



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 2021



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT—KAREN LYDDANE



Your president in Culpeper with John Grant Griffiths. He is related to General Grant through the maternal side. Our clasped hands details genuine fondness for each other.

Warm Greetings to you, Egg-stra special Sisters,

Details. It's truly all in the details. You regularly communicate precious, unique details that add up to make one, big, beloved tent! No matter where you are, we stand together in trust, facing our future. Knowing that we flex, roll, what-have-you, in today's challenging times, well, dear ladies, genuine trust always shines through obstacles. What was mandatory yesterday is a fleeting thought today. This gift of trust, which encourages works well beyond the norm, is as surely it must have been with our ancestors. Imagine what they did to support and inspire each other! Trust was a detail of everyday life.

Linger over each page, and notice the details that make this a glorious newsletter. You'll see the fun that our newsletter editor had in putting your thoughts into a well worded, and yes, egg-citing edition. Huzzah!

Karen

"Keep Green the Memory"



"I am apt to believe that it [independence] will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more." – John Adams

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/Chairmen

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 Shackelford janealogyusa@yahoo.com
Chaplain: Cynthia Matsumoto cynthia.matsumoto@gmail.com
Treasurer & JROTC & ROTC Scholarship Task: Crystal Geller crystalgeller@gmail.com
Registrar: Peggy Burroughs peggyburroughs@cox.net
Patriotic Instructor & Newsletter Editor: Karen Misiano kmisiano@yahoo.com
Council #1 & VAVS Donetta Bantle donettabantle@yahoo.com
Council #2: Jan MacQueston janteaques@verizon.net
Secretary: Amanda Morris amanda384@gmail.com
Historian: Gayle Machey bitsom@verizon.net
Press Correspondent: Elise Geller elisegeller@ymail.com
Webmaster: Andrea Walter elizabethvanlewtentVA@gmail.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
Service to Veterans Committee: Midge Elliott mequilts@aol.com
SUVCW Liaison (Overseas): Gina Costin ginacostin63@gmail.com

Tent Web address: <https://elizabethvanlewtent.weebly.com>

Tent email address: elizabethvanlewtentVA@gmail.com

SUVCW Irish Brigade Camp Web address: <http://irishbrigadecamp.com/index.html>

**Most Sacred Duty of a Daughter of the
Daughters of Union Veterans of the
Civil War, 1861-1865**

“Loyalty to God, Country and Flag”

National Convention

August 3, 2021 -
August 8, 2021

Make plans now to attend!
[http://www.duvcw.org/
national-convention.html](http://www.duvcw.org/national-convention.html)

Hilton St. Louis
Frontenac Hotel
1355 South Lindbergh
Boulevard
St. Louis, MO

MOTTO

**Fraternity,
Charity and
Loyalty**



National Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)
American Battlefield Trust

www.duvcw.org
www.suvcw.org
www.battlefields.org



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.



Fourth of July Invitation!!

As described in our “Summer Breeze” edition last year, the Messick Civil War cannon collection will be on display on July 4th. This is the only day of the year we bring them out. I would love to invite anyone who might be in the area to drop in and see this unique display.

They’re generally set between 10:00 and 11:00, and out until 5:00-ish or when people stop coming. Come for a quick tour and a “boom,” or stay for food and conversation (we do an informal potluck).

The party is at:

The Messick Farm
10337 Messick Road
Midland, VA 22728

Call or text if you need more information, 540-272-2853. Hope to see you! Cyndi Messick



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.

MEMORIAL DAY, 2021

How We Supported the National Southern Memorial & Wreath Committee and Kept Green the Memory on Memorial Day, 2021

Written by Karen Lyddane, President
June, 17, 2021

The word "Pride" isn't nearly thorough enough to describe how I feel about your efforts, dear Ladies. From voting to adopt to creating and delivering wreaths, you are unequalled. We adopted 11 national cemeteries and one international cemetery for Memorial Day, 2021, in support of the Southern Memorial & Wreaths National Committee.

Cemeteries adopted were: Alexandria, Balls Bluff, Culpeper, Fredericksburg, Hampton, Petersburg (Poplar Grove), Staunton, Winchester, Yorktown, Hampton, Grafton (WV), and the Lincoln Monument in London, England.

Oh, how we flexed, rolled, did what was needed and succeeded with our Memorial Day adoptions! This Memorial Day was still greatly influenced by health mandates so most cemeteries had private ceremonies, or none at all. The Yorktown wreath was created but awaits next year's ceremony. Sister Cat Schwetke turned this unsuccessful trip into success by stopping at the Shockhoe cemetery in Richmond and placing a cross-shaped patriotic honorarium at the grave off our tent's namesake. The following photographs show your great efforts, and truly reflect our tent's heart and life. HUZZAH!



Cat Schwetke stands behind the grave of our tent's namesake



Wreath created and placed at Petersburg (Poplar Grove) National Cemetery.



Wreath created and placed at the monument of Brigadier General Andrew Humphries, for his service at Marye's Heights, in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery, by Karen Misiano.

After visiting their ancestor's grave, Gina and Mother Barbara (shown) drove 60 miles to Madingley American cemetery where WWII casualties lie.

They met Superintendent Matthew P Brown (US Army retired) who accepted our Tents' wreath. He also gave them a tour. Gina guesses this is the first time a DUVCW wreath has been laid at Madingley.



Charter member Luann Whittenburg stands with our contact Mr. Damion Jacobs, Assistant Director, Quantico and Alexandria National cemeteries. Their official sash was placed over our own.

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.



International members Gina Costin and mother Barbara Denham delivered two wreaths to Pancras and Islington cemetery in London, England.

One was placed at their ancestor's grave, Georges Denham (above), and the other (right) on Sgt Arthur Fisher USMC grave (but honoring all U.S. Veterans buried there).

The London Memorial was closed, so Gina and mum created their own success!



These wreaths were created and delivered to Winchester, Culpeper, Staunton and Balls Bluff by your president.

Sashes were hand-sewn on with silk thread and antique mother-of-pearl buttons purchased from England.



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.

Member Moments



Over the long Memorial Day weekend my husband and I went to Buffalo to visit our families for the first time since the pandemic began. We decided on Memorial Day weekend so that we could see my brother and sister take part in some of the local holiday observances. On Sunday they took part in a ceremony my brother said was sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at Forest Lawn Cemetery, the largest cemetery in Buffalo. He is a member of a Sons group in New Jersey, but he knows some of the men in Buffalo since he went to high school in the area. They like to have him join them while wearing his Garibaldi Guard uniform with the big, feathered hat. He neglected to tell me that the event was also sponsored by the Daughters of Union Veterans! I did wear my pin, and I met a very nice young woman in Civil War era dress who filled me in on what was going on.

She turned out to be Nicolle Beatty, the DUVCW Department President for New York State! When she found out that I was a member, she invited me to assist her in laying a wreath that the Civil War monument erected by the Grand Army of the Republic around 1880. We talked, and she convinced my sister, who is a Civil War reenactor with the persona of a Daughter of Charity nursing the wounded at Gettysburg, that she should join the Daughters of Union Veterans. Nicolle is looking for a few prospective members to join the group of Western New York ladies who are now members of tents closer to Rochester so that she can start a new tent in the Buffalo area. My sister is a good organizer and was very interested in this. I have given her a



copy of my application and all of my proofs so she has everything she needs to apply. I also encouraged Nicolle to go to Gettysburg in November for Remembrance Day since she has never attended.

My brother and sister also took part in a Civil War encampment in our town on Monday. It was a very successful event with the reenactors explaining about their weapons and gear and how they used them to adults and especially to the children. I enjoyed talking to the medical people and the engineers with all their equipment. We had a great weekend and had a good drive home with good weather and very little traffic.

—Ann Beer

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.



June

Ann Beer, Karen Belle, Karen Connair, Midge Elliott, Sandi Esty, Sarah Geller, Jenny Snyder, Jan Spear, Margaret Stromberg

July

Kelly Capellini, Jane Chavis, Suzanne Fichter, Crystal Geller, Vicki Meadows, Nayla Mengel, Diana Perrussel

August

Mary Ann Cowherd, Betty Halsstead, Virginia Lee, Patricia Milnes

September

Donetta Bantle, Candace Burek, Gina Costin, Patricia McFerren-Blanton

Retreat with a Recipe

by Karen Belle

“My grandmother- Hazel Sproul Wright – was the granddaughter of Pvt Robert Jonas Sproul, 151st OH, Co D. The following is her recipe for **Raisin Squares** – a favorite at family gatherings.”

Mix and simmer 10 minutes:

- 5 cups raisins
- 1 ½ cups water
- ¼ t salt
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 ½ Tbl butter
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla



- Use cornstarch mixture to thicken raisins – cooking until right consistency.
- Cool while making pie crust (for 2-crust-pie).
- Spread 1 crust in 9x12” pan. Spread raisin mixture, then cover with top crust.
- Bake 45 minutes at 375 degrees. When cool, sprinkle with confectioners sugar, then cut into squares.

Moisten in a little water:

- 4 ½ Tbl cornstarch

Tent Meeting Dates: 2021

Hybrid meeting: Virtual business meeting, followed by in-person lunch

2021: October 23

Dr. Carole Morton, National President, DUVCW
Topic: Insignia, Badges, and Protocol



Giuseppe's Restaurant

15120 Washington Street, Haymarket, VA.

(703) 753-1004

<http://www.giuseppesri.com>

11:00am—ORFATS

(Officers or Responsible For A Task Sister)

11:30—General Meeting

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

Email elizabethvanlewtentVA@gmail.com for more information regarding meetings.

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.

ANCESTOR MINUTE

Adam Stewart

Adam Stewart, ancestor of Iva L. Knapp, was born October 4, 1832, in Jackson County, Virginia. His was the son of William Stewart and Mary Parsons. William was born in Monongahela County, PA, and moved to Jackson County, VA, and then moved to Mason County in 1846 with his children. Adam married Ellen Jane Smith on March 25, 1853, in Mason Co, VA, which became WV. He was engaged in farming when he signed up to join the Thirteenth West Virginia Regiment, Company B, on August 8, 1862, in Point Pleasant, WV, and had his first muster October 8, 1862. He was wounded in action at the Battle of Kernstown (near Winchester) on July 24, 1864. He



suffered a *conical ball* wound of his left foot. He was in the hospital at Cumberland, MD, in which the conditions in the summer were reported as unbearable. He was transferred to the hospital in Clarysville, MD, which was 1000 feet higher than Cumberland, and it provided a more hygienic situation with a purer atmosphere, seclusion to allow exercise in the open air, and abundant supply of excellent quality water. He recovered in the hospitals from July 25, 1864, until he returned to service with his unit March 6, 1865. He was mustered out on June 22, 1865. He returned to farming and had a saw mill in Mason County, WV. He was a member of the Methodist Church. His children were Almeda, Matilda, Henry T, Rachel, Sarah, Susan, James H, and my ancestor Mary Jane Stewart, who married Spencer Knapp in 1873. Ellen Jane was the daughter of Isaac E Smith, a Methodist Minister, and Rachel McGuire. She was born January 7, 1833, in Mason County, WV and died on March 3, 1909. Adam Stewart died on September 8, 1902, and he and Ellen are buried at Smith Church Cemetery, in Leon Township, Mason County, WV.

—Iva Knapp

“Ancestor Minute” FAQ

- Is a short (or not so short) description or biography about your ancestor
⇒ Could be a few sentences long, if that is all the information available
- Can include stories, details, photos, etc.
- Is primarily a way for the Tent to honor and remember our ancestors
- Does NOT have to include a photo
- Helps us remember HOW and WHY we are in this organization

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.

IRENE TRIPLETT -- LAST RECIPIENT OF A CIVIL WAR PENSION

by Karen Connair



The year 2020 was a year for the history books—not just because of the pandemic, but because the last person to receive a Civil War pension died in May 2020 AND the last Civil War widow passed away as recently as December 2020! Improbable and impossible to believe, but both amazing facts are true! Here is the first story.

Irene Triplett, born December 16, 1930 in Wilkes County, North Carolina, was the nation's last Civil War-related pension recipient. She was also the last living child of a Civil War veteran. When Irene was born, her father, Moses Triplett, was almost 84 years old and her mother, Elida Hall, was only 34. Elida was Moses' second wife; his first wife died in 1923 leaving him childless. Irene was one of five children, but only two survived, she and her younger brother Everett. Irene had a difficult life growing

up; she suffered physical abuse from her parents and was often called a "traitor" at school because her father had fought for the Union as well as the Confederacy. Irene dropped out of school at an early age. She had a lifelong addiction to chewing tobacco, a habit she said she picked up in first grade. Both her mother and Irene had cognitive disabilities. When her father died in 1938 at the age of 92, he left his family a 40 acre farm but soon afterwards, Irene, her brother and mother moved into the Wilkes County Poor Home because they were unable to run the farm. Irene and her mother remained there until 1960 when the county home closed. Moses' pension check helped pay for their care. Irene and her mother later lived in nursing homes until their deaths. Everett Triplett ran away from the county home, got a job at a local mill and later married and had children. He passed away in 1996.

At age 16, Moses Triplett first enlisted with the Confederate 53rd North Carolina Infantry, later transferring to the 26th North Carolina Infantry. In 1863 he fell ill just before the battle of Gettysburg and was put in a Confederate hospital. Not wanting to remain in the Confederate Army, he escaped from the hospital and made his way to Tennessee with the help of Union sympathizers where in 1864 he joined up with the 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry, a Union regiment. He remained with the unit until the end of the war so he could draw a pension. Joining the Union Army probably saved his life. His Confederate infantry unit suffered over 80% casualties at Gettysburg. Moses began receiving his pension in 1890.

In 1924 Moses married Elida Hall, Irene's mother, who was almost 50 years his junior. Such age disparity was not uncommon in the 20th century, especially around the time of the Great Depression because many younger women married older veterans for financial security and they needed caretakers in their old age. Moses was known to be a harsh man. He often sat on his porch with a gun, shooting walnuts off trees with his old military pistol and raised rattlesnakes for pets. He was quite stern with his children. Irene did not get along with her parents. She once said, "I just wanted to get away from them, buy my own house and crawl into it." She rarely talked about her childhood later in life.

In 1938, Moses Triplett attended the 50th Reunion at Gettysburg where many of the veterans there did not know that he had fought on both sides of the War until he told stories of his war experiences after being interviewed by a reporter. He died shortly after returning home. His widow Elida was then eligible to receive his survivor's military pension of \$73.13 which was paid monthly until her death in 1967. Since Irene had a mental disability, and needed living assistance, she was found eligible to receive her father's pension the rest of her life after her mother's death. Irene passed away May 31, 2020 at a skilled nursing facility in Wilkesboro, North Carolina at the age of 90. Over 130 years of Civil War pension payments had finally come to an end.

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.

GEMS

by Karen Connair, Membership Chairman



Dear Sisters – there is so much going on in the Civil War academic world, and I would like to use this opportunity in our newsletter and in emails to membership to inform you of a new program put forth by the Membership Committee: GEMS (Great Education for Membership Sisters). The title may be a bit corny, but the intent is real. I believe it is important that, in order to adequately honor our Civil War ancestors, we need to learn more about their world—for example: how they lived, what events were going on around them, etc.--not just battles, but social history. What better way to do this than by attending Civil War themed conferences and listening to lectures, in person or virtually. I'll confess, during the past year, I have become quite a Zoom addict! There are so many great venues available, so I'm going to list just a few of them in this column. More will follow in emails to all membership.

SOCIETY FOR WOMEN AND THE CIVIL WAR – ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year, the Society is going virtual and the theme is “Resilient Women of the Civil War,” July 24-25, 2021, four lectures online. Cost \$25. Register at www.swcw.org.

Highly recommend this organization; I've attended many of their conferences and the speakers are terrific. Talks feature social history and women's studies.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY BATTLEFIELDS FOUNDATION – CONFERENCE

“Born of Fire: West Virginia and the Civil War,” July 31, 2021, from 9am-4:30pm at Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, WV. Cost \$27 members of SVBF, \$30 non-members.

Conference will feature six speakers. Register at www.shenandoahatwar.org.

GEORGE TYLER MOORE CENTER FOR STUDY OF THE CIVIL WAR AT SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY – ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Topic is “Cavalry's Crucible: Civil War Comes to Horse and Hunt Country,” Oct 7-10, 2021, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV. Includes bus tours, meals and speakers. Cost \$310-\$485.

Register at www.shepherd.edu/civilwar.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM, Richmond, Virginia

Offers many virtual lectures and events in person. Website: acwm.org.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONGRESS.

This organization offers an outstanding array of lectures on various Civil War themes. See speaker series to register for upcoming virtual talks, videos of past talks are available for viewing online. See Fridays with Grant to listen to Dr. Curt Fields, a Grant reenactor, talk about his war experiences and Presidency. Fields' Grant is authentic and fascinating; he looks the part and is a great storyteller. Highly recommended! Website: cwrtcongress.org.

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.

Door prize winners!

Thank you for attending our
May Zoom meeting!

1. Cynthia Matsumoto
2. Amanda Morris
3. Margaret Stromberg
4. Luann Whittenburg



Needed

"Going to the Winery" basket



Donated
by
Cyndi
Messick

STAY
TUNED!!!



PICKLE JAR Reminder

Don't forget to be saving your
change for our pickle jar
collection, starting in October!



Virginia items for our baskets that will be auctioned at the National convention this August. Our baskets always are extremely popular, mostly because of your interesting donations that speak of all things Virginia! Contact Margaret Stromberg for more information.

160th Anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas

[Manassas National Battlefield Park](https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?id=650550E1-E726-6889-201B20C9FDB4F554)

<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?id=650550E1-E726-6889-201B20C9FDB4F554>

The Henry Hill Visitor Center

Date: Saturday, July 17, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM

Duration: 7 hours

Fee: Free

JOIN US AT MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK TO COMMEMORATE 160 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST BATTLE OF MANASSAS.

Day one, July 17th, 2021, will feature tours of the battlefield with park rangers and volunteers. Follow in the footsteps of the United States or Confederate Armies as they went through the events of the first major battle of the Civil War. Capping the day's events will be a performance of the US Marine Corps Historical Company Band on Henry Hill at 7:00pm.

Day two, July 18th has a series of author talks and book signings on topics such as the struggle to preserve the battlefield itself and the role of women in the First Battle of Manassas.

Both days will also have junior ranger activities, uniform displays, historic weapons demonstrations, and more. Please check back here for updates as we get closer to the anniversary.

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.

HELEN VIOLA JACKSON –LAST CIVIL WAR WIDOW

by Karen Connair

One of the most incredible news stories to come to light in 2020 was the reporting of the passing of the last known Civil War widow. Helen Viola Jackson passed away on December 16, 2020 at the age of 101 in a Marshfield, Missouri nursing home. Helen, at the age of 17, had married James Bolin, a 93-year-old widower, and a veteran of the Civil War.



Amazing as it sounds, there was a logical reason why a 17-year-old would marry a man 76 years her senior. Helen Viola Jackson was born August 3, 1919 in Niangua, Webster County, in southwest Missouri, daughter of James Washington Jackson and Thursa Arizona Shelby Jackson. She was one of 10 children and grew up on the family farm. Life was hard for the Jackson family. James Bolin lived near the Jackson farm and Helen met Mr. Bolin at church. He needed a caretaker so Helen's father volunteered Helen's services to help with his daily household chores after she got out of school. Eventually, James Bolin suggested that they marry. He claimed her daily care was improving his life. He said he could not pay her for the care he received, and did not want to accept charity, but if she married him, she could receive his military survivor's pension after his death. "He said that he would leave me his Union pension," Helen told historian Hamilton Clark. "It was during the Depression and times were hard. He said that it might be my only way of leaving the farm." Although it may not have been a love match, Helen had great respect for James Bolin and he was very kind to her. Because of her impoverished circumstances, and realizing her need for financial security, especially during the Great Depression, Helen agreed to marry, on the condition that she remain at home with her parents, keep her maiden name and the marriage not to be made known except to a small circle of witnesses. The marriage took place in Bolin's home on September 4, 1936 and was recorded in Bolin's personal Bible. He gave the Bible to Helen before he died. When asked why she did not disclose the marriage to anyone at the time, Helen stated it was to protect Bolin's reputation as much as her own. "I had great respect for Mr. Bolin and I did not want him to be hurt by the scorn of wagging tongues." She also said, "Mr. Bolin really cared for me. He wanted me to have a future and he was so kind."

The pair were married from 1936 until June 18, 1939 when Mr. Bolin passed away at the home of one of his daughters. After his passing, Helen never applied for the pension that her husband had so much wanted her to have. She was threatened by one of Bolin's daughters, who said she would ruin Helen's reputation if she ever applied for her father's pension. Many years later Helen explained, "All a woman had in 1939 was her reputation. I didn't want them all to think that I was a young woman who had married an old man to take advantage of him."

James Bolin was born March 23, 1843 in Tennessee. In 1864 he joined the 14th Missouri Cavalry, a Union regiment, and served as a private until the end of the Civil War. In 1868 he married his first wife, Elizabeth Davenport; she passed away in 1922. The Bolin's raised six children in Missouri.

After her husband's death, Helen kept her marriage a secret. She chose not to marry, or have children, perhaps because she did not want to reveal the circumstances of her first marriage. She had a stoic nature and was an independent woman. Instead, throughout the years, she became involved in community charities, was active in her church and became a member of the Webster County Historical Society. She was also a member of the Mary Whitney Phelps Tent #22 Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic and other lineage societies.

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.



It was only in 2017, when Helen was working out the details of her funeral, she revealed to her pastor Nicholas Inman, her lifelong friend, that she had married James Bolin, the 93-year-old Civil War veteran, when she was only 17 years old. After this astonishing story came out, Helen remarked, "I never wanted to share my story with the public. I didn't feel that it was that important and I didn't want a bunch of gossip about it." The story was verified by a witness still living that was at the marriage ceremony and James Bolin had written about the marriage in his family Bible that Helen kept all these years. She verified Bolin's resting place at the Niangua Cemetery. Bolin's service record in the Civil War was verified by Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. After the story broke, Inman remarked, "Throughout their three years of marriage, there was no intimacy and she never lived with him. She never told her parents, siblings or anyone else about the wedding. She spent decades harboring this secret that had to be eating her alive." Inman understood the significance of the marriage and recommended to Helen that she reveal the marriage publicly. He felt the story should be told to the world, and so it came to light.

After revealing her story, Helen Jackson seemed to have found a new peace within herself. After years of avoiding her past, she seemed to embrace it. She spoke to schoolchildren about her life and even had a Facebook page. Several Civil War heritage groups, including the Sons of Union Veterans, recognized her place in history. She was honored at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Webster County and was given an honorary high school diploma from the Niangua High School Class of 1937. There was a play staged about her life in 2019. She was also recognized in the Missouri Walk of Fame. The Bolin family Bible has been on display in several museums. There was an exhibit dedicated to Helen Jackson and James Bolin at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum in Mansfield, Missouri. She received countless cards and letters during the last years of her life from all over the world. After Bolin's relatives found out about Jackson's role in his life, they went to the nursing home where she was living and presented her with a photo of him. "She broke down and cried," Inman recalled. "She kept touching the frame and said, This is the only man who ever loved me."



Sittin' in the Civil War

submitted by Peggy Burrows



Since In November, 2020, two Civil War era howitzer cannons were removed from the yard outside the old Fairfax Court House as ordered by the Fairfax County Supervisors. They had been sitting there since 1904. The National Park Service believes that it is unlikely that these are the two that were used by Army Capt. A. Van Horn Ellis at the first Battle of Manassas and which were abandoned to the Confederates when the Union Army retreated. But they are of the same type. One of the cannons was made by the Navy and has an anchor insignia on the barrel.

The National Park Service and the U.S. Navy both wanted the two cannons, but the Park Service prevailed and received them in March. They are being restored at the Manassas National Battlefield Park and the plan is to unveil them on July 17 to commemorate the anniversary of the battle.

To read the complete article, go to the Washington Post dated June 17, 2021, pages B1 and B2.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2021/06/16/civil-war-cannons-bull-run/>

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.

Go Crazy at Bett's Boutique!

The Gettysburg Address

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

-- Abraham Lincoln
Nov. 19, 1863

Mary Todd Lincoln's White Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 cup finely chopped almonds
- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 cups flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 cup milk
- 4 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Confectionery sugar



Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease a round bundt cake pan. Cream the butter and sugar together. Sift the flour, baking powder before adding it to the butter and sugar. Add in the milk and the almonds and mix a bit. Beat the egg whites until they are stiff and then fold into the batter. Then finally stir in the vanilla extract. Pour into pan and bake for one hour or until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean. Turn out onto a wire rack and cool. Once cooled, sift confectionery sugar over it.

Union Hardtack



Ingredients:

- 2 cups of flour
- 1/2 to 3/4 cup of water
- 1 tablespoon of Crisco or vegetable fat or lard
- 4 pinches of salt

Mix into a stiff batter and on a lightly floured surface, roll flat with a rolling pin to 1/8 of an inch thickness. Trim the edges and cut the dough into squares. Use a fork to poke holes into the squares. Bake on a lightly greased sheet at 350 degrees for twenty to twenty five minutes or until golden brown.



Patriotic Eyeglass Case

(glasses not included)

\$10.00

Proceeds go toward the
National Service Academy
Awards Fund



Tea Towels \$12/each

Mug \$14

Laser engraved wine tumbler \$17

Email orders to

crystalgeller@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.