



The Bugle Call for September 2021



The Official Publication of
The Northwest Civil War
Council
John Hartman Editor

On the Cover: Two massive 32 lb. cannons are at Fort Davidson, Missouri, just at the foot of Pilot Knob. The Battle of Fort Davidson, also known as the Battle of Pilot Knob, was a battle of Price's Raid fought on September 27, 1864, near Pilot Knob, Missouri. Confederate troops under the command of Major General Sterling Price had entered Missouri in September 1864 with hopes of challenging Union control of the state. On the afternoon of the 27th, Brigadier General William L. Cabell's Confederate brigade made three separate attacks against the fort, but were unable to enter the fort. That night, Federal Brig. Gen. Thomas Ewing, Jr. decided to abandon the fort. His men blew up the fort's magazine and slipped past Confederate troops guarding the escape routes undetected.

In This Issue: The Chairman's Column, The Confederate Column, The No-Frills Editorial, Board Meeting Summary, Clatsop Reenactment, Colton Cancelled, Elections, Mail Call, L.A. Rifles, an Oregon Blockade Runner, Old Newspapers, a Book Review, and other cool stuff.

The Chairman's Column

By Don Benson

The Chairman's column is missing in action, presumed killed or captured, and maybe at Libby Prison.

The Confederate Column

By Jim Stanovich

ATTENTION BATTALION!

PREPARE TO TAKE ARMS!

Well folks, it's finally here. Our first event in nearly two years is upon us!

The Battle for Clatsop County, Labor Day weekend, September 4-6. Setup day is Friday, September 2. I plan on being out at the fairgrounds Thursday morning, so if you are in need of extra setup time, please let me know.

At this time, masks are not required by the state for outdoor settings like this. We will be suggesting masks for the public but we cannot require them. If you feel uncomfortable being unmasked at a public event like this, I suggest wearing a bandana by itself or covering your modern mask. Because of the recent upswing in COVID cases, I know some of you are not comfortable with being in close contact with your peers and will

choose to miss this event. I totally understand your fears, and there will be absolutely no hard feelings. This has become a very political and polarizing subject. Please, let's leave the modern politics at home! If you wish to discuss politics, let's keep it to the politics of the 1860s!

On a very sad note, our reenactor family has lost another one of our own to this plague.

Long time NCWC member, John Feller's wife, Wanda, passed away earlier this month after both she and John were hospitalized with COVID. Our deepest condolences to John. You are in our prayers.

Union Battalion Commander, Colonel Kevin Burton has announced his retirement due to health reasons. Kevin has been amazing to work with. In my 19 years as Confederate Battalion Commander, I have had the most fun fighting against Kevin. You will be truly missed, Kevin. Thank you for all of the good times!

As most of you know by now, the Colton event has been cancelled due to new demands made by the Bureau of Land Management. It is possible these demands could be worked out in the future, but there simply wasn't enough time for this year's event. I believe we need to be looking for a new site to replace this event in the future.

Hope to see y'all at Clatsop!

FORWARD MARRRRRRRRRRRRRRCH!!!!

General Stanovich

The No-Frills Editorial

The Clatsop reenactment is now just ten days away. It has been two years since our last reenactment, and I offer a few of simple tips which may be useful.

Firstly, if you are concerned about the Covid virus, wear a bandana as a mask, or over a mask to look period authentic while protecting yourself and others. Also, bring a container of hand wipes.

Secondly, if you'd like some hot water that very first morning you awaken in your tent, bring a Thermos filled with nearly boiling water. By the time it's opened on the morning of the 4th, it will be nice and hot, but not near boiling.

The third tip I got at the 150th Gettysburg reenactment. At Gettysburg there were two entire streets of tents devoted to living history portrayals, and Stonewall Jackson, with his lovely wife Mary Anna, were there. I found myself chatting with the general at least a couple of times each day, and since I always wore an Oregon tee shirt, he asked me if I was from Oregon.

"Yes, general," I replied. "I'm from a small town on the Southern Oregon Coast. Coos Bay."

Old Blue Light's eyes brightened immediately. "We've been to Coos Bay! We been to Yachats, too. We were going to take a hosting job at a campground in Gold Beach, but it cut into my reenacting schedule too much. Say! Let me give you a little tip," he said. He leaned forward a little, and slightly lowered his voice. "Always put a little Gatorade in your canteen's water. You need those electrolytes!"

In the meantime, keep your heads down out there.

The Bugle Call is usually sent on the 25th of each month. Sometimes it may be sent earlier, and sometimes later, depending on important news. Prospective articles may be sent to jandghartman76@gmail.com.

Board Meeting Summary

The regular meeting of the NCWC Board was held on Thursday, August 17, via Zoom.

After roll was called and a quorum was established the meeting was opened at 7:10. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as corrected.

The treasurer's report was approved. Total assets as of July 31: \$34,965. Donations to defray the expenses of Curt Fields will be accepted by Julie Bishop at Clatsop, with a check to be presented to Dr. Fields.

Events: The board voted to have the Clatsop reenactment. The public will be strongly encouraged to wear masks. Reenactors may wear masks as period bandanas, or bandanas over masks to appear period authentic. The venue will have a food vendor, and plenty of firewood will be available.

Colton has been cancelled.

The Woodland, WA tactical event in August was a great success, with 70 reenactors present.

The Eagle Creek reenactment in Idaho may be threatened by a wildfire. Reenactors planning to attend should check on its viability.

John Leaton reported that the Albany Veteran's Day Parade is still planned to go on as late as a couple of days prior to Aug. 19th.

Equine Safety Committee: Don reported that at the last meeting ten riders completed safety tests.

Rules Committee: No report.

Facebook Page: Capt. Wendel reported that the page had a couple of hits for people having equipment for sale.

Education Committee: Nothing to report.

Civilian Battalion Report: A reception for the Grants will be held the evening of Sept. 4th. Zane Healy will again have his photography booth. Diane Lovejoy, the fiddle player, will fly in from Tennessee to play for the event.

Artillery Battalion Report: Bruce reported that powder has been ordered for Clatsop, but the unit has enough in reserve to get them through Clatsop if need be.

CSA Battalion: Jim Stanovich reports that he needs to hear from unit commanders to get accurate numbers to lay out the CSA military streets. John Feller and his wife, Wanda, got Covid, and Wanda passed away. John had been doing the CSA provost marshal and stockade.

Federal Battalion: Kevin Burton reported that he must take a medical retirement due to a diagnosis of experiencing cluster headaches, which render him temporarily incapacitated. He has reenacted since 1995 and will be stepping down as colonel. John Leaton will take over.

Old Business: none.

New Business: elections will be coming up in November for board positions. Letters of intent will need to be received by September 15th, so folks planning to run for office must get those in soon.

Deb Martin reported that She, Rosemary Johnson, and Doug Odell will go over the process for applying for a Heritage Foundation grant for the NCWC. Rosemary is on the selection board, so will have to recuse herself.

The next board meeting will take place on September 16th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43.

2021 NCWC Dates

Clatsop - Sept. 4-5-6

Colton - Sept. 18-19 Cancelled

Albany Veteran's Day Parade

These events are pending no Covid restrictions.

WCWA Events

Battle of Eagle Creek, Wallace, ID September 11-12

Safety Test Year

Since 2021 is an odd-numbered year, that means that it's Safety Test Time! Stop by the NCWC website, download the safety test pages, answer them satisfactorily, and send them to your military C.O. pronto. Don't delay, do it today!

BATTLE FOR CLATSOP UPDATE SEPTEMBER 4-5-6

Clatsop County Fairgrounds, 92937 Walluski Loop, Astoria, OR 97103

The time is fast approaching for our Battle for Clatsop County Event. Here is some of the pertinent information so that we all can have an exciting and SAFE event.

Special guest Curt Fields, Jr. will return as General Ulysses S. Grant, and his lovely wife, Lena, will portray Mrs. Julia Dent Grant. Trevor Steinbach, who portrays XVII Corps surgeon Col. James Gaskill, will not be attending, as had been previously planned.

Due to the new outdoor mask mandate the public will be required to wear masks and maintain 6 ft social whenever possible. Masks will be available for those that forget theirs. **Reenactors are not required** to wear a mask as we fall under an outdoor theater exemption. Should you decide to wear a mask please also wear a bandana over their mask to look more period correct.

Food Vendor: Tres Bro's will be present all 3 days of the event. Local to Astoria, this Nicaraguan Food truck serves authentic food with a coastal twist. Be sure to support our vendors! Stay tuned to the Facebook page for more scheduling information. There is a strong

possibility they will be set up and ready to go Friday evening for your set up dinner!

Reenactor Set Up: Friday September 3, beginning at 9 a.m., reenactment begins Saturday and Sunday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tear Down: Cars allowed in after 3 p.m. Monday.

Registration: will be at Confederate HQ with Sharon Stanovich on Friday. Membership is required to be submitted no later August 18th before the event. DO NOT WAIT for this deadline, as it takes time to process. Everyone needs to be registered upon arrival (if you are going to be arriving late, please let your commander know, so that they can tell the registration team). YOU WILL BE PULLED FROM THE BATTLEFIELD IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED. Event cards will be checked. Be kind to the registration team, we are all volunteers and deserve to enjoy the event as well!

Fire Safety: NO IN-GROUND FIRES. All fires must be off the ground and far enough off the ground not to burn anything or leave any marks. Please take every precaution not to start a fire. Fires/candles/lanterns will not be left unattended. Each tent is REQUIRED to have a fire bucket, if you have a fire extinguisher, please bring it. Mandatory 24 hr. fire watch, please keep a diligent eye out for any fire danger. Artillery, take extra precautions on the battlefield, have buckets of water, shovels, wet burlap as a precaution. Infantry and Cavalry, take full canteens and extra if you HAVE them.

Garbage: There is a dumpster for our use. All reenactor garbage needs to be placed in the dumpster. The bags around the camps are for the public. There is no one to help with garbage besides ourselves. If you see a full bag please take it to the garbage, we have extra bags.

Water: There is no running water on the field. The club's water tanks will be on site. Please be respectful of these tanks, they will only be refilled after public hours. Bring buckets or water jugs. You can fill them up in the parking lot, too. It is recommended to bring your own water.

Wood: Firewood is provided. Firewood will be located at Union Cav Camp. Bring any unused firewood back to this location, as we will use it for future events. Do

not dump any ashes in the grass/dumpster/garbage cans, please find a different way to dispose of it.

Pets: All pets, especially dogs, must be leashed and tied/restrained at all times. The fairgrounds are very strict about this. If there is a loose animal, you will be asked to leave the event and/or animal control called. Please clean up after your animal!

Modern Camping: Please tell Annabelle Larson, event coordinator, if you intend to modern camp no later than Aug 30th, space is limited. The fee for RV camping is \$20, 1 RV per site, 1 vehicle per site. This is in the upper parking lot, there will be no tent camping in RV camping. Tent Camping will be in the field near reenactor parking, no power hookups. The fee is \$20 per tent. Everyone in Modern camp MUST be a registered paid member.

General Safety: Alcohol is not allowed during public hours. 2021 is a Safety Test year. Please fill this out prior to the event, you will not be allowed on the field without it. When driving in camp, please go slowly and watch for people.

Contact: Annabelle Larson, Event Coordinator is the first contact for this event. Her camp will be with the 69th New York. Please let her know if you need assistance. Looking forward to a great event! Please reach out if you have questions.



1. Union Cav Camp
2. Union Civilian
3. Union Infantry
4. Union HQ
5. Artillery
6. Community/Church Fly
7. Confederate Infantry

8. Confederate Cavalry
9. Confederate HQ
10. Confederate Camp
11. Battlefield
12. Bleachers
13. Reenactor Parking

This layout is similar to the 2019 event. Sizes are approximate.

Colton Cancelled

The executive committee of the NCWC governing board met on the evening of August 11th to consider new information provided by the BLM field manager. The BLM field manager informed the NCWC that we could go ahead with a Colton reenactment with two additional stipulations; the first being that the NCWC provide a first aid station, and the second being that the NCWC pay the local county sheriff's office to provide for and have a deputy to be on site during public hours.

The first stipulation, to provide a first aid station, is forbidden by the NCWC's insurance policy, due to liability issues. The second stipulation was simply too expensive to be able to do. Therefore, the executive board was left with no other choice but to cancel the event. The NCWC board will begin to consider other venues, preferably private, to host a reenactment next year.

Elections and Deadlines 2021

Elections for NCWC officers will be held in November. Letters of intent must be submitted by September 15th, so if you plan to run for an office, get your letter prepared soon. We can use a secretary, and we can use a treasurer.

Mail Call

September's mail call brings two letters, both with reference to the Battle of Antietam, on September 17, 1862. The first is from a Confederate soldier of an unknown unit, and the second from a private in the 4th Rhode Island Infantry. Spelling and punctuation are their own.

Dear friend I have not received a letter from you since the regiment left Savannah last summer. I suppose that it was with those letters of mine which were burnt in Maryland while I was at

home discharged , I went back to the army a short time ago , Mr. Wiley your brother in law was there ,but I did not see him ,He inquired after me. , but I had gone on to Winchester. Owing to my physical debility I did not reenlist on my return from Winchester to Stanton I struck up with Mr. Sneed of your acquaintance from Rockbridge Co. who said that he had seen Mrs. Sallie but short time previous, I should have come to spend a time with you during my trip, but for fear of being taken up by the military authorities the boys were all right when I left them. At the battle of Sharpsburg our company had one killed, and thirty two wounded ,among the latter were Capt. Long severely in the left arm , and lieut. Cartwright in the left arm also I shall remain home this winter, hence I TRUST THAT OUR correspondence will be interrupted. We are having some night cold weather here now you no doubt imagine that Georgia is a warm country, but notwithstanding we have some night cold spells. Every man young man from this immediate neighborhood is either represented or is himself in the army. We must provide for soldiers, many of whom are now barefooted, without clothes, or blankets. Amore self-denying set of men never existed, never played their part upon patriotic, more daring and unyielding army never were mustered together under such men as LEE ,JACKSON ,JOHNSTON,BEAUREGARD ,BRAGG ,who can doubt of success, but on the coast we are to severely tied this winter. Are we prepared to defend the coast. A few months will determine , I'm disposed to think that Charleston and Savannah are both safe and do ardently hope that all the other places are securely fortified ,excuse bad writing as both pen and ink are worthless ,respond soon and oblige by so doing . YOUR TRUE FRIEND Robt Leslie Troup MY dear Jammie I received your letter yesterday NOV,27TH 1862

NOV. 27TH LATE IN THE EVENING CAPT CARPENTER IS WORSE THIS EVENING & his father has been sent for

send you the wafer that came off of ROBT LESLIES letter 'THO LOST TO SIGHT TO MEMORY DEAR 'I wrote it for fear you could not read it.

Antietam Creek Sept the 28 1862

Dear Mother, I now take my pen in hand two let you now that I Received your letter a few days ago and was glad two hear from you and two hear that you was well. I received three letters last Monday and was glad two get them one was from you and one from Father and one from Sarah Hopkins I am with my Regiment now it is a Beautifull Day here two Day there was a Minester here two Day and Preatched two us from Woonsocket RI he talked Good two us Last Sunday I was in the Hospitall I Wrote you a letter last Sunday I Don't now Whether you got it or not I Sent it by a Citisen two post it it is three Weeks two day since we left Washington and we left our Napsacks there So it is hard Work two get Paper and Envelopes two write with as I have no Money When you Write Send me a Sheet of Paper and Envelope With it

I was Wounded Slightly in the Last Battle the 17 of September it was a hard Battle the men dropped like hail Stones Poor Fellows a Ball struck my Musket and Spoiled it and Glanced of and hit my left hand and Broke that Wring that Charlie sent me it Cut my hand some Some of the Pieces of the Ball flew in my face and started the Blood Corporal Henry D. Lincoln was Wounded with a Piece of Shell he was Wounded slightly two two Weeks ago two day there was a Battle two South Mountings [Mountain] there was where Gen Reno was killed the Next Day the Rebels was Piled up there in Piles all Around there I never see many of our men Killed there But they were Piled up in Piles two the last Battle the 17 of September After I was Wounded I left the Field Going of[f] our men lay Dead all Around me for half a Mile I havent heard from Thomas in some time one [of] the Boys in our Company see him about 2 Weeks ago and talked With him he sais Thomas Asked him if I was Wounded he Dident that I was Wounded because he was With the teams Frank Brown is Wel he Was on the team ??He Wasnt in the Battle the Nights are very Cold out here now I Wished I had a Pair of McParlins Boots out here now But I Cant have um so it is no use two Want um Because you cant send no Express at Present it is hard Work two Get our Rations here two Eat all We get is hard bred and Fresh meat We dont

get no Beans nor Rice nor Salt Beef now But I
make out two since I take my Crackers and steam
um in my Tin Cup and put Salt on um and Pepper"
Henry D. Lincoln

Contest Winner! The August issue had two typos in The Chattanooga Gazette, both found by eagle-eyed Mrs. Wayne St. Cyr, the first was in the theatrical review, and the second in the dentist's advertisement. Mrs. St. Cyr wins a lifetime subscription to The Bugle Call, and the editor takes forty lashes with a wet noodle. Again.

The Los Angeles Rifles

By John Hartman copyright 2020

During the secession crisis following Lincoln's election, Federal troops in California were under the command of Colonel (Brevet Brigadier General) Albert Sidney Johnston, in Benicia, headquarters of the Department of the Pacific. General Johnston strongly believed in the Southern right to secede but regretted that it was occurring. A group of Southern sympathizers in the state made plans to secede with Oregon to form a "Pacific Republic".

The success of their plans rested on the cooperation of General Johnston. Johnston met with some of these Southern men, but before they could propose anything to him he told them that he had heard rumors of an attempt to seize the San Francisco forts and arsenal at Benicia, that he had prepared for that and would defend the facilities under his command with all his resources and to the last drop of his blood. He told them to tell this to their Southern friends. Deprived of his aid, the plans for California and Oregon to secede from the United States never came to fruition. John G. Downey, the Governor of California at the time was later noted to have been in support of the Conspiracy, as well as much of the Democratic-majority state assembly. Many Californian Copperheads were also in support of the Conspiracy, seeing it similar to neutrality, like Kentucky.

Union men feared Johnston would aid such a plot and communicated their concerns to Washington, asking for his replacement. Brig. Gen. Edwin Sumner was soon sent west via Panama to

replace Johnston in May 1861. Johnston resigned his commission on May 6th, and after Sumner arrived turned over his command and moved with his family to Los Angeles.



Above: Brev. Brig. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, U.S.A.

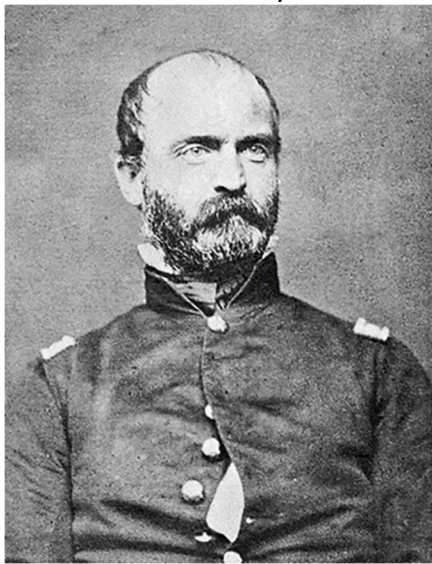
Notable as the only successfully formed pro-Southern militia unit on the West Coast, the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles were organized on March 7, 1861, in Los Angeles County. It included more than a few Californios - Hispanic citizens - in its leadership and its ranks, including the County Sheriff Tomas Avila Sanchez. Its leader was one of his undersheriffs, Alonzo Ridley, who was elected captain.



Note Warner's Ranch at bottom of map.

After the firing on Ft. Sumter in April, the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles knew that they would have to head east to help the Confederacy, and planned accordingly to go overland to Texas, rather than by sea at the end of June. This timetable changed when Capt. Ridley ran into Dr. Griffin, who was Sidney Johnston's father-in-law, and offered assistance in getting General Johnston to the Confederacy. Suspected by local Union authorities, General Johnston evaded arrest and with former quartermaster Major Lewis Armistead, (next photo) joined the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles as privates.

Leaving Warner's Ranch on June 16, they journeyed across the southwestern deserts, crossing the Colorado River into the Confederate Territory of Arizona, on July 4, 1861. The Los Angeles Mounted Rifles disbanded, and members joined the Confederate Army shortly after they reached the Confederate Arizona Territorial capital of Mesilla, in what was then part of the United States' New Mexico Territory and is now New Mexico.



From Yuma, where the Rifles arrived on July 4th, it was about 230 miles across open desert to Tucson, which was in the Arizona Territory claimed by the Confederacy. From Tucson to Mesilla, the territorial capital, it was another 270 miles due east. When the men from the Rifles got to Mesilla, they were welcomed by Lt. Col. John Baylor, C.S.A., and his troops.

The key to marching across the American Southwest Desert was to follow the route of the Butterfield Stage Line, which had suspended service in June. Warner's Ranch, near San Diego, had been a Butterfield stage stop, which, along with Warner's secessionist feelings, were the main reasons the Rifles started east from there. By traveling from stage stop to stage stop, the men knew that they would be able to find water, and in the desert, going from water hole to water hole was the secret of staying alive.

Of the members of the Los Angeles Mounted Rifles who made the trek east, the vast majority joined Texas units. The two former U.S. Army officers, Johnston and Armistead, continued east to Richmond, where Johnston was made a full general (4 stars) and Armistead became the colonel of a Virginia infantry regiment, later serving under George Pickett's command. Johnston went on to die at Shiloh, and Armistead at Gettysburg, in Pickett's Charge.

The *Gertrude*, Oregon's Own Blockade Runner

By John Hartman Copyright 2015

Down on Oregon's South Coast, in Coos Bay – not the city of that name, but in the bay itself – about 500 yards from the entrance, on the south side, lies a rusted section of nondescript metal. It is about four feet high, ten feet wide, and eighteen feet long. It is all that remains of a former Confederate blockade runner, the S.S. *Gertrude*.

How the wreckage ended up on the mudflats of Coos Bay is a story that stretches from 1863 to the 21st Century.

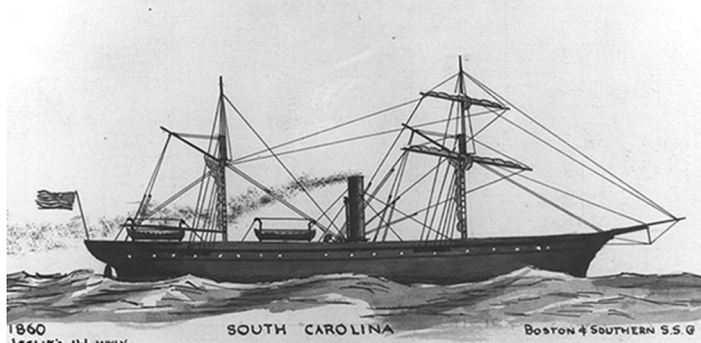
The *Gertrude* was built in 1863 in Glasgow, Scotland, by Barclay, Curle, & Co., specifically as a blockade runner. She was long and sleek, with those nice little extras that no other kind of ship needed. She had a telescoping funnel and two pivoting masts, so that her silhouette could change within minutes to mask her identity. Powered by one steam-driven screw, her two boilers could switch steam from one to the other without loss of pressure in case one was damaged by shot or shell. Blown off steam was not visible since *Gertrude* vented her steam through an

underwater escape valve. She ran on hard anthracite coal, to burn a hot fire and leave little smoke. She was probably painted a light gray, like most blockade runners, to blend into the horizon and make her harder to spot. For her time, she was very fast.

Gertrude was launched in February 1863, and by March had sailed to the Bahamas, which was the closest British port for running the blockade to the eastern seaboard Confederate ports. On March 16, *Gertrude* ran the blockade to Charleston, probably at night because there was only a small sliver of a moon. She would not have shown any lights during her run. On March 23rd, she left Charleston the same way, heading back to the Bahamas.

In her prime *Gertrude* would have looked similar to the S.S. *South Carolina*. In calm seas with a full head of steam and both sails, *Gertrude* would have made 17.5 nautical miles an hour.

Photo # NH 63842 SS South Carolina, which was USS South Carolina during the Civil War. Artwork by Erik



On April 16th, 1863, *Gertrude* was captured off Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas, by the USS *Vanderbilt* (below), one of the Navy's best blockaders. Either *Gertrude* had tried to run after being hailed, or she had been boarded for inspection and her papers had been improper, for she was seized as a prize and impounded back in the States.

Photo # NH 60881 USS Vanderbilt. Artwork by Clary Ray



The Navy knew a good thing when it saw one, and *Gertrude* was sold in prize court to become USS *Gertrude*. She was outfitted with two 12 lb. guns and six 24 lb. guns, then sent to the Western Gulf Blockading Squadron under the command of Acting Master Walter K. Cressy. USS *Gertrude* now patrolled the Gulf waters to catch ships running the blockade into Galveston, Texas, or the port of Matamoros, in nearby Mexico.

On August 17, 1863, after only ten days on the job and a nine-hour chase, USS *Gertrude* captured one of her old friends, the *Warrior*, out of Mobile, bound for Galveston. *Warrior* was about the same size as *Gertrude* and had been an Alabama river packet.

In January of 1864 *Gertrude* captured the *Ellen*, which might have been on its maiden voyage, en route from Galveston to Sabine Pass. There are no records of *Ellen* as a blockade runner, but records are often in error and incomplete. In February 1865, *Gertrude* captured *Eco*, also not a known blockade runner.

In the last two weeks of the war *Gertrude* almost caught the brass ring: she spotted the *Denbigh* (below), a notorious runner, which had been sailing since December of 1863. *Gertrude* launched a pursuit, and was gaining, when *Denbigh* dumped 10,000 pounds of baled cotton to lighten her load and made good her escape. The happy crew of *Gertrude* recovered the valuable cargo and split the prize money when it was sold.



With the war over, the Navy had no need of a huge blockading fleet, and *USS Gertrude* was decommissioned August 11, 1865. In November of that year she was sold, then sold again to Frank Bernard Co. to haul coal between Portland and Coos Bay, and ports between. She was renamed *Gussie Telfair*. By 1880 *Gussie Telfair* was no longer a fast ship, for technology had passed her by. On September 25th, 1880, *Gussie Telfair* (below) sailed from Empire, now part of the port of Coos Bay, under the command of one Captain Butler. The ship suddenly took a hard turn to port and piled up on the rocks at Rocky Point during high tide. (Photo from Coos Historical Museum.)



Her 20 passengers were taken off without injury, and the load of coal was mostly saved. Hard on the rocks, *Gussie Telfair* was finished. Her owner had raised her insurance coverage just two weeks before, but the *Portland Morning Oregonian* newspaper pointed out that it was common practice for the shipping industry to raise coverage prior to the bad winter weather, then lower it once the good weather of spring and summer arrived. Regardless, the owners found no fault with the actions of Captain Butler, and poor *Gussie Telfair* was sold for salvage for a mere \$550. Her steel hull was mostly cut up for scrap, but as late as 1984 some of her could still be seen on minus tides.

In December of 2013, a retired colleague showed me a copy of an article from a newspaper

in southwestern Washington, which told the story of *Gertrude*. Neither of us had ever heard of the ship before, but I was curious if any of the remaining wreckage might still be visible. Checking tide tables, it was found that the first good minus tide would not take place until April 1st, 2014, so before then the location of Rocky Point needed to be established. The 1880s name was not on the current official chart of Coos Bay, and none of the serious fishermen who were asked had ever heard of it. A call to the Coast Guard got nowhere, but a check of a South Coast shipwreck chart in the North Bend library showed *Gertrude's* last known location as the south entrance of the harbor mouth, approximately where the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology is today.

Arriving at the end of the public road in front of Coast Guard Housing, two members of my Civil War Studies class and I parked our vehicles and walked over the rocks to look down at the mud flat at 9:00 a.m. There, in about a foot of water, was a rectangle of rusted metal, about 10 x 18 feet wide, and perhaps 30" in height. We walked as far west as the mouth of the harbor to double check, but that metal was the only possible wreckage to be found on the south side of the harbor at a minus tide. A depressed half-moon shape, possibly the housing of a drive train or steam line, and one remaining davit proved that the metal belonged to a ship, and not a compressed motor vehicle's frame. As the only metal shipwreck on the south side of the bay, this metal had to be what remained of *Gertrude*.



Photo by author.

made four trips to find the remaining wreckage of *Gertrude*. The fourth and most successful trip to find the wreckage showed that the rusted metal hulk had traveled a good 150 yards west, ending up next to the old Coast Guard Auditorium building. This time it was surrounded by bare sand and lying flat on the mud. A measurement was taken, using a hammer as a reference of measurement, and the sole remaining davit was removed to prove that the rusted remains truly belonged to a vessel of some kind.

The next term I related my findings to the students in my class. After the presentation one of the students, an employee of the Oregon State Parks Department, told me with a smile that Oregon Revised Statutes consider all shipwrecks as archeological sites, and therefore off limits to salvaging. I was horrified, but he chuckled and put my anxieties to rest. Someday I will get around to donating that rusty davit to the Coos History Museum.

What remains of *Gertrude*, or *Gussie Telfair*, as she was finally named, can be seen on any minus tide, somewhere between the old Coast Guard Auditorium building and the entryway to Coast Guard Housing in the Charleston district of Coos Bay, Oregon.

Historic Oregon Newspapers Available Free Online

Newspapers digitalized through the University of Oregon's Knight Library are available through the library's website for anyone willing to simply navigate the site.

The site features many of the earliest newspapers of Oregon, many before statehood. Included is the *Oregon Spectator* from Oregon City, and several permutations of the *Daily Astorian*, the *Oregonian*, the *Eugene Register* and the *Eugene Guard*. Modern newspapers are also available.

Some of the earliest available editions date from the mid-1840s. Any newspaper in the files is available to view by issue, a page at a time, and can be enlarged online to read through any computer or phone screen.

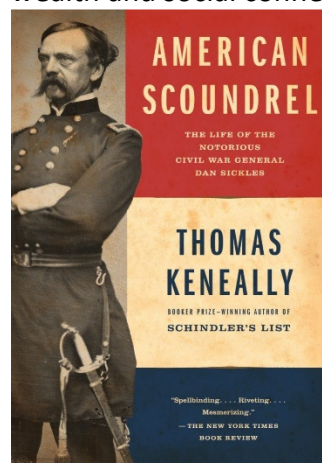
The ol' editor used the site to provide additional information for the *Gertrude/Gussie Telfair* article by finding an issue of the *Marshfield Coast Mail*.

The site may be found at: oregonnews.uoregon.edu.

Book Review: American Scoundrel: The Life of the Notorious Civil War General Dan Sickles

By Thomas Keneally, pub. 2003 by Anchor, 416 pgs. with chapter notes, bibliography and index.

Thomas Keneally is a fine writer, author of *Schindler's List*, among many other pieces of fiction and non-fiction. An Australian, he did first-rate research telling the story of Maj. Gen. Dan Sickles, commander of III Corps at Gettysburg. Sickles was a man with no scruples whatsoever. On his sixteenth birthday his father, a man of wealth and social connections, gave Dan a night



on the town in New York City, with all the drunken debauchery that could be implied in The Big Apple of 1836. Sickles grew up to be a highly intelligent lawyer, and a member of the Tammany Hall political machine. He would chase anything in a skirt, even after getting married.

Keneally describes how Sickles rose in politics to become a New York Congressman, and while in Washington, D.C. discovered that his wife, Teresa, was carrying on an affair with Philip Barton Key, the district attorney for D.C., and the son of Francis Scott Key, author of *The Star Spangled Banner*. Sickles tracked the two lovers to a house on Lafayette Square and killed Key with a pistol in broad daylight while on the street corner. Sickles

was charged with murder. He secured several leading politicians as defense attorneys, among them Edwin M. Stanton, later to become Secretary of War, and Chief Counsel James T. Brady, who, like Sickles, was associated with Tammany Hall. Sickles pleaded temporary insanity—the first use of this defense in the United States. Before the jury, Stanton argued that Sickles had been driven insane by his wife's infidelity, and thus was out of his mind when he shot Key. The papers soon trumpeted that Sickles was a hero for "saving all the ladies of Washington from this rogue named Key".

Sickles had obtained a graphic confession from Teresa; it was ruled inadmissible in court, but was leaked by him to the press and printed in the newspapers in full. The defense strategy ensured that the trial was the main topic of conversations in Washington for weeks, and the extensive coverage of national papers was sympathetic to Sickles. In the courtroom, the strategy brought drama, controversy, and, ultimately, an acquittal for Sickles.

Sickles publicly forgave Teresa, and "withdrew" briefly from public life, although he did not resign from Congress. The public was apparently more outraged by Sickles' forgiveness and reconciliation with his wife than by the murder and his unorthodox acquittal.

During the Civil War Sickles made the most of his political connections, and got a colonelcy for recruiting the 70th New York infantry regiment. As a political appointee, he was more capable a military officer than most, and eventually rose to command III Corps for Joe Hooker, then George Meade. At Gettysburg Sickles pushed III Corps nearly a mile out beyond the Federal line on Cemetery Ridge to the Peach Orchard. It was here that Sickles received a wound that caused his right leg to be amputated. He never went back to field duty after that.

While testifying before the Joint Commission on the Conduct of the War, Sickles told blatant lies to the commission; that Meade had secret plans to retreat, that he, Sickles, saved the army by pushing out from the line on Cemetery Ridge, even though he disobeyed orders.

After the war Sickles continued in government service as Minister to Spain, where he maintained

his reputation as a ladies' man in the Spanish royal court and was rumored to have had an affair with the deposed Queen Isabella II. Following the death of Teresa in 1867, in 1871 he married Carmina Creagh, the daughter of Chevalier de Creagh of Madrid, a Spanish Councilor of State. They had two children, who, when they became adults, promptly moved away and had no contact with Sickles ever again.

Keneally enumerates Sickles' shenanigans after his retirement and appointment to the New York Monuments Commission in 1886. Sickles was forced off the commission in 1912 after he was found to have embezzled \$27,000.

At Gettysburg there are monuments to virtually every general except one – Dan Sickles. When asked why that was so in later years, Sickles replied that "the whole battlefield is a tribute to Dan Sickles."

American Scoundrel was fascinating reading, like watching a train wreck that is going to occur, but which one cannot take their eyes away from.

As an aside in closing, I will tell of attending the 150th anniversary reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg, and walking down an entire tent street of folks doing living history portrayals, including one fellow portraying Sickles. I was shocked that anyone would actually do a portrayal of Sickles, but I could not resist the urge to speak to him. I wanted him to know that I knew who he was, so I said, "Hello, General Sickles. How is your lovely wife?"

Without skipping a beat, Sickles replied, Oh, she is fine. She is in New York City for the time being."

American Scoundrel can be purchased new at only \$16. I highly recommend it.

The Chattanooga Gazette

James Rogers Editor

John Hartman Correspondent

August 22nd, 1863

Saturday, 6:00 P.M. Federal batteries opened on the city this morning at 10:00 from works nearly opposite Cameron Hill. The firing lasted about an hour. Little damage resulted to men or houses, but much dust was raised on Main Street. All is quiet at this hour.

Shells have fallen to the back of this office, and to the front in the street. We will stay as long as the building stands, and will endeavor to continue from another location, if need be.

The *Atlanta Confederacy* reports that the Chattanooga *Daily Rebel* has relocated to Marietta. We can see the office from our own, and it is still open.

The *Atlanta Confederacy* reported on the 28th that Lt. Walker, of Morgan's command, was shot on Thursday night last, in that city, by a man named George Bachelor, of the naval laboratory. Bachelor is in jail, and Walker's wound is reported as fatal.

A citizen from north of the river, whose name is withheld for obvious reasons, reports that the Federal force is small, with one mounted infantry brigade and two six-pound batteries. The Federals fired 38 shots yesterday. They appear to be conserving their gunpowder.

There was slight skirmishing at Harrison yesterday, with one Gray sharpshooter wounded.

Twelve O'clock noon: Federal shells are striking the town, and our printer, with his case and composing stick, is working in the basement of the Bank of Tennessee.

IMPORTANT ORDER BY GRANT

Maj. Gen. Grant has issued General Orders no. 50, which recommends that the freedom of the Negro be acknowledged. The order, which applies to all of Mississippi and those parts of Kentucky and Tennessee west of the Tennessee River, states that all irregular cavalry not mustered and paid by the Confederate Army, and all civilians found firing upon unarmed transports will be dealt with most severely.

It also states that citizens are called upon to pursue their peaceful avocations and the obedience to the laws of the United States. Persons having cotton and other produce not required by the military will be allowed to bring it to any military post in Mississippi and abandon it to agents of the Treasury. At posts where there is no such agent the Post Quartermaster will receive all such property and hold it until the arrival of such agents, or send it to Memphis to the quartermaster, who will turn it over to the proper authorized agent at that place.

At this writing, twelve midnight, the town is being shelled vigorously. Our printer is still in the basement of the Bank of Tennessee. An excited individual next door can be heard frantically imploring

our neighbor, Mr. Haskell, to open the door. By the sound, he is a 'dry' soldier. We judge so from the huskiness of his voice. Probably wants a jug. Probably won't get it, as Haskell has retired to his earthworks. Boom! Whizz! Another shell passes overhead. "Oh Mr. Haskell!" Ker-boom! Ker-pow! "Haskell, open the door!" Another shell came over and struck a town pig in the side, sending it squealing into hog heaven. The soldier could stand it no longer, and ran. We hear the echoes of his footsteps. At length, Haskell opens the door and calls after him: "What do you want?" Reply in the dim distance: "Tarnation! You're too late! 'Spect a man to have nine lives like a cat and get killed for a drink?" The drama closes, the scene shifts, and we exit at the double quick.

TRANSPORTATION SUSPENDED

Due to the sporadic, but daily shelling of the city by Federal artillery, rail service to Chattanooga has been suspended until further notice, except for military trains.

With Burnside marching on Knoxville, steamboats traveling the Tennessee River do so at their own peril from Knoxville to here. Latest reports put the Federals at McMinnville and Stevenson, Alabama, thus rendering Chattanooga temporarily cut off from the rest of the South.

FROM *THE OREGON SPECTATOR*

DEATH OF COLONEL KEVIN BURTON

Reports from Salem, Oregon, have confirmed that Colonel Kevin Burton, commanding officer of the First Battalion, Army of the Willamette, was killed in an action fought in the southern Willamette Valley near the town of Eugene City on August 19th. Colonel Burton was leading his troops on the march east of the city when they came under fire from an unknown number of Confederates lying in ambush. The colonel drew his saber and, leading his men from the front, ran toward the concealed rebels who were hiding in a blackberry thicket. He was hit by several shots simultaneously, and died shortly thereafter. Capt. Dr. Robert Wetter attended him, reporting that with his last gasp, he said, "Semper Fi! Semper Fi!" The colonel was carried by wagon to his family residence near Eugene City, where he was buried with full military honors. The First Battalion is now commanded by

Colonel John Leaton, who was a major under Burton's command.

WHEREABOUTS OF JOE JOHNSTON

General Joe Johnston's army is at Enterprise and Brandon, under the direct command of General Hardee. Most of the rebel force at the former place are said to be ready to move at a moment's notice. General Johnston himself went to Mobile on the 20th, and is reported to have returned to Mississippi again, after a thorough examination of the defenses and resources of Mobile.

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington City- The rumors of the resignation of General Meade have been the subject of much comment at Washington, and speculation is rife as to who will be his successor. It is said that the general choice of all officers is General Gouverneur K. Warren recently promoted Major-General, as General McClellan cannot be reinstated to the position.

A MOUNTED FORCE FOR KENTUCKY

General Rosseau is at Washington by authority of General Rosecrans, renewing his suggestion, made last fall, to raise a mounted infantry and cavalry force to operate against the guerrillas in Kentucky and Tennessee. It is proposed to raise twelve or fifteen thousand men, which force he thinks will be sufficient to rid those States of armed rebels, and to prevent in future plundering forays.

MORE VESSELS BURNED BY THE "ALABAMA."

The ships Talisman, from New York, bound for Shanghai, and the Conrad, from Montevideo to New York, were both destroyed by the CSS Alabama.

Taken Up and Jailed on Aug. 21st: Justin Case, swinging from a chandelier while intoxicated in The Thunder Mug. Fined ten dollars and two days in jail by Judge Lindahl.

AT SAWYERS MERCANTILE

Just obtained through the blockade, one dozen of Vannatta's Amazing Miracle Whip! It snaps! It crackles! It pops! Direct from Buffalo to you!

Taken Up and Jailed on August 21st, Cyrus D. Rimshot, firing his pistol in a hazardous and promiscuous fashion on Market Street while drunk and disorderly. Fined ten dollars, two days in jail, pistol seized by Judge Lindahl.

OFFICERS RETREAT

Cherry Street

First door north of the theater. Officers are respectfully invited to reserve my establishment for meals by the week, day, or individual need. No spurs.
Terms negotiable. Mrs. Fiske

Dr. I Yankum, Dentist

Now in the suite just above Sawyer's Mercantile. Extraction satisfaction guaranteed, or your tooth returned free of charge!

DOCTOR BORMAN'S

DISPENSARY

for

SPECIAL DISEASES

The Prudent Tonic which cures

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Congenital and Accidental

Phymosis

Strictures, Kidney Diseases

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\$1.00 Per Bottle

also good for hog starter

and bovine hair balls

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The Chattanooga Gazette

428 Market Street

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121 Market Street, Chattanooga

Just Two Doors North of

Central House

To The Editor: I hev an idear fer deelin with them Yankee cannons cross the river. Holler out some big tree trunks, band em with iron hoops from the

foundree sos they wont burst, fill em with scrap metal an sech, then fire em off at them cannons up on Stringers Rij. That orta take car of em.

Signed Festus J. Cornpone

At the Concert Hall

Aug. 30-31: The Toad Holler Trio

Sept. 1-2: 35th Tenn. Brass Band, duty permitting.
Benefit for Central Hospital.

Sept. 3: Ali Bama, magician, back by popular demand. Tickets 25 cents.

Sept. 4: Comedy - Pappy Gets a Furlough, with Rydon Roughshod as Pappy, Shirley Yewgest as Cindy, and E.C. Throttlestop as Major Seventh.
Gentlemen 50 cents, ladies and servants 25 cents.

JOB PRINTING

The Gazette is your source for all job printing needs. Cards, billheads, ball tickets, show cards, wedding and visiting cards, posters, handbills, circulars, theater programs, etc. Low prices and satisfaction guaranteed.

TAKEN UP AND JAILED on August 18th: Wallace Ragwort, of Johnson City, for passing counterfeit Confederate currency: released by Judge Lindahl for lack of jurisdiction.

CLEAR AS MUD

Advertisement from the *Johnson Co. War Whoop*. "Missing from Johnsonville, Miss Jane Fogerty; she also had in her arms two babies and a black Guernsey cow, all black with red hair, tortoise shell combs behind her ears, and large black spots down her back which squints awfully.

The Late C. Otton Bales

1803 - 1862 Mr. Bales passed away at his home in Sequatchie from lingering effects of lead poisoning due to an exchange of pistols with the late Mr. W.T. Hatch. The exchange, which took place on the 10th ultimo, was due to an argument regarding the filling of a questionable inside straight. Mr. Bales left a sizeable estate to his heirs, who will receive it at odds of four to one. Five will get you ten that a graveside service will be held at a later date. Viewing time to be determined later.
