



# EGG-CITING TIMES

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



June 2022

## Message from Your President—Karen Lyddane

As we go into summertime, whatever your pleasure, keep your beloved detached tent in mind! For, we exist with/in you!

Since this year's Convention is just "over the fence," in Gettysburg, we're fortunate and able to help our neighbors, and we are! Our Virginia manners, steeped in Southern tradition, give us our unique, giving spirit. No matter if you're born here, or have moved into the Old Dominion, these manners find you.

Some auction gifts include a quilt made by Ann Beer and quilted by Cyndi Messick, who also donated a "Going to the Winery Basket." Jan Speare gave a bottle of Virginia wine for the basket. Other donations are another hand-made quilt, an antique #5 crock, and snacks for the hostess station. We're donating the majority of the flowers and are delivering them ourselves.

We're sharing gifts, and ourselves! Some sisters are going for the first time, some found their first time exhilarating and are returning, and we have sisters who hold national positions. I'm excited to return to where my first convention was held, and my dear friends were met! As a voting delegate, I was scared and thrilled to be a part of this historical responsibility. What joy it will be to see their smiling faces again, and share in the spirit that bonds us forever together.

This newsletter offers a multitude of enticing opportunities for making your time count at year's end while adventuring. Your membership is active—think about why you joined, and may this newsletter refresh your patriotic spirit while you enjoy your summer. HUZDAH!!

*Karen Lyddane*



**Keep Green the Memory!**

The **EGG-CITING TIMES** newsletter is so named as a reference to our namesake's use of hollow eggs to smuggle information out of Richmond to the Union commanders.

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

President: Karen Lyddane	elizabethvanlewtentVA@gmail.com sunsup605@yahoo.com
Senior Vice President & Historic Preservation Committee: Vicki Meadows	aartimesia@gmail.com
Jr. Vice President & Scholarship Committee: Jane Shackleford	janealogyusa@yahoo.com
Chaplain: Jan Speare	janspeare@yahoo.com
Treasurer & JROTC & ROTC Scholarship Task: Crystal Geller	crystalgeller@gmail.com
Registrar: Peggy Burroughs	peggyburroughs@cox.net
Patriotic Instructor: Ann Beer	rabeer@mac.com
Council #1 & VAVS Donetta Bantle	donettabantle@yahoo.com
Council #2: Jan MacQuestion	janteaques@verizon.net
Secretary: Liz Ornelas	lizornelas@icloud.com
Historian: Gayle Machey	gmpalegacy@outlook.com
Press Correspondent: TBD	Contact us if interested!!
Webmaster and Newsletter Editor Andrea A. Walter	andrew911@aol.com
Ancestor Minute Committee: Norma Fields	fieldsx4@comcast.net
Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee: Ann Beer	rabeer@mac.com
Membership Committee: Karen Connair	kconnair67@icloud.com
SUVCW Liaison (Overseas): Gina Costin	ginacostin63@gmail.com
Social Media Chair: Rebekah Pearson	rebekahrose6@gmail.com

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

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

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



In response to your requests, we're diligently working to plan meetings out in advance. How can you help us? We need Ancestor Minutes for our upcoming meetings and for all of next year. Please help us by committing to providing a small article about your ancestor. Ancestor Minute Committee Chairperson Norma Fields is waiting for your questions and articles! Contact her at [fieldsx4@comcast.net](mailto:fieldsx4@comcast.net).

We welcome your comments and ideas. If you have photos from a meeting or event, please send them as JPEGs to us at the email above so they can go in your newsletter. Please make sure that all photos are right-side up. Photos must be properly identified when submitted. IF time allows, we will try to identify but if we're unable, the photo cannot be used. Articles are suggested to be 250 words or less. They should be in MS Word format with minimal formatting-we'll do it for you! Please check before sending that any graphics from the web are free for us to use. The newsletter will be distributed generally the week following a meeting, with a summer and winter special edition. Submittals are due on or before the Tuesday following a meeting. Thank you for adding your voice to the *Egg-Citing Times*!

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## Welcome New Members!

Welcome to our new members! We are thrilled that you joined our ranks!

- **Lonny Jo Brown Watro** – Joshua Jackson Mayhew, Co. I, Reg. 10, WV
- **Sierra Cheyenne Clark Fry** – Pvt Warren Frederick McCormick, Co. C., Regiment 8, VA (later designation changed to 7th WV Cavalry), then Co. G., 126th OH Infantry
- **Verna Maleski** (Our First Comrade Member! She is a member of the Margaret Warner Wood AZ Detached Tent) – Pvt. James Redman Wisner (was not assigned with a particular company, and served in the 15th Engineers, New York)
- **Cynthia R. Dalton** (A SECOND Comrade Membership Sister!) – 2nd LT Enoch Whicher Robbins, Co. H., Regiment 8, Infantry, Maine



What exactly IS a Comrade Member? She is a member in good standing, who may vote and hold office in tents in which she is active, except the office of Tent President and/or Tent Treasurer. Permission to hold either of these two offices must first be granted by the National President (if we had a department, this would be another source of permission). Eligibility to vote at the (Department and) National Conventions shall be from her home Tent. Verna lives in Arizona, and in her former position of National Chaplain, gave us a fine presentation as guest speaker in a meeting regarding the Southern Memorial & Wreath Committee.

Should you become a comrade member of another tent? Maybe you are living here but your ancestry is in another state with a tent close to where your ancestor was connected. So, YES! Go to the National Website, sign-in as a member, then go to *Administrative Forms*. Next, choose either *tent* or *detached tent* depending on where you wish to join. Both have the Comrade Membership Form blank for you to save. Fill in and send to your intended tent/detached tent. Cost is minimum (usually) but the impact you'll give is maximum!

## Through the Eyes of African-American Ladies: Our Civil War—A Presentation by Denise Benedetto

Article by Vicki Fairchild Meadows and Photo by Luigi Benedetto

At our quarterly meeting in Fredericksburg on Saturday, May 28, 2022, we were treated to a delightful talk by noted historic reenactor Denise Benedetto, Coordinator of Women of the American Civil War Era. During her conversation, Denise shared experiences of those of African descent from the perspective of the women that were free, who traveled to freedom underground and others who took their freedom across the Rappahannock.



The sources she referenced in her talk are:

- *African Americans of Spotsylvania County* by Terry Miller and Roger Braxton
- *The Journal of Charlotte L. Forten: A free Negro in a Slave Era*
- *Far More Terrible for Women* by Patrick Mingos (narratives of the WPA interviews of the 1930s)
- *The Underground Railroad Authentic Narratives* by William Still
- *Virginia Shade* by Norman Schools

Pictured are Stacie Anderson, President Karen Lyddane, and speaker Denise Benedetto.

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# Commemoration of the Battle of New Market and Rededication of 54th Pennsylvania Monument

Article and Photos Courtesy of Chaplain Jan Speare

May 15th was the 158th anniversary of the Battle of New Market, Virginia, 1864. The 1st Division had two Brigades. The 2nd Brigade held the 34th Massachusetts, the 54th Pennsylvania, the 1st West Virginia and the 12th West Virginia. My great-grandfather, Henry Speare, was there in 1864 with the 1st West Virginia. Karen Lyddane's great-great-grandfather Pvt. William Allison Fleming, was in the battle with the 12th West Virginia, so we represented half of the Brigade!

This year, on the anniversary of the battle, we rededicated the sole monument on the battlefield, a tribute to the 54th PA. Senior Vice President and Chair of Historic Preservation Vicki Meadows attended and took pictures. Fifty or so descendants of the 54th were present in honor.

Standing on Virginia Military Institute (VMI)-owned ground, the monument to the 54th PA was placed by survivors and descendants in 1904. Last year, our Tent donated generously for refurbishment and adding the ADA-compliant altered-ability foot ramp.

This was a glorious day, unlike the one in 1864, when a field was so muddy that it instantly achieved fame and named *The Field of Lost Shoes* because the knee-deep mud sucked shoes off as the battle raged. It is also the famous battle that first saw the young VMI cadets.



Karen, in her beautiful blue dress (right), presented a beautiful wreath on behalf of our national organization, DUVCW, 1861-1865. She gave a short history of the battle, the soldier's principles, and acknowledged today's soldiers. As our detached tent's chaplain, I gave a prayer for the fallen and those left behind. I also paid tribute to VMI's Lt. Col. Troy Marshall, recently deceased, who was the former director of the Virginia Civil War Museum, site of the monument, and battlefield. He supported my idea to build an ADA-compliant trail to the monument from Route 11. We had much to honor and I believe that we did a fine job of it!

The names of each fallen soldier of the 54th PA were read in alphabetical order, followed by a solemn gun volley fired in their honor by some re-enactors, just as is done at a military funeral.

(A museum official told me that the supplier doing the monument final restoration might get supplies to finish the project in January. Originally, the monument had little musket balls about one foot below the soldier's feet at the corners).



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# Rededication and Wreath Laying Ceremony Honors Field of Lost Shoes

Portion of the News Release from 22 May 2022 By Vicki Meadows (article and photo)

The rededication of the monument to the Pennsylvania 54th Volunteer Infantry and wreath laying ceremony were held on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at the New Market Battlefield where the storied Field of Lost Shoes took place. The Elizabeth Van Lew Detached Tent (chapter) 1, of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865 (DUVCW), had awarded a grant to the Virginia Museum of the Civil War to restore the monument's finials and added an ADA-compliant pathway for accessibility to the monument. Some improvements are still in process. The rededication took place on the same date as the original day of the battle in 1864.

Pictured is the salutary volley by the Company A of the 54th Pennsylvania re-enactors which closed the ceremony.

"We are pleased we could assist in the restoration of the Pennsylvania Monument," said Tent President Karen Lyddane, "and we look forward to the final completion." At the ceremony also Ms. Lyddane represented the 12th West Virginia Regiment, and Chaplain Jan Speare represented the 1st West Virginia which both had fought with the 54th in the battle.



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# A Family Affair

Article by Karen Misiano and Photos by Karen and Thomas Misiano

Memorial Day is always a day of remembrance for my family. After moving to Virginia and being close to the grave of my great-great grandfather who was killed at Fort Stedman in the siege of Petersburg in 1865, we try to get to his grave at Poplar Grove Cemetery every year. In addition to visiting his grave, this year I also had the privilege of representing the Elizabeth Van Lew Detached Tent 1 with the SUVCW Decoration Day event held at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery in the morning. At this event, my family joined other members of the SUVCW who walked the cemetery and visited the graves of Irish Brigade soldiers who'd been killed and buried there. We placed an American flag with a green streamer at each gravesite. After, we drove to Petersburg and placed a Michigan flag at my ancestor's grave.



For the DUVCW, I had previously dropped off a wreath at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery to be placed during their Memorial Day ceremony which started at 12:30 p.m. Since I needed to make the pilgrimage to my ancestor's grave, I was not able to be at the 12:30 p.m. ceremony. However, National Park Service Ranger, Frank O'Reilly sent me this email about our recent participation in that ceremony.

"I cannot thank you enough for all you have done to make Memorial Day in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery truly exceptional! Your wreath on behalf of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War was the centerpiece of the Memorial Day ceremony in the cemetery. Your contribution became the symbolic

expression of all of our gratitude to those who gave their last full measure of devotion to our country. Your wreath added a brilliance and power to the commemoration. Thank you for making this a Memorial Day never to be forgotten! Truly, thank you!"

Later that afternoon, my son was able to play the trumpet as part of a special band at another Memorial Day ceremony in Fredericksburg. Our family feels it is our duty to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving this country.



**Save the Dates for Our Upcoming Tent Meetings!**

**10/22/2022, 1/21/2023, 3/25/2023, 5/20/2023, and 10/21/2023**

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# EVL Tent Represented at the National Memorial Day Parade

Photos by Shiela Vitiello

A very big thank you goes out to Margaret Stromberg, Sheila Vitiello, and Ann Beer for representing us in the National Memorial Day Parade, which got a bit, shall we say, *sultry*...? They were with the dashing



Brother James Standard, P.C.C., who is a Past Camp Commander of the Irish Brigade Camp No. 4, of Fredericksburg, VA. He is also an avid re-enactor. He is shown here doing his first person impression of Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan. Our Patriotic instructor Ann Beer made her attire from the bolt of fabric given to her by Margaret. She won it in a previous National Convention auction! Such true Civil War spirit! Plan to join us next year for this glorious time.



Pictured on the right are Past President of our Detached Tent and current Counsel Margaret Stromberg, James Standard, P.C.C., and Sister Sheila Vitiello.

Pictured on the left are Past President and Current Counsel Margaret Stromberg with Patriotic Instructor Ann Beer.

## History Requests Your Presence on October 7th!

From President Karen Lyddane

George Mason University and Bull Run Civil War Roundtable will be dedicating a preserved and interpreted Civil War redoubt at Farr's Cross Roads on Friday, October 7, at 10:00 am on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Please see the attached file.

Jim Lewis of the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable (my brother) sends this invitation for your assistance in the ceremony by attending in period attire (civilian only, no military) and passing out programs or other related duties. We are not presenting a wreath.

Attire **MUST** be period correct, please! There will be press there and correct representation is mandatory. I can help with your questions regarding attire.


If you are interested in participating, please let me know and I will forward your name and email to Jim. See you there!



**Save the Date!**  
**Friday, Oct. 7, 10:00 AM**  
 George Mason University, Fairfax Campus  
 Backend of Parking Lot K  
 (Near Braddock & Ox Road Intersection)  
**Dedication and Tour of a Preserved  
 & Interpreted Civil War Redoubt  
 At Farr's Cross Roads**  
**Welcome & Opening Remarks**  
 Blake Myers, Moderator & Speaker  
**Speakers**  
 State Senator Chap Petersen  
 Dr. Brian Platt, GMU History Department  
 Jim Lewis, Bull Run Civil War Roundtable  
 Brian McEnany, Bull Run Civil War Roundtable  
**Music By**  
 8<sup>th</sup> Green Machine Regiment Band  
 Directions:  
 From Braddock Rd.: Turn onto Roanoke River Rd., 1<sup>st</sup> left into Lot K  
 From Chain Bridge Rd.: Turn onto University Dr., 1<sup>st</sup> right onto Aquia Creek  
 Ln., (rt) onto Patriot Circle, travel through circle, (rt) into Lot K



**Co-Sponsors**  
 George Mason University &  
 Bull Run Civil War Roundtable



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# Flag Day: Origins of Our National Observance

Provided by Patriotic Instructor Ann Beer

When the American Revolution began, the colonists did not fight under one flag. The Second Continental Congress met in June 1775, organizing a Continental Army, and creating the first “American flag,” the Continental Colors. This flag, with a Union Jack in the corner, was too British for General George Washington. Washington turned to Francis Hopkinson, a New Jersey delegate to the Continental Congress, to design a flag. No one knows who sewed the first flag. Betsy Ross, a flag maker and known to Washington, did not receive credit for it until after her death. What is known is that on June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed this resolution: “the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white,” and that “the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”



During the nineteenth century, several individuals promoted the celebration of an annual flag day on June 14. In 1861, George Morris organized a formal Flag Day celebration in Hartford, Connecticut. Wisconsin teacher, Bernard Cigrant, in 1885, advocated for annual Flag Day celebrations. George Block, a New York City school principal, held Flag Day ceremonies in his school. It was hoped these school events would help Americanize immigrant children.

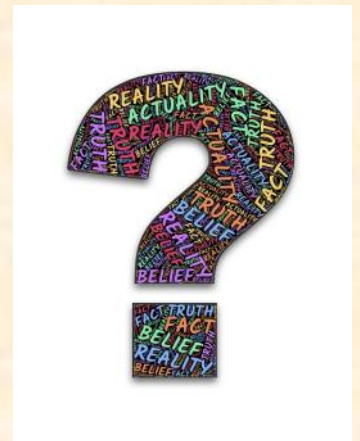
President Wilson, in 1916, and President Coolidge, in 1927, issued proclamations to make June 14 National Flag Day. Congress approved the national observance on August 3, 1949, and then President Truman signed it into law.

## Flag Etiquette Quiz- A Flag Day Extra

Provided by Patriotic Instructor Ann Beer

1. The preferred way to dispose of an old flag is by burning? True or False
2. You may fly the flag in the rain? True or False
3. You may use the flag as a table cloth for DUVCW meetings? True or False
4. Washington, DC, the United Nations flag may be flown above the American flag? True or False
5. You may hang the flag from the back of a float you are building for a parade? True or False
6. If a vice president passes away, the flag is flown at half-staff for 10 days? True or False
7. When you are setting up a room for a DUVCW meeting, you place the flag at the right of the speaker as she faces the members? True or False
8. You may only fly the flag between the sunrise and sunset? True or False
9. You may never fly the flag upside down? True or False
10. The flag should never be allowed to touch the ground? True or False

See answers on page 13.



### Missing Something Pretty Important?



I was recently handed a beautiful DUVCW, 1861-1865 membership badge, and two gold stars (to denote ancestors on badges). Seems they were ordered but never claimed. So, might you have ordered them? They need to find their proper home...Contact President Karen Lyddane!

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# On My Mind...

By President Karen Lyddane

I've been thinking about how we've been offering Zoom in addition to our in-person meetings (which are glorious, by the way...). When Covid-19 first arrived, dear Treasurer Crystal Geller offered to conduct virtual meetings through her account with Zoom.

That's been awhile ago now, and through her many adventures (some overseas) with being mother to quite active and achieving children, having a career, wife to a special gentleman, and friend to many (including me!), Crystal has more than kept her word. Her position as Treasurer already consumes valuable time. I feel that, of our large membership, someone else can step in and take over our virtual needs for meetings, when we will employ Zoom. So, will you?

Our October meeting will be in-person, as the May meeting at Brock's in Fredericksburg had high spirits and attendance in spite of it being Memorial Day weekend. We have just four meetings a year. We need to be with each other. Virtual meetings serve a purpose, but now, many other organizations are meeting physically, and the overwhelming majority of you wish to gather together. I am not offering a virtual platform for this meeting, so please join us! We're working on details right now. Our work never takes a vacation-you deserve this attention!

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## Summer Homework

Summertime means getting out, with lots of activities and fun! Be alert as you come across a special place as we're always needing meeting places. Keep a folder for old directions, programs, emails of events that qualify. Look below, and if you find yourself saying: "Hey! I already do that!" then please help us by remembering and reporting! This small act adds up in a huge way at the National Convention when awards are given out and every word of every year-end report is read. We'd rather be sitting up straight than slink down into our seats... We want your time to count!

***Strong suggestion: Use the reference list to help you decide about stepping into a position!***

Note for officers: How are we doing? What funds need help?

### Reference List of Some Items Listed on National Year-End Reports

Senior Vice President: Volunteer Hours (List organizations or facility and number of hours for each) (Note: only list those hours that are done in the name of DUVCW, do not list hours that can also be counted for another organization) (Do Not include VAVS or SVH hours here, those hours go on the VAVS and SVH forms)

Junior Vice President: List and describe the Detached Tent's fundraising projects, including those for the National Service Academy Awards.

Chaplain:

Number of funerals at which the Tent has officiated:

Total money your Tent contributes to Southern Memorial & Wreath Fund:

Number of flower memorials given for deceased members:

Number of other memorials given for deceased members:

Number of flower memorials given for others:

Number of bouquets, gifts, etc. for ill, sick, suffering, etc.:

Number of personal visits and cards to ill, sick, suffering, etc.:

Number of members deceased during the year:

*Continued on next page...*



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## Summer Homework (cont.)

### Patriotic Instructor:

Number of members attending Memorial Day Services:

Total hours of members attending patriotic events during the year:

Public Events \_\_\_\_\_ Members Only Events \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours = \_\_\_\_\_

Number distributed: Flags \_\_\_ Grave site flags \_\_\_ Books \_\_\_

Pamphlets \_\_\_\_\_ Total = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of schools, institutions, and groups visited:

Number of members who have assisted in Patriotic work:

Describe the Patriotic Instruction given by members or for members:

Other than DUVCW, list the Patriotic organizations members cooperate with:

Historian: The Historian report is a complete history of your Detached Tent. Please list your Special events and outstanding and unusual projects and activities during the year. Attach extra page if needed.

Press Correspondent (This position needs to be filled! Please contact President Karen): List the various ways the Tent has published activities with articles and photographs through press releases, social media and/or local media.

Detached Tent VAVS (You might be able to add to Donetta's report):

Number of volunteers working without compensation:

Number of volunteer hours worked:

Name and Location of VA Medical Centers served:



## More Summer Homework

Please take a moment to contact your county's historical society and give the word that we do exist! Maybe they need speakers for an event...If you need materials such as tri-folds then let your President know. You can also print this newsletter and share. This can be a fun activity for you and so valuable for us.

And if you thought I was finished with requests for your summertime activities...NO! We love to hear about ancestors-have we received your submission? Please contact Norma Fields, Chairperson of our Ancestor Minute Committee, as we need to build our bank of AMs for the future. Thank you and I guess this is all for now...

## There's Still Time for Your Convention Auction Donation!

The national convention is still awhile away, beginning on August 2nd. Auctions happen on some evenings and some items in the past received no bids. Now, we already have some items that surely will receive many bids, but if you can help by giving an item, that would be JUST DANDY! We won't see a convention in Virginia for years, probably, as there needs to be a department first, and this takes three tents to form. Please contribute something that you'd want to win! We need YOU to add to the generous donations we already have....

### 2022 National Convention

August 2, 2022 - August 7, 2022

Wyndham Gettysburg  
95 Presidential Circle  
Gettysburg, PA

<https://www.duvcw.org/index.php/about-us/national-convention>



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# Gems

## Offered by Your Membership Chair Karen Connair

Battle of Cool Spring 158th Anniversary Commemoration, sponsored by Shenandoah University McCormick Civil War Institute, to be held July 16, 2022 at Cool Spring Battlefield at the University's River Campus at 1400 Parker Lane, Bluemont, VA 20135. FREE. Several scheduled activities including a walking tour "With Heavy Hearts" at 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. will highlight individual stories of soldiers engaged at Cool Spring, the battle's impact on soldiers and families, and the postwar battle to redeem reputations tarnished at Cool Spring. No pre-registration required. For more details contact: Jonathan Noyalas at [jnoyalas01@su.edu](mailto:jnoyalas01@su.edu) or call 540-665-4501. See website under Events: [www.su.edu](http://www.su.edu)



Society for Women and the Civil War 22nd Annual Conference, "The Women of the Shenandoah Valley" to be held July 22-24, 2022 at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Conference includes workshop on living history and reenacting, presentations on the lives of Shenandoah Valley women, field trip to the Frontier Culture Museum, dinners, auction and more! Cost: \$325 for SWCW members, \$375 for non-SWCW members. To reserve a room at the hotel, call 540-564-0200, special conference rate available. To register for the conference or for more information go to website: [www.swcw.org](http://www.swcw.org), email contact: [swcw1865@gmail.com](mailto:swcw1865@gmail.com) or Society for Women and the Civil War, P.O. Box 3117, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Register before June 18, 2022.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Trust Conference "Civil War in the Shadows: Spies, Scouts, and Raiders in the Shenandoah Valley" to be held July 30, 2022 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Front Royal Blue Ridge Shadows, 111 Hospitality Drive, Front Royal, VA 22360. Conference includes six speakers and will feature people and groups such as Mosby's Rangers, Belle Boyd, Thomas Laws, McNeill's Rangers and Jessie's Scouts, and everyday civilians who played their part on the home front. Conference runs from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Cost: \$27 for SVBT members, \$30 for non-SVBT members. Pre-registration is required. To register go to website: [www.shenandoahatwar.org](http://www.shenandoahatwar.org) or call 540-740-4545. Special conference rate available at the hotel for Friday night. To reserve a room, call the hotel at 540-631-3050.

Our next newsletter is the special *Summer Breeze Issue*, due out some-time later in summer.

Plan to be with us for our in-person October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Zoom will not be offered for this last meeting of 2022, so come and add your voice and pretty face to our time together!

Have a great summer!! Congratulations to all the graduates in your families!



## Important Dates

- 6/14: Flag Day, Congress establishes the U.S. Army (1775)
- 6/19: Father's Day
- 6/21: Summer Solstice (Longest day of the year, beginning of summer)
- 7/04: Independence Day
- 7/21: First major battle of the Civil War breaks out-Bull Run (Manassas) VA, in 1861

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## Just What Is It About This Gentleman in Georgia?

Hello,

My name is Del Thomasson, and I live in Ringgold, Georgia.

In the last ten months I have completed two books on flagstaff finials that were used during the Civil War. My first edition came out 2 July 2021 which sold out in December. I put together the second edition of the book which was received from the printer on 29 January 2022. Since that date, I have sold more than 70 second edition books. I am self-published, and a self-distributor. I decided I could try it all alone after 38 years as a law enforcement officer, after my retirement from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The book, *Flagstaff Finials, Toppers and Ferrules of the Civil War* is found on eBay, and also by contacting me.



The book is 8.5" x 11" matted hardcover and has 250 pages with approximately 360 color pictures and several essays on regiments, color bearers, or individuals. My wife and I traveled to state archives in several states to obtain pictures of several original pieces in Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Missouri, Alabama, etc. Several of the pictures in the book are from private collectors and my own collection.

The cost of the book is a modest \$45.00 if purchased through me, plus a shipping cost which is different depending on amount ordered, and choice of shipping. My book would make a great father's day gift. I certainly appreciate all you folks do in keeping American history alive to the public, as I have tried to do with my book. Thank you very much. My email address is: [delthomasson@outlook.com](mailto:delthomasson@outlook.com).

Pictured here is Gibbon with captured flags from Gregg and several of the Congressional medal of honor winners. Photo contributed by author Del Thomasson (<http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-sq4rym905II/UwUajNpluUI/>)

## What is a Presentation Finial?

### Article and Photo Contributed by Del Thomasson

President Karen's great-great-grandfather was in the 12th West Virginia, and they were presented with a special finial for the top of their battle flag by General John Gibbon. How did this come about? Much is explained on the finial itself.

The engraved words on the globe of the 12th West Virginia's eagle says, "Presented to the Twelfth Regiment, West Virginia Volunteer Infantry, By their Corp Commander, General John Gibbon, for gallant conduct in the assault upon Fort Gregg, near Petersburg, Va. April 2, 1865."

On this day, General Robert E. Lee faced the most monumental crisis of his career. A handful of his confederates made a desperate last stand at Fort Gregg, against overwhelming odds. Many veterans from both sides later described this clash as the nastiest of their four-year war experience, referring to it as a "bloodbath." Fourteen Union soldiers received the Medal of Honor for their bravery on this day. This long overlooked battle, known as "The Confederate Alamo," was a major factor in President Jefferson Davis abandoning the capitol that very night for a train ride headed for Danville. Meanwhile, Richmond burned fiercely. "I think it is absolutely necessary that we should abandon our position tonight..." Robert E. Lee, in Petersburg, sent by telegram to Jefferson Davis in Richmond on 2 April 1865.<sup>1</sup>



The 12th's eagle is in the West Virginia state archives. Pictured is the 12th WV presentation finial from Del Thomasson's *Flagstaff Finials, Toppers & Ferrules of the American Civil War*.

<sup>1</sup> Telegram from Robert E. Lee, in Petersburg, to Jefferson Davis, in Richmond, April 2, 1865, quoted in *The Civil War Day By Day: An Almanac, 1861-1865*, E.B. Long with Barbara Long (1971; reprint, New York: Da Capo Press, 1971), 663.

The **EGG-CITING TIMES** newsletter is so named as a reference to our namesake's use of hollow eggs to smuggle information out of Richmond to the Union commanders.

## Retreat with a Recipe—Pineapple Ade

Pineapples were exotic fruits in the 1800s, mostly grown in Jamaica. They were used for such dishes as ice cream, pudding, pineapple chips, fritters, drinks and marmalade. They were considered a dessert fruit and was often paired with sugar.

Pineapples, being imports, were not as common as home grown fruits. The first large quantity producing pineapple plantation in Florida was started in 1860 by Captain Benjamin Baker, who was probably accustomed to the enjoyment of them at sea.

### Ingredients:

- Pineapple
- 8 Cups Water, boiling
- Powdered Sugar, to taste
- Oranges, Lemons optional

### Directions

- ⇒ Pare and core the pineapple. Mince it fine and place in a pitcher.
- ⇒ Pour boiling water over the minced pineapple and mash occasionally with a wooden spoon, cover it until room temperature.
- ⇒ Add powdered sugar to taste. Refrigerate or put on ice until cool.
- ⇒ Pour into cups, add an ice cube, extra sugar if needed and a thin slice of pineapple.

Courtesy of <https://www.worldturndupside.com/2016/03/civil-war-era-pineappleade-recipe.html>



## Could It Be You??

Summertime means time for lazin' about outside, looking up at the sky, and letting your mind wander. Consider this while you're drifting...engage into the business of our beloved detached tent as only you can. Fortunately, there are positions of all types and responsibilities. Familiar with banking or accounting? Treasurer is for you! Talented in advertising? Press Correspondent is a natural. Love a mystery? Then Registrar is right up your alley! Contact the lovely lady in the position of your choice right now, and help her in her duties. You'll be ready and able when our next election time comes around, and will feel highly satisfied that you're helping us help YOU. Another idea is to join a committee or offer to help occasionally. Your energy will benefit all!



## Answers to the Flag Etiquette Quiz

1. True
2. False (The flag shouldn't be flown in inclement weather.)
3. False (Never put anything on a flag.)
4. False (In the US, the United Nations flag has the place of honor only at UN headquarters.)
5. False, on a float the flag must be suspended from a staff.
6. True
7. True
8. False, the flag may be flown at night if illuminated.
9. False, the flag may be flown upside down as a distress signal.
10. True

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