

Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter

The Year of Lincoln =
200th Anniversary of Lincoln's Birth



Cape May County Civil War Round Table January 2009 Newsletter

Deadline for the newsletter is the first of each month, as I put everything together the first week that month. Deadline for the meeting agenda if you want a new business item added is the Monday prior to the meeting as that is when the minutes and meeting agenda are printed out. If you need to contact me:

Pat Munson-Siter, 42 Franklin Ave., Villas, NJ 08251-2407 (609) 287-5097 or ladysymitar@hotmail.com

Also as a reminder, back issues of the newsletter are posted within a month or two of their publication on our website; if you have missed a back issue or are a new member please check the web site. (web address is on last page of newsletter) For that matter, if anyone wishes to have a copy of the newsletter emailed to them, please let me know; I use Word 2000 as my word-processing program; your computer will have to be able to read Word files in order to successfully access the files I'd send as email attachments.

Meetings are normally held at the Cape May Court House Senior Center on the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 7pm.

The following is a listing of the schedule of presentations planned for future meetings. All speakers have been partially funded thanks to the Cape May County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

REMINDER: 2009 DUES ARE NOW DUE!

Please send your dues to either Jim Marshall (Treasurer) or Andy Lolli (President), addresses below. Your dues help fund the printing and mailing of this newsletter! If you have not paid dues by the end of February, you will not receive the April newsletter!

Meeting Schedule for 2009

Dates for 2009:

No meetings in January or February

19 March = Bob O'Connor speaking on the 150th Anniversary of John Brown's assault on Harper's Ferry: *The Perfect Trap: Harper's Ferry 1859*.
Refreshments: Mike Golla

16 April = South Jersey Ghost Researcher's Group – professional investigators who have concentrated on Southern New Jersey. Presentation will cover the technology they use as well as what results they have obtained. Sites they have investigated include the GAR museum, the Flanders Hotel in Ocean City, and several B&Bs in Cape May.
Refreshments: Nancy Baxter

21 May = Glenn LeBuff on the *Ten Moral Moments in the Life of Lincoln*
Refreshments: Jack McDonough

18 June =

17 July = Michael Wunsch of the General Meade Society will be telling us about *Abraham Lincoln and the Great Sanitary Fair of 16 June 1864*.
Refreshments: Pat Munson-Siter

21 Aug

17 Sept

15 Oct = Sid Copel will be returning to give us a presentation on *Civil War Spies and Guerillas*.
Refreshments: Helen O'len, Bill & Cindy Craft

19 Nov = Dick Simpson will be lecturing on *Gettysburg – America's Greatest Art Park*, a slide presentation on the many magnificent monuments erected at Gettysburg by survivors of the battle, many designed by the finest sculptors and produced by some of the most skilled monument manufacturers of the day.

? Dec

As a reminder, we still need a new Refreshments Chairman!! In the meantime, contact Sue Gibson to volunteer to bring refreshments for one of the meetings above.

CMCCWRT Officers for 2008:

President: Andy Lolli

17 Delaware Ave, Del Haven, NJ 08251
(609) 889-0061

1st Vice President: Suzanne Gibson

214 Exton Rd., Somers Point, NJ 08244
(609) 927-9484

2nd Vice President: Lou Bishop Jr.

21 Schoolhouse Ln., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
(609) 463-9277

Secretary: Pat Munson-Siter (see above)

(609) 287-5097

Treasurer: Jim Marshall

202 Bartram Lane, Ocean City, NJ 08226
(609) 398-6924

Minutes for the Civil War Round Table Business Meeting – 4 December 2008

President Lolli opened the meeting with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence for all those serving our country.

Pres. Lolli reminded everyone that the Cape May County Cultural and Heritage Commission has helped make it possible for us to bring in our guest lecturers.

Treasurer's report given (hard copy in files), motion made to accept it and file for audit; seconded and approved.

A new sheet for refreshments for 2009 will be at the sign in table at this and future meetings

Reminder that there are no meetings in January and February due to normally bad weather.

Officers were installed.

President Lolli asked if there was any more new business. As there was none, he adjourned the meeting so our potluck Christmas dinner could begin. I must add, the food and drink was wonderful!

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Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Munson-Siter
Patricia Munson-Siter
Secretary

Address Change: Mary V. Donlin has written to inform us that she has moved from Apt. C-115 on 50 Lacey Road to Apt. C-127. Please change your address list accordingly. Her new phone # is 732-849-2427. She also said to tell everyone involved "thank you" for the nice write-up about Clark that was in the Cape May *Star & Wave*.

Upcoming Events

Not much going on except in the South during Jan – March. See www.civilwartraveler.com for more info (only one 'I' in traveler. 2 gets you a different website!) Check it out; their listings for July and August – as well as September – go to more than 10 pages each, far more than I could list in this newsletter. Another site that is now listing events, among other things, is by the Southern Heritage Advancement Preservation & Education group; their site address:

<http://southernheritageadvancementpreservationeducation.com>

I am also including dates for important events during the year during the time period we're considering for this month's issue. If you like or don't like this new feature, please let me know!

CIVIL WAR DATES IN FEBRUARY

1860

1861

1 Feb = Texas secedes

18 Feb = Davis inaugurated ad provisional president of the Confederacy

23 Feb = Lincoln arrives in Washington DC

1862

6 Feb = Union army & navy forces take Ft. Henry on the Tennessee River

8 Feb = Union soldiers take Roanoke Island in NC

16 Feb = Confederate forces surrender Ft. Donelson on the Cumberland River (TN) to Union forces.

22 Feb = Davis officially inaugurated Confederate President in Richmond, VA

1863

1864

17 Feb = Confederate sub *Hunley* sinks the *Housatonic* in SC

1865

3 Feb = Peace conference at Hampton Roads, VA

17 Feb = Columbia, SC occupied by Union troops and much of the city burned

18 Feb = Charleston, SC occupied by Union troops

22 Feb = Wilmington, NC falls to Union troops

Upcoming Current Events

24 Jan = *Ghost Watch at Centre Hill Mansion* in Petersburg, VA. Lookout for Civil War ghosts at this antebellum landmark. Tours leave every 15 minutes 6-8:45 pm. \$5. Reservations, tickets: 804-733-2400.

30 Jan = Performance, "*Music in Times of Civil Unrest*," by the Richmond Symphony honoring Abraham Lincoln at the Modlin Center for the Arts at the University of Richmond, VA. 7:30 pm. Free, reservations required. Complete schedule of UR Lincoln-related events available at : jepson.richmond.edu/events/forum08

22-24 VA Symposium, "Robert E. Lee and the American Civil War," includes lectures, discussions and battlefield tours, at Stratford Hall Plantation (Lee's birthplace). See www.stratfordhall.org for details.

24 PA Lecture, "Daniel Sickles: The Colorful and Controversial Commander of Gettysburg," at the Gettysburg national park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.

24 VA Living history walk, "Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee," in Atoka (4 miles west of Middleburg on U.S. 50). Civil War characters present vignettes. Sponsored by the Mosby Heritage Area. 7:30 pm. \$5/adult. www.mosbyheritagearea.org or 540-687-6681.

25 PA Lecture, "'A Final Resting Place': The Establishment of the Soldiers' National Cemetery," at the Gettysburg national park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.

31 PA Lecture, "Strong Vincent and the Battle of Little Round Top," at the Gettysburg national park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.

31 DC Fort DeRussy Hike, ranger-led tour of one of the Washington forts attacked in July 1864. Begins at the Nature Center, 5200 Glover Road NW in Rock Creek Park at 2 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/rocr or 202-895-6239.

February 2009

7 MD Lecture, "Slavery IS the Cause of the Civil War," at the C. Burr Artz Public Library, 110 E Patrick St, Frederick. 1 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/mono or 301-662-3515.

7 VA Car caravan tour, "The Final Battles of the Siege," begins at the Eastern Front visitor center, Petersburg National Battlefield. 1-4 pm. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/pete or 804-732-3531 extension 200.

7 VA Lecture, "Abraham Lincoln Under the Radar," by Gary Ecelbarger, at the Handley Library in Winchester. 2 pm. Free. www.hrl.lib.state.va.us or 540-662-9041.

7 PA Lecture, "Crisis at the Union Center – The Second Corps Front on July 2," at the Gettysburg national park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.

8 VA Opening of "Many Thousands Go: African

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		Americans and the Civil War” exhibit at the Manassas Museum. USCT living history 1-3 pm. Author talk and book signing (<i>Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent</i>) 2 pm. Free with admission. www.manassasmuseum.org or 703-368-1873.				1863 address. www.nps.gov/gett .
8	PA	Lecture, “‘We Drop a Comrade’s Tears,’ The 2nd New Hampshire at the Peach Orchard,” at the Gettysburg national park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.		13-15	FL	Reenactment, Battle of Olustee at the state park near Lake City. Living history programs, music and camps all weekend. Friday night artillery firing. Battles 3:30 pm Saturday and 1:30 pm Sunday. \$7/adult. www.battleofolustee.org or 386-397-7005.
8	IL	Lectures at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. “Reflecting on Lincoln” at noon and “Collecting Lincoln” at 2 pm. Free. Reservations required. 217-558-8934 or www.alplm.org .		14	PA	Lecture, “Opportunity, Possibility, and Liability: Lee, E.P. Alexander, William Pendleton and the Great Cannonade of July 3,” at the Gettysburg national park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
9	IL	Lecture, “The Last Lincoln Lecture,” at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. 7 pm. Free. Reservations required. 217-558-8934 or www.alplm.org .		14	VA	“Hearts at War,” special program presented by the Museum of the Confederacy. Examines relationship of Jefferson Davis and his wife, Varina, and looks at Civil War-era Valentine traditions. 1-3 pm at the Appomattox Community Center, 220 Community Lane in Appomattox. \$10. Reservations: 804-649-1861 ext. 32 or email llipscomb@moc.org .
10	IL	Lecture, “The Lincoln Marriage,” at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. 7 pm. Free. Reservations required. 217-558-8934 or www.alplm.org .		14	VA	“Liberty’s Father: George Washington and the American Civil War,” special program at the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar in Richmond. 1 pm. Free with admission. www.tredegar.org or 804-780-1865.
11	VA	Lecture, “City Point,” at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, in Fairfax. 7:30 pm. Free, donations welcome. www.fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225.		15	PA	Lecture, “‘Day was now breaking and it was too late for any change of place,’ Richard Ewell, Cemetery Hill & Memory,” at the Gettysburg national park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
11	PA	Lincoln Day in Harrisonburg. A series of Lincoln-related events at the state capitol. www.palincoln.org .		15	VA	“President Lincoln in Petersburg,” special program at the Petersburg city visitor center, 425 Cockade Alley downtown. 11 am, 1 and 3 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/pete or 804-733-2400.
12	KY	200th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace near Hodgenville. Large crowd expected for activities including opening remarks (10 am) and shuttle service to and from nearby Boyhood Home. See www.nps.gov/abli or call 270-358-3137 for complete schedule. For more events related to the anniversary, see www.lincoln200.gov .		20	VA	Lecture, “Marines at the Battle of First Manassas,” at the Manassas Museum. 7 pm. \$5. www.manassasmuseum.org or 703-368-1873.
12	IL	Roundtable discussions and living history at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. Discussions include “The Breakup of the Union” and “Lincoln and the Civil War.” www.alplm.org .		21	MD	Lecture, “Maryland & Emancipation,” at the Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E Moser Road. 1 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/mono or 301-662-3515.
12	VA	Lecture, “The Magnanimity of President Lincoln,” at the Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music, University of Richmond. 7:30 pm. Free, reservations required. Complete schedule of UR Lincoln-related events: jepson.richmond.edu/events/forum08 .		21	PA	Lecture, “‘Take that hill if practicable’ – Cemetery Hill and the End of the First Day’s Battle,” at the Gettysburg national park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
12	PA	Abraham Lincoln Birthday Party at the Palmyra Public Library, 325 Railroad St, Palmyra. 2 pm. Free. 717-838-1347.		21	VA	Play, “Abolitionists’ Museum,” historical characters discuss the Confederate flag at Riddick’s Folly in Suffolk. 1 pm. Free. www.riddicksfolly.org or 757-934-0822.
12-16	PA	Grand re-opening of the David Wills House in Gettysburg. Museum devoted to Lincoln’s visit and the town’s battle experience opens in the downtown home where Lincoln stayed before his November		21	VA	Symposium, “Generals Behaving Badly,” speakers include Ed Bearrs, Robert K. Krick, John Quarstein and others. At the Library of Virginia (800 E Broad St) lecture hall in Richmond. Sponsored by the Museum of the Confederacy. \$45. www.moc.org or register 804-649-1861 extension 32.
				21-22	VA	“Life in Civil War Petersburg,” special program at

- PA

the Eastern Front visitor center, Petersburg National Battlefield. 11 am-3 pm. Free with park admission
Free with admission. www.nps.gov/pete or 804-732-3531 extension 200.
- 22 PA

Lecture, “July 1, 1863 – Surprise or Surmise,” at the Gettysburg national park visitor center. 1:30 pm.
Free. www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 26 VA

Lecture, “Conversation on Race, Reconciliation and Richmond,” at the Jepson Alumni Center, University of Richmond. 4 pm. Free. Reservations required. Complete schedule of UR Lincoln-related events: jepson.richmond.edu/events/forum08.
- 26 VA

Lecture, “Newby Family and Harpers Ferry, 1859.” Focus is on local residents Dangerfield and Harriet Newby and their role in John Brown’s Raid, at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave, Manassas. 7 pm. Free. 703-792-4754.
- 28 VA

Tour, “Civil War at Kelly’s Ford and Bristoe Station,” a Smithsonian tour led by Ed Bearss. Leaves Washington DC at 8 am. Details, registration: www.civilwarstudies.org; click on “Activities.”
- 28 VA

Seminar, “Secret Missions and the Civil War,” at Longwood University in Farmville (Room 132, Hull Building). Doors open 9:15 am. Free. www.longwood.edu or 434-395-2220.
- 28 VA

Lincoln Day Celebration at the Manassas Museum. Book talk, “Lincoln’s First Nomination: Champagne, Deals & Dirty Tricks,” 2 pm. 1860s bonnet design demonstration 1-4 pm. Free with admission. www.manassasmuseum.org or 703-368-1873.
- 28 VA

Lecture, “Role of the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War,” at the Urbana Regional Library, 9020 Amelung St. 1 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/mono or 301-662-3515.
- 28 PA

Lecture, “The 1st Minnesota Infantry on July 2,” at the Gettysburg national park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.

Moment from History

Submitted by R. Patrone

http://www.brainyhistory.com/daysbirth/birth_january_10.html

Florida Secedes!



[Private Walter Miles Parker, 1st Florida Cavalry, C.S.A.](#)

between 1860 and 1865.

[Civil War Photographs, 1861-1865](#)

On **January 10**, 1861, delegates to the Florida Convention in [Tallahassee](#) voted to secede from the United States of America. The following month, Florida was one of six Deep South states to form the [Confederate States of America](#).

The least populous state below the Mason-Dixon line, Florida played an active role in the [Civil War](#). At least 17,000 Floridians fought in the conflict (the great majority on the Confederate side), and the state's coastline provided safe harbor to blockade runners. Florida products—such as sugar, pork, molasses and salt—proved essential in feeding Southern soldiers.

Just a year into the conflict, Confederate forces abandoned Fort Marion in [St. Augustine](#). On March 11, 1862, the Union gunboat [USS Wabash](#) took the fort without firing a shot. Local officials agreed to surrender the historic city, founded by the Spanish in 1565, in an attempt to save it from destruction. The garrison, built by the Spanish and initially completed in 1695, is preserved as the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument.

Compared to many other Southern states, Florida saw little military action. Strategically important coastal cities, such as Jacksonville and Saint Augustine, switched hands between the North and South but the interior of the state remained under Confederate control. When [Lee surrendered](#) in 1865, [Tallahassee](#) was the only Southern capital east of the Mississippi that was still held by rebel forces.

Civil War Journey announces 2009 Tour Schedule

Civil War Journey has sent out their Civil War battlefield tour schedule for the coming year. For more information as to prices and itineraries, check out their website, www.civilwarjourney.com

Private tours on 12-13 Jan, 17-19 April, and 1-3 May.

7 – 10 May: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania

25 – 28 June & 10 – 13 September: Gettysburg

25 – 27 September: Army of the Roanoke “Friends” tour

15 – 18 October: Road to Appomattox

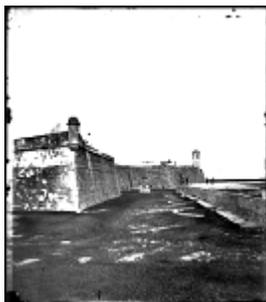
29 October – 1 November: Antietam



[Signal Tower,](#)

Jacksonville, Florida,
between 1860 and 1865.

[Civil War Photographs, 1861-1865](#)



[Bastions of Fort Marion,](#)

Saint Augustine, Florida,
Sam A. Cooley, photographer,
between 1860 and 1865.

[Civil War Photographs, 1861-1865](#)

Physician's Deadly Plan to Sicken Yankees Foiled

from the Washington Times

31 Dec 2005

by Martha M. Boltz

The Civil War brought Southern blockade runners and commercial prosperity to Bermuda, but it also brought the yellow fever epidemic of 1864. That, in turn, led to one of the earliest attempts at germ warfare, courtesy of a Kentucky-born physician, Luke Pryor Blackburn.

Had Blackburn's plot succeeded, he could have caused the deaths of thousands. It is a little-known story of the Civil War.

For the most part, the island had escaped the ravages of yellow fever, which had swept through the Caribbean, until two sailors sick with the dread disease arrived at St. George on the blockade runner *Fannie*. They would bear the blame for the infection at the time, although it actually was spread by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

Unsanitary conditions around the crowded town provided amply breeding grounds for the insect, and some 3,000 people died by the time the fever had run its course. It was a terrible epidemic, with the doomed suffering hemorrhagic fever, bleeding from the nose and mouth and producing a dark black vomit, usually said to resemble coffee grounds.

One man who arrived in Bermuda from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the fall of 1864, when the epidemic was at its peak, stood out as a veritable hero at the time: Dr. Luke Pryor Blackburn.

Born in Woodford County, KY, he had gotten his medical degree from Transylvania College in Lexington, KY, in

1835, and had begun practicing in nearby Versailles. Transylvania also counted Confederate Col. John Singleton Mosby and Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan among its alumni. Blackburn would play a different role from the military men, but one potentially as deadly.

After college, Blackburn turned up in Natchez, MS, where he established effective quarantines in the Mississippi River Valley against yellow fever. He also was recognized for work in Florida, as well as his native Kentucky, where he appears to have lost just 150 patients out of 462 infected with the disease. In St. George, he was heralded as a compassionate savior of many ill people – but he had a more nefarious objective in mind.

It must be remembered that the connection of the disease to a mosquito carrier had yet to be determined. It was still believed that contact between persons, or even their clothing, could spread the disease, and Blackburn seized upon this idea to formulate a diabolical way of helping his Southern brothers.

Collecting the bloody clothing and even the vomit-stained bedding of those who had died of yellow fever, he packed the 'diseased items' into a large trunk. He quietly purchased additional fresh linens and put them in with the supposedly infected ones. His plan was to ship the contaminated goods to several Northern cities, where he hoped the contagion would spread among Union troops and effectively decimate them.

In an attempt to distance himself from the ultimate effect he hoped to create, he left the trunk with an acquaintance in Bermuda, a Mr. Swan, and took off for Canada. He would, he said, let Swan know when and where to ship the trunk full of supposed contaminants. For some reason, his 'friend' reported the scheme to the U.S. Consul, Charles Allen, who passed on the information to local health officials. Swan was quickly arrested and charged with 'harboring a nuisance,' and a warrant was issued for Blackburn's arrest.

At the same time, local officials seized the trunk and quickly burned it and its contents to avoid the supposed spread of contagion. When Blackburn was brought to trial in Canada for the crime, the evidence against him had been destroyed, the case against him could not stand, and all charges were dismissed.

Though apocryphal stories spread across the South (and North) of yellow fever epidemics begun but Blackburn's infected bedding scheme, no clothing or linens ever left Bermuda, and of course, the mosquito remained the unacknowledged culprit.

"People were genuinely sorry" when the doctor left the island, Walter Brownell Hayward wrote in his 1910 book, *Bermuda Past and Present*, but they would soon learn the cause of his hasty departure.

The rampant epidemic took a toll on blockade running, and at least one ship may have sunk because of it. Recently spotlighted on the History Channel were divers attempting to find the cause of the sinking of the *Mary Celestia*, which was berthed in Bermuda with several of its sailors debilitated by yellow fever.

She had made at least eight successful runs transporting blankets and ammunition, but the ninth was her last. When the regular pilot succumbed to the fever, a new pilot, John Virgin, took over the helm. He was unfamiliar with the surrounding reefs, and the ship sank in six minutes.

Blackburn would follow postwar epidemics of yellow fever, successfully treating victims in Florida; Memphis, TN; and New Orleans as well as in his native state. It would take the efforts of former Union Maj. Walter Reed to discover the mosquito carrier of yellow fever. Reed's name would outlive Blackburn's. The 92-year-old Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, bears his name.

As for Blackburn, he returned to Kentucky in 1872 and, seven years later, easily won election as governor, serving until

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1883, when he returned to his medical practice. Among his accomplishments as governor were improvements in the state's penal system, the issuing of pardons to alleviate overcrowding, and the securing of funding for what would be a new prison at Eddyville.

The mammoth building made of red stone known as the 'Castle on the Cumberland' stands today, a maximum-security prison, as a monument to the hard work and dedication of Luke Pryor Blackburn.

Blackburn married Ella Gist Boswell, and they had one son. After her death in 1856, he married Julia Churchill. It is difficult to reconcile the doctor's acts and apparent intentions during the war with his salutary ones both before and after it. He died 14 Sept. 1887, and is buried in Frankfort Cemetery in Frankfort, KY.

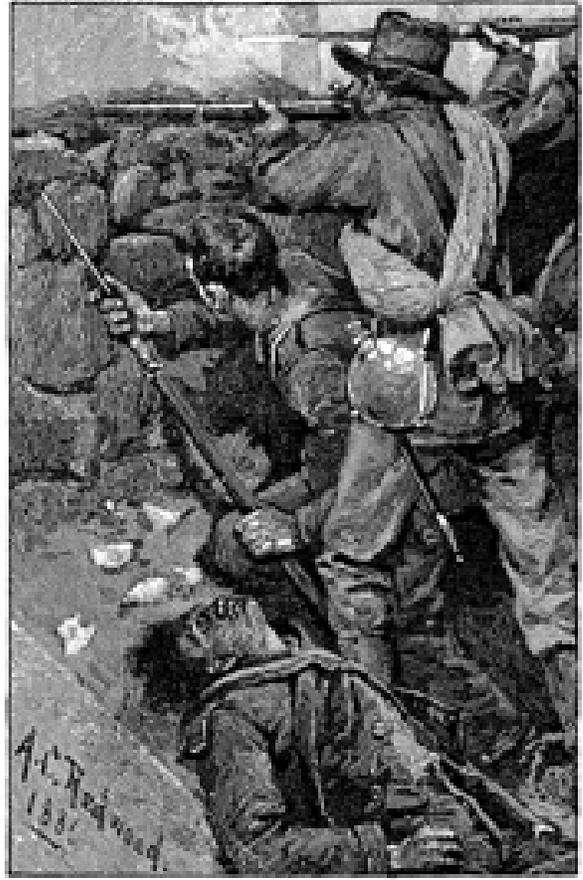
His tombstone says that *in his great soul, justice, honor and mercy ruled together and sordid aspirations held no sway. He rests with the blessed who have feared God and loved their fellow men.*

Thus is he remembered.

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www.cmccwrt.com



Lincoln's Inauguration, 1861