



WESTERN RESERVE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume 52

November 2017

Number 3

Meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2017
6:15 PM Assemble
6:30 PM Buffet Dinner
7:30 PM Business Meeting
7:45 PM Presentation

Place: Colony Room in the Student
Union at Baldwin Wallace
University, Corner of East
Grand & Tressel, Berea OH
(440-570-0009)

Presenter: Milann Daugherty

"Your Affectionate Son: Letters
from a Civil War Soldier:

These days, the discovery of a Civil War stack of letters stored in a dusty old attic drawer are things that just don't seem to happen very much anymore. Yet, this is exactly what took place in 2004 and the finder was Milann Daugherty, our speaker this month. What Milann found were the Civil War letters of her great-great uncle, Lt. James Cleaver; who served in the 8th Pennsylvania Reserve. A volunteer from Bedford County, Pennsylvania, Lt. Cleaver's letters are articulate, intelligent and most eloquent. He was the son and brother of two Methodist ministers as well.

Like our first speaker, Dennis Rasbach, Milann is also not a Civil War historian. But, like Dennis, the discovery of these letters raised a special interest within her to learn more of her great-great uncle. So, from that discovery from an old bureau drawer, she began to bring back to life a total of 34 letters and from them, produced a book called, Your Affectionate Son: Letters from a Civil War Soldier. These letters will give us a sense of how it felt to be a Civil War soldier – the ordeals of marching, of camp life, the ever-changing weather, the prolong suffering, and of course, his thoughts and words in the anticipation of battle.

Milann will bring back to life for Lt. Cleaver's words and thoughts. And afterwards, copies of her book will be available for purchase. I hope that you can join us for this month's special speaker.



By JOHN SEXTON

North Carolina State Seal

Dear John:

My name is Anthony Amick. A couple months ago my wife bought me my first metal detector. You wouldn't believe what I've found in just a couple of months detecting right in my backyard! First I found a heavily corroded 1773 Virginia half penny, then the next week I found what seems to be a rare North Carolina state seal militia officer's sword belt buckle plate! I am almost 100% sure this piece is authentic. I found this beautiful N.C. buckle plate near the 1773 Virginia half penny.

I am very interested in learning what this rare, dug plate is worth and any other information you might have about it. Any references you can direct me toward? Are you may be able to tell me how many of this style plate exist in excavated condition?

Anthony Amick

Dear Anthony:

What you found is just the center decorative "button" that attaches to the tongue of a two-piece sword belt plate. This is a very scarce and desirable buckle. The device represents the antebellum North Carolina state seal circa 1850-1860. State seal buckles of other states are more common and North Carolina is probably the rarest of all Civil War Southern state buckles. Normally, the button portion would have little value, but in this case your die-struck centerpiece presents

nically even though excavated.

Examples of complete buckles with this device are shown in all the major books on Civil War accoutrement plates and belt buckles, including page 163 of William Gavin's *Accoutrement Plates North and South 1861-1865*, (1963). It is also pictured on page 385 of Sydney Kerksis's *Plates and Buckles of the American Military 1795-1884*, (1974). The most recent and best book on Confederate and Southern belt plates is *Confederate Belt Buckles and Plates* by Steve Mullinax (1991), which shows examples of both known manufacturers, J.S. Smith & Sons of New York and N.P. Ames of Chicopee, Mass.. Your buckle was made by Ames as can be seen by the die variance shown in these reference books.

A complete non-excavated example is valued at \$25,000-35,000, and there are only a handful of examples known. There are also only a few excavated specimens and I am personally unaware of a complete example with both tongue and wreath other than the example owned by well-known Confederate buckle expert, collector, and dealer, Nick Periat of Knoxville, Tenn. Mr. Periat values his complete excavated example between \$15,000-20,000. I have little doubt that your decorative North Carolina state seal "button" would garner a lot of attention if taken to a Civil War show. It is quite possible in my opinion that someone would pay as much as \$3,000-4,000, though dealers would try to buy it for less.

ASK THE APPRAISER



Complete North Carolina belt buckle made by N.P. Ames of Chicopee, Mass.



This picture displays the item's condition on the day I removed it from the ground.



This picture shows the reverse side. The solder marks show where the "button" is attached to belt buckle's tongue.



This photo is after the "button" was rinsed.

Civil War News

September 2017

certified appraiser
of the Appraisal Society of Appraisers
specializing in Civil War
items. He authenticates
and values other rare and
valuable historic items as well.

Western Reserve CWRT - 2017-2018 Volunteers --- Our 52nd Year



- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| President: | George Rolleston
440-826-2081 (office)
440-570-0009 (cell)
grollest@bw.edu |
| Treasurer: | Carl Glotz |
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| Newsletter: | George Rolleston |



Western Reserve CWRT - Membership Dues

Annual Dues: **\$30.00 Individual**
 \$40.00 Couple

Dues are to be paid each year on the anniversary month of each person's membership. For example, if a person joins the CWRT in March, then March is the anniversary month for future dues memberships. A member can see their dues status and anniversary month at check-in.

The Buffet Dinner Fee is \$20.00 plus a \$5.00 Speaker Fee for a total of \$25.00 per meeting. If a person chooses not to attend dinner, then the Speaker Fee of \$5.00 is requested to help defray the cost of our speakers.

Civil War Trivia

Last Month's Question: This event of 10/24/61 involving Abraham Lincoln led to the end of the Pony Express. What was it?

Answer: As one of our CWRT members had correctly told me – The telegraph. The first message was received by Old Abe from California's chief justice.

Source: Alvin Josephey Jr. The Civil War in the American West, p. 9.

This Month's Question: We all know of the Union disaster called Bull Run that was fought in the summer of 1861. But, what engagement in the West became known as the Bull Run of the West?

Next Month: At the Front

December 13, 2017

To be Announced



Chief Justice Roger B. Taney: The face of the Dred Scott ruling

As the country wrestles with removing Confederate memorials and statues from Charlottesville to Durham, North Carolina, another slavery defender's legacy has come under fire: Supreme Court Justice Roger B. Taney.

Maryland Republican Gov. Larry Hogan had Taney's statue removed from the State House grounds on Friday, a decision he announced hours before Confederate memorials to Taney, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson were quietly removed in Baltimore.

Lee and Jackson are still renowned more than a century after their deaths. But who is Taney?

On March 6, 1857, Taney penned the majority opinion in the infamous Dred Scott case. Critics would later declare the 7-2 ruling, which declared that black people could not be U.S. citizens as one of the worst Supreme Court decisions in U.S. history.

One hundred-sixty years after the ruling, Hogan acknowledged that Taney was a slavery defender and "the time has come to make clear the difference between properly acknowledging our past and glorifying the darkest chapters of our history."

Taney's ruling in the case of Dred Scott, a black man born into slavery who used the courts to demand his freedom, was a pivotal turning point in the country's history.

Scott was born in Virginia around the year 1799 and was considered the property of Peter Blow. In 1830, Dred Scott moved to St. Louis with the Blow family, but was soon sold to John Emerson, an Army surgeon stationed at Jefferson Barracks.

In 1834, Scott and Emerson left the slave state of Missouri to travel to the free state of Illinois and then to the free territory of Wisconsin, where slavery had been prohibited under the Missouri Compromise of 1820. During this period, according to an account of his life by the National Park Service, Dred Scott married Harriett Robinson, an enslaved woman at Fort Snelling. They had two children, Lizzie and Lemie.

In 1842, Dred Scott, his

wife Harriet, their children and the Emersons returned to St. Louis. John Emerson died in 1843. After his death, his wife, Irene Emerson, hired out Scott, Harriet, Eliza and Lemie to work on other plantations.

It is unclear what prompted Dred Scott and Harriet Scott to act when they did. But on April 6, 1846, Dred Scott and his wife, Harriet, filed suit against Emerson's widow, Irene Emerson, seeking their freedom.

He was about 50 years old at the time, the park service said.

Scott argued in the lawsuit that because he had spent time in a free state and free territory, he should be granted his freedom. Legal precedent, he argued, in Missouri held that "once free, always free."

The case went before a jury, which found in favor of Scott. However, the brother of Emerson's widow, J.F.A. Sanford, appealed the case to the Missouri Supreme Court, which reversed the lower court decision. Scott's attorney filed suit in federal court. The case was sent to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1856. Because of a misspelling of Sanford's name, the court included the case in the court's docket as Scott v. Sandford.

The issue to be decided before the Supreme Court was whether Scott, who had spent

time in a free state and free territory, should remain enslaved or be set free.

"The question is simply this," Chief Justice Taney wrote, "Can a negro, whose ancestors were imported into this country, and sold as slaves, become a member of the political community formed and brought into existence by the Constitution of the United States, and as such become entitled to all the rights, and privileges and immunities, guaranteed by the instrument to the citizen? One of which rights is the privilege of suing in a court of the United States in the cases specified in the Constitution."

In a 7-2 decision against Scott, Taney declared that despite the fact that some states had given black people citizenship, black people were not and could never be citizens of the United States. When the Constitution was ratified, Taney ruled, black people were "regarded as beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations; and so far inferior, that they had no rights that the white man was bound to respect; and that the negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his own benefit."

Because Scott "was not a U.S. citizen," Taney wrote,

Scott "had no standing" to sue in federal court. Taney declared that free "Negroes" even those who had been allowed to vote in states could never be citizens of the United States. He ruled that black people were not intended to be included in the word citizens in the Constitution and could thus claim no rights and privileges of citizenship.

The decision, which legal scholars said was bound by tortured logic, also declared unconstitutional the 1820 Missouri Compromise, which had declared free all territories west of Missouri and north of the 36/30 latitude.

Taney's ruling thrust the country closer to civil war. And the ruling would forever taint the legacy of Taney, the fifth chief justice of the United States, who had been appointed in 1836 by President Andrew Jackson.

Taney had been born March 17, 1777, in Calvert County, Maryland, where his family owned a tobacco farm and slaves. He was the first Roman Catholic justice to serve on the Supreme Court. He served as a justice until his death in 1864 at the age of 87 as the Civil War was raging.

The criticism of Taney's opinion in the Dred Scott case came fast and furious. Critics attacked the logic of the decision and declared the ruling



A monument dedicated to Chief Justice Roger B. Taney was removed from outside the Maryland State House.

had wrought irreparable damage on the reputation of the Supreme Court.

Abraham Lincoln, who had been administered the presidential oath of office by Taney on March 4, 1861, called the Dred Scott decision "erroneous."

Charles Evans Hughes, who would later become the 11th chief justice of the United States, said with the ruling, the Supreme Court had "suffered from a self-inflicted wound." Hughes called the ruling "a public calamity" that would undermine "confidence in the Court."

In February 1865, when Sen. Lyman Trumbull of Illinois introduced a bill to render a marble bust of Taney in the Supreme Court, a heated debate among senators erupted in the Senate chamber, according to U.S. Senate historical records.

Sen. Henry Wilson of Massachusetts said that to honor Taney with a bust would be a crime. Wilson described Taney as a man who did more to pull the country into "this bloody revolution" than any other. After the debate, action on the bill was postponed.

It would take almost another decade — on Jan. 29, 1874 — before a congressional resolution was passed to procure a bust of Taney. The bust was placed in the Supreme Court Chamber in 1877.

The Plain Dealer

August 20, 2017

Collecting Civil War Postal Stamps

By Jeff Hayward

From the Civil War's first Battle of Fort Sumter to General E. Lee's surrender to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, collectors of Civil War stamps keep tiny works of postal art issued to commemorate the many battles events and historical figures from the war. The impact and significance of the Civil War in U.S. history is shown by the high number of postage stamps that have been issued to commemorate the American Civil War. (Figure 1) The largest issuer of Civil War postage stamps is the United States Postal Service with more than 275 stamps issued showing different subjects of the war.

Starting in 1961, the United States Postal Service began a five-year series of stamps for the centenary of five famous battles: Fort Sumter 1861, Shiloh 1862, Gettysburg 1863, the Wilderness 1864 and Vicksburg 1865.

The United States Postal Service recently commemorated the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War with 30 stamps issued from 2011-2015 regarding the battle at Fort Sumter in 1861 and the Battle of Appomattox in 1865 (Figure 2).

Collectors choose to collect stamps by a theme or topic rather than collecting stamps the traditional way of acquiring one of each stamp issued by a particular country. Collectors of these stamps sometimes collect more than just specific battles and events of the war and might also collect stamps related to other subjects from the war such as uniforms, flags, weapons or technology developed during the war. One of those technological advances was the telegraph invented by Samuel Morse and used by General Grant to communicate with his other officers during the war. (Figure 3) Other Civil War stamp collectors might collect only stamps issued by the Confederacy as it did not recognize postage stamps used by the Union. The Confederacy created its own post office department and began issuing its own stamps in late 1861. (Figure 4)

Why collect Civil War stamps? There is always something new or interesting to discover about the pictures on postage stamps. Collecting stamps is a great way to learn about historical people and events, and it can be done from home, the internet, at stamp club meetings and stamp shows. Your collection can take as little or as much space as you wish. It is fun to share and learn through



Figure 1. Commemorative sheet of Civil War stamps issued by the United States Postal Service.



Figure 2. Fort Sumter 150th Anniversary stamp.



Figure 3. Samuel Morse 2c stamp.

stamp collecting. Your collection can be shared with family and friends no matter what their age.

If you would like to learn more about topical collecting, please visit the American Topical Association at <http://www.americantopicalassn.org/> or www.stamps.org/ if you are interested in stamp collecting in general. You might also consider visiting New York City May 28th - June 4th and attend the World Stamp Show-NY 2016.

This eight-day stamp show will have stamp dealers that can help you with your stamp collection, a beginner's area, seminars and rare stamps on exhibit. Admission to the show is free. For more information about the show, please visit <http://ny2016.org/>.

Jeffrey Hayward is a longtime stamp collector and American Topical Association member. He loves helping people learn about the hobby of stamp collecting and can be reached at stamps@jeffhayward.com.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commemoration_of_the_American_Civil_War_on_postage_stamps
http://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2011/pb22306.html/info_009.html

Dodson, Larry (2006). *A Philatelic Tour of the American Civil War* (also known as the War Between the States). American Topical Association Handbook pg. 155.



Figure 4. Confederate States of America 5 cent stamp.

Civil War News

June 2016

Harvard Finds 1769 New Jersey Map, a Boundary Wars

By JENNIFER SCHUESSLER

The border wars between New York and New Jersey have seen fierce fighting over the years, from actual shots fired in the 18th century to trash-talking and legal wrangling over the ownership of Ellis Island almost into the 21st.

Now, a librarian in the neutral territory of Massachusetts has uncovered a long-lost document from those tangled disputes: a hand-drawn map that may be the earliest surviving one showing New Jersey's northern border where it is today.

The map, which is owned by Harvard University, was created by the celebrated colonial surveyor Bernard Ratzer in 1769, at the request of a royal commission charged with settling the long-burning northern border dispute once and for all.

It was found by John Overholt, a curator of rare books and manuscripts at the university's Houghton Library, rolled up in a container and stacked with some uncataloged material.

"I pulled it out just enough to get a sense of what it was and saw the name 'Ratzer,'" Mr. Overholt said. "I thought, Gosh, this must be something important."

And after more than a year in a conservation lab, the map, which measures about 65 inches by 22 inches, has been digitized as part of a broader effort to put Harvard's colonial North America manuscript material online.

Ratzer is known as a maestro of early American maps. When an ultra-rare copy of his famous 1770 map of New York City turned up at the Brooklyn Historical Society in

Reminder

2011, the discovery was front-page news.

The newly uncovered New Jersey map, with its dense web of (in notated alternate boundary lines for the northern border, may not have the same immediate eye-candy appeal (It does not address disputes over New Jersey's coastal borders.) But experts say it offers another glimpse of Britain's attempts, on the eve of the American Revolution, to get its colonial house in order, cartographically speaking.

"It's a significant find, without a doubt," said Matthew Knutzen, the director of the humanities and social science research division at the New York Public Library, and a former head of its maps division. "It marks the canonical version of the states' shapes, and comes with a nod of approval."

Like Ratzer's New York City map, the New Jersey map, Mr. Knutzen added, was all about "setting things straight."

"It was almost like the British were saying, 'What's going on with these crazy people in New Jersey? Can't we figure this out already?'"

The New York-New Jersey border dispute is one of the great rabbit-holes of American cartographic history. Confusion reigned almost from the beginning, thanks to a 1665 charter that, among other puzzling features, defined New Jersey's northern boundary in relation to a branch of

the Delaware River that to one could definitively locate.

There was cross-border skirmishing throughout the first half of the 18th century, as well as sometimes vicious subdisputes, like riots that flared in the 1740s over the dividing line between East and West Jersey — despite the fact that the two territories had been amalgamated politically decades earlier.

"Where you drew the northern border also had bearing on how New Jersey was divided in half," Mr. Knutzen said.

A royal commission to settle the northern boundary was declared in the 1760s, with Ratzer, a British Army officer, hired to do the surveying. The original copy of his hand-drawn map was presumably sent to the commission in London, but Mr. Overholt said he has been unable to determine if it survives in British archives.

The map at Harvard, he said, appears to be a copy prepared for New York's representatives to the commission, to rebut any appeal by New Jersey. It includes the border as surveyed by Ratzer as well as lines indicating alternate boundaries, including one showing the New Jersey-friendly "pretended settlement of 1719" — loaded language presumably added by New York's representatives, Mr. Overholt said — and another giving New York a large chunk of present-day New Jersey.

The Harvard map includes a notarized statement from Ratzer attesting that it was an accurate copy of his original for the commission, plus the additional lines. That same statement, Mr. Overholt said, is on a printed version of the map that appears in a rare 1770 pamphlet summarizing the controversy.

"Our map is clearly the source," Mr. Overholt said. (Ratzer's map also became the basis for more widely distributed engraved maps of New Jersey published later in the 1770s.)

The New York and New Jersey legislatures approved the compromise border in 1772. But they soon began squabbling over that coastal boundary, laying down their arms only after the Supreme Court ruled in 1898 — some 2,000 documents and 4,000 pages of testimony later — that while the parts of Ellis Island created by landfill were in New Jersey, the original part belonged to New York.

The Harvard map may not resolve the border wars. But Mr. Overholt said it was a welcome reminder of the political nature of cartography.

"All maps are ideological statements about the world," he said. "It's really helpful to have a map where that's so obvious."



A hand-drawn 1769 map of New Jersey by Bernard Ratzer has been restored and digitized by Harvard University.

Confederate Nancy Hart Militia

By John A. Pucola

From the years 1861-1865, America was involved in an emotional and deadly war, North vs. South, that resulted in six hundred twenty thousand deaths and lasted for four years. Except for the battle at Gettysburg, Pa. and a few minor skirmishes inside the Pennsylvania border, the remainder of the war was fought in the South. For that reason, we learn more and more of events that happened in the deep South that are not well known in the North. One such event was the formation of a home guard unit in LaGrange, Georgia that was comprised of all females; it was activated in 1861.

LaGrange was a thriving small town also an economic leader in the cotton trade that produced a high quality of cotton fabric and was a major supplier of the famous Confederate gray uniform. Once the war began, every available male in the town quickly departed to serve in the military, leaving the town with no military means of defending themselves should Union raiders appear. With a large advantage in men, equipment and food supplies, eventually heavily armed Union raiders became a major worry to the South who were unable to defend every town or region.

With almost 1,300 men away serving in the Confederate army, LaGrange's residents were defenseless. Two soldier's wives, Nancy Hill Morgan and Mary Alford Heard had an idea to form a female military company to protect their homes. About forty ladies attended the preliminary meeting, ready to band together for mutual protection. This was organized an entirely female company called the Nancy Hart Militia. They proved to be a spirited group and dedicated to the Confederacy, and defending LaGrange. The ladies voted Nancy Hill Morgan as Captain, and Mary Heard was 1st Lieutenant.

The newly formed female defense unit needed an official name and chose to name their group of ladies after a hero from the American Revolution, Nancy Hart. Legend has it that Nancy bravely defended the farm from marauding British soldiers, who arrived and killed the family turkey. The British soldiers envisioned a tasty turkey meal and ordered Nancy Hart to cook the turkey, then serve them a hot dinner. As ordered, she cooked the turkey, then told them dinner was ready.

The British soldiers casually stacked their rifles in a corner and sat down to enjoy the turkey dinner.



Mort Künstler's *LaGrange vs. LaGrange*. Courtesy Künstler Enterprises, Ltd., American Spirit Publishing.

The soldiers were so focused on the dinner they did not notice that Nancy Hart had quietly gone to the stack of loaded rifles and told the British soldiers they were now her prisoners. One soldier did not take the order seriously and made a threatening move, so Nancy shot him. While a servant ran for help, Nancy calmly kept a watchful guard as the others stayed seated at the table. Soon the Colonial militia arrived, and the hated British were led away and then hung from the nearest tree.

Nearly all of the women of LaGrange were mustered into the service, even though they were inexperienced with firearms and had no knowledge of military duty. A local physician, A. C. Ware, who was partially disabled, taught the women how to operate and fire weapons. Teaching them the "Harden's Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics", the women drilled twice a week. Through dedicated practice, hard work and determination, the ladies became excellent marksmen and good soldiers, some of them became highly skilled shooters, and were ready to defend their town if called upon to do so.

The Nancy Hart Militia, or "Nancies" as they were affectionately called, would often march thru LaGrange with muskets on their shoulders, Confederate banners waving as they displayed their military marching skills. Although they had not been called upon for active duty, they were ready and willing to be



The route of the Yankee raiders, through Alabama, into SW Georgia onward to the town of LaGrange, Ga.

soldiers if or when they were needed. When not drilling with the Nancy Hart Militia, the women were volunteer nurses for wounded Confederate soldiers housed at various LaGrange facilities.

In spring of 1865, nearby Ft. Tyler, which was lightly defended, was attacked by a superior Union force and was quickly defeated. Now the Union troops, who were commanded by Colonel LaGrange advanced towards nearby town, LaGrange, with the intent of burning and destroying all buildings and homes. The Nancy Hart Militia quickly assembled for duty and blockaded the only road into town. In full battle dress and

equipment, the Nancy Harts waited for the Union Troops to arrive, and they didn't have long to wait. The Nancy Harts would soon be tested when they came face to face with the invading Yankees.

The following morning the Union troops arrived at the outskirts of LaGrange and were surprised to be confronted by armed, determined females, rifles loaded and ready. Colonel LaGrange observed the Nancy Hart Militia and knew he could not engage them in battle. He asked to speak to the commander of the

Continued
Next page

Dedication Of The Commonwealth's Largest Flag



The Nancy Hart memorial marker in LaGrange, Ga. (John Panola)

ladies, and Capt. Morgan Brown stepped forward, as Colonel LaGrange requested to negotiate terms. The Union Colonel was agreeable to surrendering to the women soldiers. The terms were that the ladies cook a hot meal for Colonel LaGrange, his staff, plus a few select Confederate officers who were recently taken prisoner.

In return, the Union troops could camp overnight and leave the following morning to continue their journey to Macon, Georgia. The town would not be looted or burned, and Capt. Morgan Brown was agreeable to the terms, however, he insisted the Yankee soldiers had to pitch their tents in the pastures outside of town. Admittedly, the Union soldiers kept their word and did not loot and burn down the town of LaGrange, but they did destroy and burn the industries and merchandise that were deemed as war material, plus the single trunk railroad was severely damaged. The woolen mill at LaGrange was the major supplier of gray uniforms for the Confederacy, was destroyed.

Without firing a single shot, the Nancy Hart Militia had saved their town from total destruction and the Union troops did not loot the homes as they had been doing in other Georgia towns en route to the coast. But the best news was the day following the Nancy Hart "victory", Robert E. Lee surrendered his command to U.S. Grant, and the war in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia was over. Upon learning of the surrender of Robert E. Lee, all recent Confederate prisoners were released to return freely to LaGrange. It was a blessing that Union Colonel

LaGrange spared the Georgia town the same day Robert E. Lee surrendered his army. Colonel LaGrange was from Illinois and after the war, he returned to Georgia and married a Georgia lady, which was very rare as Southern women were strongly against fraternizing with the enemy Yankees.

On Friday, April 17, 2015, Mort Kunstler, America's premier Civil War painter, was invited by the Troup County Historical Society to make a special unveiling of his latest, and final Civil War painting, titled *LaGrange vs. LaGrange* commemorating the famous 1865 encounter between the all-female Nancy Hart Militia and Colonel O. H. LaGrange who commanded the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry. The show of courage and resolve by the Nancy Hart Militia is legendary.

LaGrange, Georgia is about 40 miles from Atlanta. You can secure current news about the Nancy Hart Militia by calling the Troup County Archives, P.O. Box 1051, 136 Main Street, LaGrange, GA, 30241.

Contact Shannon Gavin Johnson at 706-884-1828. There was a rousing reenactment of the Nancy Hart Militia and the Union Cavalry in 2015 and hopefully another celebration of this historic event is in the future.

Civil War News

October 2016

By Susan Hatheway
DANVILLE, Va.—On Saturday, July 23rd, a coalition of heritage groups, led by the Virginia Flaggers, gathered in Danville, Virginia to raise and dedicate the Commonwealth's largest Confederate Battle Flag. Over 700 people braved the nearly 100-degree temperatures to witness the hoisting of the 30' x 50' flag on a 119' pole adjacent to the Hwy 29 bypass. In a ceremony that featured a Confederate Color Guard, Honor Guard, and artillery fire, representatives and leaders from the North Carolina Division and National SCV, local UIC, Mechanized Cavalry, and other heritage groups brought greetings. Speakers included NA' SCV Division Chaplain Rev. Dr. Herman White and Danville locals who helped lead the ceremony and share historical information.

Bagpipe music played as the flag was raised in honor of all Confederate soldiers, and in particular memory of Brigadier General William

Lewis Cabell, a Danville native who served honorably in the War Between the States and helped design the Confederate Battle Flag. After the war, Cabell moved to Dallas, Texas, where he served three terms as the city's Mayor and was active in the United Confederate Veterans. He helped establish homes for nearly 100 Confederate Veterans in Texas, was instrumental in getting Texas to allocate pensions for Confederate Veterans, and served in many leadership roles in the UCV.

The General W. L. Cabell Hwy 29 Memorial Battle Flag is the 14th massive roadside Battle Flag raised in and around Danville, Va., in the 12 months since Danville City Council voted to remove the 3x5 Third National Confederate Flag that had flown for years on the Confederate Monument on the grounds of the Sutherland Mansion, the Last Capitol of the Confederacy, where President Davis met with his cabinet for the final time.



Gen. William Lewis Cabell Hwy 29 Memorial Battle Flag as seen from the bypass shortly after the dedication service Saturday, July 23rd, Danville, Va.

Civil War News

October 2016