

# SWAMP ANGEL II

# NEWS

VOL 31, NO.1

BUCKS COUNTY CIVIL WAR MUSEUM AND ROUND TABLE

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2022

## NEWS AND NOTES

Hello and Happy Spring to all Round Table members and friends. We are entering a busy time of the season with much to do and a chance for our members to get involved. First of all, we will now be conducting our meetings at the new Doylestown Borough Hall, located at 10 Doyle St. The building has been completely refurbished and will be a great place for our future meetings. Our first meeting in this location will be on Tuesday, April 5th. Our meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Borough Hall at 7pm. Thanks so much for your support and interest in our Zoom meetings for the last year.

Our speaker schedule for the next few months will be:

**Tuesday, April 5th** – “Lt. Col. John W. Fairfax, Sr. (CSA)” Our featured speaker will be Gerry Mayers

**Tuesday, May 3rd** – “The George Spangler Farm – A History of its Involvement in the Battle of Gettysburg.” Leading the discussion will be Mr. Ron Kirkwood.

**Tuesday, June 7th** — “Their Maryland: The Army of Northern Virginia from the Potomac Crossing to Sharpsburg in September 1862. Our featured speaker will be Mr. Alex Rossio.

A special note of thanks and consideration to our most recent speakers, Carolyn Ivanoff about the life and times of Clara Barton and Eric Lindblade and his presentation about Col. Arthur Freemantle.

We are fortunate to have some round table members step up and get involved with different programs at the Library/Museum. Peter Scott is a new docent. He recently led a group from the Peter Becker Community on a private tour in February. Jaye Drukas assisted in our Haunted History Tour as a guide and a sign language interpreter. Loretta Kostyk has graciously loaned the Museum her collection of authentic Civil War dresses for Women's History Month. Doreen Barton, a long time photographer for the Museum, plans to help out in the Library as well. And with all of her other responsibilities, Allie Brand is also assisting with docent duties.

There has been some interest in a possible field trip to Sharpsburg, MD in September to mark the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. If that is something you would have interest in participating, please let Bill Hamill or Jim Donovan know. We would like to know by July if members would like to go. Bill's # is 215-429-5969. His email address is [williamrhamill@gmail.com](mailto:williamrhamill@gmail.com). Jim's email address is [csajim@aol.com](mailto:csajim@aol.com).

It's been a busy winter season at the Library/Museum. We continue to have a steady flow of visitors and it's great to see so much interest in the Civil War. If you have not been to the Library/Museum in some time, please make it a point to come out and visit. We have a friendly group of volunteers that are more than willing to share their knowledge. The hours are Saturdays from 10:30am thru 2:00pm. Come and hang out with your fellow members. You will have a great time and enjoy a special place in Doylestown

## Message from the President

Hello my fellow round table members.

Hope you kept warm and cozy during the winter months and are looking forward to Spring. Speaking of spring, the Library and Museum will be looking for volunteers for the annual Spring Clean Up which will be held on Sunday April 10th. Contact Allie Brand if you are interested in volunteering.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter that the board was planning several projects. In February for Black History month there was a display of black soldiers who fought for the Union. In March for Women's History Month, we had a display for women in the Civil War. Thank you, Lorretta Kostyk, and Marilyn Becker for your wonderful display of original women's dresses and the presentation on Quilting that was held on March 19th. Thanks to Jay Drukas and Marilyn Becker for working together to have Lorraine Stone come in and do her presentation of Harriet Tubman on March 26. Also, a special thanks to our Executive Director Allie Brand for coordinating all these activities and making them a success.

The Bucks County Civil War Round Table will be participating in the Memorial Day parade. We are looking for volunteers to join us in marching. Those interested can contact me either at the meetings or send me an email at [csajim@aol.com](mailto:csajim@aol.com). Also, we will be doing our living history program again this year. It will be held on September 10, 2022 at the court house grounds from 10 A.M. till 4 P. M. We will be looking for volunteers to participate or to help man the tables. More information to follow.

Be safe and be well,

Jim Donovan

Authentic Civil War Era dresses on loan from docent Loretta Kostyk



Lorraine Stone, portraying Harriet Tubman, for Women's History Month at the Bucks County Civil War Museum



The new Borough Hall  
10 Doyle Street  
Doylestown, PA 18901

# C&N

BANKING  
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## General Ulysses S. Grant's Tomb

By Marilyn Becker

Above the entryway to the tomb of General Grant, located in New York, are the words, "Let Us Have Peace." It seems very fitting for them to be there as this man saw the horrors of war for four long years. This Tomb is a National Historic Place registration and United States National Memorial. The tomb is located in the middle area of Riverside Drive at 122nd Street, across from Riverside Church (southwest) and Riverside Park (west). It is the largest mausoleum in North America

Before Grant's death, on July 23, 1885, Grant had moved to a cottage on Mt. Mc Gregor in New York, near Saratoga. There the former president had come to finish his memoirs which would provide \$450,000 for his wife while she remained living alone after his death. Both Julia and his children stayed there in the small modest cabin. Meals and excursions were taken at a hotel nearby. Often he could be seen sitting on the cottage porch, wrapped in a shawl writing to complete his book, racing against time. It was thought the cool mountain air would help him.

Grant was 63 when he died. He had suffered from throat cancer for a year, but even in such a painful condition, he thought only of taking care of Julia after he was gone. He not only succeeded in doing that, he wrote an outstanding memoir, it is considered among the best written by a president. After Grant died in 1885, Julia said he wanted to be buried in New York. They had lived in New York and enjoyed their time there. The Grant Monument Association asked for funds. There was a group that wanted Washington, D.C. to be the choice for his burial. No design had been drawn up. This hindered fund raising goals. John Hemenway Duncan proposed a plan and the tomb was completed in 1877. The tomb cost was about \$600,000. Today the tomb has been restored after a time of neglect. It is open to the public. Grant's funeral was attended by about one million people and the city was draped in black. The procession was about seven miles long and took five hours.

The tomb is a neoclassical style situated on 0.76 acres. One request of Grant was that there be a place for Julia by his side. Julia liked the site because she could visit the place often as she lived nearby. Other places considered, did not promise that Julia would be by his side after her death. Julia had visited Grant many times during the war at head quarters camps. They had also spent a year traveling the world together after his presidency, so this last request was honored, this was truly a loving marriage. Julia was devastated by his death.

In April 17, 1897, Grant's body was transferred to the mausoleum and in 1912, Julia was placed beside her husband and both are above ground and side by side. Groucho Marx on his show used to ask people "who is buried in Grant's tomb?" The correct answer is no one as the tombs are not underground, but side by side on the ground floor. This was a popular question at one time, since kids would make random calls and ask the same question, then hang up

Areas in the wall of the tomb contain busts of Grant's best generals. General Sherman is one of them. There is a mural on the walls which contains Cincinnati. This horse was the favorite of Grant. Only person other than Grant to ride the horse was President Lincoln. Cincinnati was about seventeen to eighteen when he died and he is buried in Maryland. He was a gift to General Grant and quickly became a favorite of all of the horses Grant rode in the war. Cincinnati handled the noise of battle well and seemed eager to take part when the battle started.



## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

On March 19th Marilyn Becker gave a beautiful presentation on, "The Art of Quilting." A stunning Bear Paw quilt that she made served as her backdrop.





## “Before Forty-Eight Hours the glad announcement would go trembling over the wires”

### W.W.H. Davis and the Failure of Peace

By Mike Campbell

As inauguration day (4 MAR) 1861 approached, political and civic life in the northern states had come to a standstill. “Appalled at the prospect of a bloody, sectional struggle,” according to chronicler A.K. McClure, much of the North had stopped dead in its tracks, stranded on the line between war and peace, adrift politically and helpless as the tides of prosperity and reunion receded before them. In South Carolina, the Fort Sumter crisis intensified daily; seven states had already seceded. In D.C., The Senate Banking Committee advised the Bank of Philadelphia to suspend specie payments, after “one-fifth of the specie was drawn... in one day.” In Illinois, Abraham Lincoln said goodbye to Springfield for the last time, and boarded a train heading east. As if in response to the national mood, in Pennsylvania the first few weeks of February 1861 were excessively cold, freezing the lakes and rivers, followed by an abrupt thaw, creating dangerous conditions ripe for a spring phenomena known as a freshet. The Luzerne Union (Wilkes-Barre) described the Susquehanna River thus: “The river, which was a solid mass of ice nearly all winter, yielded to the warm, soaking rains on Tuesday (12 FEB) morning, and in the afternoon the ice began to slowly move down: but in about an hour it dammed up.” Below the valley, “the dam of the reservoir of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company yielded to the pressure of the ice and went out,” sending, “a mass of refuse” - sawmills, houses, even a glass factory and “1000 boxes of window glass” - plunging downstream, “compounding losses from Easton to New Hope,” according to the Carbondale Advance. Clearly, nature was ready for a fight, even if the people of Pennsylvania still clung to hopes of peace.

In Harrisburg losses compounded for the Democratic Party as well. A mid-January mass meeting at National Hall in Philadelphia had brought together, “Democrats and others opposed to civil war and in favor of some equitable compromise,” from across the state. Under the banner of “No Civil War, Justice to the South, Equal Rights in the Territories,” men like W.W.H. Davis, publisher of the Doylestown Democrat, and Lewis S. Coryell, Jackson-era politician and lumberman, passed resolutions in favor of a Democratic State Convention, which would convene in an emergency session in Harrisburg the following month. But time was already running short. The Fort Sumter crisis grew more severe each day, and compromise with the upper south on the basis of “a union of sovereign states” wavered in the face of Republican resolve. Lincoln’s inaugural train steamed dead ahead, this time heading towards Harrisburg. He would arrive on the afternoon of Friday, February 22, and be greeted by many including the Ringgold Artillery battalion and band of Reading, longtime political allies of the Davis family and future soldiers of the 104th PA. The day prior (21 FEB), Pennsylvania Democrats had assembled at “Brant’s Hall, Harrisburg” for their much advertised two-day convention. Calling it, “the most imposing demonstration ever before made at the state capital,” the Wellsboro Gazette noted, “there were several thousand troops present,” including, “a large number of volunteer military companies... the state Democratic Convention and its followers... Added to all this was the arrival of Mr. Lincoln... and then the people, or half of them at least, acted as if they were crazy... The town was literally covered with American flags,” reflecting, “the cordial feeling of the people, who looked to him [Lincoln] to restore amity and good feeling throughout the country.” Always a man of the people, Lincoln reciprocated these liberal sentiments; but privately he warned fair weather Republicans, “Entertain no proposition for a compromise in regard to expansion of slavery... the instant you do, they have us under again; all our labor is lost.” Unaware of the bind he had caught them in, the Democratic Convention broke with the President-elect on every important question. Declaring peace, they endorsed the states’ rights friendly Crittenden Compromise, and called for a convention of the states to settle, “the present troubles,” and “allay forever the vexed territorial question,” in favor of popular sovereignty. As Secretary of the Convention, W.W.H. Davis helped



craft “a Committee of thirty-three,” distinguished delegates, tasked to “carry the resolutions to Washington and present them to the President.” Feted on arrival by Peace Democrats, including Vice President and future Confederate Major General John Breckenridge, the Committee couldn’t see just how far back against the wall Lincoln had pushed them. The one-two punch of desperation and overconfidence had D.C. Democrats taking leave of reason, as well as waxing poetic, with one notable Senator claiming, “Our happiest efforts... would soon be crowned with success, and that before forty-eight hours the glad announcement would go trembling over the wires, that the cause of compromise and concession had triumphed.” But this was only wishful thinking. Real power knew better, as the Committee would soon find out. Rebuffed by the outgoing Buchanan Administration, they settled for calling at the home of ex-Secretary of State Lewis Cass, who “snubbed” them, despite his Democratic loyalties, declaring, “he could not stand upon such a platform, as he believed the arm of the Federal government was strong enough to prevent treason, call it secession or anything else.” Humiliated, the Committee sought the consolation of the Little Giant, Stephen Douglas, and the comforts of the National Hotel, while W.W.H. Davis was sent back to Democratic HQ in Philadelphia, to lobby governors, legislators, and businessmen on the virtues of concession and compromise. By then February had turned to March and Lincoln had assumed office. Democrats would have to take their arguments to the people. But the people had stopped listening. Republican majorities in the PA Legislature prevented the printing of 3000 copies of the Democratic Resolutions at the public’s expense. A similar motion in the U.S. Senate had resulted in Ben Wade (R-OH) presenting for publication a collection of letters, “asking Congress to stand firm by the Constitution and the Union.” Lacking the votes to do anything other than talk, time had run out on the Peace Democrats. For Davis, bested by Lincoln and isolated politically, it would be a long journey home; and in the end, a war that no one wanted. As his friend A.K. McClure wrote, “Only the very few living who were in touch with public affairs in 1860-61, can have any just conception of the general sentiment of the North on the subject of fratricidal war. All classes and conditions shuddered at the idea... there was a general cessation of public political discussion... all seemed to await developments, not knowing what grave problems would be presented for solution.” It was this trepidation that Lincoln had in mind when he sought to stiffen Republican backbones on the question of the expansion of slavery. “The tug (of war) has to come and better now than later,” he wrote, “hold firm, as with a chain of steel.”

Old Time Notes of PA (McClure); Hist of Bucks Co V. I (Davis); Public Ledger (PHL); Pittston Gazette; Philadelphia Inquirer; Star of the North (Bloomsburg)

## How a Union Physician saved thousands of his fellow Soldiers and future generations of Americans.

By: Michael M. Braun, DO

August 30, 1862, fourteen thousand Union Soldiers lay dead and dying following the costly battle of the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas). The Army of Northern Virginia under General Robert E. Lee had soundly defeated the numerically superior Army of the Potomac. In the wake of the devastating defeat, the Union Army was ill prepared to care for its wounded. A year into the Civil War, it would take more than seven agonizing days for the Union Army to remove and treat its wounded. Soldiers had suffered horrendous injuries from the Minnie ball, shrapnel, bayonets, and blunt force trauma. Their suffering was compounded by being exposed to the elements and deprived of water and food.

Major General George McClellan was appalled by the disorganization and poor treatment of his soldiers. He ordered his newly appointed Medical Director, MAJ Jonathon Letterman, to take “whatever necessary” measures to improve the medical system. MAJ Letterman, a Pennsylvania native, graduated from Philadelphia’s very own Jefferson Medical College in 1849.

MAJ Letterman went to work immediately. He instituted the US Army’s first triage system for battlefield care. The triage system categorized soldiers based on those who would most benefit from medical care versus wasting limited resources on those with low likelihood of survival. Triage care for the wounded was just the beginning. MAJ Letterman developed the first medical evacuation system for the US Military. It was a simple and elegant design consisting of three stations with first of its kind in warfare: the Ambulance corps. The wounded were transported to each station by the ambulance corps’ “Wheeling Wagons” which consisted of specially trained medics using horse drawn wagons. Unlike previous “military medics”, Letterman’s medics were true medics whose sole responsibility consisted of the evacuation and treatment of the wounded during the battle.

The ambulance corps would transfer the patients through each the medical evacuation system which consisted of three echelons of care. First, wounded soldiers would arrive at the Field Dressing Station located next to or on the battlefield. Here the wounded basic wound treatment with tourniquets, medications, and dressings. Frontline physicians would triage and determine who lived and died. Next, the wounded would be transferred to the Field Hospital, located away from the battlefield in a hard structure, for emergency surgery. Once stabilized, the wounded would be transferred to a large city hospital for long term treatment and care.

Letterman’s innovations paid off a month after the Second Bull Run at Antietam, the bloodiest day in US Army history. Letterman’s ambulance core, triage, and evacuation system performed superbly. At the end of the fighting, all Union wounded were triaged and transferred up medical echelons of care in under 24 hours. A remarkable turnaround for a flailing and disorganized medical department.

After Antietam, Letterman reorganized the duties of the Army “Surgeons” as well. During this era of medicine, the term surgeon was synonymous with any physician regardless of skills set, education, or experience. As such, many inexperienced surgeons were performing amputations without competency in this particular skill set. After the Battle of Antietam, medical journals throughout the US described botched operations by Army surgeons resulting in increased suffering and death. As a result, Letterman developed his most groundbreaking idea in the field of American medicine: a highly regulated competency evaluation for physicians. He assigned surgical care to the most qualified physician who had a proven track record of surgical proficiency. He tasked non-qualified physicians with medical care in the perioperative and post-operative periods such as triage and wound



care. Today, in both civilian and military medicine, physicians are required to meet specific testing, educational, and proficiency requirements as defined by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) as well as various state and federal regulations.

An Act of Congress in 1864 established the medical evacuation system designed by MAJ Letterman to be implemented throughout the U.S. Army. His system would be updated and altered with time and the transition to modern warfare. However, the same basic design and ambulance core is at its heart. Modern US soldiers are cared for by medics initially and transported to a Role 1 or casualty collection point (Field Dressing Station) where they are stabilized with medications, bandages, and tourniquets. From there, they are transferred to a Role 2 (Field hospital) for emergent and lifesaving surgery, but limited in its scope and holding capacity. Their next destination is the Role 3 where more definitive surgery can be done by a robust medical team. The Role 4, a military hospital located in the United States or other NATO countries, is their final destination if not returned to duty by the other Roles. During Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), the modern “Ambulance Corps” consisting of helicopters, HUMVEES, and other aircraft could transport a wounded soldier from time of injury to surgical care in under 60 minutes anywhere in Afghanistan. In 20 years of war in Afghanistan, the US military suffered 2,352 fatalities compared to 360,222 Union dead in the four years during the Civil War. This is incredible reduction of service member deaths is attributed to many factors such as body armor, but the modern-day triage and medical evacuation was critical to improved survival and an incredible feat in modern warfare. It remains a testament to the Wheeling Wagon soldiers and MAJ Letterman who believed it was possible with horses and wagons to move and treat the wound quickly. As a final feather in MAJ Letterman’s medical legacy, all modern civilian emergencies services, utilized by millions of Americans each year, are based on his designs.

About the Author: Michael M. Braun, DO, FFAFP, DFPHM is a dual board-certified physician in Family and Hospitalist Medicine. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army. He has deployed multiple times during Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan as a flight surgeon with U.S. Special Forces.

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## There's Gold in Them Thar' Hills!

By Bill Hamill

I think it is very interesting that 150+ years after the Civil War, you can usually find an article in the newspaper pertaining to the bloody conflict. And this can happen almost every week. Of course the removal of Confederate monuments has been headline news for quite some time. The dismantling of the Robert E. Lee monument on Monument Row in Richmond, VA in December was very interesting. Two time capsules were found in the base of the monument. Nothing of significance has been reported, but I believe they are still going through the second time capsule.

In February, here in Philadelphia a sculpture called "Harriet Tubman—The Journey to Freedom" was put on display outside of City Hall. Nine feet tall, it looks most impressive and will remain on display thru the end of March. Be sure to check it out. In December, a sixty five foot statue of Nathan Bedford Forrest, covered in pink paint was removed from an area off Interstate 65 that led into Nashville, TN.

One of the more interesting articles was a bizarre story of a lost shipment of gold that occurred in Pennsylvania in the summer of 1863. Till this day there are many questions about what happened and if the gold has ever been found. And if the gold shipment is a true story.

The story begins in late spring 1863. The Union Army was humiliated and defeated at the Battle of Chancellorsville in early May. Robert E. Lee starts to make preparations for a second invasion into Maryland and Pennsylvania. The Union war department authorized a shipment of gold from the Granite Lady Mint in San Francisco to the Philadelphia Mint. The gold would be used to help finance the Union war effort. Twenty six gold bars weighing fifty pounds each would be sent east to Philadelphia. Value of the shipment: \$1.5 to \$2 million. Today the expected value would be \$27 million,

Once the gold shipment arrived at Camp Dennison close to Cincinnati OH, the plan was to ship the gold by rail to Philadelphia. However, there was so much turmoil, distress and confusion as the Union forces were starting to plan for Lee's Army of Northern Virginia invasion from the South. The main concern was marauding bands of cavalry led by Confederate general John Morgan in Kentucky and Ohio and Jeb Stuart and his troopers roaming through Maryland & Pennsylvania.

A new plan was drawn up, and they would now ship the gold by wagon. The detachment would leave from Wheeling, WV following a trail north to the Allegheny River. Once they reached the Clarion River, they would begin to journey east. They would cross the eastern Continental Divide and work their way to Emporium, in Cameron County. Next step would be to raft down the Sinnemahoning River to Lock Haven, next to Harrisburg and then on to Philadelphia.

With that type of journey and the value of gold they were responsible for, you would think that a large detachment of soldiers would be protecting the shipment. Only eight guards would be protecting the valuable gold shipment. Commanding the detachment was Lt. James Castleton, who had been serving at Camp Dennison. Castleton had been recovering from a hip wound from the Missouri campaign. He also suffered from bouts of malaria that he contracted during the War with Mexico. Sergeant Mike O'Rourke was placed in second command of the detachment. O'Rourke had a dubious reputation but a natural talent in leading soldiers, something that Castleton lacked. A man known only as Connor was selected as a guide because of his knowledge of the area. Connor was known to be "sullen and not friendly."

Two supply wagons carried the bars of gold accompanied by an ambulance wagon. The gold bars were hidden in the false bottom of the supply wagons. Under no circumstances was Castleton to reveal the contents of what they were carrying. The detachment left Wheeling,

made it to Pittsburgh and then found the wagon trail that followed the course of the Allegheny River heading north. From there they stopped in Butler, then continued their journey north to the confluence of the Allegheny and Clarion River and from there picked up the Old Clarion Trail.

Lt. Castleton began to have issues with his health caused by malaria. When this occurred, he would ask Connor to take command of the soldiers. This would happen several times on their journey through upstate Pennsylvania. Three days after leaving Clarion they made camp just outside of Ridgway. Castleton's health continued to be an issue so a day later he and Sergeant O'Rourke went into town searching for a pharmacist that would be able to supply him with some Peruvian bark or quinine. While in Ridgway Castleton and O'Rourke were suspected of being army recruiters. Several townspeople started to argue with them and then a fight ensued. They were able to escape and returned to their encampment. They moved east to St. Marys and received a more friendly welcome.

At this time, they picked up another guide who was more familiar with the territory. They decided to deviate from the plan to go to Emporium and instead take a shortcut through another part of the county. They were traveling on some old lumber trails. The area was heavily wooded, with rolling hills, and they could not see into the distance. The detachment became lost deep in a wooded area and eventually came to a steep hillside. Meanwhile Castleton's malaria symptoms got worse, and at one point he inadvertently blurted out that the secret shipment they were protecting were US gold bars, hidden in a compartment of both supply wagons. The decision was made to send out Connor and two other soldiers to look for help. As Connor was leaving, he heard Castleton and O'Rourke arguing over what to do with the gold. The decision was made to bury some of the gold and carry out what they could.

Unknown to the group was that the Union Army had defeated Confederate forces at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3rd. It was the beginning of August when Connor stumbled into the army outpost in Lock Haven. Now this is where the story gets confusing. The first account is that Connor returned ten days later to the spot where he left Castleton but they are no longer at this point. Another account is that after he arrived in Lock Haven it took two weeks to organize a search party. A third story is that a hysterical and wild eyed Connor stumbled into Lock Haven and told a tragic story of being attacked, that all soldiers had been killed, and the loss of the entire cargo. A search party led by Capt. Davis, accompanied by Connor, set out in search of the missing party. They were able to locate some of the remnants of the wagons. Connor could not remember if the gold had been buried or if it was, where it was buried. Several more days of searching revealed nothing else except for some trails that headed off in a south-west direction. In his final report, Capt. Davis stated in his opinion, that he thought the shipment had been stolen.

Three military court martials were held in Clearfield, PA to question Connor and his knowledge of the missing gold. Very little knowledge was gained and although the court felt he was complicit, there was not enough evidence to convict him. The army reassigned him to a post in California where they could keep him under surveillance. Occasionally Connor would be in a tavern get drunk and brag that he knew where gold bars were buried in the mountains in Pennsylvania.

The logo for Millham Insurance features the word "millham" in a red, lowercase, serif font with a red arch above it. Below it, the word "INSURANCE" is written in a black, uppercase, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the text "AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE" is displayed in a red, uppercase, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the slogan "Small Town, Big Service" is written in a red, italicized, serif font.

**millham**  
INSURANCE  
AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE  
*Small Town, Big Service*



Continued from page 5.

The Pinkerton Detective Agency were given the task of finding the lost gold and the men involved in the shipment. Allen Pinkerton convinced the War Department to classify all information and records pertaining to the gold shipment. This was to deter local residents from searching for the gold. Groups of detectives would arrive in the area and discreetly ask the locals if they knew of any lost gold in the area or if someone suddenly had signs of prosperity. Later in 1865, two Pinkerton detectives found two and a half gold bars buried beneath a tree stump. They would retire in 1871, build a cabin in Benezette, Elk County and continue to search for gold. In 1876, a survey crew found human remains of three to five people, not far from where the wagons had been abandoned.

The story and quest for the lost gold shipment continues to this day.  
 James Burke, The Legend of the Dents Run Lost Gold Shipment  
 Jason Nark, The Philadelphia Inquirer January 2022

Special thanks to Jim Burke for taking time to speak to me and explaining the mystery of the lost gold shipment. Jim lives in Elk County and is a civil war buff and very knowledgeable of events that occurred in upstate Pennsylvania during the conflict

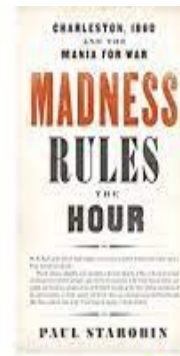


**DID YOU KNOW?**

Unfortunately a lot of the information pertaining to the lost gold shipment is classified by the US government and not available to the public. A lawsuit filed on January 4, 2022 by Dennis Parada, a longtime treasure hunter from Clearfield County, alleges that the FBI has failed to provide him with any records of the case of the Elk County gold despite a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request filed three years ago. The FBI spent days digging for gold in March 2018 based on decades of research by Parada and its own investigation. The FBI has been firm that nothing was found in the excavation, but Parada and fellow treasure hunters say they do not believe the bureau. In June 2021, unsealed documents showed that the FBI believed there was gold at the site. Attorney William Cluck, who has represented the Paradas for years, has stated there are more than 2700 documents associated with the case. It would take years to go through all of the documents. The FBI refuses to comment on the case.

**Famous Quotation---**  
*“From the outset, it seems as if the FBI is doing everything it can to avoid answering the question of where they actually found gold.”*  
 — Anne Weismann, DC attorney representing Dennis Parada

**RECOMMENDED READING**



★★★★★ 45

From Lincoln's election to secession from the Union, this compelling history explains how South Carolina was swept into a cultural crisis at the heart of the Civil War.

"The tea has been thrown overboard -- the revolution of 1860 has been initiated." -- Charleston Mer-

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**Famous Quotation---**

*“From the outset, it seems as if the FBI is doing everything*

**SWAMP ANGEL II NEWS**

Newsletter of the

BUCKS COUNTY CIVIL WAR MUSEUM/ROUND TABLE

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