...will I believe, when able to speak with unstifled voice, connect her destiny with the South. Our people have rallied with unexampled unanimity to the support of the great principles of constitutional government, with firm resolve to perpetuate by arms the right which they could not peacefully secure. A million of men, it is estimated, are now standing in hostile array and waging war along a frontier of thousands of miles. Battles have been fought, sieges have been conducted and although the contest is not ended and the tide for the moment is against us, the final result in our favour is not doubtful...I deeply feel the weight of the responsibilities I now, with unaffected diffidence, am about to assume." Jefferson Davis.



and he was merely reporting what he believed Washington wanted to hear.

On 27 February, Davis was given permission, by Confederate Congress, to suspend Habeas Corpus if he felt it necessary to do so. Davis asked for martial law to be introduced at Norfolk and Portsmouth, both important naval bases

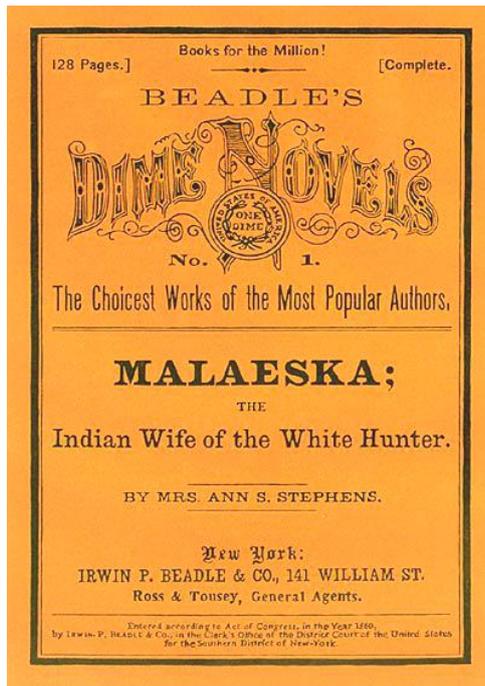


Post war portrait, Jefferson Davis

Three days later on 25 February, General Halleck, commander of the Army of the Southwest, sent a series of telegraph messages stating how well Union forces were doing in Missouri. The state had been seen as a thorn in the side to Federal aspirations. However, these telegraphic messages were misleading, Halleck had yet to achieve anything decisive

in Virginia. Then in the last days of February came the shock that Charleston in Virginia had been captured by the Union. The city was to become the capital of the new State of West Virginia.

The division of this proud and historic State exists to this day as a reminder of how brittle is democracy and how a nation can divide itself emotionally, as much as the States, with force of arms. As long as Virginia is divided, it's reasonable to assume division will remain in the hearts of North and South and in particular in the South. Secession was delivered without force and with legal and democratic means, in the naive belief that they had a constitutional right to do so. The South was soon to be totally crushed by bayonets, guns and an overwhelming force of manpower and ordinance.



Novelist Ann S. Stephens. Circa 1844

WHAT THEY READ THEN

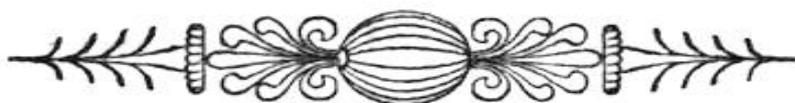
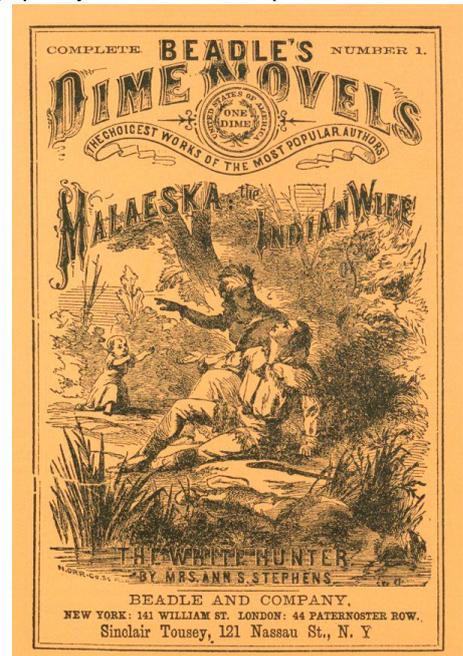
Published in June 1860 "*Malaeska, Indian Wife of the White Hunter*" is considered the first dime novel. It was written by a domestic novelist *Mrs Ann S. Stephens* and published by *Erastus and Irwin Beadle*.

*M*alaeska tells the tragic story of an Indian woman married to a white settler. Full of romantic sensationalism the novel became immensely popular and over 65,000 copies were sold within the first few months. The first edition had a plain cover seen here but an early reprint revealed on the illustrated cover a dark skinned *Malaeska* wearing a feathered headdress and holding her dying husband as he reaches out for their young light-skinned son. (*Boys were often shown wearing frocks in those days.*)

This is an early form of the comics mentioned in Jack Ford's story (this issue) and illustrated covers soon lifted the novel to even greater popularity and combined with bold titles, sensational story lines and eye catching graphic pictures they quickly became an indispensable means of attracting readers and the dimes quickly turned into dollars.

Many soldiers would have carried one onto the battlefield or read them under flickering candle lights in the tent. More and more the Dime Novels would be illustrated and soon people who couldn't read well were buying the books to look at the pictures and so were born the comics still popular today.

The author continued writing her novels and poetry into the War Between the States although I have not been able to find any that had Civil War topics, preferring instead to focus on the American Indians and frontiersmen like Kit Carson. The Wild West owes much to the popularity of Dime Novels in creating the myth of the cowboy that still feeds public perception and imagination today.



Editor: A recommended North Carolina website for researchers is found at: <http://www.nccivilwar150.com/> North Carolina was at the cusp of the times and has every reason to stand proud for its valour and loyalty to the State. It was seen as the crux of the issue but in reality it was a community that simply wanted to manage its own affairs. They didn't want war but self governorship, freedom and Independence. With all the big events little North Carolina seems to be missing out on attention in the current debate. Hopefully we will be able to rectify this in this and future issues of The Bugle.

WAR COMES TO NORTH CAROLINA

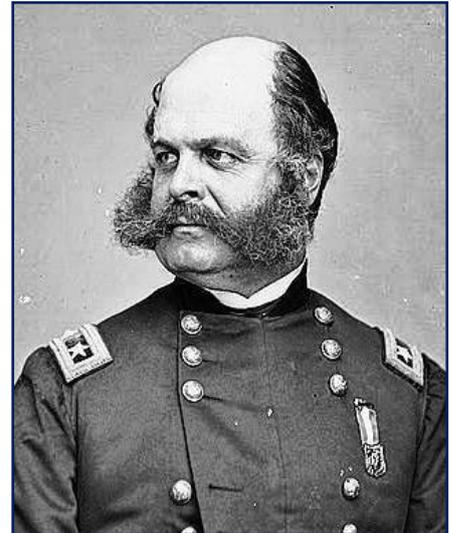


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his year marks the 150th anniversary of when war arrived on North Carolina's doorstep in 1862. Union Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside captured **Roanoke Island** in February, New Bern in March and Fort Macon in April. Takeover of North Carolina's coast was meant to stop supplies to the Confederate Army through the state's ports.

On the 150th anniversary, those events and many others are being reviewed in a series of programs at historic sites and museums State-wide. The N.C. Office of Archives and History oversees the state's sesquicentennial observance, which includes production of posters, symposia, vehicle license plates, atlas and other books, and other commemorative activities through 2015. The Office of Archives and History is part of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

The opening phase of what came to be called 'The Burnside Expedition,' the **Battle of Roanoke Island** was an amphibious operation, fought from 7-8 February, 1862, in the North Carolina Sounds a short distance south of Virginia's border.



Burnside's wartime achievements were not as great as his whiskers.

A U.S. attacking force consisted of a flotilla of gunboats of the Union navy, drawn from the **North Atlantic Blockading Squadron** commanded by **Flag Officer Louis M. Goldborough**. It included a separate group of gunboats under army control, and an army division led by **Brig. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside**. The defenders had a group of gunboats from the Confederate navy, termed **The Mosquito Fleet**, under **Capt. William F. Lynch** and about 2,000 Confederate soldiers lead by Brig. Gen. **Henry A. Wise**.



The defence of Roanoke Island was augmented by four forts facing on the water approaches to the island, and two outlying batteries. At the time of the battle, Wise was hospitalized, so leadership fell to his second in command, Col. Henry M. Shaw.

During the first day of the battle, the Federal gunboats and the forts on shore engaged in a gun battle, with occasional contributions from the Mosquito Fleet. Late in the day, Burnside's soldiers went ashore unopposed; they were accompanied by six howitzers manned by sailors. As it was too late to fight, the invaders went into camp for the night.

On the second day, 8 February, the Union soldiers advanced but were stopped by an artillery battery and accompanying infantry in the centre of the island. Confederates thought their line was safely anchored on impenetrable swamps but they were flanked on both sides and their soldiers driven back to refuge in the forts.

With no way for his men to escape, **Col. Shaw** surrendered to avoid pointless bloodshed. Union forces occupied the island for the remainder of the war and classified slaves living there as '**contraband**.' When more slaves came to the island from the mainland, the army developed a **contraband** camp into what was called the **Freedmen's Colony of Roanoke Island**. It was a significant experiment set up to become self-sustaining. Would that something similar could have been done for freed slaves or displaced African Americans after the war. By 1864, more than 2200 freed men lived there, even though 150 had joined **United States Coloured Troops** from North Carolina. The **American Missionary Association** saw some new converts amongst them and recruited teachers from the North to help educate Roanoke free slaves in reading and writing, something both children and adults were eager to learn.

As a visitor to the South, from Australia, I took particular note of the way coloured folk were reacting to society or were treated within the societies of Texas and Mississippi. I am happy to say that they are totally integrated in Texas, as much as my homeland of New Zealand with the Maori people and while Vicksburg suffers from a deluge of people since the floods of the terrible Katrina cyclone that forced evacuation of New Orleans, there are many who have settled in well and make a positive contribute to the community. However there are many who have not and crime is rampant. As for the attitude of some white folk, it is not all good either; prejudiced by their own ignorance, they see only the bad in the community and racism is still strong amongst some. However I was delighted to see the other side where white and black lived and socialised together in harmony. The good coloured people of Vicksburg are truly delightful and it wouldn't

be such an exhilarating experience without them. So while integration has still a long road ahead of it, integration is still on the right road. As for reconstruction...no it is a road to nowhere, didn't work then and is still not reconstructing now, almost 150 years later.

AMERICAN AUTHOR: MIKE PRIEST

ACWRTQ GUEST SPEAKER MONDAY 26 MARCH 7 P.M.

John 'Michael' Priest lives in Clear Spring, Maryland. Completing undergraduate work at *Loyola College* and post-graduate work at both the *Hood* and *Western Maryland Colleges*. Mike has been studying the Civil War since grade school, when his parents took him and his brother to *Gettysburg* every weekend. A specialist in small unit tactics, referred to by the famed historian *Ed Bearss* as, "*The Ernie Pyle of the Civil War soldier*," Mike Priest has authored or edited some 12 books on the Civil War, amongst them... (*Click the photo to follow a link to Wordpress.com*)

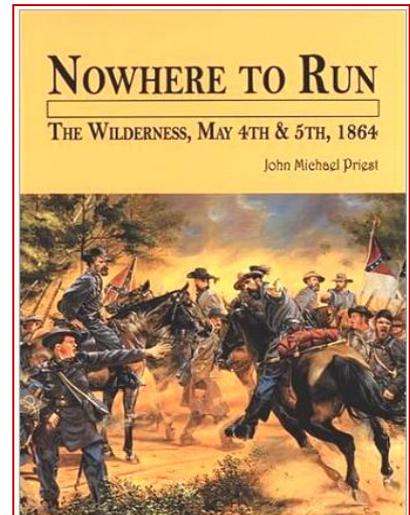
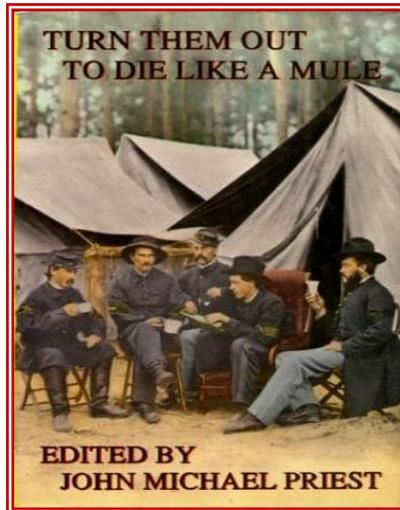
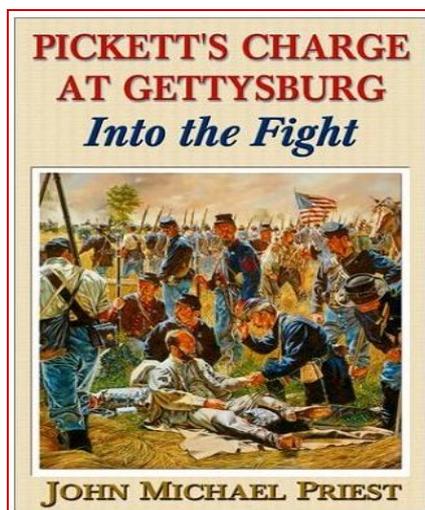
- "Before Antietam: The Battle of South Mountain"
- "Antietam: The Soldier's Battle"
- A two volume set on the Battle of the Wilderness: "Nowhere to Run" and "Victory Without Triumph"
- "Into the Fight: Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg" (*He can also be seen on the Discovery Channel with Unsolved History: Pickett's Charge, that is based in part on his book*).
- Soon to be released: "Stand to It and Give Them Hell,: The Second Day at Gettysburg from Cemetery Ridge to Little Round Top"



A retired school teacher, Mike loves hiking *Antietam* and *South Mountain*. His favourite sites on the *Antietam Battlefield* include *Fox's Gap* at *South Mountain* and the walking trails for the *Bloody Lane*, *West Woods* and *The Final Attack Trail* at *Burnside Bridge*. Apart from his extensive writing and research, Mike Priest also conducts regular battlefield tours. His presentation will be *Pickett's Charge*, looking at tactics, myths and a Power Point presentation on what happened during the charge.

It's a very rare opportunity for *ACWRTQ* to welcome such a leading figure in the world of *Civil War* studies. *John Mike Priest* is an accomplished speaker who injects his own special enthusiasm into a subject. The date is **Monday 26 March 2012 at 7PM**. Located at *The Queensland Rifle Association* clubrooms, situated at *Belmont*, an august setting and ideal venue for this important event that has been widely advertised amongst *Living History Associations* and shooter clubs, so we expect a good turn out and *ACWRTQ* members should all be there to 'fly our colours.'

The large, well appointed clubrooms, are situated in extensive grounds, heavily wooded with excellent facilities, enabling pre-talk food and bar facilities. Plenty of time has been scheduled to allow for 'Question Time' and a chance to meet Mike Priest. **The event has a start time of 7PM but we must close by 11 PM**. It is hoped that Mike will supply two signed copies of his most recent books, to be put up as raffle prizes. Below are examples of his work.

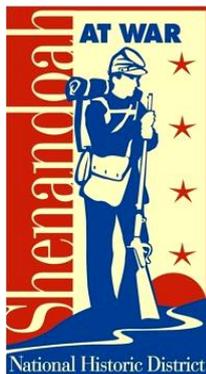


That's **Monday 26 March**, when the *ACWRTQ* hosts the presentation by *John 'Mike' Priest*. The Queensland Rifle Association, in Belmont. It's only the second time that we have been able to obtain an overseas guest speaker, so don't miss your opportunity to meet one of America's most respected writers, historians and Civil War authorities, *Mike Priest*.

In Memoriam



Members will be saddened to learn of the death of Sylvia Mary Smith on 6 January. The wife of our esteemed member Aidan, Sylvia brightened up our Christmas party with her happy disposition and refusal to be cowed by her illness. Even more, Sylvia demonstrated her courage and determination to contribute to a happy occasion and with such grace, that we are now awed by it. Aidan, all the members join me in sympathy, both for your loss and may I say ours. The funeral for Sylvia was held at the Albany Creek Crematorium's Lakeview Chapel on 13 January from 1.15 PM. Representatives within the American Civil War Round Table Queensland, family and friends attended a celebration of Sylvia's life. We all offer our deepest condolences to Aidan and pledge our support to him during, what is a terribly sad beginning to this New Year. ACWRTQ President John Duncan.



Editor: Annual ACWRTQ Membership fees are due. Please ensure you pay your \$20.00 now or at the next meeting. We need funding to keep our organisation afloat and to undertake the various important functions in the community. By paying your fee you ensure a place in the ranks of a truly worthwhile and dedicated organisation. You will be placed on the mailing list by our treasurer and receive the two monthly newsletter "The Bugle." You will also be able to attend our many meetings and functions.

Annual membership fee: \$20 for individuals, \$30 for a family. In the case of family membership, names of all family members covered by membership must be registered with A.C.W.R.T.Q..

There are 3 ways to pay:-

1) **To the Treasurer** at any monthly ACWRTQ meeting. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the first meeting on 19 January.

2) **Send a cheque/money order** made out to the ACWRTQ post it to this address:
7 Station Avenue, Northgate, 4013.

3) **Pay into the club's Bank Of Queensland** account, either by direct debit banking on-line or be visiting one of their branches. There are numerous BOQ branches across Brisbane and the Gold Coast plus two branches in Bundaberg and one in Kingaroy (closest branch to Blackbutt). For security reasons the club's bank account number and the BSB number for the BOQ cannot be recorded in this newsletter. This information can only be given out by the treasurer to existing members seeking to renew membership.

Jack Ford (Treasurer)

Editor:

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