The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2023 2nd Edition

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Whittington 2023
"The Union Guns"
Courtesy of WARTOG

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Hey y'all,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and recovered from our preparation weekend at Whittington and all had a lovely Easter.

Many Thanks to the "Easter Bunny" and his minder who made an appearance at Whittington and handed out lots of lovely treats to everyone and Thank you to Chaplain Martin Cross for the lovely service on the Sunday morning.

Over the winter, one of the cannon has been away for repair and was back firing in full working order. I would like to thank Battery B and Ben St John (Driver) who took the gun for repair and those who repaired it, repainted it as it is now looking amazing.

The photography competition is now up and running this year for the "John Rushworth" Trophy, any member can enter a photograph as long as it is from the 2023 season!

We have a busy season ahead with events spread all over which is amazing to see.

Catherine and Joe are both doing a sterling job in their new roles and we are in a fortunate position to be able to start thinking about 2024! Any ideas? Give Catherine a shout. Anything for the newsletter? Give Joe a message.

I think…. we may also have a minutes secretary as one of our members has kindly come forward too!

I hope those that attended Avoncroft along with SoSkAn and the 24th Virginia had a good catch up, a lovely time and also bagged themselves some goodies off the market.

See y'all soon, take care,

Linda

(Company Secretary)

Hi All,

It was great to see everyone at the training event at Whittington Castle. We were very lucky with the weather in the end, and thank you so much for everyone's patience moving cars, motor homes and caravans around every day due to parking/hard-standing space. It was very much appreciated.

I am now finalising details for future events and will keep everyone updated when I know more.

PLEASE, PLEASE READ THE WARNING ORDERS – SPECIFICALLY IN RELATION TO ARRIVAL TIMES.

These are specified by the client, so please ensure you do not arrive early.

The Hull Event has been confirmed at East Park on June 3rd/4th – Living History, Infantry, Artillery and Pyrotechnics. I am still awaiting news on Huddersfield for 22nd/23rd July. It has now been confirmed, however I am awaiting further details from the Organisers.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming events over the next few weeks.

Best Wishes,

Catherine

(Events Director)

WELL DONE GUYS
100% ATTENDANCE

Photographs courtesy of WARTOG and various members

ACWS Training Event at Whittington Castle

The ACWS travelled to Whittington Castle in Oswestry, Shropshire on 1st and 2nd April 2023 for both a training event as well as the first official ACWS event in 2023. As forecast, the weather was rainy on arrival but got better throughout the weekend. On the Friday, quite a few cars were unable to get into the top car park due to the mud but by Sunday afternoon everything had dried out and we were able to get away. There was a commendable ACWS turnout but a few more were expected from both sides but it was pleasing to see some new recruits attending and hopefully they will have enjoyed their Civil War experience and come back regularly for more particularly with the excellent array of events lined up for this year.

Whittington Castle is an excellent venue for an ACWS training event as it has both picturesque and magnificent ruins and is steeped in history with tales of bitter border warfare, romance and legend. Both the castle itself and the nearby and very welcoming public houses, both the White Lion and the Ye Olde Boot Inn are both reputed to be haunted and subject to regular spiritual occurrences which has attracted a lot of paranormal interest as well as regular ghost tours. Whittington Castle itself has 12 acres of ground and was initially a Norman home and then a 12th century castle. Significantly, the small rural community in North Shropshire, England acquired a 99 year lease to maintain the castle that sits in the centre of its village and as such it was the first of its kind to be managed in such a way. In 2007, this local trust re-opened the castle to visitors after a restoration with the assistance of a £950k grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. As such, the castle itself remains self funding and relies totally on the support of the public. There is also a lovely tearoom which ensured everything and everyone was catered for with all the re-enactors getting discount prices which was appreciated.

As usual, all the voluntary staff at the castle were particularly helpful and appreciative and the castle grounds themselves were immaculate. Like last time, there was ample space for camping with the Union camping at the entrance to welcome the public on arrival and the Confederates camping in the lower fields within very close proximity to the nearby hostelries. This made for excellent living history demonstrations which were well spread out and allowed the public particularly on the Sunday to mix and talk with everyone.

The first ACWS training event always provides an invaluable opportunity for everyone to prepare for the season ahead particularly after the long holiday absence and get all their licences, safety drills and equipment (particularly firearms) checked, approved and logged on to the ACWS books as well as complete all the necessary ACWS Health and Safety firing requirements. It was mentioned that there is a shortage of percussion caps with the cost having also recently rocketed so please get some wherever if you can until supplies start coming back into the UK. The training event is also an invaluable opportunity to make the new recruits who came welcome and settle into the required military routine. Both the Confederate and Union Infantry did various regimental drills and firing displays throughout the weekend which included firing displays for the public and the Union Artillery did an absolutely cracking job on getting their 4 artillery pieces with 1 artillery piece now recently fully restored ready for the coming season which was so important after their long absence in storage. This piece fired over the weekend which was enjoyed by all. They also regularly practised their artillery drill although not actually firing which the public thoroughly enjoyed.

Always many thanks must go to Christian Sprakes for commentating to the public on all these displays and enhancing their knowledge and enjoyment. The public on both days were there in numbers and as usual they were clearly very knowledgeable of the Civil War. To the credit of the ACWS, both the Union and Confederate living history displays were very well received by the public and the interaction on both camps is to be really commended and this was echoed by the actual event organisers themselves.

Due to the inclement weather on the Friday, the popular Wainwright Gold real ale in the White Lion was totally consumed in short order by all the Civil War re-enactors which led to the re-enactors of both armies moving nearby to the Ye Olde Boot Inn which had a far bigger range and amount of some specially sourced real ales for the rest of the weekend. Landlords of both pubs were totally happy with Civil War re-enactors. Despite the initial poor weather, both armies had campfires going with everyone clearly happy to be back on camp and meeting old friends but sadly music was limited due to rain and musical instruments not mixing well.

With this being the first event of the season, other issues had to be addressed. On the Saturday, the ACWS held a full Colours/Society Meeting with everyone present and highlighting the superb events lined up for this season with special thanks to Catherine Conyard for all her hard work on our behalf in getting these as well as introducing all the members of the Board. Emphasis was placed on everyone reading and complying with the Warning Orders issued before every event. There was also a formal presentation for all those members with 100% record for last season.

On the Saturday night, there was a large blanket sale which proved fruitful for all the new re-enactors who picked up loads of clothing at excellent prices as well as loads of amounts of Civil War books available for a small donation.

On the Sunday, there was a very emotional and moving Church Service to honour and remember all our close fellow ACWS re-enactors who are sadly not with us anymore. Both the Union and Confederate flags flew at half mast as a mark of respect. Massive credit to Union Major Tim Davies and fellow Union officer, Daz Paul who recited a moving poem as well as Martin Cross who delivered the service and prayers with everyone attending. I will not mention individual names but everyone will agree it was particularly hard as a regiment for the 1st Tennessee who have lost 3 very special friends and ACWS stalwarts. All those lost were all dear friends to us all and they will always be so fondly remembered. The 2023 ACWS Events calendar is now completely full so please support and encourage others to attend as its gearing up to be a cracking memorable season.

Article by Sgt Stewart “Goober” Douglas, 43rd North Carolina

In Loving Memory of our Dear Comrade

Once more the dear old flag is draped,
Once more the call has come,
Another dear comrade has passed away,
Oh, God, Thy will be done.

————————O————————-

He has passed beyond the picket lines,
Where the Captain ne'er says retreat,
Where pain and sorrow are all forgot,
In one long peaceful sleep.

————————O————————-

Sleep on you grand old boy in blue,
Your battles are o'er;
No booming guns or sinking ships
Will disturb you ever more.

Sleep on in heavenly peace, sleep on,
Old Comrade loved by all;
You have pass'd the guard and won the crown,
You have answered your last call.

————————O————————-

Now Comrade dear our call is clear,
Our day is near at hand,
Oh, don't delay, get ready I pray,
And we'll meet in the Heavenly land.

————————O————————-

Poem read by Maj. T. Davies & Cpt. D. Paul

Confederate Secret Service Coal Torpedoes

Whenever discussing the Confederate Secret Service or any of the iconic military inventions made, it is always important to discuss the historical background and context within which the Confederate Secret Service came into actual being and the reasons why certain military innovations were deemed necessary and expedient. This is particularly important with regards the Confederate coal torpedo which may have had a far greater and more important impact during the Civil War that many historians realise.

With the start of the American Civil War on April 21, 1861, the Confederate States of America quickly established its own military forces, governing bodies, and laws. This was to demonstrate it was a legitimate political entity and would abide by the "civilised rules of warfare." In May 1861, the Confederacy therefore approved issuing letters of marque thereby legitimising piracy against Union shipping and in April 1862, Confederate Major General Sterling Price assigned "destructionists" to sabotage Federal river boats and property in the Civil War's western theatre.

On April 21, 1862, the Confederate Congress further called for the invention of

"any new machine or engine, or any new method for destroying the armed vessels of the enemy"

promising that the inventor would receive half the value of any vessel destroyed. With the Union ironclad USS Monitor valued at $250,000, it was clear that anyone able to do so stood to become extremely wealthy.

Spurred on by this additional lucrative incentive, Thomas Edgeworth Courtenay, who had emigrated from Belfast, Ireland, to Baltimore, Maryland, in 1842 first conceived that an explosive could be disguised as coal. Serving on Confederate General Price's staff in 1863, Captain Thomas Courtenay might have been inspired by accounts of Union steamboats destroyed by explosives hidden in firewood early on in the Civil War.

In early November 1863, Courtenay arrived in Richmond, Virginia, to pitch his idea of a "coal torpedo" to high ranking Confederate officials. The term torpedo itself was used to indicate a wide range of explosive devices including what are now called land mines, naval mines, improvised explosive devices, and booby traps. Northern newspapers later referred to Courtenay's coal bombs as torpedoes, or sometimes "infernal machines".

Thomas Courtenay himself called it his "coal shell". Confederate President Jefferson Davis himself was favourably impressed and the Confederate Secretary of War, James A. Seddon, though more sceptical, formally approved the constructing and testing of Courtenay's explosive on December 4, 1863.

One month later, Thomas Courtenay wrote a friend:

"The castings have all been completed.. .and the coal is so perfect that the most critical eye could not detect it. The President thinks them perfect, but Mr. Seddon will do nothing without Congressional action."

As a subsequent account in the Times (London) detailed, the torpedoes themselves were manufactured at the 7th Avenue Artillery shop (across the street from Tredegar Iron Works) in Richmond, Virginia, in January 1864.

Initially, the castings were three-eighths inch thick with a reinforced threaded hole to accommodate a fuse or plug, creating a hollow space inside sufficient to hold 3 or 4 ounces of gunpowder.

Patterns were fashioned from random pieces of coal and sized so that they would not require trimming by a fireman before shovelling into the furnace. After the shell body was filled with powder and plugged, it was dipped into a boiling mixture of coal tar, resin or beeswax, leaving a final product resembling a lump of coal in weight, smell and general appearance.

The actual manufacturing process was very similar to that used for artillery shells, except that actual pieces of coal were used as patterns for iron castings. Finished coal torpedoes were about 4 inches (10cm) on a side and weighed 3 to 4lb (1.5 to 2kg). The size and powder charge of the coal torpedo was similar to a 6-pound shrapnel shell (a hollow, four-inch cannonball containing gunpowder and 24 musket balls as shrapnel) or the equivalent of three Civil War-era hand grenades.

The coal torpedo was primarily intended for doing harm to Union steam transportation. When it was shovelled into the firebox amongst the coal, the resulting explosion would at the very least damage the pressurised steam boiler and render the engines inoperable. At worst, a catastrophic boiler explosion would kill crewmen and passengers, start a fire or even sink the vessel.

Boiler explosions were not uncommon in the early years of steam transportation and often resulted in the complete destruction of the vessel by fire. In action, the coal torpedo would leave little evidence that a boiler explosion was due to sabotage.

Final hurdles to the coal torpedo's field use were crossed when testing was completed by January 20, 1864, at City Point, east of Richmond, and formal legal approval came soon after on 17 February 1864. Final operational questions were resolved in late February 1864 when Confederate President Jefferson Davis appropriated $5 million for Confederate Secret Service activities, similarly authorising Courtenay to construct several coal torpedoes as well as recruit a company of 25 men to deploy them against Union military targets by infiltrating enemy lines and placing coal torpedoes in the coal piles used to fuel Union steam ships.

It was especially intended to be used against ships of the Union blockade although Courtenay was authorised to act against any other Union military or commercial shipping found in Confederate waters. Although the Union blockade and other forms of military shipping were Courtenay's primary targets, he also had plans to use the coal torpedo to attack steam locomotives, although no confirmed attacks are known to have been made.

Although Courtenay quickly recruited a team familiar with ships and ports to deploy his coal bombs, by February 9, 1864, the Union acquired intelligence of the devices' existence. When a refugee who had worked on Courtenay's devices, Joseph Leuty, was picked up by the crew of the USS Jacob Bell, he readily declared to the Union authorities:

"I am an Englishman by birth, a moulder by trade; have lived in the South for the last four years; for the last eight months I have been working in the artillery shop of Seventh Street, Richmond, where they are now making a shell which looks exactly like a piece of coal, pieces of which were taken from a coal pile as patterns to imitate. I have made these shells myself. I believe they have power enough to burst any boiler. After they were thrown in a coal pile, I could not tell the difference between them and coal myself"

Corroboration of the device came in mid-March 1864 when the gunboat USS Signal captured Confederate mail from a rebel courier crossing the Mississippi bearing Courtenay's letter describing the coal torpedo bombs in detail. These twin intelligence finds prompted Rear Admiral David Porter to advise Washington on 20 March 1864 of the explosive coal and other "devilish devices" and issued his General Order 184, which began:

"The enemy have adopted new inventions to destroy human life and vessels in the shape of torpedoes, and an article resembling coal, which is to be placed in our coal piles for the purpose of blowing the vessels up, or injuring them. Officers will have to be careful in overlooking coal barges. Guards will be placed over them at all times, and anyone found attempting to place any of these things amongst the coal will be shot on the spot."

As such, this Order regarding the Confederate coal torpedo had an immediate impact as it tied up significant amounts of Union manpower to now guard previously ignored coal stocks. However, there then followed a number of significant boiler explosions on Union shipping which may well have indicated that the coal torpedo was a more formidable weapon and was being actively used in military combat.

The coal torpedo`s first operational use might have occurred on April 15, 1864, when the gunboat USS Chenango's boiler burst during her maiden voyage in New York City, killing 33 sailors, scalding several more, and forcing the vessel out of action.

The USS Chenango was a 974-ton and fully armed Union warship and following the blast, the ship was out of action for nearly a year. Although the incident was later blamed on a faulty boiler, Thomas Courtenay himself nonetheless wrote on May 21, 1864, that:

"My work is beginning to tell on the Yankees - a short time since the Chenango U.S. gunboat was blown up at Brooklyn by one of my coal torpedoes..."

Then there was "The Greyhound", a paddle-wheel steamer that exploded while travelling the James River on November 27, 1864. The luxury riverboat was serving as the headquarters for despised Union General Benjamin "Spoons" Butler at the time. Earlier that same day, Union guards had arrested six suspicious civilians from the boat's saloon and put them ashore. Hours later, The Greyhound was rocked by a massive boiler explosion and had to be abandoned by all on board.

Yet another attack might well have occurred on December 11, 1864, when the steamboat Maria suddenly exploded while docked on the Mississippi River at Carondelet, Missouri, lying very near a Union ironclad shipyard. Like Union General Benjamin Butler's ship, the Maria's furnace suddenly exploded after coaling with burning lumps spread across the whole deck.

Finally, two years after the Civil War, a rebel agent named Robert Louden confessed that a boiler explosion aboard the riverboat SS Sultana on April 27, 1865 was the result of a coal torpedo that he himself had put aboard. The blast and subsequent fire, which took place on the Mississippi River near Marion, Arkansas several days after the South's surrender, claimed the lives of more than 1,700 passengers.

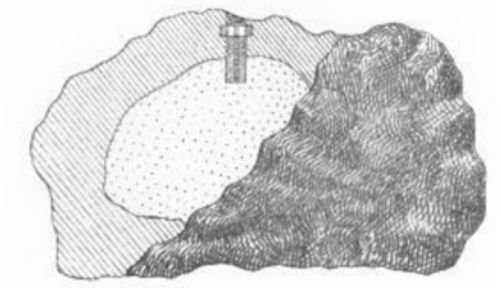
Many of those that perished were Union troops that had been only recently freed from rebel POW camps. It has been called the worst maritime disaster in American history. Investigators refuted Louden's claim, maintaining that the blast was the result of excessive steam build up brought on by overcrowding of the ship.

While Courtenay stepped up operations in Virginia, several coal torpedoes were shipped to Toronto, Canada, where Confederate Commissioner Jacob Thompson was running sabotage and other operations harassing the Union war effort in mid- 1864. Along with hatching plots to burn New York City, raid into Vermont and free Confederate prisoners on Ohio's Johnson Island, Thompson directed the sabotage of Massachusetts' Springfield Arsenal, the North's main small arms manufacturer.

On December 1, 1864, a watchman discovered a piece of coal on a stairway landing between floors. It proved to be a coal torpedo and a sheet of paper was found connecting it to Canada. Other such attacks were probably planned because on April 7, 1865, Canadian police searching the Montreal home of suspected Confederate agents found several boxes containing explosive coal torpedoes as well as other sabotage devices under the floorboards.

In April 1865 as the Civil War came to an end, most of the official papers of the Confederate Secret Service were burned by Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin just before the Confederate Government evacuate Richmond, making it impossible to determine with any certainty how many ships were actually destroyed or damaged by Courtenay's coal torpedo shell. At the end of the Civil War, when Union troops entered Confederate President Jefferson Davis' office after Richmond's fall in April 1865, they found an inert coal torpedo on his personal writing desk.

Although with the Civil War over, the legacy of explosive coal torpedoes role might have seemed to close, it did in fact take on a new form.



Following the Civil War, Courtenay who had already travelled previously to England in 1864 returned and remained there until 1867, trying to sell the "secret" of the coal torpedo to foreign governments. He formally approached the British War Office but they turned him down after he would not agree to allow them to examine his invention before purchasing it. When Courtenay returned to the United States, one or more business partners to whom he had entrusted the secret remained in England.

The Times in 1873 reported rumours that disreputable ship owners were purchasing coal torpedoes to put in their own ships as a form of insurance fraud, so that over-insured ships and cargo would sink while far out at sea, leaving no evidence.

Other reports scoffed at the rumours, suggesting they were false stories planted by supporters of Samuel Plimsoll, a Member of Parliament who was trying to pass a bill reforming the shipping industry. Nothing was ever proven, but the reports stirred up massive popular interest in various supposed methods of sabotaging ships and the coal torpedo even made an appearance in the short story, "That Little Square Box", by Arthur Conan Doyle, published in the collection The Captain of the Polestar and Other Tales in 1890.

What is fascinating is that various forms of exploding coal, whether directly descended from Courtenay's original idea or independently developed, have surfaced multiple times throughout history. Here are a few examples : The Fenian Brotherhood, an Irish nationalist organisation operating in the United States in the late 1860s–1870s, reportedly considered placing coal torpedoes in the furnaces of New York City hotels as well as English transatlantic steamships.

They were a strong suspect in the destruction of the warship HMS Doterel at Punta Arenas in 1881.

Both the American OSS and the British SOE also used forms of exploding coal in World War II. The German commandos who came ashore on Long Island in 1942 as part of Operation Pastorius carried plastic explosives disguised as coal for use against coal-fired electric generating plants. Such a German coal torpedo was given to the British double agent Eddie Chapman (also known as "Agent Zig-Zag") to sabotage the merchant ship City of Lancaster but he passed it on to his MI5 handler instead.

Amazing Iconic Gettysburg Shell, Destroyed!

On Wednesday 8 February 2023, a rare and iconic unexploded ordnance shell was found at Little Round Top, Gettysburg. Sadly, the 55th Ordnance Disposal Company EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) team from Fort Belvoir Virginia (U.S. Army) quickly removed the shell before it was totally destroyed off-site.

However, the Ordinance Disposal team did gently wash off the mud to allow Battlefield Rangers Park staff to briefly photograph the iconic shell before they left with the shell so that all the closed roads on the battlefield site could be re-opened.

Steven Brann was out on Wednesday 8 February 2023 on the Gettysburg battlefield in Pennsylvania, sweeping the ground with a metal detector ahead of crews that are rehabilitating a famous part of the Civil War park over an 18 month period. Steven Brann usually comes across small amount of military items such as minié balls or percussion caps from firearms. However, this time, the contract archaeologist got a far more powerful reading from his metal detector. Using a more precise pinpoint detector and shovel, Steven Brann gingerly worked down from the surface digging an inch at a time before he hit rocks which he prised out one at a time. He started becoming frustrated because he still kept getting a positive reading but was not finding anything. He subsequently dug down to 20 inches which was relatively deep when he first spotted one end of a shell and thought it was just another shell fragment. But he gradually realised it was an entire shell and carefully dug it out and laid it next to the hole before quickly vacating the scene.

He had just turned up an entire unexploded round, covered in mud and looking as ominous as the day it was fired on those sanguinary days in July 1863. While research has just started, Gettysburg Battlefield Rangers clearly believe that this one was fired, rather than dropped or left behind. As such, it is possible it spun into the soft ground covered up by nearly two feet of soil and remained undisturbed since the battle itself in 1863.

According to reports, **"He laid it gently on the ground, took a picture of it and ran for the hills,"** said Jason Martz, spokesman for Gettysburg National Military Park. Jason Martz spoke with Steven Brann about his iconic "rare find" of an intact shell near Little Round Top, a hill that was the site of fierce fighting during the three-day battle in July 1863. Presently, this is currently the site of a current overhaul that has closed the landmark to battlefield visitors.

Historically, very little ordinance has been found at Gettysburg since 1980 although 1 was discovered in 1998 near the current Gettysburg Visitor Centre. As a result of the find, the Battlefield Park Rangers quickly closed off all the roads and called in explosive ordnance experts from the Army's Fort Belvoir, a two-and-a-half-hour drive away in Northern Virginia. The Team subsequently carried the 10-pound bullet shaped shell away, dug a hole, placed C-4 explosives and blew the rare and iconic artefact up, said Martz. **"Safety protocols call for us to assume it is live,"** he said.

However, many Civil War historians, archaeologists, re-enactors and those following the popular Gettysburg Facebook page firmly believe that this particularly rare Confederate artillery round, about 7 inches long, could and should have been saved for preservation and then displayed with its story for countless future generations to view at the battlefield site itself. "Ironic that a national military park who wants to preserve the battlefield, would destroy a relic from that very battle. This could have easily been displayed at the park," wrote one.

However, it would seem that the wholesale destruction of military munitions is standard protocol for most Government agencies. Rendering them safe for display is clearly not a priority. Decisions are "1,000 percent based on safety," Martz said in a phone call. And, the spokesman said, the park already has examples of similar artillery rounds in its collection. However, it is blatantly obvious that there was so much more to learn about this rare military artefact, for example, where was it fired from and by whom. Thus far, Gettysburg Park Rangers tentatively believe a Confederate cannon fired it toward Federal positions but mistakenly dropped shells on friendly Confederate Texas regiments. trying to navigate the difficult terrain.

"It is fascinating to me we can still find items like this in the battlefield," retired Gettysburg Park historian John Heiser told CNN. **"Nothing surprises me out there. I am sure there is still ordnance buried all over the battlefield."**

Why is this iconic shell particularly important?.

The assumption, and it is only an assumption, is that this iconic shell was fired by the Confederates on July 2, 1863, the second day of the battle, as the opposing Union and Confederate forces fought over an area between Little Round Top and a pile of huge boulders called Devil's Den. The fighting in this area was especially bitter with bloody charges and counter charges as the Union forces struggled to hold their lines against repeated Confederate assaults.

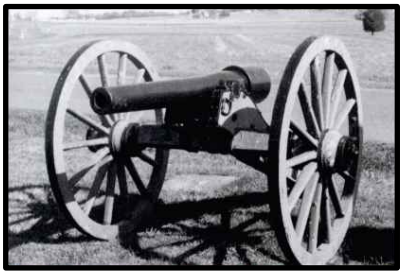
Gettysburg Park Rangers now believe the shell, either a Dyer or Burton round, came from a Confederate Parrott gun or 3-inch ordnance rifle and it could have been either solid or it could have contained an explosive charge. They said Federal cannon batteries in the area could not have fired the round. They were firing on other Confederate positions. Instead, it likely came from ridges or other positions to the west held by Confederates. "It either overshot Devil's Den or undershot Little Round Top," said Martz, landing about 50 yards or so from Plum Run, a stream that runs through the battlefield. Confederate soldiers of the hard hitting 4th and 5th Texas regiments who were attacking were in the close vicinity.

"Our artillery on the hill to our rear was cutting its fuse too short. Their shells were bursting behind us, in the treetops, over our heads, and all around us,"

One Confederate soldier wrote after the war.

"Nothing demoralises troops quicker than to be fired into by their friends. I saw it occur twice during the war. The first time we ran, but at Gettysburg we couldn't. This mistake was soon corrected and the shells burst high on the mountain or went over it."

Martz said the round was either solid or a case shot. The initial photographs indicate a fuse, meaning it was explosive and needed to be handled carefully after it was found. Despite the destruction of the artefact, Gettysburg Park Rangers hope it can still contribute toward visitor education.



"We ourselves would like to know as much as we can, so we can tell this story when we are doing ranger programs," said Martz. "It is possible that Confederate artillery fired upon Confederate infantry."

However, now that nothing whatsoever now remains of the shell, no one can tell whether it was live or not and there is now no indication of where, how, what and when it was made and fired and got to the point where it landed.

Other artefacts collected by archaeologists as part of the current Little Round Top rehabilitation project are being catalogued, placed in plastic bags and then in park storage. Some may one day be put on display at the Gettysburg museum or in a virtual presentation, officials said. Chris Gwinn, chief of interpretation at the Gettysburg battle site park, said in an email that the shell will provide validation to accounts of the battle.

"More importantly, what it does do, and I think why the public is so fascinated by it, is that it reminds us that it was all real," Gwinn said. "The battle really happened and beneath the veneer of this beautiful national park are the tangible reminders of its ferocity and tragedy". This iconic and rare intact Confederate Parrott shell was an incredibly rare find at such a historic location and it is such a pity that it has been totally destroyed and no efforts were made whatsoever to disarm and preserve it for display for future generations. I very recently wrote an article on another iconic intact artillery shell found at Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia being purposely destroyed during the construction of a Civil War walking trial which was also heavily criticised by many.

Only 5 artillery shells have ever been found at Gettysburg since 1980 which emphasises how important this find was.

The Battle of Gettysburg occurred from July 1st-3rd in 1863 and was the deadliest battle in the American Civil War. Union soldiers defeated the Confederate army during that battle, halting the Confederacy's attempted Northward invasion. The battle is often described as the turning point in the Civil War that boosted the Union to eventual victory.

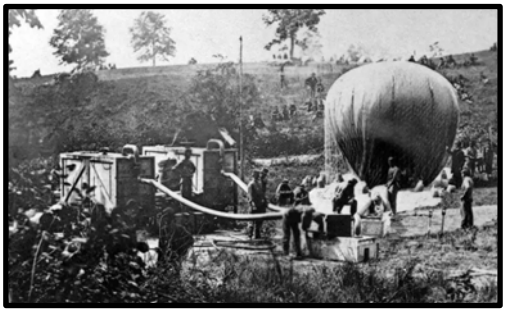
"Civil War artefacts are a nonrenewable resource. Once they're destroyed, they're gone forever"

Articles on Pages 7 - 12 & 15 - 17 by Sgt Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd North Carolina Volunteers, ACWS

Is it a bird?... Is it a plane?... It's a balloon!

While talking with a colleague about the Chinese spy balloon that recently glided across the United States, he shared a story about a letter a Georgia soldier wrote after he and his comrades watched a Yankee hot-air balloon float above their camp in Virginia during the Civil War. The curiosity and fascination those soldiers experienced undoubtedly matched the reactions of modern spectators.

It was April 14, 1863, and the soldier, a young Georgia private, happened to be writing his mother from Camp Gregg, located about eight miles below Fredericksburg. His unit, the 14th Georgia Infantry, was part of Brig. Gen. Edward L. Thomas' Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia. While describing to his mother the devastation taking place in the Old Dominion, he stopped writing, suddenly distracted. Upon resuming his letter, the private explained he had been called away because of a balloon in the sky. Though the sighting was brief, it was an exhilarating experience.



"I have just been called off from writing to look at A balloon which was sent up by the Yankee's," he wrote. "I suppose it was 7 miles off or maybe more. I looked at it with a fine Spy glass [belonging to his colonel]. I suppose he is up to see the positions of our army."

The Georgians were too far away to fire at it, but that reportedly wasn't a concern for their brothers in arms.

Although most Georgians likely were unfamiliar with balloon technology, it was not uncharted territory for residents of Savannah, where a professor named Charles Cevor roamed the port city's skies in one on a regular basis. Cevor would advertise his grand balloon ascensions in the The Savannah Republican before the war started. An intrigued public showed up in droves.

At the outset of the war, Cevor offered his services and his "Forest City" balloon to the Confederacy. The gesture was initially declined, but in April 1862, Brig. Gen. Thomas Drayton inquired through an intermediary, Captain Langdon Cheves, about having Cevor construct a balloon for him to assist Gen. Robert E. Lee in the defence of Richmond. Drayton also asked that Cevor provide the gas and other equipment involved in launching a balloon.

Col. Edward Porter Alexander was selected to lead the aeronautics corps of the Southern states, and Cheves and Cevor were placed under his command. That June, Cevor reported to Cheves that he and Alexander had been aloft all day, observing the positions of the Union troops during the Battle of Gaines Mill.

The duo was able to see almost everything and was in easy signal distance to apprise Lee of enemy movement. Travelling with a balloon on the ground was an arduous task. For the next few days, the balloon would have to be refilled at the Richmond Gas Works, then placed on a train and transported to the Army of Northern Virginia's outer defences. Later, the CSS Teaser would haul the balloon to a desired location.

Eventually, Cevor was promoted from civilian professor to Confederate captain, the first person on either side appointed a military aviator. Cevor was inducted along with Alexander to the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame in 1986, in recognition of his contribution to balloon warfare.

Our experience with the Chinese spy balloon's recent visit has similarities to those of the Civil War. Both were flying unwelcome above "enemy" land. Both were shot at by their adversaries.

History does indeed repeat itself!

Courtesy of Christopher K. Howland, Editor, America`s Civil War Magazine

Mountain Memorials: The Shelton Graves on the Appalachian Trail

To a hiker on the Appalachian Trail, the cluster of headstones on Big Butt Mountain are a scene out of place to the famous footpath. Known as the “Shelton Graves”, this site along the Tennessee – North Carolina border marks the final resting place of three Civil War Unionists: David Shelton Jr., William Shelton, and Millard Haire. All three were killed in July 1864 in the bitter fighting that swept through the region.

Thousands of people hike past this spot every year, but few visitors gain a true understanding of the tragic incident that occurred there. In its guidebook, Appalachian Trail: The Thru-Hiker Companion, the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association (ALDHA) describes the incident by saying “While returning to a family gathering during the war, the uncle [David Shelton] and nephew [William Shelton] were ambushed near here and killed by Confederates.” The story of what happened there is far more complex than that simple statement.

The Shelton killings are referenced in multiple other trail guides and resources, but the most detailed account is Maynard Scott Shelton’s book, A Family’s Civil War Struggles: Stories of My Ancestors of Shelton Laurel, North Carolina. Maynard Shelton (a descendant of David Shelton Jr.) relates that David and William were both Union soldiers from the mountain community of Shelton Laurel in Madison County, North Carolina. Both men enlisted in the 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry (U.S.) in September 1863 but deserted from their unit and returned home within a few months.

Early in the morning on July 19, 1864, a force of Confederates from the 64th North Carolina Infantry ambushed the Sheltons, Haire, and eleven others while they resided in a cabin on Big Butt Mountain. Millard Haire, a 13-year-old Shelton relative, was killed in the first Rebel volley while he stood outside the cabin. Maynard Shelton further describes the incident:

“The sleeping men in the shack woke up suddenly, ran out to see what the shooting was all about, and were met by a deadly hail of gunfire. David Shelton Jr. and William Shelton were killed and several of the soldiers were wounded, including Ephraim Hensley. Two older civilians, Isaac Shelton Sr. (William Shelton’s father and David, Jr.’s older brother), and Hampton Burgess, Sr. tried to escape by running away but the ensuing Rebels caught up with them about a fourth of a mile out the trail (now the Appalachian Trail) and shot them dead”

Three of the men escaped unharmed, and Ephraim Hensley hid in a Laurel thicket motionless and watched the whole ordeal.

He was shot in the lower back but survived the wound and lived until 1916. The source of this story mainly comes from his eyewitness account.

In total, five men were killed and six were wounded in the attack. Five of the wounded men were captured and taken to Warm Springs, NC (now Hot Springs). William Shelton, David Shelton Jr., and Millard Haire were laid to rest in their current location by relatives. The bodies of Hampton Bridges Sr. and Isaac Shelton Sr. Were supposedly buried in an unmarked grave several hundred yards to the north. The puzzling aspects of the incident surround the course of events that brought the Sheltons to the cabin on Big Butt Mountain.

Why were the men hiding there?

Were they even truly deserters at that time?

The theory proposed by author Maynard Shelton is that David and William spent the winter of 1863-1864 in the area avoiding Confederate patrols that scoured the region for guerrillas, deserters and conscripts. Shortly thereafter, Lt. John Shelton (David Shelton’s brother) led a detail from the 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry (U.S.) back to Shelton Laurel from Tennessee to recruit men and return deserters. John Shelton ultimately convinced David and William to return with him to the Union Army, and in the spring of 1864 led a group of men across the mountains to Knoxville, TN.

The new volunteers (including David and William Shelton) fell in with Col. George Kirk’s 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry and later participated in a raid into western North Carolina in late June 1864. This raid was a success as Kirk’s command captured Camp Vance, a Confederate conscript camp near Morganton, NC.

In early July 1864, Kirk's unit passed near the Shelton Laurel community on the course of their return to Knoxville. At the time, Kirk's regiment was encumbered with numerous prisoners and was closely pursued by Confederates. As they approached their homes, David Shelton Jr., William Shelton, Ephraim Hensley, and an uncertain number of others supposedly fell out of the column without permission. Thus, absent without leave (again), the men ultimately hid in the cabin on Big Butt Mountain. There, along with other Shelton Laurel relatives and neighbours, they were attacked and killed two weeks later in the Confederate ambush. In November 1868, David Shelton Jr.'s widow Elizabeth applied for and was granted a pension for her husband's service in the Union Army. This original pension claim was largely based on the written testimony of David Jr.'s brother, John Shelton.

Elizabeth Shelton later applied for an increase in the pension rate, and her new case was personally investigated by Special Agent G.H. Ragsdale from the U.S. Bureau of Pensions. Special Agent Ragsdale's final investigation report included testimonies from soldiers and Shelton relatives that were presented as evidence. One such affidavit was given by John Shelton, who's statement largely matches the narrative proposed by author Maynard Shelton. John Shelton stated that in May 1864 he led a group of men (including his brother David Shelton Jr.) from the Shelton Laurel area to rejoin the army at Knoxville, TN. Furthermore, he claimed that the men participated in the Camp Vance raid with Kirk's 3rd North Carolina.

Where the account differs though is that John Shelton claimed: His brother [David] accompanied the expedition to Morganton and back as far as his home in Madison Co. NC. John said he gave his brother verbal leave to stop and rest. He had given out on account of an old wound (cut of an axe). John thinks that Major Kirk also gave David verbal permission to stop. This was the last of June or the first of July, and while home on the 19th of July 1864, David Shelton was captured by the enemy and killed.

Interestingly, Special Agent Ragsdale came to a different and more damning conclusion regarding David Shelton Jr.

While acknowledging the truthful possibility of John Shelton's claim, Ragsdale finally concluded that on the raid: This man [David Shelton Jr.] and a number of others fell out of line and refused to go any further. They found other associates with whom they had been laying out. They made their hiding place on Butt Mountain and supposed the rebels could not find them and could not get up the mountain even if this hiding place was known. From this location they made raids and pressed whatever property they could find.

The rebels regarded them as a band of robbers and were anxious to find them. They finally succeeded in slipping up on the party and almost annihilated it. Special Agent Ragsdale's final assertions were based on the affidavits of men in Kirk's 3rd North Carolina, principally a Lt. J.M. Sprinkle. Sprinkle testified that it was not reasonable that permission was given for men to depart Kirk's command because of the large number of prisoners held by the regiment and the closeness of Confederate pursuit.

Furthermore, Ragsdale concluded that it was ultimately irrelevant to the case if John Shelton or Kirk gave authorisation to leave because the men were deserters before they went on this raid and all but one was shot soon after they fell out of the command and stopped at home.

They were not with any command at the time they were shot but were with other men who were known as common robbers. In 1877, Ragsdale's report resulted in a loss of pension benefits for Elizabeth Shelton, a mother to four children. Despite this decision, David and William Shelton were granted veteran headstones in 1915 for their graves on Big Butt Mountain. A headstone for Millard Haire was later placed alongside the Sheltons by his descendants.

Regardless of the investigation's outcome, the Sheltons lost five relatives and neighbours in the attack on July 19, 1864. Viewed against the Civil War's larger scope, the incident on Big Butt Mountain is a meaningless event. It was simply one of the countless acts of violence that only added to casualty lists and broadened the war's savage reach. For the victim's families though, it was a disaster with an incalculable cost.

For many of the Appalachian Trail hikers that pass them, the Shelton Graves might be the first (and only) Civil War site they visit in their lives. To that end, let the graves serve as a permanent testimonial to the complexity of allegiances, and the dangers of life, behind the lines in the Civil War. Likewise, let them stand testimony to the viciousness of the fighting that raged far beyond the war's major battlefields.

U.S. Prisoner of War Camp Elmira

Prison Camp

In the first years of the war, there had been a prisoner exchange system, and most prisons lay empty. Complications in 1863 led to the breakdown of this system; by April 1864 it had been completely suspended, and prisons quickly became overcrowded. Space had recently opened up in Elmira after the departure of six companies of the 179th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Commissary General of Prisoners William Hoffman was informed of this, and on May 19 he sent word to Eastman to "set apart the barracks on the Chemung River at Elmira as a depot for prisoners of war." He was also informed that the prison might be needed within ten days and that it might have to welcome 8,000 or up to 10,000 prisoners.

According to Eastman's calculations, the camp could hold only half that properly. In addition, Eastman reported that the kitchens could feed only 5,000 a day and the mess room could seat only 1,500 men at once. To top all of this off, there were no hospital facilities in the camp; the soldiers instead relied on facilities in the town. Still, Eastman was told to be prepared to receive prisoners, and from the beginning it would seem that the camp was destined to be overcrowded. This led to many charges that the prison camp was designed from the beginning to be not a prison, but a death camp.

The camp's first Commandant was Major Henry V. Colt (brother of the famous pistol maker Samuel Colt) of the 104th New York Volunteers. He was given charge over the prisoners because of an inability to serve in the field (due to injury), a characteristic that many in his position in similar prison camps shared with him. A man of relatively even temperament, Colt achieved what few officers in the war were able to in that he was liked by both Union and Confederate soldiers.

Preparations of the camp were completed by the end of June, and Hoffman ordered 2,000 POWs to be transferred from the prison camp in Point Lookout, Maryland. They were divided into groups of 400 and given rations for the two day sea voyage up to Jersey City, New Jersey.

The journey was extremely uncomfortable for the POWs in the overcrowded and filthy holds of the ships, even to the point that some men slept standing up. Once there, the first group of 400 prisoners were loaded aboard a train for the 17–20 hour trip to Elmira. 33 8,000 men would eventually be transferred from Point Lookout to Elmira not only due to overcrowding but also because of its vulnerability to attack from land and sea.

The train arrived in Elmira in the early morning of July 6. The POWs were then unloaded, put in double columns, and marched to the camp. Eyewitnesses describe the men as being dirty and ragged, but happy to be removed from their previous horrid confinement. Upon arriving at the camp, they were counted, divided into groups of 100, and shown their quarters.

Prison life

Life inside the camp for the POWs was dull, and many sat around with nothing to do. There were those that found ways to occupy themselves through various means. Some built trinkets out of different items they found throughout the camp such as beef bone or horse hair; guards would then sell them throughout town. Those who were skilled in carpentry were hired by Union personnel to help build various facilities throughout the camp for a small wage and extra rations.

Capitalising on Prisoners

The outside of the prison took on a festive type atmosphere. Two observatories, as well as food and beverage stands, were erected on the opposite side of Water Street during the summer months, and for 10-15 cents, curious onlookers could view inside the camp. Prisoners, unhappy about being gawked at, would sometimes perform pejorative type circus acts. In the beginning of September, the army took possession of the area and dismantled one of the towers. The other tower remained open though business declined due to the encroaching cold weather, and onlookers were beginning to realise the harsh reality of what they were paying to see.

Prison conditions

Five days after the camp opened, Surgeon Charles T. Alexander was ordered to inspect the Camp at Colonel Hoffman's request. Alexander found two major problems with the camp that he detailed in his report. The first was that of the camp's sanitary conditions. The sinks near Foster's Pond contained stagnant water, and he feared if they were not cleaned, they might "become offensive and a source of disease." He recommended the construction of new sinks. Hoffman did not heed these warnings. By the middle of August, the number of prisoners had climbed to over 9,200. This ended up overwhelming the staff and quickly depleting supplies. Diseases soon broke out, and the death toll jumped from 11 in July to 121 by the end of August. It was not until October 27 that work finally began on the drainage system, but the cold weather kept this project from being completed until January 1st. In the meantime, prisoners were subjected to stagnant and unclean water, and sickness soon prevailed throughout the camp.

The other problem that Alexander identified was that of the hospitals. While the camp now had a hospital, in the form of a tent, it did not have an assigned surgeon and instead relied on the services of William C. Wey, a local civilian. Alexander also thought the notion of using a tent as a hospital within the prison was inappropriate, and therefore should be rectified. Hoffman approved of three pavilion wards to be planned at Alexander's suggestion.

While Hoffman was open to suggestions on how to improve his prisons, he believed in thrift. After hearing reports of the horrible conditions Union soldiers faced in Confederate prison camps, he ordered reduced rations in retaliation. As a result, many prisoners were malnourished, and compounded the hardships they had to face (especially during the extreme summer heat and winter cold). Another major problem that points to Hoffman's policy of retaliation was the construction of winter housing for the prisoners. During most of their stay, many of the prisoners in Elmira lived in tents, as there was only room in the barracks for half of the 12,100 prisoners. A lack of lumber delayed the construction of new barracks until October when the cold New York nights started to pervade the camp. In November, it was also reported the existing barracks were experiencing trouble as well, with roofs falling into disrepair and being unfit to withstand the elements.

Even in late November and early December, there were reports of over 2,000 Confederates sleeping in tents, and a Christmas inspection said 900 still had no proper housing.

Earlier in September, Colonel Benjamin Tracy had replaced the ailing Lt. Col. Eastman as commander of headquarters. Tracy was a native to the Southern Tier of New York who had recently taken command of the 127th United States Coloured Troops. There are conflicting accounts about his actions during his post as commander. Some say he was vindictive and intentionally reduced rations for the prisoners, while others show that he cared for his captives but unable to do anything about their conditions due to government bureaucracy. In December, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Moore was placed as commandant of the camp after Major Colt had returned to action.

The winter of 1864–65 was lethally cold. Twice the temperature dropped to -18 °F and a major February storm dumped over two feet of snow. This was a shock to many southerners who had never experienced such cold temperatures. Hoffman's reduced rationing began to take its toll on the prisoners, as they were reduced to eating rats. Indeed, rats became a currency in the trade system of the prisoners for other supplies. By March, hundreds of men had frozen to death or succumbed to disease. A Spring thaw led to the flooding of the camp, and many of the prisoners were forced to huddle on top of the bunks in the barracks until rescue could arrive, and 2,700 feet of the stockade wall was washed away. In April came word of General Lee's surrender, and the camp began to parole the men.

The Shohola Train Disaster

The transfer of prisoners continued without incident until July 15, when a train carrying 833 Confederate POWs and 128 Union guards bound for Elmira collided with a coal train coming from the opposite direction. 49 POWs and 17 guards were killed with many more seriously wounded. The rail line was cleared of wreckage by the next day, and survivors were loaded aboard another train to continue their journey. News quickly spread of the accident, and by the time the train pulled into the station in Elmira later that night, a large crowd had gathered.

Eastman was waiting at the station with a special contingent of stretcher bearers, guards, and a caravan of 12 wagons. Those that could walk were removed first and marched by a torchlight procession to the camp where they received a warm meal. The more seriously wounded were then loaded aboard the wagons and followed suit. Amputations were performed first as was the custom of the day, followed by attending to those that were less critical (also known as triage). Though the understaffed and under supplied medical personnel worked tirelessly to treat the wounded, some men still lay unattended days later.

Burial of the Dead

The bodies of the deceased were prepared for burial at the camp and transferred to Woodlawn Cemetery approximately 1.5 miles north of the camp site. The coffins would then have a jar containing the name of the person and any information he was willing to share placed inside, and then be laid to rest side by side in a long burial trench. Wooden grave markers were erected in the pattern of soldiers lining up for inspection.

The man who was put in charge of overseeing the burials was John W. Jones, the local sexton and an ex-slave. Jones was respectable in his duties and kept such precise records that only 7 out of the nearly 3,000 men buried there are unknown. He carefully catalogued and stored any valuables that were in possession of the prisoners at the time of their death, and later shipped them to their families. After the war, several men were exhumed and transferred home, but most families chose not to have their loved ones moved due to the honourable way in which they were buried.

In 1937, the United Daughters of the Confederacy had a monument erected in the section. The monument depicts a figure of a Confederate soldier overlooking the entire length of the section.

Escape attempts

Though there were many escape attempts, only 10 men were successful. A day after the camp opened, two prisoners escaped by scaling the 12-foot stockade wall. Though there were many attempts to tunnel out of the camp, Washington B. Traweek led the only major successful escape from the prison along with a few other soldiers, all of them members of the Jefferson Davis Artillery Company.

The escape plan involved digging a tunnel from a neighbouring tent underneath the fence and into town. Later, when a series of hospitals was to be built for the camp, the prisoners involved in Traweek's plot decided to transfer their tunnel to go under the hospital and started work on a new tunnel. Others had a similar idea, which resulted in the tunnels being discovered.

However, the first tunnel had not been discovered, so Traweek and his men returned to work on that tunnel. Though Colt was a fair man and was liked well enough by most of his prisoners, he took his duty seriously as commandant. The next day, Traweek was called before Major Colt. Colt inquired as to where Traweek's tunnel was and who had been tunnelling with him. When Traweek refused to tell, Colt ordered him into a sweat-box and presided over his questioning, willing to go to extreme measures to find and persecute the tunnellers. Traweek held fast, however, and Colt was forced to release him. Traweek and his companions eventually escaped.

John Rushworth Memorial Trophy
Photography Competition 2023

Good news to all of the budding photographers in the Society, we are now hosting our photography competition again for the 2023 season.

The rules are as follows

1) The photograph must be taken at an event this season, by a member of the Society.

2) Each entry must not have any non authentic items or vehicles within the photograph.

3) Any member wishing to enter the competition can enter any number of separate entries.

4) "Amusing" photographs can also be entered for consideration.

5) Non members or members of the public cannot be included in the photograph.

Entries for the competition must be sent to the Communications Director and clearly labelled as an entry.

The Board of Directors will vote anonymously for the winner, second and third place at the end of the season.

Here are a couple of examples of some previous winning photos

Stanford Hall 2006
Lorraine Mitchell
(4th TX)

Sheffield 2008
Alison Brown
(43rd NC)

Tatton Park 2009
Alison Brown
(43rd NC)

Good Luck and Have Fun
We look forward to seeing your fabulous pictures.

The Invention of the Prosthetic Leg

James Edward Hanger (February 25, 1843 – June 9, 1919) was a Confederate States Army veteran of the American Civil War, a prosthetist and a businessman. It is reported that he became the first amputee of the war after being struck in the leg by a cannonball. Hanger subsequently designed and created his own prosthesis, then went on to found a prosthetic company that continues in business today.

Early life and war service

Hanger was born at Mount Hope, his father's plantation near Churchville, Virginia. His parents were William Alexander Hanger and Eliza Hogshed Hanger. He attended local elementary schools and, in 1859, enrolled at Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, to study engineering. He was an 18-year-old sophomore when he decided to leave school and join the newly formed Churchville Cavalry, which was under the command of Captain Franklin Sterrett.

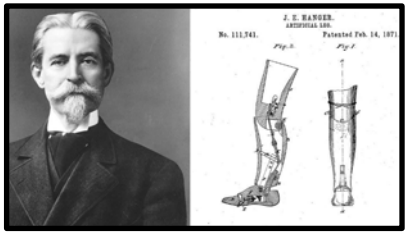
Two of Hanger's brothers and four of his cousins were already enlisted with the company, and as he prepared to join them, his mother packed food and clothing to send along for her sons. An ambulance corps carrying supplies for the Confederacy passed through town, and Hanger joined the group, travelling to Philippi, Virginia (now West Virginia).

He arrived on June 2, 1861, and after enlisting, spent the night in a nearby stable with a small group of untrained and badly equipped Confederates. While on guard duty the next morning, Hanger heard gunfire, and ran into the stable to get his horse. At that moment, a Union cannonball ricocheted inside the stable, striking his left leg below the knee. This was the beginning of the Battle of Philippi, also known as "The Philippi Races".

"The first two shots were canister and directed at the Cavalry Camps, the third shot was a 6 pound solid shot aimed at a stable in which the Churchville Cavalry Company had slept. This shot struck the ground, ricocheted, entering the stable and struck me. I remained in the stable 'til they came looking for plunder, about four hours after I was wounded. My limb was amputated by Dr. James D. Robinson, 16th Ohio Volunteers."

Hanger's shattered leg was amputated about seven inches below the hip bone. This loss of limb is said to have been the first such occurrence of a war that saw more than 50,000 additional amputations performed.

Hanger remained in Philippi for several weeks and then was sent to Camp Chase in Ohio. In August 1861, he was returned to his family home in Virginia in a prisoner of war exchange.



Recovery and invention

Dissatisfied with both the fit and the function of his above-knee prosthesis, Hanger designed a new prosthesis constructed of whittled barrel staves and metal. His design used rubber bumpers rather than standard catgut tendons and featured hinges at both the knee and ankle. Hanger patented his limb in 1871 and it has received numerous additional patents for improvements and special devices which have brought international reputation to the product.

The Virginia state government commissioned Hanger to manufacture the above-knee prosthesis for other wounded soldiers. Manufacturing operations for J.E. Hanger, Inc. , were established in the cities of Staunton and Richmond. The company eventually moved to Washington, D.C.

Hanger married Nora McCarthy in Richmond in 1873. The couple had two daughters and six sons. The family moved to Washington, D.C., in the 1880s, and their home near Logan Circle still stands today. All of Hanger's sons worked in the family business as adults.

Hanger retired from active management of the company in 1905, however he retained the title of President. In 1915, he travelled to Europe to observe firsthand the latest techniques of European prosthesis. As a result, the company received contracts with both England and France during and after World War I. At the time of Hanger's death in 1919, the company had branches in Atlanta, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, London and Paris.

Hanger's children and grandchildren, along with in-laws, cousins and other associates, continued operating and expanding the company. By the mid 1950s there were 50 Hanger offices in North America and 25 in Europe. In 1989, J. E. Hanger, Inc. of Washington, D.C., was purchased by Hanger Orthopaedic Group, Inc. and became part of their wholly owned subsidiary, Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics. According to the company's 2007 annual report, net sales for this patient care services segment were $571.7 million. As of 2008, Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics sees about 650,000 patients annually.

Now the company has many partnerships with several military organisations and charities that support the recovery and return to normal life for veterans and people that have suffered limb loss due to combat, accidents, disability or disease.

Article by Musician Joe Reed, CS Staff, ACWS

Potato Cakes Recipe

Ingredients

1 Medium onion

8 Medium sized Potatoes

2 Eggs, Well Beaten

1 Tbsp Flour

1 Tsp Baking Powder

3 Tbsp Hot Fat

Salt & Pepper to Taste

Instructions

1) Peel & Grate the onions and potatoes.

2) Combine with eggs, flour, baking powder, salt and pepper.

3) Heat fat in a frying panand drop mixture from a spoon into the hot fat.

4) Fry the mixture until brown on both sides.

Optional

Mix in some chopped chives or spring onion for little a bit of colour.

Can be served with Bacon, Salmon or Crème Fraiche.

Recipe submitted by Linda Reed, 32nd Virgina, ACWS.

EVENTS CALENDAR 2023

PAGE ONE

April 15-16 AVONCROFT MUSEUM, WORCS — CONFIRMED

International Living History Fair.
Infantry Only, Living History & Small Drill/Firing display.
Very limited camping space. Further details to follow.
Avoncroft Museum, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, B60 4JR

April 23 MORLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE — CONFIRMED

Living History & Firing Display. Infantry & Artillery.
Parade & Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Morley Rugby Club, Scatcherd Lane, Morley, LS27 0JJ.

May 12-13 WORCESTER BALLOON FIESTA — CONFIRMED

Full Society Event. Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics.
Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Worcester Racecourse, Grand Stand Road, Worcester, WR1 3EJ.

June 3-4 HULL, EAST YORKSHIRE — CONFIRMED

Full Society Event. Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics.
Skirmish. Further details to follow.
East Park, Holderness Road, Hull, HU8 8JU.

June 10-11 BOSTON BIG WEEKEND, LINCS — CONFIRMED

Full Society Event. Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics.
Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 6PH

EVENTS CALENDAR 2023

PAGE TWO

July 15-16 STAFFORDSHIRE BALLOON FIESTA — CONFIRMED

Full Society Event. Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Uttoxeter Racecourse, Wood Lane, Uttoxeter, ST14 8BD.

July 23/34 HUDDERSFIELD, WEST YORKSHIRE — CONFIRMED

Full Society Event. Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics.
Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Address to be confirmed with Organiser.

August 18-20 NORTHAMPTON BALLOON FIESTA — CONFIRMED

Full Society Event. Infantry, Artillery & Pyrotechnics.
Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Northampton Racecourse, Kettering Road, Northampton, NN1 4LG.

August 26-28 WHITBY WAR WEEKEND — CONFIRMED

Full Society Event. Infantry & Artillery.
Skirmish. Further details to follow.
Hawsker Lane next to Whitby Abbey, Whitby, YO22 4JR.

September 16-17 UPTON, WEST MIDLANDS — CONFIRMED

Full Society Event. (ACWS Members Only)
Possible event currently awaiting confirmation.
Further details to follow.

December 2 ACWS AGM 2023