

# SWAMP ANGEL II NEWS

VOL 29, NO. 4

BUCKS COUNTY CIVIL WAR MUSEUM AND ROUND TABLE

OCT/DEC 2020

## NEWS AND NOTES

### THE NEW NORMAL

If you haven't experienced the wonderful world of Zoom, please go into your browser and sign up. It is easy to use and you can enjoy seeing our speakers in the comfort of your own home. With an email you are given a link to click onto at the time of the meeting and that automatically connects you. You can ask questions of the speaker after the presentation but it is usually good to hit the mute button (microphone with slash through it) during the presentation so your household sounds don't go out to everyone.

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October 6th speaker will be John Spaziani. His topic will be *The Story of the C.S.S. Hunley*. It will be a Zoom presentation so you'll have to check your email for the link. 7 P.M.

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A very big THANK YOU to everyone who added extra dollars in a donation with the membership fees. It is much appreciated. In addition to having the museum painted, we have also had the sign repaired thanks to Ron Rudy.

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*If you have not paid your dues for the year, please do so ASAP. We are in the process of deleting names of people who have not paid from our contact lists. Send checks made out to BCCWRT, c/o Marilyn Becker, 63 Hellberg Ave., Chalfont, PA 18914 Thank you!!*

## Message From the President

Hello my fellow Round Table Members,

Hope all is well with you and your family. It's been a rough few months with the guidelines that we should be following but I know we are working through it.

I would like to let you know that at our recent board meeting we discussed when we will be opening the Library and Museum along with restarting our monthly meetings. We are looking at opening the Library and Museum in early October. However, we will provide private tours. Just call 215-822-1562 to make arrangements. We will be taking guests' temperatures at the door. We will be limiting the number of people entering the Library and Museum. Guests will be required to wear masks (or some sort of face covering) and comply with social distancing guidelines. Hand sanitizers will be located in key spots. The Library and Museum will be sanitized after each tour.

We are planning to start our monthly meetings via Zoom starting in September. For those of you who have used Zoom, you know it is simple to use. And for those who have not, believe me it is simple to use.

We have fixed our Facebook page and you can "like" the page if you have a Facebook account. Just go to Bucks County Civil War Museum and Library and "like" the page.

Well this is my first message as President and hope it was informative. I follow a long line of great people who kept this organization running smoothly. Stay well and keep safe.

Jim Donovan



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# FORTUNATE SONS

by Mike Campbell

W.W.H. Davis (Col 104th PA) wrote of his grandfather John Davis (1760-1832): "As a Continental soldier, young Davis served his country with courage and fidelity... Loyal to the cause of the colonies, his youthful heart was fired at the wrongs of his country." In this revolutionary zeal, "young Davis" - the son of a Welsh farmer, an "average American country boy" from Solebury - found common cause with the Marquis de Lafayette, "a French Nobleman of the highest rank." Enlisting at sixteen in June of 1776, Pvt. Davis fought "the Hessians at Trenton" and Fort Washington. At Brandywine, "It was the fortune of our young soldier... to be near General Lafayette when wounded, and he assisted to carry him to a place of safety," a "fortune" John Davis never forgot. When Lafayette - "cherished next to Washington" - returned to America in August of 1824, he was feted as the "nation's guest", and jubilantly escorted throughout the country by "military and civilians." Meeting him in Bristol the first week of September - "mounted, six hundred strong" - was "the First Regiment Bucks County Volunteers", commanded by Colonel John Davis (1790-1878), the son of "young Davis", the Continental soldier. Mindful of the moment, "When Colonel Davis was presented to the General, he reminded him that his father, a soldier in the Pennsylvania line, had assisted to carry him to a place of safety on the field of Brandywine. The General remembered the circumstances... he embraced the Colonel." W.W.H. Davis (1820-1910), the son of Colonel John Davis and grandson of "young Davis", would write of Lafayette's visit, "the people turned out in crowds to see him, and he received an ovation all along the road." A Mexican War veteran, Civil War Officer and post-war politician, W.W.H. Davis admired Lafayette as a model soldier and statesman. In 1878, when Davis was chosen to represent Pennsylvania at the 3rd World's Fair in Paris, it was as "a just tribute to a gallant soldier... one of our most intelligent and public-spirited citizens." Rising to the occasion, Davis bore with him "several interesting souvenirs" - gifts for "the descendents of Lafayette" - "a beautiful gold mounted cane made from the handrailing of the stairway of the old Bethlehem house where General Lafayette lay wounded... two small but elegant paintings... one furnished by himself, represents the Old Moravian house at Bethlehem... The other picture... is a small but superb painting of the house in Warwick township, Bucks County... where Lafayette reported to Washington's headquarters in August, 1777." Much like his grandfather at Brandywine and his father at Bristol, W.W.H. Davis recognized the great fortune behind American democracy: "These souvenirs will fitly come from an American soldier who has won distinction in two wars, and who now returns to France the grateful acknowledgements of the Union as the two Republics unite in celebrating the victories of peace." Sources: *Life of John Davis*, *History of the Doylestown Guards*, *The Times (Philadelphia)*, *The Valley Sentinel (Carlisle)*



*The Frederick Beckel House  
where Lafayette convalesced following  
the Battle of Brandywine.*



- 1) The greatest voice of abolitionism was that of William Lloyd Garrison. What was the name of his newspaper?  
A. The Freedom Press C. The Liberator  
B. Boston Globe D. The Sentinel
- 2) Who coined the term "Bleeding Kansas"?  
A. Horace Greeley C. Abraham Lincoln  
B. Jefferson Davis D. John C. Calhoun
- 3) One Confederate cabinet member was the grandson of Thomas Jefferson. Name him and the office he held.  
A. George Wythe Randolph-Sec. of War  
B. Thomas Jefferson II-Treasury Sec.  
C. Randolph Washburn-Sec. of Agriculture  
D. T. D. Timberlane-Transportation Sec.
- 4) Island Number 10 got its name by being the tenth island from what place?  
A. Charleston C. St. Louis  
B. Cairo, Illinois D. New Orleans
- 5) In June 1863, Ambrose Burnside shut down a major newspaper that was violently against the Lincoln administration. Lincoln reversed the order three days later. The paper was?  
A. New York Times C. Chicago Times  
B. Philadelphia Inquirer D. Boston Globe
- 6) Thaddeus Stevens is generally credited with being the father of two Constitutional Amendments. Which ones?  
A. 10th and 11th C. 14th and 15th  
B. 13th and 14th D. 12th and 13th

Source: [A Civil War Round Table Quiz Book](#)  
by Dave Smith

*answers on page 6*

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## THE CORNFIELD—PART 1

By George Hoffman

The Battle of Sharpsburg began at 6:00 A.M. on the morning of September 17, 1862, when the Union I Corps under the command of General Joseph Hooker drove through farmer Miller's cornfield and hit Stonewall Jackson's troops by a building called the Dunkard Church.

Joe Hooker's lead divisions, commanded by Generals Doubleday and Ricketts pressed steadily forward in the face of murderous Confederate rifle fire and soon drove back Stonewall Jackson's front line divisions commanded by Generals Lawton and J.R. Jones. This first Union advance was soon brought to a halt at the edge of the West Woods by enfilading fire from Jeb Stuart's horse artillery and a savage counterattack lead by Jubal A. Early that turned the Union flank. The fighting, however, soon became a stalemate as neither side seemed to have the strength to carry the field.

The combat raged at a fever pitch, as both sides struggled desperately to break the deadlock. Hooker brought up his Third Division commanded by General Meade and again tried to advance. This was halted for a second time by the massed volleys from Jackson's veterans.

At this point, seeing that any advance under the present circumstances was impossible, Joe Hooker made a near fatal mistake. He halted his drive, temporarily, to regroup and wait for reinforcements before resuming the offensive.

Suddenly, Stonewall Jackson, never one to remain on the defensive and taking advantage of the temporary lull, struck back. Coming out of the West Woods, screaming like banshees, were the troops of John Bell Hood's division, spearheaded by Hood's old Texas Brigade, now lead by Brigadier General John B. Robertson.

Hood's soldiers, mad as hell because they had been interrupted from eating their first hot meal in three days, cut loose with an opening volley that ripped through Hooker's battle line like a hot knife through butter and smashed headlong into the startled I Corps troops.

This counterattack, led by the finest shock troops in Lee's army, plowed Hooker's surprised Yankees right into the ground and suddenly the tables were turned and it was the Bluecoats who were being driven back.

The time was now 7:30 and the tide of battle had shifted in favor of Lee's army. Stonewall Jackson, seeing Hood's success as striking while the iron was hot, had ordered a general assault and the entire Confederate left wing began to advance.

Without even a pause to regroup, Jackson's soldiers drove Hooker's Corps back from the West Woods and on into the cornfield where their assault was finally halted by massed Union artillery firing from the hills to the east of Antietam Creek.

As the Confederate drive came to a halt, General Hooker rallied his shattered divisions and turned once again to face the enemy. For a short while, both sides faced each other near the edge of the cornfield and blazed away with volleyed musketry that was absolutely murderous. Survivors said it was the worst combat of the entire war, especially since it was at nearly point-blank range. Hood's 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Regiment alone lost 82% of its number in the cornfield. That was the highest percentage of any unit in the war, from either side!

As Jackson's divisions began to fall back in the face of this terrible fire, General Hooker once again ordered his Corps to advance. It was at this point that General Mansfield led his Union XII Corps forward in a hard hitting attack through the cornfield, designed to relieve some of the pressure on Hooker's battered divisions.

Mansfield, a fighter much like the late Phil Kearney, came in right on top of Hooker's counterattack and hit Jackson's men full in the right flank. He was able to drive the Confederates all the way back to the Dunkard Church before disaster struck. General Mansfield, riding close to the front in order to better control the attack, was killed by a Rebel sharpshooter. Then, just a few minutes later, "Fighting Joe" Hooker was wounded and the Union attack ground to a halt.

At this point, General George Meade, the commander of Hooker's Third Division took control of the Union forces near the Dunkard Church and tried to resume the advance, only to be met by determined Confederate resistance. At the Dunkard Church and along the edge of the West Wood, the fighting was absolutely savage, as hundreds of men on both sides were cut down by volleyed musketry that literally laid men out in wind-rows, until it looked as though Lee's left flank might collapse from sheer weight of numbers alone.

By now it was 8 A.M. and both army commanders, sensing the urgency of the moment, began committing more troops to the life and death struggle at the Dunkard Church.

General Lee had already ordered General Walker's division into the fight (depriving Longstreet of his only reserve) and just in time it helped halt the second Union advance. Now he sent in Dick Anderson's and finally Lafayette McLaw's divisions as reinforcements to help General Jackson drive back what was fast becoming the third Federal assault of the morning.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT SWAMP ANGEL**

The logo for Millham Insurance features the word "millham" in a bold, red, lowercase serif font, with a red curved line arching over it. Below "millham" is the word "INSURANCE" in a smaller, red, uppercase sans-serif font. Underneath "INSURANCE" is a horizontal line, and below that line are the words "AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE" in a red, uppercase sans-serif font.

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## THE JEFFERSON FLAG STORY OF A LOST BATTLE FLAG

by Bill Hamill

You never know where you might find a good story for the Swamp Angel Newsletter. I found an interesting book to read at the start of the year. The title is One Day-- The Extraordinary Story of an Ordinary 24 Hours in America. Published in 2019, it was written by Gene Weingarten, the features editor for the Washington Post and two time winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Mr. Weingarten had been thinking of an interesting and unusual topic to write about. Kicking around various subjects, he and a staff member came up with an idea. Why not pick one ordinary day at random and report on it deeply telling a complete story of events from midnight to midnight?

Now the more you read, the more you learn, and the longer you live, we come to find out there is no such thing as an ordinary day. Look at your own day. What did you do? What did you notice? What was the most important news in our nation, or what happened in your local township? What is going on in our daily lives that has affected you? Have we overprogrammed our lives to such an extent that it is impossible to experience the simplest subjects? How many things are we missing? How much time can you spend on a cell phone and not know what is going on in your own neighborhood? There is a story behind everyone and everything.

On New Year's Day in January 2012, at the Ebbitt Grill in Washington DC, a day was selected to tell the story. The only restriction being that it had to be a day between 1969 and 1989. The day selected was Sunday December 28, 1986. After 6 plus years of research, Mr. Weingarten found out that there is no such thing as an ordinary day.

I got off to a good start reading the book and got to chapter twelve, which had the title "12:05 PM, Queens, New York City." The chapter opens with a meeting at a church in Queens, led by Mayor Ed Koch. He was meeting with a crowd of white and black people and trying to diffuse a problem that involved serious issues with both groups. He was not successful as both whites and blacks were dissatisfied after the meeting. It turned into a complete fiasco. The story then turned to a more cheerier event taking place in Pine Bluff, Arkansas that involved a battle flag that belonged to a Confederate unit. This is where the Civil War portion of the story begins.

On Sunday December 28, 1986 a ceremony was taking place at the courthouse in Pine Bluff, AK. It involved about 300 people, many of them Confederate reenactors. There was music, some speeches, soldiers in period costumes and a commanding officer with a sash and saber. It was a dramatic scene, as a treasured

relic was being returned to the people of Pine Bluff.

In 1861, in Jefferson County, AK a group of forty men volunteered into service at the beginning of the year. The unit was called The Jefferson Guard. Arkansas had not yet seceded from the Union, but the sentiments of the people were clear. As the unit was being formed a flag was needed to lead the soldiers into battle. A flag was designed for the unit by Etta Bocage, the young daughter of Judge William Bocage, the most prominent person in Pine Bluff.

Etta Bocage spent three months sewing and embroidering the flag. She became known as the "Betsy Ross" of Jefferson County. The flag was blue and bordered in golden silk. It was very impressive but would not be recognizable today as representing the Confederacy. The familiar Stars and Bars had not even been adopted by the Confederacy at this time. On one side of the flag was the Latin slogan, "Fiat Justita Ruat Coelum" -- "Let Justice Be Done Though the Heavens Fall." On the other side, there was a green, brown and white cotton plant topped by fifteen stars. Fifteen stars? No one knows why. Beneath the design was "Regnant Populi" the Arkansas state motto which translates to "The People Rule." Etta Bocage presented the flag to the unit and its commander, Captain Carlton, in Tennessee before they marched off to war.

As the Civil War was still in the early stage, the Jefferson Guards fared well initially and then met with a dreadful experience. In April 1862, the Guards fought at the Battle of Shiloh and got torn to pieces. Subsequent defeats followed for the Jefferson Guards, and by the end of the war, of the forty men who left Pine Bluff, only eight soldiers would return. The battle flag did not.

The flag was taken from Captain Carlton when he was captured by the 15th Illinois Cavalry in 1864. He became a P.O.W. and sat out the rest of the war. The whereabouts of the flag became a mystery.

In 1984, local historian James Carter Watts, while doing research on the Jefferson Guards, was able to trace the location of the flag to Illinois. For 120 years, it had been in the Springfield Armory, rotting away and wrapped in newspaper. He visited the armory and was able to verify that it was the flag of the Jefferson Guards.

Arkansas governor, Bill Clinton, asked for the battle flag to be returned to the state and to Pine Bluff. The state of Illinois declined the request, considering the flag a "spoil of war." Also, very interesting, the armory contained the wooden leg of Mexican general and dictator Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. It had been taken and seized by an Illinois regiment during the Mexican War. Both Mexico and Texas had requested many times to have the leg returned. Illinois refused to return the wooden leg each time. If Illinois would not return Santa Anna's wooden leg, what chance did the state of Arkansas have to get their battle flag?

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## ANNA MORRIS ELLIS HOLSTEIN

### CIVIL WAR NURSE

by Marilyn Becker

Anna was born in 1825 in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. In 1845, she married William H. Holstein who was a farmer and eight years younger than she was. He had spent a year in seminary studies and was considered wealthy. In September 1862, he enlisted in Company G, Pennsylvania 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, rank corporal. Then in September 28, 1862, he mustered out in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He was apparently a member of the Emergency Militia Regiments first called in September 1862 in regard to the Lee invasions of the North. The members called to serve only during the emergency, thus, William's early release from service.

Both Anna and William had a sense of duty and when his enlistment ended he joined his wife in ministering to the soldiers. Anna had nursed the soldiers at Antietam in 1862 and they both worked at the Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville battles.

Anna and William joined the United States Sanitation Commission. It was founded in 1861 by Henry Whitney Bellows and he served from 1861 to 1878. The War Department gave its blessing to the USCC legislation. Bellows was a Unitarian clergyman and his leadership enabled the organization of other chapters in the United States. The USCC raised money for the war effort and provided care and comfort for the soldiers. Although Bellows did not care for the Fairs held to raise money, they were held and the largest one took place in Chicago in 1863. The Fair brought in \$100,000 dollars. The exhibits featured displays, art and mechanical items, plus period rooms and the exhibits were well attended.

Anna was matron-in-chief at the Second Corps Hospital in Gettysburg. One-third of the 3,000 soldiers there were Confederate. They housed the soldiers in tents left over after the battle. She also served as matron-in-chief of the United States Hospital on York Turnpike where there were 3,000 men. Continuing her service Anna and William went to the United States Naval Academy to try to help the freed Andersonville prisoners who were in Annapolis for nursing. She became its chief matron until the hospital closed. In 1867, Anna wrote Three Years in the Field Hospitals. In addition to Anna, Clara Barton, Mary Livermore, Louisa May Alcott, and Mary Ann Bickerdyke were associated with the USSC.

With the end of the War, the women volunteers found jobs based on their USSC work. Others led the way for women's rights.

Anna died at the age of 75 and is buried in Old Swedes Christ Church Cemetery in Bridgeport, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. We can call her our own Civil War Nurse.

## Did You Know...?

(This story adds to the page 4 story) -- The Jefferson Guards, Santa Anna's wooden leg, a famous Civil War general and the origins of the game of baseball. The Jefferson Guards found their lost battle flag in the Springfield armory in Illinois. The armory also contained the wooden leg of Mexican general Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Santa Anna was a proud, defiant and mercurial leader of Mexico during the Mexican War. He had also recently declared himself president of Mexico. So sure of himself in battle he had proclaimed himself "Napoleon of the West." The Mexican army and country were unsure as to his leadership, as there had been many peaks and valleys in his performance.

During the Mexican War, Santa Anna's army was engaged with the American army in Xalapa, Mexico. Size and strength of the armies was equal in size and firepower, and the Mexican army held a superior defensive position. But the American army discovered an obscure mountain trail and were able to outflank the Mexican army and catch them by surprise. They retreated hastily and Santa Anna left his wooden leg on the battlefield.

His leg was taken by the 4th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers. It is now on display in a museum in Springfield, Illinois. Now so far, this part of the story is true. The rest of the story is a myth involving the Illinois soldiers and Santa Anna's leg. This did not actually happen, but why let the facts get in the way of a good story?

The soldiers from Illinois happened to meet an officer, Abner Doubleday. He will later be known for firing the first shot for the Union at Fort Sumter in the Civil War. But Doubleday is most famous for his invention of the game of baseball. Anyway, Doubleday suggested to the soldiers that the wood leg was the perfect size and shape for use in playing the sport. He gathered the men around him, laid out a field where the battle had been fought, explained the rules and how to keep score. The first baseball game on Mexican soil was played on a sunny April day in 1847, using Santa Anna's wooden leg for a bat and a rock wrapped in leather for a ball. **PLAY BALL!**

Eric Nusbaum, Stealing Home -- Los Angeles, the Dodgers and the Lives Caught in Between

Continued from page 4

With Bill Clinton and Jim Thompson, governor of Illinois, things started to move forward. With two of the biggest schmoozers our country has ever had, a deal was made. The state of Illinois decided that the flag would be returned “on loan” and put on display at the Jefferson County Courthouse to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the state of Arkansas. The flag went through a restoration and after a celebration and march in town on January 28th, it remains in the courthouse.

Historian David Perdue, who had worked with JC Watts to have the flag returned said in a speech, “Preserve it always. Let it serve as a precious relic of a bygone era, a memorial to those who died and carried it, as a lesson of history for our children of a dark and bloody time.”

**Some Notes on the Story**

In February 1892, there was a lynching at the courthouse involving two black men who were charged with a killing. John Kelley and Culbreth Harris were hung across the street. They were given just a few moments to defend themselves and then hung from a post. As over 300 hundred people gathered and watched the two black men strangling; they were used for target practice. Over a hundred shots were fired at the two men.

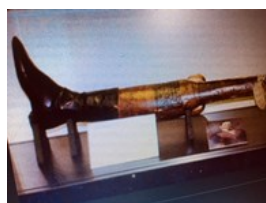
In December 1986, Pine Bluff was a vibrant and diverse city. Over 40% of the population was African-American. Two days after the event on December 28, 1986, Paul Greenberg, writer for the Pine Bluff Commercial observed, “Amidst all of the hundreds of people crowding the courthouse Sunday afternoon, there was not a single black face.”

June 20, 2020. One day after Juneteenth, a Confederate infantryman memorial donated by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, in 1910, was removed from the Jefferson County Courthouse.

Gene Weingarten, One Day -- The Extraordinary Story of an Ordinary 24 Hours in America  
Paul Greenberg, Pine Bluff Commercial, January 30, 1986



Etta Bocage’s Flag



Santa Anna’s wooden leg

RECOMMENDED READING

**The Cause of All Nations**

*By Author Don H. Doyle*

An examination of how the rest of the world reacted to the American Civil War.

George plans to have the next book discussion (whenever that may be) on The Cornfield by David Welker.



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**ANSWERS TO THE READER CHALLENGE!**

- |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|
| 1) B | 3) A | 5) C |
| 2) A | 4) B | 6) B |

**SWAMP ANGEL II NEWS**

*Newsletter of the*

**BUCKS COUNTY CIVIL WAR MUSEUM/ROUND TABLE**

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