

# SWAMP ANGEL II NEWS

VOL 29, NO. 2

BUCKS COUNTY CIVIL WAR MUSEUM AND ROUND TABLE

APR./JUN. 2020

## NEWS AND NOTES

### CALENDER

**7 April 2020**– Mr. Paul Kahan will be presenting “The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant: Preserving the Civil War’s Legacy”

**5 May 2020**–Mr. William Vossler will be speaking about “The Life and Times of Rev. William Corby, CSC.”

**2 June 2020**– Craig S. Breneiser will discuss “Burnside’s Other Failure.”

*Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Doylestown Borough Hall, 57 W. Court Street unless otherwise noted.*

♦ We are trying to identify and contact direct descendants of the 104<sup>th</sup>. They can respond to [gmunson02@comcast.net](mailto:gmunson02@comcast.net) or 215-822-1562 or Civil War Library and Museum, 32 N. Broad, Doylestown, PA 18901

♦ *Not too early*–Please make a note for the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25th. Looking for volunteers and anyone who would like to join us on our annual march through Doylestown.

♦ *Our library and museum is open every Saturday—from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a friend, stop in for a visit, enjoy a discussion by one of our friendly and knowledgeable docents. A great place to learn even more about our local history and involvement in the Civil War. No admission charge. All are welcome.*

♦ *And Congratulations to our Book Winners—for January: Steve Peters, Ray Miller and Julie Mejia; for February: Marilyn Becker, Kitt Finch, Ray Miller and Walter Fellman*

♦ *We welcome new sponsors, W. E. Boger and Associates and Dick Millham Insurance. Thank you. We are very grateful for the continued sponsorship of the C & N Bank.*

## Message from the President

We have had a great start to 2020. Our Christmas luncheon in December had a great turnout at the museum despite the weather, food was great and the companionship even better! In January, Robin Robinson gave a great presentation on “Deeds and Deeds Research”. It was amazing looking at some of the +100-year-old documents she brought that were preserved due to her hard work. In February, Dr. Fredrick Antil presented “One Man’s Search for Abraham Lincoln”. His presentation brought out a lot of little-known facts about Lincoln. For those not there, I was surprised to learn Lincoln is the only president to hold a patent. Both events were well attended, and I would encourage all members to come to these events. Please spread the word and bring some friends! If you missed these, our March meeting will be at the museum for our book discussion.

If Punxsutawney Phil is right (and we all know groundhogs are smarter than weather forecasters), spring is right around the corner. Besides our first Tuesday meetings at the Boro Hall and the Saturday Museum hours we have other events scheduled for this year. First is our participation in the Memorial Day parade (marchers welcome), next the July 25<sup>th</sup> Colonel Davis 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday activities in Doylestown and then the Doylestown courthouse re-enactment during the Doylestown art festival. We are always looking for volunteers and participation so join us for some fun! As you can see, we have a lot of things going on!

I would like to give a special thank you to our corporate sponsors for their generous contributions, our Docents at the museum and all our volunteers that help make the BCCWRT successful. Please come out and enjoy the museum, our speaker series and events and, of course, bring your friends. Lets all hope Phil was right about the weather!!

Jim Damon



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# Clara Barton, Angel of the Battlefield

*By Marilyn Becker*

Clara Barton was working in Washington in the United States Patent Office when she learned about the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment in Baltimore and the riot they endured there, which was the first blood of the Civil War. She was from North Oxford, Massachusetts, and had friends in the Sixth Regiment. This fact was a strong influence on her life story.



Clara Barton was thirty-nine, unmarried, independent, and a patriot, due to her father's strong influence on her. He had served under General Anthony Wayne. She was also one of the few women employed by the federal government. Clara became concerned about the wounded men and their medical care which was not in great availability, so she took it upon herself to help supply this. She wished to enlist in the army, but knew the restrictions placed on women. However, she was well ahead of her time and more than able to take care of herself as she was a good horseman and a good shot with a gun. About that time, Dorothea Dix proposed an army nursing corps and Secretary of War Simon Cameron supported her with an appointment. Clara, who was very independent, did not join the nursing corps. However, in her spare time, she did go to help out after the Battle of Manassas and from that experience realized that she needed to be on the battlefield where wounded men needed great help. Clara had no training in nursing other than family care and nursing her father.

The North did not expect the conflict to be a long war. There were no preparations for the wounded soldiers. In fact, good care was almost non-existent. Men were dying due to the lack of hospitals, doctors, nurses and medical care at the scene of the battle. Clara proceeded to start gathering the supplies needed: bandages, bedding, stimulants, chloroform, and delivered them after receiving a pass from authorities. She had collected these supplies and paid for storage which included using her apartment and two storage compartments in Washington.

Through Clara's travels in Virginia, Clara saw the destruction war made to the countryside. At Antietam Clara was actively watching the fighting and nursing the soldiers. She was a witness to the defeat at Mary's Heights, Fredericksburg. Union casualties were 12,653 killed, wounded and missing. The South lost 5,200.

After Antietam and Fredericksburg, Clara received a great deal of praise and attention. She even had her picture taken by Mathew Brady's studio. Still Clara worked on helping the veterans with

*(continued on page 5)*



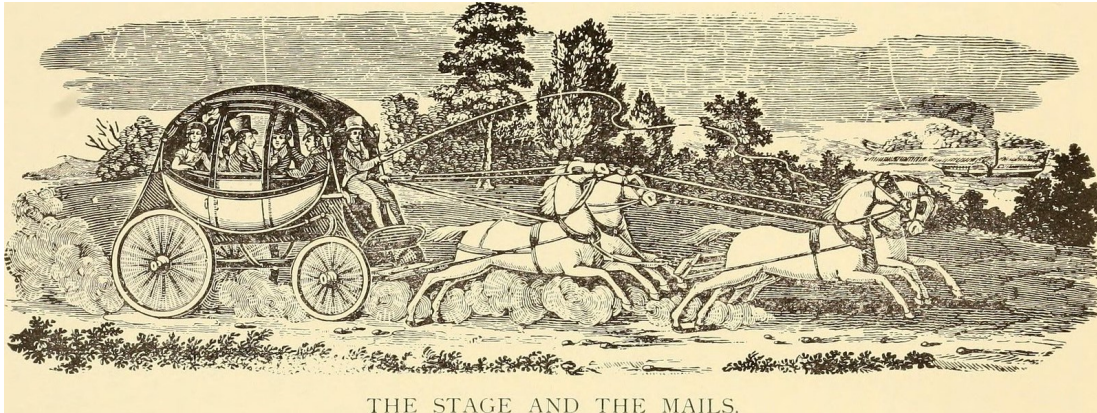
1. What percentage of Union Soldiers were African American by the end of the Civil War?  
A. 8%                      C. 12%  
B. 10%                     D. 15%
  
2. Which of the following battles, claimed the life of Brig. Gen. Lawrence O'Brien Branch?  
A. Gettysburg   C. Spotsylvania  
B. Antietam     D. Chickamauga
  
3. Which of the following battles DID NOT have a "famous" Angle?  
A. Gettysburg   C. Spotsylvania  
B. Kennesaw Mountain  
                         D. Chickamauga
  
4. Who was formerly a Colonel in the 21st Illinois?  
A. US Grant     C. WT Sherman  
B. GH Thomas   D. PH Sheridan
  
5. Which Union officer was made a general before he was old enough to vote?  
A. Newton Curtis   D. Francis Barlow  
B. George Custer  
C. Galusha Pennypacker
  
6. Who was the last Confederate general to die as a result of combat?  
A. George Maney   C. Lucius Walker  
B. James Dearing   D. Rufus Barringer

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**“IN THE FIRST PLACE YOU LOOK AT THE SEALS, ONE BY ONE, TO SEE THAT NONE ARE BLACK**

by Michael Campbell

As someone who grew up in a post office, W.W.H. Davis (Colonel 104th PA) could appreciate the importance of the mail. Absence may make the heart grow fonder, but correspondence is a bridge, bringing separated kin and hearth together again in the form of letters and news. “None but those exiled a long distance from home and friends,” Davis wrote, “can fully appreciate the arrival of the mail.” The son of a store keeper and post master, Davis was reared on stories of his father driving a coach alone from Rock Creek, MD to Pittsburgh at age sixteen. When his father rode circuit as part of the State Board of Appeals he posted epistles home to his teenage son, then a student at Doylestown Academy, imploring virtue and integrity. Those letters arrived according to the “Cross Mail” system - a county wide network of coach routes organized by Post Office into channels of distribution. Developed by Bucks County in 1830, these routes were indispensable in peacetime. When the Civil War broke out, this network of “horseback, sulkey and stage” and roads took on the task of reuniting the soldiers and families of a divided nation. Lt. Jacob Swartzlander (23rd PA) wrote to his cousin Hannah in Doylestown in May of 1861, detailing his company’s advance into secessionist-mob occupied Baltimore. “A crowd of some four or five hundred soon collected around... so great that they could have killed us and eaten us all... but all they learned was that our cannon musket and pistols were loaded.” When the war brought devastation and anguish, so too did the news. In the aftermath of the Battle of Fair Oaks, “Special editions,” began to appear across Bucks County,” writes R. Michael Smith. “Later the casualty lists were posted. In Buckingham Moses Shaw’s family would read it and mourn his death. In Doylestown, John Reily’s father’s face turned ashen and he slowly walked away.” On October 8, 1862, while the Battle of Perryville raged in Kentucky, Col. Davis and the 104th, mindful of the importance of lines of communication, narrowly missed ambushing, “a mail route from the head of Mobjack Bay through a region known as Guinea, and thence... to Richmond.” Amidst a regimental advance in South Carolina in the summer of 1864, Pvt Frederick Lefler (104th PA), the “mail boy of the brigade”, lent his mule to the regimental surgeon, Dr. William T. Robinson, who promptly stumbled ahead of company lines and was captured by the Stono Rangers. “What do I care about Doctor Robinson?” Lefler later lamented, “Hav’nt I lost my mule?” A postmaster’s son, Davis could appreciate such humor, knowing well “the leathern bags of love and news down at the door of the post-office.” He would remember, “anxiously awaiting... How quickly a crowd would assemble around the office door, waiting for the “open sesame,” when they can enter and receive their letters! While standing there, anxious thoughts chase each other through the head and heart... You can not help imagining the intelligence you may receive... Perhaps death has invaded the sacred circle of friends... As the thought of death and sickness at home fills the mind - for it is impossible to repress such thoughts - a feverish heat diffuses itself through the system, and a touch of genuine home-sickness takes hold... Presently the door is thrown open, and we in a rush, helter skelter... dive for the letter boxes... you receive your letters and leave the office - a happier man... In your gladness, you pass without pity the poor fellow who walks away sad.” Sources: *History of Doylestown Old and New; History of 104th; El Gringo; Life of John Davis*

## Teddy Roosevelt and Confederate Relatives in the Civil War

by Bill Hamill

One of the most interesting persons in the history of our country has to be Theodore "T.R." Roosevelt (October 27, 1858--January 6, 1919). American politician, author, naturalist, explorer and historian, Roosevelt served as the 26th President of the United States from 1901 to 1909. Reading was his solace and refuge, and in a life crowded with public and family responsibilities, he found time to write over 30 volumes-- biographies, histories, travel and adventure tales, social and political commentaries, and countless editorials, essays and articles.

Teddy Roosevelt was interested in so many things. There were many influences in his life, especially his Father and Mother. However, two of his uncles, that fought in the Civil War played a significant part in the life of Teddy Roosevelt.

Teddy's father, Theodore Sr, "Thee", businessman, philanthropist, was a lifelong New Yorker. Born into a wealthy family, Mr. Roosevelt did not have much interest in business. He spent most of his life, involved with charities, hospitals, and earned a good reputation for his public works. Theodore Roosevelt helped found the Childrens Aid Society, the Metropolitan Museum of Art as well as the American Museum of Natural History. He was described by a friend as "a man of good works and good times." Growing up, young Teddy simply adored and loved his Father. In his autobiography, he said he was the best man he ever knew.

Theodore Roosevelt married Martha "Mittie: Bulloch in Roswell, Georgia in 1853. A true Southern belle, she was described as "a sweet, gracious, beautiful southern woman a delightful companion and beloved by everyone." In fact, Mittie Bulloch was thought to be one of the inspirations for Scarlett O'Hara from *Gone With the Wind*. Mittie had two brothers, a half brother James and her brother Irvine. Even after moving to New York City Mittie would tell fascinating stories of her life in the South -- plantation life, slavery issues and the elegance and lifestyle of the times.

As the Civil War started, the Roosevelt Family was certainly split in their loyalties. Thee was a Union supporter, Mittie was a Confederate sympathizer. Two incidents involving his parents played a most important part in the life of Teddy Roosevelt.

At the start of the war, Thee made the decision not to take up arms-- he bought a substitute to fight for him. During the war years, Mr. Roosevelt served as an allotment commissioner for New York. He took an unrewarded position, organizing a mailing system where soldiers could assign and mail part of their pay to their family. During the Civil War, Mr. Roosevelt visited Abraham Lincoln and lobbied Congress for programs to support troops in the field as well as their families.

Theodore Roosevelt Sr. later came to regret his decision to not serve as a soldier. According to the feelings of his two daughters, Bamie and Corrine, he later felt as if he should have joined the Union fighting forces. Later, both sisters thought this led to their brother Teddy's idea to make a reputation for himself, "in part compensation for an unspoken disappointment in his father's course in 1861. Over the years, Teddy never discussed his Father's course of action at the start of the Civil War.

Meanwhile, at home, in New York City, Mittie would be telling and reading stories of Southern heroics and gallantry during the years of the Civil War. Almost every male acquaintance or family member of Mittie Bulloch fought for the Confederacy. Most notable, were her brothers, Irvine Bulloch and her half brother, James Dunwoody Bulloch. Their adventures made a major impact on the young Teddy Roosevelt. He would hear about them from letters that they would write to their sister, Mittie. Teddy Roosevelt later mentioned, "from hearing of the feats performed by my Southern forefathers and kinfolk, I felt a great admiration for men who were fearless and who could hold their own in the world and I had a great desire to be like them."

At the age of 19, Irvine Bulloch was attending Penn when the Civil War began. He left school to join the Confederate Navy. In 1862, Irvine was an officer on a blockade runner, that delivered 14,000 Enfield Rifles to Savannah, Georgia. In 1863, he wrote "the life at sea is as hard as it is exciting-- as painful to be away from home and family, as it is pleasant to think I am doing my all for my oppressed country." Letters such as these, made a big impression on a young Teddy Roosevelt, who as a 4 year old would wear a fancy Zoave uniform around the home.

Irvine Bulloch, later served as the youngest officer on the CSS Alabama. It was said that as the Alabama was sinking, he fired the last shot at the USS Kearsarge off the coast of Cherbourg, France in 1864. The New York Times reported on July 8, 1864, that Irvine had survived the battle. Later, in October 1864, from Liverpool, England, Irvine was sent out on the CSS Laurel, which later joined the CSS Shenandoah. The ship sailed to San Francisco and then back to Liverpool, returning in November 1865. Irvine discovered he had been promoted during that time, but the war was now over.

As for brother James Bulloch, he had served in the US Navy for 15 years. He then worked for a shipping company in the states, but at the outbreak of the war, offered his services to the Confederacy. He became the chief foreign agent in Great Britain, and was considered the "most dangerous man in Europe." He helped in the operations of blockade runners and commerce raiders and negotiated with English traders with the only source of currency that the South had -- Cotton for the exchange of arms and other supplies needed by the Southern states. James Bulloch also arranged for the pur-

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problems once they were discharged-like getting Sergeant Plunkett extra pension money because his hands had been shot off at Fredericksburg. Clara lost her assistant Cornelius Welles and she soon acquired her brother, David Barton, as assistant quartermaster and this helped her to draw supplies for her work. David and Clara sailed on the Arago, which was a troop transport, to the South Carolina Coast. There she met Lieutenant John J. Elwell, Chief Quartermaster of the Department of the South.

Lt. Colonel John Elwell was not well due to a horse mishap and suffering from yellow fever. Clara was his nurse and grew to admire him greatly. While she remained at Hilton Head, Clara and the married John Elwell carried on with a passionate affair. She spent the spring at Hilton Head and then in early July went to Folly Island in preparation for the attack on Morris Island. There on Morris Island she was the only female nurse.

After the war, Clara went home to nurse and look after her two brothers-Stephen and Irving, who were not well. Women and other relatives started writing to Clara about their missing family members, fearful that they had died in prison, and asking for her help in finding what had happened to them. As a result, Clara decided to go to Annapolis where a hospital was established for exchanged prisoners and where she would answer all letters received. Clara faced many obstacles in her new course of action, but she persisted, spending her own money on the project. When she published a list of 1500 names, she received 150 letters a day. Clara had help from a Durance Atwater who said that he had a copy of the Death Register from the Rebel Prison at Andersonville, Georgia, which contained names of 12,658 men. He had been a prisoner at Andersonville. He blamed Captain Henry Wirz, commander of the interior prison for the atrocities that had taken place there. Again, Clara faced opposition in trying to identify the Union soldiers. Once she reached Andersonville, William Griffin, a local, who faced a prejudiced community because he had tried to improve the cemetery, was of help.

There were 13,000 poorly numbered identification sticks, mass graves with no coffins, 100 to 150 bodies to a trench. Andersonville held one-third of the 30,218 rebel prison deaths. (While there Clara was nurse to those who became sick.) Andersonville was constructed to hold 10,000 prisoners, but had held 33,000 men. Rebel relatives and blacks came to talk to Clara while she was working. Before she finished her work there, 12,461 Union soldiers were identified. By obtaining funding from Congress, Clara continued work on the missing soldiers until 1868. After the war, for two years, Clara spoke about her experiences to crowds across the country and this speaking schedule left her exhausted. She traveled to Europe to rest and this action led to her starting The American Red Cross, and holding in 1881, the first official meeting at her apartment in Washington, D.C. Clara accomplished so much in life while nursing and observing firsthand the Civil War. Through her many years of nursing and care, she served her country well and left behind a tremendous legacy when she died at 90. She is buried in North Cemetery, Oxford, Massachusetts.

Sources: [A Woman of Valor Clara Barton and the Civil War](#) Stephen B. Oates

### Famous Last Words

**“To announce that there be no criticism of the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but it is morally treasonable to the American Public. Nothing but the truth should be spoken about him or anyone else. But, it is even more important to tell the truth, pleasant or unpleasant, about him than anybody else”**

**Teddy Roosevelt, May 1918**

### Did You Know?

After the Civil War, there were more cases of drug addiction in the USA than after the Vietnam War.

Campground conditions were a breeding ground for disease. The most deadly killer was dysentery or diarrhea. The second biggest killer was typhoid fever, which was spread by lice. Pneumonia was the third cause. Hygiene was not considered an important factor in soldiers' encampments.

Continued from page 4

with the only source of currency that the South had -- Cotton for the exchange of arms and other supplies needed by the Southern states. James Bulloch also arranged for the purchase and construction of the CSS Alabama. Built in Liverpool, England, everyone assumed it was for the Confederacy. On its trial run in July 1862, with well wishers on board and having a lovely time at sea, they were told that they must leave and were returned to shore. The Alabama headed to the Azores, where it was outfitted for war and a crew, including Midshipman Irvine Bulloch.

When the war ended, both brothers were denied amnesty, and lived in Liverpool for the rest of their lives. They worked as cotton merchants and had successful careers. Because of the influence of the Roosevelt Family, they were able to occasionally, thru Canada, visit their sister and family in New York City.

One of the ironies of Teddy Roosevelt, this extraordinary American President, was that he was so much influenced by two infamous members of the Confederacy. Thanks to his uncles and mother, telling stories and tales about “ships, ships, ships and the fighting of the ships, until they sank into the depths of my soul.” In 1869, the Roosevelt family were on a European Grand Tour and their first stop happened to be Liverpool. In 1881, on Teddy Roosevelt’s honeymoon, he stopped to visit his uncles. Teddy was working and writing a successful book about the Naval Warfare of the War of 1812. Teddy mentioned that, “without his uncle’s advice, help and sympathy, this work would probably never have been written.” In later years, Teddy Roosevelt would serve as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, prior to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. In 1907, as President, Roosevelt dispatched a battle fleet “The Great White Fleet” around the world to demonstrate our country’s naval and military power.

Mittie Bulloch remained loyal to the South for her entire life. After the war, she was referred to as an “Unreconstructed Rebel.” As President in 1905, Teddy Roosevelt visited the Bulloch family home in Georgia. Referring to his Southern ancestry, Roosevelt remarked, “Men and women, don’t you think I have the ancestral right to claim a proud kinship with those who served and their devotion to duty, whether they wore gray of blue?” A proud American and proud of his Union and Confederate Family ties

Sources: Disunion, Edward P. Kuhn, Everything Teddy Roosevelt, Arthur Sharp, Teddy Roosevelt, Louis Auchincloss.

### Addendum to Teddy Roosevelt Article

In January, my wife, Nancy and I had the chance to visit Teddy Roosevelt’s birthplace in New York City. We had tried several times to visit but it always seemed to be closed for repairs or refurbishment.

Roosevelt’s home is a National Historic Site located at 28 East 20th St. in NYC. It is a typical New York brownstone located on what was a quiet tree-lined street in New York’s most fashionable

residential district. The family lived here until 1872, when Theodore was 14. Eventually, the house was taken over for business purposes. In 1916, the home was completely demolished to make way for a two story commercial building.

After TR’s death in 1919, prominent citizens, decided to purchase the site, raze the commercial building and reconstruct Roosevelt’s boyhood home. The reconstructed birthplace was opened to the public in 1923.

Furnishings (a few original to the home) reflect the home appearance during 1865 thru 1872. A park ranger leads a tour thru the home. \*\*\* Our docents at the Library/Museum are more enthusiastic and interesting.\*\* The Roosevelt home is located close to Madison Park and the Flatiron Building. A neat place to stop for lunch would be Eataly, a vibrant Italian marketplace, where you can shop, eat and even take part in their cooking school.

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### ANSWERS TO READER CHALLENGE

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

### SWAMP ANGEL II NEWS

Newsletter of the

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