**Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence: A Question of Complicity**

**by Burton J. Williams**

*Summer 1968 (Vol. 34, No. 2), pages 143 to 149*

<http://www.kshs.org/p/quantrill-s-raid-on-lawrence-a-question-of-complicity/13185>

Quantrill's famous or infamous raid upon the sleeping town of Lawrence in the predawn hours of August 21, 1863, has been the subject of endless discourse and debate. As the foregoing ballad suggests there were those who regarded Quantrill as a hero and the burning of Lawrence as a good thing. The fact remains, however, that by noon of that fateful day Lawrence resembled a smoking funeral pyre beside the muddy Kaw. Nearly 150 male inhabitants were dead or dying, a large portion of the town's business and residential districts were in ashes and the faces of those who survived the slaughter bore mute testimony to the tragic scene.

The Leavenworth *Daily Conservative* of August 23, 1863, headlined the account of the raid as follows: "Total Loss $2,000,000, Cash Lost $250,000." The story that followed described the scene along Massachusetts street, the business artery of Lawrence, as "... one mass of smouldering ruins and crumbling walls.... Only two business houses were left upon the street -- one known as the Armory, and the other the old Miller block.... About one hundred and twenty-five houses in all were burned, and only one or two escaped being ransacked, and everything of value carried away or destroyed." The article went on to point out that the offices of the three Lawrence newspapers, the*Journal*, *Tribune*, and *Republican*, were destroyed, and that every safe in the town but two had been robbed. There was also an account of the burning of the Eldridge House.

The first Lawrence newspaper to resume publication following the raid was the *Kansas State Journal*, which appeared on October 1, 1863. This edition claimed that every business house had been sacked and all but five burned. In addition the paper said that every residence in the town had been plundered. In substance, the Journal portrayed the raid as indiscriminate and brutal. The question of how such loss of life and destruction of property could come about is not the moot question it once was. There is increasing evidence to support the suspicion that the success of the Quantrill raid was assured by "insiders," who for personal, political, or economic reasons stood to gain from the destruction of Lawrence.

Throughout the period of Free State-Proslavery extremism, beginning in 1855-1856, Lawrence citizens had known that their town, as the headquarters of Free-State sympathizers, was a prime target. Later, and particularly after "General" James H. Lane had sacked and burned Osceola, Mo., in 1861, they were aware that Lawrence, as the home of Lane, could expect a retaliatory raid. On August 6, 1863, the Lawrence Kansas State Journal carried a long article calling attention to rumors of an impending raid and of the need to prepare the town's defenses. The Rev. Richard Cordley, minister of the Lawrence Congregational church, later wrote that intelligence had been communicated to the officials of Lawrence as early as the first of August that Quantrill proposed to raid the town about the full of the moon, which ironically coincided with the actual date of the raid. Cordley then proceeded to ask and answer a most important question, i. e., "It may be asked, why the people of Lawrence relaxed their vigilance so soon after receiving such authentic evidence of Quantrell's intentions? The city and military authorities made the fatal mistake of keeping the grounds of apprehension a profound secret." [2]

**William C. Quantrill**

**Written by:**[**The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica**](http://www.britannica.com/bps/user-profile/4419/the-editors-of-encyclopaedia-britannica)**William C. Quantrill American outlaw**

[](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/media/13613/William-C-Quantrill?topicId=486166)

**William C. Quantrill,** in full**William Clarke Quantrill,**pseudonym **Charley Hart**   (born July 31, 1837, Canal Dover, [Ohio](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/425969/Ohio), U.S.—died June 6, 1865, [Louisville](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/349328/Louisville), Ky.), captain of a guerrilla band irregularly attached to the Confederate Army during the [American Civil War](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/19407/American-Civil-War), notorious for the sacking of the free-state stronghold of [Lawrence](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/332897/Lawrence), Kan. (Aug. 21, 1863), in which at least 150 people were burned or shot to death.

Growing up in Ohio, Quantrill taught school in Ohio and then Illinois and, in 1857, moved to Kansas, where he first tried farming, without much enthusiasm. By the end of 1860, while living near [Lawrence](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/332897/Lawrence), he fell into thievery and murder, was charged with horse stealing, and began life on the run. After the outbreak of the [American Civil War](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/19407/American-Civil-War) he first served with the Confederate Army in Missouri but then, independently, put together a gang of guerrillas, who raided and robbed towns and farms with Union sympathies. The Union forces declared Quantrill’s Raiders to be outlaws; the Confederates made them an official troop in August 1862, giving Quantrill the rank of captain.

On Aug. 21, 1863, his troop of about 450 men raided Lawrence, pillaging, burning, and killing. Two months later, donning Federal uniforms, the raiders surprised a detachment of Union soldiers at Baxter Springs, Kan., and slaughtered about 90 of them. As the Civil War drew to a close, dissension caused Quantrill’s followers to break up into smaller bands to continue their criminal pursuits. Quantrill was mortally wounded on a raid into [Kentucky](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/315026/Kentucky) in May 1865.

**MISSOURI LEGENDS**

**William Quantrill - Renegade Leader of the Missouri Border War**

http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-quantrill.html

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | Leader of the most savage fighting band in the [Bleeding Kansas/Missouri Border War](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-bleedingkansas.html), William Quantrill will long be known as the most ruthless bushwhacker during these turbulent times.    Born on July 31, 1837 to Thomas Henry and Caroline Cornelia (Clarke) Quantrill, the boy displayed his cruel tendencies even as a child. Purportedly, this bad seed would shoot pigs through the ears just to hear them squeal, nail snakes to trees, and tie cats’ tails together for the pure joy of watching them claw each other to death.    He wasn’t to change much as he grew older. After teaching school briefly in Ohio and Illinois he fled to [Kansas](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-mainpage.html) in 1857 to escape a horse theft charge. His initial stay in [Kansas](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-mainpage.html) was short lived, when he accompanied an army provision train to [Utah](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ut-mainpage.html) in 1858. Along the trail to [Utah](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ut-mainpage.html), the man who had grown up in a Unionist family, met numerous pro-slavery Southerners who deeply affected his beliefs. Once in [Utah](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ut-mainpage.html), he began to use the alias of Charles Hart, lived his life as a gambler and was quickly associated with a number of murders and thefts at Fort Bridger and elsewhere in the territory. Fleeing yet again, under a warrant for his arrest, he returned to [Kansas](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-mainpage.html).  In December 1860, he joined a group of [Kansas](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-mainpage.html) Free-State men who were intent upon freeing the slaves of a [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html) man by the name of Morgan Walker.  But Quantrill's participation was only a ruse. As the Jayhawkers hid in the bush, Quantrill volunteered to "scout the area.” Soon, Quantrill, along with Walker, returned to ambush the four [Kansas](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-mainpage.html) men, killing three of them.  When the Civil War broke out in April, 1861, Quantrill joined the Confederate side with enthusiasm. He fought with Confederate forces at the battle of [Wilson's Creek](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-wilsoncreek.html) in Oakhills, [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html), in August 1861. This battle marked the beginning of the Civil War in [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html), where the state would become the scene of savage and fierce fighting, primarily from guerilla warfare.    By late in the year, Quantrill became unhappy with the Confederates’ reluctance to aggressively prosecute the Union troops.  As a result, the young man took it upon himself to take a more antagonistic course with his own-guerilla warfare, becoming the leader of Quantrill's Raiders. Starting with a small force of no more than a dozen men, the pro-slavery guerrilla band began to make independent attacks upon Union camps, patrols and settlements. | | |
| His band of marauders quickly grew to more than one hundred in 1862, with both regular pro-slavery citizens and Confederate soldiers, until he became the most powerful leader of the many bands of Border Ruffians that pillaged the area. Several famous would-be [outlaws](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-outlawsandlegends.html) joined his ruffian group including Frank and [Jesse James](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-jessejames.html) and the Younger Brothers. Justifying his actions for perceived wrongs done to them by [Kansas](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-mainpage.html) Jayhawkers and the Federal Authorities, the band robbed Union mail, ambushed federal patrols, and attacked boats on the [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html) River throughout the year.  Quantrill's nature as an [outlaw](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-outlawsandlegends.html), murderer and thief made him a prime candidate for the vicious attacks, where he took advantage of the pandemonium for his own use in profitable hit-and-run attacks on pro-Union sympathizers and Federal Troops alike. | |
|  | On August 11, 1862, Colonel J.T. Hughes’s Confederate force, including William Quantrill, attacked [Independence](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-independencehauntings.html), [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html) at dawn. They drove through the town to the Union Army camp, capturing, killing and scattering the Yankees. During the melee, Colonel Hughes was killed, but the Confederates took Independence which led to a Confederate dominance in the Kansas City area for a short time. Quantrill's role in the capture of [Independence](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-independencehauntings.html) led to his being commissioned a captain in the Confederate Army. |

Shortly thereafter, Quantrill traveled to Richmond, Virginia, where he sought a regular command under the Confederacy Partisan Ranger Act. However his reputation for brutality had preceded him and his request was denied.

 At about the same time, the Commander of the Department of [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html), Major General Henry W. Halleck, ordered that guerrillas such as Quantrill and his men would be treated as robbers and murderers, not normal prisoners of war.

 Quantrill's tactics became even more aggressive after this proclamation, as he no longer adhered to the principals of accepting enemy surrender.

The [Lawrence](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-lawrence.html) Massacre led to swift retribution, as Union troops forced the residents of four[Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html) border counties onto the open prairie by issuing [General Order #11](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-generalorder11.html) on August 25, 1863. The order required all persons living in Cass, Jackson, Bates and part of Vernon counties to immediately evacuate their homes, leaving the area a virtual "No-Man’s Land.” The Federal Troops and [Kansas](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-mainpage.html) Jayhawkers immediately burned and looted everything left behind.

Having been pushed back, Quantrill moved his men to [Texas](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/tx-mainpage.html). On their way south, Quantrill's well-mounted and armed force of 400 men came upon the 100-man headquarters escort of Union General James G. Blunt. Quantrill's band attacked on October 6, 1863, killing more than eighty men in what later become known as the [Barter Springs Massacre](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-baxtersprings.html).

Meanwhile, in an attempt to regain his prestige, Quantrill concocted a plan to lead a company of men to Washington and assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.  He assembled a group of raiders in Lafayette County, [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html), in November and December 1864 with the idea of completing this task. However, the strength of Union troops east of the Mississippi River convinced him that his plan could not succeed.  Quantrill turned back and resumed his normal pattern of raiding.

With a group of thirty-three men, he entered Kentucky early in 1865. In May a Unionist irregular force surprised his group near Taylorsville, Kentucky, and in the ensuing battle William Quantrill was shot through the spine. He died at the military prison at Louisville, Kentucky, on June 6, 1865.  He is buried at the [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html) Confederate Soldier’s Memorial in Higginsville, [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html).

**A Kansas Town Remembers a Massacre**

Posted on [August 18, 2013](http://www.bethreiber.com/?p=367) by [Beth Reiber](http://www.bethreiber.com/?author=1)

It happened just a block from where I live. Men brandishing firearms burst into the home of Rev. Hugh D. Fisher, searched for him in vain (he was hiding in the cellar), plundered the house and then set it on fire. Flames caused the roof and upper and lower floors to cave in, and yet still, with a six-month-old baby in her arms, Elizabeth Fisher worked furiously to extinguish flames closest to her husband’s hiding place. Then, while pretending to salvage some possessions, she managed to conceal Mr. Fisher with a carpet and drag him over to a weeping willow draped with morning glory. He survived. Others were not so lucky.

Two teenage clerks were killed after being ordered to open the store’s safe. The mayor died as he hid in a well, suffocating from the fire that burned down his house. A judge, married less than a year, was shot; when his young wife tried to shield him from further harm with her body, a guerilla lifted her harm and shot her husband in the head. A German blacksmith, hiding in a cornfield with his young child, was discovered when the child began to cry and was shot to death, the child still in his embrace.

Altogether, about 180 men and teenage boys were killed in the abolitionist town of Lawrence, Kansas, that fateful morning on August 21, 1863 (the exact number of victims is unknown). The surprise attack by William Clark Quantrill and his band of 400 pro-slavery ruffians from Missouri was the culmination of armed clashes and atrocities that had been committed by both sides of the pro- and anti-slavery conflict, which began after the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act opened Kansas for settlement and intensified in 1861 when Kansas was admitted to the Union as a free state just before the Civil War began. When Quantrill and his men rode out of town after four hours of terror, they left behind 85 widows and 250 fatherless children, a downtown that was razed save for a few buildings, and about 185 homes burned to the ground.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **John Harrison Younger (1851-1874)** - The younger brother of [Cole](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers2.html#Thomas Coleman (Cole) Younger) and [Jim Younger](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#James “Jim” Younger), John was the 11th of 14 children born in the Younger clan. When brothers[Cole](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers2.html#Thomas Coleman (Cole) Younger) and [Jim](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#James “Jim” Younger) joined [Quantrill’s](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-quantrill.html) Guerillas during the [Civil War](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ah-civilwar.html), John and his brother, [Bob](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#Robert “Bob” Younger), were too young, and stayed home to look after their mother and sisters.    After the war was over, when John and [Bob](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#Robert “Bob” Younger) had driven their mother into [Independence](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-independencehauntings.html), [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html) for supplies in January, 1866, a soldier recognized the family and began to make rude comments about [Cole](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers2.html#Thomas Coleman (Cole) Younger). When 15 year-old [John](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#John Harrison Younger (1851-1874)) told him to be quiet, the soldier slapped him on the face with a frozen fish, at which point [John](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#John Harrison Younger (1851-1874)) pulled out a revolver and shot him between the eyes. After the dead soldier’s body was examined, it revealed a sling shot, so the killing was ruled as self-defense.    Soon after, the Younger family headed to [Texas](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/tx-mainpage.html) until mother Bersheba became ill and the Younger brothers, with the exception of [Cole](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers2.html#Thomas Coleman (Cole) Younger), took her back to[Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html) in 1870. However, no sooner had they arrived when a posse seeking information about [Cole](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers2.html#Thomas Coleman (Cole) Younger) began to harass [John](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#John Harrison Younger (1851-1874)) and [Bob](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#Robert “Bob” Younger). Knocking [Bob](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html" \l "Robert \“Bob\” Younger)unconscious, the men hanged [John](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#John Harrison Younger (1851-1874)) four times, but obviously he lived to tell the tale.  When mother Bersheba died in June, [Jim](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#James “Jim” Younger), John and [Bob](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#Robert “Bob” Younger) began to move between [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html) and [Texas](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/tx-mainpage.html) for safety and on January 20, 1871, John shot a killed two [Texas](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/tx-mainpage.html) Deputy Sheriffs who attempted to arrest them. | |
| Two years later, all three brothers joined the [James-Younger Gang](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-outlawgangslist.html#James-Younger Gang (1866-1876)), where John was suspected to have taken part in the robbery of the Ste. Genevieve bank in [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html) in 1873 and a train robbery in Adair, Iowa the same year. On March 17, 1874, [Jim](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#James “Jim” Younger) andJohn were on the road between Roscoe and Osceola, [Missouri](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-mainpage.html) when they encountered two [Pinkerton](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-pinkertons.html) agents and a constable from [Osceola](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/mo-osceola.html). A shootout began and John was shot through the neck and died. Also killed were St. Clair County Deputy [Edwin Daniels](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-lawmenlist-d.html#Edwin B. Daniels (18-1874) and [Pinkerton](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-pinkertons.html) Agent [Louis J. Lull](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-lawmenlist-l.html#Captain Louis J. Lull, aka W.J. Allen (18-1874)). [Jim](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-youngerbrothers3.html#James “Jim” Younger) managed to escape. |

Masons and the Civil War

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **Masonic Lodges in the Army** by Captain Wilson P. Howell  The winter we were in camp at Dalton, Georgia, a number of Masonic Lodges were organized, the Grand Lodge of Alabama having granted dispensations authorizing their being established in the Alabama Regiments.  Among those then organized, was in the 28th Alabama Regiment, General Mangoe's (?) Brigade who were in camp near our Brigade*(General Deas)*.  The lodge in the 28th Alabama was known as **John C.**  **Reid Lodge**.  That lodge hall was built by cutting long logs 40 feet long, I suppose, and building it one story and chinking and doubing it. And quite a number were made masons there.  There was also a Lodge established after that in our Brigade known as **Zach Deas Lodge** which done an amount of masonic work that winter. | | |  | | --- | | The Georgia campaign opened in the spring and I think the dispensation and records of **John C. Reid Lodge** were lost and there were no meetings of the Lodge after we left Dalton.  Some years after the war, the Grand Lodge of Alabama passed suitable provisions for the army made masons to get membership in their home lodges. | |

***Gentlemen of the White Apron: Masonic POWs in the American Civil War*** by Michael A. Halleran,

Approximately 410,000 soldiers were taken prisoner in the Civil War, and about 56,000 died in prison.¹ The ordeal of these captives received much study immediately after the war, and renewed scholarly interest in the last twenty years. Much has been published about Civil War prisons, yet only tantalizing fragments show the influence of Freemasonry inside prison walls. Notwithstanding its paucity, the evidence shows the Masonic tenets of brotherly love and relief found a perfect field of expression in Civil War prisons, where food, shelter, and compassion were in short supply.

Although ignored by scholars, there is considerable evidence that Freemasons in prison went to great lengths to care for their own. Remarkably, this fraternal concern transcended Union or Confederate affiliation. The vignettes here make plain that apart from being a social phenomenon, Freemasonry was a lifeline to prisoners of war, nearly all of whom were confined in unwholesome and unsanitary conditions.The Fraternity provided not only moral and spiritual consolation, but also actual necessities that sustained life under the bleakest of conditions.

“I Immediately Commenced my Free-Masonry” Just as in actual combat, many Freemasons resorted to appealing for aid from the enemy when captured, or to avoid capture. Lt. Colonel Homer B. Sprague, 13th Connecticut Volunteers, was taken prisoner by Ramseur’s Brigade in the 3rd Battle of Winchester on 19 September 1864. Following a long march with his fellow captives, Sprague’s strength failed him and he collapsed in a roadside ditch. A rebel officer took pity on him and he was allowed to ride in an ambulance, [I]nto the ambulance I climbed with some difficulty, and immediately commenced my free-masonry on the driver. He responded to the signs.… He gave me some nice milk and some fine wheat bread. “As a Mason,” said he, “I’ll feed you; share the last crumb with you; but as a Confederate soldier, I’ll fight you till the last drop of blood and the last ditch.” “I hardly know which to admire most,” Sprague replied, “your spunk or your milk.”²

While the chances of a modern soldier meeting any success by “commencing his Freemasonry” is undoubtedly slim, but in nineteenth-century America, the Fraternity, and its reputation for solidarity between Brethren was well known.

During the Petersburg campaign, John Floyd, a captain in the 18th South Carolina Infantry described a successful sortie against Federal troops which illustrates the reputation of Masonry among front-line troops, I directed my men to move forward stealthily so as not to attract the attention of the enemy, who were busy reversing the works, until they arrived [with]in 30 yards of the enemy, then to halt. The men were then ordered to yell with all their might and then to fall flat on their faces. Every Yankee fired his gun when he heard that yell, but their balls went harmlessly over us. I then ordered my men forward at the run, and before the enemy could reload their guns we were on them. They commenced begging for quarter and inquiring for Masons and Oddfellows. We captured all of them.³

A Southern man with a wagon-load of sorely needed cloth and fabric ran afoul of a Union patrol in Patterson, North Carolina. Clem Osborne, a private citizen and Confederate sympathizer, had prepared the load of supplies to be taken to Rebel troops nearby, when Union cavalry under the command of General George Stoneman, Jr. arrived, seized his wagon and team, and attempted to capture him. Osborne ran and hid in the bell tower of the woolen mill in town.

A diligent but fruitless search was made for the man. Failing to find him the searchers returned and reported their failure to their officers, who commanded that the building be fired. Realizing that there was nothing else to do.… Osborne made known his hiding place and the Yankees brought him down. The command was that as they reached the last step he was to be shot. Before reaching this last step, however, Mr. Osborne gave the Masonic distress sign and a member of the enemy forces who was also a Mason gave the order that no harm come to him.”⁷

Sometimes confusion resulted from all these secret signs and gestures. Lieutenant Alonzo Cooper, of Co. F, 12th New York Cavalry was captured at the Battle of Plymouth (North Carolina) on 19 April 1864. He was imprisoned at Andersonville for a brief period before being transferred to Camp Oglethorpe in Macon, Georgia. A few months later, due to Gen. William T. Sherman’s advance through Georgia, he was moved to Columbia, South Carolina. On 12 October 1864, Cooper and his comrade, Captain Robert B. Hock, also of the 12th New York Cavalry, escaped through the connivance of a rebel guard. The pair traveled through North Carolina for eighteen days, posing as Confederate soldiers returning home. Stopping at a farmhouse to beg for food, Cooper determined to make a fraternal appeal,

I being a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, gave [the farmer] some signs of that order, which he thought was a clumsily given Masonic sign, and, as he belonged to that fraternity, he tried to test me in the signs of that society. I told him I was not a Mason, but was an Odd Fellow, and he could trust me just as freely as though we both belonged to the same order.⁸ Despite the confusion, the appeal worked, and Cooper and his companion received a good breakfast and traveling directions; unfortunately Cooper was recaptured shortly thereafter by a Confederate provost. He was exchanged for a Confederate prisoner on 20 February 1865.

Exchanges of this type—a system by which prisoners taken by each army (or navy) were repatriated—began in early1862; by July of that year, Richmond and Washington reached a formal agreement on prisoner exchanges and a system was devised for prisoners from either army to offset one another as they were repatriated, a zero-sum scheme. Prisoners who were released on parole were prohibited from soldiering until formal exchange notification was received. Many Freemasons benefited by this system, and non-Masons complained bitterly that Masonic warders chose Masonic prisoners as the first to be exchanged.⁹

Freemasons who played a role at Gettysburg

Discussion in '[Battle of Gettysburg](http://civilwartalk.com/forums/battle-of-gettysburg.96/)' started by [M E Wolf](http://civilwartalk.com/members/m-e-wolf.1166/), [Jun 11, 2008](http://civilwartalk.com/threads/freemasons-who-played-a-role-at-gettysburg.9146/).

Top of Form

**Winfield Scott Hancock**Born February 14, 1824 in Montgomery Square near Norristown, Pennsylvania. West Point class of 1840, graduated 18th out of 25, at age 20. Served in Mexican and Seminole Wars and Utah (Mormon) Expedition. Chief Quartermaster in Los Angeles, California. Civil War Brigadier (1 star) and Major (2 star) General. Wounded severely at the Battle of Gettysburg. Considered one of the best Union generals. After the Civil War served in the U.S. Army, later Democratic candidate for President of the U.S. in 1880. Died February 9, 1886, at Governor’s Island, New York. Buried in Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, Pennsylvania.  
Member of Charity Lodge #190, Norristown, Pennsylvania, Royal Arch Mason, #90, and Hutchison Commandery, Knights Templar #22.  
**Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain**Born September 8, 1828 in Brewer, Maine. College Professor at Bowdoin College, Maine; spoke 7 languages. Lieutenant Colonel and later Colonel of the 20th Maine Regiment, later Brigadier (1 star) and Major (2 star) General. Wounded 6 times during the Civil War. Hero of Little Round Top, for which he received the Medal of Honor. At Appomattox he was the General who received the formal surrender of the Confederate Army, from Major General John B. Gordon, a fellow Freemason. After the War, Chamberlain was elected Governor of Maine 3 times, later President of Bowdoin College, a businessman and author. Died February 24, 1914. Buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Brunswick, Maine. There is a museum about him in Brunswick.  
Member of United Lodge #8 in Brunswick, Maine.  
**Lewis Addison Armistead**Born February 18, 1817, in New Bern, North Carolina. Came from a military family; his uncle commanded Fort McHenry during the British bombardment in the War of 1812 which inspired the Star Spangled Banner. Attended West Point 1833, 1834-1836, but resigned. Served in the Mexican War where he was twice awarded for bravery. He was serving in California with Winfield Scott Hancock when the Civil War began, and he resigned to travel cross country to join the Confederate forces. Colonel and later Brigadier (1 star) General. Died July 5, 1863, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.  
Member of Alexandria-Washington Lodge #22 in Virginia. Charter member of Union Lodge 37 in Fort Riley, Kansas.  
***Other Freemasons who played significant roles at the Battle of Gettysburg:*  
Captain Henry H. Bingham, Chartiers Lodge #297, Cannonsburg PA, Life Member of Union Lodge #121 in Philadelphia. Received the Medal of Honor. Elected to Congress in 1878, where he served 33 years and was one of the leaders of Congress. Died March 24, 1912, in Philadelphia, aged 70. Buried in North Laurel Hills Cemetery, Philadelphia.  
Major General Henry Heth, Senior Warden of Rocky Mountain Lodge #205 in Utah Territory. Very close friend of Robert E. Lee. Military career, severely wounded at Gettysburg but survived. After the War he started an insurance business in Richmond. Died in 1899, age 73. Buried in Hollywood Cemetery.  
Brigadier General Solomon Meredith. Commander of the "Iron Brigade," also called the "Black Hat Brigade." Born May 29, 1810 in Guilford County, Virginia. Had 3 sons in the Union Army, 2 of whom were killed. After the War he was surveyor general of the Montana Territory. Member of Cambridge Lodge #105, Indianapolis, Indiana.  
Brigadier General Alfred Iverson. Columbian Lodge #108, Columbus, Georgia. His father was a U.S. Senator from Georgia before the War. After the War he was a businessman in Georgia and later an orange grower in Kissimmee, Florida. Died in 1911, age 82.  
Major General Carl Schurz. Born March 2, 1828, in Cologne, Prussia. Very well educated, but left Europe after he supported failed revolutions. Prominent politician in the U.S., supported Lincoln’s election in 1860, and a leader of the German-American community. Given a Generalship to command the large number of Germans in the Union Army. Did not have a distinguished career in the Civil War. After the War we supported equal rights for Blacks, Ambassador to Spain, U.S. Senator from Missouri, and Secretary of the Interior. Died in 1906 in New York City, where a park is named for him. Member of Herman Lodge #125 in Philadelphia.  
Brigadier General John B. Gordon. Born February 6, 1832 in Upson County, Georgia. Attended University of Georgia and trained in law. At the Battle of Antietam he was wounded so severely in the head that only a bullet hole in his hat prevented him from drowning in his own blood. Wounded 8 times. After the War he was elected U.S. Senator from Georgia 3 times, later Governor of Georgia. Member of Gate City Lodge #2 in Atlanta.  
Brigadier General George T. "Tige" Anderson. Left college in Georgia to enter the Mexican War. Severely wounded in Gettysburg. After the War he was a railroad freight agent and then police chief in Anniston, Georgia. He was a Freemason, but details are not known.  
Brigadier General John H.H. Ward. Born in New York City in 1823. Fought in many Civil War battles, but removed from the Army in 1864 for misbehavior and intoxication in the face of the enemy. This was disputed for 30 years, and never settled. After the War he served as clerk of courts in New York. In 1903 while vacationing in Monroe, New York, he was run over by a train and killed. Became a Mason in Metropolitan Lodge #273, New York City, f1855.**

**Freemasonry is, indeed, a unique fraternity; that its bonds of friendship, compassion and brotherly love withstood the ultimate test during the most tragic and decisive period of our nation's history; it stood then as it stands now, as 'A Brotherhood Undivided!'"**

[Decoding Secret Societies: What Are All Those Old Boys' Clubs Hiding?](http://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/decoding-secret-societies/)

[**By Lisa Hix**](http://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/lisa-hix/)*— October 3rd, 2012*

<http://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/decoding-secret-societies/>

The Roots of Secret Societies

Dating to 18th-century London, Freemasonry is one of the oldest of these operating fraternal orders, although the group’s mythology claims it is rooted in the building of King Solomon’s Temple around 966 B.C. Like many similar groups, the Masons were borne out of a British craft guild, wherein stone layers learned the tricks of the trade.

“The concept of freemasonry, which taught architecture and geometry, goes back thousands of years,” Lettelier says. “The Greek temples, the pyramids in Egypt, you name it—none of that could have been built without a knowledge of mathematics. So whenever you see the square and compass with the letter G in the center, that stands for God or sacred Geometry.

“Back in the 1500s and 1600s when the great European cathedrals were being built, a ‘freemason’ was a bricklayer or stonemason, who was free to travel and work,” he continues. “This was a big deal, because most men weren’t free. There were kings and knights, but the serfs were owned by the king. Uniquely, freemasons were people who were allowed to travel, work, and receive master-masons wages wherever they went. They were accomplished tradesmen. Back then, you probably spent 10 years as an apprentice before you received a degree. If you gave up the secrets of geometry to someone who wasn’t worthy or well-qualified, the freemasons would literally put you to death.”

Modern-day Freemasonry, however, emerged when the stonemasonry guilds began to initiate honorary members, armchair architects or intellectuals excited about the new ideas of reason and science that were catching on during the Enlightenment. “Geometry is taught in colleges now,” Lettelier says. “But 200 years ago, geometry was only taught in Masonic Lodges. During the Renaissance, men of social class joined their local Masonic Lodges so that they could learn these things.”

For one thing, fraternal organizations are dense with symbols, and the symbols are undeniably cool. Among the most popular—used by Freemasons in Europe, the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, and Skull and Bones—is the Jolly Roger skull and crossbones, intended as a reminder of human mortality. Another is the All-Seeing Eye of God, also called the Eye of Providence, which runs through ancient religions starting as the eye of the Egyptian sun god and moving through Buddhism, Hinduism, and early Christianity. A symbol of God’s omniscience, the All-Seeing Eye is famously featured on the [U.S. dollar bill](http://www.collectorsweekly.com/us-paper-money/us-notes).

The Masonic logo features a square and compass, two of the most important tools of stonemasonry, respectively standing for man and God. The cornerstone of a building has to be completely square or the structure will not stand, so a Mason is expected to be morally upright. Aside from tools, Masonic imagery often features arches and pillars, said to hold up heaven. Nearly all Masonic Lodges have a checkerboard floor, known as the Mosaic Pavement, which symbolizes the complex relationship of good and evil in life.

**32c. John Brown's Raid**

On October 16, 1859, John Brown led a small army of 18 men into the small town of **HARPER'S FERRY**, Virginia. His plan was to instigate a major slave rebellion in the South. He would seize the arms and ammunition in the federal arsenal, arm slaves in the area and move south along the Appalachian Mountains, attracting slaves to his cause. He had no rations. He had no escape route. His plan was doomed from the very beginning. But it did succeed to deepen the divide between the North and South.

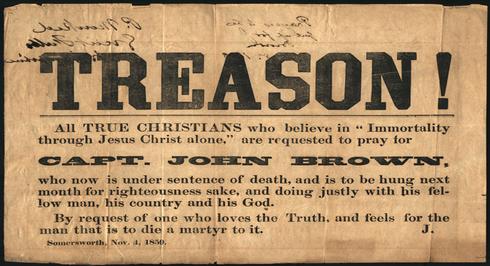
John Brown and his cohorts marched into an unsuspecting Harper's Ferry and seized the federal complex with little resistance. It consisted of an armory, arsenal, and engine house. He then sent a patrol out into the country to contact slaves, collected several hostages, including the great grandnephew of George Washington, and sat down to wait. The slaves did not rise to his support, but local citizens and militia surrounded him, exchanging gunfire, killing two townspeople and eight of Brown's company. Troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Lee arrived from Washington to arrest Brown. They stormed the engine house, where Brown had withdrawn, captured him and members of his group, and turned them over to Virginia authorities to be tried for treason. He was quickly tried and sentenced to hang on December 2.  
Brown's strange effort to start a rebellion was over less than 36 hours after it started; however, the consequences of his raid would last far longer. In the North, his raid was greeted by many with widespread admiration. While they recognized the raid itself was the act of a madman, some northerners admired his zeal and courage. Church bells pealed on the day of his execution and songs and paintings were created in his honor. Brown was turned into an instant martyr. Ralph Waldo Emerson predicted that Brown would make "the gallows as glorious as the cross." The majority of northern newspapers did, however, denounce the raid. The Republican Party adopted a specific plank condemning John Brown and his ill-fated plan. But that was not what the south saw.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

Southerners were shocked and outraged. How could anyone be sympathetic to a fanatic who destroyed their property and threatened their very lives? How could they live under a government whose citizens regarded John Brown as a martyr? Southern newspapers labeled the entire north as John Brown sympathizers. Southern politicians blamed the Republican Party and falsely claimed that Abraham Lincoln supported Brown's intentions. Moderate voices supporting compromise on both sides grew silent amid the gathering storm. In this climate of fear and hostility, the election year of 1860 opened ominously. The election of Abraham Lincoln became unthinkable to many in the south.

John Brown



Civil War

***Oct 16, 1859:***

Abolitionist John Brown leads a raid on Harpers Ferry

http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/john-browns-raid-on-harpers-ferry

Abolitionist John Brown leads a small group on a raid against a federal armory in Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), in an attempt to start an armed slave revolt and destroy the institution of slavery. Born in Connecticut in 1800 and raised in Ohio, Brown came from a staunchly Calvinist and antislavery family. He spent much of his life failing at a variety of businesses--he declared bankruptcy at age 42 and had more than 20 lawsuits filed against him. In 1837, his life changed irrevocably when he attended an abolition meeting in Cleveland, during which he was so moved that he publicly announced his dedication to destroying the institution of slavery. As early as 1848 he was formulating a plan to incite an insurrection.

In the 1850s, Brown traveled to Kansas with five of his sons to fight against the proslavery forces in the contest over that territory. On May 21, 1856, proslavery men raided the abolitionist town of Lawrence, and Brown personally sought revenge. On May 25, Brown and his sons attacked three cabins along Pottawatomie Creek. They killed five men with broad swords and triggered a summer of guerilla warfare in the troubled territory. One of Brown's sons was killed in the fighting.

By 1857, Brown returned to the East and began raising money to carry out his vision of a mass uprising of slaves. He secured the backing of six prominent abolitionists, known as the "Secret Six," and assembled an invasion force. His "army" grew to include 22 men, including five black men and three of Brown's sons. The group rented a Maryland farm near Harpers Ferry and prepared for the assault.

On the night of October 16, 1859, Brown and his band overran the arsenal. Some of his men rounded up a handful of hostages, including a few slaves. Word of the raid spread, and by morning Brown and his men were surrounded. A company of U.S. marines arrived on October 17, led by Colonel Robert E. Lee and Lieutenant J. E. B. Stuart. On the morning of October 19, the soldiers overran Brown and his followers. Ten of his men were killed, including two of his sons.

The wounded Brown was tried by the state of Virginia for treason and murder, and he was found guilty on November 2. The 59-year-old abolitionist went to the gallows on December 2, 1859. Before his execution, he handed his guard a slip of paper that read, "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood." **It was a prophetic statement. Although the raid failed, it inflamed sectional tensions and raised the stakes for the 1860 presidential election. Brown's raid helped make any further accommodation between North and South nearly impossible and thus became an important impetus of the Civil War.**

[http://www.history.com/topics/john-brown/videos/john-browns raid?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false#](http://www.history.com/topics/john-brown/videos/john-browns%20raid?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false#)

Bottom of Form

Video about John Brown’s Raid (see link above)

**John Brown's Raid, 1859**

[*http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/johnbrown.htm*](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/johnbrown.htm)

*The federal forces that rushed to rescue Harper's Ferry were led by Colonel Robert E. Lee - soon to become commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Lee described the action at Harpers Ferry in a report to his superiors:*

"...on arriving here on the night of the 17th instant,I learned that a party of insurgents, about 11pm on the 16th, had seized the watchmen stationed at the armory, arsenal, rifle factory, and bridge across the Potomac, and taken possession of those points. They then dispatched six men, under one of their party, called Captain Aaron C.V. Stevens, to arrest the principal citizens in the neighborhood and incite the Negroes to join in the insurrection. The party took Colonel L. W. Washington (the great-grand-nephew of George Washington) from his bed about 1 1/2 am on the 17th, and brought him, with four of his servants, to this place. Mr. J. H. Allstadt and six of his servants were in the same manner seized about 3 am, and arms placed in the hands of the Negroes.

Upon their return here, John E. Cook, one of the party sent to Mr. Washington's, was dispatched to Maryland, with Mr. Washington's wagon, two of his servants, and three of Mr. Allstadt's, for arms and ammunition, &c. As day advanced, and the citizens of Harper's Ferry commenced their usual avocations, they were separately captured, to the number of forty, as well as I could learn, and confined in one room of the fire-engine house of the armory, which seems early to have been selected as a point of defense... These companies forced the insurgents to abandon their positions at the bridge and in the village, and to withdraw within the armory enclosure, where they fortified themselves in the fire-engine house, and carried ten of their prisoners for the purpose of insuring their safety and facilitating their escape, whom they termed hostages...

I determined to summon the insurgents to surrender. As soon after daylight as the arrangements were made Lieutenant J. E. B. Stewart, 1st cavalry, who had accompanied me from Washington as staff officer, was dispatched, under a flag, with a written summons... Knowing the character of the leader of the insurgents, I did not expect it would be accepted. I had therefore directed that the volunteer troops, under their respective commanders, should be paraded on the lines assigned them outside the armory, and had prepared a storming party of twelve marines, under their commander, Lieutenant Green, and had placed them close to the engine house, and secure from its fire. Three marines were furnished with sledge-hammers to break in the doors, and the men were instructed how to distinguish our citizens from the insurgents; to attack with the bayonet and not to injure the blacks detained in custody unless they resisted."

**The Attack on the Engine House**

Lieutenant Stewart was also directed not to receive from the insurgents any counter propositions. If they accepted the terms offered, they must immediately deliver up their arms and release their prisoners. If they did not, he must, on leaving the engine-house, give me the signal. My object was, with a view of saving our citizens, to have as short an interval as possible between the summons and attack. The summons, as I had anticipated, was rejected. At the concerted signal the storming party moved quickly to the door and commenced the attack. The fire engines within the house had been placed by the besieged close to the doors. The doors were fastened by ropes, the spring of which prevented their being broken by the blows of the hammers. The men were therefore ordered to drop the hammers, and, with a portion of the reserve, to use as a battering-ram a heavy ladder, with which they dashed in a part of the door and gave admittance to the storming party.

The fire of the insurgents up to this time had been harmless. At the threshold one marine fell mortally wounded. The rest, led by Lieutenant Green and Major Russell, quickly ended the contest. The insurgents that resisted were bayoneted. Their leader, John Brown, was cut down by the sword of Lieutenant Green, and our citizens were protected by both officers and men. The whole was over in a few minutes...

From the information derived from the papers found upon the persons and among the baggage of the insurgents, and the statement of those now in custody, it appears that the party consisted of nineteen men - fourteen white and five black. That they were headed by John Brown, of some notoriety in Kansas, who in June last located himself in Maryland, at the Kennedy farm, where he has been engaged in preparing to capture the United States works at Harper's Ferry.

He avows that his object was the liberation of the slaves of Virginia, and of the whole South; and acknowledges that he has been disappointed in his expectations of aid from the black as well as white population, both in the Southern and Northern States. The blacks whom he forced from their homes in this neighborhood, as far as I could learn, gave him no voluntary assistance… The result proves that the plan was the attempt of a fanatic or madman, which could only end in failure; and its temporary success was owing to the panic and confusion he succeeded in creating by magnifying his numbers."

**References:**   
   Robert E. Lee's account appears in: Hart, Albert B., American History Told by Contemporaries vol.4 (1928); Furnas, J.C. The Road to Harper's Ferry (1961); Nelson, Truman John, The Old Man: John Brown at Harper's Ferry (1973).

**Female Soldiers in the Civil War ON THE FRONT LINE**

BY SAM SMITH http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/untold-stories/female-soldiers-in-the-civil.html

*The outbreak of the Civil War challenged traditional American notions of feminine submissiveness and domesticity.  The war was a formative moment in the early feminist movement.*

[](http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/jennie-hodgers.html)  
*Frances Clayton disguised herself as "Frances Clalin" to fight in the Civil War. (Library of Congress)*

In July of 1863, a Union burial detail at [Gettysburg](http://www.civilwar.org/gettysburg), Pennsylvania made a startling discovery near Cemetery Ridge.  Among the bodies covering the ground--the wreckage of the Confederate attacks during the battle--the Union men found a dead woman wearing the uniform of a Confederate private.

The burial detail had stumbled upon one of the most intriguing stories of the Civil War: the multitudes of women who fought in the front line.

Although the inherently clandestine nature of the activity makes an accurate count impossible, conservative estimates of female soldiers in the Civil War puts the number somewhere between 400 and 750.  Long viewed by historians as anomalies, recent scholarship argues that the women who fought in the Civil War shared the same motivations as their male companions.  Some women went to war in order to share in the trials of their loved ones.  Others were stirred by a thirst for adventure, the promise of reliable wages, or ardent patriotism.  In the words of [Sarah Edmonds Seelye](http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/sarah-emma-edmonds.html), also known as Franklin Flint Thompson of the 2nd Michigan Infantry: "I could only thank God that I was free and could go forward and work, and I was not obliged to stay at home and weep."   Seelye holds the honor of being the only woman to receive a veteran's pension after the war.

[Jennie Hodgers](http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/jennie-hodgers.html), also known as Albert Cashier of the 95th Illinois Infantry, participated in more than forty engagements.  Frances Clayton served with the 4th Missouri Artillery and was wounded at the [Battle of Shiloh](http://www.civilwar.org/shiloh) and again at the [Battle of Stones River](http://www.civilwar.org/stonesriver).  [Loreta Janeta Velazquez](http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/loreta-janeta-velazquez.html) served the Confederacy as fighter and spy "Lieutenant Harry Buford."

Women stood a smaller chance of being discovered than one might think.  Most of the people who fought in the war were "citizen soldiers" with no prior military training--men and women alike learned the ways of soldiering at the same pace.  Prevailing Victorian sentiments compelled most soldiers to sleep clothed, bathe separately, and avoid public latrines.  Heavy, ill-fitting clothing concealed body shape.  The inability to grow a beard would usually be attributed to youth.

Some women in uniform were still discovered, often after being wounded in battle and sent to a field hospital.  [Clara Barton](http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/clara-barton.html), who went on to found the Red Cross, discovered Mary Galloway's true identity while treating a chest wound Galloway had suffered at the [Battle of Antietam](http://www.civilwar.org/antietam).  Finding a woman in the ranks would generally bring a welcome dose of rumor and wonderment to camp life.

The discovered woman herself would usually be sent home without punishment, although an unlucky few faced imprisonment or institutionalization.

Clara Barton claimed that the four-year war advanced the social position of women by fifty years.  The 1881 manifesto [*History of Woman Suffrage*](http://books.google.com/books?id=8hwWAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false), written by luminaries Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Matilda Gave, argued vigorously that female front-line service proved that women should be accorded the same rights as male defenders of the republic.  The Civil War changed the nation's perception of its citizens' capabilities and catalyzed a new push for equality not only between races, but between genders as well.

**Sarah Emma Edmonds  PRIVATE  
DECEMBER 1841 – SEPTEMBER 5, 1898**

Sarah Emma Edmondson was born in New Brunswick, Canada in December of 1841. Her father was a farmer who had been hoping for a son to help him with the crops; as a result, he resented his daughter and treated her badly. In 1857, to escape the abuse and an arranged marriage, Edmondson left home, changing her name to Edmonds.

Edmonds lived and worked in the town of Moncton for about a year, but always fearful that she would be discovered by her father, she decided to immigrate to the United States. In order to travel undetected and to secure a job, she decided to disguise herself as a man and took the name Franklin Thompson. She soon found work in Hartford, Connecticut as a traveling Bible salesman.

By the start of the Civil War in 1861, Edmonds was boarding in Flint, Michigan, continuing to be quite successful at selling books. An ardent Unionist, she decided that the best way to help would be to enlist under her alias, and on May 25, 1861, Edmonds was mustered into the 2nd Michigan Infantry as a 3 year recruit.

Although Edmonds and her comrades did not participate in the [Battle of First Manassas](http://www.civilwar.org/bullrun) on July 21, they were instrumental in covering the Union retreat from the field. Edmonds stayed behind to nurse wounded soldiers and barely eluded capture to return to her regiment in Washington. She continued to work as a hospital attendant for the next several months.

In March of 1862, Edmonds was assigned the duties of mail carrier for the regiment. Later that month, the 2nd Michigan was shipped out to Virginia as part of General McClellan’s Peninsula Campaign. From April 5 to May 4, the regiment took part in the [siege of Yorktown](http://www.civilwar.org/yorktown).

It was during this time that Edmonds was supposedly first asked to conduct espionage missions. Although there is no definitive proof that Edmonds ever acted as a spy, her memoirs detail several of her exploits behind enemy lines throughout the war, disguised variously as a male “contraband” and an Irish peddler.

On May 5, 1862, the regiment came under heavy fire during the [Battle of Williamsburg](http://www.civilwar.org/williamsburg). Edmonds was caught in the thick of it, at one point picking up a musket and firing with her comrades. She also acted as a stretcher bearer, ferrying the wounded from the field hour after hour in the pouring rain.

The summer of 1862 saw Edmonds continuing her role as a mail carrier, which often involved journeys of over 100 miles through territory inhabited by dangerous “bushwhackers.” Edmonds’ regiment saw action in the battles of Fair Oaks and Malvern Hill, where she acted once again as hospital attendant, tending to the many wounded. With the conclusion of the Peninsula Campaign, Edmonds returned with her regiment to Washington.

On August 29, 1862, the 2nd Michigan took part in the [Battle of Second Manassas](http://www.civilwar.org/secondmanassas). Acting as courier during the battle, Edmunds was forced to ride a mule after her horse was killed. She was thrown into a ditch, breaking her leg and suffering internal injuries. These injuries would plague her for the rest of her life and were the main reason for her pension application after the war.

During the [Battle of Fredericksburg](http://www.civilwar.org/fredericksburg) on December 11-15, Edmonds served as an orderly for her commander, Colonel Orlando Poe. While her regiment did not see much action, Edmonds was constantly in the saddle, relaying messages and orders from headquarters to the front lines.

In the spring of 1863, Edmonds and the 2nd Michigan were assigned to the Army of the Cumberland and sent to Kentucky. Edmonds contracted malaria and requested a furlough, which was denied. Not wanting to seek medical attention from the army for fear of discovery, Edmonds left her comrades in mid-April, never to return. “Franklin Thompson” was subsequently charged with desertion.

After her recovery, Edmonds, no longer in disguise, worked with the United States Christian Commission as a female nurse, from June 1863 until the end of the war. She wrote and published her memoirs, *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army*, the first edition being released in 1864. Edmonds donated the profits from her book to various soldiers’ aid groups.

Edmonds married Linus Seelye in 1867 and they had three children. In 1876, she attended a reunion of the 2nd Michigan and was warmly received by her comrades, who aided her in having the charge of desertion removed from her military records and supported her application for a military pension. After an eight year battle and an Act of Congress, “Franklin Thompson” was cleared of desertion charges and awarded a pension in 1884.

In 1897, Edmonds was admitted into the Grand Army of the Republic, the only woman member. One year later, on September 5, 1898, Edmonds died at her home in La Porte, Texas. In 1901, she was re-buried with military honors at Washington Cemetery in Houston.

**Female Soldiers at the Battle of Antietam**

Posted on [June 18, 2012](http://civilwarsaga.com/female-soldiers-at-the-battle-of-antietam/) by [Rebecca Beatrice Brooks](http://civilwarsaga.com/author/rebekahbeatrice/) http://civilwarsaga.com/female-soldiers-at-the-battle-of-antietam/

[](http://civilwarsaga.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Sarah_Edmonds.jpg)A total of eight women, disguised as male soldiers, fought in the historic [Battle of Antietam](http://civilwarsaga.com/battle-of-antietam/) in September of 1862. The battle was a decisive one for the Union, as its victory spurred [Abraham Lincoln](http://civilwarsaga.com/abraham-lincoln/) to announce the [Emancipation Proclamation](http://civilwarsaga.com/emancipation-proclamation/), which freed slaves in Union-occupied areas of seceded states and laid the groundwork for the passage of the 13th amendment.

According to the book “They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War,” seven of these women at Antietam were Union soldiers and one was a Confederate.

Several, although not all, of the female Union soldiers who participated in the battle have been identified but the sole female Confederate’s identity remains a mystery due to the Confederate’s notorious lack of record-keeping. These female Union soldiers included [Sarah Emma Edmonds](http://civilwarsaga.com/sarah-emma-edmonds-female-spy-of-the-union-army/) of the 2nd Michigan Infantry, Catherine Davidson of the 28th Ohio Infantry, Mary Galloway, an unidentified pregnant woman from New Jersey who was in her second trimester at the time of the battle, Rebecca Peterman of the 7th Wisconsin Infantry, Ida Remington as well as another unidentified woman. *Sarah Edmonds*

Most of these women survived the battle, although many were wounded. The unidentified pregnant woman received an unknown type of wound during the battle but she quickly recovered and later went on to fight at Fredericksburg. Rebecca Peterman, Ida Remington and the Confederate woman fought in the early and deadly phase of the battle commonly referred to as The Cornfield. Peterman and Remington escaped unharmed but the Confederate woman was killed.

Mary Galloway was shot in the neck and lay wounded in a ravine for nearly thirty-six hours before she was discovered and carried to a field hospital. According to the book “Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War,” Clara Barton, the famous “Angel of the Battlefield,” treated Mary Galloway for her wounds after a male surgeon discovered her in the hospital refusing treatment from the male doctors. Galloway finally allowed the male surgeon to operate on her and remove the bullet that had entered her neck and embedded itself under the skin of her shoulder. She survived and made a full recovery.

Women soldiers fought, bled and died in the Civil War, then were forgotten

By [Brigid Schulte](http://www.washingtonpost.com/people/brigid-schulte) April 29, 2013

Women soldiers fought in the First Battle of Bull Run. “There were a great many fanatic women in the Yankee army,” a Georgia Confederate wrote home, “some of whom were killed.” In fighting near Dallas in May 1864, several Confederate women soldiers were killed in an assault on Union lines. “They fought like demons,” Sgt. Robert Ardry of the 11th Illinois Infantry wrote to his father, “and we cut them down like dogs.”

Confederate Loreta Janeta Velazquez, disguised as Lt. Harry T. Buford, fought along with five other women soldiers in the Battle of Shiloh. Maria Lewis, an African American passing as a white male soldier, served in the 8th New York Cavalry and “skirmished and fought like the rest,” a fellow soldier wrote. Four Confederate women were promoted to the rank of captain. At least one was a major.

“We know that because these women were hiding the fact that they were women, they were fully expected to do everything that any other soldier in the company was expected to do,” Blanton said. “They didn’t get a pass because of their gender. They were hiding their gender.”

Even Abraham Lincoln knew of the women in uniform. Mary Ellen Wise, who took a minie ball in the shoulder in the Battle of Lookout Mountain, came to Washington to ask for her back pay. When the paymaster refused, Lincoln “blazed with anger” and ordered the injustice rectified, the Washington Daily Morning Chronicle reported in its story, “Brave Soldier Girl” on Sept. 30, 1874.

Civil War Nurses

<http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/women-in-the-civil-war>

**Women in the civil war: FIGHTING FOR THE UNION**

With the outbreak of war in 1861, women and men alike eagerly volunteered to fight for the cause. In the Northern states, women organized ladies’ aid societies to supply the Union troops with everything they needed, from food (they baked and canned and planted fruit and vegetable gardens for the soldiers) to clothing (they sewed and laundered uniforms, knitted socks and gloves, mended blankets and embroidered quilts and pillowcases) to cash (they organized door-to-door fundraising campaigns, county fairs and performances of all kinds to raise money for medical supplies and other necessities).  
  
But many women wanted to take a more active role in the war effort. Inspired by the work of [Florence Nightingale](http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/florence-nightingale) and her fellow nurses in the [Crimean War](http://www.history.com/topics/british-history/crimean-war), they tried to find a way to work on the front lines, caring for sick and injured soldiers and keeping the rest of the Union troops healthy and safe.  
  
In June 1861, they succeeded: The federal government agreed to create “a preventive hygienic and sanitary service for the benefit of the army” called the United States Sanitary Commission. The Sanitary Commission’s primary objective was to combat preventable diseases and infections by improving conditions (particularly “bad cookery” and bad hygiene) in army camps and hospitals. It also worked to provide relief to sick and wounded soldiers. By war’s end, the Sanitary Commission had provided almost $15 million in supplies–the vast majority of which had been collected by women–to the Union Army.  
  
Nearly 20,000 women worked more directly for the Union war effort. Working-class white women and free and enslaved African-American women worked as laundresses, cooks and “matrons,” and some 3,000 middle-class white women worked as nurses. The activist Dorothea Dix, the superintendent of Army nurses, put out a call for responsible, maternal volunteers who would not distract the troops or behave in unseemly or unfeminine ways: Dix insisted that her nurses be “past 30 years of age, healthy, plain almost to repulsion in dress and devoid of personal attractions.” (One of the most famous of these Union nurses was the writer Louisa May Alcott.) Army nurses traveled from hospital to hospital, providing “humane and efficient care for wounded, sick and dying soldiers.” They also acted as mothers and housekeepers–“havens in a heartless world”–for the soldiers under their care.  
  
**A WOMEN’S PROPER PLACE?**  
During the Civil War, women especially faced a host of new duties and responsibilities. For the most part, these new roles applied the ideals of Victorian domesticity to “useful and patriotic ends.” However, these wartime contributions did help expand many women’s ideas about what their “proper place” should be.

**Louisa May Alcott’s family**

Louisa May Alcott was born November 29, 1832, to Amos Bronson Alcott, called Bronson, and Abigail May Alcott in Germantown, Pennsylvania. She was the second of four daughters.

Alcott’s parents were New Englanders who were part of the mid-19th century social reform movement, supporting the abolition of slavery—even acting as station-masters on the Underground Railroad—and active in the temperance and women’s rights movements. Bronson was a teaching pioneer whose new methods of educating children often didn’t sit well with the communities in which he taught; he de-emphasized rote learning, used a more conversational, didactic style with his students, and avoided traditional punishmentAn idealist, Bronson was capable of ignoring the fact that his family was at times literally surviving on bread and water. Louisa no doubt was thinking of her father when she said many years later, "My definition (of a philosopher) is of a man up in a balloon, with his family and friends holding the ropes which confine him to earth and trying to haul him down."

In Boston, Bronson established the Temple School in the fall of 1834, named for the Masonic Temple on Tremont Street in Boston in which classes were held, with about 30 students from wealthy families. The school was as controversial as his previous schools, although he managed to continue operating it for seven years.

**In 1836, Bronson became a member of a group of liberal intellectuals, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and John Muir, who met to discuss their ideas about the general state of American culture and society. The group began the philosophical movement of transcendentalism, which believed that people and nature were both inherently good and pure, and that both are corrupted by society and its institutions. Louisa May Alcott was educated mainly by her father, although Thoreau, Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Margaret Fuller—all family friends—also gave her lessons. She began writing when she was young, and she and her sisters acted out some of her stories in plays performed for family and friends.**

Financial difficulties with Temple School forced the family to leave Boston in 1840 for Concord, Massachusetts, where they lived in a rented cottage, called Hosmer Cottage, for three years. In 1843, they moved briefly to Fruitlands, a Utopian commune established on a farm in Harvard, Massachusetts. Alcott later wrote about the experience in *Transcendental Wild Oats*, a satire originally published in a New York newspaper in 1873. After seven months, the commune failed; in December, 1843, the Alcotts moved to rented rooms and then back to Hosmer Cottage. Using Abigail’s inheritance and a loan from Emerson, the family purchased a house in Concord across the street from the Emersons that they named Hillside (later renamed Wayside by Nathaniel Hawthorne and his family), moving into it in April, 1845.  The following three years were idyllic and happy ones for Alcott that became the basis of her novel *Little Women*.

In 1847, at the age of 15, Louisa had begun working to help support the family, doing any job available, often as a domestic servant or as a teacher. She had vowed to see to it that her family would not remain in poverty. When Bronson moved the family back to Boston in 1849 Alcott continued working and but also began submitting her writing to publishers. In 1851, her first poem, "Sunshine," was published under the pen name of Flora Fairfield in Peterson’s Magazine. Many more poems and short stories followed in various publications, including her first book of short stories, Flower Fables, in 1854. –

- Alcott continued working in and around Boston, taking any jobs available to women. In 1862, she had began using the pen name A. M. Barnard to write potboiler melodramas—a few of which were turned into plays and performed in Boston—strictly to earn money. At the outset of the American Civil War, she volunteered to sew clothes and provide other supplies to soldiers. On November 29, 1862, her 30th birthday, she decided to do more: she volunteered to be a nurse in Washington, D.C.  She wrote many letters home about her experiences, which she later edited and fictionalized, although she remained true to her experience. Hospital Sketches, published in 1863, confirmed her desire to be a serious writer. –

See more at: http://www.historynet.com/louisa-may-alcott#sthash.27qwhyKe.dpuf

**Mary Ann Bickerdyke Written by:**[**The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica**](http://www.britannica.com/bps/user-profile/4419/the-editors-of-encyclopaedia-britannica)

http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/64664/Mary-Ann-Bickerdyke[](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/media/8894/Mary-Ann-Bickerdyke?topicId=64664)

**Mary Ann Bickerdyke,** née **Mary Ann Ball**   (born July 19, 1817, Knox county, [Ohio](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/425969/Ohio), U.S.—died Nov. 8, 1901, Bunker Hill, Kan.), organizer and chief of [nursing](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/422718/nursing),[hospital](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/272626/hospital), and welfare services for the western armies under the command of General [Ulysses S. Grant](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/241766/Ulysses-S-Grant) during the [American Civil War](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/19407/American-Civil-War).

Mary Ann Ball grew up in the houses of various relatives. She attended Oberlin College and later studied nursing. In 1847 she married a widower, Robert Bickerdyke, who died in 1859. Thereafter Mary Ann Bickerdyke supported herself in [Galesburg](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/223967/Galesburg), Illinois, by the practice of “botanic” [medicine](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/372431/medicine).

Soon after the outbreak of the Civil War, she volunteered to accompany and distribute a collection of supplies taken up for the relief of wounded soldiers at a makeshift army hospital in [Cairo](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/88546/Cairo), Illinois. On her arrival there she found conditions to be extremely unsanitary, and she set to work immediately at cleaning, cooking, and nursing. She became matron when a general hospital was organized there in November 1861. Following the fall of Fort Donelson in February 1862, she made a number of forays onto the battlefield to search for wounded, and her exploits began to attract general attention. Her alliance with the U.S. Sanitary Commission began about that time.

Bickerdyke soon attached herself to the staff of General Ulysses S. Grant, by whom she was given a pass for free transportation anywhere in his command. She followed Grant’s army down the Mississippi River, setting up hospitals as they were needed, and later accompanied the forces of General [William Tecumseh Sherman](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/540097/William-Tecumseh-Sherman) on their march through Georgia to the sea. Through her efforts, provisions were made for frequent medical examinations and for transporting men who could no longer walk. Under Bickerdyke’s supervision, about 300 field hospitals were built with the help of U.S. Sanitary Commission agents.

Having scavenged supplies and equipment and established mobile laundries and kitchens, Bickerdyke had generally endeared herself to the wounded and sick, among whom she became known as “Mother” Bickerdyke. To incompetent officers and physicians she was brutal, succeeding in having several dismissed, and she retained her position largely through the influence of Grant, Sherman, and others who recognized the value of her services.

During 1866–67 she worked with the Chicago Home for the Friendless, and in 1867, in connection with a plan to settle veterans on [Kansas](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/311297/Kansas) farmland, she opened a boarding house in [Salina](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/519232/Salina) with backing from the Kansas Pacific Railroad. The venture failed in 1869, and in 1870 she went to New York City to work for the Protestant Board of City Missions. In 1874 she returned to Kansas, where her sons lived, and made herself conspicuously useful in relieving the victims of locust plague.

In 1876 Bickerdyke removed to [San Francisco](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/521129/San-Francisco), where she secured through Senator John A. Logan, another wartime patron, a position at the U.S. Mint. She also devoted considerable time to the Salvation Army and similar organizations. She worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans, making numerous trips to Washington to press [pension](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/450286/pension) claims, and was herself granted a pension of $25 a month by Congress in 1886. She returned to Kansas in 1887 and died there in 1901.

**Sanitary Commission Pennant Proclaimed Improved Conditions http://americancivilwar.com/sanitary\_commision.html**

|  |
| --- |
| **The American Civil War claimed an appalling number of lives. And while casualties are an unfortunate product of war, it may be surprising to learn that for every man killed in battle, two died from disease. Many of these diseases - dysentery, diarrhea, typhoid and malaria - "were caused by overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in the field. Preaching the virtues of clean water, good food and fresh air, the [U. S. Sanitary] Commission pressured the Army Medical Department to 'improve sanitation, build large well-ventilated hospitals and encourage women to join the newly created nursingcorps.' Despite the efforts of the Sanitary Commission, some 560,000 soldiers died from disease during the war."**  **Surprisingly the U. S. Sanitary Commission was "organized by civilians, run by civilians and funded by civilians." Church congregations,ladies aid societies and groups of all kinds volunteered to make and collect goods for soldiers in the field. An effort to create an effective system of collection and distribution was begun by the ladies of New York in 1861, and subsequently, they held a conference to coordinate all the individualefforts of relief societies throughout the United States. Doctors, clergymen, lawyers and other interested parties who recognized a need for better coordination of relief efforts, attended the conference. As a result the development of Articles of Organization to form what would become the Sanitary Commission. After members of the delegation lobbied the War Department, the Department sanctioned the creation of the U. S. Sanitary Commission on June 9, 1861.** |

**Excerpts from the diary of Kate Cumming, Confederate nurse.**

April 12 -- I sat up all night, bathing the men's wounds, and giving them water. Every one attending to them seemed completely worn out. Some of the doctors told me that they had scarcely slept since the battle. As far as I have seen, the surgeons are very kind to the wounded, and nurse as well as doctor them. The men are lying all over the house, on their blankets, just as they were brought from the battle-field. They are in the hall, on the gallery, and crowded into very small rooms. The foul air from this mass of human beings at first made me giddy and sick, but I soon got over it. We have to walk, and when we give the men any thing kneel, in blood and water; but we think nothing of it at all. There was much suffering among the patients last night; one old man groaned all the time. He was about sixty years of age, and had lost a leg. He lived near Corinth, and had come there the morning of the battle to see his two sons, who were in the army, and he could not resist shouldering his musket and going into the fight. I comforted him as well as I could. He is a religious man, and prayed nearly all night. Another, a very young man, was wounded in the leg and through the lungs, had a most excruciating cough, and seemed to suffer awfully. One fine-looking man had a dreadful wound in the shoulder. Every time I bathed it he thanked me and seemed grateful. He died this morning before breakfast. Men who were in the room with him told me that he prayed all night. I trust that he is now at rest far from this dreary world of strife and bloodshed. I could fill whole pages with descriptions of the scenes before me. Other ladies have their special patients, whom they never leave. One of them, from Natchez, Miss., has been constantly by a young man, badly wounded, ever since she came here, and the doctors say that she has been the means of saving his life. Many of the others are doing the same. Mrs. Ogden and the Mobile ladies are below stairs. I have not even time to speak to them. Mr. Miller is doing much good; he is comforting the suffering and dying, and has already baptized some. This morning, when passing the front door, a man asked me if I had any thing to eat, which I could give to some men the depot awaiting transportation on the cars. He said that they had eaten nothing for some days. Some of the ladies assisting me, we took them hot coffee, bread and meat. The poor fellows ate eagerly, and seemed so thankful. One of the men, who was taking care of them, asked me where I was from. When I replied Mobile, he said that Mobile was the best place in the Confederacy. He was a member of the Twenty-first Alabama Regiment; I have forgotten his name. I have been busy all day, and can scarcely tell what I have been doing; I have not taken time to even eat, and certainly not time to sit down. There seems to be no order. All do as they please. We have men for nurses, and the doctors complain very much at the manner in which they are appointed; they are detailed from the different regiments, like guards. We have a new set every few hours. I can not see how it is possible for them to take proper care of the men, as nursing is a thing that has to be learned, and we should select our best men for it -- as I am certain that none but good, conscientious persons will ever do justice to the patients.

Cumming, Kate. *A journal of hospital life in the Confederate army of Tennessee, from the battle of Shiloh to the end of the war: with sketches of life and character, and brief notices of current events during that period*. Louisville: John P. Morgan & Co.; New Orleans: W. Evelyn, c. 1866.

Confederate Soldiers (Letters) **Antietam National Battlefield Letters and Diaries of Soldiers and Civilians** <http://www.nps.gov/anti/forteachers/upload/Letters%20and%20Diaries%20of%20Soldiers%20and%20Civilians.pdf>

Sunday Sept. 21, 1862

Dear Folks,

On the 8th we struck up the refrain of "Maryland, My Maryland!" and camped in an apple orchard. We went hungry, for six days not a morsel of bread or meat had gone in our stomachs - and our menu consisted of apple; and corn. We toasted, we burned, we stewed, we boiled, we roasted these two together, and singly, until there was not a man whose form had not caved in, and who had not a bad attack of diarrhea. Our under-clothes were foul and hanging in strips, our socks worn out, and half of the men were bare-footed, many were lame and were sent to the rear; others, of sterner stuff, hobbled along and managed to keep up, while gangs from every company went off in the surrounding country looking for food. . . Many became ill from exposure and starvation, and were left on the road. The ambulances were full, and the whole route was marked with a sick, lame, limping lot, that straggled to the farmhouses that lined the way, and who, in all cases, succored and cared for them. . . In an hour after the passage of the Potomac the command continued the march through the rich fields of Maryland. The country people lined the roads, gazing in open-eyed wonder upon the long lines of infantry . . .and as far as the eye could reach, was the glitter of the swaying points of the bayonets. It was the Ursi ragged Rebels they had ever seen, and though they did not act either as friends or foes, still they gave liberally, and every haversack was full that day at least. No houses were entered - no damage was done, and the farmers in the vicinity must have drawn a long breath as they saw how safe their property was in the very midst of the army.

*Alexander Hunter*

***William Child, Major and Surgeon with the 5th Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers***   
September 22, 1862 (Battlefield Hospital near Sharpsburg)  
My Dear Wife;   
Day before yesterday I dressed the wounds of 64 different men - some having two or three each. Yesterday I was at work from daylight till dark - today I am completely exhausted - but stall soon be able to go at it again. The days after the battle are a thousand times worse than the day of the battle – and the physical pain is not the greatest pain suffered. How awful it is - you have not can have until you see it any idea of affairs after a battle.   
The dead appear sickening but they suffer no pain. But the poor wounded mutilated soldiers that yet have life and sensation make a most horrid picture. I pray God may stop such infernal work - through perhaps he has sent it upon us for our sins. Great indeed must have been our sins if such is our punishment.   
Our Reg. Started this morning for Harpers Ferry - 14 miles. I am detailed with others to remain here until the wounded are removed - then join the Reg. With my nurses. I expect there will be another great fight at Harpers Ferry.   
Carrie I dreamed of home night before last. I love to dream of home it seems so much like really being there. I dreamed that I was passing Hibbards house and saw you and Lud. in the window. After then I saw you in some place I cannot really know where -you kissed me - and told me you loved me - though you did not the first time you saw me. Was not that quite a soldier dream?   
In this letter I send you a bit of gold lace such as the rebel officers have. This I cut from a rebel officers coat on the battlefield. He was a Lieut. I have made the acquaintance of two rebel officers - prisoners in our hands. One is a physician - both are masons - both very intelligent, gentlemanly men. Each is wounded in the leg. They are great favorites with our officers. One of them was brought off the field in hottest of the fight by our 5th N.H. officers - he giving them evidence of his being a mason. Now do write soon. Kisses to you Clint & Kate.

Love to all.

Yours as ever W.C.

October 14, 1862 Harper's Ferry

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish that I was home today; I have got a very mean job. You know that we lost our good Captain and now they think they must put me on guard, and I sit right down on the ground and write just as fast as I can to let you know how I am getting along. Not much you had better believe. My hearing is not as good as it was when I left Madison, and my health has not been good since I was on this hill not far from Harper's Ferry, but I keep about and train all the time is wanted of me. It seems rather hard to be a soldier, but I have got to be one after all, I think.

But I can tell you one thing: If I ever live to get home, I won't be another I can tell you, but I suppose that you are making some cider. If you get a chance to send me anything, send me some cider put up in bottles, and some apples and a little bottle of pain killer, and don't try to send me any cake or anything that will get smashed, but I want anything that will keep a week. I have not any news to send you today because I wrote to you the other day and suppose that you will get that first.

Give my love to all the neighbors and tell Mister Hill that I received his letter and was glad to hear from him and will try and answer him as soon as possible. Tell little Charley that I think a great deal of his letter. I used to say that he could read better than I could read better than I could and he beats me at writing and spelling both, and I could read it very fast, his letter. I am glad to hear that your crops are as good and I hope that all the folks are good because we don't have nothing to eat here, and so I hopes you have got something to eat there. I will try and answer as fast as I can, but won't you answer me as fast you can because that it makes me feel pleased to hear from home.

Give my love to all the folks and tell them I want to see them all.

From a brother,   
John Redfield, 13th New Jersey

Civil War :Confederates capture Harpers Ferry

***Sep 15, 1862: http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/confederates-capture-harpers-ferry-virginia***

Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson captures Harpers Ferry, [Virginia](http://www.history.com/topics/virginia)(present-day West Virginia), and some 12,000 Union soldiers as General [Robert E. Lee](http://www.history.com/topics/robert-e-lee)'s army moves north into [Maryland](http://www.history.com/topics/maryland).

The Federal garrison inside Harpers Ferry was vulnerable to a Confederate attack after Lee's invasion of Maryland in September. The strategic town on the Potomac River was cut off from the rest of the Union army. General George B. McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac, sent messages to Union General Dixon Miles, commander of the Harpers Ferry garrison, to hold the town at all costs. McClellan promised to send help, but he had to deal with the rest of the Confederate army.

Jackson rolled his artillery into place and began to shell the town on September 14. The Yankees were short on ammunition, and Miles offered little resistance before agreeing to surrender on the morning of September 15. As Miles' aid, General Julius White, rode to Jackson to negotiate surrender terms, one Confederate cannon continued to fire. Miles was mortally wounded by the last shot fired at Harpers Ferry. The Yankees surrendered 73 artillery pieces, 13,000 rifles, and some 12,000 men at Harpers Ferry. It was the largest single Union surrender of the war.

The fall of Harpers Ferry convinced Lee to change his plans. After suffering heavy losses on September 14 in Maryland at the Battle of South Mountain, to the northeast of Harpers Ferry, Lee had intended to gather his scattered troops and return to Virginia. Now, with Harpers Ferry secure, he summoned Jackson to join the rest of his force around Sharpsburg, Maryland. Two days later, on September 17, Lee and McClellan fought the[Battle of Antietam](http://www.history.com/topics/battle-of-antietam).

**Brother Against Brother at Secessionville** BY WILLIAM J. HAMILTON, III <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/secessionville/secessionville-history-articles/brother-against-brother-at.html>

*Excerpted from a longer and more detailed article by J. Tracey Power, "Brother Against Brother: Alexander and James Campbells's Civil War," South Carolina Historical Magazine, 95:2 (April 1994)*

Two brothers, born in Scotland and building new lives in America found themselves fighting each other for their adoptive countries at Secessionville in 1862.  
They immigrated to America in the 1850's. Confederate James Campbell settled in Charleston where he worked as a drayman and clerk, joining a militia company known as the Union Light Infantry, sometimes called 42nd. Highlanders (probably after the 42nd British Black Watch Regiment because of its predominately Scottish ethnicity). His brother Alexander settled in New York, but spent time in Charleston working as a stone mason on the new U.S. Customs House being built at the end of Market Street shortly before the war. While in Charleston he also enlisted in a militia company later identified in letters from his brother as "the H.G.s". In March 1862, James and the Union Infantry were consolidated into the Charleston Battalion. In New York, Alexander joined the 79th Highlander regiment.  
Federal Alex learned of his Confederate brother's service in the vicinity of Secessionville from Henry Walker, a prisoner captured in a skirmish on June 3, 1862. He relayed the information home in a letter to his wife on June 10. "We are not far from each other now . . . this was a war that there never was the like of before Brother against Brother." Neither knowing at the time, they fought each other at Secessionville.   
The Charleston Courier editorialized on the two brothers, "another illustration of the deplorable consequences of this fratricidal war." It stated Alexander Campbell, "fought gallantly in the late action" and "displayed ... a heroism worthy of his regiment and a better cause" while James Campbell "was conspicuous and has been honorable mentioned on our side."

Afterwards Confederate James wrote his Federal Brother, "I was astonished to hear from the prisoners that you was color Bearer of the Regmt that assaulted the Battery at this point the other day." James continued, "I was in the Brest work during the whole engagement doing my Best to Beat you(.) but I hope you and I will never again meet face to face bitter enemies on the Battlefield(.) but if such should be the case You have but to discharge your duty for your cause for I can assure you I will strive to discharge my duty to my country and my cause." The letter from brother to brother was carried across the bloody fields of James Island under flag of truce. Alexander wrote his wife in New York, sending along a copy of James' letter, "it is rather bad to think that we should be fighting him on the one side and me on the other for he says he was in the fort during the whole engagement(.) I hope to god that he and I will get safe through it all and he will have his story to tell about his side and I will have my story to tell about my side."

Alexander never fully recovered from his wound, was promoted to 2nd. Lieutenant and eventually resigned his commission and left the Federal army in May 1863. James continued to fight for the Confederacy, helping to defend Charleston.

After the war James managed a Plantation and eventually bought land on the Ashepoo River South of Charleston. he was active in Charleston's St. Andrews Society and the United Confederate Veterans. Alexander moved to Connecticut and established a business manufacturing "artistic monuments." They corresponded with each other and were on good terms after the war. James died in 1907 and Alexander died in 1909.

The Battle of Bull Run

As the Union army around Centreville stirred that July morning, Washington rumbled with an excitement rarely matched in the capital's history. For months, the 19th-century equivalent of CNN had churned out news and speculation at a feverish pitch. Now, the day of the big battle had finally arrived. It was Sunday–the week's only leisure day–and throughout the city, newspapermen, politicians, and common folk hunted up carriages for a trip to the front. Talk of the battle was everywhere, and many of the curious meant to see of it what they could. The sun rose over clots of civilian wagons heading westward out of the city, taking their passengers to witness what would surely be an unsparing, unequivocal Union victory.

Throughout the morning and early afternoon, steady streams of would-be spectators found their way to the heights at Centreville, fully five miles from the battlefield. They came in all manner of ways, wrote a Union officer, some in stylish carriages, others in city hacks, and still others in buggies, on horseback, or even on foot. Apparently everything in the shape of vehicles in and around Washington had been pressed into service for the occasion. Most of the sightseers were evidently disappointed at what they saw, or rather did not see, recorded Tidball. They no doubt expected to see a battle as represented in the pictures.

Atop the ridge, the remaining civilians sensed that the predicted triumph across Bull Run had unraveled. Soon, Confederate cavalry charged up the hill, cutting off Charles McCook–visiting his father yet again–from his regiment. The elder McCook watched in horror as his son fled along a fence line with a Confederate officer on horseback chasing him. Charles kept him most manfully at bay with his bayonet, wrote Judge McCook a few days later. The Confederate demanded the young McCook's surrender. No, never; no, never to a rebel, Charles declared. The horseman circled around McCook and shot him in the back, and someone in turn shot the Confederate officer. Judge McCook gathered up the mangled body of his wounded son, placed him on a makeshift bed in his carriage, and started a mournful ride back toward Centreville. Charles McCook would die within hours.

The knot of dignitaries and reporters on the ridge overlooking Bull Run soon found themselves caught in the swirl of retreat. Washburne started rearward in his carriage, only to come across a wounded soldier. The congressman nobly gave up his seat to the man and started walking. Just moments later, he turned to witness an unnerving sight. I beheld a perfect avalanche pouring down the road immediately behind me, he wrote. It was the retreat of the army…. A perfect panic had seized every body. The soldiers threw away their guns and their blankets…. Officers, I blush to say, were running with their men.

London Times correspondent Russell arrived at Cub Run, an offshoot of Bull Run that intersects Warrenton Turnpike a few miles closer to Centreville, just in time to see the disaster unfold. His account would do more to shape the public–and historical–perception of the Union defeat than anyone else's, and it was not a flattering narrative: The scene on the [Warrenton] road had now assumed an aspect which has not a parallel in any description I have ever read. Infantry soldiers on mules and draught horses…. Negro servants on their masters' wagons; ambulances crowded with unwounded soldiers; wagons swarming with men who threw out the contents in the road to make room, grinding through a shouting, screaming mass of men on foot, who were literally yelling with rage…. There was nothing left… but to go with the current one could not stem.

- See more at: <http://www.historynet.com/war-watchers-at-bull-run-during-americas-civil-war.htm#sthash.57nFkf0w.dpuf>

July 21, 2011

Remembering the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) By [History.com Staff](http://www.history.com/news/author/editor)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

On July 21, 1861, 35,000 Union troops led by Brigadier General Irvin McDowell faced off against more than 20,000 Confederates under Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard near a railroad junction at Manassas, Virginia, 25 miles from Washington, D.C. The First Battle of Bull Run, also known as Manassas, was the first major land battle of the American Civil War.

<http://www.history.com/news/remembering-the-first-battle-of-bull-run-manassas>

**What happened in the aftermath of the battle?**  
It took the shattered Union Army nearly 36 hours to get back to Washington, D.C., marching almost without rest or food. As one soldier put it, this army that was supposed to crush the Confederates limped back into the capital “more dead than alive.”

Meanwhile, Lincoln grasped the severity of the situation immediately. Just one day after the battle, on July 22, he signed a bill that called for the enlistment of 500,000 additional soldiers for a length of service of three years. Lincoln also quickly removed Irvin McDowell from command, replacing him with George B. McClellan. McClellan would prove instrumental in reorganizing the Union Army into a competent, well-trained fighting force, but he would soon clash with Lincoln over the idea of actually using this army in battle.

Slaves

Teaching With Documents: The Fight for Equal Rights: Black Soldiers in the Civil War

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/>

*"Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship.”* Frederick Douglass

The issues of emancipation and military service were intertwined from the onset of the Civil War. News from Fort Sumter set off a rush by free black men to enlist in U.S. military units. They were turned away, however, because a Federal law dating from 1792 barred Negroes from bearing arms for the U.S. army (although they had served in the American Revolution and in the War of 1812). In Boston disappointed would-be volunteers met and passed a resolution requesting that the Government modify its laws to permit their enlistment.

The Lincoln administration wrestled with the idea of authorizing the recruitment of black troops, concerned that such a move would prompt the border states to secede. When [Gen. John C. Frémont](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/images/fremont-portrait.gif)(photo citation: 111-B-3756) in Missouri and [Gen. David Hunter](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/images/hunter-portrait..gif)(photo citation: 111-B-3580) in South Carolina issued proclamations that emancipated slaves in their military regions and permitted them to enlist, their superiors sternly revoked their orders. By mid-1862, however, the escalating number of former slaves (contrabands), the declining number of white volunteers, and the increasingly pressing personnel needs of the Union Army pushed the Government into reconsidering the ban.

As a result, on July 17, 1862, Congress passed the Second Confiscation and Militia Act, freeing slaves who had masters in the Confederate Army. Two days later, slavery was abolished in the territories of the United States, and on July 22 [President Lincoln](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/images/lincoln-portrait.gif) (photo citation: 111-B-2323) presented the preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet. After the Union Army turned back Lee's first invasion of the North at Antietam, MD, and the Emancipation Proclamation was subsequently announced, black recruitment was pursued in earnest. Volunteers from South Carolina, Tennessee, and Massachusetts filled the first authorized black regiments. Recruitment was slow until black leaders such as [Frederick Douglass](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/images/douglass-portrait.gif) (photo citation: 200-FL-22) encouraged black men to become soldiers to ensure eventual full citizenship. (Two of [Douglass's own sons](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/douglass-sons.html) contributed to the war effort.) Volunteers began to respond, and in May 1863 the Government established the Bureau of Colored Troops to manage the burgeoning numbers of black soldiers.

By the end of the Civil War, roughly 179,000 black men (10% of the Union Army) served as soldiers in the U.S. Army and another 19,000 served in the Navy. Nearly 40,000 black soldiers died over the course of the war—30,000 of infection or disease. Black soldiers served in artillery and infantry and performed all noncombat support functions that sustain an army, as well. Black carpenters, chaplains, cooks, guards, laborers, nurses, scouts, spies, steamboat pilots, surgeons, and teamsters also contributed to the war cause. There were nearly 80 black commissioned officers. Black women, who could not formally join the Army, nonetheless served as nurses, spies, and scouts, the most famous being [Harriet Tubman](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/images/tubman-portrait.gif) (photo citation: 200-HN-PIO-1), who scouted for the 2d South Carolina Volunteers.

Because of prejudice against them, black units were not used in combat as extensively as they might have been. Nevertheless, the soldiers served with distinction in a number of battles. Black infantrymen fought gallantly at Milliken's Bend, LA; Port Hudson, LA; Petersburg, VA; and Nashville, TN. The July 1863 assault on Fort Wagner, SC, in which the [54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals/54thmass.html) lost two-thirds of their officers and half of their troops, was memorably dramatized in the film *Glory*. By war's end, 16 black soldiers had been awarded the [Medal of Honor](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/medal-of-honor.html) for their valor.

In addition to the perils of war faced by all Civil War soldiers, black soldiers faced additional problems stemming from racial prejudice. Racial discrimination was prevalent even in the North, and discriminatory practices permeated the U.S. military. Segregated units were formed with black enlisted men and typically commanded by white officers and black noncommissioned officers. The 54th Massachusetts was commanded by Robert Shaw and the 1st South Carolina by Thomas Wentworth Higginson—both white. Black soldiers were initially paid $10 per month from which $3 was automatically deducted for clothing, resulting in a net pay of $7. In contrast, white soldiers received $13 per month from which no clothing allowance was drawn. In June 1864 Congress granted [equal pay](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/equal-pay.html) to the U.S. Colored Troops and made the action retroactive. Black soldiers received the same rations and supplies. In addition, they received comparable medical care.

The black troops, however, faced greater peril than white troops when captured by the Confederate Army. In 1863 the Confederate Congress threatened to punish severely officers of black troops and to enslave black soldiers. As a result, President Lincoln issued General Order 233, threatening reprisal on Confederate prisoners of war (POWs) for any mistreatment of black troops. Although the threat generally restrained the Confederates, [black captives were typically treated more harshly than white captives](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/black-pows.html). In perhaps the most heinous known example of abuse, Confederate soldiers shot to death black Union soldiers captured at the Fort Pillow, TN, engagement of 1864. Confederate General Nathan B. Forrest witnessed the massacre and did nothing to stop it.

The document featured with this article is a [recruiting poster](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/images/recruitment-broadside.gif) directed at black men during the Civil War. It refers to efforts by the Lincoln administration to provide equal pay for black soldiers and equal protection for black POWs. The original poster is located in the Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's–1917, Record Group 94.

**Article Citation**  
*Freeman, Elsie, Wynell Burroughs Schamel, and Jean West. "The Fight for Equal Rights: A Recruiting Poster for Black Soldiers in the Civil War." Social Education 56, 2 (February 1992): 118-120. [Revised and updated in 1999 by Budge Weidman.]*



The Civil War

Albert Jones, Portsmouth, Virginia http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/underground\_railroad/story\_war.htm

“For twenty years, I stayed with master, and I didn’t try to run away. When I was twenty one, me and one of my brothers run away to fight with the Yankees. Us left South Hampton county and went to Petersburg. There we got some food. Then us went to Fort Hatton where we met some more slaves who had done run away. When we got in Fort Hatton, us had to cross a bridge to get to the Yankees. The rebels had torn the bridge down. We all got together and builded back the bridge, and we went on to the Yankees. They give us food and cloths.”

The old man then got up and empied his mouth of the tobacco juice, scratched his bald head and continued. “You know, I was one of the first colored cavalry soldiers and I fought in Company K. I fought for three years and a half. Sometimes I slept out doors, and sometimes I slept in a tent. The Yankees always give us plenty of blankets.

“During the war some one us had to always stay up nights and watch for the rebels. Plenty of nights I has watched, but the rebels never attacked us when I was on.

“Not only was there men slaves that run to the Yankees, but some one the women slaves followed there husbands. They use to help by washing and cooking.

“One day when I was fighting, the rebels shot at me, and they sent a bullet through my hand. I was lucky not to be killed. Look! See how my hand is?”

The old man held up his right hand, and it was half closed. Due to the wound he received in the war, that was as far as he could open his hand.

Still looking at his hand Mr. Jones said, “But that didn’t stop me, I had it bandaged and kept on fighting.

“The uniforms that I wore was blue with brass buttons; a blue cape, lined with red flannel, black leather books and a blue cap. I rode on a bay color horse — fact every body in Company K had bay colored horses. I tooked my knap-sack and blankets on the horse back. In my knap-sack I had water, hard tacks and other food.

“When the war ended, I goes back to my master and he treated me like his brother. Guess he was scared of me because I had so much ammunition on me. My brother, who went with me to the Yankees, caught rheumatism doing the war. He dies after the war ended.”



The Brave Black Women Who Were Civil War Spies

February 28, 2011 by [Theresa McDevitt](http://msmagazine.com/blog/author/theresamcdevitt/) | [8 Comments](http://msmagazine.com/blog/2011/02/28/the-brave-black-women-who-were-civil-war-spies/#comments)

<http://msmagazine.com/blog/2011/02/28/the-brave-black-women-who-were-civil-war-spies/>

A story appeared in the Northern journal[*Harper’s Weekly* in 1864](http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/civil-war/1864/march/slaves-help-union-officers.htm) describing how Southern blacks were assisting Union soldiers who escaped from prison camps. An illustration which accompanied the story featured a black woman hiding ragged, injured Union soldiers. Such Northern assertions were joined by those of Confederate General Robert E. Lee who [declared](http://www.historycentral.com/CivilWar/Intelliegence.html) that southern blacks were the “the chief source of information to the enemy.”

In fact, Southern black women operating as spies, scouts, couriers and guideswere willing and able to offer enormous support to Union military personnel and operations. With a deep devotion to a war which they pushed to be one of emancipation, and often relying upon Southern prejudices which ignored the intelligence of black women, they were able to provide invaluable covert assistance to the Union military.

The activities of [Harriet Tubman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harriet_Tubman) are a case in point. Tubman returned to the South early in the war to assist liberated slaves in Port Royal, South Carolina. By 1863, serving as a scout for the Union, she would don disguises and lead local blacks in dangerous missions behind enemy lines to gather information on rebel troop location, movements and strength. She even accompanied, and by some accounts led, troops under Colonel James Montgomery in daring [raids](http://books.google.com/books?id=9f5-Kg5DgbsC&pg=PT129&lpg=PT129&dq=tubman+and+combahee&source=bl&ots=8eboZ0Le5x&sig=f4x5g0ahiCljKZPHg6RA3EIubS8&hl=en&ei=soVhTfrAKIP_8AaAr73BDA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CCoQ6AEwBTgK#v=onepage&q=tubman%20and%20combahee&f=false) into enemy territory which destroyed thousands of dollars worth of Southern property and liberated hundreds of blacks from plantations.

Other intelligence work involves black women working as domestics. The story of [Mary Elizabeth Bowser](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aanb/SHTML/DOWNLOADS/Sample%20entries%20for%20Web%20site.pdf) [PDF], less well-documented than Tubman’s but no less intriguing, is a fascinating tale of a brilliant woman who worked with an urban spy ring in the Confederate capital said to be “the most productive espionage operation” in the Civil War.

Bowser is said to have had a photographic memory. When she assumed the identity of an illiterate slave women and found a place as a house servant in the Confederate White House, she was able to gain access to lists of troop movements, reports on the location of Union prisoners, military strategies and treasury reports. She passed the information along to Union forces until she was discovered and fled Richmond near the end of the war.

And finally, there was [Mary Touvestre](http://www.fas.org/irp/cia/product/civilwar.pdf) [PDF], a free black woman working for a Confederate engineer in Norfolk, Va., who overheard plans for building the [C.S.S. Virginia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSS_Virginia). After obtaining a copy of the plans, she daringly crossed enemy lines to take this information to Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, which caused the Union to crank up construction of its own ironclad warship, the U.S.S. Monitor.

After the war, the brave exploits of these black women spies were [mostly forgotten](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Dispatches), whether from prejudice, loss of records or desire for anonymity. They certainly don’t need to remain hidden any longer.