



THE DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter
June 2016, Volume 13, Issue 6

Speaker: Megan McNish
Topic: "Reminiscences of War: Memoirs of the 33rd USCT"
When: Monday, June 13, 2016
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm

Abstract on Megan McNish, our Scheduled Speaker for Monday, June 13, 2016

By Jim Smithfield

Our speaker for Monday June 13, 2016, will be Megan McNish. She is a graduate of Gettysburg College with a B.A. in History. Ms. McNish has worked with the National Park Service as an intern at Appomattox Court House and at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, where she also served as a seasonal employee. Her latest scholarly work, "'Spare Your Country's Flag': Unionist Sentiment in Frederick, Maryland 1860 – 1865," was recently published in the Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era. She has also written extensively for the Gettysburg Compiler, the Civil War Institute's blog. Ms. McNish will begin graduate school in the fall and she will be pursuing a master's degree in History with a concentration in Public History.

Ms. McNish will present her research regarding Thomas Wentworth Higginson and Susan Baker King Taylor, the colonel and a laundress for the 33rd United States Colored Troops. Higginson was a well-known abolitionist, a member of John Brown's 'Secret Six,' and a Boston elite who frequently rubbed elbows with Emily Dickenson. Miss Taylor, on the other hand, is a little known figure, but one of the few African American women of her day to write a memoir. These two memoirs paint a vivid picture of the ways in which race, class, and gender affected an individual's views of American society in the later half of the 19th and even into the early 20th century.

"Jackson's Last Map"

Presented by Elizabeth R. Parnicza

Review of the May 2016 program by Greg Mertz

The topic was particularly fitting for a program on the eve of the 153rd anniversary of the death of Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson – an examination of a sketch map drawn in Jackson's own hand during the Chancellorsville Campaign. Although the map itself is of great interest, it has become part of a larger artifact, which with all of the various entities combined makes it one of the most spectacular of Civil War related objects. Jackson's map was inserted into a book – which was the first book off of the press, of the first biography ever written on Jackson. This first such book was also the personal copy of Robert E. Lee, which he

signed on May 3, 1867, the fourth anniversary of the Battle of Chancellorsville. In addition to inserting Jackson's map into the book, Lee also inserted a cut signature of Jackson. It is truly a remarkable relic.

The earliest known discussion of this map that would have involved park staff goes back to June, 1932, when a copy of the map was given to the five year old park. The entire artifact containing the map was later donated to the park in 1940, after donor Roland Taylor was confident that the park was capable of providing proper security. The map was presumed to be associated with the famous cracker box conference.

Beginning on the night of May 1 and continuing into the morning of May 2, the discussion between Lee and Jackson seated on discarded hardtack boxes, revolved around whether the Union position had a weakness that the Confederates could exploit. The discussion intensified when Stuart's cavalry reported that the Union right flank was in the air. The Confederates would endeavor to flank the Yankees if a road network existed leading to the vulnerable end of the line. When word of a potential road network was delivered to the generals, Lee asked Jackson what he proposed to do. "Go around here," Jackson replied to the commanding general as he traced a route on a map leading to the exposed Union right flank. Was the map in the park's curatorial collection that map or another used at the cracker box conference and the planning of Jackson's famous, final military maneuver? Our speaker, Beth Parnicza, argued that the map was not likely to have been used for that purpose.

Parnicza noted that when the park staff considered the interpretation of the map, they realized that while it is undoubtedly a treasured piece, it is also a mystery. Rather than explaining a lot about Jackson in his final campaign, the map actually raises more questions than it answers.

As she sought to understand the map, Parnicza asked "What does the map tells us about Jackson?" She first observed that it is to scale. An overlay on the map shows that the spacing between labeled landmarks on Jackson's map is quite accurate. It also shows his familiarity with the ground. Jackson did pass through the eventual battlefield enroute from the Shenandoah Valley to the Battle of Fredericksburg.

The next question Ms. Parnicza addressed was "At what point does he draw and use this map?" She pointed out two substantial problems with the theory that the sketch map was used while Lee and Jackson deliberated the flank march and attack. First she highlighted the activities of Jackson's famous map maker, Jedidiah Hotchkiss. During the winter of 1862-63 Jackson focused on getting caught up on writing his battle reports and Hotchkiss concentrated on preparing maps to accompany those reports. Most of his work was providing maps of what Jackson's corps had already done rather than what the command would be doing. (A notable exception was a map of Pennsylvania that Jackson asked Hotchkiss to prepare, perhaps an indication of the early plans for what would become the Gettysburg Campaign.)

Not until April 17, 1863, did Jackson ask his map maker to prepare documents of the immediate vicinity of Spotsylvania and Culpeper Counties, extending to the Virginia Central Railroad. At midday on May 1, 1863, on the first day of the Battle of Chancellorsville, Hotchkiss had completed enough copies of maps of the Chancellorsville area for each division commander to have one. When Jackson sat down to confer with Lee about possible options the Confederate army might pursue, he had access to an accurate and detailed map by Hotchkiss. He would not have needed to use a crude sketch map, as the one in question, in any of their discussions, including the important portion of the meeting in which Jackson traced the route of the flank march on a map.

Beside the availability of a better map to consult, the second element that makes it unlikely that Jackson's sketch map was used at the cracker box conference, is that the map lacks some essential aspects of the discussion. The map shows no Union troop positions at Chancellorsville, including not showing the location of the Union right flank – the target of Jackson's attack. The map shows the Brock Road quite prominently. However, it does not include any of the other roads Jackson had used during his flank march, including the absence of what is today called the *Jackson Trail West*. This was a critical road that Jackson was confident was far enough away from Union pickets to thus enable the Confederates to avoid being detected by the enemy.

Parnicza also noted that Jackson included a map with his last dispatch from the battlefield to Lee, sent near 3:00 p.m., about two hours before launching the flank attack. The map examined in the program does not show any details of the flank attack area, and is most certainly not that map.

When was the map likely to have been used? Parnicza feels that it is a map Jackson used early in the campaign, in part because of the landmarks included in the sketch. Many of the landmarks are known obvious regional landmarks, but one of the specific, somewhat obscure sites on the map is "Tabernacle," obviously marking the location of Tabernacle Church on the Orange Plank Road. This is where Anderson's division made a stand on April 30, 1863 and the destination of Jackson's May 1 march, strongly supporting Parnicza's contention of this being an early campaign map.

The book with the sketch map is vulnerable to light and for preservation reasons it is kept in museum storage eleven months out of the year. However it is placed on display at the *Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center* annually during the month of May, this is so that it is on display for the anniversary of the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Remember: Contact Bob Jones to order your Dinner in advance

To Confirm Your Reservations: Telephone 540-399-1702 or e-mail cwrtddinner@yahoo.com

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**We know the Union had black soldiers, but were there black Confederate Soldiers?
(Part One of Two)**

By Jim Smithfield

It appears through my review of this subject, that a number of *black Southerners* did find their way into combat situations within Confederate armies in various ways. Perhaps the largest number of black Southerners that did, were the ample number of *body servants* brought along to the army by white officers and white soldiers. One interesting fact which I've found, is that at Fort Mill, SC, there is a very unusual, but notable monument, it was placed there well over one hundred years ago containing the following inscription:

Dedicated to the faithful slaves who, loyal to a sacred trust toiled for the support of the Army with matchless devotion . . . guarded "Our Confederate States of America"

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Body servants were not laborers as were used in work-gangs, nor were they enlisted as were the soldiers who'd volunteered on their own. However, many of them were paid for their services. The actual *body servants* were those slaves/free black men who before the Civil War began, had been cooks, butlers, carriage-drivers and other semi-skilled workers, most of these individuals had never worked in the fields. Instead they had worked in the so called *big house* on the plantations or they had worked on small farms along-side of their white owners. It has often been pointed out, that many *body servants* had grown up with the children of their masters and that they had been close, though often ambivalent, in their relationships with the white children. Sam Newsom (*a former slave*) from Tennessee remembered the relationship he had with a white boy and thus he linked it to his Confederate service:

We was sort of brought up together, master Will and I was, and maybe that's why everybody seemed to sort of trust him to me. I used to rock him to sleep. He got to be a fine and reckless sort of gentleman. Then, the war came, I went with master Will. Nothing could stop him and I knew he would need me. He got to be a first lieutenant in the cavalry. I slept in the same tent. When he was fighting I stayed with the ambulances . . . I got wounded once at the Battle of Sullivan's Creek. Master Will was killed at Chickamauga. I brought his body home. I smuggled him by the pickets, hired a wagon and got him to Chattanooga. From there I brought him on home . . .

Taken from the book "It Happened in the Civil War" by Michael R. Bradley

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In 1862, an English observer who was stationed with the *Army of Northern Virginia* stated that there were over 30,000 *body servants* in just the *Army of Northern Virginia* alone, of course he meant cooks, valets, and personal attendants as well (These black men who worked as *body servants* thus freed many of the white soldiers to be part of the fight).

Taken from the book "Black Southerners In Gray" written by Richard Rollins

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Sergeant George Dance

Sergeant George Dance was a black man and he was a former slave. Dance, had begun by serving as a color bearer and later he served as the color sergeant of the 8th Tennessee Infantry, CSA. Dance had been the former slave for the family of the 8th Tennessee's regimental surgeon. After the Civil War had ended, Sergeant George Dance applied for and received a full Confederate pension.

Taken from the book "It Happened in the Civil War" by Michael R. Bradley

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Chief Inspector for the U.S. Sanitary Commission L. H. Steiner

In September 1862, L. H. Steiner, was the Chief Inspector for the U.S. Sanitary Commission and just prior to the battle of Antietam, Steiner observed and noted that Major General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson had well over 3,000 Negroes marching in with his troops. Steiner further noted that they all wore mostly military style gray uniforms of various sorts and that most of them carried weapons. Mr. Steiner had been a direct witness to the Confederate Army's invasion and that same army's very brief occupation of Frederick, Maryland. Steiner also noted, that most of the black men marching with Jackson's army appeared to be an integral part of this swift moving force . . .

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The Louisiana Native Guard



The *Louisiana Native Guards* demonstrated what the free black men of New Orleans, Louisiana thought about supporting the Confederacy. You see, the *Louisiana Native Guards* were formed as a militia regiment, originally comprised of 1,400 black men ". . . these men voluntarily offered their services to Dixie" in early April of 1861. The following Spring, 3,000 black men along with their white officers reorganized themselves into the *1st Native Guard of Louisiana*. These pro-Confederate black men were formed as a militia group primarily for the protection of the city of New Orleans. After these men had paraded in their Confederate uniforms through the city of New Orleans, they were described in one New Orleans newspaper as "*rebel Negroes . . . well drilled . . . and uniformed.*" Various historians today argue that the *Native Guards* were in fact a unique circumstance. Some individuals argue that the difference between Louisiana and the rest of the South was Louisiana's peculiar tri-racial system? This may very well be true, as the state of Louisiana's population was certainly different than most parts of the Confederacy.

You see, the population of Louisiana consisted of many "*Spanish*" and "*Creole*" families. It was therefore easier for Louisiana to accept black men for military service. So, for that reason some historians today like to separate the free "*black men*" of that state from the rest of the black population throughout the Southern Confederacy. It is also interesting to note, that in the 1860, *U.S. Census* it was reported that there were well over 250,000 free blacks living throughout the South.

Initially many of the Southern states did have free black men who had volunteered their services to the Confederacy. Yet, as with most things, some states accepted these black volunteers, while other states did not! It is worthy of note, that in the fall of 1861, there were slaves in Alabama who were gathered together, organized and then trained to be Confederate soldiers. Also in Virginia, in 1861, there had been 60 free black men who'd formed their own company and they marched into Richmond, there to volunteer their services, i.e., to help in the coming Confederate war effort. In fact, several free black volunteer companies offered their services to the Confederate Government during the early days of the Civil War. However, the *Confederate War Department* declared that these black units would not be needed at that point in time, and they each were thus sent home . . .

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Andrew & Silas Chandler

The year; 1994, the place; West Point, Mississippi, the location; an older portion of a very old local cemetery. The action taken, involved a posthumous ceremony placing a *Southern Cross of Honor* onto the grave of one *Silas Chandler*, a black man. The group who had sponsored this action, were non-other than *The Sons of Confederate Veterans*. It should be noted that the *Southern Cross of Honor* was created in the year 1900, by *The Daughters of The Confederacy*. This award was initially developed as a means for their organization to honor Confederate soldiers who had performed acts of valor on Civil War battlefields. How then, did Silas Chandler earn this honor? Since this award was not given to him until 1994, whatever did Silas Chandler do to earn it? The number of black men who are today claimed to have fought for the South has become a figure that appears to be growing into the thousands!

Silas Chandler was born into slavery on January 1, 1837, in Virginia, as a youngster, Silas was taken along with forty other slaves to Palo Alto, Mississippi. His master, Roy Chandler, moved to Palo Alto, after receiving a grant for land from an 1831, treaty which displaced a local Indian Tribe. Silas was just seven years old when Roy Chandler's son, Andrew, was born. Of course, one being a slave, the other being the master, they lived and grew up in very different worlds.

When the Civil War began in 1861, young Andrew Chandler enlisted as a private in what would become Company F, 44th Mississippi Infantry Regiment. Later, the 44th became part of the *Army of Tennessee* and they fought at Belmont, Shiloh, Murfreesboro and Chickamauga. Silas went to war as Andrew's *body servant*, this was a position that many thousands of black men shared. Prior to their leaving Mississippi, many of the men of the 44th had photos taken and this may be when the picture shown above originated. There are two separate photos, each shows Silas and Andrew holding various weapons, including one showing Silas with a shotgun laid across his lap. Of course, the question arises did Silas see combat, or was he restricted from combat as black men were directed to be by the Confederate Government?

In September 1863, Andrew Chandler was seriously wounded in both his leg and foot during the *Battle of Chickamauga*. Silas faithfully stayed by Andrew and ultimately he delivered him to a hospital in Atlanta where he assisted in Andrews nursing and his daily care, i.e., until Andrew's family came from Mississippi to assist them both in returning home. It is very likely that without Silas' help and assistance, his master's life would have been in jeopardy. You see, as Andrew could neither stand nor walk, Silas carried Andrew on his back for most of the way to Atlanta, i.e., upon leaving from the Chickamauga battlefield.

These two Mississippians grew up as childhood playmates. They were prematurely thrust into adult roles and they went off together to experience the adventure and the horror of war. It is not difficult to speculate that as a result of their sharing these very trying life experiences, that a special bond existed between these two young men. However, over the generations since the Civil War, Andrew Chandler's family lost touch with the family of Silas Chandler . . .

Contributed by Andrew Chandler Battaile of Belden, Mississippi,

"A couple of years ago my wife and son and I had a moving and emotional experience. We had the pleasure of visiting by phone with Silas' great grandson, Bobbie Chandler, who now resides in Washington, D.C. For us, it was truly as if we had been reunited with a missing part of our family. Bobbie Chandler still returns to Mississippi to visit relatives and it is our hope that we will be able to meet with him and his relatives and renew the bonds that existed between our ancestors."

Taken from the book "Black Southerners In Gray" written and compiled by Richard Rollins

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Black men, both free and slave were employed as body servants, cooks, teamsters, laborers and even as guards by the Confederate armies. Yet, it was not until the final weeks of the Civil War that black men officially saw service as Confederate soldiers. Yet, it is still an interesting fact to note; that Union records written and dated April 9, 1865, list 36 free black Confederates, as surrendered along with the white elements of Lee's army, each of these 36 black men were clothed in Confederate uniforms when they surrendered . . .

Who we are?

The *Drum and Bugle Newsletter* is published monthly, by the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 7632, Fredericksburg, VA 22404. Each month, The Drum and Bugle newsletter is also placed on our web-site, www.RVCWRT.org. Yearly membership dues are still just \$30.00 for individuals, \$40.00 for families, and it's still only \$7.50 for students. Membership is open to anyone interested in the study of the Civil War and the ongoing preservation of Civil War sites.

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