



FIRST CALL

JOSHUA L. CHAMBERLAIN
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



JUNE 2019

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Vol. XXXIV, No. 2

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Steven Garrett



General Sherman and staff during Civil War. (Photograph. C.M. Bell, photographer. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2016712972/>. Cropped for presentation.)

Thank you to all members, officers and guests of the Joshua L. Chamberlain Civil War Round Table. We are just completing another great year with presentations by Paul Kahan, Ned Smith, Phil Schlegel, Mike Bell, Elizabeth Leonard, Brian Swartz, Clay Feeter, Diane Smith, Bill Quigley and our June presenter Mark Leslie who will talk about the Underground Railroad.

Our organization is in good shape due to all of you. Your participation, offers to serve and, yes, your dues, keep our organization healthy and a part of our

communities. The Round Table's goal is to offer a forum for presentations and discussions about our Civil War era to anyone interested. We are the largest and one of two surviving Civil War round tables in Maine. Therefore, please bring your friends, relatives and especially the young to our meetings. It is important that we pass on our passion to understand and know our history.

Many interested in their family histories may find that their family had a history in the Civil War period as family members were soldiers, sailors, nurses, teachers, etc., and were active participants in our history. It is exciting to make these discoveries. History is made by many, not just generals, admirals, or even politicians—don't tell them.

Lastly, I'd like to remind you that we're always in need of members willing to step up to be a member of the board, become an officer, provide an article for *First Call* and/or just help us setting up or cleaning up after our meetings. All your efforts are greatly appreciated. If you are not a member, please join us and bring your ideas and interests to us. We look forward to seeing you very soon.

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2018 - 2019**

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**TREASURER'S REPORT
MARK MAHNKE**

BEGINNING BALANCE (December 31, 2018): \$ 5,103.76

INCOME (January - May 10, 2019)

\$ 210.00 Memberships
\$ 186.00 Book Raffle
\$ 42.00 Donations
\$ 0.00 Adopt-A-Speaker
\$ 35.00 Sales (Books, etc.)
\$ 7.00 Coffee Sales

EXPENSES (January - May 10, 2019)

\$ 350.00 Speaker Fees
\$ 300.85 Speaker Meals
\$ 166.78 Speaker Hotel
\$ 0.00 Speaker Mileage
\$ 0.00 Gift Certificates
\$ 0.00 Post Office Box
\$ 0.00 Miscellaneous (Printing)

ENDING BALANCE (May 10, 2019): \$ 4,766.13

(A report for the period ending June 30, 2019, will appear in the September 2019 *First Call* newsletter.)

AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

WE'RE CELEBRATING A FANTASTIC YEAR AT THE JOSHUA L. CHAMBERLAIN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE!

Please plan on arriving early on **June 13th** to join us in celebrating our 2018 – 2019 season. We expect to have light refreshments set up at 6:15 and look forward to enjoying friendships and making new acquaintances. It is also a great opportunity for you to share any of your thoughts or suggestions with members of the board. As always, if you have friends that may be interested in participating in our round table, please feel free to extend an invitation to join us. The regular program will begin at 7:00.



Campaign sketches. The coffee call. (Homer, Winslow, Artist, and Publisher L. Prang & Co. *Campaign sketches. The coffee call* / H. W. i.e. W.H. [Boston, Mass.: Lith. & pub. by L. Prang & Co] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2013650297>.)

Many thanks to our program director, Bill Attick, for lining up another ensemble of presentations on a variety of topics for this past year.

September 2018: Dr. Paul Kahan, "The Presidency of U.S. Grant."



Mike Bell

October 2018: Ned Smith, "Two Regiments from Maine: the 22nd Maine Infantry and the 2nd Maine Cavalry."



Dr. Elizabeth Leonard



Phil Schlegel

March 2019: Clay Feeter, "Mowed Down at Manassas: The Tragic Civil War Loss of Colonel Fletcher Webster and His 12th Massachusetts Volunteers."

November 2018: Phil Schlegel, "From Soldier to Sailor."



Clay Feeter

April 2019: Diane Smith, "Grant and the Overland Campaign."

December 2018: Mike Bell, "The Iron Brigade."



Bill Quigley

May 2019: Bill Quigley, "Pure Heart: The Faith of a Father and Son in the War for a More Perfect Union."

January 2019: Dr. Elizabeth Leonard, "General Benjamin Butler."

June 2019: Mark Leslie, "Maine and the Underground Railroad."

February 2019: Brian Swartz, "The 1st Maine Cavalry Rides at Brandy Station."

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT
Mike Bell

As the signs marking Civil War sites flashed by on another family trip, I found myself wondering how many of the other travelers noticed the history in their midst? And how, going forward do we make sure that these sites, and the stories that accompany them, stay forever enshrined in our hearts and minds.

For myself it is all about making connections. In the past two years a renewed interest in family history has yielded a number of relatives on both sides of the conflict. Being able to affix names to the host of books, etc. about the war has made it come alive again.

But how do groups such as ours keep those sorts of connections. It is easy to see that we are by and large, an “older” group. Time is not on our side. And younger generations have new ways to forge a bond with the past. The best museums now have high tech displays that make history real. Reading a plaque is one thing, viewing a hologram of a soldier is another.

Each month round tables such as ours host talks given by experts on a variety of topics relating to the War Between the States. We have an amazing program here and there is something for each member to ponder and enjoy. But if we are to have a future, we need to find new ways to connect with these stories.

What do your family stories tell you about the war? And have you shared with your children and grandchildren about those connections? How can we help them to see that those honored dead did not die in vain? Maybe there is a favorite book or movie you can share? Perhaps you can take them on a trip to a battlefield? Better yet, give them a membership to this august body and bring them to the next meeting!

As the war fades further and further into the recesses of history, it is up to us here and now to take steps, even thinking outside the box, to make sure that this story is not forgotten.

“Hey kids, let’s stop and see where they buried Stonewall Jackson’s arm.”

**JLC CWRT MEETINGS
ARE HELD ON THE
SECOND THURSDAY
OF EACH MONTH:**

7:00 p.m.
Morrell Room
Curtis Memorial Library
23 Pleasant St.,
Brunswick, ME

Weather Cancellations:
Channels 6, 8, 13

If the library closes due to a storm, the meeting will be cancelled. Members will receive an email notification of cancellation from the CWRT Secretary.



Really . . . who signed this guy up? (ca. 1973.)

**MONTHLY
ATTENDANCE**

January 2019: 52
February 2019: 36
March 2019: 47
April 2019: 52
May 2019: 40

A CALL FOR CANDIDATES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The JLC CWRT members listed below have volunteered to remain in their current positions as officers and members of the Board of Trustees for the 2019 – 2020 season, but **two vacancies** remain. The election of officers and board members will take place at the June 13 meeting. Please consider joining our leadership team . . . your input and support are important to leading our CWRT into the future!

Steve Garrett, President
Gardner Shaw, Vice President
Carol Manchester, Secretary
Mark Mahnke, Treasurer
Bill Attick, Program Director
Ken McAfee
Linda Schlegel
Bill St. Louis
Vacant
Vacant

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

The JLC CWRT Board of Trustees recently sanctioned a project to scan the previous issues of *First Call*. As the project got underway, we discovered that at one time there was a trivia quiz. It seemed kind of fun, so we thought that we would reintroduce that feature. (P.J.S./L.L.S.)

1. What was Gen. Meade's favorite horse named?
2. Which Civil War battle is often characterized as "Lee's finest battle?"
3. What annual personal financial requirement was first implemented in 1861, shortly after the beginning of the Civil War?
4. What security *faux pas* could have led to Confederate disaster in 1862?
5. When did the Emancipation Proclamation go into effect?

BONUS:

The Abraham Lincoln – Hannibal Hamlin Republican ticket won the Presidential election of 1860 with 180 electoral and 1,865,908 popular votes. Who did they defeat? (Clue: There are 3!)

[Answers on page 20.]

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019 – 2020 MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 2019 – 2020 season will kick off on **Thursday, September 12, 2019**. We plan on gathering from 6:15 to 7:00 to celebrate Joshua Chamberlain's 191st birthday (September 8, 1828) with some light snacks, cake and coffee. The regular program will start at 7:00.

September 12, 2019, Mark Dunkelman, "Gettysburg's Coster Avenue: The Brickyard Fight and the Mural"

October 10, 2019, Elizabeth Hallett, "Sacred to the Memory: Mourning Customs of the Civil War"

November 14, 2019, Curtis Mildner, "The Soldiers in the Windows: 5th Maine Regiment"

December 12, 2019, Kerck Kelsey, "Abel Streight, Benjamin Grierson, and the Tale of Two Cavalry Raids"

January 9, 2020, Cathi Belcher, "Harriet Beecher Stowe: The Brunswick Years and Beyond"

February 13, 2020, Libby Bischof, "Photography, Memory, and the Civil War"

March 12, 2020, Rev. Alan Andraeas, "Shepherds of the Sea: Civil War Naval Chaplains"

April 9, 2020, Scott Mingus, Sr., "The Battle of Second Winchester"

May 14, 2020, Jim Hessler, "Gettysburg's Peach Orchard: Longstreet, Sickles, and the Bloody Fight for the 'Commanding Ground' Along the Emmitsburg Road."

June 11, 2020, Wally Heimbach, "Phil Kearny, Fighting General"

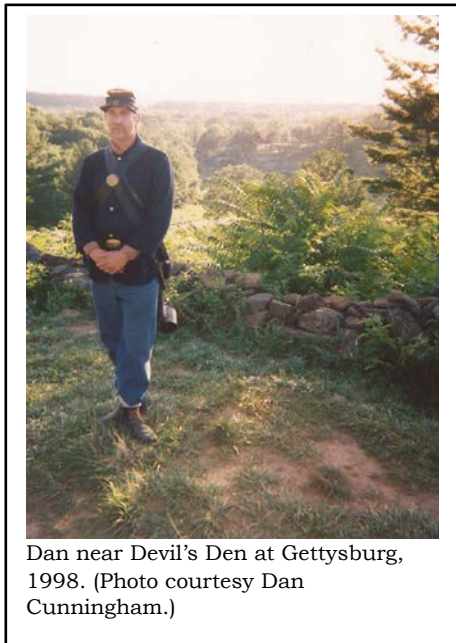
FIELD REPORTS

HOW I BECAME A REENACTOR *Dan Cunningham*

I first heard about the Joshua L. Chamberlain CWRT in October 1994. I was on a tour sponsored by the Pejepscot Historical Society that was following the career of Joshua Chamberlain by visiting the sites of various Civil War battles that he participated in.

On this trip I met Al Obery and his wife. At the time they were running the raffle for the CWRT. Al was also a previous president. Al mentioned the round table to me and I went to my first meeting and became a member that month. In 2001 I was asked by then president Bill Racine if I would be willing to serve on the board of trustees.

Since then I have helped with the raffle, been vice-president and served as president for two separate terms. It has been an honor to serve on the board and as the president of the Joshua L. Chamberlain Civil War Round Table. In addition, I've had the opportunity to meet some extremely nice people who have a tremendous knowledge of the Civil War. I would encourage everyone to serve on the board if they have the time.



Dan near Devil's Den at Gettysburg, 1998. (Photo courtesy Dan Cunningham.)

Joining the Civil War Round Table also had another unforeseen but tremendous benefit that had a huge impact on my life. I had met Dick Thompson on the Civil War tour and found out that he was also a member of the round table and very interested in the Civil War. We found out that in 1995 there was going to be a re-enactment at Gettysburg with over 100 cannons. We decided that it would be something we would like to see.

The re-enactment was in July on the anniversary of Gettysburg and we spent several days there touring the battlefield and watching the re-enactments. When the day came to watch the cannon barrage we drove over in Dick's truck only to be told to park way down in a wet, muddy field. After the

cannon barrage we had to wait until around 10:00 that evening to be towed out by one of the farm vehicles that was used to tow everyone's vehicle out of the mud. Between that experience and seeing the reenactors camped in the mud with their clothes drying on lines and on tents I told Dick that re-enacting was something I would never be interested in. As you will see, those words were soon forgotten.

The following year I mentioned to a college fraternity friend that I had joined the round table after hearing about it on a Civil War tour I had just taken. My friend mentioned that he had just joined a Civil War re-enacting group: the Third Maine Regiment. He then said they had a meeting and drill in December and asked if I wanted to come and watch. I said "sure."

What I didn't realize was that I wasn't expected to watch. As soon as I showed up I was given a greatcoat, the accouterments and a musket to drill with. The next hour was spent drilling, where I was pushed and pulled and had no idea what I was doing. However, after finishing I found that for some strange reason I actually enjoyed myself.

I joined the Third Maine Regiment on March 17, 1997. Being part Irish I thought I would join on St. Patrick's Day as I would need all the luck I could get. Over the next 20 plus years I've had many wonderful experiences as a reenactor.

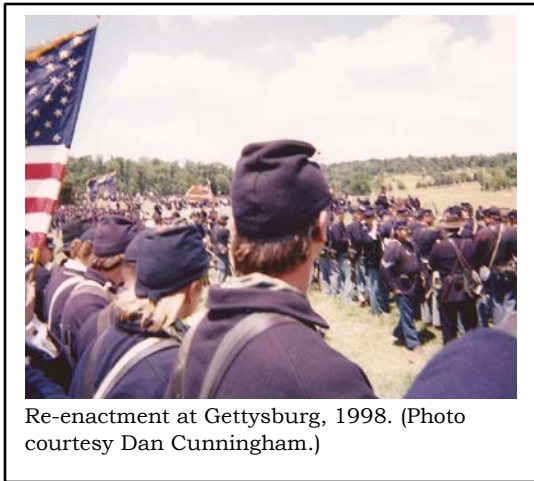
My first big re-enactment was the 135th anniversary of Antietam in 1997. We were told that the



total number of reenactors at this event was around 18,000 to 20,000. This was my first big out of state re-enactment. I remember it, as I was told by the veterans to pretend to take a hit (get shot) early in my first battle to watch how things went. Unfortunately, we were flanked and the left side of the line went down. The sergeant then grabbed me as I was the tallest on the right and told me not to take a hit because he needed to use me to mark the line. So much for taking a hit and watching the battle.

The next year, 1998, was the 135th anniversary of Gettysburg. At this event I heard that there were between 25,000 and 30,000 reenactors. There were so

many of us that we were formed up two hours before the battles were to take place just so there would be time to move everyone into position.



Re-enactment at Gettysburg, 1998. (Photo courtesy Dan Cunningham.)

On the last day we did Pickett's Charge where there were enough Confederates to simulate the actual number that charged the Union lines in the battle. I'll never forget the sight of seeing thousands of Confederates charging us from across a wide-open field. At one point a Confederate did the rebel yell and charged directly toward me. For a brief second it seemed real and I had all I could do not to level my musket and fire directly at him. Instead I "elevated" my musket and fired it up in the air well above him as we are

trained to do if someone is too close. After the battle it was a very moving experience to see hundreds if not thousands of Confederates lying on the ground, pretending they had been shot during the battle.

I've had many other experiences as a reenactor. I've done Bull Run twice where both times it was extremely hot and humid. In 2001 so many reenactors went down with heat exhaustion that our site was declared a medical disaster area. In 2011 the heat index while we set up our tent was 121 degrees. Again, a large medical tent was set up for those who went down with the heat.

One of the high points of my re-enacting career was the opportunity to go to West Point and show the students Civil War tactics. One of our fellow re-enacting groups from New Jersey invited us to go to West Point with them to illustrate to the cadets Civil War formations and how to load and fire a musket. As part of this experience we were invited to have lunch with the cadets on the first day and then in the officers' club the second day.

We've had many other experiences in the 3rd Maine Regiment. We've marched in parades throughout the state and participated in encampments to help towns celebrate various anniversaries. We were asked to fire a volley at a certain point at a wedding on Peaks Island. The volley was almost fired sooner than expected when the minister said that since he was from Massachusetts, he was the real native of Maine. That didn't sit well with us who were mostly all native-born Mainers, and it was only quick thinking from the captain who said something like "steady lads, hold your fire" that stopped us from firing a volley at the minister. Of course, we would have just fired blanks, but hearing

someone from Massachusetts call themselves the true native of Maine got our dander up.

Speaking of weddings, my wife and I were married in 2011. We thought since we were both reenactors with the 3rd Maine, we would have a Civil War wedding where we and our friends dressed up in 1860's costume. Because our uniforms are wool, we picked October 9th as our wedding day, thinking it would be cooler that time of year. Of course, instead of being cool the temperature that day was in the mid-80's. Despite the heat we all had a great time with many people saying it was one of the most enjoyable weddings they had ever been to.




Re-enacting has been a wonderful experience. Even though we certainly don't use real ammunition at the re-enactments we still get a flavor for what the soldiers went through in a battle. Trying to form a line of battle with companies from different states can be chaotic with many people pushing and hollering and the noise of the battle around us. I also realized that after firing several shots on a hot summer's day the muskets get so hot you have to hold onto the strap to load them. There have been many re-enactments where I've fired 60 rounds and found the musket barrel too hot to touch even for a second. I have enjoyed my 25 years as a member of the Joshua L. Chamberlain Round Table. Serving on the Board of Trustees for the last 18 years has been a wonderful and satisfying experience. As mentioned above, my involvement in the CWRT played a large part in my becoming a reenactor, in which I have also had many wonderful experiences. My thanks go to Al Obery, who told me about the CWRT in 1994 on the Pejepscot Historical Society's trip to follow Joshua L. Chamberlain's career. If any of you are interested in serving on the board or know someone who may be interested in re-enacting, please do so. It's been an extremely rewarding experience.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

If you are interested in learning about the day-to-day life of Union soldiers through the eyes of a veteran, you may enjoy John Billings' *Hard Tack and Coffee: The Unwritten Story of Army Life* (1887). A text and audio version of John Billings' book is available at https://archive.org/details/hardtack_and_coffee_mk_gg_1612_librivox [the Internet Archive]. A full description of the book is available at the webpage. (P.J.S.)

RECALLING THAT SERVICE WAS RENDERED IN MANY WAYS




Photograph shows portrait of Susie King Taylor, who served more than three years as nurse with the 33rd U.S. Colored Troops Infantry Regiment during the American Civil War, although officially enrolled as a laundress. She also taught children and adults to read while serving with the regiment.

(Susie King Taylor, known as the first African American Army nurse. [Boston: Published by the author, from a photograph taken earlier] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2018663038/>.)

Susie King Taylor.

IT'S IMPORTANT - BRING A FRIEND!

Members are encouraged to invite a friend to join us for our monthly gatherings. It is always a pleasure to meet and greet fellow Civil War enthusiasts and every new member invigorates our organization. Each of us was a “new face” at one point and we welcome everyone to join us!



Miss Major Pauline Cushman, the Union spy and scout, who was captured and sentenced to death as a Federal spy, and was rescued at Shelbyville by the Union Army under Gen. Rosecrans.

(Brady's National Photographic Portrait Galleries, photographer. Miss Major Pauline Cushman, the Union spy and scout, who was captured and sentenced to death as a Federal spy, and was rescued at Shelbyville by the Union Army under Gen. Rosecrans / From photographic negative in Brady's National Portrait Gallery. [New York: E. & H.T. Anthony, 501 Broadway, between 1861 and 1865] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2016646209/>.)

GRANT – CHAMBERLAIN CONNECTIONS
Noma Petroff
(SECOND IN A SERIES)

The following article is taken from Noma Petroff’s ongoing study of the life and times of Ulysses S. Grant, "Understanding Ulysses S. Grant: Character, Context, and Stories." The piece is an abridged version of Chapter 31, “A Small College in Maine – The Greatest Jam I Ever Saw” from the manuscript. It focuses on Grant’s visit to Brunswick on August 2, 1865, to receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Bowdoin College. The article below is adapted from Noma’s original text to highlight Grant’s continuing relationship with our namesake, Joshua Chamberlain.

It was late summer, 1865. The war had ended, and the government was feeling its way along with a new president at the helm. Ulysses S. Grant was also trying to learn how to deal with the dramatic change of Commander-in-Chief. Spring and early summer found him struggling with Andrew Johnson to make sure that Johnson kept faith with the terms of surrender negotiated at Appomattox and elsewhere, terms which guaranteed that as long as those men and officers who surrendered faithfully observed the law, they would not be arrested and tried by U.S. authorities. Correspondence shows that Grant was heavily involved in the draw-down of the armies, and also with individual petitions for pardon or amnesty from former rebels. He was also involved in coordinating troop movements along the Texas border, to threaten the puppet French government of Emperor Maximilian (and in support of the democratically elected Romero). In addition, he was occupied by conflicts with Native Americans on the plains.

But at last, matters seemed to be enough in hand for Grant to load his family onto a train and head for home, as tens of thousands of his soldiers had already done. It was a sweeping trip. Beginning on July 24, Grant traveled to West Point, Saratoga, Boston, Maine, Montreal, Niagara Falls, Detroit, Chicago, Galena, Iowa, Minnesota, and finally to his Ohio boyhood homes in Georgetown and Bethel, returning to Washington via Pittsburgh, by the beginning of October.¹

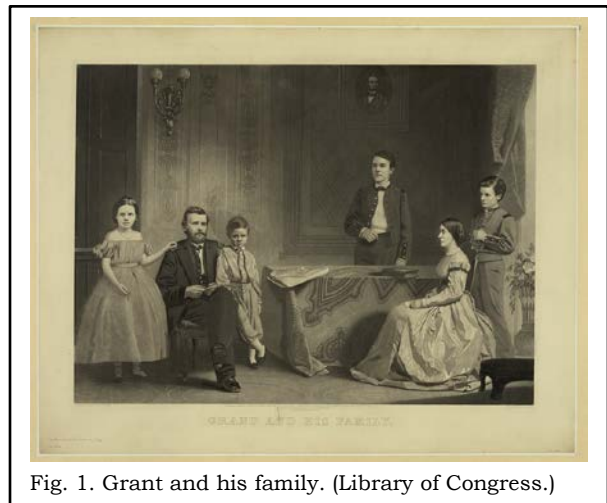


Fig. 1. Grant and his family. (Library of Congress.)

The trip marks a pivotal point in Grant’s life, as he makes the transition from war to peace. It also marks a supremely pivotal point in the lives of Northerners as they make their own transition. A close-up of his one-day visit to a small college community in Maine gives us a chance to see Grant as he makes his

victory lap, and a chance to view the attitudes of those who come to see their celebrated hero. A look behind the scenes gives us a glimpse of the tumultuous past they have just emerged from and the radically changed future that they are about to enter.

There are two major accounts of Grant's visit to Bowdoin College found in the college archives. Both are newspaper articles. The first account was apparently published at some point after 1910, is titled, "Gen. Grant's Visit to Bowdoin College Recalled by One of the Alumni Who Was Present." For the sake of this article we will call the unnamed author "Old Timer." The second, "Letter from Maine" (September 11, 1865) is an article from the *Sacramento Daily Union* by Samuel Roland Crocker (Bowdoin class of 1855).²

It appears that the graduation program was stretched out over several days. On Sunday, President Leonard Woods gave the baccalaureate sermon. Monday was a presentation of the prize declamation by the junior class (won in 1865 by the nephew of Secretary of State William Seward). Tuesday marked presentations by the college's literary societies followed by a concert by the Germania concert band of Boston. Then came the unexpected news:

*General Grant would arrive on the following day and be present at the distribution of diplomas. The huge church fairly rocked with the applause that this announcement drew forth. There had been rumors of his coming throughout the week, but it was not generally believed that the College would be so honored.*³



Fig. 2. Brunswick Railroad Station ca. 1857–1899. (Courtesy of Pejepscot Historical Society.)

At half-past one on Wednesday, August 2, the alumni and guests had reconvened at the chapel. From there they marched, under the direction of Brigadier General Thomas Hyde (Bowdoin '50), to the train depot, preceded with great enthusiasm by the Germania band. Old Timer notes that the dignitaries included Grant's patron, former Congressman Elihu Washburne of Illinois; General Oliver Otis Howard (Bowdoin '50); ex-Governor of Maine (and Elihu's brother), Israel Washburn; Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson (later to become Grant's vice president);

and George Evans, former U.S. Senator from Maine.

Crocker notes, "the interior of the depot was a solid mass of humanity, and the region round about was more densely populated than it ever was before. But they all had their reward, for a train dashed into the station, and soon stepped out from one of the cars the foremost man of the age—Ulysses S. Grant."⁴



Fig. 3. Portrait of Ulysses S. Grant ca. 1865. (Library of Congress.)

Old Timer elaborates, “Gen. Grant was immediately waited on by a committee of the boards of the college, and thereafter appeared on a stand erected for the occasion, and an immense concourse of people greeted him with wild applause, to which he responded by removing his hat and bowing. He was then, with his wife and several of his staff, escorted to a barouche in waiting, and, attended by the procession, to the residence of Gen. Chamberlain, where a cordial greeting took place, which Gen. Grant returned with fervor. The general’s appearance everywhere elicited the utmost excitement.”⁵ John Furbish (future founder of Brunswick’s Pejepscot Historical Society) notes that it was a momentous occasion, and “the greatest jam I ever saw in this place.”⁶

Crocker notes:

I am inclined to believe that there was cheering just at that time; but amid it all the cool, quiet looking man, with three stars on his shoulder, accompanied by his family and Staff, entered the carriages provided, and the procession moved to the house of Major General Chamberlain. Here General Grant was permitted to remain long enough to wash his hands but not to smoke a cigar, and was then escorted to the [Congregational] Church. Please understand that there was no cessation of applause until the General had entered the sacred walls, and then the ladies inside took their turn at it.⁷

On the stage of the church, Grant was introduced by “the venerable” George Evans (Bowdoin ’15 and former U.S. Senator from Maine): “The illustrious chieftan, Ulysses S. Grant, has turned by to honor our institution, and I have the pleasure to present him to you.” The audience gave three cheers for Grant, three more for General Oliver Otis Howard, three more for General Joshua Chamberlain, and a final three cheers for General Romeyn Ayers.⁸ Members of Grant’s staff, including “Colonel [Ely] Parker, the famous Indian, were also present on the stage.”⁹

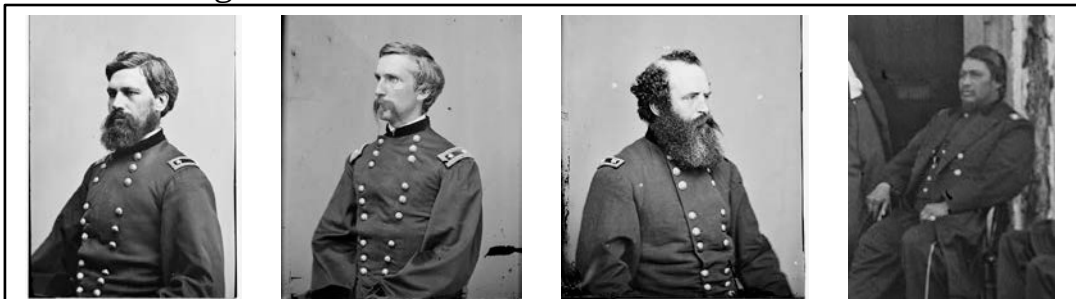


Fig. 4. Generals (left to right) Oliver O. Howard, Joshua L. Chamberlain, Romeyn Ayers; Colonel Ely Parker. (Library of Congress.)

The Master's oration was delivered by yet another esteemed professor, the legendary Alpheus Spring Packard (Bowdoin '16). (Old Timer indicates that it was given by Edward Newman Packard, but that seems unlikely, since Edward had just graduated in 1862.) At last, the degrees were presented by President Woods, including a Doctor of Laws for Ulysses S. Grant. In keeping with his habit, Grant did not speak, but simply bowed appreciatively in the wake of the applause that followed.

Upon completion of the ceremonies, the crowd adjourned to the commencement dinner, which both of the alumni reporters rate as sub-standard. Old Timer tells us that it was deemed "the 'meanest dinner' of Bowdoin's commencement history." He suspects that the paltry menu might have had something to do with "President Woods, a Buchanan democrat, who promoted the bestowal of the degree of LL.D. on Jefferson Davis." Davis's honorary degree was bestowed in 1858, partly in recognition of the fact that Davis had been Secretary of War for President Franklin Pierce, Bowdoin class of 1824.

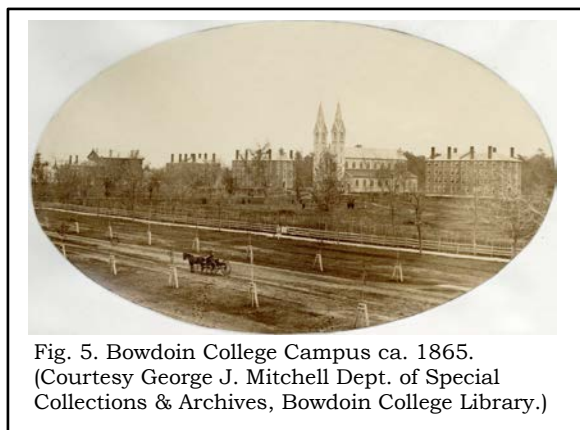


Fig. 5. Bowdoin College Campus ca. 1865.
(Courtesy George J. Mitchell Dept. of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.)

Nevertheless, Woods rose to the occasion, proclaiming, "The war is over; peace has returned. Those who went out with sorrow, return with joy, bringing their sheaves with them. (Cheers.) And now comes to us that great leader (cheers) to whose ability we owe this prosperous condition, and I feel it a privilege to give voice to the gratitude of this college in common with that of the people of the United States to this great general." The president's comments were followed by a lengthy applause. Again, Grant bowed

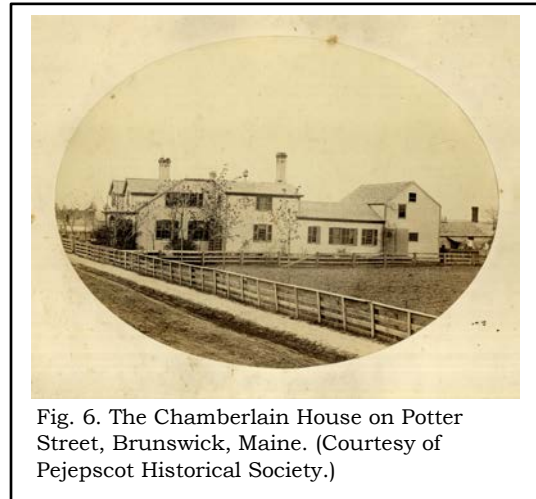
graciously, "but could not be induced to open his reticent lips."¹⁰

Crocker notes that Grant "ate very sparingly, thus exhibiting his usual shrewdness," and observes sympathetically:

*His personal appearance has been so often described that I won't try my hand at a new picture; but I cannot help remarking that the great dignity of his manner was something especially to admire. He was dressed in a far from new uniform, his shoulders displaying the three stars of his rank. His face, which is as familiar to almost every man, woman and child in America as seen in his photographs, wore a slightly care-worn look, as if, which seems very probable, he was heartily tired of being "received."*¹¹

After the address by President Woods, General Oliver Otis Howard was summoned by the crowd, who responded with enthusiastic applause as he arose. With equal fervor, the crowd summoned General Chamberlain, who responded briefly, "I have tried to get Gen. Grant to speak, but he says 'No,' and when he says that word he means it. Lee knows it means something." Old Timer notes that at this point, "General Grant, amid cheers, parenthetically said 'I continue to fight it out on that line.'"¹²

After the dinner, Grant and his party were returned to Chamberlain's home on Potter Street to rest for about an hour. At five-thirty, he was escorted to the president's reception or "levee." Old Timer notes that Grant "was made captive by crinoline and beauty. He was here, as everywhere, quiet, unostentatious and not given to overmuch talking, but several belles put honey on his lips, 'tis said, and opened them. The levee was, if the briefest, the only immortal one in the history of the annual sociables."¹³



At 8:00 p.m., the crowd returned to the Congregational Church, this time for a special service to memorialize fallen classmates and to honor "sons of Bowdoin" who had returned from the war. Old Timer notes that:

*Large numbers of the bronzed heroes were on the platform, and more would have been there had not all-pervading crinoline reached even the seats on the stage set apart for them. Among the officers present, Alumni, were Generals Howard, Chamberlain, Brevet Generals Sewall, Hyde, Hubbard, Cols. C. P. Mattocks, I. W. Starbird, J. F. Appleton, Enos. T. Luce, C. W. Roberts, Lieut. Cols. John M. Brown, C. E. Shaw, C. H. Butterfield, Brevet Col. Manning, Majors A. W. Bradbury, A. B. Twitchell, F. M. Drew, Belcher, W. W. Eaton, Capt. Q. Gilman, U. S. A., Paymasters Charles A. Robbins, Myron M. Bovey, and many others.*¹⁴

Crocker informs us that soon after the opening prayer, "there was a crash of music from the gallery, a mighty shout from the audience, and the cool little man with three stars walked up the aisle." Professor Alpheus Packard delivered the address, noting that forty-eight of Bowdoin's warriors were undergraduates and forty had fallen by bullet or disease. (About 300 Bowdoin men fought for the Union.)¹⁵

After an interlude by the band, the honorable Peleg W. Chandler of Boston declared his high regard for Bowdoin's soldiers. Reverend Dr. Samuel Harris offered a tribute to the women of America for their steadfastness, labor and

encouragement during the war. He also spoke of “the national work of peace, and the necessity of our consecration to God’s truth.” General Howard then spoke, addressing his words to the College itself. Finally, Joshua Chamberlain’s remarks concluded the program:

I stand in the presence of my commander, and if I go too far he’ll order me to fall back, and I shall certainly obey the order. Ten years ago I went forth from these halls. You, Mr. President, conferred on me the Master’s degree, and on this stage I endeavored, in my youthful way, to set forth the relations of law and liberty, and I believe, to-night, they go together. I am thankful to be here, and I am grateful to God that, after many vicissitudes, I am able to meet you again. My heart is full, and I am thankful to see before me those who have cheered me, and especially him whose calmness and integrity gave strength to the armies when you trembled. But not all return to receive this greeting. When I remember the forty fallen, mostly my pupils, my heart sinks within me; but still “I can see them with the eyes of my soul.” I recall one example under my command, type of many. He felt called on to lead his men, and, in advance of his line, was called upon to surrender. He defied their summons and waved his sword, beckoning on his men till, at last, he was shot and fell in death, in the very moment of death hurling his sabre in the face of the enemy. This hero was Capt. W. W. Morrill! (Applause.)¹⁶

The meeting was closed with one more prayer, applause and more bows from Grant. Soon, his family and staff were whisked off to the station and returned to Portland the same night.

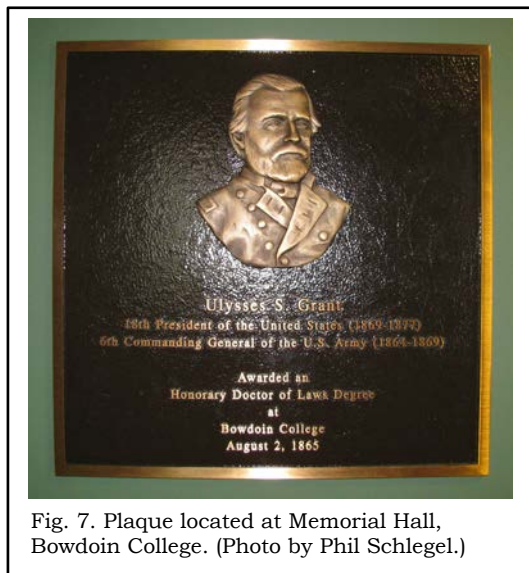


Fig. 7. Plaque located at Memorial Hall, Bowdoin College. (Photo by Phil Schlegel.)

In summing up the event, Old Timer concludes: “Three commencement occasions are famous in the history of Bowdoin, that of 1865 in which General Grant was the prominent guest, that of 1875 in which Longfellow was guest and poet of the day and the third, in 1910, in which admiral Peary was guest.”¹⁷ It is ironic to note that in 2014, all Bowdoin students know of her connections with Longfellow and Peary, and most of them even know that Jefferson Davis was awarded an honorary degree—but scarcely a one is aware of the day that Bowdoin College awarded an honorary degree to Grant.

Editor's note: General Grant's tour and his visit to Brunswick was widely reported in the press. Some reported that while General Grant and his party were leaving Brunswick, an elderly gentleman presented the general a "mammoth Havana" or, as was reported in other newspaper accounts, "a huge segar," so that Grant could "enjoy a long and pleasant smoke." An amusing end to an eventful day.¹⁸ (P.J.S.)

¹ John Y. Simon, ed., *The Papers of U. S. Grant*, vol. 15, May 1–December 31, 1865 (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1988), xxiii–xxiv, https://msstate.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/USG_volume/id/22688/rec/16. [Mississippi State University, University Libraries, Digital Collections.]

² News Clipping, "Gen. Grant's Visit to Bowdoin College Recalled by One of the Alumni Who Was Present," n.d., U. S. Grant Honorary Degree, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections and Archives, Bowdoin College. Roland [Samuel Roland Crocker], "Letter from Maine," *Sacramento Daily Union*, September 11, 1865, <https://cdnc.ucr.edu/?a=d&d=SDU18650911.2.9&srpos=7&div=none&e=01-01-1865-14-12-1865--en--20--1-byDA-txt-txIN-Bowdoin-----1>. A typewritten transcript of this article is found in Alumni Biographies, Samuel Roland Crocker, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections and Archives, Bowdoin College.

³ Crocker, "Letter from Maine."
⁴ Ibid.

⁵ "Gen. Grant's Visit to Bowdoin College."

⁶ John Furbish, *Facts about Brunswick, Maine* (Brunswick, ME: Pejepscot Historical Society, 1976), 29.

⁷ Crocker, "Letter from Maine."
⁸ "Gen. Grant's Visit to Bowdoin College."

⁹ Crocker, "Letter from Maine."
¹⁰ "Gen. Grant's Visit to Bowdoin College."

¹¹ Crocker, "Letter from Maine."
¹² "Gen. Grant's Visit to Bowdoin College."

¹³ Ibid.
¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Crocker, "Letter from Maine."
¹⁶ "Gen. Grant's Visit to Bowdoin College."

¹⁷ Ibid.
¹⁸ "A Mammoth Cigar for General Grant," *Brooklyn [New York] Daily Eagle*, August 12, 1865, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/50253564>. "General Grant's Movements, A Huge Segar for the Great Smoker," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 10, 1865, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/167861887>.

Picture Credits:
Fig. 1. Sartain, William, Engraver. *Grant and his family / original picture by W. Sartain, Phila.; engraved by Wm. Sartain, Phila.* Philadelphia: Bradley & Co. Publishers, 66 Nth 4th St.; Rochester, N. York: R.H. Curran. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2006678316/>.

Fig. 2. Brunswick Railroad Station ca. 1857–1899. (Courtesy of Pejepscot Historical Society.)

Fig. 3. Gardner, Alexander, photographer. *Portrait of Ulysses S. Grant*. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2004674419/>.

[Cropped for presentation.]

Fig. 4. O.O. Howard. [Between 1860 and 1870] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2018669843/>. Brady's National Photographic Portrait Galleries, photographer. *Portrait of Maj. Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain [as of March 29, 1865], officer of the Federal Army.* [Between 1860 and 1865] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2018666405/>. Brady's National Photographic Portrait Galleries, photographer. *Portrait of Maj. Gen. Romeyn B. Ayres, officer of the Federal Army.* [Between 1860 and 1865] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2018666392/>. *City Point, Virginia. Lt. Col. Ely S. Parker Gen. Grant's military secretary, Gen. John A. Rawlins, Chief of Staff and others at Grant's headquarters.* Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2018671197/>. [All cropped for presentation.]

Fig. 5. Class Records, class photograph album of Joseph Alvah Locke, Class of 1865, George J. Mitchell Dept. of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

Fig. 6. The Chamberlain House on Potter Street, Brunswick, Maine. (Courtesy of Pejepscot Historical Society.)

Fig. 7. Plaque located at Memorial Hall, Bowdoin College. (Photo by Phil Schlegel.)

FROM THE *FIRST CALL* EDITORS

Many thanks to the members who have contributed to *First Call*. Our goal is to produce an informative and interesting newsletter. Toward that end, please feel free to contact us at firstcall@twc.com with any ideas, comments, or questions you may have. We encourage and welcome our members to consider submitting an article or other content (e.g. a picture of your Civil War ancestor, observations from a visit to a battlefield, etc.) you may want to share.

Phil and Linda Schlegel

BOOK REVIEWS

VERY GOOD READS

Steven Garrett

Steven Wilson. *President Lincoln's Spy*. Kensington Books. New York, 2008.

I do enjoy a good historical novel. I picked up this novel from the Curtis Memorial Library, Friends of the Library's used bookstore "Twice Told Tales" a few weeks ago prior to a trip. It was a good read. Well written historical novels based upon facts are a good introduction to history. They place the reader into the story with real human interaction with the facts weaved into the story.

Steven Wilson uses facts to create this story. Real southern saboteurs were in Washington during the war and did set fire to the army's stables in Washington as described. Also weaved into the story is the attack upon the Washington Navy Yard and an attempt to tunnel under the White House to assassinate President Lincoln.

The author's hero is the fictitious Captain Fritz Dunaway. A West Point graduate and career army officer who served heroically at First Manassas, but he did so while disobeying a direct order from a politically connected political officer. A good friend with connections got him an opportunity to get out of the doghouse—become part of Lincoln's guards. Officially a desk riding position, in reality it was a cover for his real task, uncovering southern sympathizers and saboteurs before they did real damage. Our hero uses his honest dislike of most army brass, especially appointed political officers, to become part of a group of southern saboteurs. He reports his discoveries and prevents the attack upon the Navy Yard and White House from succeeding.

Civil War & History Book Club

The Round Table has sponsored a book club for many years. Everyone is invited to join and participate in our discussions, debates, and treats. We know you will enjoy the reads and the lively discussion. We meet the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at People Plus, 35 Union Street in Brunswick – or dates determined by the book club.

Steve Garrett

This is a good read that presents the underside of the Civil War in the back streets of Washington. Washington was the north's Capital, but also a southern city. If you find a copy at your local library, book store, or online, pick up a copy for an enjoyable read.

Stephen W. Sears. *Lincoln's Lieutenants: The High Command of the Army of the Potomac*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Boston, 2017.

Our Civil War & History Book Club has been reading some great books this fall and winter. One of the very best is Stephen Sear's *Lincoln's Lieutenants*. While this is not a short, quick read it is well written and very thorough. And if I were to write a thorough review it would be much longer than you would want to read, so here goes my short review.

From Irvin McDowell's appointment to Appomattox, Sears covers the evolution of the commanders of the Army of the Potomac. The first half of the book revolves around George B. McClellan. Sears is one of our experts on McClellan (see his biography: *George B. McClellan: The Young Napoleon* and his edited *The Civil War Papers of George B. McClellan*). McClellan is an enigma as he was so effective organizing, training and creating *esprit de corps*, but so ineffective as a combat leader. His distrust of civilian leadership and most army leaders, and his acceptance of "yes" men, shows him to be a brilliant, but flawed general. Sears makes a very detailed and researched argument on why McClellan was so much a failure as a combat leader.

Sears goes on to review and explain Hooker, Burnside, Meade and Grant's leadership. Hooker's regime is very interesting as he accomplished much to reorganize the army, to improve food and camp hygiene, but failed as a leader due primarily to personal relationships with McClellan's appointees and his failure of leadership. His regime ended at Chancellorsville. Burnside, who was offered the leadership multiple times, openly tried to avoid what he believed was beyond his capability. In this case, President Lincoln ought to have listened as his regime ended in disaster for the army at Fredericksburg and the infamous "Mud March."

THE BOOK RAFFLE

The monthly book raffle is an important round table activity. The raffle is more than a good fund raiser! Picking up "new to you" Civil War-related books feeds a desire to learn more and hopefully, will spark new interest among our members and any guests who may join us. If there are any books in your Civil War library that you want to donate to the raffle, please give them to one of the greeters at the table as you arrive. Your support of the round table is much appreciated.



Upon Hooker's resignation, General George G. Meade was given the command. Meade led the army to victory at Gettysburg and, with U. S. Grant's support, the Army of the Potomac had stability and Meade would retain command until Appomattox.

Stephen Sears has written the definitive study on the leadership of the Army of the Potomac. It is long, readable, and will provide many answers for you. Buy or borrow this book. You will want to add it to your civil war library.



CIVIL WAR HISTORY JUNE 1864

U.S.S. *Kearsarge* sinks
C.S.S. *Alabama* off the
coast of Cherbourg,
France.

(Rosenthal, L. N., Lithographer, and Marian S. Carson Collection. *Last of the Alabama* Commodore Winslow's grand victory march. Respectfully inscribed to the crew of the *Kearsarge* / / L.N. Rosenthal lith. [Philadelphia: Published by J. Marsh, No. Chestnut St., Philada., 1864?] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2015650319/>.)

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Baldy (or Old Baldy)
2. Chancellorsville
3. The income tax (Revenue Act of 1861)
4. Union discovery of General Lee's Special Order No. 191, just prior to the Battle of Antietam.
5. January 1, 1863

BONUS

John Breckenridge – Joseph Lane [Southern Democratic] 72 electoral/848,019 popular votes

John Bell – Edward Everett [Constitutional Union] 39 electoral/590,901 popular votes

Stephen Douglas – Herschel Johnson [Democratic] 12 electoral/1,380,202 popular votes

ADOPT-A-SPEAKER – DINNER HOST PROGRAM

The JLC CWRT Dinner Host Program provides an opportunity for our members to meet and chat with a visiting speaker. Members who donate to the Adopt-A-Speaker program at the “General” level have the opportunity to join a visiting speaker for dinner at Richard’s Restaurant in Brunswick. The CWRT pays for dinner for the speaker, and the host pays for his/her own dinner. See the last page of the newsletter to enroll in the Adopt-A-Speaker program. Please contact Mark Mahnke (our Treasurer) at least one week before the scheduled program to make arrangements to host a specific speaker.

MEMBERSHIP & ADOPT-A-SPEAKER

Name _____
E-mail address (required for Newsletter) _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Date _____

Please Print clearly

MEMBERSHIP ___ New Member ___ Renewal

___ Individual \$25
___ Family \$35
___ Student \$15
___ Additional Donation for JLC CWRT
_____ TOTAL Membership

ADOPT-A-SPEAKER

___ General \$50 (See "ADOPT-A-SPEAKER – DINNER HOST PROGRAM" above)
___ Colonel \$40
___ Major \$30
___ Captain \$20
___ Lieutenant \$10
_____ TOTAL Adopt-A-Speaker

_____ **GRAND TOTAL:** Membership & Adopt-A-Speaker. Make payment to:

Chamberlain CWRT
PO Box 1046
Brunswick ME 04011-1046 (Or present payment to Treasurer at meeting)

For more information, please contact JLCCWRTmembership@gmail.com