



MAY 2020

THE RUNNER



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5

*The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry**by Sherry Hewitt*

This is the story of my relatives who fought in the 46th Mississippi Infantry during the Civil War. John M. McLehany and his wife, Betsy, settled in Simpson County, Mississippi around 1825. Three of their sons were William (1827), Rowland (1838), and James (1842). They were my great-great-grandmother's brothers.

William (35), Rowland (24), and James (20) enlisted in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, Company H.

6th Mississippi Infantry (Balfour's)

Companies A-E assembled at Meridian in April, 1862, and the battalion composed of five companies was organized April 19th. J. W. Balfour, was elected commanding officer, and J. W. Jones, Company E, as Major. On May 18 the battalion was ordered to Vicksburg, where it was on duty at Smede's Point during the bombardment of May 10 to July 27, 1862, under the command of Gen. M. L. Smith, who had charge of the river defenses. The battalion suffered much from sickness and want of drinking water, and many died. The returns of July showed 17 officers and 161 men present for duty.

Rowland McLehany enlisted April 4, 1862.

46th Mississippi Infantry Regiment was organized during the fall of 1862 by adding five companies to the five-company 6th (Balfour's) Mississippi Infantry Battalion. In February, 1863, it totaled 407 effectives and served in S.D. Lee's Provisional Division and then Baldwin's Brigade in the Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana. COMPANIES OF THE 46TH MS INFANTRY:

Company A -- Gaines Invincibles (raised in Wayne County, MS)
 Company B -- Covington Rebels (raised in Covington County, MS)
 Company C -- Yazoo Pickets (raised in Yazoo County, MS)
 Company D -- Rankin Farmers (raised in Rankin County, MS)
 Company E -- Jeff Davis Rebels (raised in Warren & Yazoo Counties, MS)
 Company F -- Lauderdale Rifles (raised in Lauderdale County, MS)
 Company G -- Singleton Guards (raised in Smith County, MS)
 Company H -- Raleigh Farmers/Rangers (raised in Smith County, MS)
 Company I -- Southern Rights (raised in Newton County, MS)
 Company K -- Kemper Guards/Mississippi Rangers (raised in Kemper County, MS)

The original companies had been on duty at Vicksburg from May to December, 1862. The order designating the command as the Forty-sixth Regiment was received December 2, 1862. On December 21 the regiment was reviewed by President Davis and Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. On the 27th they were ordered to north of the city at Chickasaw Bayou, where General Sherman was

Our May 14th meeting featuring **Douglas Waller** has been canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>The McLehany Brothers</i>	1-6
<i>Book Review - Lincoln's Spies</i>	7-9
<i>Trivia Questions</i>	10
<i>Online Presentations</i>	
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	11
<i>Trivia Answers</i>	
<i>Back Page</i>	12

(Continued on page 2)



The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, cont.

attempting to gain a position. Three companies, Hart's, Sublett's and Rea's, had been on picket duty along Chickasaw Bayou three weeks before the battle. The Forty-sixth was mentioned by General Pemberton as one of the commands entitled to the highest distinction in the defeat of Sherman by Gen. S. D. Lee's command at Chickasaw Bayou, December, 26-29, 1862. At Blake's levee, on the 28th, General Lee reported the demonstration of the enemy, in force, with artillery, was handsomely held in check by Colonel Withers, with the Forty-sixth Regiment and Johnston's section of artillery. Nine companies were in this fight, under Lieutenant-Colonel Easterling, and rendered service of great value. Casualties, 1 wounded.

The one wounded was Rowland McLehany. He would succumb to his injuries on February 5, 1863. He is buried at Soldiers' Rest Cemetery in Vicksburg. Rowland left behind a wife and two children. William enlisted February 13, 1863.

Along the levee Withers reported the Federal advance was held in check all day long by the Forty-sixth Mississippi, Lieutenant Johnston's section and Bowman's Battery. Paul Hamilton, Adjutant General of the brigade, was killed on the 29th.

Col. C. W. Sears took command of the 46th on January 31. About this time the regiment was about 400 effectives. As a battalion the regiment had been a part of the command of Gen. Martin Luther Smith, commanding at Vicksburg. After the arrival of Gen. S. D. Lee, it formed part of his brigade, with three Louisiana Regiments. February 20, 1863, Brig. Gen. W. E. Baldwin was assigned to command of a brigade, including the Fourth and Forty-sixth Mississippi, Seventeenth and Thirty-first Louisiana, Wofford's and Drew's Batteries and Haynes' and Smythe's Companies. On March 25 the regiment started to the lower Deer Creek region, in Issaquena County, and after some time at or near Haynes' landing on the Yazoo, returned to Vicksburg April 16.

The regiment, with the brigade, marched over 100 miles from April 29 to May 4, Vicksburg to Port Gibson and returning, and was engaged in battle with the advance of Grant's army on the Rodney road, before Port Gibson, May 1. In this action the Forty-sixth was posted as reserve and in support of a battery, but later was put in position to make a charge. General Baldwin, however, withdrew the order due to the evident great strength of the enemy in front. Subsequently four companies reinforced the line of the Seventeenth Louisiana, the regiment of Baldwin's Brigade that was most seriously engaged. Casualties for the brigade was: 60 killed and wounded.

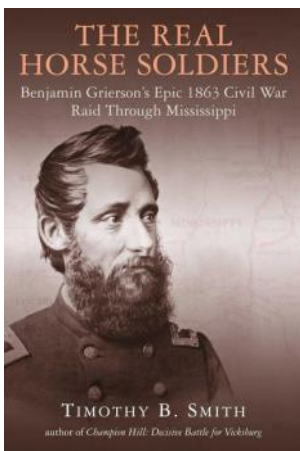
After the return to Vicksburg the brigade was posted at or near Hall's ferry. On May 15, they moved to Mount Alban. General Baldwin was commander of the forces on the Big Black River. On the 16th the Forty-sixth advanced to Bovina. That night news came of the disaster at Baker's Creek, after which the brigade was advanced to the Big Black bridge, to cover the crossing of troops. Baldwin's Brigade brought up the rear on the march to Vicksburg, and on the 18th, occupied the outer line of works north of the city where they sustained and repulsed an assault, and then were withdrawn to the inner line to a position where the brigade right was near the Riddle house. Colonel Sears commanded the regiment through the siege "and merited," said Baldwin, "favorable notice."

On Independence Day Vicksburg, Mississippi was surrendered formally by Confederates under Pemberton to the Federals under Grant. About 29,000 soldiers laid down their arms and marched out of the city.

(Continued on page 3)



46th Mississippi
Infantry Battle Flag



**THE REAL
HORSE SOLDIERS**
Benjamin Grierson's Epic 1863 Civil War
Raid Through Mississippi

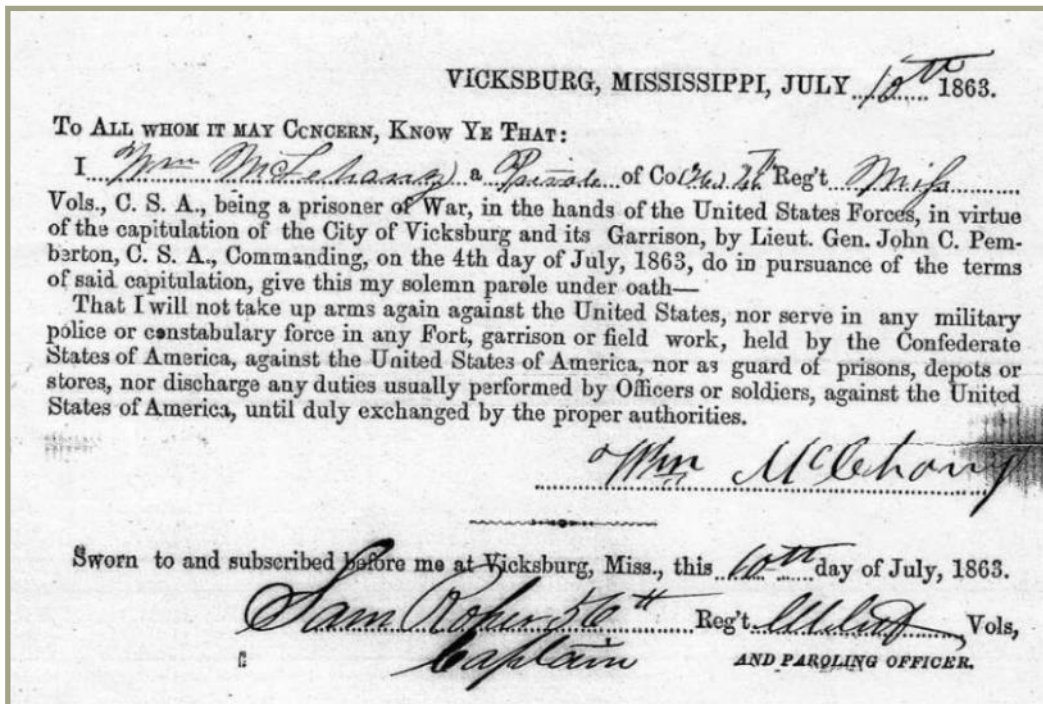
TIMOTHY B. SMITH
author of *Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg*

The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, cont.

Of the surrender General Baldwin wrote: "My command marched over the trenches and stacked their arms with the greatest reluctance, conscious of their ability to hold the position assigned them for an indefinite period of time. During the whole siege the entire command had exhibited the highest degree of patience, fortitude and courage, bearing deprivations of sufficient food, constant duty in the trenches under a broiling sun by day and heavy fatigue and picket duty at night, without a murmur, willing to bear any hardships, confident in sustaining the brunt of any assault, in the hope of anticipated relief and ultimate triumph. The command was daily aroused and under arms at 3:30 A.M., to guard against surprise, and nightly our pickets were in advance of our defenses and nearly contiguous to the sentinels of the enemy. The loss in killed and wounded was severe."

The order for march of the division from Vicksburg at 4 P.M., July 11, 1863, on the Baldwin's Ferry road, was as follows: 1, Baldwin's Brigade; 2, Shoup's Brigade; 3, Vaughn's Brigade; 3, Harris' State troops; the division under the command of Gen. Shoup, Gen. Smith remaining at Vicksburg to fulfill the capitulations. The regimental colors, originally the flag of the Gaines Invincibles, were brought out by Captain Sublett, wrapped around his body under his shirt. The paroled men were furloughed for sixty days, to report at Enterprise.

James and William McLehany were among the paroled Confederate soldiers. James returned to the 46th, William did not. Vicksburg was about 50 miles from their homes in Simpson County.



William McLehany, when released in the prisoner exchange at Vicksburg and returned home.

He and his family (wife and 6 children) relocated to Kentucky before 1865.

By 1872 the family (including 2 children born after the Civil War) had moved to Arkansas.

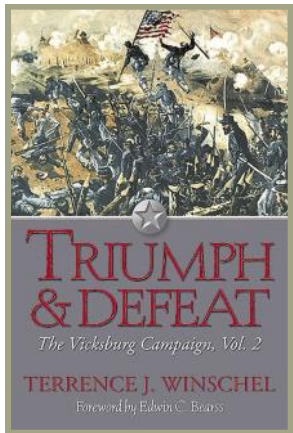
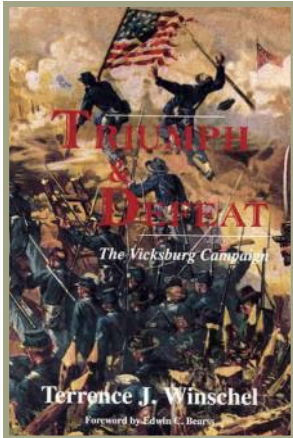
William lived to the ripe old age of 80, passing on Christmas Day in 1907.

After the prisoner exchange the 46th was assigned to General Baldwin's, Tucker's, and Sears' Brigade. Baldwin's Brigade, at Enterprise, November 20, included, exchanged, and armed, 2,279; the regiments being the Fourth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth and Forty-sixth.

General Johnston was ordered to send the brigade to reinforce Bragg at Missionary Ridge. On November 2, but the brigade did not receive marching orders until the 21st. They arrived at Dalton, Ga., too late for the battle of November 25, and were then ordered to Resaca, and

(Continued on page 4)

The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, cont.



58
Roll of Prisoners of War Captured

NO.	NAMES - in alphabetical order.	RANK.	REGIMENT.	CO.	WHERE CAPTURED.	WHEN CAPTURED.
316	D. J. Stille	Private	46 th Miss. Inf.	A.	Vicksburg	July 1870
317	H. L. Bratcher	Private	"	"	"	"
318	B. D. Harrison	Private	"	"	"	"
319	H. H. Jolly	Private	"	"	"	"
320	L. H. Gumbrell	Private	"	"	"	"
338	C. H. Nair	"	"	"	"	"
339	L. P. Lane	"	"	"	"	"
340	W. H. Barber	"	"	"	"	"
341	C. H. McLehany	"	"	"	"	"
342	C. H. Nair	"	"	"	"	"
343	J. S. Miller	"	"	"	"	"
344	J. H. Owens	"	"	"	"	"
345	J. H. Paine	"	"	"	"	"
346	J. H. Fry	"	"	"	"	"
347	P. H. Pugh	"	"	"	"	"
348	C. H. McLehany	"	"	"	"	"

Sugar Valley. They were listed as part of W. H. T. Walker's Division, Hardee's Corps. The brigade was returned to General Polk January 15-16, and sent to General Maury at Mobile. Maury sent them to Meridian on February 7. Polk sent them to Meridian to aid S.D. Lee in meeting Sherman's raid, but Polk immediately ordered them back to Mobile. The experience was discouraging to the men. The regiment did not contain more than 146 men on its return to Maury. General Baldwin was killed by accident February 19. Colonel Sears was promoted Brigadier-General to succeed Baldwin. This resulted in a disorganization of the brigade. It was reorganized to include the Fourth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth, Thirty-ninth and Forty-sixth Regiments and Seventh Battalion.

The brigade was moved to Pollard, Ala., in April to Selma, and early in May to Anniston, whence they moved to Adairsville, Ga., joining the army of General Johnston just after the battle of Resaca. With the smaller brigades of Cockrell's Missourians and Ector's Texans and North Carolinians, they were under the division command of Gen. S. G. French, a Mississippian, one of the four divisions of Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk's Army of Mississippi. After Polk's death on June 14, they were assigned to Lieutenant General A. P. Stewart's Corps, Army of Tennessee. *From that time until September 6, they were every day but one under fire.*

In the early part of the Atlanta campaign the companies were commanded as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| A Capt. N. Pace | F Capt. T. Wiggins |
| B Lieut. J. S. Duckworth | G Capt. D. D. Heslip |
| C Lieut. W. L. Stanford | H Lieut. David Anderson |
| D Capt. James Boswick | I Capt. T. Burgess |
| E Lieut. Smith | K Capt. D. C. Durham |

Triumph & Defeat
The Vicksburg Campaign,
 Vol. 1 & 2
 By Terrence Winschel
 Savas Beatie Publishing

The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, cont.

D.C. Chamberlain was Acting Adjutant. The casualties of the regiment were:

- Cassville - 4 wounded
- New Hope Church - 3 killed, 6 wounded, 1 missing
- Latimer House - 1 killed, 1 wounded, 1 missing
- Kenesaw Mountain - 9 killed, 26 wounded, 20 missing
- Smyrna - 5 wounded
- Chattahoochee - 2 killed, 4 wounded, 3 missing
- in front of Atlanta - 7 killed, 25 wounded, 7 missing
- Lovejoy's Station - 1 killed, 2 wounded

The casualties named in front of Atlanta occurred August 4, when the Forty-sixth, under Colonel Clark, constituting the main picket line of the brigade, charged the enemy and drove him back, regaining their position against heavy force, and taking 21 prisoners. "The gallantry of the Forty-sixth was highly commended in this affair," wrote General Sears. Colonel Clark occupied the ditches with his regiment and 120 of the dismounted cavalry, in all 420, the night of August 2, and his advanced videttes were driven in August 4. In his charge Clark was supported by another Mississippi regiment. On August 27 the regiment joined in the reconnaissance to the Chattahoochee River, and in the night of September 1 they marched out of Atlanta as the rear guard, the final fighting of the campaign being at Lovejoy's, September 2-6.

James McLehany was captured in Atlanta and sent to Camp Douglas. He died there January 2, 1865. He left behind a wife and child. He is buried in Oak Woods Cemetery at Confederate Mound in Chicago.

General Hood advanced the army northward of Atlanta late in September. Stewart's Corps moved to Lost Mountain, October 2, and tore up the railroad near Big Shanty, after which French's Division marched on the night of the 4th to fill the cut at Allatoona. This place was defended by three redoubts and a star fort on the ridge at opposite sides of the cut. French attacked and a bloody struggle followed for three or four hours. General French reported: "Among the killed from Sears' Brigade is Col. W. H. Clark, Forty-sixth Mississippi. He fell in the advance near the enemy's works with the battle-flag in his hands. He was an excellent and gallant officer." Three officers of the regiment were killed, 1 wounded, 4 missing. Total of the regiment, 18 killed, 26 wounded, 56 missing.

After this, Stewart's Corps destroyed the railroad between Resaca and Dalton. French's Division captured the blockhouse at Tilton, October 13, and next was in battle at Decatur, Ala., October 26-29, moving thence to Tuscumbia.

They crossed the Tennessee River, November 20, marched against Schofield's Federal command at Columbia, and on November 29 moved with Stewart's Corps toward Spring Hill, Tennessee. Following the Federal troops to Franklin, on the Harpeth River, Stewart's Corps attacked about four in the evening, November 30, on the right of the Confederate line, French's Division on the left of the corps next to Cheatham's Corps. The first line was carried, but to reach the second line of works, Sears' Brigade was exposed to a destructive crossfire of artillery. Maj. T. D. Magee, commanding the Forty-sixth, was among the wounded before the works were reached. Some were able to reach the ditch in front of the works, where they remained until next morning, when the Federal troops were withdrawn. Among these "foremost of the forlorn hope," was the remainder of the Forty-sixth: 33 men; 8 of which were wounded.



Confederate Mound
Photo by Ian Devine

The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, cont.

The casualties of Sears' Brigade were said to be 30 killed, 168 wounded, 35 missing. The remnant marched to Nashville. Some were detached with Bate's Division to support Forrest in the siege of Murfreesboro, and were in battle at Overall's Creek, December 4, and before Murfreesboro December 7. December 9 the brigade number of effective troops was 210 men. Marching back to Nashville over icy roads, many barefooted, they fought in Walthall's line, December 15-16. Walthall's remnants of two divisions were almost surrounded before they gave way.

"Brigadier General Sears, late in the day, lost a leg, and subsequently fell into the enemy's hands." (A. P. Stewart). "A solid shot passed through his horse and struck him just below the knee; the lower part of his leg was amputated. It was found impracticable to bring him out, so he was left near Pulaski. Captain Henderson and Lieut. Harper were both very badly wounded and left in the enemy's hands. I was slightly wounded in the foot by a shell." (E. T. Freeman, of French's staff). Walthall's command crossed the Tennessee River, December 26, and marched to Tupelo, Mississippi. Lieut. R. N. Rea writes "My shoes fell from my feet between Franklin and Columbia, and I was forced to march all the way down to Tupelo, a distance of about three hundred miles, barefooted, in a constant snowstorm and sleet the like of which I never saw before or since."

Major Freeman wrote, January 10: "The whole army cannot muster 5,000 effective men. Great numbers are going home every day, many nevermore to return, I fear. Nine-tenths of the men and line officers are barefooted." W.P. Chambers wrote, in his journal, January 15: "The regiment numbers about 150 men, about half of whom are barefooted. All are ragged and dirty and covered with vermin. There are, perhaps, twenty guns, but not a single cartridge box in the regiment. The men are jovial enough regarding their condition, but when one speaks of the prosecution of the war they are entirely despondent, being entirely convinced that the Confederacy is gone. Captain Heslip, of Company E, is in command of the regiment. Major Nelson, of the Fourth, commands the brigade, which is attached to Walthall's Division. I do not think there is a stand of colors in the brigade." January 19 Captain Hart assumed command of the regiment.

French's Division was ordered to report to General Maury at Mobile, February 1, 1865. The return of March 10 showed Sears' Brigade commanded by Col. Thomas X. Adair, the Forty-sixth Regiment commanded by Capt. J. A. Barwick. General Steele, commanding the Union expedition from Pensacola, reported that on April 1 an outpost four and a half miles in front of Blakely was carried by assault and the battle flag of the Forty-sixth Mississippi and 74 prisoners taken. This was about half the regiment. When Fort Blakely was captured, April 9, 1865, another portion of the regiment became prisoners of war. They were taken to Ship Island and paroled in May. Another portion escaped and about twenty-five represented the regiment at Cuba Station, Ala. May 4, 1865, when the Confederate Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana under General Richard Taylor, surrendered to Union forces.

http://www.mississippiascv.org/MS_Units/46th_MS_INF.htm

This article was excerpted from:

*Authorities:
Register of Officers, History of Regiment by W. P. Chambers, notes by Robert Bowman and R. N. Rea.*

from Dunbar Rowland's "Military History of Mississippi, 1803-1898"; company listing courtesy of H. Grady Howell's "For Dixie Land, I'll Take My Stand"



Book Review ~ *Lincoln's Spies* by Bill Jayne

It's very disappointing that the pandemic has prevented us from hearing Douglas Waller's presentation on Union military intelligence operations in the Civil War. We do, however, have his book, *Lincoln's Spies*, available and I highly recommend it.

Waller is a former correspondent for *Newsweek* and *Time* who has specialized in the subject of military intelligence. He's the author of six books including *Wild Bill Donovan*, the story of the legendary chef of the WW II Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA.

Lincoln's Spies is enlightening and highly readable. Focusing primarily on the Eastern Theater and the Army of the Potomac, Waller tells the story through the lens of the Civil War careers of four individuals.

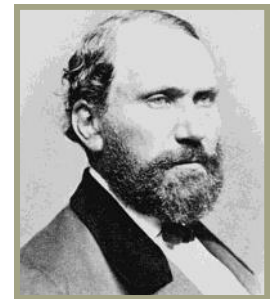
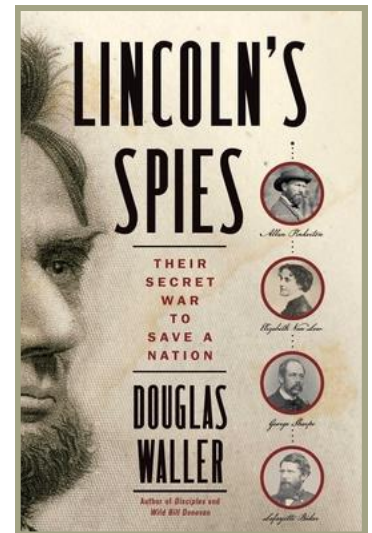
First, of course, is Allan Pinkerton, the humorless Scottish immigrant who seems to have virtually invented the trade of private detective. And, I mean, **private**. Ultimately, this would prove to be his undoing. Next is Lafayette Baker, a bit of a soldier of fortune who was wildly independent and, ultimately unreliable. Elizabeth Van Lew was a Richmond "spinster," who was devoted to the Union and parlayed her great intelligence and privileged background into the creation of a spy network deeply embedded within the capital of the Confederacy. Finally, there's volunteer Union officer George Sharpe, a highly educated lawyer from Upstate New York who through hard work and insight pioneered the mechanics of "all-source" intelligence within the Army of the Potomac, but not without enduring a bit of a learning curve.

Pinkerton worked as a cooper, a deputy sheriff and, ultimately, the head of a private investigating company that specialized in protecting railroads. He helped spirit President-Elect Abraham Lincoln into Washington past hostile elements in Baltimore and provided service to Major General George B. McClellan in Ohio and West Virginia early in the war. He wildly overestimated the numbers of McClellan's Confederate adversaries and when McClellan was relieved as commander of the Army of the Potomac after Antietam, Pinkerton went back to Chicago and took his files with him, rather than allowing them to be used by McClellan's successor Ambrose Burnside.

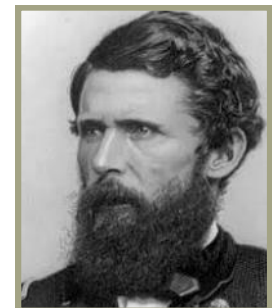
Waller sums up: "Pinkerton and his detectives proved to be effective at the cloak-and-dagger work of catching Confederate spies and uncovering plots against the U.S. government. But neither he nor the men and women in his force had the military training or experience needed to effectively collect and evaluate intelligence on an enemy army. They were amateurs at war."

Pinkerton had no sense of the perishability of military intelligence, especially estimates of the enemy order of battle and he always seemed to see himself and his operation as being under contract to McClellan personally, rather than contributing to the mission of the Army and the preservation of the union.

Lafayette C. Baker is described as a "poorly educated and aimless drifter who had been roaming the country for nearly two decades." Baker had a slight experience in military and law enforcement affairs as a vigilante in California but it seems that his primary qualification for a high-level job in Civil War Washington was the fact that he read a biography of the French security chief Eugène François Vidocq on the long trip from California to New York just before the war broke out. Renting a room at the Willard Hotel, the fast-talking Baker met a sitting and a former congressman who agreed to introduce him to General Winfield Scott, holding court in a nearby room. In a rather offhand way, Scott hired him as a spy and then seemed to forget about him.



Allan Pinkerton



Lafayette Baker

(Continued on page 8)

Book Review ~ Lincoln's Spies by Bill Jayne, cont.

He became something of a secret service type, who was often successful at uncovering Confederate spies, crooked contractors and those who manipulated the Union enlistment programs with bogus recruits and pocketed bonus money. The trouble was, Baker wasn't above taking a bit of graft here and there and throwing his weight around to imprison innocent people who might not play along.



George Sharpe

George Sharpe took a different route but, paradoxically perhaps, he was never as well-known as Pinkerton or Baker. Born in 1826 in the historic Hudson River town of Kingston, 91 miles north of New York City, Sharpe was a brilliant student who graduated from Rutgers University, studied law at Yale, passed the bar at 21 and spent four years in Europe, ultimately working at the U.S. legations in Vienna and Rome and becoming highly proficient in French and Italian. He married into a wealthy and influential family and became Captain of Co. B of the 20th N.Y. State Militia, the "Ulster Guard," a 90-day unit called up in April 1861.

I must admit to taking a special interest in Sharpe from the first because I grew up in Ulster County, N.Y., just a few miles south of Kingston on the majestic Hudson River. The 20th N.Y. State Militia spent time in the Washington area but the unit was disbanded in 90 days and many of its troops became the 80th N.Y., like many Civil War regiments, the original members were jealous of the earlier designation and the 80th was often referred to as the 20th.

Sharpe left the service, however, he rejoined when a new regiment was formed in the Hudson Valley, the 120th N.Y., often called the "Ulster Regiment." So, we have the 20th and the 80th, both known as the Ulster Guard, and the 120th known as the Ulster Regiment. Later in the war a third regiment of infantry, the 156th, was raised and it was known as the "Mountain Legion," because the Catskill Mountains dominated much of the area.

Sharpe was named Colonel of the 120th and took the regiment south in time to man some of the defenses of Washington as the campaigns of Second Manassas and Antietam took place. By late fall of 1862, the regiment was with the Army of the Potomac under Burnside in the Fredericksburg campaign.

When Lincoln relieved McClellan after Antietam, Pinkerton, remember, took his bat and ball and went home to Chicago, leaving Burnside clueless about the intelligence work that had been done. Pinkerton abetted McClellan's efforts to acquire more troops and Waller goes so far as to say that between them they "cooked the books." Nevertheless, Burnside was left with no intelligence apparatus for his headquarters and, unfortunately, showed little interest in the subject.

Sharpe and his 120th acquitted themselves well in the fighting around the Slaughter Pen Farm, south of the city of Fredericksburg, but it was an unusual event during the battle that brought him to the attention of the higher command. The 55th N.Y., originally commanded by Regis De Trobriand, was composed primarily of French speaking soldiers. Language difficulties threatened the Union line as the 55th's officers were unable to follow some of the commands they received. Sharpe intervened and using his superb French skills, quickly righted the situation.

When Major General Joseph Hooker took command of the Army in the early part of 1863, he brought a keen interest in military intelligence and an appreciation for the importance of the discipline. He had even ridden in one of Thaddeus Lowe's balloons to learn something about the potential of the technology. Hooker wanted a French text on espionage translated into English and called Col. Sharpe to his headquarters to see if he could do the job. Sharpe did it quickly and Hooker followed up that assignment with an order to Sharpe to provide him with a plan for an Army level "secret service." Sharpe complied and Hooker offered him a job as "spymaster," as Waller described the post. Officially, he was the deputy provost marshal general of the Army of the Potomac, serving under Marsena Patrick. He was also the head of a new Bureau of Military Information.



Book Review ~ Lincoln's Spies by Bill Jayne, cont.

Sharpe was reluctant to leave his regiment but he had been suffering from lung problems, perhaps pneumonia, for some time, and ultimately accepted Hooker's offer. He learned quickly and using his own experience in the field he graded, sorted and consolidated reports from all sources—cavalry scouts, infantry pickets, Union sympathizers, deserters, intercepts of telegraph and other enemy communications—and swiftly brought the reports to the attention of higher command.

There were mistakes and failures along the way, but from early 1863 to the end of the war, the military intelligence operations of the Union armies in the Eastern Theater became more and more effective. One major failure was somewhat ironic. At the same time Grant determined to move the Army of the Potomac across James River to threaten Petersburg, Lee decided to send Early and the II Corps of the Army of the Northern Virginia west into the Shenandoah Valley and ultimately to threaten Washington. Grant's move surprised Lee and Lee's move went undetected by Sharpe. Each army stole a march on the other.

Elizabeth Van Lew operated an increasingly effective espionage network within Richmond, using her mansion on Church Hill and her privileged position within the social hierarchy of the city to escape detection and arrest. She was born in 1818 to parents who were originally from the north but had lived most of their lives in Richmond. Her father, of Dutch stock, owned several hardware stores in the city. Eliza was horrified by beatings of slaves that she observed on city streets and when she was sent to Philadelphia for school, her anti-slavery outlook was strengthened even more.

When she returned to Richmond, she was very much a part of Richmond society but never married. When her father died in 1843, the young woman used her inheritance to buy and sell properties, becoming even wealthier. In the 1840s and 50s, Eliza and her mother, Elizabeth, Waller writes, "largely lived double lives—conforming outwardly to the South's social conventions, while privately taking steps to subvert them, like secretly freeing blacks." By 1861, she was writing letters to officials in Washington about economic conditions in Richmond and the movement of militia units in the capital. When Virginia seceded, she stopped using the mails and began using a network of trusted friends to carry her notes to Washington.

Throughout the war she provided information and observations and also aided Union prisoners. By the later stages of the war, Sharpe and his Bureau of Military Information were making increased use of these reports without the long delays of information being sent clandestinely from Richmond to Washington and then back to the army at City Point.

Lincoln's Spies is an eye-opening account of a part of the war that has seldom been considered in all the voluminous literature of the conflict. Moreover, it's written in a fast-paced, clear manner enlivened by accounts of interesting, unusual personalities. Summing up, Waller writes: "What role did intelligence play in this conflict? More than was acknowledged at the time. Northern and southern civilian leaders largely neglected the gathering of political and economic intelligence because they knew the other's politics, geography, and economic wherewithal. Each side's generals had been classmates in the same military academies and had fought together. They often showed disinterest in strategic and tactical intelligence believing they could already foresee how an adversary they had known for years would react on the battlefield. But the work of Lincoln's spies—even his inept ones like Pinkerton, his corrupt ones like Baker, and particularly his best ones like Sharpe and Van Lew—made a difference."



Elizabeth Van Lew

***Lincoln's Spies:
Their Secret War to
Save a Nation***

by Douglas Waller,
was published by Simon
& Schuster in 2019.

At 594 pages, it includes 14 pages of enlightening photographs, a large bibliography and a useful index.

Trivia Questions

1. Which type of artillery shot contains multiple iron balls which create a shotgun effect when fired?
2. Lack of this resource greatly influenced the movements of the Union and Confederate forces leading up the Battle of Perryville.

Answers on page 11

Online Civil War Presentations

The Mariners' Museum and Park

Live with John V Quarstein, Author, historian and director emeritus of the USS Monitor Center. From his home, John will give 15-minute presentations about these Civil War topics:

- ◆ May 15, at 2 p.m. (EDT) Fort Fisher: The Gibraltar of the South
- ◆ May 29 at 2 p.m. (EDT) The CSS Albemarle

Details and links to each lecture are available at MarinersMuseum.org/LIVE.

Viewers are welcome to send him any comments or questions during the presentation and John will answer them following his talk. Live lecture videos are free, but an account may be required to submit questions or comments.

Woodman Museum

[Woodman Lecture Series](#): Paul Timmerman presents The Dover Company, 11th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, Company K

American Battlefield Trust

The [American Battlefield Trust video collection](#) includes hundreds of videos covering a wide range of topics. You can learn more about specific battles and battlefields where the Trust has saved land or explore a key topic in four minutes or less by watching one of our Civil War In4 videos. Whether you're a lifelong student of history or a novice learner, these videos will give you an interesting window into our shared past.

Civil War Round Table Congress

The CWRT Congress proudly presents a series of Civil War lectures by speakers who were nominated by CWRTs as their 5-Star speakers. These lectures are both entertaining and inspiring. To register for a virtual seat, click the link below. We will see you in the lecture hall!!

[Lecture Series](#) Live on Zoom.US (Registration is required)

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| ◆ May 11th, 7:00pm EDT | In Memory of Self & Comrades with Michael K. Shaffer |
| ◆ May 13th, 7:00pm EDT | Three Views of Gettysburg with Bruce Mowday |
| ◆ May 19th, 7:00pm EDT | Did Forrest Make a Difference with John Scales |
| ◆ May 21st, 7:00pm EDT | Black Experience in Civil War Georgia with David Dixon |



Member News

CFCWRT Upcoming Events

- June 11, 2020** *Battle of Cedar Creek, VA* Bill Jayne, Moderator
July 9, 2020 *Members Forum* Jim Gannon (Moderator)
August 13, 2020 *TBD*

Trivia Answers

1. Cannister - a metal can the size of the cannon-bore and filled with multiple iron balls, each 1 1/8th inch in diameter, creating a shotgun effect. Generally used to repel advancing infantry.
2. Water - In the Summer and Fall of 1862, East Kentucky was suffering from an extensive drought. Water had become a scarce resource. The area around Perryville had a number of streams and rivers of great value to the parched soldiers and horses of both North and South.

This Month in History ~ May 1865

It was over. And with the end so much had happened, armies surrendered, a President assassinated, another fleeing the conquerors. The shooting had almost ceased and there was a momentary vacuum everywhere. People began to pick up the pieces, not sure how to put them back together. Two Confederate armies remained, but negotiations were under way for surrender of the primary force left east of the Mississippi and there was confusion, along with a very slight, desperate hope, in the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy of E. Kirby Smith. But most Southern soldiers were going home, bitter, relieved, some of them glad. Many had no homes to go to and began looking westward, or even abroad. In Washington the Radicals were pressuring President Johnson to pursue a vindictive policy. Indications were that the new President would attempt to carry out, in his own way, the policies of the martyred Lincoln.

The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac 1861-1865
By E. B. Long with Barbara Long
1971 Doubleday Press



Civil War Dictionary

Aide-de-Camp: A soldier who was appointed by an officer to be his confidential assistant. The aide wrote and delivered orders and held a position of responsibility which required him to know troop positions and where officer quarters were located. The aide-de-camp was an officer by virtue of his position and he took orders from his commander only.

Barbette: Raised platform or mound allowing an artillery piece to be fired over a fortification's walls without exposing the gun crew to enemy fire.

Defeat in Detail: Defeating a military force unit by unit. This occurred when units were unable to support one another, often because of distance.

Sponsors



SPECIALIZING IN REGIONAL AMERICAN SEAFOOD, SIGNATURE DISHES, HAND CUT FISH, STEAKS AND CHICKEN ALONG WITH FRESHLY MADE DESSERTS. WE PRIDE OURSELVES IN USING THE FRESHEST POSSIBLE INGREDIENTS AND PREPARING THEM WITH LOVE.

THE RUNNER is the official monthly newsletter of the CFCWRT.

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to the CFCWRT membership, send an email with the details to the editor, [Sherry Hewitt](mailto:Sherry.Hewitt@cfcwrt.org). Thank you.

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table is a non-profit organization made up of men and women who have a common interest in the history of the Civil War. The meetings include a speaker each month covering some aspect of the Civil War. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historical conflict.

Click here for membership information: [Membership Application](http://www.cfcwrt.org/membership)

Steering Committee—Officers

President: [Bill Jayne](mailto:Bill.Jayne@cfcwrt.org) (910) 386-9203
Vice President: [Greg Willett](mailto:Greg.Willett@cfcwrt.org) (910) 777-3935
Sec/Treas: [Bruce Patterson](mailto:Bruce.Patterson@cfcwrt.org) (910) 794-8905

Membership: [Linda Lashley](mailto:Linda.Lashley@cfcwrt.org)
Tours/Trips: [Dale Lear](mailto:Dale.Lear@cfcwrt.org)
Runner Editor: [Sherry Hewitt](mailto:Sherry.Hewitt@cfcwrt.org)
Raffle Master: [Ed Gibson](mailto:Ed.Gibson@cfcwrt.org)
Webmaster: [Richard Buggeln](mailto:Richard.Buggeln@cfcwrt.org)
Refreshments: [John Moore](mailto:John.Moore@cfcwrt.org)

CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

You can find us on the Web! [Cfcwrt.org](http://www.cfcwrt.org)

Visit us on Facebook: [CFCWRT](https://www.facebook.com/CFCWRT)



EMBROIDERED AND PRINTED APPAREL

