



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 2022



December President's Message

Freedom is our gift for this holiday time as well as for named American days sprinkled throughout the year. It was given by those who took up arms on tangible or intangible battlegrounds. Freedom is celebrated at this time of year especially, in many ways, many perspectives.

This special edition of our newsletter is titled *Egg-Citing Chimes* as it rings in holiday spirit for all, intending to support every soul. Your contributions made it so! Freedom is our right, coming alive in observing this holiday time, as we wish. We have the privilege of opining our own mind because of the actions set before our ancestors. It is at once sacred and mandatory for our daily lives, and my hope that you'll bring it to the fore of your thoughts in considering your celebrations.

We are an ever-growing group of dear souls, of varying conditions, living in a multitude of geographic localities. Yet, our bond is fast, firm, and held in great observance of Freedom. As our forefathers gave, we continue their legacy, and above all, we can say: *It's a wonderful life!*

I rest my pen in freedom and holiday spirit,

Karen Lyddane



President Karen Lyddane and her dear husband in a studio photograph taken in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.



Raylani F. James Lupton, great-great granddaughter of Pvt. Andrew Jackson Statler, Company C, 3rd Regiment, Cavalry, VA. Further service was in Company F, 17th WV, Infantry-he was a Fifer!



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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*!

We give great appreciation for every lady who contributed to our 2022 Chimes! For your giving, kind heart, we are forever thankful. May you inspire engagement from others in producing the unique personality that makes each newsletter cherished and remembered.



And all of us thank you, Newsletter Editor Andrea, for dedicating yourself in giving us this special edition. Always, compliments flow after sending it out from prospective ladies, national presidents, current and past, SUVCW gentlemen, and more! Our Chimes ring loudly! We appreciate you so much!

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Civil War Christmas: The Beginnings of Our Modern Celebration

From Patriotic Instructor
Ann Beer

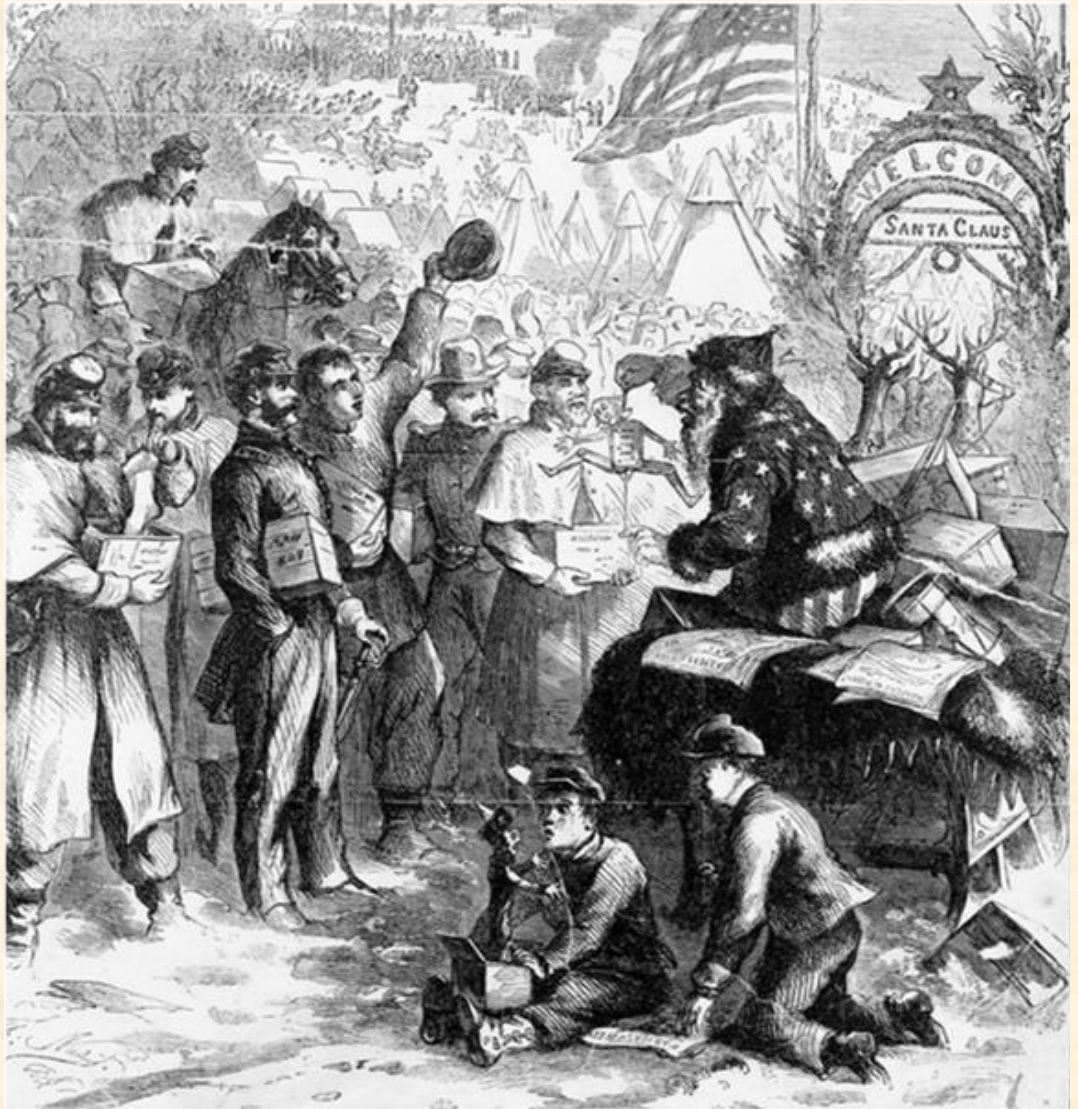
At the time of the Civil War, Christmas was not universally celebrated in America. However, diaries and memoirs tell us that many families did celebrate Christmas with family dinners and gift giving. They tell of the grief and anxiety felt by women who had an empty chair at the table, usually filled by a husband, son or brother now at war.

Our Union soldier ancestors made the best they could of the holiday. Some set up little trees outside their tents. When good food was available, a special dinner would be provided. Soldiers' memoirs tell of the joy of receiving boxes from home filled with treats as well as warm, hand knitted socks and scarves.

Whatever Christmas meal was provided, most soldiers had access to a drink or two. Christmas songs were sung. The regimental band played. There was often fraternizing with the enemy at Christmas. Newspapers and coffee would be traded for tobacco, and soldiers of both sides enjoyed listening to the bands.

Even General Sherman's men got into the spirit. On Christmas in 1864, Michigan soldiers delivered food to Georgians in carts pulled by mules, branches attached to their heads to resemble reindeer.

No matter how Christmas was celebrated in camp, soldiers' letters and memoirs tell of their longing for home and family. In December 1865, newspapers featured stories and poems extolling the ideal of a family Christmas that we have today. In 1870 Congress made Christmas Day a national holiday.



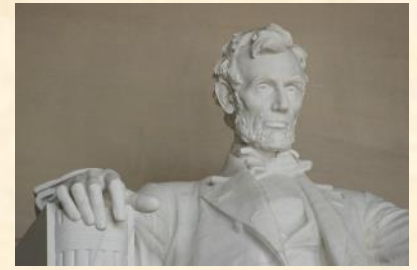
Detail from Thomas Nast's illustration "A Christmas Furlough" for the front page of a 1863 issue of Harper's Weekly.

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Abraham Lincoln's Merciful Christmas Letter

Offered for your consideration by President Karen Lyddane

Credit: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/24/us/abraham-lincoln-christmas-letter/index.html> (edited for space)



It was days before Christmas 1863, and Abraham Lincoln wanted to offer an example of goodwill to the fractured nation in the midst of the Civil War.

The Craig family, cousins to Lincoln's wife Mary Todd, were a slave-holding family in Arkansas who had fled their plantation as Union forces took over much of the state. But the Craigs were nearing the end of their lives and wished to return to their home for Christmas.

Despite the ongoing war – or perhaps because of it – Lincoln agreed. After meeting with the family, he wrote and signed a letter that they could use to safely move past Union forces and reoccupy their Arkansas plantation. As part of the agreement, the Craig family returned to farming on the plantation but without any slaves. Their history continues to live as a symbol of Lincoln's approach to the Confederacy, and how the war impacted his family. This remarkable order is considered a kind gesture toward the family, but symbolic of some of the broader things he was doing to try and heal a nation that was being torn apart at the seams.

“Mr. and Mrs. Craig, of Arkansas, whose plantation, situated upon the Mississippi River a few miles below Helena, has been desolated during the present war, propose returning to reoccupy and cultivate said plantation,” Lincoln wrote in the letter.

“(And) it is my wish that they be permitted to do so, and that the United States military forces in that vicinity will not molest them or allow them to be molested, as long as the said Mr. and Mrs. Craig shall demean themselves as peaceful, loyal citizens of the United States.”

Italian Christmas Tradition at Time of Civil War: The Percepio

Written by Brev. Brig. Gen'l Pat Young

Credit: <https://civilwartalk.com/threads/italian-christmas-tradition-at-time-of-civil-war-the-percepio.107826/>

One tradition that Italian immigrants in New York at the time of the Civil War brought over was the Christmas percepio. The percepio is an Italian tradition dating back to the time of St. Francis. Its poor cousin is the Christmas manger sitting on top of my house. But the percepio focuses not solely on the newborn Jesus, but on the world he came into. The Italians use a truly Catholic imagination in designing percepios of amazing fancy. I have seen pictures of one in which the Christmas story is told against a setting in an Eskimo village, and others set in an exotic past.

The St. Brigid's percepio represents the journey of Mary and Joseph from Westbury, through 18th Century Italy, and to a Bethlehem that is adrift in time. Many of the people along the way are oblivious to the miraculous purpose of the migrants passing them by, but some flock to the message of peace and hope represented by Christmas.

The percepio ends with people from all nations joining together under a tree flocked with angels. Like the people of the parish that treasures it, the figures in the percepio give no pride of place based on race or nationality.

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Sergeant Harris' Holiday Wish

Credit: <https://civilwartalk.com/threads/sgt-harris-christmas-new-years-wish-please-take-away-my-family-to-freedom.107711/>

It was Christmas season, 1864, and black southerner 1st Sgt. Joseph J. Harris was thinking about his family. He was stationed in Florida, but his family was in far away Louisiana. As a Union soldier, he was free; or at least, he was considered so by the United States. His family in Louisiana were considered slaves. He hoped the Union army could do something about that.

So, on December 2, 1864, Harris sent a letter to a General Ullman. This was surely Union Daniel Ullman, about whom Wikipedia writes:

(In 1862 Ullman) approached President Abraham Lincoln about the possibility of enlisting African Americans as soldiers. Though Lincoln was cool to the measure, he did discuss the matter with Ullman again. In January 1863 Ullman was promoted to brigadier general and sent to Louisiana, where he raised five regiments of African Americans as soldiers in a unit that was designated the Corps d'Afrique. Upon the end of the war, Ullman was mustered out and given the rank of major general.

Some people called the Corps d'Afrique *Ullman's Brigade*.

For many former slaves who joined the Union army, enlistment and service meant leaving their families behind, in bondage. The uncertainty of their family's circumstances gnawed at the hearts and minds of the black soldiers. In his letter to the general, Sergeant Harris begged Ullman to send an expedition to free his family from their Louisiana plantation:

Barrancas Fla. Dec 27. 1864

Sir I beg you the granterfunction of a Small favor will you ples to Cross the Mississippia River at Bayou Sar La. with your Command & jest on the hill one mile from the little town you will finde A plantation Called Mrs Marther. H. Turnbull & take a way my Farther & mother & my brothers wife with all their Childern & U take them up at your Hed Quarters. & write to me Sir the ar ther & I will amejeately Send after them. I wishes the Childern all in School. it is beter for them then to be their Surveing a mistes. Sir it isent mor then three or four Hours trubel I have bain trying evry sence I have bin in the servis it is goin on ner 3. years & Could never get no one to so do for me now I thinks it will be don for you is my Gen. I wishes evry day you would send after us. our Regt. ar doing all the hard fightin her we have disapointe the Rebes & surprizeed theme in all. importan pointes they says they wishes to Captuer the 82nd Regt that they woul murdar them all they Calls our Regt the Bluebellied Eagles Sir my Farthers Name Adam Harris he will Call them all to gether. & tel him to take Cousan Janes Childarn with hime

Joseph. J. Harris

Sir I will remain Ob your Soldiar in the U.S.A.

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Holiday Cheer for Our Veterans

Keep green the memory of the *Boys in Blue* while shopping, and honor today's veterans at the same time. Please add to your list large sweat shirts and pants, socks, gloves, hats and gift cards for food and gas. Donetta will look for them at our January 21st meeting. For our May meeting, on Armed Forces Day (5/20), we'll put together GO boxes for vets who basically live on the streets and in cars. Donetta will tell you more in our January meeting.



Holiday Quiz-True or False?

1. Most of today's familiar holiday trappings weren't known until well after the end of the war.
2. The Civil War saw the first introductions to the modern image of a jolly and portly Santa Claus through the drawings of Thomas Nast, a German-speaking immigrant.
3. Union soldiers often dreamed of sugarplums which they ate only in their dreams.
4. Southern parents warned their children that the Union blockaded Santa Claus.
5. The people of Fredericksburg were surprisingly spared devastation a few days before Christmas, 1862.



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Insight to the Festival of Hanukkah During the Civil War: Robert E. Lee's Letter

Except from an article by Guest Columnist Warren Ort, Chatham News+Record, 12/2019
(For complete credit and information, go to: <https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/history-and-celebration-what-hanukkah-means-to-me,4240>)

A story is told that during the Civil War Jewish soldiers felt the need to return home to celebrate these important holidays. In July 1861, Rabbi Max Michelbacher of Richmond wrote a letter to General Robert E. Lee requesting furloughs for Jewish troops serving in the Confederate army so that they could go home for these important holidays. Over 2,600 Jewish troops did serve. While the General denied the Rabbi's request, he wrote a thoughtful reply, which I would like to reproduce.

Headquarters of Army of Northern Virginia Sept 20-1861

Rev. M.J. Michelbacher, Richmond, Virginia

I have received your letter of the 15th asking that furloughs may be granted to the Israelites in the army from September 30th to October 11th to enable them to repair to Richmond to observe the holy days appointed by the Jewish religion.

It would afford me much pleasure to comply with your request did the interests of the service permit. But it is impossible to grant furloughs to one class of soldiers without recognizing the claims of others to a like indulgence. I can only grant furloughs on applications setting forth special grounds for them, or in accordance with general orders on the subject applicable to all army alike.

I will gladly do all in my power to facilitate the observance of the duties of their religion by Israelites in the army and allow them every indulgence consistent with safety and discipline. If the application be forward to me in the usual way, and it appears that they can be spared, I will be glad to approve as many of them as circumstance will permit. Accept my thanks for your kind wishes for myself, and believe me to be,

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

R.E. Lee



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



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Christmas Interests Then & Now

Source: Excerpts taken and credit given to: <https://www.co.seneca.ny.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Christmas-During-the-Civil-War-ADA.pdf>

President Abraham Lincoln and Christmas Day

On Christmas Day in 1861, President Lincoln spent hours trying to legitimize the capture of John Slidell and James Murray Mason, two Confederate representatives to Great Britain and France (the Trent Affair). That night he hosted a Christmas party.

In 1862, President Lincoln visited injured soldiers at various hospitals.

In 1863, many Union soldiers received gifts *From Tad Lincoln*, as Tad (one of Lincoln's sons) had been deeply moved by the plight of Union soldiers when he was taken by his father to see them. The gifts were mostly books and clothing.

Perhaps the best Christmas gift President Lincoln received during the Civil War was the news he received on December 22, 1864—that General William Tecumseh Sherman had captured Savannah, Georgia the previous day.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and *Christmas Bells*

The great poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow endured deep despair during the Civil War. It started in 1861 with the untimely death of his wife Fanny. That Christmas, he wrote, “How inexpressibly sad are all holidays.” On Christmas Day 1862, he wrote in his journal, “A merry Christmas’ say the children, but that is no more for me.” Things got worse when Longfellow learned in 1863 that his oldest son Charles, a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac, had been severely wounded in battle. His deep personal despair was reflective of the despair and loss suffered by so many Americans, both in the North and in the South, during the long, terrible Civil War.

Shortly after a visit to his son Charles, who was still struggling to recover from his war injuries on Christmas Day 1864, Longfellow penned the words to his poem *Christmas Bells*. This poem was later put to music and became known as *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*.

Conclusion

Like what was true of soldiers during the Civil War, we presently have many soldiers— male and female—serving in war-like conditions who are separated from their loved ones. Given such present-day technology as the cellular telephone, and the internet, it is hard for us, however, to appreciate just how difficult it must have been for Civil War soldiers to be separated from their loved ones at Christmas.



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Our Two Holiday Traditions- A Feast for Eyes and Appetite!

Article and two photos submitted by Membership Chair Karen Connair

My husband Steve and I love toy trains. This is our 30th year visiting the Holiday Train Gardens in Baltimore. We began our tradition by viewing a PBS TV special in the early 1990s on then-called Baltimore Christmas Train Gardens. It looked like fun; we visited the two featured in the special--at the Kenilworth Mall near Towson and at the Baltimore Company 45 Firehouse. The displays were spectacular. We loved it; we were hooked. Today, we've chosen five or six of our favorites from over 30--they are different every year. Why Baltimore, you might ask?

Holiday Train Gardens have been a tradition in Baltimore since the late 1800s, by German and Moravian immigrants. Originally they were creative religious scenes, now they've become toy train displays and villages under their Christmas trees. These displays moved to firehouses where they became larger and more elaborate. Firefighters wanted to bring the holiday spirit to their communities, and by the 1950s, almost every Baltimore firehouse had a Holiday Train Garden. This year, Baltimore Company 45 is celebrating its 67th year. They take months to set up and can be viewed until the week after New Year's Day.

These huge displays, mostly still in firehouses, include hundreds of moving figures, (there is always a scene where firemen are putting out a fire), houses, waterfalls, stores, trains going in and out of villages and mountains--every kind of setting you can think of.



Our second tradition follows at another Baltimore institution, Herman's Bakery, family owned since 1923! They have the most delicious baked goods! No visit to Baltimore would be complete without dining at one of Baltimore's famous diners (many featured in the TV show Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives)! Recently we discovered a 70-year old pharmacy that has everything plus an old-fashioned soda shop. We often go there to have a great milkshake and a sandwich. We hope to continue it for many years.

If you'd like to make our traditions yours, contact me at: lconnair1742@gmail.com.

Photo of Herman's Bakery credit: <https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=Herman's+Bakery+Baltimore&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8#lpg=cid:CgIgaAQ==,ik:CAoSLEFGMVfpcE11X2QyM010VUpEQkR6Z3U1OHp6eXJUa2JIWlo1RUUpKbDdLMmJT>

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The 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry's 1862 Christmas Foraging Expedition

Article Submitted by Historian Gayle Machey

Article credit: *Pennsylvania in the Civil War*

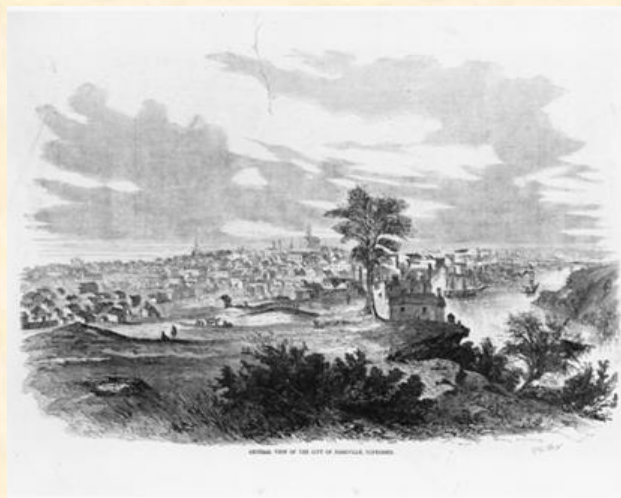
Likely the most descriptive overall firsthand account of the action was written by Pvt. Arthur Granger. Under the title, "The Christmas Foraging Expedition in 1862," Granger penned his version of events as follows:

"On December 25, 1862, the day after the Regiment arrived at Nashville, twenty men were called for from our Company E to go on a foraging expedition, and I was one of the number who volunteered. There were also squads from the other companies, the whole under the command of Captain [Alfred] Vezin.

"We took all of the wagons belonging to our Regiment and joined a large train of about 100 wagons, with an escort from a Tennessee regiment. About nine miles out we halted, near a large corn field, and the mounted men were put on picket duty in different directions, while the infantry loaded the fodder into the wagons. I was left in Corp[oral] Cha[rles] H. Kirk's squad, along a narrow road to the left of the pike."

"I had been on picket an hour or so, when I was relieved and rode back to the farmhouse, where I found a late Christmas dinner going on the table. I told the lady of the house that I would dine with them, and went out on the back porch to wash up and get ready for a square meal. Just then I heard a volley of rifle shots, and, regretting to miss the feast, I ran through the kitchen and seized a long-handled skillet at the back of the stove, and, holding up the tail of my overcoat, flopped the big, hot "johnnycake" into it, and that was all of the Christmas dinner I got. I jumped on my horse and soon joined our men on the pike. The rebels were coming over a low hill and down toward the corn field and seemed to outnumber us. We retired along the pike a short distance, when, under the inspiration of Albert Coleman, of Company E, we were drawn up in line near a blacksmith shop and held the enemy in check; there was very sharp firing for a while. The wagons were getting out of the field and started down the pike on a full run.....

Arthur O. Granger, "The Christmas Foraging Expedition in 1862," in *History of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry*, 75-76. There were many more stories at <https://www.penncivilwar.com/post/15th-pa-cav-christmas>



General view of the city of Nashville, Tennessee, Harper's Weekly, March 8, 1862. (Library of Congress)

What's Your Super Power?

Our May 20th meeting will focus on forming a nominating committee for the next administration, with the election on October 21. January 27, 2024, gives us our new administration. Yes, I AM talking about 2024 already-it'll soon be here!

I ask that you give serious consideration to accepting a position-our business is conducted through works of super ladies like yourself. Even being part of the Nominating Committee will serve us well. The gift of everlasting friendship and learning from engaging, kind ladies is yours for doing so, and I'm sure that as our ancestors served, their experiences were the very same! Imagine coming home with a new musical instrument, new songs, and meeting fast friends at GAR encampments. Learning from others, who walk different paths, was an opportunity never to be repeated, while today, we have the ability to build continually through various positions, improving ourselves as we serve humankind, past and present. So, your New Year's resolution of sharing with us your superpower is beneficial to everyone-your ancestor soldier is well remembered this way.



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Merry Musings by President Karen—Here's to our January 21st Meeting!

Ring in the New Year by gathering with us on January 21st in Richmond. You might want to consider going early and meeting Past President Donetta Bantle at 10:30 a.m. for a graveside time at the Shockoe Cemetery, where our namesake Elizabeth Van Lew's bones rest. Lunch and our business meeting is at a favorite spot, Sine Irish Pub and Restaurant, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Our special guest speaker, Marilyn Iglesias (dressed in period attire), will provide us with information on medical care (Union and Confederate) during the Civil War. The Zoom platform will be provided, so if you can't physically attend, we still want to see your smiling face!

More restaurant details are available by going to their web site: <https://www.sineirishpub.com/>

Dietary needs should be considered well ahead of time-if the cuisine does not suit, be creative and bring what food you need-but above all, be with us! Please let Past President Jan MacQueston know-she is planning this meeting and will make accommodations for you.

For information about the incredible Shockoe Cemetery, go to: <https://shockoehillcemetery.org/>

Note: Visiting the Cemetery, even without a particular reason, is a fascinating time spent with finest Magnolias, historic buildings, and viewings of important people's resting places.

I've been requested to ask for carpooling to our January Richmond meeting, so if you are attending, please consider bringing another sister, or possible prospective member. Contact me if you would like to carpool and I'll send out an email to all so we can do our best to include everyone in our first meeting of 2023!



Looking into the New Year, I will again ask you to help with the Civil War Memorial & Wreath task (for National Cemeteries on Memorial Day weekend), so please put this in the back of your mind. It is our sacred duty to give honor to National Cemeteries holding Civil War servicemen's resting places by supplying patriotic wreaths for their public or private ceremony. I have the materials and if you're creative, great! If creativity isn't your gift, I will make sure that you have a wreath, so you'll be in fine shape for honoring our deceased veterans.

The next National Convention is being held July 18th through the 23rd in Oklahoma City, OK. Online hotel registration is open now. We supported our Pennsylvania neighbors mightily last summer, so I have nothing of this magnitude planned. Should you have thoughts, please contact me-it'll be time to go before you know it! Our new sister Elaine Gunterman has offered to become our elected delegate-HUZZAH!

Answers to the Holiday Quiz

1. **False.** The holiday carols, wrapping, tree decorating and gift-giving were well known by the mid-19th Century.
2. **True.** Thomas Nast, a German-speaking immigrant, became widely popular for his political and holiday characters in drawings that were regularly published.
3. **False.** Union camps managed to become festive and boxes and parcels often appeared, while dinners could offer roast Turkeys, Ham, and all the accompaniments.
4. **True.** 'Nuf said.
5. **False.** On December 13th, 1862, the Battle of Fredericksburg, known as one of the bloodiest battles of the American Civil War, was fought on the slopes of Marye's Heights.

If you've gotten the majority right, take yourself out for a Peppermint Sundae or Coffee!

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Approximate Size



Contact Past President Margaret Stromberg for ordering your very own Elizabeth Van Lew detached tent name tag! Here is the form for purchasing this wonderful name tag.

Name Tag Order Form

(Save form to your computer. Use saved copy to complete and mail.)

Badges are 2.12" x 3.35" with 'super grip' magnetic bar fastener. Rounded corners.

Cost per badge is 15.00 including shipping (with delivery by to member at the next meeting). There is an extra cost of \$1.60 for mailing badges to the individual upon receipt of order.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST Zip: _____

Name wanted on badge: _____

Cost: 15.00

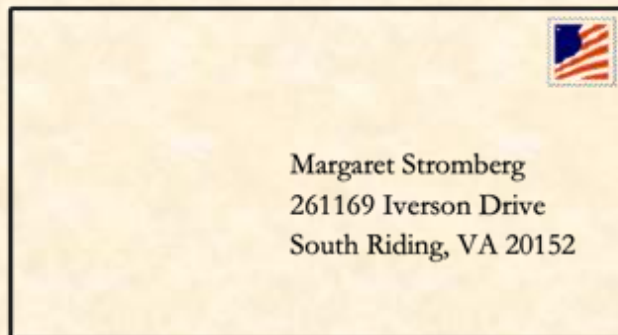
Delivery:

- Next meeting (included) 0.00
- ASAP: (Added cost) 1.60

If you do not want badge mailed to your home, simply change this figure to 0.

Total: 16.60

Make Checks Payable to: Margaret Stromberg and mail to:



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GEMS

By Membership Chair Karen Connair

Christmas at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. December 10, 2023, 12 noon – 4pm. FREE, donations accepted. This popular event includes Civil War Santa Claus, Civil War reenactors in a camp setting, fort tours, kids activities. Visit the museum. Call (703) 746-4848, website: alexandriava.gov/FortWard.

Shenandoah University, McCormick Civil War Institute Annual January Online Seminars,

- January 10, 12 and 17. “Exploring the Civil War’s Aftermath in the Shenandoah Valley.”
- January 10. “They Came Not With Fire or Sword: Sheridan’s Veterans, Reunion and Reconciliation’s Limits.”
- January 12. “Outlived the Odium: Grand Army of the Republic Posts in the Shenandoah Valley.”
- January 17. “Like a Bird Out of a Cage: African Americans in the Postwar Valley.”

All sessions are virtual, begin at 7pm, FREE but advanced registration is required. Email Professor Jonathan Noyalas at jnoyalas01@su.edu by January 4, 2023 to register.

Virginia Tech Annual Civil War Weekend, “Civil War Journeys.” March 24-26, 2023. Includes presentations by eight award winning historians and a concert of Civil War music. There is an optional two-day field trip to Washington, DC (March 26-28, 2023) to explore Civil War sites in the Capital Region. Event to be held at the Virginia Tech Skelton Conference Center, 901 Price’s Fork Road, Blacksburg, Virginia and a block of rooms is being reserved for attendees at the Virginia Tech Inn next door. Call Leland Shelton at (540) 231-9617 or see website: cpe.vt.edu.

Shenandoah University, McCormick Civil War Institute Spring 2023 Conference, “So Tired & Exhausted:” In Battle’s Aftermath. April 15, 2023, campus of Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA. This conference will explore the many ways Civil War battles impacted soldiers and civilians both in the immediate aftermath of battle and for decades after the conflict. Cost \$30 includes lunch. Download the registration form from website and mail to address on the form. No online registration available at this time. For more information go to website su.edu or contact Professor Jonathan Noyalas at jnoyalas01@su.edu or call 540-665-4501. *Note from your President: Some of us have registered (myself included) and we’re going as a group. Please consider joining us—we have a great time together!*

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation 2023 Annual National Conference “The Road To and From Gettysburg: The Shenandoah Valley in 1863.” George Washington Hotel, 103 East Piccadilly Street, Winchester, VA on April 20-22, 2023. Includes speakers, special events and day-long tour of the Second Winchester Battlefield. Cost \$360 for members, \$385 non-members for entire conference or \$195 each day. Registration required, limited to 150 people. A block of rooms has been reserved for conference guests-call hotel to reserve a room (540) 431-2498. See website shenandoahatwar.org or call (540) 740-4545 for more information.



Yes! We have a Facebook page! Please go like and follow the page on Facebook.

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

Please share your pictures from events, photos and biographies of your ancestors, and photos taken at historical Civil War sites. Photos and biographies can be sent to rebekahrose6@gmail.com.



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—Civil War-era Orange Nuts

Recipe and photos courtesy of: *World Turned Upside Down* <https://www.worldturndupsidedown.com/2018/12/civil-war-era-orange-nuts-recipe.html>

This recipe was printed in Godey's Lady's Book and Peterson's Magazine in 1865 and was still being published verbatim in 1883. It's a great way to honor the past while honoring your tummy!

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 Cups Flour (can substitute for Gluten-Free dietary needs)
- 1 Cup Sugar
- 3 Eggs
- 2-4 Orange Peels, zested
- 2-4 Lemons Peels, zested



Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix sugar and eggs in a large bowl and beat for 15 minutes. Add flour and zest and mix until fully combined. Add flour until your dough is stiff enough that it can be rolled in your hands without sticking. Roll into one inch balls. Place on baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes.

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

Actually, Retreat with Two More Recipes

These recipes are sent to you from your Membership Chair Karen Connair. (Note from President Karen: When considering the Laxative Bread recipe, my 102-year young mother said definitely to add it and that the holiday time is when it is needed most....can't argue with Mom!)

Abraham Lincoln's Honey Cookies

Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup shortening
- 5 cups of flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup honey, strained
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 egg beaten
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1/2 cup sour milk
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp cloves

Instructions: Cream shortening and sugar in wooden mixing bowl. Add honey and blend thoroughly. Stir in the beaten egg and sour milk. Now sift together in separate bowl the flour, baking soda, salt, nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves. Combine these dry ingredients with liquids in mixing bowl. Blend well. Set aside and let chill. When chilled, put dough on floured board. Roll out to 1/4 inch thick. Cut out cookies with cookie cutter or upside down drinking glass. Put cookies on greased baking pan and bake at 350 degrees F for about 10 minutes.

Makes about 4 dozen 2 1/2-inch cookies.

Special Laxative Bread Recipe From the Family of General Grant

Ingredients:

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 cups oatmeal
- 2 cups flour
- 1 yeast cake
- Warm water to suit

Put all of the above ingredients in a large pan and blend well. Add sufficient warm water to work into a smooth dough. Cover with a towel. Set aside to rise in a warm place. When risen, divide dough into 2 loaves. Mold them smoothly and quickly. Bake immediately at 350 degrees F for 25 minutes.

Eat a portion of this laxative bread once or twice a day.

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