



# EGG-CITING CHIMES

Newsletter of  
**Elizabeth Van Lew Detached Tent 1**  
Haymarket, VA  
**Daughters of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War, 1861-1865**  
<https://elizabethvanlewtent.weebly.com>



**December 2021**



## December President's Message

Merriest Greetings to you, Egg-stra Special Sisters,

Truly, we are going forward amidst great turmoil in our country, and in the kindest spirit possible. It isn't amazing, it isn't unusual, it is exactly what I have come to know is your style! Your great hearts are full of joy and dedication in seeking out and attending events this holiday time. You show such joy in your sweet faces, or in correspondence.

This newsletter is all about today's holiday spirit of yesteryear, and anticipation in looking toward our New Year. We have so much to be grateful for. Our hearts beat in strength of those noble soldiers who saw holiday time in similar yet different circumstances. We receive the gift of new sisters who join our ranks! We are together, and YOU make it feel like a holiday every day.

In celebration, let us remember those who no longer can do so. There are many creative ways that lift us from a so-so mood, and it is with greatest hope that you will continue to find, explore and attend to offerings of magical, spiritual moments. This holiday edition, created by special request with assured expertise by Editor Andrea Walter, reflects your engagement into keeping green the memory of holiday times about 160 years ago. HUZDAH!



President Karen at the Sons of Veterans Reserve Remembrance Day Ball with the Real Santa Claus on Nov. 20, 2021.

*Karen Lyddane*



***In 1870, former Union General, and current President Ulysses S. Grant made Christmas a national holiday in hopes of bringing a measure of unity to the North and South.***



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## Elizabeth Van Lew Detached Tent 1 Officers & Appointed Officers/Chairpersons

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**Elizabeth Van Lew Detached Tent 1 Tent web address:**

**<https://elizabethvanlewtent.weebly.com>**

**Tent email address: [elizabethvanlewtentVA@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethvanlewtentVA@gmail.com)**

**131<sup>st</sup>  
National Convention  
August 2-7, 2022**

**Wyndham Gettysburg  
95 Presidential Circle  
Gettysburg, PA**



And, thank you dear Andrea for your wonderful, seasonal joy in giving to our tent a beautiful holiday newsletter that CHIMES!



### Why are we called a Detached Tent?

We are a Detached Tent as we are a sole entity in the Commonwealth of Virginia. At some point when there are three Tents in Virginia, this will qualify for having a Department, and at that point we will be a regular Tent. If you were curious, now you know!

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## **Sisters—How about giving a very special gift to your daughter or granddaughter for the Holidays?**

The gift of a DUVCW membership for your loved one is just that kind of special gift. Your sacred lineage to your Union ancestor is a source of family pride, and why not share this honored lineage with your daughter or granddaughter? Cost of a membership is only \$45.



### **The Irish Brigade Camp No. 4, Department of the Chesapeake, Fredericksburg, Virginia**

You are cordially invited to the 10th Annual Lincoln Birthday Dinner February 12th, 2022, at the Courtyard by Marriott, Historic District, 620 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

6:00 PM: Social Hour

7:00 PM: Dinner

8:00 PM: Presentation

Menu: Caesar Salad

Choice of Coffee-rubbed Flank Steak/Bruschetta Chicken/Tilapia

Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Rosemary Corn, Dessert

Following dinner, guest speaker Chris Mackowski will talk about Lincoln, the Writer.



Please RSVP to Brother Ross Schwalm by January 29th, 2022. Please give your name, the number attending and dinner selection: \_\_\_Flank Steak, \_\_\_Chicken, or \_\_\_Tilapia.

Make Checks Payable to: Irish Brigade Camp, SUVCW

Mail Payment with RSVP to: Ross Schwalm, 16118 Olmstead Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22191

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# A Very Jewish Civil War

**A project at the National Archives to identify all the Jewish soldiers of the great American conflict turns up more than expected.**

**Article written by Debbie Nathan, November 11, 2015, and courtesy of *The Tablet***

*Source: <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/arts-letters/articles/a-very-jewish-civil-war>*

In 1891, a disturbing article appeared in the *North American Review*, which was the 19th-century version of today's *Time*—it was the country's most popular public-affairs magazine. The article charged that Jews tended to shirk service in the military. It was soon followed by a letter to the editor from a non-Jewish Civil War veteran. He wrote that during months of service in the Union army, he had never seen a soldier who was a Jew.

Many Jewish leaders were infuriated with what they considered a bald display of anti-Semitism. One so powerful, apparently, that Mark Twain would repeat the claim (“unpatriotic disinclination to stand by the flag as a soldier”) in an essay titled “Concerning the Jews,” published a few years later. One of the angriest Jews was Washington, D.C., attorney Simon Wolf, head of that city's B'nai B'rith. He vowed to debunk the libel and spent over three years compiling the names of every co-religionist he could find who had fought in American wars: from independence from England, to the war with Mexico, to the biggest conflict to date—the Civil War. In 1895 he published the names in a ponderous tome, *The American Jew as Patriot, Soldier and Citizen*. You can see it today on Google.

Wolf's Civil War list contains some 10,000 names. About 7,000 are said to have fought for the Union, and 3,000 for the Confederacy. For generations, Wolf's has been the only Jewish-soldier count available to historians.

Not long ago, however, the list came under review by the Shapell Manuscript Foundation. Begun by a Jewish family who live in Los Angeles and Israel, the foundation collects original historic documents, including items connected with Civil War President Abraham Lincoln. As the war's sesquicentennial approached in 2011, the foundation decided to update Simon Wolf's 1890s work, using contemporary research methods. They call their updating “The Roster Project.”

The project is staffed by a handful of investigators who have practically taken up residence in the quiet, antique rooms of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington. NARA holds a musty trove of military-service records that were not available to Simon Wolf in 1895. Examining these files, the researchers have found hundreds more Jewish Civil War soldiers than Wolf knew about. They've also found stunning and unexpected heirlooms: everything from crumbling ketubahs to anguished battlefield letters written by Jewish sons to their mothers.

Everything interesting (and beautiful) gets scanned. The Roster Project's long-term hope is that descendants of Jewish Civil War soldiers will see and enjoy these treasures. Plans call for them to be available for free viewing online in 2017. Visit this article online to view the slideshow of some of what's been found.



**Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish Sisters and to all those who celebrate!**

*Thanks to Sister Rebekah Pearson for providing the graphic.*

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# Holiday Prayer

By Jan Speare

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who wrought miracles for our fathers in ancient days, at this season. Who has kept us alive, and has preserved us, and enabled us to reach this time.

Heavenly Father, help us to be truly grateful and remember your gracious goodness to us as we celebrate this season.

Help us to remember every good and perfect gift comes from above and help us to emulate your grace in our giving.

Help us to be pure of heart, to demonstrate your mercy, to be humble in outlook, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Help us to remember to feed the hungry.

Help us to be peacemakers where there is strife.

Help us find ways to end persecution of the righteous in the world.

Help us to reach out to those who are shut in and give them our smiles.

Help us to pray for those in authority that they will have Your wisdom in matters of government.

Help us to enjoy the beauty of each of your snowflakes in the season's cold weather.

Help us to feel your warmth in our cheery fires.

Above all, help us to take time to remember what is really important in this season.

For we ask it in Your Holy Name. Amen.



**Anniversary Honors**

These festive ladies have anniversaries in this year of 2021, so let us applaud them with greatest cheer!

Patricia Everts – 10 years, 5/14/2011  
Shelley Gayler-Smith – 5 years, 9/24/2016  
Karen Misiano – 25 years, 2/24/1996  
Diana Perrussel – 15 years, 5/1/2006  
Jane Shackelford – 10 years, 9/16/2011  
Nicole Shackelford-Bush – 10 years, 9/16/2011  
Laura White – 5 years, 8/6/2016

**Correction: An article in last month's Oct./Nov. 2021 newsletter was inadvertently credited to Karen Misiano rather than Karen Connair. Apologies to the Karens for the oversight!**



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# Christmas in the Civil War

By Membership Chair Karen Connair  
(image courtesy of HistoryNet)



Christmas was not an official holiday until President Ulysses S. Grant made it one in 1870. Still, many civilians and soldiers celebrated the holiday throughout the Civil War period. If not actively campaigning, soldiers celebrated Christmas in several ways. In winter camps, trees would be decorated with hard tack and salt pork and Christmas carols were sung such as *Come All Ye Faithful* and *Silent Night*. Some soldiers were able to receive packages from their loved ones back home. After Sherman captured Atlanta in 1864, his soldiers dressed their horses like reindeer by attaching tree branches to their headgear and delivered food and supplies to the hungry families in Georgia.



If a soldier's unit was camped near a good supply site, he might be fortunate enough to have a special meal on Christmas Day such as turkey, oysters, cakes, pies, and fruit. If they were lucky, soldiers might obtain food such as hogs and vegetables from local farmers or they might catch a turkey for their Christmas dinner. Yet, often Christmas dinner consisted of only sowbelly (bacon), hard tack, coffee and bad whiskey. Although it was a special day and soldiers could look forward to a day of rest and relaxation, Christmas was often a melancholy time for the troops away from home because of the

great homesickness that they felt. They missed their loved ones; their thoughts were never far from home.

President Lincoln and his family celebrated Christmas in the White House during the first year of the war by having a Christmas party and in other years, he visited injured soldiers in the hospital over the holidays. Mary Todd Lincoln raised money for Christmas dinners for the troops and Tad sent gifts of books and clothes to the wounded men he met during his father's hospital visits.



Many Christmas traditions that we embrace today have their roots in the Civil War era such as the singing of Christmas carols, tree decoration and gift giving. The modern image of a jolly and portly Santa Claus was first drawn by illustrator Thomas Nast in 1862 and first appeared in Harper's Weekly under the title *Christmas in Camp* on January 3, 1863.



Looking for that unusual gift? Holding off purchasing that beautiful medal from National? Have you thought of ordering President Norma's silk scarf or pin?

**Attention!** Word has it that costs will go up soon on many items, and quantities may be limited, so go ahead and get that pretty item of your dreams! Go to the National website to see all the possibilities. <https://www.duvcw.org>

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# Christmas in Slavery—From *The Conversation*

Source: <https://theconversation.com/how-the-american-civil-war-cemented-modern-christmas-traditions-69370>

For some enslaved African Americans, Christmas meant extra leisure time from daily routines, gifts, additional food rations, as well as relaxed restrictions on movement between plantations and farms. Convinced of their own benevolent rule, masters often permitted their enslaved peoples to attend dances, minstrel shows and tea parties – and to participate in other forms of entertainment such as boxing and wrestling competitions. “Christmas was the greatest holiday time that the slaves had,” remarked Allen Parker in his post-war reminiscence, a chronicle of his early years in servitude along the eastern coast of North Carolina through to his escape to a Union gunboat in 1862.



Of course, the day-to-day realities of antebellum slave life were scarcely as generous or bountiful as nostalgic memoirs, written many years after the events they describe, might suggest. Although Solomon Northup, a free black from New York who was kidnapped into slavery, wrote of Christmas in *Twelve Years a Slave* as a “time of feasting, and frolicking, and fiddling,” he also recognized that the Christmas holidays amounted to “the only days” when the enslaved were “allowed a little restricted liberty, and heartily indeed do they enjoy it.”

The Christmas season served as an occasion to remind mid-19th century Americans of the importance of home and its associations, of invented traditions. Therein evolved the modern Christmas.

## Santa Ain't a'Comin—Imagination and Facet from the Civil War Holiday Time

Source: Excerpt from an article written by James Goldsworthy



I wonder what Christmas was like 150 years ago, for those men who were so far away from home that it might as well have been on the moon, and who had little hope they would ever see it or their loved ones again.

In some units, it was forbidden to celebrate Christmas. *Harper's Weekly*, a famous publication of the time, printed a cover that showed Santa Claus handing presents to Union soldiers with one hand while using the other to hold a rope from which Confederate President Jefferson Davis was hanging by his neck. The *New York Herald* depicted Santa Claus as blaming the Union blockade for keeping him away from Southern youngsters.

Fighting continued in some places even on Christmas Day, although some Union soldiers found ways to decorate Christmas trees and give each other gifts. Some unit commanders treated their soldiers to turkey, oysters, pies and other non-standard rations.

Soldiers from Michigan tied tree branches to the heads of their mules so they would resemble reindeer and gave out food and other supplies to poor people in Georgia.



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# GEMS

By Membership Chair Karen Connair

Museums are beginning to open up again for in-person tours and there are many Civil War related virtual programs to listen to. Take advantage of the fall weather to take a hike through our historic battlefields and parks.

*The holidays are here! Partake in these festive events and celebrate a Civil War Christmas!*

## **CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS and CONCERT AT BRENTSVILLE COURTHOUSE.** Saturday, December 11, 2021. 6pm-8pm. FREE.

During the winter of 1861, Prince William County, Virginia was home to nearly 70,000 soldiers who spent Christmas here instead of at their homes.

See how they celebrated Christmas. Walk through their camp by candlelight, interact with the soldiers, get your photo taken with the Civil War era Santa Claus, enjoy hot cider and listen to a concert by the Brentsville District High School Choir at 7pm. Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA (703) 365-7895.

**CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS IN CAMP AT FORT WARD.** Saturday, December 11, 2021. 12pm-4pm. Donation \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Get into the holiday spirit at Fort Ward, visit the Civil War era Santa Claus and reenactors in winter camp, tour the fort, view period decorations and participate in craft activities for kids. Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22304 (703) 746-4848. Website: alexandriava.gov/fortward

**CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS AT THE CARLYLE HOUSE.** Friday and Saturday, December 17-18, 2021. 5pm-8pm. Admission \$10 adult, \$3 children ages 6-12. See how Christmas was celebrated at the Carlyle House and at the Mansion House Hotel when it was a hospital during the Civil War. Tours offered on the hour and half hour. Visit the Gift Shop and view the Christmas decorations in the house. Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. (703) 549-2997.



Hi Sisters! We now have our very own Facebook page! Please go like and follow the page on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/DUVCWElizabethVanLew/>

We need content! Please send me pictures from events, photos and biographies of your ancestors, and photos taken at historical Civil War sites.

## **Tent Meeting Dates: 2022**

January 22, 2022 | March 26, 2022 | May 28, 2022 | October 22, 2022

"We meet the fourth Saturday in January, March, May and October."

Email [elizabethvanlewtentVA@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethvanlewtentVA@gmail.com) for more information regarding meetings.

**ONE MORE THING!** Items from Bett's Boutique will be available at the meeting for purchase!

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# Retreat with a Recipe—Rock Candy

*This holiday recipe is from the DUVs August 2021 Civil War Candy Project-try this holiday recipe with youngsters, or splurge for a fun time yourself!*

Date/Year/Region: 1860s, Boston, although it's a simple, popular treat in use almost everywhere.

Rock Candy was the name given to many different types of candies in the 1800s. One version of the candy was recrystallized sugar. It was given as a special holiday gift, used in medicines, to flavor drinks, and as decoration for other edibles. It was packaged in little bags, not like our modern rock candy on a stick, because the lollipop stick did not arrive until the late 1900s. The bags were secured with baling twine.

Ingredients: 3 Cups Sugar, 1 Cup Water, Essential Oil and Food Coloring (optional)

Instructions: Bring your sugar and water to a boil, stirring occasionally. As soon as it boils, remove from heat, let sit for a minute to cool and pour into sterilized glasses. Mix in optional coloring and essential oils.

Tie a string on a stick or pencil and lay the stick over the glass, inserting the string into the liquid, being careful that the string does not touch the bottom of the glass.

Cover the glass with a cloth and let it sit for a week. If crystals form on the top of it, just break them into the mixture with a butter knife. At the end of a week, remove the string, drain off the extra syrup and rinse the string rock candy and the rock candy in the glass off with water. Lay on a cookie sheet to dry.

Time to Complete: 10 minutes of preparation and cooking. One week to form. Total Cost: Very inexpensive.



## Your Invitation to Attend Our Spectacular January 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

We're steppin' into the New Year in style! We'll begin our New Year with another hybrid meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, in Richmond. **Our National President Norma Fiedler joins us** to install our incoming officers! This wonderful meeting should be one of your gifts this holiday season-bring a guest and meet Norma.

We'll also pay tribute to our namesake Elizabeth Van Lew, to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was delayed by health issues. Nadine Mironchuk, the editor of the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable's newsletter, has created a PowerPoint presentation about Lizzy, from her extremely interesting article written last year.

**Restaurant: Sine Irish Pub and Restaurant**  
**1327 East Cary Street Richmond, Va. 23219**  
**(804) 649-7767**

**Time: 11:00 a.m. (No ORFATS Meeting)**

Donetta plans to send the menu out on 12/26.

Please RSVP to her by email on or before January 10<sup>th</sup>. *We hope that you'll be with us, virtually or in person at this great Irish Pub!*



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# Welcome

## New Members!

Please join us in welcoming our new members:

**Elizaabeth Ornelas** 10/23/21  
Patriot: George Washington Hoffmaster, Corporal, Company A, Regiment 122, PA, Infantry

**Kathleen Dougherty Lewis** 12/1/21  
Patriot: John Henry Barton Corporal, Company I, Regiment 54, NY, Infantry

And we also have a new supplemental to celebrate!

**Karen Belle** 10/23/21  
Patriot: George H. Birchell, Private, Company D, Regiment 9, RI, Infantry

Congratulations Sisters!  
HUZZAH to these ladies for keeping green the memory of their noble ancestors.

### Give, give, give, as our Veterans gave to us!

Donetta Bantle asks for you to bring sweat shirts and sweat pants, (size men's large), socks (one size fits all), non-scented body wash, warm gloves, and winter hats, to our January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

And, your heart will most assuredly be as warm as your gifts. HUZAZH!



**'Tis the season to celebrate our Sisters,  
friendships, and the beautiful connections  
created throughout the year!  
Have a magical holiday season!**

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