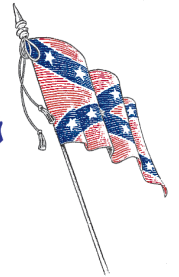




# THE OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE ROBERT E. LEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CENTRAL NJ



## APRIL 5, 2021 ZOOM MEETING

*From the comfort of your own home, 7 pm*

### The Enduring Civil War

*Speaker: Gary Gallagher*

**Y**ou won't want to miss this month's presentation. Professor Gallagher will discuss the complexity and richness of the Civil War. Reflecting on the tension between history and memory, he will underscore how later perceptions about the war often took precedence over historical reality in the minds of many Americans. Using his most recent book, *The Enduring Civil War: Reflections on the Great American Crisis*, as the backdrop for his talk, he will share his passion about the Civil War and what helped drive his interest while he was growing up.



*Gary Gallagher*

Our speaker this month is Gary Gallagher. He is the preeminent Civil War historian in America today. Professor Gallagher received a Bachelor of Arts from Adams State College in 1972, and his Master of Arts and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. From 1986 to 1998 he was professor of history at Pennsylvania State University. He then joined the faculty at the University of Virginia, where he is the John L Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War Emeritus. Dr. Gallagher has authored or edited more than 40 books on the Civil War.

### NEWS AND NOTES

\* We want to hear from you! Any member who has recently taken an interesting Civil War related trip, or has read a good Civil War book should consider sharing the information with the rest of the RE Lee CWRT members. You can e-mail the information to newsletter editor Chris Luzhak at [CJLuzhak@gmail.com](mailto:CJLuzhak@gmail.com) or you can mail it in to the Round Table at R.E. Lee CWRT, 1162 St. George Avenue, Suite 194, Avenel, NJ 07001.

\* Our Trivia and Who Am I columns will be going on temporary hiatus while we replenish our stock of submissions.

## President's Column

Thank you, Mr. Fritzky, for your presentation about various aspects of President Lincoln's life and political career. It's always a pleasure to hear about our 16th president's trials and tribulations and his extraordinary ability to lead in such trying times. I just received my copy of your book *Unfading Light: The Sustaining Insight and Inspiration of Abraham Lincoln* and am anxiously looking forward to reading it. I'd also like to welcome you as a new member to our Round Table. We hope you will be with us for many years to come.

I hope all our members had a happy St. Patrick's Day. I'm looking forward to the day when we can all meet again in person and not have to don a mask or social distance. In the meantime, I wish you all a happy Passover or Easter and please stay safe.

—Tom Kuzma

## This Month in the Civil War: 160 Years Ago

By Phil Kohn

**CORRECTION:** In last month's column, there was a typo regarding Confederate Arizona. The Confederate Territory of Arizona comprised the area between Texas and California below the 34th parallel, and not the 54th parallel, as printed.

On April 1, 1861, President Lincoln issues sealed orders to the Navy's *USS Powhatan* to proceed to Florida where it can provide aid to Fort Pickens. Secretary of State William Seward sends a lengthy missive to the president, giving advice, directions and opinions on policy, and expressing a willingness to take on the responsibility for dealing with the Confederacy. He also opines that the issues with the Southern states should center around union and disunion rather than slavery. In a polite, yet firm, response, Lincoln reminds Seward that he,

Lincoln, has been elected president and *he* will make policy decisions.

Storm-tossed and lost, the schooner *Rhoda H. Shannon* — carrying a shipment of ice from Boston, Massachusetts, to Savannah, Georgia — blunders into Charleston Harbor on April 3 seeking shelter. Confederate shore batteries fire several shots across her bow. Shannon's master, thinking the firing is because his vessel is not flying her colors, raises the U.S. flag, prompting yet more firing — this time, at the ship, including several near misses. *Shannon* beats a hasty retreat and anchors outside the harbor. A Confederate boat visits the schooner and learns the truth of the matter. *Shannon's* master is granted permission to wait out the weather in the harbor, but the vessel instead heads back out to sea.

President Lincoln writes to Maj. Anderson at Fort Sumter on April 4, informing him of upcoming relief, promising that "the expedition will go forward." Anderson is given the freedom to decide how to respond if attacked by the Confederates. At the Virginia state secession convention in Richmond, delegates vote 89-45 against submitting the question of secession to a referendum.

On April 5, in Washington, Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles orders four vessels to set sail and provision Fort Sumter. However, one of these is *USS Powhatan*, which is already at sea *en route* to Florida on direct orders of the president.

The U.S. State Department on April 6 informs South Carolina governor Francis Pickens that Fort Sumter will be reprovisioned and not reinforced provided there is no resistance to or interference with the re-supply efforts.

Brig. Gen. Beauregard informs Maj. Anderson on April 7 that no further communication between Fort Sumter and Charleston will be permitted.

On April 9, at the Presidio in San Francisco, California, Brig. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, a Tennessean, and commander of the U.S. Army's Dept. of the Pacific (encompassing California and Oregon), resigns his commission.

Confederate Secretary of War Leroy Walker notifies Brig. Gen. Beauregard on April 10 that he is to demand the surrender of Fort Sumter. All around

Charleston Harbor, Confederate troops take up posts and prepare for the expected conflict.

Three Confederate emissaries row out to Fort Sumter on April 11 to relay Beauregard's request that the fort be evacuated. Maj. Anderson refuses. Beauregard relays the response to Secretary of War Walker, who advises the general to "wait and see" if Anderson complies, in order to "avoid the effusion of blood."

At 12:45 a.m. on April 12, the three emissaries return to Fort Sumter and ask Maj. Anderson for a time of probable evacuation by Federal troops. Anderson replies that he will abandon the fort at noon on April 15 if he receives no orders or supplies from Washington. With Anderson's response being not acceptable (the Confederates surmise that help is undoubtedly on the way), he is handed a written notification that an attack will begin once the three representatives return to shore. At 4:30 a.m., Confederate artillery begins shelling Fort Sumter. The bombardment lasts all day and at intervals into the night. In Florida, the U.S. Navy lands troops at Fort Pickens to reinforce the existing garrison. Because of the fort's offshore location, Confederates at Pensacola are not able to prevent the landings.

At 4:30 p.m. on April 13, after 36 hours of bombardment and with no remaining food, little ammunition and an insufficient number of men, Maj. Robert Anderson surrenders Fort Sumter to Confederate authorities. No lives have been lost and the wounded are few.

Lincoln and his Cabinet meet on April 14 upon receiving word of Fort Sumter's capitulation. In Montgomery, Alabama, President Davis and his Cabinet meet to discuss and ponder the next moves. In Charleston, Maj. Anderson and his men, after a surrender ceremony, leave Fort Sumter and depart for the North by sea.

President Lincoln on April 15 issues a public proclamation declaring an insurrection and calling for a militia of 75,000 volunteers to quell the uprising in South Carolina. With the exception of New Jersey, the Northern states respond immediately with a promise of troops. New York's legislature additionally commits to \$3 million in aid. In the border states of Maryland and Delaware, reaction to Lincoln's call to arms is mixed, with a

general attitude of noncompliance. The governors of Kentucky and Missouri flatly deny the chief executive's request. The reaction in the Middle South is that of outrage. The governors of Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Arkansas begin steps to pull their states out of the Union.

On April 16, Federal troops abandon Fort Washita in the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory as a band of Texans approaches.

The Virginia state convention, still in session, on April 17 votes 88-55 to withdraw from the Union, with the decision to be ratified in a general election on May 23. Almost immediately, Federal forces abandon and burn the U.S. Armory at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Virginia troops occupy the site the next day.

In Washington, D.C., President Lincoln on April 18 asks politician and adviser Francis P. Blair to discuss with U.S. Army Col. Robert E. Lee his taking command of the army. Lee declines, supposedly asking rhetorically how he could be expected to draw his sword against Virginia, his native state. Within days, Lee resigns his commission in the U.S. Army.

President Lincoln on April 19 orders the Navy to blockade all ports of the Confederacy. In Baltimore, Maryland, the 6th Massachusetts Regiment, *en route* to Washington, is marching from one railway station to another to change trains. They are attacked by rioters carrying Confederate flags. In the fighting, nine civilians and six soldiers are killed. (After this incident, the U.S. Navy transports Northern troops heading southward from Philadelphia to Washington via Annapolis, Maryland.) Governor John Letcher notifies Jefferson Davis that Virginia desires to form a military alliance with the Confederacy.

The commandant of the U.S. Navy's Gosport Navy Yard at Norfolk, Virginia, on April 20 orders the facility burned to prevent its use by the Confederacy. He also orders several vessels scuttled. Southern troops immediately move into the abandoned base.

On April 22, anti-secessionists from counties in the northwestern portion of Virginia hold a meeting at Clarksburg to discuss the possibility of seceding from secessionist Virginia. A larger gathering to consider the matter is scheduled to be

held at Wheeling on May 13. North Carolina troops capture the U.S. Arsenal at Fayetteville. In Richmond, Virginia, Gov. Letcher nominates, and the state convention confirms, Robert E. Lee as a major general and the commander of Virginia's military forces.

Fort Smith, an important frontier post on the border of Arkansas and Indian Territory, is vacated by Federal troops on April 23.

Attempting to thwart pro-secessionists in Missouri, Illinois militia troops under orders from the U.S. War Department enter St. Louis on April 25 and remove 21,000 muskets from the Federal arsenal and bring them back to Illinois. The U.S. Naval Academy temporarily relocates from Annapolis, Maryland, to Newport, Rhode Island. The evacuated academy grounds are converted to an army camp.

In part to curtail the continual rioting taking place in Baltimore, Maryland, President Lincoln on April 27 orders a suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* in a swath of territory between Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Lincoln also extends the Federal naval blockade to the coastlines of Virginia and North Carolina. Governor Henry Rector of Arkansas orders the state's secession convention to reconvene. From North Carolina, Governor John Ellis wires Jefferson Davis that the Tar Heel State "is practically out of the old Union." The Virginia state convention offers Richmond as a possible site for a Confederate capital, replacing the smaller Montgomery, Alabama.

On April 29, Maryland's legislature votes 53-13 against secession.

President Lincoln on April 30 orders all forts in the Indian Territory to be evacuated. This leaves the "Five Civilized Nations"—Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks and Seminoles—to the jurisdiction, and protection of, the Confederacy.

## GRAVE OF THE MONTH

# *The Women in Booth's Diary*

*By Judith Breitstein*

On April 26, 1865, John Wilkes Booth drew his last breath on the porch of Richard Garrett's farmhouse. In his pocket, detectives found an 1864 appointment book that Booth had used as a diary. A side pocket held *carte de visites* of five women, Effie Germon, Alice Gray, Helen Western, Fanny Brown and Lucy Lambert Hale. Four were actresses, looked upon at that time as little better than prostitutes with their "heaving bosoms...and wanton glances..." The fifth was the daughter of New Hampshire Senator John Parker Hale, Lincoln's future ambassador to Spain and Booth's alleged fiancée.



*The carte de visites of five women—found on the body of Booth*

**The Women:**

*Effie Germon*

Effie Germon was born in Augusta, Georgia, on June 13, 1845 into a theatrical family. Making her stage debut at the age of 12, she became known for her comedic talent. She was "...one of those rare women who have a genuine sense of humor."

At 14 years old, Effie fell in love and eloped with a 20 year old violinist. Her young husband had a roving eye and the marriage sputtered out. Back on the stage in 1862, Effie was hired as an actress at the Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia, playing alongside Edwin Booth and John Sleeper Clarke. In Washington, D.C., she scored a role opposite the "eminent young American tragedian," John Wilkes Booth. A fiery, but short-lived, romance ensued. Booth offered Effie a chance to be his leading lady, but not his wife.

Effie was performing in *Aladdin* or *His Wonderful Lamp* at Grover's Theater when John Wilkes Booth suddenly appeared, urging the manager to invite Lincoln to that night's performance. Lincoln accepted the invitation but in the end sent Tad in his stead. Effie was onstage when news of Lincoln's murder was announced at the theater. Tad, the president's youngest son, was sitting in the audience.

Effie was 20 years old when Lincoln was killed. By her 40s, she was said to have "grown beyond the boundaries of her bodice." Her only roles were playing "corpulent grandmothers." She married six times and died penniless at the Actors Fund Home in Staten Island, New York on March 6, 1914. She is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York. Effie was the only one of the five women in Booth's diary who sent condolences to his family upon his death.

*Alice Dehan*

Alice Dehan was born in Boston on July 13, 1835 to Irish immigrants. After her father's early death, she went on stage at the age of 14. She chose the stage name, Alice Gray, the title of a wildly popular song current at that time. Alice worked hard and soon was appearing as a leading lady. In 1857, she appeared at The Metropolitan Theater in Buffalo with Edwin Booth, who was billed as "The Wonder

of the Age." Alice received favorable notices but in 1858, she was suddenly "hissed from the stage." Theater goers booed Alice while newspapers wrote that she "...had made many enemies behind the curtain." Envious of Alice's leading roles, the stage manager's wife had been spreading scurrilous rumors behind her back.

Unable to get any parts in Buffalo or New York, Alice traveled to Charleston in 1859 where she was welcomed with open arms. She was made a stock leading lady in the Holliday Street Theater company in Baltimore owned by John T. Ford. She often played alongside Edwin Booth and John Sleeper Clark, the husband of Asia Booth, Edwin and John Wilkes Booth's youngest sister.

Alice was in Baltimore when the 6th Massachusetts Militia, on their way to Washington, D.C., was fired upon by the citizens of Maryland. Terrified, she fled to Philadelphia. But in the north, her reviews remained lackluster. The press wrote Alice was "nothing great," "...a handsome actress, who evidently has not very much stage experience..." Alice had been acting for ten years.

Alice returned to Washington, D.C., to play at Ford's new theater. On March 18, 1865, she starred in *The Apostate* opposite John Wilkes Booth in his last stage appearance. She was probably in New York the night of Lincoln's murder and that is why she wasn't arrested along with the entire cast of *An American Cousin*.



*The grave of Alice Dehan, Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, NY*

Alice died of “apoplexy” on October 24, 1890. She is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York. She was penniless. There had been no romance between Booth and Alice. But upon his death, her picture was in his diary.

#### *Helen Western*

Helen Western and her older sister, Lucille, were born in the same year, 1844, to Jane Western, a celebrated actress, and George Western, a famous comedian of the time. After their father died of consumption, their mother married Bill English, manager of the National Theater in Boston. English had been accused of producing plays that “lowered the respectability of the theater.”

Helen and Lucille, known for their “graceful and elegant figures,” billed themselves as “The Star Sisters.” They often dressed in costumes that were flimsy and showed the contours of their bodies.

The girls appeared in English’s play, *Three Fast Men*. The show closed in Boston shortly after it opened as it was considered immoral. New Yorkers had no problem with it and the girls played to packed houses.

Helen became romantically involved with John Wilkes Booth during a two-week engagement in Portland, Maine. She traveled with him, playing Juliet to his Romeo, and flaunting their illicit relationship. Though married, Lucille was wild with jealousy. By the early 1860s, the sisters were estranged and touring separately. The press wrote that Helen was “a well-known star...popular once but never a great actress.” Booth abandoned Helen as he did all his conquests.

In early December 1868, feeling ill, Helen was carried off stage and taken to her suite at The Kirkwood House Hotel in Washington, D.C. Two weeks later, the 24-year-old actress died from “congestion of the bowels.” She was buried in Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Boston. Eleven years later, 34-year-old Lucille, an alcoholic and morphine addict by now, was interred next to Helen. At the time of her death, Helen had almost no funds though during her career she had made upwards of \$200,000.

#### *Fanny Brown*

Fanny Brown was born on March 15, 1837, the child of successful circus performers. By the age of six, she was acting. She grew up to become known as “the most beautiful woman on the American stage.”

Fanny married Fred Buckley of Buckley’s Minstrels four months after they met in 1857. Divorced three years later, Fanny left her baby with her mother, and returned to the stage. Much of her career was spent traveling the United States and Europe. Her “looks eclipsed her acting.” She often appeared in variety theaters, riding a horse bareback.

It is not known where Fanny originally met John Wilkes Booth, but the two toured the New England states together. Their love scenes were alarmingly realistic and it was an open secret that they shared adjoining hotel rooms. But Booth soon moved on to his next amour. Fanny’s picture, found in Booth’s diary, was not correctly identified for many years. She was simply called “The Mysterious Beauty.” She was 28 when Booth died.

In 1866, Fanny married acrobat William Carlo and left the stage to manage his traveling circus. Carlo died in 1879. From a friend of her mother, Fanny inherited a great deal of money and built the Hotel Biner in Boston. She died of heart disease in Boston on June 16, 1891. She was 54 years old. Her burial place is unknown.

#### *Lucy Hale*

Lucy Hale, born January 1, 1841, rejected overtures made by Robert Lincoln, John Hay and Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. But Cupid’s arrow pierced her heart the first time she laid eyes on John Wilkes Booth playing a “strong and passionate” role on stage. She sent him a bouquet. Booth was staying at the fashionable National Hotel in Washington, D.C., where the Hales had taken up residence, too. Booth and Lucy began to meet for meals and soon were exchanging love letters. By March 1865, they were secretly engaged.

The two were polar opposites: John was a rebel, Lucy an ardent abolitionist; John an illegitimately born playboy who favored prostitutes, Lucy had been gently reared; John was devastatingly handsome, Lucy was matronly and “rather stout.”

Senator Hale detested Booth. Booth longed to be accepted into a more genteel class that few actors ever attained.

Senator Hale was to shortly leave with his family for his post as ambassador to Spain. Lucy swore she would return in a year to marry John, with or without her father's consent. She was able to wangle tickets from her father for Lincoln's second inaugural. She gave them to Booth and, what turned out to be, his accomplices.

The night before Lincoln's assassination, Booth was cavorting with a young prostitute, Ellen Starr. He made it back to his hotel just in time to have breakfast with his fiancé on the morning of April 14, 1865.

After Booth was killed, his body was kept on board the *Montauk*. A heavily veiled, unidentified woman was rowed out to the ship, allowed to board and cut a lock of hair from the killer's head. It is believed that woman was Lucy Hale. Her social caste kept her from being questioned by the authorities. Though Junius Booth Jr. swore that his brother had been engaged to Lucy, the New York Times said "it was the most impertinent bit of gossip..."

Lucy's father whisked his family off to Spain as quickly as he could. While there, Lucy continued to fend off proffered marriage proposals. The family returned to the United States in 1870. Lucy married her old admirer, the widower William Chandler, when she was well past her 30th birthday. She had one child when she was 44.

Lucy died at age 74 and is buried in Pine Hill Cemetery, Dover, New Hampshire. Her husband died two years later and is buried next to his first wife.

## SIMPLE STEPS FOR CONNECTING TO THE ZOOM MEETING

1. Make sure your laptop, desktop, or smart device is on and connected to the Internet. You do not need any special equipment or to download any programs.
2. Look in your email inbox for the email from [releecwrt@gmail.com](mailto:releecwrt@gmail.com). In it, you'll find a link under the heading "Join Zoom Meeting."
3. A few minutes before the meeting, click on the link to be taken to the meeting page. It will open in your web browser (e.g., Safari, Firefox, or Google Chrome).
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to set yourself up as a guest. Make sure your headset or speaker volume is up.
5. Relax and enjoy! After the meeting concludes, simply close your browser to disconnect.

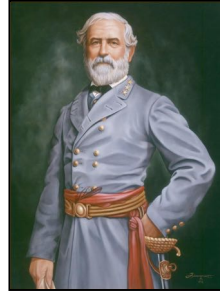
*And after the meeting, we'd love your feedback. Please let us know how we did—and what we can do to improve—by sending your comments to: [releecwrt@gmail.com](mailto:releecwrt@gmail.com)*

### Vision Statement

With the Civil War being a defining event in the history of the United States and a continuing influence on our society in general, the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey is dedicated to preserving and expanding knowledge about — and understanding of — this seminal event.

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to serve our members by striving to reach, with resources available, the goals set forward in the Vision Statement. This would be achieved, as finances allow, by: holding meetings, seminars and round tables; offering speakers who are experts in some aspect of the Civil War; encouraging nonpartisan, nonpolitical discussion and dialogue while honoring all those involved in the conflict; contributing toward the preservation of battlefields and important historical sites for future generations; providing eyes-on/hands-on/feet-on first-hand experiences by arranging field trips to battlefields and historical sites; and enhancing communication by publishing a newsletter and maintaining a website.



*The Official Records* is the monthly newsletter of the RE LEE CWRT of Central New Jersey.

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