

DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock
Valley Civil War Round Table



Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter March 2007, Volume 4 , Issue 3

Topic: Confederate Military Executions

Speaker: Kevin Levin

When: Monday, March 12, 2007. Social hour begins at 6:00, dinner at 6:45, business meeting at 7:30, Program/Speaker 8:00, Adjournment 9:00 pm

Location: Club 1440 LIVE (formerly Uncle Sam's Restaurant) in the Uptown section of Central Park

Dinner Reservations

We meet at Club 1440 LIVE in the Central Park area of Fredericksburg, Virginia. You may attend the meeting only. If you come for dinner, you must make advanced reservations following these rules. Reservations are required for dinner, and **MUST BE MADE BEFORE NOON ON THURSDAY, March 8, 2007.** The cost of the dinner is \$17. To make reservation, e-mail Bob Jones at 3dognight@bigplanet.com (preferred) or call (540) 399-1702 and leave a message on the answering machine. You will be **BILLED** for any reservation not canceled.

Program

Kevin Levin is a Civil War historian who works and teaches in Charlottesville.

The title of his of his talk is "It Was a Sad Sight and One That Deeply Depressed Me: Confederate Military Executions."

Lincoln Statue by Mac Wyckoff

Growing up in Oregon I had little exposure to the Civil War. Yet there are reminders of the Civil War in the state. Oregon became a state in 1859, the last state admitted to the Union before the war. Future Union generals Phil Sheridan, David Russell, Joe Hooker and Isaac Stevens spent time in Oregon before the war. Abraham Lincoln was offered the governorship of the Oregon Territory in 1849. He turned it down because his wife refused to take their children to such a wild and primitive area. Edward Baker, Lincoln's close friend, represented Oregon in the United States Senate until a Confederate bullet killed him at Ball's Bluff. Joseph Lane became territorial governor of Oregon and in 1859 represented the state in the United States Senate. Lane was the vice-presidential candidate of the southern wing of the Democratic Party in the 1860 election.

As the state population began to grow after the Civil War, town and county names reflect immigration patterns from both the northeast and southeast as well as Northern and Southern heroes. Cities and towns named after New England cities like Portland, Salem and Newport are balanced by those named after southern communities like Nashville, Sumter (named by some South Carolina immigrants after the fort) and McMinnville where I went to college which is named after a town in Tennessee. Counties named in honor of Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, Crook and Baker are balanced by counties named after Southern heroes Polk, Lane and Douglas. Fort Stevens where I worked as the first historian was shelled by the Japanese in World War II. It was named in honor of Union General Isaac Stevens killed at Chantilly. Several of the Japanese shells landed near Battery Russell named after Union General David Russell killed at Third Winchester. The big annual celebration in one Oregon community is called Phil Sheridan Days.



Lincoln Statue in Lincoln City, Oregon

But to the best of my knowledge there is only one statue in the state to a Civil War figure. A block off US Highway 101 and within sight of the mighty Pacific Ocean is a statue of Abraham Lincoln in Lincoln City, Lincoln County. The statue was erected on October 9, 1965 by artist Anna Hyatt Huntington. As a child she became fond of horses, even training them for a time. Her father encouraged her interest in modeling horses and built a studio in their home. As an adult she studied under Gutzon Borglum, who sculpted the faces on Mt. Rushmore. Although from New England, she and her husband founded the famous Brookgreen Gardens near Charleston, South Carolina. Her first show in New York

displayed over 40 animals, mostly horses. She became one of America's foremost animal sculptors, known for her wild and domestic animal sculpture as well as heroic monuments. This is reflected in her equestrian statue of Lincoln on the Oregon coast. It depicts Lincoln on horseback reading a book as he often did while studying law. A duplicate cast of the 14 foot statue stands in New Salem State Park where Lincoln lived as a young adult in Illinois and in Salzburg, Austria.



Lincoln Statue in New Salem State Park, Illinois

At the time of the dedication, Huntington wrote:

To the people of Lincoln County . . . as sharers in the noble history of the Old Oregon Territory, of which, in 1849, Abraham Lincoln was asked to be governor. The statue of Lincoln on horseback, reading, which I have this day given . . . is herewith commended to your special interest and concern. I hope that for you and your children, and for all who come after you in your beautiful State, it may stand as a reminder of your own heritage and an inspiration not only to seek education in youth, but in the spirit of Lincoln, to find, in frustration and disappointment at any age, new opportunity through further education.

THE NEST WHERE THE EGG WAS HATCHED

By Alan Zirkle

This restaurant, named "Wok 'N Roll," has very good Chinese food. I have eaten there several times. However, its fame (or infamy) in American History is derived from its association with a well-known 19th-century family. Do you know the historical significance of this building? The answer is given at the end of the newsletter.



**EIGHTH ANNUAL CIVIL WAR SEMINAR
“ROBERT E. LEE”
SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2007**

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and the Department of History and Political Science at Longwood University are pleased to present the Eighth Annual Civil War Seminar, Saturday, March 3, 2007. This year’s seminar will focus on “Robert E. Lee.” The program begins at 9:45 a.m. on the campus of Longwood University in the Hull Building, room 132, in Farmville, VA. The seminar is free and open to the public. Lunch is available at the Longwood University dining hall. The following is a list of times, speakers, and topics:

9:15 a.m. Doors open

9:45 a.m. Introduction by Dr. David Coles, History Professor, Longwood University

9:50 a.m. Doyle Sapp—“The Relationship Between Robert E. Lee and his father, ‘Light-Horse Harry’ Lee.”

10:25 a.m. Dr. Paul C. Reber—“Robert E. Lee and the Legacy of Colonial Virginia.”

Break

11:10 a.m. David Palmer—“A Visit with General Lee in the Field.” (A First Person Program)

12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Charles Bracelen Flood—"Lee, the Last Years: From Appomattox to his Death."

Break

2:45 p.m. Robert K. Krick—"Creating Lee in Their Own Image: Historians in the Age of the Anti-Hero."

3:45 p.m. Questions and Answer Session

Signs will be posted on the Longwood University Campus. For directions to the campus go to www.longwood.edu . For more information contact Dr. David Coles at 434-395-2220 or Patrick Schroeder at 434-352-8987, Ext. 32.

A Conversation with President and Mrs. Lincoln – A Review of the February Program by Greg Mertz

Last month's meeting of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table was held on February 12 – Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Appropriately our guest speakers for Lincoln's birthday were the Lincolns – in the persons of Dave and Eileen Patch. Though Dave's hair has turned white, he did indeed share a likeliness with the former president. He and his wife wore period dress as they delivered a dialogue between Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. They told several anecdotes about Lincoln, quoted material from Lincoln's more prominent speeches, and our Mrs. Lincoln played the piano while the members of the round table sang a few period songs.

Among the stories shared was one originating with Fred Seward, the son of Lincoln's Secretary of State William Seward. Lincoln and Seward developed a strong friendship, and as such Seward became the object of some of Lincoln's humor. Seward once went through the White House looking for Lincoln, finding the president engaged in the task of shining his boots. Protesting that this was chore was too menial for so prominent a person, Seward declared "we do not blacken our own boots." Lincoln good-naturedly asked Seward, "Indeed, then whose boots do you blacken, Mr. Secretary?"

Sometimes Lincoln shared what he thought were humorous incidents at the expense of others. One such occasion originated with Senator Thaddeus Stevens, who was adamantly opposed to president-elect Lincoln's selection of Simon Cameron as Secretary of War. During a conversation between Lincoln and Stevens, the president asked "You don't mean to say you think Cameron would steal?" "No," Stevens replied sarcastically, "I don't think he would steal a red-hot stove." Later, Lincoln apparently decided to tease Cameron about Stevens' comments, but Cameron failed to see the humor in it. Stevens later sought an explanation of Lincoln, asking "Why did you tell Cameron what I said to you?" "I thought it was a good joke," rationalized Lincoln, "and didn't think it would make him mad." "Well, he is very mad," Stevens reproved, "and made me promise to retract." "I will now do so," Stevens continued. "I believe I told you he would not steal a red-hot stove," Stevens recollected. "I will now take that back."

Lincoln often combined his humor with some very poignant points. One such incident involved the popular Southern tune "Dixie" during the waning hours of the Confederacy. Richmond had fallen, and Lincoln had been visiting Grant and the Federal army when the Confederate capitol fell. On April 8, 1865 Lincoln boarded a ship to return to Washington and surprised the band director with a request to play "Dixie." "That tune is now Federal property," the president declared, and the playing of the tune served as a conciliatory gesture "to show the rebels that, with us in power, they will be free to hear it again." When back in Washington, the surrender at Appomattox was announced, and Lincoln once again requested that "Dixie" be played in public. Perhaps Lincoln's treatment of "Dixie" during the last week of his life was indicative of the tenor his reconstruction policies would have taken.



Lincoln's kindness and forgiving nature were as evident in the beginning of the war as they were at the end. On the night of September 3, 1861, Private William Scott of the 3rd Vermont fell asleep on the picket line across the Potomac River from Washington. He was court-martialed and sentenced to death by a firing squad. Hundreds in the Federal army, however, signed a petition calling for Scott's pardon. The twenty-two year old, green soldier had volunteered to replace a sick comrade for picket duty the night before, and then drew picket duty himself the following night. Trying to go without sufficient sleep two nights in a row fatigued this otherwise solid soldier to such a degree that he could not stay awake. The harsh sentence was the first such of the young war. The execution was set for September 8.

Lincoln became aware of the incident on the evening of September 7. He sent a telegraph ordering a stay of execution, but when confirmation that the message had been received in the Federal camp was not forthcoming, Lincoln climbed into a carriage and rode ten miles through the night to personally make sure that his order was received. At the appointed hour of the execution, the men were formed up to witness the shooting. Scott was placed in front of a firing squad. The findings of the courts martial and the sentence were read ... followed by the proclamation that due to the circumstances, Scott "will be released from confinement and returned to duty." The "Sleeping Sentinel," William Scott proved to be a brave soldier. Seven months later, he was killed charging a Confederate position at Lee's Mill on the Peninsula east of Richmond. He is buried in the Yorktown National Cemetery.

The program provided our organization with a glimpse of many aspects of the life and characteristics of the Lincolns in an interesting and creative format.

Frank Walker Historic Bus Tour of Orange County

Join Frank S. Walker Jr., Orange County's premiere historian and noted author, and the Friends of Wilderness Battlefield for a day-long comfortable coach tour of historic areas and homes within Orange County on Friday March 23.

The tour will include views of a host of antebellum structures, including churches and other public buildings as well as private residences. Historic areas to be highlighted include the Plank Roads and the Blue Ridge Turnpike, as well as Barboursville, Germanna, Gordonsville, and Montpelier.

Leaving PROMPTLY from the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse lower level parking lot at 8:30am and returning at 5pm, this event requires reservations. The cost for the tour is \$65 (\$60 for FoWB members), which includes snacks and lunch at Mario's Restaurant in the Town of Orange.

To RSVP or for further information, contact Dwight Mottet, 215 Creekside Drive, Locust Grove, VA 22508, (540) 972-3204, e-mail dwightmottet@aol.com . Frank Walker's previous tours have sold out early. For reservations to be confirmed, payment must first be received.

Checks, made payable to "Friends of Wilderness Battlefield" can be mailed to Dwight Mottet at the address above. Proceeds from the bus tour will benefit the Friends of Wilderness Battlefield.

Robert E. Lee Symposium

Robert E. Lee Bicentennial Symposium, April 28, 2007, at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. Registration will be \$ 150. The event is sponsored by The Stephen Dill Lee Institute of the University of South Carolina. The Institute was established in 2005 by the Sons of Confederate <http://www.scv.org/> or contact Brag Bowling at 804-389-3620.

Help the National Park Service

The National Park Service needs your help with a project at Chatham. They are looking for "Temporary Volunteers" to spend one or two four-hour sessions (or more, which would be better) to scan original and Civil War era books in their research library so that they can be stored on computer disks.

This is an important project that will help preserve rare documents and permit wider access for those wishing to conduct research. Currently, due to the fragile condition of the documents, access must be limited.

If you would like to volunteer, you will be trained in how to scan the documents. Contact Tom Cleland at cleland.thomas@gmail.com .

Join the Ranks by Becoming a Battlefield Volunteer!



Consider joining the ranks of the many volunteer Historical Interpreters who help out at the Fredericksburg or Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Centers or Chatham by attending a volunteer training class and see what it's all about. The next session will be Monday, March 12, from 9-5. It will be held at the training room in the National Park Service maintenance facility near Four Mile Fork. We will also be scheduling a weekend date in March or April.

This classroom training is the first step. It will include orientation to the National Park Service, the park organizational structure, and definitions of some commonly used phrases, and the volunteer program. The majority of the classroom training will include scenarios where we will role-play some of the typical -- and not so typical -- things that happen at information desks.

Attending this initial training session involves no commitment. The training is an excellent way to get a taste of the position without actually performing it, to determine what the park expects, and an opportunity to see if this is something that you would like to do.

To reach the training room, go to the Four Mile Fork area of Spotsylvania County, where the Jefferson Davis Highway (US 1) intersects with the Courthouse Road (Rt. 208) and Lafayette Boulevard (US Business 1). Just north of the intersection and immediately north of the Hardees Restaurant is Industrial Drive. From the Jefferson Davis Highway, if traveling south, turn right; if traveling north, turn left, and drive down Industrial Drive. Turn right onto Freedom Court, the second road on the right. The Maintenance facility is at the end of Freedom Court and is marked with a sign containing the National Park Service Arrowhead. Park in the fenced-in parking area to the left. Just beyond the parking area is another fence surrounding the Maintenance buildings. The training building is the lone rectangular building closest to the parking area on the other side of the fence.

In case of inclement weather, please call the park weather closing information line at 540-654-5532 that morning. If you plan to attend, please let us know that that we may be sure to have enough training manuals. To RSVP, or ask any questions, or to be informed of future training courses, please contact Stacy Humphreys at 540-373-5167 or stacy_humphreys@nps.gov or Greg Mertz at (540) 373-6124 or at greg_mertz@nps.gov.

JOHN A. RAWLINS

by Joseph Truglio

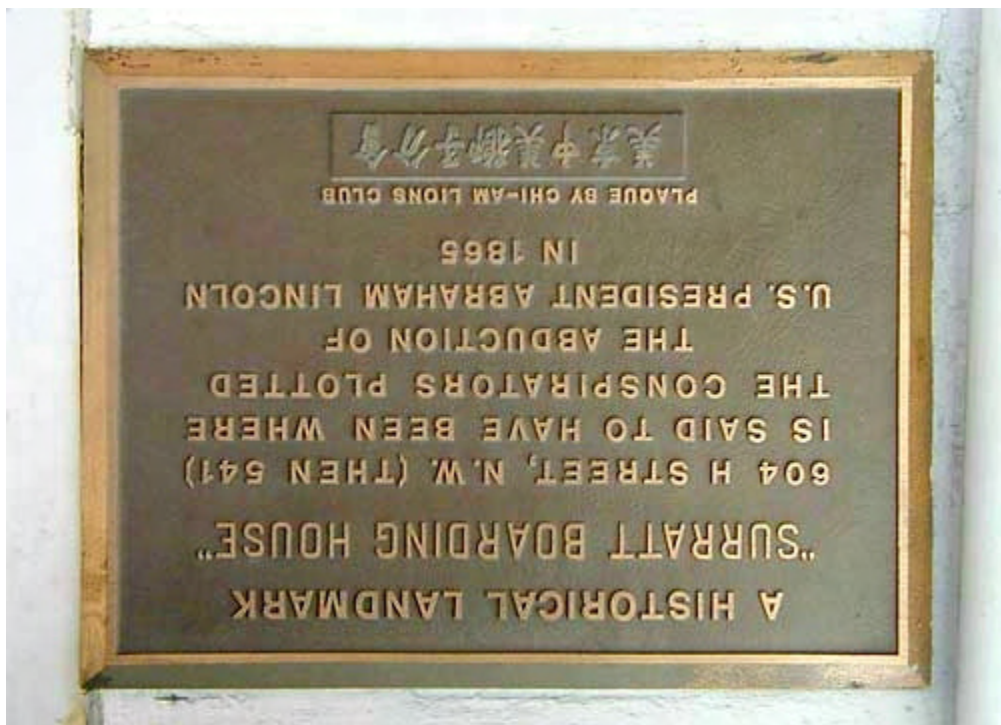
Who? John Aaron Rawlins, that's who. Most of us have an idea of who he was but do we really know what he was all about? History tells us of the protective cloak he covered Grant with, but what about the man himself? He is a virtual unknown in the legacy of Civil War Generals. James Wilson, the cavalryman, wrote a biography of Rawlins in 1916, but I have been unable to find a copy. So began the search for John Rawlins. I used the internet; books like *Generals in Blue*; and a variety of other publications, etc. etc. to come up with a profile of this man. Here goes. Rawlins was born in Galena, IL. on 13Feb1831. He attended local schools and then attended the Rock River Seminary in Mt. Morris, IL. For eighteen months. His father left the family for the Gold Rush in California in 1849 and this made John the sole family provider. He studied law under a local attorney, Isaac Stevens and was admitted to the Bar in 1854. He began a practice in Galina and was involved with local Democratic politics there. He married his first wife in 1856, was elected city attorney in 1857, and was appointed a presidential elector on the Douglas ticket in 1860. When war broke he helped organize the 45th Illinois Inf. and was made a Major in the regiment. It is here that he first meets U.S. Grant. Grant hears him speak at a local Union rally and asks him to join him in the 21st Illinois regiment as his aide. Rawlins is appointed a Lt. in the regiment and begins his life long career with Grant. His first wife dies in late '61 of tuberculosis, an illness that will plague him all his life. Rawlins remains with Grant for the entire war, gaining rank along with Grant. When Grant is appointed Commander in Chief, Rawlins is made Chief of Staff of General Headquarters, U.S. Army. He achieves the rank of Brvt. MGen. 9Apr1865 in the regular Army, and permanent rank of BGen.

It is here we learn that Rawlins has contracted tuberculosis. He goes west to assist in the survey of the Union Pacific RR in Utah. His doctors suggest he remain there for health reasons and help to prolong his life. He refuses. Grant has called upon him again. He is appointed as Secretary of War on 11March1869. He resigns from the Army to serve with Grant in his administration. He goes to Washington City and serves till his premature death on 6September1869. He is buried in the Congressional Cemetery. He is later removed and reburied in Arlington National Cemetery.

It is here we learn that the only member of Grants Administration to attend the funeral is William Tecumseh Sherman, his temporary successor. It seems that Grant and Rawlins grew distant after the War. Legend says that Grant felt he no longer needed a 'guardian angel' and did not want Rawlins to gain too much credit for keeping him 'focused' during his War years. Grant only mentions Rawlins twice in his memoirs. Rawlins, however, remained absolutely loyal to Grant until his premature death.

Controversy remains to this day as to the reasons for Grant's behavior towards John Rawlins. Regardless of whatever differences that may have occurred, a man who spent his whole life in loyal service to you deserved a better tribute in death. Shame on you Sam.

“THE NEST WHERE THE EGG WAS HATCHED” -- ANSWER



The Drum and Bugle is published monthly by the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Roundtable, P.O. Box 7632, Fredericksburg, VA 22404. Dues are \$30 for individuals, \$40 for families, and \$7.50 for students. Membership is open to anyone interested in the study of the Civil War and the preservation of Civil War sites. Greg Martin is President; Joe Bongiovi, Vice President; Bob Jones, Secretary; Barbara Stafford, Treasurer; Lois Wilson, Newsletter Editor; John Graham, John Griffiths, Greg Mertz, Tom Quigley, Melanie Jordan, Greg Martin, Terry Matthews, Marc Thompson, Bob Pfile, and Dan Augustine, Members of the Board of Directors