

The North Platte Public Library Foundation Presents...



CIVIL WAR TREASURES Cemetery Tour

Thursday, September 16, 2010

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Non-Walking Cemetery Tour

North Platte Community College

South Campus Theater, 601 W State Farm Rd

Sunday, September 19, 2010

1:00pm - 5:00pm

North Platte Cemetery, Rodeo Rd

Civil War Treasures cemetery tour

This Cemetery Tour is dedicated to the memory of our favorite Library researcher and North Platte Family Historian, Charlene M. Rowley. We will miss her greatly.

CONTENTS

Ghost Actor Page

The North, The South, and Nebraska.....		3
Civil War Timeline (continues on page 16)		4
Alonzo Church.....	Joel Bennett.....	6
Julia Casey	Ila Smith	7
Franklin Peale	Tristen Winder	8
Rueben Peale.....	Kevin Winder	9
Isabel Nixon	Cynamon Eshleman	10
Frederick Nash Dick.....	Jason Gale	11
Major Leicester Walker	Martin Gutschenritter.....	12
Rohanna Klein	Teresa Smith	13
George Donehower	George Haws	14
Grand Army of the Republic.....		15
Civil War Timeline (continued from page 5)		16
Interesting Civil War Facts		18
Credits and References		19
Map of Headstone Locations		20

THE NORTH, THE SOUTH, AND NEBRASKA 3

THE NORTH

More than 22 million of the 31 million people living in America when the Civil War broke out lived in states that remained loyal to the Union.

The North was far more industrialized than the South and had within its borders some 100,000 factories, including almost all of the nation's shipyards and means of arms production. More than one million workers were employed in these factories. The Union also controlled most of the components of industry. These components included almost all the country's coal mines, which produced the fuel needed to run factories and steamships and most of the canals, needed to transport coal and other heavy goods. And naturally, the North also controlled most of the fruits of industrialization, such as 70 percent of the country's railroads (some 20,000 miles of track) and about 95 percent of its rolling stock and railway equipment.

Despite the fact that it was so industrialized, the North was also largely self sufficient in agriculture, and produced more than the South in every agricultural category except cotton. Thus, it was not dependent upon the seceding states for food to feed its people.

Financially, the Union controlled more than 80 percent of the total U.S. bank deposits, about \$189 million, and about 60 percent of the total gold reserves or about \$56 million worth of gold. These factors immeasurably helped the North finance a successful war effort.

Public primary education was fairly widespread in the Northern states, especially in urbanized areas, and many institutions of higher education had existed since Colonial times and continued to be established throughout the nineteenth century. As a result, Northerners enjoyed a relatively high level of education and

literacy.

THE SOUTH

Only about nine million of the thirty-one million people living in the United States at the time of the Civil War lived in the South, and a third of them were slaves.

Industrially, the South was far behind the North, with only 20,000 factories employing some 100,000 workers. Only about 31 percent, or 3,000 miles of the nation's railroads lay within the Confederacy, along with a mere 5 percent of its rolling stock and railway equipment.

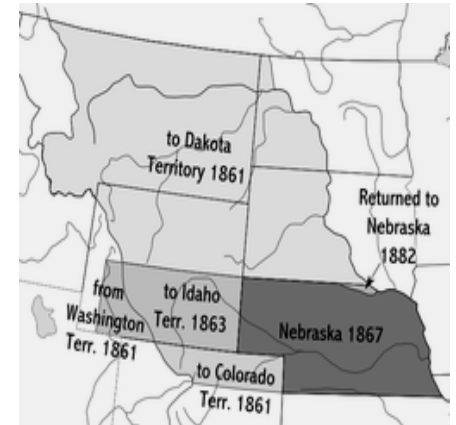
While the South was not industrialized, it was not poor, either; and its major cash crop, cotton, afforded a high standard of living for many of its people. Nonetheless, at the outbreak of war the Confederacy controlled just under 20 percent of the country's total bank deposits, about \$47 million, and about 40 percent of the total gold reserves, worth some \$37 million.

Lack of industrialization and financing contributed greatly to the ruination of the South and its defeat during the Civil War.

Also, a short-sighted policy early in the war of withholding cotton from European markets in an attempt to make the European states support the Confederacy in exchange for an uninterrupted supply of cotton, backfired and deprived the South of much needed revenue. Some cloth manufacturers in Great Britain had to shut down mills and fire workers, causing some elements to call for backing of the South to keep the peace among English workers and mill owners. Ultimately, however, Europe looked to other sources for cotton, such as Egypt; by the time the Confederacy reversed its policy, the Federal naval blockade ensured that little cotton could be successfully exported.

While public education had been established to some extent in the

South, and while some of the country's oldest colleges were in the South, notably Virginia, such institutions were less widespread than in the North. In consequence, levels of education and literacy were much lower throughout the South than in the



North.

NEBRASKA TERRITORY

In 1803, the United States acquired the Nebraska Territory as part of the Louisiana Purchase. It was a vast area that encompassed what is now Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Nebraska. It was considered part of various territories from 1803 until 1854, when the Kansas-Nebraska Act defined it as the Nebraska Territory. A territorial legislature first met on January 16, 1855. In 1863, the territory was partitioned, Dakota being given its own territorial status.

Part of the territory was admitted to the Union as the state of Nebraska in 1867.

In the 1820s, expeditions through the area led by Stephen H. Long had described Nebraska (as well as Colorado and other parts of the region) as unfit for agriculture and dismissed it as a part of the "Great American Desert." Because of this, the territory was largely ignored in favor of settlement further west. Nonetheless, enough settlers remained that Nebraska's population exploded after the Civil War, from a mere 2,732 in 1854 to more than 122,000 in 1870.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE

Major events of the Civil War preceding and following it are listed on the following time line. While the Civil War was the result of decades of increasing tensions, the time line begins in 1859 with John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia. The time line continues through 1867 when Nebraska became a state. As with the years leading up to the Civil War, the legacy of the war continued long past Reconstruction, but its end represents the reunification of the country.

October 16, 1859: Fanatical abolitionist John Brown leads a force of twenty-one armed men into Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), seizing the town and the Federal arsenal. A unit of marines commanded by Col. Robert E. Lee arrives the next day and battles Brown's followers, killing ten of them; Brown himself was wounded. Brown is charged with treason. This arouses sympathy amongst Northerners, many of whom considered him a martyr. Southern whites were outraged and considered him a dangerous fanatic.

December 2, 1859: John Brown is hanged. His death eventually comes to symbolize the coming violence of the Civil War.



November 6, 1860: Abraham Lincoln who had declared "Government cannot endure permanently half slave, half free..." is elected the 16th President of the United States.

January-February 1861: Six Southern states (Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas), driven by a perception of Abraham Lincoln as an especially strong opponent of slavery, declare their secession from the Union and form the Confederate States of America.

February 4, 1861: Delegates from the seven seceding Southern states convene in Montgomery, Alabama. They begin to draft a constitution for the Confederate States of America, similar to the U.S. Constitution but with greater emphasis on the autonomy of each state and protection of the institution of slavery.

February 18, 1861: Jefferson Davis is inaugurated president of the Confederate States of America (C.S.A).



March 6, 1861: Jefferson Davis, with the authorization of the C.S. Congress, calls for 100,000 one-year volunteers for the Confederate military.

March 4, 1861: Abraham Lincoln is sworn in as 16th President of the United States of America.

April 1861: President Lincoln informs South Carolina that he is planning to send supplies to Fort Sumter. South Carolina fears trickery and demands the immediate surrender of the fort. Maj. Robert Anderson offers to surrender once his supplies are exhausted, but this offer is rejected. Confederate artillery batteries under Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard fire on Union-held Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. After a heavy bombardment, Fort Sumter surrenders to South Carolina. Armed rebellion has begun.

April 15, 1861: Abraham Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers for the Federal forces.

April-June 1861: Encouraged by the attack on Fort Sumter, four more states—Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina join the confederacy. Robert E. Lee, son of a Revolutionary War hero, and a 25-year distinguished veteran of the United States Army and former Superintendent of West Point, is offered command of the Union Army. Lee declines.

April 17, 1861: Virginia secedes from the Union, followed within five weeks by Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, thus forming an eleven state Confederacy with a population of 9 million, including nearly 4 million slaves. The union will soon have 21 states and a population of over 20 million.

April 19, 1861: President Lincoln issues a Proclamation of Blockade against Southern ports. For the duration of the war, the blockade limited the ability of the rural South to stay well supplied in its war against the industrialized North.

April 20, 1861: Robert E. Lee resigns his commission in the United States Army. "I cannot raise my hand against my birthplace, my home, my children." Lee then goes to Richmond, Virginia and is offered command of the military and naval forces of Virginia and accepts.

May 6, 1861: The Confederacy recognizes a state of war with the United States.

June 1861: Although they are slave states and have divided loyalties, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland and Missouri remain within the Union, largely through a combination of military pressure from the Federal government and political maneuvering by Lincoln and other politicians.

July 4, 1861: Lincoln in a speech to Congress states "the war is a People's contest... a struggle for maintaining in the world, that form, and substance of government, whose leading object is to elevate the condition of men..." The Congress authorizes a call for 500,000 men.

July 21, 1861: First Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas). Bowing to public demand, Union General-in-chief Winfield Scott orders Gen. Irvin McDowell to advance on Confederate troops stationed at Manassas Junction, Virginia, even though the Union troops are inadequately trained and untried. McDowell's attack is initially successful, but the arrival of Confederate reinforcements results in a Southern victory and forced Federal forces back to Washington. Fearing a protracted war and mindful of the army's need for training and organization, Lincoln replaces McDowell with McClellan, nicknamed the

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE

5

"Young Napoleon."

February 6, 1862: Victory of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in Tennessee, capturing Fort Henry, and ten days later Fort Donelson. Grant earns the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. The defeat at Fort Donelson was the Union's first major victory of the war.

February 20, 1862: President Lincoln is struck with grief as his beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, dies from fever, probably caused by polluted drinking water in the White House.

February 25, 1862: For the first time, the U.S. Congress authorizes the issue of legal tender banknotes.



March 1862: The Peninsular Campaign begins as McClellan's Army of the Potomac advances from Washington down the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay to the peninsula south of the Confederate Capital of Richmond, Virginia then begins an advance toward Richmond. Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, commanding troops in the Shenandoah Valley, attacks Union forces and causes them to retreat across the Potomac. This results in Union troops being rushed to protect Washington, DC, from possible Confederate attack.

April 6-7, 1862: Battle of Shiloh. In the first great bloodbath of the war, some forty thousand Confederate troops under Gen. Albert Sydney Johnston launch a surprise attack against Federal forces under Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Shiloh, Tennessee. Nearly defeated, the Union forces receive reinforcements during the night, bringing their total strength up to about sixty three thousand; by morning, Grant regains control of the battlefield. Nonetheless, the Union troops are too exhausted to pursue the retreating rebels. Casualties of the battle include 1,754 killed, 8,408 wounded and 2,885 missing Union soldiers; and 1,723 killed, 8,012 wounded and 959 missing Confederate soldiers.

August 29-30, 1862: Second Battle of Bull Run (Second Manassas). 75,000 Federals under Gen. John Pope are defeated by 55,000 Confederates under Gen. Stonewall Jackson and Gen. James Longstreet at the second Battle of Bull Run in northern Virginia. Once again the Union Army retreats to Washington. Union Gen. Fitz-John Porter, who allegedly failed to send his troops into the battle quickly enough, was held responsible for the defeat and was forced out of the army by the beginning of the next year. More than twenty-six thousand soldiers are among the casualties of the battle. Following this defeat, Lincoln replaces Pope with McClellan.

September 4-9, 1862: Lee invades the North with 50,000 Confederates and heads for Harpers Ferry, located 50 miles northwest of Washington. The Union Army, 90,000 under the command of McClellan, pursues Lee. Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson captures Harper's Ferry, Virginia along with thousands of Union prisoners and a great quantity of supplies. Despite his proximity to Harper's Ferry, plodding General McClellan does not move quickly enough to prevent its capture.



Lincoln visits the Battle of Antietam Site. Oct. 3, 1862

September 17, 1862: Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg). The bloodiest day in U.S. military history as Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Armies are stopped at Antietam in Maryland by McClellan and numerically superior Union forces. By nightfall 26,000 men are dead, wounded, or missing. Tactically, the battle is a draw, but strategically it is a loss for the Confederacy. Lee is forced to retreat back to Virginia and McClellan claims a victory. In light of the Confederate defeat, Britain and France, both of which had been contemplating official recognition of the Confederacy, decide against it.

September 22, 1862: Lincoln announces in his Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation that all slaves in rebelling areas will be free as of January 1, 1863. However, slaves in Union and "neutral" states are not covered by this proclamation.

November 7, 1862: Annoyed by the escape of the Confederate forces from Antietam, continuous raiding by Rebel cavalry and inactivity of McClellan's armies for more than a month, Lincoln relieves the "Young Napoleon" of all command for the last time and replaces him with Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside.

December 13, 1862: Battle of Fredericksburg. Army of the Potomac under Gen. Burnside suffers a costly defeat at Fredericksburg in Virginia with a loss of 12,653 men after 14 frontal assaults on well entrenched Rebels on Marye's Heights. "We might as well have tried to take hell," a Union soldier remarks. Confederate losses are 5,309.

January 1, 1863: President Lincoln issues the final Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves in areas under Confederate control and emphasizes the enlisting of black soldiers in the Union Army.

January 29, 1863: Gen Grant is placed in command of the Army of the West, with orders to capture Vicksburg.

March 1863: The U.S. Congress enacts a draft, affecting male citizens aged 20 to 45, but also exempts those who pay \$ 300 or provide a substitute. "The blood of a poor man is as precious as that of the wealthy," poor Northerners complain.

Alonzo Church



Alonzo Church was born in Springfield, Illinois on June 16, 1844.

Alonzo enlisted in 1862 at age 18 with Company

G, one Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was made an Orderly Sergeant.

Alonzo participated in the siege of Vicksburg and the battles of Jackson, College Hill, La Grange and several others.

On June 10, 1864, Alonzo was captured at the battle of Brice's Cross-Roads, otherwise known as Guntown, Mississippi. Even though the Union had out-numbered the Confederates 8,000 men to 1,000, the Union lost the battle. Alonzo was taken to Andersonville Prison and confined as a prisoner for nine months.

Andersonville prison was officially known as Camp Sumter and served as a Confederate Prisoner of war camp. It was located in Andersonville, Georgia. In all, 12,913 of the approximately 45,000 Union prisoners died there because of starvation, malnutrition, diarrhea, and disease.

The prison, which opened in February 1864, originally covered

about 16.5 acres of land enclosed by a 15-foot high stockade. In June 1864 it was enlarged to 26.5 acres. The stockade was in the shape of a rectangle.

At Andersonville, a light fence known as "the dead line" was erected approximately 3 feet inside the stockade wall. It demarcated a no-man's land that kept prisoners away from the stockade wall, which was made of rough-hewn logs. Anyone crossing this line was shot by sentries located in the pigeon roosts.

Andersonville Prison was frequently undersupplied with food. Even when sufficient quantities were available, the supplies were of poor quality and poorly prepared. During the summer of 1864, Union prisoners suffered greatly from hunger, exposure and disease. Within seven months, about a third of them died from dysentery and scurvy. They were buried in mass graves, as was the standard practice by Confederate prison authorities at Andersonville.

The water supply from Stockade Creek became polluted when too many Union prisoners were housed by the Confederate authorities within the prison walls.

In the autumn of 1864, after the capture of Atlanta, all the prisoners who were well enough to be moved were sent to Millen, Georgia and Florence, South Carolina. At Millen, better arrangements prevailed and after General Sherman began his march to the sea, the prisoners were returned to Andersonville, where conditions were somewhat improved.

After the war, Henry Wirz, commandant at Camp Sumter was court-martialed on charges of conspiracy and murder. The trial was presided over by Union

General Lew Wallace.

A number of former prisoners testified on conditions at Andersonville, many accusing Wirz of specific acts of cruelty. The court also considered official correspondence from captured Confederate records. Wirz was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to death. On November 10, 1865, he was hanged. Wirz was the only Confederate official to be tried and convicted of war crimes resulting from the Civil War.

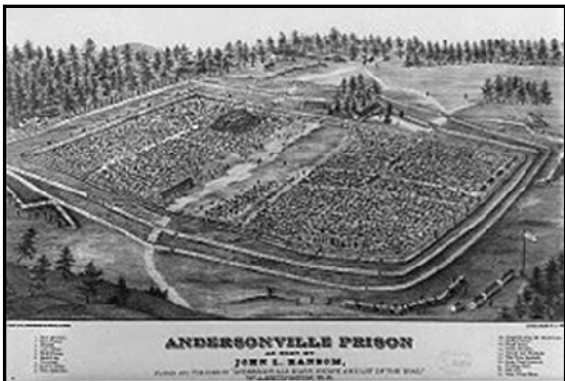
Alonzo was selected to take part in a prisoner exchange on February 26, 1865 and he was subsequently mustered out of the military in June of the same year.

He went back to Springfield to work in a newspaper office. He married Annie McConnell in 1866. They had one daughter Clara Maude. Sadly, Annie died on September 3, 1873. Alonzo married a second time on October 23, 1877 to Miss Annie F. Ferguson. They had two children, Logan and Joy.

Alonzo and Annie moved to North Platte in October 1872. He was a book and time keeper for the railroad and he was admitted to the bar by the District Court in September of 1873. He was elected County Judge of Lincoln County and held three consecutive terms.

Alonzo was also the editor of the Western Nebraskan newspaper in North Platte for several years.

Alonzo died in January 1895 at age 51.



Julia Casey



Julia Rosamond Satterfield was born to a wealthy family on April 3, 1850 in Macon, Georgia.

She was born into a life of ease and it has been said that she didn't have to comb her own hair until the age of 13. Being born to a southern family with slaves, she didn't have to worry about little things like that.

Then came the Civil War and Julia's life as a privileged child came to an abrupt end.

The Satterfield family was a true example of the popular Civil War sentiment that the war was "Brother against Brother." Three of Julia's brothers fought for the south; while one brother, who was up north in college when the war broke out, decided to fight with his college friends for the north. A fifth brother who was also living up north fought for the Union too.

Julia did her part in supporting the war efforts as a nurse. Even though she was in her early teens, she had a desire to help the sick and injured soldiers.

Approximately two to eight thousand women served as volunteer nurses for both sides during the Civil War. Nurses experienced first-hand the grim constants of war – amputated limbs, mutilated bodies, disease and death. Nurses provided invaluable aid to the sick and wounded soldiers and medical authorities on either side.

For the most part, these nurses came

from comfortable, middle class families. None of the women had any formal training or experience, other than personal experience or perhaps a few short courses.

General public opinion believed women would only be a nuisance and get in the way of the doctors. Still others worried that women would lose their moral stature after becoming associated with the army for a time. Thus, it is not surprising that throughout the War, female nurses were outnumbered by male nurses 1 to 4.

Nurses have three distinct patient-care purposes. First, they regulated, prepared, and served patients meals during their hospital stays. Second, they also managed the physical needs of patients, including the distribution of linens and clothing or supplies. And finally, and probably most importantly, female nurses cared for the emotional and spiritual needs of their patients. This included a whole range of activities, from daily conversation with patients to writing letters for them or reading to them.

Even though female nurses busied themselves with several diverse tasks, they were still discouraged from undertaking other types of work because they were simply women. For example, very few nurses were ever present on the actual battlefields. Instead, the majority of nurses were assigned to general hospitals or hospital transports.

Nursing was emotionally draining and it could be life-threatening. One nurse wondered what took more courage: a man stepping onto the battlefield or a nurse entering a smallpox ward.

The work of the Civil War nurses aided in the development of nursing as a profession, as well as women's

rights. Soon after the war, the American Medical Association authorized the founding of a nurses' training academy. The Connecticut and Boston Training Schools for Nurses were opened in the 1870's.

After the Civil War was over, Julia and her siblings all got back together, hostilities put behind them. Amazingly, none of them were killed during the war.

Julia's brother, who was in college at the start of the war brought a friend home with him to Georgia after the war. That friend, Joseph Raymond Casey, would eventually become Julia's husband.

Joseph and Julia were married on October 11, 1866. They moved to Kentucky and three short years into their marriage, Joseph died suddenly on October 4, 1869.

Julia was 19; widowed, pregnant with her second child and had a 2-year old toddler.

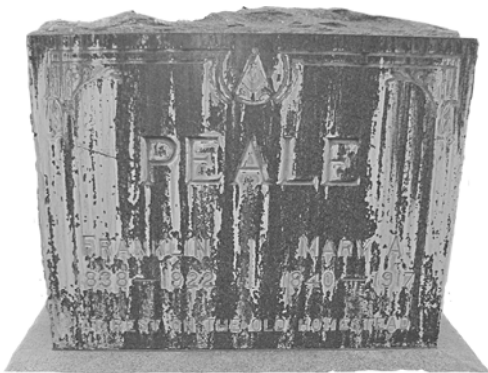
On her husband's deathbed, he handed his two-year-old son, Ernest T. Casey over to his parents, who took it to mean that they were supposed to raise the boy. They kept him and it took Julia several years to find and re-unite with her son and in-laws. That reunion took place in North Platte, Nebraska.



Julia never married again and lived in North Platte for 52 years and raised both of her sons at 503 W 4th.

She died at age 82 in

Franklin Peale



Franklin Peale was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on March 6, 1838. At an early age he applied himself to the artistic pursuits. He had natural artistic talent, being a great grandson of Charles Willson Peale.

On September 16, 1859, he married Miss Mary Ann Comly of Philadelphia and to this union nine children were born.

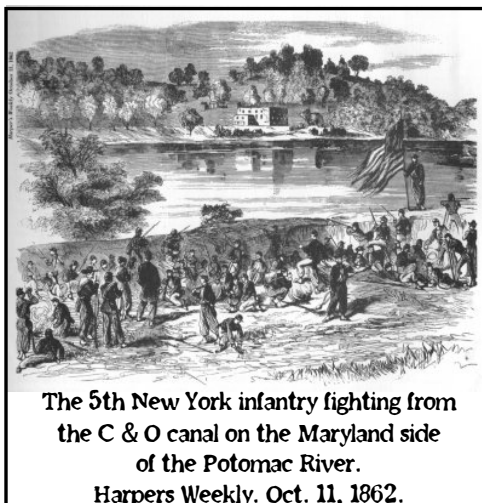
When Franklin was 18 years of age, he enlisted in Company G, 118th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

The Battle of Shepherdstown, also known as the Battle of Boteler's Ford, took place September 19th through 20th 1862 in Jefferson County, Virginia (now West Virginia). After the Battle of Antietam, Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia prepared to defend against a Federal assault that never came.

After an improvised truce for both sides to recover and exchange their wounded was in place, Lee's forces began withdrawing across the Potomac River on the evening of September 18th to return to Virginia. Lee left behind a rear guard of two infantry brigades and 45 guns under his chief of artillery, Brigadier General William N. Pendleton to hold Boteler's Ford.

Shortly before dusk on September 19, Union Brigadier General Charles

Griffin sent 2,000 infantry and sharpshooters across the Potomac River at Boteler's Ford. Franklin Peale was undoubtedly one of the infantrymen who were initially sent to



The 5th New York infantry fighting from the C & O canal on the Maryland side of the Potomac River.
Harpers Weekly. Oct. 11, 1862.

attack. The Union soldiers attacked Pendleton's rearguard, capturing four artillery pieces before being recalled. Pendleton reported to Gen. Robert E. Lee that Federals were now on the Virginia side of the river, and that he had lost part of his artillery.

Franklin was shot in the left thigh during the Battle at Shepherdstown, West Virginia and lay on the battlefield for three days and two nights. During this time, he was under the continuous fire of a company of Union artillery in which his father (Rueben Peale) was serving.

From the battlefield Franklin was transferred to the balcony of a Confederate hospital where he remained ten days and was then rescued by Union cavalry. Upon his recovery, he was transferred to the 59th Company, 2nd Battalion, V.D.C., where he served from September 12, 1863 to May 28, 1865, when he was honorably discharged.

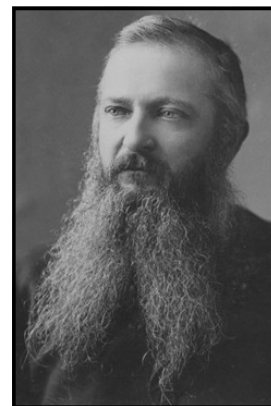
Total Union casualties for the two days were 363, Confederate 261.

Franklin came to Lincoln county, Nebraska in 1867. He was in charge of the painting department in the Union Pacific Railroad shops. At that time it was the custom to adorn the locomotive with floral and artistic designs and portraits of citizens of national prominence. Franklin excelled at this work but in the early 1880's he severed his connection with the Union Pacific and opened a paint and art supply store on the site now occupied by the Keith Theater building.

Mr. Peale took an active part in the religious, civic, commercial and social affairs of the then frontier town, aiding in laying the foundations of the present city of North Platte. He was a member of the following:

- Episcopal church;
- Platte Valley Lodge No. 32;
- A.F. & A.M. of Stephen Arnold Douglas Post No. 69, G. A. R.;
- Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution; and
- Walla Walla Lodge No. 56, I.O.O.F.

Mr. Peale and his family resided in North Platte for forty-five years when in 1912, he and his wife moved to Denver where they were near their children. Mrs. Peale passed away December 22, 1917 and Mr. Peale passed away on April 13, 1922 at age eighty-five. At the time of his death, he was



Reuben Peale



Reuben Peale was born in 1807 to Raphael Peale and Martha "Patty" McGlathery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Raphael Peale is the son of Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827), a famous painter (whose most famous portrait was of George Washington). Charles was also an avid naturalist and began a museum of Natural History in Philadelphia.

Little is known about Reuben during his formative years, but there are records showing that he served in the Mexican-American War (1846-1848).

Reuben married Julia Ann Creamer in 1837 at age 29. Julia and Reuben had four children: Franklin, Mary, Ellen, and Edward. In 1860, the family was living in Philadelphia and Reuben was working as a coach painter.

When the civil war broke out, Reuben enlisted at age 53 into active military service. He began serving in the Union army on September 30, 1861. Although Reuben began serving in the Civil War as a private in Company D and was later transferred to Company F. While he was in Company F, he was fighting at the Battle of Shepherdstown and later found out that his son lay wounded on the field of battle a short distance from him.

Reuben was discharged on March 29, 1863 by a surgeon based on heart and lung difficulties. He had served for seventeen months.

Then Reuben re-enlisted on June 22, 1863 and served in Company B of the 16th Veteran's Reserve Corps. He was discharged on May 28, 1865.

The Veteran Reserve Corps (originally named Invalid Corps) was a military reserve organization created within the Union Army during the Civil War to allow partially disabled or otherwise infirm soldiers (or former soldiers) to perform light duty. This allowed more able-bodied soldiers to serve on the front lines.

The Invalid Corps was organized by the U.S. War Department on April 28, 1863. Those serving in this Corps were divided into two classes:

- Class 1, partially disabled soldiers whose periods of service had not yet expired, and who were transferred directly to the Corps, there to complete their terms of enlistment;
- Class 2, soldiers who had been discharged from the service on account of wounds, disease, or other disabilities, but who were yet able to perform light military duty and desired to do so.

The title "Veteran Reserve Corps" was substituted for that of "Invalid Corps" on March 18, 1864. During the war, more than 60,000 men served in the Corps in the Union army; several thousand more served in a Confederate counterpart, although it was never officially organized. The Federal corps was disbanded

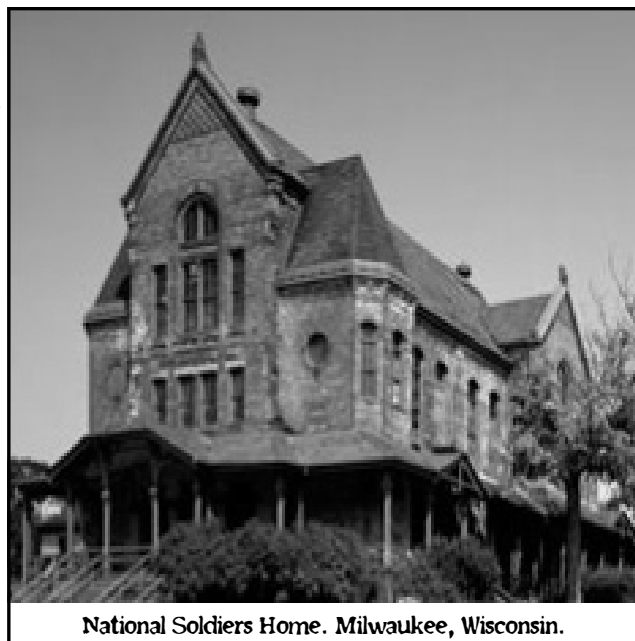
in 1866 following the close of the Civil War and the lessening of a need for reserve troops.

After the war, Reuben and Julia moved to North Platte, Nebraska. He made a living by doing some painting.

On March 11, 1879, he began living in the first of several different National Soldiers Homes. His health had deteriorated quickly in the years that followed the Civil War. Reuben suffered from rheumatism, heart disease, and asthma. In 1882 he had been transferred to the Northwestern Branch of the National Soldiers Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

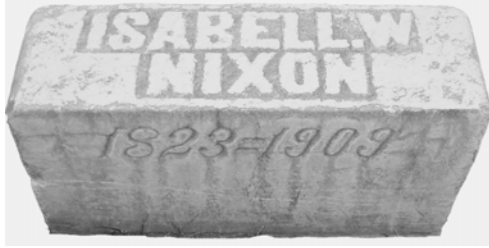
Because women weren't allowed to live in Soldiers Homes with their husband's, Julia moved to Laramie Wyoming with their son Edmond. Julia died on January 19, 1898 and is buried in Greenhill Cemetery in Laramie, Wyoming.

On February 2, 1888 Reuben requested to be discharged from the National Soldiers home in Wisconsin. He came back to North Platte live his remaining years. Reuben Peale died on December 23, 1891 at age 84 in his son Franklin's home.



National Soldiers Home. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Isabel Nixon



Isabel Nixon was born in August 1823 in Iowa.

Like most women of her time, she married Henry F. Clark in her early twenties and proceeded to have four children: Henry, Mary, William, and Catharine. Over the next nine years Isabel followed Henry (US Army soldier) as a laundress. Unfortunately, we know that Henry Clark Sr, disappears after the fourth child for no known reason.

Isabel then married George Theodore Arthur Nixon sometime before the 1860 Census. George was born in 1824 in Pennsylvania and made the Army his lifetime career.

After he married Isabel, she once again followed her husband from camp to camp as a laundress for the soldiers.

Women could earn a respectable living working as a laundress during wartime. Laundresses were given special permission to travel with the army and offer their trade to the soldiers.

Soldiers would pay the laundress directly or put it on his account. The laundress would then receive her payment before the soldier received his pay. Four laundresses were allowed per regiment and they were often the wives of soldiers in the regiment. Some may have also mended and cooked for the soldiers. A few might also have served as prostitutes on the side.

The basic unit was the company, commanded by a captain. A company consisted of 100 men. A regiment was formed by organizing 10 companies together.

So a regiment typically had over 1,000 men and only 4 laundress' were allowed to accompany the men.

A regiment was commanded by a colonel. A regiment has the following staff (one of each):

- Colonel;
- Lieutenant Colonel;
- Major;
- Adjutant ;
- Surgeon;
- Assistant Surgeon;
- Quartermaster;
- Commissary;
- Sergeant-Major;
- Quartermaster Sergeant.



There were also volunteer organizations containing less than 10 companies: if they contained from 4-8 companies, they were called battalions.

George began his military career in the 1840's with the 4th Artillery Company B. He served in Artillery companies until he was stationed at Fort Leavenworth in 1859. One daughter (Laura A. Nixon) was born to them in October 1861 while he was stationed at Fort Leavenworth.

From 1859 to 1864 George served during several different battles in several states; he was discharged on January 28, 1864 in Washington, D.C. He re-enlisted at age 42 and was assigned to the 5th Cavalry, Company L.

George's later years of service were with Cavalry units, rather than Artillery. George's last two posts were both in Nebraska: Fort McPherson and then Fort Robinson. Wherever George went, Isabel followed.

The Nixon's came to North Platte after George's final discharge from Fort Robinson in 1884. He only lived another two years and passed away on April 26, 1886.

Isabel died at age 86 on February 17, 1909. She lived at 705 West 6th St.



Picture of a common Civil War laundress.

Frederick nash Dick



Frederick Nash Dick was born at Greenborough, North Carolina in 1847.

Frederick came from a well-educated family. His father, John McClintock Dick, was judge of the supreme court for North Carolina for many years. He had two brothers that became attorney's (Robert and James) and two brothers that became physicians (William and Jonathan).

Frederick enlisted in the Southern army at the young age of 15. He joined the Confederate Army on March 8, 1862 in Guilford County, North Carolina, enlisting in G Company, 44th Infantry Regiment.

He was promoted to Sergeant on or about September 1, 1862; then to First Sergeant on September 30, 1862, and finally 3rd Lieutenant on May 10, 1863.

During the Battle of the South Anna Bridge in Virginia on July 24, 1863, Frederick was captured and taken to a Union Prison.

His first prison was Johnson island, Ohio. He was later transferred to Point Lookout on February 20, 1865 where he was exchanged on May 1, 1865 at Greensboro, Pennsylvania.

The following is a description of the battle at the South Anna River and the actions of Lt. Col Hargrove and the men from Companies A and G:

"... But the 44th North Carolina, whilst en route, was halted at Hanover Junction, Virginia to guard the railroad connections, thus protecting General Lee's communications with Richmond.

Colonel T.C. Singletary with two companies remained at the junction to protect the four bridges of the Central Railroad (which crossed the South Anna and the Little Rivers). Four companies were entrusted to Lt. Col. Hargrove, who posted one company at each bridge, remaining personally with Company A at Central's bridge across the South Anna, the post of greatest danger.

On the morning of June 26, 1863, the Federal troops, about fifteen hundred in all, appeared before Lt. Col. Hargrove and his small force of forty men. Before Col. Spear (Union) made his first attack, Lt. Col. Hargrove fell back to the north side of the river and posted his men under cover along the river bank and for two hours successfully resisted the repeated efforts of the Federals to capture the bridge by direct assault.

Failing to capture the bridge, Col Spear sent 400 men across the river by an old ford under cover of a violent assault in front from the south and was about to assail Lt. Col Hargrove's force from the rear, which was entirely unprotected, when Company G, consisting of 40 men came to the aid of Company A. Two more vigorous charges were made by the Union soldiers. And the Union soldiers did overtake the bridge, but only after a most desperate and hand-to-hand conflict with pistol, sabre, and bayonet; in which Confederates and Federals were co-mingled.

In the final assault, Company A lost half its men. The loss of Company G was not heavy. However, the Federal losses exceeded the entire number of Confederate troops engaged. Colonel Spear retreated after burning the single bridge, instead of the intended four bridges. He stated that: 'The resistance made by the Confederates

was the most stubborn he had known during the war; he thought that he was fighting four hundred infantry instead of eighty; and that his expedition had entirely failed of its objective, which was to cut off General Lee's communications with Richmond.'

After the Civil War ended, Frederick went to Medical College in Baltimore, Maryland and then came to North Platte, Nebraska in 1868 with his medical degree.

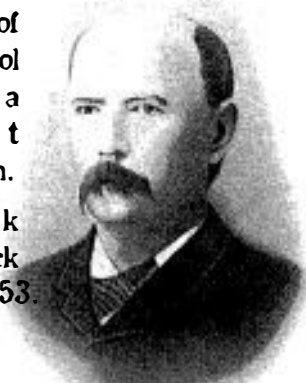
Dr Dick was the first doctor to practice medicine, outside of the army physicians and surgeons located at the two posts in the county, Fort McPherson and North Platte.

Dr. Dick was appointed surgeon for the Union Pacific Railway in 1870. He held the Railroad post during his lifetime; as well as served as a county physician for two years and the county coroner for several years.

On May 2, 1871, Frederick married Miss Ella A. Webb of Auburn, New York. They had five children that survived to adulthood: Parthenia, John, Leslie, Anna, and Robert. "Little Freddy" died as a child.

Dr. Dick was the owner of an extensive ranch, as well as the first man to start a drug store in North Platte. He took an active interest in politics and in 1874 he was elected Lincoln County Commissioner. He was also a member of the school board and a devout Episcopalian.

Frederick Nash Dick died at age 53.



Leicester Walker



Leicester Walker was born in Sandusky City, Ohio on September 3, 1836. He lived in his native state until 1858. After that he moved several times, finally ending up in Washington D.C. Most of his life was spent in military duty and he lived in many parts of the country.

Walker first enlisted in Ohio in February 1861 and soon joined Gen. James Lane's Battalion of Frontier Guards.

On May 9, 1861 he was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant in Company K of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry. The Company was garrisoned at the White House but in June it was transferred south of the Potomac, where Leicester did scout duty until July 18, 1861.

On July 21, 1861, the company engaged in the first Battle of Bull Run.

The **First Battle of Bull Run**, also known as the First Battle of Manassas (the name used by Confederate forces) was fought on July 21, 1861 near Manassas, Virginia.

Just months after the start of the war at Fort Sumter, the Northern public clamored for a march against the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, which could bring an early end to the war. Yielding to this political pressure, unseasoned Union Army troops under Brig. Gen Irvin McDowell advanced across Bull Run against the equally unseasoned Confederate Army near Manassas Junction.

The **Battle of Antietam** (also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg) was fought on September 17, 1862 near

Sharpsburg, Maryland and Antietam Creek. It was the first major battle in the Civil War to take place on Northern soil.

During the winter of 1863, Lieutenant Walker was with the army near Falmouth, Virginia doing scout and picket duty on the Rappahannock River. He was in the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia under General Burnside's. Then Walker, now a Major, served on the staff as musterer and chief of ordnance. He was on General Meade's staff at the Battle of Gettysburg.

The **Battle of Gettysburg** was fought July 1-3, 1863 in and around the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It is often described as the war's turning point.

After serving in all of the Battles of the Potomac, Major Walker was transferred to the staff of General Sheridan as chief commissary of musterers and chief of ordnance. He remained with General Sheridan until they reached the James River, Virginia, when he was sent to a hospital in Washington, suffering from an attack of pneumonia.

Major Walker was unable to join his command again until after the end of the Civil War. At the close of the war he was ordered to Charleston, South Carolina, with four companies and from there to Columbia South Carolina.

At this point he met with a serious accident when his team of horses ran away. He suffered a broken ankle and was laid him up for some time on account of it.

When he was ready for service again in 1866, he was placed in command of the post at Aiken, South Carolina. This post embraced districts in five states.

While he was stationed in Aiken, South Carolina, Leicester met and married Georgia Warren, a young

woman from Georgia. They had two children, Leicester Warren Walker on August 26, 1868 and a daughter, Edith May. L.W. Walker was later educated in North Platte and then attended Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

Major Walker was again ordered west to fight the Indians and was under the command of General Sheridan again. They spent a winter in Kansas, Colorado and Texas.

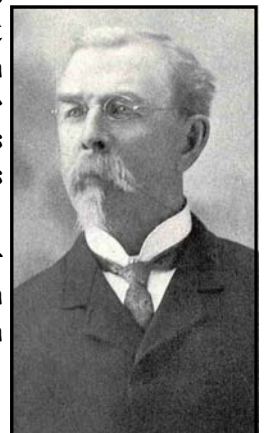
In the spring of 1869, Major Walker marched with a command of 400 men from Fort Harker, Kansas to Fort McPherson, Nebraska. He encountered Indians on the Republican River and other streams all through that summer and on July 1, he fought in the battle of Summit Springs, in which Chief Tall Bull (leader of the Dog Soldiers) was killed.

In 1870, Major Walker was located at North Platte in command of the post with a company from the Ninth Infantry. They were detailed to scout duty protecting settlers and the Union Pacific Railway. On December 30, 1870, Major Walker resigned and he spent the remainder of his life in North Platte.

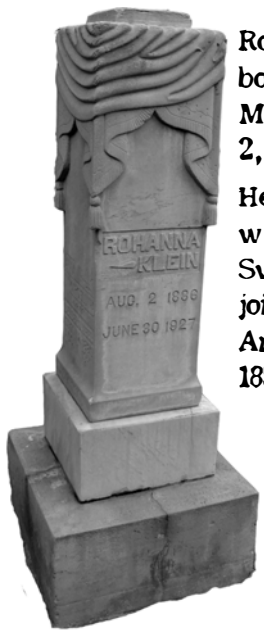
After his military retirement, Major Walker owned a stock ranch with about 700 head of cattle.

Leicester also served as Mayor of North Platte and he also served on the board of Lincoln County Commissioners. He organized the Walker Brothers Bank, the first savings bank in the county. He later sold this bank to Charles McDonald.

Major Leicester Walker died on April 10, 1916 in Omaha, Nebraska.



Rohanna Klein



Rohanna Fine was born in St. Louis, Missouri on August 2, 1836.

Her first husband was William Sweeney. William joined the U.S. Army in August of 1857 as a musician.

Rohanna followed her husband from post to post. Their four children were born in four

different states. Rohanna's son William was born in 1857 while they were stationed in New York. Mary Helen was born in April of 1861 in Fort Ripley, Minnesota. Lillie was born in Indiana and Independence or "Inda" as they called her, was born on the fourth of July in 1867 in Kentucky.

William stayed in the Army throughout the Civil War and re-enlisted again after the war concluded. She and her children lived in the barracks at wherever Fort they were stationed. Rohanna also tended to the men that were injured and wounded.

Over the course of the war, thousands of women with children trailed after the battling armies. These women were collectively known as "camp followers."

During the war, most women were inclined or forced to stay behind and tend to family farms or businesses. Society applauded those who stayed behind as fitting heroines who sustained the home front.

Rohanna followed her husband before the war occurred, so she didn't really know any other type of life. It must have seemed logical to follow William through the Civil War as well.

In 1872, the family was stationed in New Orleans when William got the orders to go to Baton Rouge with his band to play at an official function. At the official function, the soldiers got into a "free-for-all" fistfight. William stepped in to break things up and he was hit on the head with an instrument and was killed instantly.

After William's death, Rohanna and her children continued to follow the Army from camp to camp. William Jr. had begun working for the Army as a servant at the young age of 15 when his father died.

The family was stationed in Colorado where Rohanna married her second husband, Nickalas Klein.

Nickalas was born in Hergerhausen, Germany on January 9, 1845. He graduated from the College of Music in Heidelberg. In 1866 he came to the United States to escape service in the German army. In 1867, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. Mr. Klein served three years in the Army, being honorably discharged in 1870.

He married Rohanna on May 25, 1877 in Los Annas, Colorado. On May 27,

1881, Nickalas and Rohanna moved to North Platte.

Nickalas applied for his citizenship in October 1889. He was instrumental in establishing the first municipal bank in North Platte. Rohanna was surprised to meet an old friend when they arrived in North Platte: Louisa Cody, Buffalo Bill's wife. Louisa and Rohanna had been childhood friends in St. Louis where they were both born. The women remained good friends for the rest of their lives.

In 1882, Nickalas was the band leader during the first rodeo in America called *The Old Glory Blowout*. Nickalas spent the rest of his life working for the railroad, playing in the municipal band, and teaching music. His students called him "professor" or "the prof."

Nickalas passed away in 1924 and three years later, Rohanna died in the home of Inda Baker, her daughter. Keeping with family tradition, William Sweeney Jr. also became a musician and played in Buffalo Bill's band for many years.



This is a picture of the band that played at the Old Glory Blowout, July 4, 1882. Standing in back (L to R): John Day, Charles A. Wyman, Charles Poole, Charles Shafer, Charles Monagan, Charles Stamp, Fred H. Johnston, Mike Sorenson, John A. Foster. Sitting (L to R): Nickalas Klein, Charles Martin, and Joseph F. Fillion.

George Donehower



George Cookman Donehower was born October 25, 1838 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. When he was seven years old, his family moved to Hannibal, Missouri.

When the Civil War broke out, George was a young man in his early twenties. He enlisted in the 2nd Iowa Infantry as a musician.

On July 22, 1861, Congress passed an act which authorized each Regular Army regiment of infantry two principal musicians per company and 24 musicians for a band. Each cavalry and artillery regiment was authorized two musicians per company. Each Artillery Band was permitted 24 musicians and each Cavalry Band was permitted 16 musicians.

The federal government assumed the cost of volunteer regiments during the Civil War. However, with the increase of the number of regiments, some members of Congress became cost conscious. The cost of maintaining bands for all regiments was a burden Congressmen did not want to bear. The War Department spent \$4,000,000.00 on bands with 618 bands in service, a ratio of one musician to every 41 soldiers. Congress concluded bands were too expensive. On July 17, 1862 they passed a law which abolished regimental bands in the volunteer

army and provided for the mustering out of all musicians within 30 days of passage. Interestingly, George was mustered out on March 16, 1862, four months before the passage of this bill.

During the war, the duties of Union bands varied. They performed concerts, parades, reviews, and guard mount ceremonies for encamped troops. They also drummed soldiers out of the Army and performed for funerals and executions. The bands played for troops marching into battle, actually performing concerts in forward positions during the fighting. Bands were stationed at major military hospitals, lifting the morale of suffering soldiers.

The non-musical duties of bandsmen were primarily medical. Before battles, bandsmen gathered wood for splints and helped set up field hospitals. During and after the fighting, they carried the wounded to hospitals, helped surgeons perform amputations, and discarded limbs. George's primary instrument was a violin; however, it is also possible that he played other instruments during his time in the Civil War band.

Although Congress established no standard band instrumentation, most bands used all brass. Brass instruments withstood the rigors of the outdoors. Only the largest bands used woodwinds to complement the brasses.

Songs and ballads were inspirational marching songs written to boost the morale of soldiers on both sides.



Drumbeats originally served two purposes: to tell soldiers what to do and to keep them in step. Drum calls issued commands to soldiers, while other drumbeats with fife accompaniments helped soldiers march. Fife music was popular during the war because the shrill tone of the fife could be heard well above the rumbling cannon and the other noises on the battlefield.



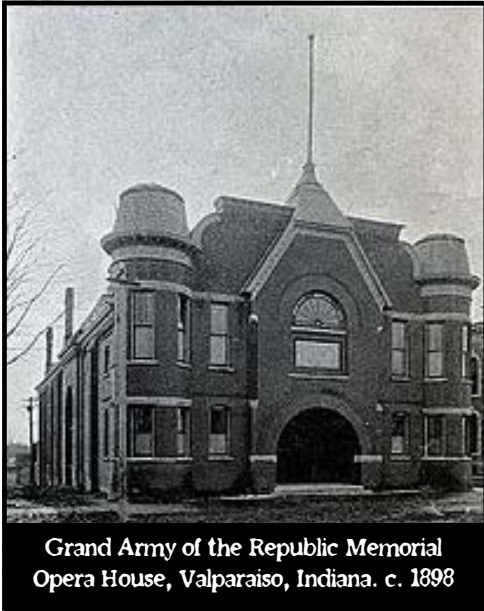
Example of a civil war band.

George secured an honorable discharge and went to Reading, Pennsylvania where he began work on the Lebanon Valley railroad.

He met and married Martha A. Kunsman on December 5, 1866. Shortly after his marriage, he took his wife west and they settled at Carondelet, Missouri, now a suburb of St Louis. He worked on the Iron Mountain railroad. But they were not satisfied and moved several times. In 1888 George moved his family to North Platte, Nebraska. George continued his railroad career and quickly gained employment with the Union Pacific Railroad.

George and Martha had eight children, four of whom died in infancy. The children that survived to adulthood were: Samuel, Mattie, William Edgar and Mable.

George died on February 1, 1926 at age 92.



Grand Army of the Republic Memorial
Opera House, Valparaiso, Indiana. c. 1898

Grand Army of the Republic or (GAR)

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army who had served in the American Civil War. The GAR was among the first organized advocacy group in American Politics. It was succeeded by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)

After the end of the American civil War, organizations were formed for veterans to network and maintain connections with each other. Many of the veterans wished to keep in contact with each other, using their shared experiences as a basis for fellowship. Groups of men began joining together, first for camaraderie and later for political power.

Emerging most powerful among the various organizations was the Grand Army of the Republic, founded on the principles of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty," in Decatur, Illinois on April 6, 1866 by Benjamin F. Stephenson.

The GAR initially grew and prospered as a de facto political arm of the Republican Party during the heated political contests of the

Reconstruction. The commemoration of Union veterans, black and white, immediately became entwined with partisan politics.

The GAR was organized into "Departments" at the state level and "Posts" at the community level, and military style uniforms were worn by its members. There were posts in every state in the United States, with several posts overseas as well.

In 1867, Commander in Chief General John A. Logan established May 30 as Memorial Day, which was originally intended to commemorate the dead of the Civil War.

In 1956, after the death of the last member, Albert Woolson, the GAR was formally dissolved.

History of the Nebraska GAR Posts

Nebraska has long noted the role that immigrants in the 1870s and 1880s played in the development of the state, but we have neglected to note the importance immigrants played in our history, in particular, veterans of our Civil War. Taking advantage of special provisions in the Homestead Act of 1862, thousands of former soldiers, both Union and Confederate, came west to Nebraska in the 1860s and 1870s.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was founded in 1866 and unlike many other groups of its kind, membership would never be expanded or opened to any others, not even wives, mothers or sons. If you wore the badge of the GAR, it could mean only one thing, the wearer had served his country during the war, had defended the Union, had been one of the "Boys in Blue." But, this also meant that when the last Union Civil War veteran died, the

organization would die with him. Nebraska's last veteran was Michael Bondell, who died December 24, 1948 in Beatrice.

There were 367 Posts in Nebraska, covering every corner and section of the state. For many of the towns a major portion of their founders were veterans. They would wield their influence for the next 50 years, playing prominent roles in all civic and government affairs. They were not the only people coming west, many others joined them, but Civil War veterans played an important role in the settlement of the state.

It was customary to name each Post after a battle or veteran who had died or been killed in the war. In a few cases the person who the post was named after was still alive, the death requirement being avoided by using the last name only. These names are very important for they give a hint of some of the action they had seen. It was a special honor and the selection was not taken lightly. In many cases it was possible to determine who most likely made the nomination, although we will never know the whole story as to why.

History of the North Platte Post

The North Platte Post began on August 10, 1881 and ended in 1928. The official post name was Stephen Arnold Douglas. However, the Post originally requested the name of McPherson.

The North Platte Post met at the IOOF Hall on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.

The charter originally listed 22 members and peaked in 1890 with a membership of 95. The last member was Cyrus Fox and he died on June 12, 1942 at age 96.

(Continued from Page 5)

May 1-4, 1863: Battle of Chancellorsville. Lee responds to Hooker's foray across the Rappahannock by splitting his forces and attacking the Union army in three places. He almost defeats it completely, thereby forcing Hooker to withdraw back across the river. Although a clear Southern victory, it is the Confederacy's most costly battle in terms of casualties, with 9,081 wounded, 1,665 killed and 2,018 missing; among the dead is invaluable Gen Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

June-July 1863: Gettysburg Campaign. The tide of war turns against the South as the Confederates are defeated at the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.

July 1-3, 1863: Battle of Gettysburg. Union and Confederate forces clash near the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Northern troops outnumber the Southerners and are eventually able to occupy superior defensive positions. The Federal army is victorious but fails to pursue Lee during his retreat to Virginia. After its defeat at Gettysburg, the Confederacy has its hopes of formal recognition by foreign governments forever dashed.

July 4, 1863: Siege of Vicksburg Ends. Succumbing to Grant's siege after six weeks, Confederate Gen. John Pemberton surrenders Vicksburg and thirty thousand troops. Soon thereafter, Union troops capture Port Hudson, Louisiana, bringing the entire Mississippi River under Union control

and splitting the Confederacy in half.

September 19-20, 1863: Battle of Chickamauga. Union and Confederate forces meet near Chickamauga Creek on the Tennessee-Georgia border. Confederate troops led by Gen. Braxton Bragg come close to completely destroying the Union army under Gen. William Rosecrans, forcing it to retreat to Chattanooga.

October 16, 1863: The president appoints Gen. Grant to command all operations in the western theater.

November 19, 1863: President Lincoln dedicates part of the battlefield at Gettysburg as a national cemetery and delivers his famous Gettysburg address.

March 9, 1864: President Lincoln appoints Gen. Grant to command all of the armies of the United States. Gen. William T. Sherman succeeds Grant as commander in the west. Sherman, and 100,000 men begin an advance toward Atlanta to engage Joseph E. Johnston's 60,000 strong Army of Tennessee.

June 3, 1864: A costly mistake by Grant results in 7,000 Union casualties in twenty minutes during an offensive against fortified Rebels at Cold Harbor in Virginia.

June 15, 1864: Union forces miss an opportunity to capture Petersburg and cut off the Confederate rail lines. As a result, a nine month siege of Petersburg begins with Grant's forces surrounding Lee.

July 20, 1864: At Atlanta, Sherman's forces battle the Rebels now under the command of Gen. John B. Hood, who replaced Johnston.

August 29, 1864: Democrats nominate George B. McClellan for president to run against Republican incumbent Abraham Lincoln.

September 2, 1864: Atlanta is captured by Sherman's Army. "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won," Sherman telegraphs Lincoln. The victory greatly helps President Lincoln's bid for re-election.

October 19, 1864: A decisive victory by Cavalry Gen. Phillip H. Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley over Jubal Early's troops.

November 8, 1864: Abraham Lincoln is re-elected president, defeating Democrat George B. McClellan. Lincoln carries all but three states with 55 percent of the popular vote and 212 of 233 electoral votes. "I earnestly believe that the consequences of this day's work will be to the lasting advantage, if not the very salvation, of the country," Lincoln tells supporters.

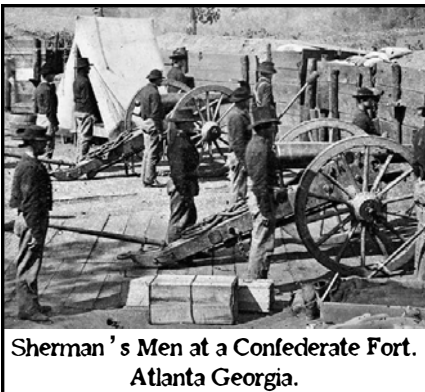
November 15, 1864: After destroying Atlanta's warehouses and railroad facilities, Sherman, with 62,000 men begin a March to the Sea. President Lincoln on advice from Grant approved the idea. "I can make Georgia howl!" Sherman boasted.

December 15-16, 1864: Hood's Rebel Army of 23,000 is crushed at Nashville by 55,000 Federals, including Negro troops under Gen. George H. Thomas. The Confederate Army of Tennessee ceases to be an effective fighting force.

December 21, 1864: Sherman reaches Savannah, Georgia, leaving behind a 300 mile long path of destruction 60 miles wide



Near Gettysburg. Bodies of Union Soldiers killed 7/1/1862



Sherman's Men at a Confederate Fort. Atlanta Georgia.

all the way from Atlanta. Sherman then telegraphs Lincoln, offering him Savannah as a Christmas present.

January 1865: The South suffers acute shortages of food and supplies, caused by disruption of rail traffic and supply lines and the tightened Union blockade. Starving soldiers begin to desert the Confederate army in large numbers.

January 31, 1865: The U.S. Congress approves the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, to abolish slavery. The amendment is then submitted to the states for ratification.

February 1865: Confederate President Jefferson Davis agrees to send delegates to a peace conference with President Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward, but insists upon recognition of the South's independence. Lincoln refuses and the conference does not occur.

March 25, 1865: General Lee attacks General Grant's forces at Fort Stedman, near Petersburg, Virginia, but is defeated. Four hours later the attack is broken.

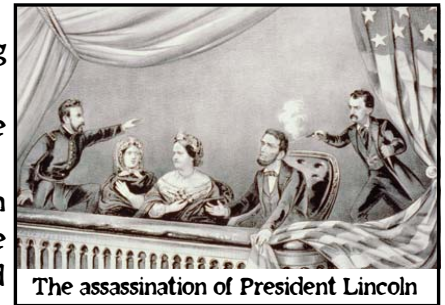
April 1, 1865: Union Gen. Phillip Sheridan defeats Confederate Gen. George Pickett at Five Forks, necessitating the evacuation of Richmond.

April 2, 1865: Lee evacuates Richmond, abandoning the Confederate capital to the Union army, and then heads west to join forces with remnants of the Army of Tennessee.

April 3, 1865: A smoldering Richmond, set on fire the previous evening by retreating Confederate troops, is captured by Union forces.

April 7, 1865: Grant sends a message to Lee, calling upon him to surrender and end the war.

April 9, 1865: Grant and Lee met at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, and agree upon terms of surrender. Lee's command at this point consists of a mere 26,765 men who are sent home on parole after agreeing not to take up arms against the Union. Enlisted cavalry and artillery men are permitted to keep their horses, and officers their swords and pistols. All other equipment is surrendered to the Union army.



The assassination of President Lincoln

April-May 1865: The last remnants of the confederate army surrender or are defeated.

April 14, 1865: The Stars and Strips is ceremoniously raised over Fort Sumter. That night, Lincoln and his wife Mary see the play "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater. At 10:13 p.m. during the third act of the play, John Wilkes Booth shoots the president in the head. Booth is obsessed with avenging the defeat of the Confederacy.

April 15, 1865: President Abraham Lincoln dies at 7:22 a.m. Vice President Andrew Johnson assumes the presidency.

April 26, 1865: Trapped in a burning barn in Virginia, Booth is fatally shot by a Union soldier. Nine other people are determined to have been involved in the assassination, and of these: four are hanged, four are imprisoned, and one is acquitted.

April 26, 1865: Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston surrenders to Union General Sherman at the Bennett House near Durham Station, North Carolina, bringing the war to an end.

May 2, 1865: U.S. President Johnson offers a \$100,000 reward for the capture of Jefferson Davis.

May 4, 1865: Abraham Lincoln is laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery, outside Springfield, Illinois.

May 10, 1865: Jefferson Davis is captured in southern Georgia.

May 1865: Remaining Confederate forces surrender. President Johnson declares that armed insurrection against the Federal government has come to an end. Over 620,000 Americans died in the war, with disease killing twice as many as those lost in battle. 50,000 survivors return home as amputees



June 1865: Congress declares that pay, arms, equipment and medical services for black troops should be equal to that of whites

August 23-October 4, 1865: A Union military commission led by Gen. Lew Wallace tries Confederate Capt. Henry Wirz, commandant of the notorious Confederate prison at Andersonville, Georgia. The commission finds Wirz guilty of war crimes and sentences him to death.

September 1865: Congressman Thaddeus Stephens urges that estates belonging to former Confederate leaders be confiscated and divided up into forty-acre parcels for freed blacks.

November 10, 1865: Wirz is hanged in the yard of the Old Capitol Prison, the only person to be tried and executed for war crimes in the wake of the Civil War.

December 6, 1865: The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, passed by

Interesting civil war facts

What did soldiers eat?

Feeding the troops was the responsibility of the Commissary Department, and both the Union and Confederacy had one. The job of this organization was to purchase food for their respective army, store it until it could be used, and then supply the soldiers.

It was difficult to supply so many men in so many places but the North had a greater advantage in their commissary system as it was already established at the outbreak of the war. The Confederacy struggled for many years to obtain food and get it to their armies.

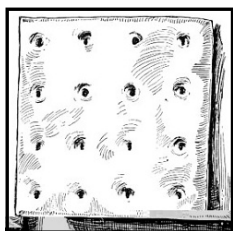
Choices of what to give the troops was limited as they did not have the conveniences to preserve food like we have today. Meats were salted or smoked while other items such as fruits and vegetables were dried or canned. They did not understand proper nutrition so often there was a lack of certain foods necessary for good health. Each side did what they could to provide the basics for the soldiers to survive. Because it was so difficult to store for any length of time, the food that the soldiers received during the Civil War was not fancy and lacked a variety of items.

Some of the other items that soldiers received were salt pork, fresh or salted beef, coffee, sugar, salt, vinegar. If the meat was poorly preserved, the soldiers would refer to it as "salt horse." Sometimes they would receive fresh vegetables such as carrots, onions, turnips and potatoes.

One favorite Union soldier dish was salted pork fried with hardtack crumbled into the mixture. Soldiers called this "skillygalley," and it was a common and easily prepared meal.

Confederate soldiers did not have as

much variety in their rations as Union Soldiers. They usually received bacon and cornmeal, tea, sugar or molasses, and fresh vegetables when they were available. While Union soldiers had their "skillygalley," Confederates had their own version of a quick dish on the march. Bacon was cooked in a frying pan with some water and cornmeal added to make a thick, brown gravy similar in consistency to oatmeal. The soldiers called it "coosh" and though it does not sound to appetizing, it was a filling meal and easy to fix.



Union Hardtack

Hardtack was a biscuit made of flour with other simple ingredients, and issued to Union soldiers throughout the war. Hardtack crackers made up a large portion of a soldier's daily ration. The hardtack was usually square or sometimes rectangular in shape with small holes baked into it, similar to a large soda cracker. Large factories in the north baked hundreds of hardtack crackers every day, packed them in wooden crates and shipped them out by wagon or rail. If the hardtack was received soon after leaving the factory, they were quite tasty and satisfying. Usually, the hardtack did not get to the soldiers until months after it had been made. By that time, they were very hard, so hard that soldiers called them "tooth dullers" and "sheet iron crackers." Sometimes they were infested with small bugs the soldiers called weevils, so they referred to the hardtack as "worm castles" because of the many holes bored through the crackers by

these pests. The wooden crates were stacked outside of tents and warehouses until it was time to issue them. Soldiers were usually allowed six to eight crackers for a three day ration. There was a number of ways to eat them: plain or prepared with other ration items. Soldiers would crumble them into coffee or soften them in water and fry the hardtack, with some bacon grease.

Union Hardtack recipe

2C flour
1/2 to 3/4 C water
1 Tbsp Crisco or solid fat
6 pinches salt

Mix the ingredients together into a stiff batter, knead several times, and spread the dough out flat to a thickness of 1/2 inch on a non-greased cookie sheet. Bake for 30 minutes at 400 degrees. Remove from oven, cut dough into 3-inch squares, and punch four rows of holes, four holes per row into the dough. Turn dough over, return to the oven and bake another 30 minutes. Turn oven off and leave the door closed. Leave the hardtack in the oven until cool. Remove and enjoy!

Confederate Johnnie Cake Recipe

2C cornmeal
2/3 C milk
2 Tbsp oil
2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt

Mix ingredients into a stiff batter and form eight biscuit-sized "dodgers." Bake on a lightly greased sheet at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Or, spoon the batter into hot cooking oil in a frying pan over a low flame. Remove the corn dodgers and let cool on a paper towel. Spread with butter or molasses and enjoy a southern treat!

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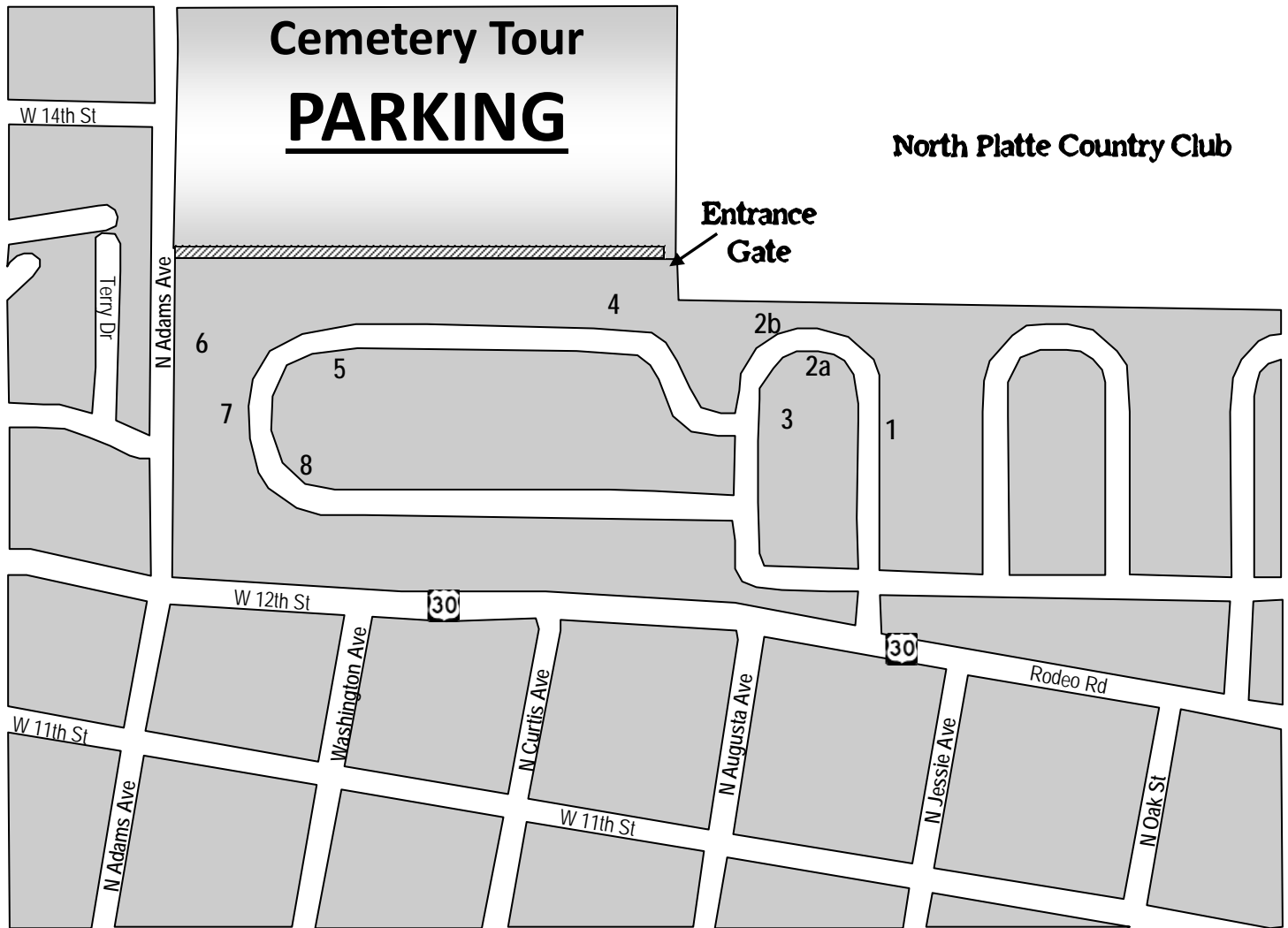
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Cemetery Tour Map

1. Alonzo Church
- 2a. Franklin Peale (son)
- 2b. Reuben Peale (father)
3. Dr. Dick
4. Isabel Nixon
5. George Donehower
6. Rohanna Klein
7. Major Leister Walker
8. Julia Casey

2011 CEMETERY TOUR CANTEN MEMORIES



From December 25, 1941 until April 1, 1946 more than 6 million servicemen and women traveled through Nebraska during World War II. Many of them fondly remember the hospitality of the North Platte Canteen. Every troop train was met by volunteers who prepared and served sandwiches, coffee, cookies, cakes, and other homemade 'goodies' during the stop here.

2011 celebrates the 70th Anniversary of the North Platte Canteen and in that spirit, all of the "ghosts" on our 2011 Railfest Tour will be persons linked to the North Platte Canteen and World War II veterans. Don't miss it!