

"The Late Unpleasantness" May 2008



South Bay Civil War Round Table

San Jose, California

**May 27th Meeting Speaker:
Susan Williams on "The War
Horse: From Hay-burners to Steam
Engines in the Civil War"**

Holder's Country Inn

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Comments like "Wow, those scenes really come alive" or "It's almost like being there" were heard at our April meeting as Ron Perisho presented his 3-D presentation of "Stereoscopic Photography in the Civil War"..

If you were unable to attend we missed you - and you missed, not only an impressive stereoscopic, 3-D presentation, but a most interesting and informative narration relating to the background setting and location of each respective slide. A super job, Ron.

24th Annual West Coast
Civil War Round Table
Conference
November 7-9, 2008
Clovis, California
"Civil War in the Shenandoah
Valley"

Our May meeting promises to be equally as interesting, as Susan Williams will present a combination talk and slide presentation entitled "The War Horse: From Hay-Burners to Steam Engines in the Civil War". We are definitely looking forward to Susan's presentation. It is one I am sure you will not want to miss.

Among other items addressed at our April meeting were an update on our web-site activation, a progress report on the "planning status" of the 2010 Civil War Conference to be held on Alcatraz, and added information related to the annual Fall state Civil War Conference to be held in Clovis, CA. on November 7, 8, and 9th, 2008.

It was also a pleasure having Eric Buran, son of our own Ken and Anna Buran, as a visitor at our April meeting. Eric is a coach, teacher, and program coordinator at Del Mar High School in the San Jose Unified School District.

Remember, that in addition to our featured speakers, there is our raffle, civil war quiz, announcements, discussions, and stimulating conversation related to all aspects of the Civil War.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our May 27th meeting.

Gary Moore, President

Mother's Day was officially recognized by a joint resolution of Congress and signed by President Wilson in 1914, but the historic roots stem from the work of Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis during the Civil War. Here is a brief biography found at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/jarvis.html>

Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis

Compiled by the West Virginia State Archives

Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis' work with women's organizations inspired the creation of Mother's Day as a national holiday. She was born in Culpeper, Virginia, on September 30, 1832, the daughter of the Rev. Josiah W. and Nancy Kemper Reeves. The family moved to Barbour County in present-day West Virginia when the Rev. Reeves was transferred to a Methodist church in Philippi. In 1850, Ann married Granville E. Jarvis, the son of a Philippi Baptist minister. Two years later, Granville and Ann Jarvis moved to nearby Webster in Taylor County.



Jarvis organized a series of Mothers' Day Work Clubs in Webster, Grafton, Fetterman, Pruntytown, and Philippi, to improve health and sanitary conditions. Among other services, the clubs raised money for medicine, hired women to work for families in which the mothers suffered from tuberculosis, and inspected bottled milk and food. In 1860, local doctors supported the formation of clubs in other towns.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad made Taylor County a strategic site during the Civil War. Ann Jarvis urged the Mothers' Day Work Clubs to declare their neutrality and provide relief to both Union and Confederate soldiers. The clubs treated the wounded and regularly fed and clothed soldiers stationed in the area. Jarvis also managed to preserve an element of peace in a community being torn apart by political differences. During the war, she worked tirelessly despite the personal tragedy of losing four of her children to disease. In all, eight of her twelve children died before reaching adulthood.

Near the end of the war, the Jarvis family moved to the larger town of Grafton. Tensions increased as both Union and Confederate soldiers returned at war's end. In the summer of 1865, Ann Jarvis organized a Mothers' Friendship Day at the courthouse in Pruntytown to bring together soldiers and neighbors of all political beliefs. The event was a great success despite the fear of many that it would erupt in violence. Mothers' Friendship Day was an annual event for several years.

Ann Jarvis' life revolved around the church. Under Granville's leadership, the Andrews Methodist Church was built in Grafton and dedicated in 1873. Anna taught Sunday school at the church for the next twenty-five years. After Granville's death in 1902, Anna moved to

Philadelphia to live with her son Claude and daughters Anna and Lillian. Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis died in Bala-Cynwyd, west of Philadelphia, on May 9, 1905. Her daughter Anna led a small tribute to her mother at Andrews Methodist Church on May 12, 1907, and dedicated her life to establishing a nationally recognized Mother's Day. The first official Mother's Day ceremonies were held at Andrews Methodist in Grafton and the Wanamaker Store Auditorium in Philadelphia on May 10, 1908. Six years later, President Woodrow Wilson signed a Congressional Resolution setting aside Mother's Day as a national holiday to be celebrated on the second Sunday in May. In 1952, the General Conference of the Methodist Church officially designated Andrews Methodist Church as a National Methodist Shrine.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - LOOKING AHEAD

JUNE: "CIVIL WAR SECRETS REVEALED"

SHARON POPE

JULY: "GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER"

ALAN SISSENWEIN

April Quiz Answers by Fred Rohrer

1. What July, 1864 engagement near Frederick, MD. was the only Confederate victory north of the Mason-Dixon line? Although a Union defeat, it became known as "the battle that saved Washington". **Battle of Monocacy**
2. Name the irascible Confederate General who led this last rebel invasion of the North. **Jubal Early**
3. Which Union Corps was hurried north from Petersburg by Grant to meet Early's invasion? **6th**
How were they transported in time to make a stand at the Monocacy? **Steamboat up the Chesapeake to Baltimore and B&O railroad to Frederick**
4. On the morning of the Battle of Monocacy, Gen. Early demanded and received a \$200,000 ransom from the Frederick City fathers. How long did it take for that debt to be paid off? **1951**
5. This obscure private in the 9th NY Heavy Artillery won a measure of recognition for "shinning" up the wooden covered bridge over the Monocacy and setting it afire (upon the command of Gen. Lew Wallace), thus preventing the rebels from seizing it. **My great-grandfather, Alfred Sova (1847-1935)**
6. This capable Confederate General led the third attack at Monocacy which finally routed the Union forces. At Appomattox, he was chosen by Gen. Lee to represent him at the formal surrender ceremony. **John B. Gordon**
7. This son and namesake of a prominent member of Lincoln's cabinet commanded the 9th NY Heavy Artillery at the Battle of Monocacy? **Col. William H. Seward, Jr.**
8. What were the circumstances of the only occasion in U. S. history of a sitting President coming under enemy fire? **Lincoln at Ft. Stevens on July 12th**
9. After the war, Lew Wallace, the Union Commander at Monocacy, wrote the most popular novel of the 19th Century. What was it? **Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ**
10. Who was the brigadier general, who commanded the 3rd Division of the 6th Corp at Monocacy, had been wounded at First Bull Run and Antietam before being wounded again at the Battle of Cedar Creek? **James B. Ricketts**
11. (a) Who said: "These men died to save the National Capital, and they did save it."? **Wallace**
(b) Who said: "We haven't taken Washington but we've scared Abe Lincoln like hell."? **Early**

12. On Aug. 6, 1864, Gen. Grant met with Phil Sheridan to plan the Shenandoah Valley campaign against Gen. Early for the fall. What was the site of that crucial meeting? **Thomas House at Monocacy**

13. In Sept, 1862, written orders describing Gen. Lee's battle plans for Antietam were found in a clover field on what later became the Monocacy Battlefield. What was the name of that famous lost dispatch? **# 191**

14. Name the famous poem by John Greenleaf Whittier about the heroic actions of an elderly widow in Frederick. **Barbara Fritchie**

Bonus question: When Lincoln was inaugurated in March of 1861, five former Presidents were still living, a situation which did not occur again until Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. Name these five Presidents. **Van Buren, Tyler, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan**

May Quiz by Hal Hubis

1. What future general lent travel money to U.S. Grant when Grant resigned from the U.S. Army in California?

2. Who refused to use pepper on his food saying it gave him pains in his left leg?

3. What general was carried on the roll of a New Orleans unit as an honorary private, with the color sergeant answering "Absent on duty!" when the roster was called?

4. What No. Carolinian cried "Give them the cold steel!" before leading his men against Cemetery Ridge?
15 and in 1846 graduated second in his class?

8. What Ohio native entered the army in the Civil War as a lieutenant colonel and died as Commander-in-Chief?

9. What naval officer had a chamber pot emptied upon his head in occupied New Orleans?

10. Who accepted the surrender of the arms of the Army of Northern Virginia?

11. What native of Illinois claimed to have killed fifty Confederates with fifty shots from his "special" rifle?

12. Eager to display his strength, what general habitually showed off by lifting his wife to a seat on the mantel-piece?

13. After losing his plumed hat, Jeb Stuart offered to swap it for whose captured dress coat and hat?

14. What redheaded general, named for an Indian chieftain, was known to relatives and intimates as "Cump"?

15. What former ambassador to Russia, who became a major general without a command, claimed much credit for the Emancipation Proclamation?

16. Removed from combat duty after blunders at Shiloh what inept soldier became a famous novelist?

17. Late in 1861, what illness put McClellan on the sick list for three weeks?

18. When riding his horse, what general had to hold the reins between his teeth because his left arm was missing?

19. Of whom was Salmon P. Chase speaking when he said that giving the Army of the Potomac to him "is equivalent to giving Washington to the Rebels"?

PRESERVATION REPORT *Although progress in recent years have gone a long way to expand and protect areas around Chancellorsville (and the other major battle sites of the area), destruction of the battlefield began shortly after the May 1863 battle. The following excerpt reports on, some post-battle history. - Editor*

Chancellorsville in retrospect

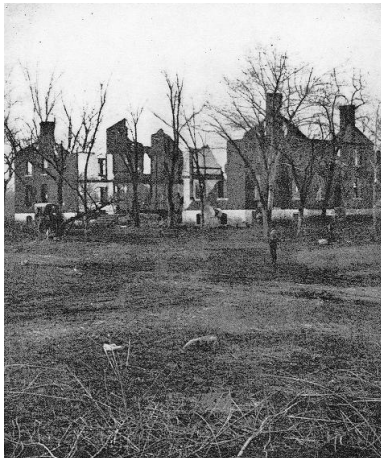
By **ROBERT K. KRICK**, chief historian of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park for 30 years

Source:

http://www.fredericksburg.com/CivilWar/Battle/chancellorsville_story?dy=1221002&fn=822588

Date published: Sat, 12/21/2002

The armies that headed from Chancellorsville toward Gettysburg left behind some 30,000 casualties (about 12,000 of them Confederate), the dead buried only crudely, if at all, and the wounded of both sides suffering under primitive medical care. Some of the dead soldiers lie in unknown graves on the battlefield to this day...



Civilians cautiously filtered back into the area, attempting to return to some semblance of normalcy, only to have the armies descend on the region again the following spring. The Chancellors found their grand brick house in ruins. "Mixed with the charred timbers and blackened bricks in the ruins," a local man wrote, "were to be seen the burned skeletons of helpless men caught in the building."

The destruction daunted the Chancellors. Four months after the battle they put the place up for sale. The real-estate fliers cited 854 acres, some of it good "cleared land, mostly fine upland meadow," and said nothing about the battle. The advertisement boasted of 300,000 bricks on the property, in the surviving walls of the shattered building or strewn nearby.

Not long after the war, a rebuilt Chancellorsville inn arose from the ashes, using parts of the existing walls as the outline for a somewhat smaller structure. That reconstruction became a familiar, much-photographed landmark for returning veterans and other tourists. Fire destroyed the rebuilt inn in 1927. In the 1970s, several old-timers in the area told me that Civil War shells collected from the fields and stored in a closet exploded to start the 1927 blaze. Given the nature of ignition in such ordnance, the fire actually must have started in some other fashion, then eventually cooked them off. The old citizens insisted that people could hear the exploding shells both in Fredericksburg and out in Orange. The shell of charred walls that survived the 1927 fire blew down in a wind storm in 1947...

Other battlefield landmarks disappeared because of conscious efforts, both during the war and subsequently. The storms of lead and iron hurled by muskets and cannon attracted Confederate salvage efforts. "For two weeks after the battle," a Mississippian wrote, "trainloads of wagons loaded with bullets gathered off the field of battle came in." In the autumn of 1863, Confederate engineer William W. Blackford received an assignment to destroy the Federal earthworks around Chancellorsville. He reported demolishing fortifications "not less than forty miles in length." After the war indigent citizens, many of them recently freed slaves with marginal economic prospects, salvaged all manner of debris from the battlefields around town. Their efforts sometimes included shoveling earth through a screen to extract bullets and shell fragments.

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