



2021

The January Bugle Call



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

On the Cover: The sun sets on the battlefield at Belmont, Missouri, as seen from the bluffs at Columbus, Kentucky. On November 6, 1861, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant moved by riverboat from Cairo, Illinois, to attack the Confederacy's small outpost near Belmont, across the Mississippi River from the Confederate stronghold at Columbus, Kentucky. The battle was inconclusive, but Grant got his first taste of battle with the nucleus of what would become the Army of the Tennessee.

In This Issue: The Chairman's Column, the Confederate Column, the No-Frills Editorial, Last Civil War Widow Dies, a Scoundrel, a Coffee Break, Mail Call, a Book Review, and other cool stuff.

The Chairman's Column

By Don Benson

Is on Vacation

The Confederate Column

By Jim Stanovich

I'm sure most of us were hoping we would wake up January first and the whole Coronavirus mess and everything that goes along with it would magically be gone. Well, unfortunately that is very much not the case. The plague is still with us, along with all the shutdowns and restrictions.

The board did set the schedule of events for the 2021 season. How many of those events we are actually able to hold, nobody knows at this time. With the current restrictions, it would be impossible to hold an actual Civil War reenactment. Best we can do at this point is hope and pray that this virus suddenly goes away, and people are allowed to gather once again.

I've have seen several conversations as to why the club did not rollover last year's dues into this season. The short answer is finances. The NCWC has expenses such as insurance, whether we hold an actual event or not. With the state of our current treasury, it was felt the club could not simply absorb those costs with no income coming in from events.

With the uncertainty of the 2021 season at this time, and if personal finances are a concern, You may want to hold off on renewing your membership until we have a confirmed event. Remember though, the deadline for renewing your membership is two weeks before the event! If you can afford it, please get your 2021 membership in as soon as possible to avoid the last-minute rush, should state restrictions be dropped. Our membership coordinator would very much appreciate it!

Until we are allowed to gather 'round the campfire again, pick up a good book about the War Between the States, grab a needle and thread or find yourself a nice treadle sewing machine (if you don't already have one...or several), learn how to use it and make yourself a new uniform or period civilian clothing, build yourself some nice period furniture for your camp, or just relax. But most of all, stay healthy and safe!

The No Frills Editorial

To quote the Bard, "These are the times that try men's (and women's) souls. The Current Unpleasantness goes on, and on Oregon's South Coast where I live, we seem to be at the edge of the known world. This I do know: sooner or later this pandemic will ebb like our coastal tide, and it will go away. When that happens, we are going to again stake our tents in the dirt and grass, get up one morning and put on our blue or gray, and go forth to show members of the

general public why the Civil War was the central event of our nation's history. One of these days I will get to rub elbows with my pards, and one of these days I will get to distribute the good ol' *Chattanooga Gazette* in printed copies to folks in both camps until the copies run out. In the meantime, we all must be patient. Patience is a virtue, I have been told, and sometimes it is hard to have patience. But just as surely as Spring follows Winter, the days will get longer and warm, and we will be just that much closer to pulling out our canvas to toss in our rigs for that first reenactment after what we can then call the Late Unpleasantness.

In the meantime, keep your heads down out there.

The Bugle Call is usually sent out on the 25th of each month. Sometimes it is sent sooner, sometimes later, depending on important information. If you have a pard who wishes to subscribe, do not send them to the NCWC website, but have them send a request to jandghartman76@gmail.com.

Membership 2021

Membership Diva Sharon Stanovich wishes to remind everyone that it is a good time to renew your membership for 2021. Membership fees remain unchanged for 2021: \$25 for individual membership, and \$50 for a family membership. Renewing your membership is as easy as using the online payment on the NCWC's webpage. Don't delay, do it today!

Board Meeting Summary

From the meeting of January 21, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. and rollcall established that a quorum was present.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as presented. The treasurer's report showed \$33,140 in assets as of

the end of December and annual income of \$3,404. The report was approved as presented.

Event Planning Committee: Dates for 2021 are set, pending on Covid-19 restrictions.

Equine Safety Committee: The NCA is re-starting assessments, and information is available on their website.

Rules Committee: no report.

Membership Committee: As of the 21st 55 members have paid their dues for this year. Board members were reminded that they cannot vote until their dues are paid. Last year's membership was 368.

Public Relations: Annabelle Larson reported that the Giving Tuesday project on Facebook raised \$425, with Facebook expected to match that. Each unit has been advised to check their content on the NCWC webpage and update as needed. Contact Shawn Strutton.

Ashley Wendell reports that the Facebook page has been updated, and has managed to avoid the negative comments that many other reenacting groups have received.

Education Committee: Heidi Davis would like to turn over the Education committee chair position to someone who is more tech savvy since it is all by remote learning now. John Hartman said he has a Zoom presentation that he gives in Coos Co. a lot and volunteers to provide it for those interested.

Battalion Commander Reports: no reports.

Unit reports: Cavalry says that six to twelve riders will participate in the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Little Big Horn, June 18-27th in Montana.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements: next board meeting is February 18th either via Zoom or at the Country Kitchen restaurant in Woodburn. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

2021 DATES

Metolius- May 15 & 16

Oakland- June 12-13

Powerland- July 2-4

Clatsop- Sept. 3-5

Colton- Sept. 18-19

These events are pending no Covid restrictions.

The last known surviving widow of a Civil War veteran dies at 101 years old

Kelly McLaughlin, AP
Fri, January 8, 2021



- Helen Viola Jackson is shown in this April 2017 photo. Jackson was believed to be the last surviving widow of a Civil War soldier when she died December 16, 2020 in Marshfield, Missouri. She was 101. Nicholas Inman via AP

Helen Viola Jackson, who was just 17 when she married her 93-year-old Civil War veteran neighbor James Bolin in September 1936, died on December 16, 2020, in Marshfield, Missouri, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) announced last week.

According to the SUVCW, Jackson's father had volunteered his daughter to help Bolin, who fought for the Union in the Civil War, with

cleaning and chores when she was in high school in the 1930s.

To pay her back, Bolin offered to marry Jackson so that when he died, she could have his soldier's pension that he received for serving as a private in the Union Army's 14th Missouri Cavalry seven decades earlier during the Civil War.

Jackson hid her marriage from her parents and friends, and according to the Associated Press, she and Bolin were never intimate and never lived together during their three-year marriage.

Bolin died in 1938, but Jackson never applied for his pension and never remarried, the SUVCW said. Despite being quiet about the marriage as a teen, Jackson went public with the marriage later in life as she was working out the details of her own funeral, the Missouri Cherry Blossom Festival, which Jackson helped launch, said in a statement.

After her family learned of her marriage, they put a framed photo of Bolin in her room at the nursing home in Marshfield, Jackson's pastor and longtime friend Nicholas Inman told the AP "She broke down and cried," he said. "She kept touching the frame and said, 'This is the only man who ever loved me.'"

Inman told AP that "harboring this secret that had to be eating her alive" for years.

"It was sort of a healing process for Helen; that something she thought would be kind of a scarlet letter would be celebrated in her later years," Inman told AP of Jackson.

Judson Kilpatrick: Officer and Scoundrel

Some material taken from an article by Seth Augenstein in *America's Civil War*, July 2016

Hugh Judson Kilpatrick was a Federal cavalry general who was an accomplished fast-talker, liar, thief, hell-raising rake and opportunist who seemed to have no scruples,

yet rose to command a division of cavalry in the Late Unpleasantness. He may have been all these things, but he was also no coward. His men named him “Kilcavalry,” or “Kill-Cavalry” because he used little sense in pushing them hard and sending them recklessly into harm’s way.

Hugh Judson Kilpatrick more commonly referred to as Judson Kilpatrick, the fourth and final child of Colonel Simon Kilpatrick and Julia Wickham, was born on the family farm near Deckertown, New Jersey.

Judson apparently was a precocious child; short, with reddish hair and plenty of ambition. He decided that a military career would pave his path to the governor’s seat, and then the presidency. Because he campaigned for a local congressman as a teen, he received an appointment to West Point.

At just five-foot-five, Kilpatrick quickly established himself as a small guy unwilling to back down from a fight. He became unpopular with Southern cadets, but was unquestionably smart, with a gift for words. Although he graduated in the middle of West Point’s class of 1861, he was asked to deliver the commencement speech due to his verbal gifts. That same day he married a young lady named Alice Shailer.

Kilpatrick was commissioned a second lieutenant in the 1st U.S. Artillery. Within three days he was a captain in the 5th New York Infantry.

Kilpatrick was the first Army officer to be wounded in the Civil War, struck by canister fire while leading a company at the Battle of Big Bethel, June 10, 1861. Seizing on a chance for fame, he quickly sent an account of his heroic actions to the *New York Times*, which published it in full. He glossed over the fact that he had been shot in the hind end, and blamed his retreat on orders from his superiors. “Everything promised a speedy victory when we were ordered to

fall back. Where this order came from, I do not know,” he wrote. This was the first in a long line of misrepresentations. By September 25 he had used his political connections to become a lieutenant colonel, now in the 2nd New York Cavalry, which he helped to raise, and it was the mounted branch of the army that brought him fame and infamy.

Kilpatrick’s energetic demeanor contrasted with the seeming lethargy and indecisiveness of his fellow officers, which made him look like a man of action desperately needed by the Federal Army. He showed aptitude for organization and enterprise. Within months he had set up a stolen-goods ring that enriched him and subordinates, seizing much of the livestock they came upon on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. After he enraged a Maryland farmer by seizing a team of mules and reselling them for profit, the army arrested him and threw him into prison following the Battle of Antietam.

In just three months, Kilpatrick was released on January 21, 1863. After Fredericksburg the Union cavalry needed aggressive leadership, and Kilpatrick was welcomed. In fact, he was promoted to full colonel!

Kilpatrick’s aggressiveness proved to be a handicap when he came up against talented opponents, and the often-bloody results couldn’t always be laughed off. When ordered to cover a retreat from Second Manassas in August of 1862, Kilpatrick instead ordered a direct assault into a line of artillery. He sent troops into not one, but two ambushes at Aldie, Virginia in June 1863, which resulted in very high casualties. During the Confederate retreat from Gettysburg the next month, Kilpatrick was caught in a pincer movement by J.E.B. Stuart and other Confederate cavalry. Three

months later he stumbled into another trap laid by Stuart which led to a panicked retreat and pursuit labeled “The Buckland Races.” In his reports Kilpatrick claimed that the rout was an organized, slow withdrawal.



Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick

At Falling Waters, MD, just before the bulk of Lee's retreating army crossed back into Virginia from Gettysburg, Kilpatrick ordered the 6th Michigan over a ridge, right into a line of Rebel guns. There had been no reconnaissance beforehand. Major Peter Weber and half his men were mowed down before the Rebs fled across the river. According to historian George Franks III, Falling Waters was Kilpatrick's attempt to grab some glory after getting outdone by his subordinate, Brig. Gen. George Custer. Even Custer didn't want to charge the Rebs at Falling Waters. After the battle Kilpatrick tried to spin events his way, claiming that the charge was “the most gallant” ever made, and also claiming that he routed the enemy. After the report made the *New York Times*, Robert E. Lee wrote to George Meade, ratting out Kilpatrick. Meade asked Kilpatrick to confirm his claims, but Kilpatrick dodged it by going on leave.

Just before the start of Grant's Overland Campaign in the spring of 1864, Kilpatrick

conducted a raid toward Richmond and through the Virginia Peninsula, hoping to rescue Union prisoners of war held at Belle Isle and in Libby Prison in Richmond. Kilpatrick took his division out on February 28, sneaking past Robert E. Lee's flank and driving south for Richmond. On March 1, they were within 1 mile of the city. Defenses around the city were too strong, however, and numerous squads of Confederate militia and cavalry nipped at their heels the whole way, including some of General Wade Hampton's troopers dispatched from the Army of Northern Virginia. Unable to get at Richmond or return to the Army of the Potomac, Kilpatrick decided to bolt down the Virginia Peninsula where Ben Butler's Army of the James was stationed. Meanwhile, the general was dismayed to find out that Ulric Dahlgren's brigade, detached from the main force, had not made it across the James River. Eventually 300 of the latter's troopers stumbled into camp. Dahlgren and the rest seemingly vanished into thin air.

The survivors reported that they'd made a nightmarish journey through the countryside around Richmond in darkness and a sleet storm, the woods filled with enemy troops and hostile civilians at every turn. Dahlgren and the 200 cavalrymen accompanying him had been told by a slave of a place where the James was shallow and could be forded. When they got there, the river was swelled up and cresting. Convinced he'd been tricked, Dahlgren ordered the slave hanged. They went back north and found that Kilpatrick was gone, and they were alone in a hostile country. The troopers battled their way to the Mattaponi River, crossed, and appeared to be safe from danger, but in the dark they ran into a Confederate ambush. Dahlgren was shot dead along with many of his men, the rest

being taken prisoner. His body was then displayed in Richmond as a war trophy. Papers found on the body of Dahlgren shortly after his death described the object of the expedition, and they were apparently altered to read that he wanted to burn and loot Richmond and assassinate Jefferson Davis and the whole Confederate cabinet.

The discovery and publication of the Dahlgren Papers sparked an international controversy. General Braxton Bragg denounced the papers as "fiendish" and Confederate Secretary of War James Seddon proposed that the Union prisoners be hanged. Robert E. Lee agreed that they made for an atrocious document, but urged calm, saying that no actual destruction had taken place and the papers might very well be fakes. In addition, Lee was concerned because some Confederate guerrillas had just been captured by the Army of the Potomac, which was considering hanging them, and execution of Dahlgren's men might set off a chain reaction. The Confederate general sent the papers to George Meade under a flag of truce and asked him to provide an explanation. Meade wrote back that no burnings or assassinations had been ordered by anyone in Washington or the army. Meanwhile, newspapers and politicians in the North and South exchanged blows. The "Kilpatrick-Dahlgren" expedition was such a fiasco that Kilpatrick found he was no longer welcome in the Eastern Theater. He transferred west to command the 3rd Division of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Cumberland, under Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman.

Kilpatrick's womanizing is well documented, despite the fact that he was a married man for the first 2 ½ years of the war. His wife, Alice, died in November 1863, followed shortly by their infant. He regularly dressed one of his women, "Charley", in a

Union blue uniform, and often partied with his adjutant, Major L.G. Estes, who paired up with "Frank," a similarly attired female. "They were vulgar, rude, and indecent women, but fitting for a man of General Kilpatrick's character," wrote a physician whose house was commandeered by the couples.

At one point Kilpatrick moved two female cooks into his tent while Sherman's Army headed into North Carolina. At least one historian wrote of Kilpatrick impregnating a laundress who followed him for months during his march through the South. When it was not yet dawn on March 10, 1865, Confederate General Wade Hampton's cavalry paid a visit to Kilpatrick's camp near Monroe's Crossroads, North Carolina.



(Painting *Where is General Kilpatrick?* By Martin Pate, US Park Service)

Jolted awake by pounding hooves, yelling, and gunfire, Kilpatrick raced to the door of the house where he had spent the night with a female traveling companion. The Confederate attack had prompted most of his men to make an escape into the woods. Kilpatrick stood on the porch in just his long johns as a Rebel trooper rode up, demanding to know where Kirkpatrick was. "There he goes – on that black horse!" Kilpatrick hollered, pointing at a man disappearing

around a bend. The Reb rode off, giving Kilpatrick time to scramble into the saddle, still in his underwear, and make his escape.

Kilpatrick accompanied Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman to the surrender negotiations held at Bennett Place near Durham, North Carolina, on April 17, 1865. He later commanded a division of the Cavalry Corps in the Military Division of the Mississippi from April to June 1865 and was promoted to major general of volunteers on June 18, 1865. After the war Kilpatrick became active in politics as a Republican, and in 1880 was an unsuccessful candidate for the U.S. Congress from New Jersey. In November 1865, Kilpatrick was appointed Minister to Chile by President Andrew Johnson. This appointment was announced concurrently with the inclusion of Kilpatrick's name on a list of Republicans arrested for bribery.

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

In Chile he married his second wife, Luisa Fernandez de Valdivieso, a member of a wealthy family of Spanish origin that had emigrated to South America in the 17th century. They had two daughters: Julia Mercedes Kilpatrick and Laura Delphine Kilpatrick, married June 29, 1897 to Harry Hays Morgan, son of Philip H. Morgan. Laura Kilpatrick and Harry Morgan were the parents of twins sisters Thelma, Viscountess Furness, and Gloria Morgan Vanderbilt. Artist and socialite Gloria Vanderbilt was Hugh Judson Kilpatrick's great-granddaughter. CNN newsman Anderson Cooper is Kilpatrick's great-great-grandson.



With a little trick photography Anderson Cooper shows that you can't fight heredity.

How Coffee Fueled the War

BY Jon Grinspan for the New York Times, July 9, 2014

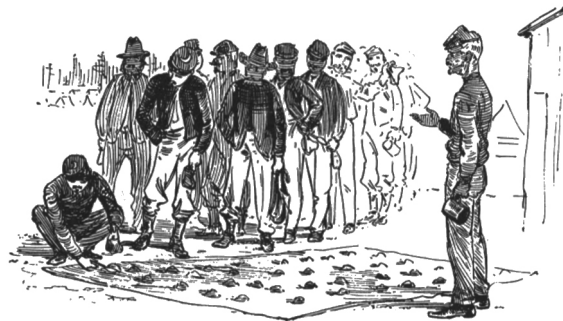
It was the greatest coffee run in American history. The Ohio boys had been fighting since morning, trapped in the raging battle of Antietam, in September 1862. Suddenly, a 19-year-old William McKinley appeared, under heavy fire, hauling vats of hot coffee. The men held out tin cups, gulped the brew and started firing again. "It was like putting a new regiment in the fight," their officer recalled. Three decades later, McKinley ran for president in part on this singular act of caffeinated heroism.

At the time, no one found McKinley's act all that strange. For Union soldiers, and the lucky Confederates who could scrounge some, coffee fueled the war. Soldiers drank it before marches, after marches, on patrol, during combat. In their diaries, "coffee" appears more frequently than the words "rifle," "cannon" or "bullet." Ragged veterans and tired nurses agreed with one diarist: "Nobody can 'soldier' without coffee."

Union troops made their coffee everywhere, and with everything: with water from canteens and puddles, brackish bays

and Mississippi mud, liquid their horses would not drink. They cooked it over fires of plundered fence rails, or heated mugs in scalding steam-vents on naval gunboats. When times were good, coffee accompanied beefsteaks and oysters; when they were bad it washed down raw salt-pork and maggoty hardtack. Coffee was often the last comfort troops enjoyed before entering battle, and the first sign of safety for those who survived.

The Union Army encouraged this love, issuing soldiers roughly 36 pounds of coffee each year. Men ground the beans themselves (some carbines even had built-in grinders) and brewed it in their muckets. They spent much of their downtime discussing the quality of that morning's brew. Reading their diaries, one can sense the delight (and addiction) as troops gushed about a "delicious cup of black," or fumed about "wishy-washy coffee." Escaped slaves who joined Union Army camps could always find work as cooks if they were good at "settling" the coffee – getting the grounds to sink to the bottom of the unfiltered muckets.



APPORTIONING COFFEE AND SUGAR.

Illustration from *Hard Tack and Coffee* by John Billings, illustrator Charles Reed

For much of the war, the massive Union Army of the Potomac made up the second-largest population center in the Confederacy, and each morning this sprawling city became a coffee factory. First, as another

diarist noted, "little campfires, rapidly increasing to hundreds in number, would shoot up along the hills and plains." Then the encampment buzzed with the sound of thousands of grinders simultaneously crushing beans. Soon tens of thousands of muckets gurgled with fresh brew.

Confederates were not so lucky. The Union blockade kept most coffee out of seceded territory. One British observer noted that the loss of coffee "afflicts the Confederates even more than the loss of spirits," while an Alabama nurse joked that the fierce craving for caffeine would, somehow, be the Union's "means of subjugating us." When coffee was available, captured or smuggled or traded with Union troops during casual cease-fires, Confederates wrote rhapsodically about their first sip.

The problem spilled over to the Union invaders. When Gen. William T. Sherman's Union troops decided to live off plunder and forage as they cut their way through Georgia and South Carolina, soldiers complained that while food was plentiful, there were no beans to be found. "Coffee is only got from Uncle Sam," an Ohio officer grumbled, and his men "could scarce get along without it."

Confederate soldiers and civilians would not go without. Many cooked up coffee substitutes, roasting corn or rye or chopped beets, grinding them finely and brewing up something warm and brown. It contained no caffeine, but desperate soldiers claimed to love it. Gen. George Pickett, famous for that failed charge at Gettysburg, thanked his wife for the delicious "coffee" she had sent, gushing: "No Mocha or Java ever tasted half so good as this rye-sweet-potato blend!"



A Sharps coffee grinder carbine

Did the fact that Union troops were near jittery from coffee, while rebels survived on impotent brown water, have an impact on the outcome of the conflict? Union soldiers certainly thought so. Though they rarely used the word “caffeine,” in their letters and diaries they raved about that “wonderful stimulant in a cup of coffee,” considering it a “nerve tonic.” One depressed soldier wrote home that he was surprised that he was still living, and reasoned: “what keeps me alive must be the coffee.”

Others went further, considering coffee a weapon of war. Gen. Benjamin Butler ordered his men to carry coffee in their canteens, and planned attacks based on when his men would be most caffeinated. He assured another general, before a fight in October 1864, that “if your men get their coffee early in the morning you can hold.”

Coffee did not win the war – Union material resources and manpower played a much, much bigger role than the quality of its Java – but it might say something about the victors. From one perspective, coffee was emblematic of the new Northern order of fast-paced wage labor, a hurried, business-minded, industrializing nation of strivers. For years, Northern bosses had urged their workers to switch from liquor to coffee, dreaming of sober, caffeinated, untiring employees. Southerners drank coffee too – in New Orleans especially – but the way Union soldiers gulped the stuff at every meal pointed ahead toward the world the war

made, a civilization that lives on today in every office breakroom.

But more than that, coffee was simply delicious, soothing – “the soldier’s chiefest bodily consolation” – for men and women pushed beyond their limits. Caffeine was secondary. Soldiers often brewed coffee at the end of long marches, deep in the night while other men assembled tents. These grunts were too tired for caffeine to make a difference; they just wanted to share a warm cup – of Brazilian beans or scorched rye – before passing out.

This explains their fierce love. When one captured Union soldier was finally freed from a prison camp, he meditated on his experiences. Over his first cup of coffee in more than a year, he wondered if he could ever forgive “those Confederate thieves for robbing me of so many precious doses.” Getting worked up, he fumed, “Just think of it, in three hundred days there was lost to me, forever, so many hundred pots of good old Government Java.”

So when William McKinley braved enemy fire to bring his comrades a warm cup – an act memorialized in a stone monument at Antietam today – he knew what it meant to them.

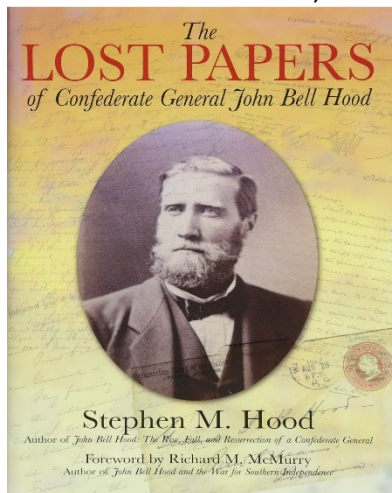
Book Review: The Lost Papers of Confederate General John Bell Hood

By Stephen M. Hood, 259 pgs. with appendix, bibliography, index, many photos. 2015 Savas Beatie, pub.

To begin, Stephen M. Hood is not a direct descendant of General Hood, but a collateral descendant; a g-g-nephew if I recall correctly. He became aware of the existence of the general’s lost papers, and after visiting the general’s close relatives, received permission to publish, with certain

restrictions, and those only on the private letters between Hood and his wife, Anna.

Many of us know the accepted story of John Bell Hood: left arm useless after getting a shrapnel wound at Gettysburg; loss of his right leg above the knee at Chickamauga, and thereafter dependent upon painkillers like laudanum and whiskey; retreated unnecessarily at Cassville; let the Federal XXIII Corps march right by his encamped army at Spring Hill, blamed Patrick Cleburne for that fiasco, etc. etc. etc.



Stephen Hill's book shows many letters from various Confederate officers and politicians which give strong evidence to disprove nearly all of what current historians have written as one hundred percent fact. The letters show that Hood had a great deal of mobility in his left arm. Also, he was off painkillers for good only eight weeks after his leg was amputated. His doctor's medical report is truly revelatory regarding both wounds.

For me, the real eye-opener were letters from former corps commander Stephen D. Lee about Spring Hill. Lee said that corps commander Frank Cheatham and divisional commander Patrick Cleburne agreed to ignore Hood's order to attack the Federals at night because night attacks rarely worked. The next morning Cleburne was so filled

with remorse that he swore never to disobey an order ever again. This would explain his actions at the Battle of Franklin that day.

Stephen Hood writes in solid, easy flowing prose. The book is organized in a logical but not chronological way, but by topic. This worked well, and covered each topic as thoroughly as could be done.

Historians receive a good spanking by Hood for reading other historians' assumptions, then passing them on as facts. Hood shows this with four authors whose books have portrayed General Hood in the way that he is typically remembered. To correct this with *The Lost Papers* is known as revisionism. The sciences constantly revise accepted theory and fact with new discoveries. Why not history?

The Lost Papers have found a place on my bookshelf. Consider getting a copy yourself.

Mail Call

The first letter comes from Lieutenant H. C. Wright, of the 32nd Illinois Infantry, written to Capt. John B. Duncan at Fort Henry after it was captured. The 32nd is preparing to embark for Shiloh. Remember: spelling and punctuation is theirs.

Fort Henry Tennessee

March 7, 1862

Capt. Duncan,

Sir, as we shall embark tomorrow and go up to the River I will drop you a few lines for the purpose of giving you all the information in my possession and a part of that will be only a surmise. General Buel has gone up the Cumberland River with one hundred thousand men, and the number going up this River will amount to about the same. Some 50 or 60 steam boats have

already come and they continue to arrive hourly loaded with troops. It is slow work getting troops on board at this place owing to the high water they have to ferry over a slough one hundred yards wide in a small flat boat to get to the river and you can form an idea of the amount of time it consumes to press ten thousand troops one company at a time. I have returned all our extra guns and accouterments and taken a receipt for the same. I will now give you a history of the entire situation of Capt. Duncan's Gray Hounds. When we left Bird Point William Leighton and William Johnson were left at Mound City and were all sent back to the general hospital at Mound City. Conly went with them as a nurse. Johnson has come up all right but we have no news from Leighton since we came here. The health of the boys has not been very good. Ridenour & William Parsley had the measles. Richardson, Nick Anderson & Thorp had the diarrhoea. We received marching orders. I had to send Flood & Hamilton away. I do not know what ails Flood. Hamilton had mumps. Lieut. Burrough of Capt. Philips company has resigned and gone home on account of ill health. Bill Logan has been appointed to fill his vacancy. Hooker was not able for duty for about one week since we came here but is doing well at this time. I would have been sick but would not find any leisure time. My wooden Lieut. does not learn one d---d thing. We were mustered for pay on the 28th day of Feb. and have all our papers made out in Apple Pie order and style.

As I have written a dozen letters to Franklin since we came here you are in possession of all the news of importance. Earls is at Berlin and him and his brother both want to come to us. If you can get some good stout recruits bring them but do not bring bits of young boys. The 14th Regt. got here yesterday and are

generally in fine health. I was with Capt. Meacham and his Lieuts. last night. We all belong to the same Division but different Brigades. The diarrhoea has given our Regt. fits since we came here. I have not seen anything since we left Camp Butler that resembles good order or discipline in any of the troops. The older the regts. the less discipline. Our company are the best shots of any in this regt. I get along with Logan first rate and with all the rest likewise. Give my respects to my mother, Nancy and all the children. Also to Uncle Jimmy Langley and tell him we will give the secesh Hell. If you are not able to come, write and tell all the news of the country. Receive my best wishes and respects for yourself and family. So farewell for the present from your friend to Capt. Duncan.
Lieut. H.C. Wright

The second letter, written just two days earlier, is from Pvt. J.T. Jordan of the 17th South Carolina Infantry. The 17th would be reorganized in April 1862, and in July would become part of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Wednesday Morning

March the 5th 1862

Mrs. Jordan, I am still in tolerable health. Hoping this will find you and family enjoying better health. I received yours by John Edwards. I was sorry to hear that you were unwell. I am in hope that it was not measles. You had better take good care of yourself for fear it might be. We still have some cases of sickness in our company and right smart in the regiment and some deaths. One died a few days ago belonging to Capt. Sanders company. He had measles and took cold. You said Uriah wanted to know whether he would sell any cotton or

not. I had forgotten to send any word by Allan to him.

He must sell enough to get the bagging that was borrowed and to get what grousers you need. I understand that Bagging is worth forty five cents per yard and that molasses is worth one dollar per gallon and few at that. My advice to you is not to buy any more than you can get along with at present. Tell Uriah if he should take a notion to bale and sell his cotton at any time, I want him to have mine taken and sold also. I would not advise him to sell but am willing that he should use his pleasure.

You said Allan was anxious to know what to do with the stable manure. Uriah will know what is best to do with it.

You stated that the Yankeys had published that they had taken Savannah. If that is so, I have not heard of it. And we can have any nurse most we want to here but the truth. We heard a few days ago that Buregard had given them a terrible thrashing at Paduker and that we had given them another thrashing at Manasah. Likely all faults.

You also stated that it was rumored the we had been run by the Yankee's from John's Island and that we had retreated back to camp Lee. I am glad we had retreated back to camp. I am glad to inform you that was faults. We are still on John's Island yet and are being reinforced. Capt Walkers Company come to our camp yesterday on their way to Wadmalaw Island. I saw Robert Crawford, Jesse Clayton, Ames Russell, and James Willson. They were all well. They are a fine looking set of fellows to see them go through to sword exercise. I would think they are pretty well drilled. I do not hear of much stir on the coast. We are working the roads from here to the boat landing on Stono River. We are also building a bridge at Church Flats below the boat landing. I do not know what it is for but I

suppose it is in order that they might be able to throw over troops from Adams Run into John's Island if we should get attacked.

Our fare is tolerable good yet. We get flour, bacon, lard, and some fresh beef besides potatoes and sugar. We get no molasses owing to the scarcity of them. I was somewhat disappointed when Henry went to go home. I had as I thought the right kind of Magnolia but it was not John Lyle went home with him. He said he would try to get some on the road, so if none of it gets home you must not be surprised as they had to walk and they had a heavy load. I must come to a close. Write soon and let me hear from you as I shall be uneasy about you for fear it was measles. You had better not two uneasy about us. We are in the hands of God. Direct your letters to Charleston, S.C. Company A; 17th Regiment S.C.V. Col. J.H. Means

Farell

J.T. Jordan

The Chattanooga Gazette

James Rogers Editor John Hartman Correspondent

January 21, 1863

REPULSE AT VICKSBURG

General Sherman's repulse at Vicksburg was complete. The entire force, under General McClelland, re-embarked on the 3rd on transports, closely followed by the rebel advance, which, coming in range of the gunboats, were driven back with severe loss. Federal losses, as near as could be ascertained, were six hundred killed, one thousand five hundred wounded, and one thousand missing.

A telegraphic dispatch from General Pemberton to the Secretary of War, dated on the 8th, says that all the Union troops have gone up the river; that there were only seven gunboats between Vicksburg and Milliken's Bend, and that the city was being strengthened every day, and could be maintained

against all attacks. Generals Pemberton and Price are in command there. Gray forces have been reinforced to the extent of sixty thousand men. They have an artillery force of one hundred and sixty guns in battery, besides a large number of fieldpieces. Federal losses in the expedition are from two thousand five hundred to three thousand in killed, wounded, and missing. Confederate losses are not known.

AFFAIRS IN TENNESSEE

Intelligence from the vicinity of Murfreesboro is to the effect that General Bragg had fallen back to Tullahoma, to give his army rest. Tullahoma is seventy-one miles from Nashville and thirty-two from Murfreesboro, and on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, where it intercepts the McMinnville and Manchester road. The enemy [General Rosecrans] has advanced his line seven miles this side of Murfreesboro. He has been guilty of the most outrageous enormities, stealing private property, robbing peaceable citizens, and running off servants.

BATTLE AT BENT SPOON

Word has reached the Gazette that a battle occurred at Bent Spoon, in Rhea County, on the 19th inst. A Confederate cavalry company, the Raiders, of Lost, Ark., engaged a Federal detachment near the village, which lies in a natural bowl of a valley. After a battle of one hour both sides withdrew with few losses.

ANOTHER SPEECH FROM JEFF DAVIS

Jeff Davis has been making another speech at Mobile, in which he talks hopefully and boastingly of the ultimate success of the South over "the Yankees, who are seeking to enchain us in the same degrading servitude with themselves, with a baboon for a king."

THE "ALABAMA."

The Alabama appears to have turned up on the 12th ult. off the desert island of Banquitta, coast of Venezuela, where she took in coal from a vessel awaiting her there. The USS San Jacinto arrived there just twenty-four hours after the raider left.

Another report says that she has gone to the south coast of Asia.

A REWARD FOR BUTLER'S HEAD

It appears by McGuffey, editor of the *Johnson County War Whoop and Battle Cry of Freedom*, that Hon. Richard Yeadon has offered a reward of ten thousand dollars for the head of General Benjamin F. Butler. This Yeadon is editor of the *Charleston Courier*, and is known among the fraternity by the sobriquet of "Sancho Panza." From his personal appearance we should judge that he never had money enough to buy himself a respectable-looking coat.

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To the Editor: I am saddened to see once again, the notice of bank failures in the state. This truly has me puzzled. They are, after all, banks where people do business, save their money, and cash checks. If these banks are no longer on a solid footing, why, then, do the banks not simply print more money? It seems to me the quickest way to solve the problem. (signed)
Polly Dacktill

REFUSE THESE NOTES

The following Tennessee Banks are broken or closed, and their bank notes, if circulating, are utterly worthless:

Agricultural Bank of Brownsville
Central Bank of Tennessee at Nashville
Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Nashville
Mechanics Bank at Memphis
Memphis Savings Institute of Memphis
Exchange Bank of Murfreesboro
Miners & Manufacturers Bank of Knoxville
Bank of East Tennessee at Knoxville
Bank of Trenton at Trenton
Bank of Dandridge at Dandridge
Bank of Tazewell at Tazewell
Bank of Claiborne at Tazewell
Citizens Bank of Memphis
Bank of Clarksville at Nesmith
Exchange Bank of Georgia
Central Bank of Georgia

LAW NOTICE

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JEFF DAVIS'S MESSAGE

Jeff Davis has issued his annual Message to the Confederate Congress. He speaks of the early determination of England, France, and other European Powers to confine themselves to recognizing the self-evident fact of the existence of a strict neutrality during the

progress of the war, but draws from this the conclusion that their course of action was but an actual decision against the South, and in favor of the Union, at the same time tending to prolong hostilities. He denounces the conduct of the Union armies as atrocious and cruel.

G.A.Wood
Attorney and Counselor
at Law
Chattanooga, Tenn.
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THE "ALABAMA" AGAIN

The Alabama is again at her work. The schooner Union, which arrived at Jamaica on the 8th inst., was captured by the rebel raider, but subsequently released, as her cargo belonged to British subjects. She brought with her the crew of a Boston bark—the Parker Cook—which had only the protection of the Stars and Stripes, and not the ensign of England, to protect her, and hence was seized and burned by the Alabama.