



THE DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter

October 2015, Volume 12, Issue 10

Speaker: Gary Castellino
Topic: "The First Battle of the Crater' at Vicksburg"
When: Monday, October 12, 2015
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm

Abstract on, Gary Castellino our Scheduled Speaker Monday, October 12, 2015

By Jim Smithfield

Our speaker for October will be Gary Castellino. Gary graduated from Pepperdine University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and currently lives in Fairfax, VA. Gary has had an unusual variety of career paths, these included professional musician, stunt man, rodeo rider, metallurgist, martial arts instructor and a park/living history guide at Fort Tejon, California. Castellino was also the Chief Information Officer for a number of large companies.

Gary has lived previously in Los Angeles and New York before being assigned overseas for 10 years. He's worked all over the world, including London, Paris, Istanbul, Asia, mainland Europe, Australia and the South Pacific. He's worked as a volunteer at George Washington's 1783 headquarters in New Jersey as an interpreter. In March of 2010, Gary joined the Park Service at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP as a seasonal.

Gary has worked multiple seasons at Fredericksburg, Death Valley and Petersburg. In 2013 he took a one year term appointment to Vicksburg NMP to assist with interpretive programs for their 150th commemoration as well as developing and presenting a number of children's education and outreach programs held at the park, local schools, museums and libraries.

Did you know that there was a "First Battle of the Crater"

By Gary Castellino

This first battle of the Crater involved the Union's Assault on the 3rd Louisiana Regiment. By spring of 1863, the northern press and politicians had carefully scrutinized and criticized the failures of the Union Armies in the Eastern Theater, particularly those of the *Army of the Potomac*. The most recent of these disasters had been the defeat of "Fighting Joe" Hooker at the *Battle of Chancellorsville* in early May. The magnitude of this defeat prompted Lincoln to lament "My God, what will the country say?"

However, all was not as bleak as the Northern press would have the people believe. There was a

relatively obscure Union general, whose name would later become synonymous with the ultimate Union victory, who had provided the northern cause with a series of stunning successes in the western theater, prompting President Lincoln to make further favorable comments.

Yet, by mid-spring and into the summer of 1863, Union forces seemed to be engaged in what appeared then to be a “*never-ending*” siege of Vicksburg, the very “key” to ultimate Union success in the west. This siege would ultimately last for a total of 47 days. An event would take place in the late afternoon on the 25th of June, 1863, which has since been relegated to relative obscurity, i.e., except to many avid students of the Civil War and to some “Buff’s”. This was an event that would portend a more famous and infamous “Battle of the Crater” occurring more than a year later. The first “Battle of the Crater”, was the Union Assault on the Third Louisiana Redan at the battle for Vicksburg. Each, they only sold 300 tickets. The woman who won the raffle in turn gave it to former Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Today that quilt is in the possession of the Museum of the Confederacy . . .

“After Appomattox: Civil War Monuments & Confederate Commemoration”

By Dr. Douglas Butler

A Review of our September Presentation by Greg Mertz

One of the most common questions asked of our September speaker as he does book signings for his illustrated history of the North Carolina Civil War Monuments, is why he wrote the book. To this Dr. Butler has responded that it was because of his father who told him that Civil War monuments were controversial and someday people would argue that they should be taken down. Little did we know months ago when we booked Dr. Butler to make his presentation that his message would be so very timely regarding current events!

The monuments Dr. Butler photographed and wrote about were not at all what he expected. Butler anticipated monuments conveying that the Confederacy was right and just and expressing the desire that the South would rise again. Instead he found they were all expressions of grief.

The first Civil War monument in the state was erected in Fayetteville, NC. It dates to December 30, 1868, but its origins may have begun before the war was even over. The monument was erected over the graves of some thirty Confederate soldiers. The funds for the monument were raised by the raffling of a quilt, made by the ladies of Fayetteville. While their goal was to sell a thousand raffle tickets at \$1.00

This first monument had several characteristics in common with all of the other monuments. They were erected in cemeteries containing graves of Confederate soldiers who died during the war. Quite some time would pass before any monuments were placed in what Dr. Butler describes as “civic space.” In the years immediately after the Civil War, the people of the South did not want to place monuments in highly visible areas where they might have to see them on a daily basis only to be constantly reminded of their immense losses and suffering from the war.

Also, the earliest monuments were erected by the women of the South. Men were not permitted to gather in public, particularly to participate in any Confederate related activities. So, the plight of burying the Confederate dead and constructing monuments fell to the ladies.

After all of the Confederate bodies were buried and the monuments erected over the cemeteries, a moratorium on monuments occurred for about ten years. By then enough people began to feel that monuments commemorating the deeds of the Confederate would be appropriate in civic spaces. The community of Little Washington constructed a monument that was initially displayed in a public space, but it was later moved to the cemetery. The monument had a statue on top of Captain Thomas M. Allen -- one of the immortal 600 – a group of Confederate prisoners held in front of the Federal lines on Morris Island as a “*human shield*” in protest and retaliation of the poor treatment of Federal prisoners held at Andersonville and Salisbury. Captain Allen was chosen for depiction because he was the nephew of the main benefactor of the monument.

The first monument to be permanently placed in a public space was done so in Concord, NC, in 1892. The dedication ceremony also reflected another change, which was hardly coincidental with the unique high visibility of the monument. It was observed that not even half of the people in the audience

present at the dedication had any personal memory of the Civil War that had ended 27 years earlier. The purpose of the monument was to tell future generations who did not know details of the four year struggle of the Confederacy and its soldiers and to place that monument in a prominent place so that it could not be ignored.

The placement of monuments was not without internal controversies. Efforts to raise money for a \$25,000 monument on capitol square in Raleigh included a request for a loan from the state legislature, which fell on deaf ears. But when the legislature saw fit to take a day off in honor of Frederick Douglass in the aftermath of his death, a local newspaper took the legislatures to task, questioning how they could so revere “old Fred” as they called him, when they could not participate in an effort to laud the Confederate soldier. In short order, the legislature appropriated a \$15,000 gift – not the loan that had been requested by the monument advocates.

The raising of another monument at Tarboro, NC, met with opposition when it appeared that it would require that several stately oak trees would need to be cut down to make space for the memorial. Others argued that only one or two overhanging limbs needed to be cut back and they called for the town to be responsible for cleaning the monument of any stains from tree sap. The monument was dedicated in 1904, but it was unclear from the debate in the newspapers just what the fate of the oak trees was.

The controversy of the Tarboro monument did not end with its dedication. During a subsequent Memorial Day commemoration, when an honor guard fired a salute, one of them had a loaded gun and shot the statue of a soldier on the top of the monument, shooting into its hind end.

Some of the monuments have some interesting features. As Butler gave illustrated talks around the state of North Carolina on his photographs and research, a living history historian, asked if he noticed anything unusual about a monument in Jackson which contained a soldier on the top. The audience member pointed out that the soldier had his hands resting over the muzzle of the gun – and that the hammer of the gun was cocked.

The only Zinc monument in the state is at Columbia, and the monument has some interesting wording. It contains the phrase “in appreciation of our faithful slaves.” It is the only Confederate monument in the state making reference to slaves or slavery.

Union monuments were also erected in North Carolina. Several were even placed in the National Cemetery of the Salisbury prison. Interestingly the dedications of these monuments in the South were not controversial. Instead they tended to be gestures of reconciliation, with Confederate veterans often assisting their Northern *brothers in arms* to work with the local contractors and such to build these monuments.

At the dedication ceremonies, the veterans of both sides participated in the events. Douglas also shared some aspects of the companies involved in the construction of the monuments and how the monuments were made. The stone was typically the most expensive aspect of each monument. Bronze sheet metal soldiers could be purchased for only \$150.00. Many of these were made in Italy, a very inexpensive place to purchase such items. Different types of soldiers could be ordered from catalogues and some companies even boasted about having soldiers in stock. In fact some companies even had soldiers with identical bodies, but their customers could choose from among many different heads, including an older bearded warrior or a younger clean shaven soldier. Some 25-30 pieces of sheet metal were welded together in order to make a complete statue.

RVCWRT History Alert Program

By Jim Smithfield

RVCWRT member Alan Zirkle, provides a totally free service, which notifies his subscribers about any/all upcoming local history events in the Fredericksburg general area. This is done via the subscribers recorded e-mail address, it concerns upcoming history-related events. RVCWRT members receive Alan’s important messages. If you do not now, but would like to receive “*History Alerts*” please just send your e-mail to Alan noting this fact @ az@azirkle.com.

Remember: Contact Bob Jones to order your Dinner in advance

To Confirm Your Reservations; Telephone 540-399-1702 or e-mail 3dognight@Bigplanet.Com

The life of Philip Whitlock

By Jim Smithfield



Philip Whitlock was born on March 14, 1838 and died November 9, 1919, in Richmond, VA
Whitlock was born in what was in 1838, Kovoal/Kowal, Russia
(This town is now located in modern day Poland)

In 1853, at the age of 15, Philip Whitlock left Poland (then Russia) to join his family members living in America. He had an arduous journey going across Eastern Europe. The journey took him to Berlin, Bremen, and Bremerhaven before finally sailing to New York City. After staying with his relatives in New York City, Phillip moved to Richmond, Virginia, on August 4, 1854. In Richmond, he lived with his older brother while working as a tailor's assistant for his sister-in-law's uncle, a Prussian born tailor and family patriarch, Ellis Morris of E. Morris & Company. Morris's first commercial venture was a small store located in Richmond's Shockoe Valley neighborhood. Shockoe Valley was known then as simply *Butcher Town*.

Phillip Whitlock became an American Citizen in May of 1859. At that same time, he also joined the *Richmond Grays* and accompanied them during their August 1859, fraternal regimental visit to New York City. Whitlock was also with the *Richmond Grays* during their much published deployment to Charles Town, Virginia (Now West Virginia) in 1859. This was, of course, following *John Brown's Raid* at Harpers Ferry. The *Richmond Grays* remained in Harpers Ferry and Charles Town, until after Brown's execution on December 2, 1859. Later in life Whitlock would describe his then, new found friend, *John Wilkes Booth*, and his (*Booth's*) *Richmond Gray's* volunteer militia participation at Charles Town, this is written in his unpublished autobiography titled "*The Life of Philip Whitlock, by Himself*". On April 19, 1861, Phillip Whitlock enlisted in Company A (*Richmond Grays*) later designated Co. G, 12th Virginia Infantry. He was detailed as a Tailor, in the CSA Clothing Depot 1862 – 1864. As a Tailor he, of course, worked in the quartermaster department. On November 17, 1863, after an ongoing romance Phillip married Eva Abrams. Interestingly, his brother, Herman, had earlier married Eva's sister. While still in the army, Philip determined to purchase a tobacco shop in Richmond.

This purchase was made while he still held his quartermaster job within the Confederate Army. Philip and his new wife continued to operate their tobacco shop during the remainder of the Civil War. In his unpublished autobiography, Phillip details the couple's joint efforts to save their tobacco inventory during the final days of the Civil War.

After the war, Whitlock's tobacco business prospered. His firm, P. Whitlock, helped establish Richmond, Virginia, as a major tobacco center. Then, in 1885 – 1886, Whitlock began manufacturing "*Old Virginia Cheroots*", this became the backbone of his tobacco business. These, trademark cigars

were manufactured at his factory in Richmond which was located at 2300 East Cary Street in Richmond's "Tobacco Row", an area long used for tobacco warehouses and manufacturing prior to the Civil War.

During the Civil War, many of the buildings in "Tobacco Row" were utilized as prisons. One such prison was the ominous complex known as *Castle Thunder*. This was the Confederate Provost Marshall's prison (1862 – 1865), which housed civilian prisoners, including captured Union spies, certain political prisoners and various individuals charged with treason by the Confederate Government during the Civil War.

Through the growing success of his *Old Virginia Cheroots*, the one-time pre-war Tailor's assistant became one of post-war Richmond's most prominent businessmen. Whitlock went on to become a recognized civic leader in Richmond. Besides operating his own successful tobacco business, over the years Whitlock served as the Director for the South-Atlantic Life Insurance Company, the American National Bank, the Virginia Safe Deposit & Fidelity Company, and the Virginia Trust Company. Whitlock was also actively affiliated with the Mercantile Club, the Hebrew Home for the Aged and Infirm, the Beth Ahabah Synagogue, the Farmers & Miners Brotherhood, the Richmond Grays Veterans Association (he was appointed their President on Nov. 9, 1902), and he was also the President of the R. E. Lee Camp No. 1. Whitlock became the President of the Jefferson Club for five years and he was a lifelong Mason. Then, in April of 1891, the American Tobacco Company bought Whitlock's tobacco business for the then huge sum of \$300,000.00 and his former factory then became the P. Whitlock branch of the American Tobacco Company. Philip Whitlock retired from the tobacco industry in 1895, but his greatly noted philanthropy continued until his death in early 1919 . . .

A Simple Reminder to RVCWRT Members

The RVCWRT maintains an Amazon link that lately (this year) has gotten very little use by our members. So, the next time you're looking to make a purchase on the Internet, think about using the RVCWRT site . . .

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 at 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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