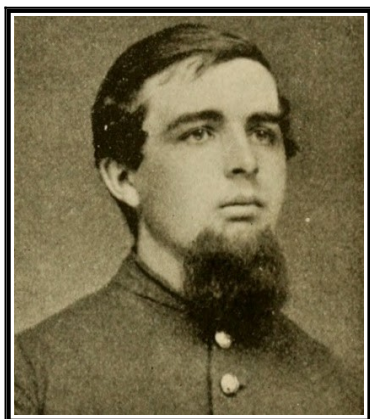
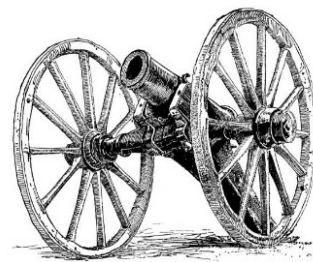


The Growler

The Newsletter of the
Cascade Civil War Society

July 2026



A MUSKET BALL THAT PAID OFF A CHURCH DEBT

On July 21, 1861, John L. Rice, a private with the 2nd New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, was shot through the lungs at the First Battle of Bull Run. His comrades carried him toward Sudley Church, then abandoned him under a fence as Confederate forces swept the field. He lay there for two days. His wound turned septic. A Confederate surgeon who examined him pronounced him a hopeless case and walked away.

Amos and Margaret Benson lived just east of Bull Run in Fairfax County, Virginia. They were heading home from Sudley Methodist Church on the evening of the 23rd when they found the maggot-infested Union soldier beneath the fence. They refused to leave him. For ten days, they camped beside him in a makeshift tent, bringing him food from their own table, washing him, cleaning his wound. They were Confederates nursing a Yankee, the enemy, back to life.

Rice slowly recovered. He was moved to the church, then to a freight car, then to Libby Prison in Richmond as a prisoner of war. He was eventually exchanged, reenlisted, and finished the war as an



officer. Amos Benson, for his part, went on to serve with Company A of the 4th Virginia Cavalry. It is nearly certain the two men's regiments faced each other again across a battlefield.

Twenty-five years later, in the fall of 1886, Rice crossed back into Virginia to find the family that had saved him. When he told Amos he wanted to repay the debt, Amos thought for a moment, then pointed to Sudley Church, rebuilt after the war, still carrying \$200 in unpaid debt. "That," he said, "is how you can help us."

Rice returned to Massachusetts and published an appeal in the *Springfield Republican* on November 24, 1886. Within four days, 79 donors, including 27 veterans, had sent \$235, in amounts from 50 cents to \$20. The money was forwarded in full. In her letter of thanks, Margaret Benson, who had reportedly remained a staunch, un-Reconstructed Rebel, wrote that the generosity of strangers from the North had finally converted her.

A musket ball meant to kill one man ended up paying off a church.

Why did Confederate armies expect a warm welcome in Kentucky, and why were they met with hostility instead?



In 1862, Confederate General Braxton Bragg hauled 15,000 spare rifles into Kentucky, expecting eager crowds to join his army. Instead, he found a state that wanted him gone.

The Confederate high command had seemingly logical reasons to expect a hero's welcome. Kentucky was a slaveholding

state with deep cultural, familial, and agricultural roots tying it to the Deep South. Prominent Kentucky politicians, including former US Vice President John C. Breckinridge, had already thrown their support behind the Confederacy. From Richmond, it was easy to look at a map and assume that shared institutions—most notably the institution of slavery—would inevitably translate into shared loyalty. Confederate leaders convinced themselves that Kentucky was a captive sister state, merely waiting for a Southern army to liberate it from federal coercion.

However, this grand strategic vision collided with a much messier political reality on the ground.

The primary reason Kentuckians reacted with hostility was that the Confederacy had already spoiled its political goodwill a year earlier. In 1861, Kentucky had officially declared itself neutral, hoping to sit out the bloodshed. That fragile neutrality held until September of that year, when Confederate General Leonidas Polk unilaterally marched troops into the Kentucky town of Columbus. This unprovoked occupation outraged the public and pushed the state legislature firmly into the Union camp. By the time Bragg arrived in 1862, many Kentuckians viewed the Confederates not as liberators, but as the original invaders who had dragged their state into a ruinous war.

Economics also played a massive role. While Kentucky traded extensively with the South, the Ohio River bordering the north was the state's most vital economic artery, connecting its massive agricultural output to Northern and global markets. Secession meant economic isolation for river merchants and farmers who relied on those waterways.

Finally, the sheer logistics of the 1862 invasion alienated whatever Southern sympathizers remained. Civil War armies were perpetually hungry, and Bragg's forces had to survive by foraging. Confederate soldiers stripped local farms of livestock, crops, and horses, often "paying" with quickly depreciating Confederate scrip. To the average Kentucky farmer, regardless of their political leanings, the arrival of the Confederate army did not look like liberation—it looked like armed robbery. Bragg eventually retreated south, leaving behind his spare rifles and the shattered illusion of a Confederate Kentucky.



What happened to Confederate military leaders who didn't reconcile with the Union after the Civil War?

When Robert E. Lee surrendered, he urged his men to go home. Instead, dozens of top commanders scattered across the globe to build colonies, invent the 'Lost Cause,' and join the Egyptian Army.

Fearing prosecution for treason or simply unable to stomach defeat, these unreconstructed officers generally took one of three paths: Mexican colonizers, foreign mercenaries, and propagandists.

The Mexican Exiles

As the war collapsed, General Joseph O. "Jo" Shelby refused to surrender his cavalry division. He marched his "Iron Brigade" straight into Mexico, reportedly sinking

their Confederate battle flag in the Rio Grande along the way. In Mexico, Shelby, along with other fleeing commanders like Sterling Price, offered their swords to Emperor Maximilian. Maximilian declined their military services but encouraged them to establish the "Carlota Colony"—a planned agricultural settlement of Southern expatriates near Veracruz. The dream was short-lived; when Maximilian was overthrown and executed in 1867, the exiles were forced to flee again, and many returned to the U.S. in poverty.

The Egyptian Mercenaries



Perhaps the strangest post-war fate belonged to the roughly 50 Civil War veterans who enlisted in the Egyptian Army. Khedive Ismail Pasha wanted battle-tested officers to modernize his military and expand his empire into East Africa. Former Confederate Major General William W. Loring took the offer, moving to Cairo and serving for a decade.

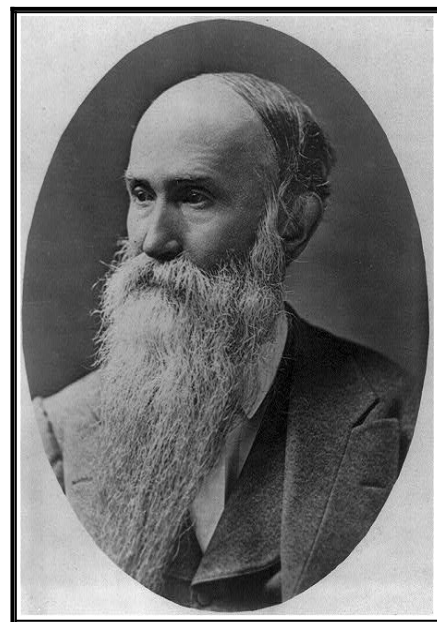
William W. Loring, a former Confederate major general, wearing the uniform of a Pasha while serving in the Egyptian Army. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Loring was commissioned as a brigadier general in Egypt, eventually earning the title of Pasha. He led Egyptian forces in the disastrous Ethiopian-Egyptian War before finally returning to the United

States in 1879.

The Propagandists

Others sought exile in Canada or Europe, biding their time until blanket pardons were issued. Lieutenant General Jubal Early fled to Mexico, then Cuba, and finally Canada. Though he eventually returned to Virginia in 1869 to practice law, he never took the oath of allegiance. Instead, Early dedicated his remaining decades to constructing the "Lost Cause" mythology. He fiercely defended Robert E. Lee's legacy, ruthlessly attacked former comrades (like James Longstreet) who dared to reconcile with the federal government, and ensured that the post-war Southern narrative was built on defiant romanticism rather than acceptance.



The Civil War Film Vault



The film in this issue many people look on as a Western. But it's more than that with the films roots deeply planted in the Civil War and what drives people to do what they do, when their world is cruelly ripped away. This is one of my favorite films and is gripping as a tail of vengeance

slowly evolving into one of sought after peace.

But others will not let that peace come.

This is the opening ten minutes to this treasure from the Civil War Film Vault. From 1976, "The Outlaw Josey Wells".



https://youtu.be/dFT5ZucHadg?si=kr0met5NH_y2tQsQ

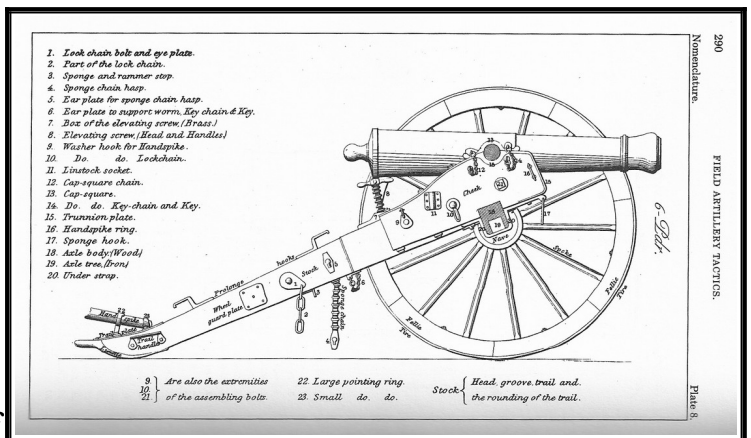


THE ARTILLERY MAN'S HOBBY LOBBY

Making a Miniature Bronze Cannon

Just how much does a replica Civil War cannon cost? A full size cannon is out of reach of the average Civil War reenactors budget. The cannon tube, the carriage it rides on and all the accouterments that go with it cost a heck of a lot of money.

However, there is a way around that if your into building things yourself. Like a smaller, but working black powder fieldpiece of your own. Watched the attached "How To" video and maybe you'll get inspired.



<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1168274048777867>

ON THE QUESTION OF SLAVERY DURING THE CIVIL WAR



As Civil War reenactment enthusiasts, we frequently encounter complex questions from living history audiences regarding the nuances of slavery in America. We believe it is important to address the historical reality that prior to, and during the Civil War, slave ownership was not exclusive to one demographic.

While the vast majority of enslaved individuals were of African descent in which millions of whom were forcefully transported via the transatlantic trade, the historical record shows that ownership also existed among Native American and some Black populations.

For instance, the Indian slave trade of the late 1600s and early 1700s involved the enslavement of thousands of Indigenous people. Historical figures such as Anthony Johnson illustrate early instances of Black property owners legally holding indentured servants and enslaved persons.

It is our position that slavery in any form is unacceptable and degrading. However, it is also important to acknowledge that the enslavement of African Americans was and uniquely subjugated and disastrous, subjected to violence and terror. Understanding these multifaceted historical details allows us to provide a more comprehensive narrative when engaging with the public.



By Jerry Parkman, Member of: Northwest Civil War Council



*Happy 25th Birthday
To the United States of
America from the Cascade
Civil War Society.*

How would General Lee have used General Jackson in his campaign against the Army of the Potomac at the Battle of Gettysburg?

At Gettysburg, "Stonewall" Jackson's absence forced Robert E. Lee into the disastrous frontal assault of Pickett's Charge. With Jackson, Lee would have unleashed a sweeping 15-mile flank attack.

Had Jackson survived Chancellorsville two months prior, Lee would have kept his army divided into two corps—one commanded by James Longstreet, the other by Jackson. Instead, Lee reorganized into three corps, promoting Richard Ewell and A.P. Hill. This command shift caused critical failures in execution.

On July 1, Ewell's corps routed Union forces through the streets of Gettysburg. As the fleeing troops consolidated on Cemetery Hill, Lee sent Ewell a discretionary order: take the high ground "if practicable." Ewell, methodical and cautious, surveyed the terrain and deemed an attack impractical. Lee's command style relied on vague, discretionary orders because Jackson understood how to

interpret them. To Jackson, "if practicable" meant attacking until physically incapable of continuing. Had Jackson commanded the vanguard on Day 1, he would have assaulted Cemetery Hill immediately, likely dislodging the Union army before General George Meade could anchor his famous "fishhook" defensive line.

If the battle extended into a second or third day, Lee's tactical use of Jackson would have looked entirely different than his orders to Longstreet and Ewell. Lee viewed Longstreet as his anvil and Jackson as his hammer. Faced with entrenched Union troops on high ground, Lee would not have ordered Longstreet to attack Little Round Top.

Instead, Lee and Jackson would have defaulted to their defining maneuver. Just as they had done at Second Bull Run and Chancellorsville, Lee would have pinned the Union center with Longstreet's artillery and infantry, while sending Jackson around the Union flank to strike Meade's rear.

Jackson's presence would have also mitigated Lee's biggest disadvantage at Gettysburg: the absence of his cavalry commander, J.E.B. Stuart. Without Stuart's reconnaissance, Lee was maneuvering blind. Jackson, however, was notoriously exacting with subordinates and maintained his own independent network of scouts and topographical engineers. Unlike Hill or Ewell, who froze



without Stuart's screening, Jackson operated comfortably in informational vacuums by aggressively feeling out the enemy with his own skirmishers.



What was the difference between American and British paper cartridges during the Civil War, and how did it affect the loading process?



During the Civil War, millions of bullets missed their mark for one absurd reason: American soldiers kept throwing away the paper wrapping that made imported British ammunition work.

The standard American paper cartridge, designed for the Springfield rifled musket, was relatively straightforward. It consisted of a paper tube holding a measured charge of black powder and a conical lead Minié ball. To load, a soldier bit off the folded tail of the paper, poured the powder down the barrel, squeezed the naked lead bullet out of the paper casing into the muzzle, and threw away the empty paper. The bullet was sized closely to the bore, relying on a hollow base that would expand under the pressure of the exploding powder to grip the barrel's rifling.

The British Enfield cartridge, purchased in massive quantities by both the Union and the Confederacy, was a more complex piece of engineering. The paper itself was an integral part of the projectile. The bullet was wrapped tightly in a separate, outer piece of heavily greased paper within the main cartridge tube.

To load the British ammunition properly, a soldier bit the powder end open, poured the powder, and then inverted the cartridge. They inserted the bullet—still wrapped in its greased paper—into the muzzle, tore off the empty powder tube, and rammed the paper-patched bullet down the barrel. The lubricated paper acted as a patch to seal the bore, grip the rifling, and keep black powder fouling soft so subsequent shots could be loaded easily.

This design difference drastically affected combat effectiveness when placed in the hands of uninstructed troops.



Because the British Enfield bullet was slightly smaller than the American Minié ball, it relied entirely on the thickness of that paper patch to engage the rifling. When American soldiers intuitively loaded British cartridges the American way—squeezing out the bullet and discarding the paper—the undersized naked lead bullets would simply drop loosely down the barrel. Upon firing, the bullets failed to catch the rifling, tumbling through the air and resulting in terrible accuracy. Military leaders eventually had to issue distinct manual-of-arms instructions specifically to retrain troops on how to handle the foreign paper cartridges.



On the night of June 2, 1864, a Union officer walked
through camp and noticed something strange.
Thousands of soldiers were quietly sewing.

They were stitching scraps of paper with their names and home addresses into their coats. No dog tags existed yet. These men had seen Lee's trenches across the field, and they wanted their bodies sent home with a name.

They were writing their own toe tags. That happened 162 years ago, at a Virginia crossroads called Cold Harbor.

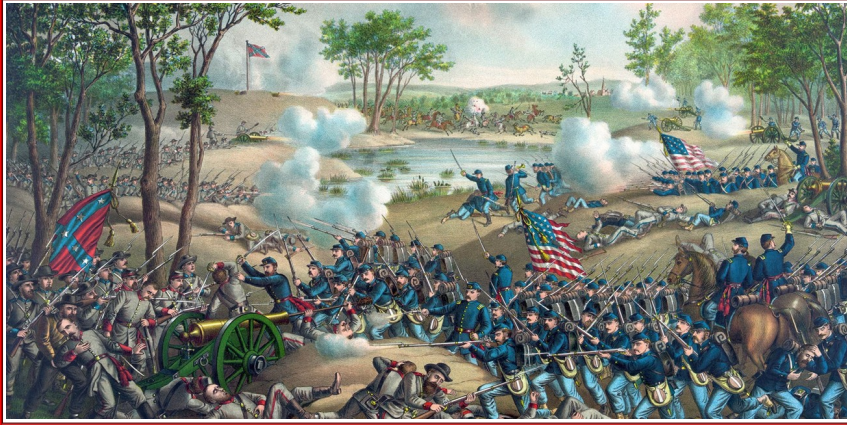


At 4:30 the next morning, Grant sent three corps, tens of thousands of men, straight at seven miles of Confederate earthworks. Lee's veterans had spent days perfecting interlocking fields of fire. One Confederate later said it wasn't war, it was murder.

The result was the most lopsided hour of the entire war. Thousands of Union soldiers fell in the opening minutes. Some regiments lost more men in that charge than in the rest of their existence combined.

Confederate losses were a fraction of that.

After the battle, a burial party found a diary on the body of a Union soldier. The final entry, written in advance:



"June 3. Cold Harbor. I was killed."

It gets darker. For four days, Grant and Lee exchanged stiff letters arguing over the formalities of a truce while thousands of wounded men lay screaming between the lines. By the time stretcher bearers finally went out on June 7, nearly all of

them had died of their wounds or thirst.

Grant went on to take Richmond, win the war, and serve two terms as President. He stared down disasters his whole career and never apologized for any of them.

Except one. Twenty years later, dying of throat cancer and racing to finish his memoirs so his family wouldn't be left broke, he stopped to write this:

"I have always regretted that the last assault at Cold Harbor was ever made. No advantage whatever was gained to compensate for the heavy loss we sustained."

The man won everything. And the thing he carried to his grave was one hour on a June morning, and a field full of men who had already written their names into their coats.



SO, YOUR ASKING YOURSELF, WHY ARE YOUR HOLSTERS ON BACKWARDS?



We've all seen it and wondered about it. In the movies you see a soldier, a cowpoke, the good guys and even the mean old rotten villains riding in on their horse or on foot getting ready for a shoot out on the middle of Main Street at noon. And then you



**WILD BILL HICKOK
WITH HIS BACKWARD
PISTOLS.**

notice it, there guns are in their holsters backwards. What the heck!?! Well, there is a reason for it, and the attached video below will give you phase to understand this odd holster position.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1733266647661768>

UP COMING EVENTS

July 4th. The 4th of July Parade and Freedom Celebration at Veterans Park in Klamath Falls. For the Parade, meet on Spring street in Klamath Falls, starting at 9 AM. Parade starts at 10 AM. The Freedom Celebration starts at 3pm. Set up with Cannons and gear starting about 1 PM.

July 9th. The monthly CCWS membership meeting at the Klamath County Museum at 6:30 PM. Enter at the back door.

July 20th. Rouge Valley CCWS chapter monthly meeting. At IHOP, 1383Center Dr., Medford, OR. 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

August 6th. The monthly CCWS membership meeting at the Klamath County Museum at 6:30 PM. Enter at the back door.

August 15th & 16th. Living History weekend at Fort Klamath Military Post Museum. Set up on Friday the 14th.

August 18th. Rouge Valley CCWS chapter monthly meeting. At IHOP, 1383Center Dr., Medford, OR. 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.



If you have an article or something you'd like posted in the Growler, send it to the editor, Tom Cooley no later than the 3rd Sunday of the month to make the next months publication.

tcooley1313@gmail.com



Weather for the 4th of July in Klamath Falls for the days Parade and Freedom Celebration in Veterans Park. 9AM Parade assemble, 66 degrees. Veterans Park 4PM, 86 degrees. Fireworks at Veterans Park 9PM, 71 degrees.

REENACTING IS A RIDICULOUS CONCEPT

When you get right down to it, it's a weird hobby.

Leaving the comforts and security of our 21st century lives to wear clothes that went out of fashion over 100 years ago, eat food that's repetitive and often tasteless, and sleeping on the ground are all things that an average person would label as crazy. However, we believe there's three motivating factors that keep us going and encourage us to expand our experiences.

1. It helps us honor the original cast and keep their story alive.

'Nuff said. We are the ones that make history tangible and more enjoyable to the public that watches the reenactments, visit us in camp, and ask questions. History books in school are boring. Seeing, hearing, and smelling even just a sliver of history helps people realize what life was like for the original cast.



2. It helps us understand the original cast better

As our friends over at the 11th OVC keep reiterating, experimental archeology is king. There aren't many (if any) letters, diaries, or documents that explain the difference between cotton or wool socks, lined or unlined coats, how to deal with a misbehaving musket in the thick of battle, or so much more. These were the daily experiences of so many of these people that we can also experience firsthand, though sometimes not to the degree that the original cast did.

3. Reenacting is hard

If it were easy, everyone would do it. In a world of instant gratification, there is something to be said about doing hard things and things that take time. You want a cup of

coffee? Make sure you gather the firewood, start the fire, boil the water, make the coffee, and make sure it cools down enough where you don't burn your entire mouth. That's a much different experience than popping a pod in a Keurig and getting the perfect cup of coffee every time. By taking on these challenges you prove most importantly to yourself that you can do it. That builds confidence and can make you a better person because of it.

So next time you're in the field, take some time to reflect on why we do this crazy hobby and cherish the friendships, memories, and the history that you're living.



Article submitted by Dan Foster CCWS

UP DATE

The Blacksmith Shop Project Fort Klamath



Things are in motion and starting to pick up steam. In mid June, Matthew Gailey and Mikael Dougan made a cabinet that will house the names of donors to the Blacksmith Shop Project.



In mid June, Gina meet with Jeanie and her husband Randel from the town of Fort Klamath met with Gina at Fort Klamath Museum and the Randels were really impressed at what has been done on the project. Jeanie took all the information and will be putting it in the Fort Klamath Post Office.

Gina also gave all the information out to the local

motels. They were very excited that it is now in the stage to raise money.

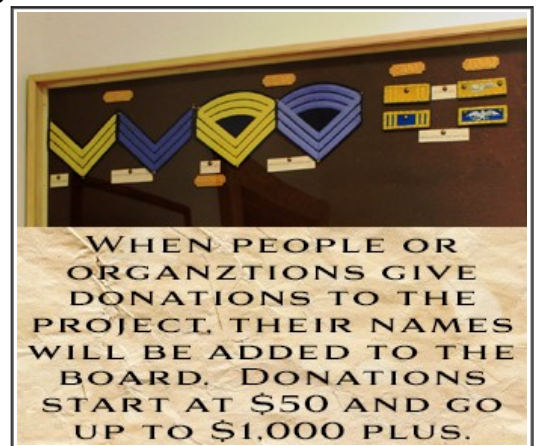
Gina will not be able to talk to the town people until July but is looking forward to speaking with the town and regional folks.

Another piece of good news, Blacksmith Mike, the High Desert Museum be contacted about the project. Gina did that be emailing them with the information that they requested so they can display it up there. They were excited to hear about the project. So our posters, and QR code are now up there at the High Desert Museum just a few miles south of Bend, Oregon.

Gina has heard from Cathy, the projects Grant writer, and is now starting to go over our information so hopefully we will be getting that going soon too.

Cathy states that the project is unusually fundable because it checks nearly every box: historic preservation, museum interpretation, tourism development, education, rural investment, and community identity. The fact that it is sponsored by a nonprofit (the CCWS) and located on county museum land only strengthens the case. The project description reads very well for funders. Fort Klamath's significance and the fact that this would be the first reconstruction in over 50 years are especially compelling.

Mike Dougan has started producing souvenir (fund raising) anvils that are out standing. They look heavy, but are surprisingly lite.



Events are are moving at a grand clip and with hope, and a little luck, well see even more progress on the Blacksmith Project in the near future.



3x3 inch refrigerator magnetic plates that Mike Dougan has made for sale.



**DONATE DIRECTLY TO
THE FT. KLAMATH
BLACKSMITH SHOP'S
— GO FUND ME PAGE —**



**PRESERVE HISTORY.
BUILD THE FUTURE.**