



the Maryland Line

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Sex and the Civil War

By George Wunderlich

As with all soldiers down through history, the soldiers on both sides during the Civil War had a secret life that they and their families tried to hide from future generations. The letters, diaries and memoirs written by the soldiers told about every aspect of their soldierly life except one. The soldiers or their family seem to have deleted any mention of sex. Of course there was, and a few documents remain telling explicitly what they did.

The men in uniform could purchase what amounted to the 19th century version of Penthouse, Playboy and Hustler magazines. These were purchased through the mail. They purchased pornographic books in the size and shape of Bibles, photos of women in various states of undress and seductive positions. They enjoyed singing bawdy songs, telling dirty jokes, reciting naughty poems, and describing their latest conquests.

Young soldiers, often away from home for the first time, eagerly sought out the readily available soiled doves (prostitutes) for a bit of horizontal refreshment. Prostitution was legalized in Memphis and Nashville to help cut down on the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The prostitutes had to register with the Army and submit to periodic examinations. In Washington, D.C. alone, there were 450 bordellos and about 7,500

prostitutes. Richmond was the center of prostitution in the Confederacy. Venereal disease was prevalent and largely uncontrolled among the soldiers. It was said that after a night with Venus they would spend a lifetime with Mercury. It is estimated that about eight percent of the Union Army contracted venereal disease during the war, and it is thought that a lot more went unreported. There are no figures for cases in the Confederacy, but it is thought to be about the same as for the Union. Responsible for thousands of deaths, venereal disease was transmitted to the soldiers of both sides.

Homosexuality was also a part of camp life even though it was considered “improper, indecent, and unnatural.” There were numerous courts-martial of men in blue and gray for committing rape. It was not only the enlisted men who strayed. Generals, officers, and clergymen would occasionally stray from the high ethical standards of their positions.

However, old fashioned love and marriage, the men’s longings for loved ones and the tender letters also filled the thoughts of soldiers. They were not all saints, and they were not all devils. They were just men a long way from home and the loved ones they left behind.

George Wunderlich is currently the Executive Director of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine where he formerly held the position of Director of Education. George came to the museum in 2000 after moving from Missouri, where he was the founder and director of the Historical Education Center of St. Louis. This organization provided interpretive history programs to schools, parks, civic organizations and professional associations. In 1995 Mr. Wunderlich was awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution National Medal of Honor for his work in public history. After receiving his Master of Arts Degree in American History from Concordia University, he went on to develop new historically-based training programs for the National Park Service, Joint Medical Executive Skills Institute Capstone Symposium, The United State Army Medical Regiment (AMEDD) and other civilian and government organizations. He is a nationally known speaker on various Civil War topics and can be regularly seen on the History Channel, A&E, PBS and the British Broadcasting Corporation.



Ding - Round Four!

Well folks we're going to try again! Let's hope that there will be no rain, snow, hail, sleet or the world coming to an end so that we have the pleasure of Mr. Wunderlich's presentation on Sex and the Civil War. Hope to see all of you on the 13th.

House of Good Repute: Brothel Pampered Elite

By John E. Cary

Mary Ann Hall catered to the nation's elite in Washington as the proprietor of the capital's best brothel during the Civil War.

Located just three blocks from the U.S. Capitol on Maryland Avenue on what now is part of the Mall, her house, a three-story structure nearly the size of a city block, included parlors, an elegant dining room and almost assuredly, the most attractive of the city's estimated 5,000 "soiled doves."

Prostitution was not a crime in the 19th century, and any concentration of troops during the Civil War attracted flocks of "camp followers" who were available for a price. Women often would show up after battles and offer their services to the generals as nurses. The "nursing," however, frequently became an open door to those less honest and caring, and when armies experienced theft, prostitution and other less traditional forms of nursing, generals sometimes rejected offers of female help.

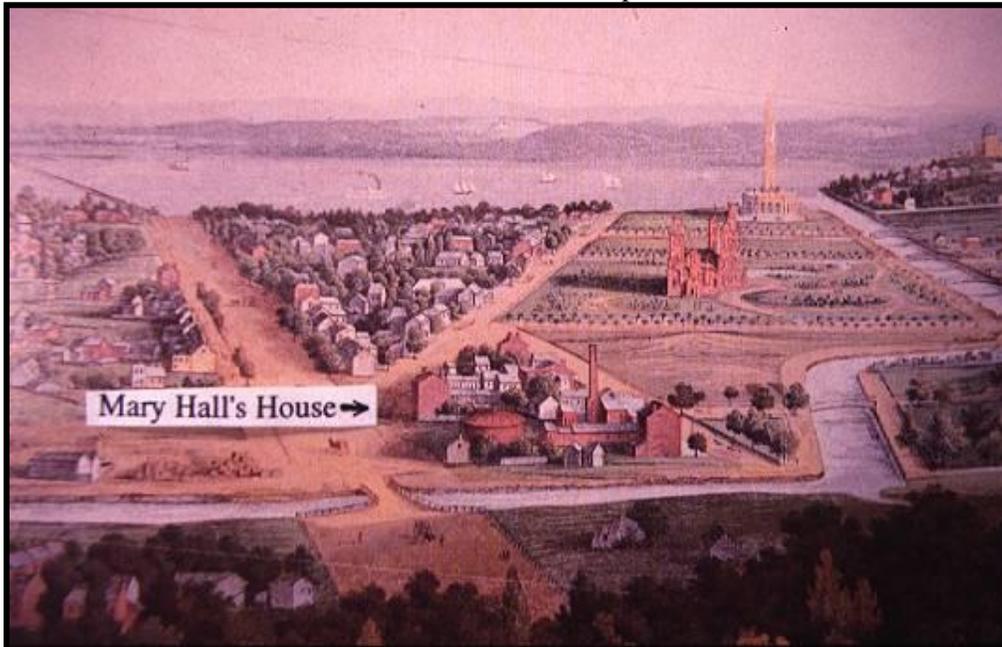
Houses of prostitution were fairly common in America's larger cities, and Washington had as many as

450 entertainment venues on the "wilder side." The presence of affluent politicians, lobbyists and the hierarchy of the government departments helped make Washington a man's home away from home.

Mary Ann Hall took every opportunity to provide such indulgences. The throngs of men willing and able to pay her comparatively exorbitant rates deserved the best. Imported hats, dresses and perfume enhanced her staff. Magnums of champagne added an air of dignity, gentility and grace. Fine food filled the supper tables. Her real goal as hostess, however, was to supply attractive women.

The fashion of the time was an hourglass shape – an ample bosom and tiny waist – which not all women could achieve without corsets reinforced with steel belts called busks. Busks, champagne corks, fine china and combs to spectacular hair creations all have been excavated from the site where Hall's house once stood. Historians and archaeologists believe the quality of these items shows the elegance Hall brought to her entertainment trade. Several of them, including rusted busks, have been preserved by the Smithsonian Institution.

Hall insisted on certain standards of decorum, and her house, which opened around 1837, flourished until it closed in 1878. She was never raided by police, was not the subject of public disgrace or even controversy and was never discussed in newspapers. Editors in those days believed that what was private should stay private. Unless a public figure disgraced himself so thoroughly that prosecution was in order. Private excesses remained unreported.



Detail of View of Washington (Sachse 1852) showing Reservation C looking from the direction of the Capital. The Washington Monument is in the distance.

Winter Weather Policy

As you all know, it's that time of the year again when Mother Nature loves to wreak havoc on our well laid plans. So as a reminder of our winter weather policy, we will not meet if the Montgomery County School system cancels their evening activities. So if the weather looks iffy, listen to news for possible cancellations. We like ya'll too much to lose any of you to an accident.

Venereal Disease and Its Various Cures During the Civil War

By Dr. Michael Echols

During the Civil War, venereal diseases were associated with intemperance in the conditions which favored their causation. Hence they were more frequent at the beginning and the close of the war than during its progress, and among troops stationed in the vicinity of cities than among those on active service. Elevations of the lines of prevalence during the continuance of the war correspond with the accession for fresh levies or the return of furloughed veterans. Among white troops,

73,382 cases of syphilis were reported, and 109,397 cases of gonorrhea and gonorrheal orchitis, giving a total of 82 cases of venereal disease annually per thousand men, compared with 87.86 in our army before the war and 87.62 from the records of ten years immediately following the war period. Among the colored troops syphilis had an annual rate of 33.8 cases and gonorrheal affections 43.9 cases per thousand of strength.

Civil War Book Group

For those of you interested in reading about the Civil War, the Civil War Book Group meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The location is:

Barnes & Noble Bookseller
Montrose Crossing
12089 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

This is the same shopping center as the Sports Authority, Giant, and Hudson Trail Outfitters. For more information, contact Bob Jones at 301-299-7053.

They Were Not All Ladies and Gentlemen

When soldiers head off to war, we would like to think of them as virtuous knights in shining armor who would never fall off their white chargers and engage in the baser aspects of their natures. But alas, that is not always true. Off and on today we hear about soldiers having affairs, but this has been true throughout history. There were the camp followers, some who did more than just the laundry, cook, or nurse the wounded. There were the women, not necessarily the wives, who kept the officer corps happy and contented. Each generation had their pin-up girls, their versions of the girlie magazines, the bawdy jokes and songs, and lewd poetry. Most of this pornography would be destroyed after the wars. Who wants to have their wife and children find these little treasures especially when they thought their soldier would never have anything of that sort. So not much is left and not much has been written about the carnal activities of the troops and the civilian population. So if you're interested in finding out more the book *The Story*

Speakers for 2012-2013 Season

- January – Scott Patchan: 2nd Manassas
- February – Don Hakenson: John Singleton Mosby
- March – Peter Cozzens: Cahaba Prison
- April – Ed Bearss: Ball's Bluff
- May – Steve Stanley: Mapping Civil War Battlefields.

the Soldiers Wouldn't Tell: Sex and the Civil War by Thomas Lowry is a good start, and the History Channel's "Sex and the Civil War" DVD is another.

Some Womanizing Generals

Enlisted men were not the only ones looking for comfort in the arms of a woman. There were many officers who also chased a few skirts. Some of the more notorious military lotharios were Earl Van Dorn, Hugh Judson Kilpatrick, and Daniel Sickles.



Earl Van Dorn's military career had its up and downs during the war, but it was his womanizing reputation that would be his undoing. Though he been through many battles, it was not a Union bullet that kill him. It was the husband of one of his conquests. On May 7, 1863, Dr. James Peters entered Van Dorn's headquarters

at Spring Hill, Tennessee. Peters fired one shot to the back of Van Dorn's head, killing him instantly. Peters claimed that Van Dorn had "violated the sanctity of his home" by carrying on affair with his wife, Jessie.



Hugh Judson Kilpatrick was known as reckless individual. He had no problem sending his men in to battle, sometime into impossible situations. He earned the name of Kilcavalry among the troops. He was known to have women at his headquarters. Kilpatrick at one point was accompanied by a woman named Alice, who traveled with his headquarters train. While at Monroe's Cross Roads, North Carolina, Wade Hampton made a sudden dawn attack on the two room log cabin used by Kilpatrick. Hampton found Alice at home, and Kilpatrick escaping with nothing on but his pants.



Daniel Sickles was a well known womanizer before the war. He dallied with many ladies even after he married Theresa Bagioli. He found out that she was having an affair with Philip Barton Key. He ambushed Key in Lafayette Park. He was the first to be acquitted using the temporary insanity defense. He later angered Mary Lincoln when he suggested that all the ladies at his headquarters should line and each give President

Lincoln, who was visiting, a kiss. Mr. Lincoln saw no harm, but when he told Mrs. Lincoln she went ballistic, and would snub Sickles when he came to the White House after Gettysburg.

Miss Anna E. Jones Was No Lady



Anna E. Jones was born Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1844. An orphan, she was raised by a conservative minister and his wife. In 1861, she left home for Washington, D.C., to be a nurse. Because of her age, she was refused. This did not deter her. The autumn of 1862 found at the headquarters of Gen. Franz Sigel near Fairfax Court House. From Sigel she moved onto Gen. Stahl. She moved on the command of Gen. Kilpatrick, going to front as a friend and companion of Gen. Custer. A jealous female rival claimed that Annie was really a Confederate spy landing Annie in the Old Capitol Prison. While she was in prison she became "intimately acquainted" with Mr. John Lockwood, Capt. Mix, the Superintendent Clerk and quite a few others. Annie left six generals, officer of lower ranks, and an assortment of civilian functionaries in her wake. Many of these individuals were hard pressed to defend themselves or had their careers ruined. She seems to have disappeared after the war to a life of obscurity.

Just for Fun

This has nothing to do with Sex and the Civil War, but I saw this and thought you might enjoy it.

For Northerners Moving South

In the South: If you run car into a ditch, don't panic. Four men in a four-wheel drive pickup truck with a tow chain will be along shortly. Don't try to help them just stay out of their way. This is what they live for.

Don't be surprised to find movie rentals and bait in the same store. Don't buy food at this store.

Remember, "Y'all" is singular, "all y'all" is plural, and "all y'all's" is plural possessive.

Get used to hearing "You ain't from round here, are ya?"

Save all manner of bacon grease. You will be instructed later on how to use it.

Don't be worried at not understanding what people are saying. They can't understand you either. The first Southern statement to creep into a transplanted Northerner's vocabulary is the adjective "big 'ol", truck or "big 'ol" boy. Most Northerners begin their Southern-influenced dialect this way. All of them are in denial about it.

The proper pronunciation you learned in school is no longer proper.

Be advised that "He needed killin'", is a valid defense here.

If you hear a Southerner exclaim, "Hey, y'all watch this", you should stay out of the way. These are likely to be the last words he'll ever say.

If there is the prediction of the slightest chance of even the smallest accumulation of snow, your presence is required at the local grocery store. It doesn't matter whether you need anything or not. You just have to go there.

Do not be surprised to find that 10-year olds own their own shotguns, they are proficient marksmen, and their mammas taught them how to aim.

In the South, we have found that the best way to grow a lush green lawn is to pour gravel on it and call it a driveway.

AND REMEMBER: If you do settle in the South and bear children, don't think we will accept them as Southerners. After all, if the cat had kittens in the oven, we ain't gonna call 'em biscuits.

December Civil War Traveler Events

For further events you can go to www.civilwartraveler.com

1 DC/WV Bus Tour, “Mr. Lincoln at Harpers Ferry and Antietam,” with Ed Bearss. 8 am – 6:30 pm.

\$179. Begins at 550 C St SW. A Smithsonian Associates tour. Tickets:

www.smithsonianassociates.org (click on Civil War).

1 MD Grand Illumination of the Antietam battlefield near Sharpsburg. Big annual event with candles representing battle casualties. Gates open 6 pm. Free.

Living history at the Pry House Field Hospital at nearby Keedysville. 11 am – 5 pm. www.nps.gov for illumination; www.civilwarmed.org for living history.

1VA Walking Tour, “Butler’s Offensive at Point of Rocks,” begins at Dodd Park, 201 Enon Church Road, Chester. 10 am – noon. \$8. Register:

www.chesterfieldhistory.com

1 VA Living history, “Christmas on the Farm,” at the Virginia Museum of the Civil War and the Bushong House on the New Market Battlefield State Park. Military and civilian demonstrations and more. 10 am – 4 pm. **886-515-1864**.

1 PA “An Evening with the Painting,” a special look at the famous Cyclorama at the Gettysburg National Military Park. 5 pm. \$20.

www.gettysburgfoundation.org

1-2 WV “Capt. Flagg’s US Quartermaster City:

Prospects of the Peace,” 1864 ranger programs at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. 11 am – 4 pm. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/hafe

3 VA Living History, “Christmas in Camp,” soldier and civilian holiday traditions at the Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center. Noon – 4 pm. Free. **703-591-0506**.

4 Lecture, “The Great Locomotive Chase,” at the Carroll Community College in Westminster. 6:30 – 8:30 pm. \$25. Details, registration: **410-386-8100**.

6 MD Lecture, “Fredericksburg – It Is Well that War Should Be So Terrible,” at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, 401 Museum Dr in City Park, Hagerstown. 7 pm. \$5 www.wcmfa.org

7-15¹⁵⁰ Tours, ranger-led anniversary walks matching times and location of major events relating to the Battle

of Fredericksburg.

www.nps.gov/frsp/sesquicentennial.htm

8-9¹⁵⁰ Living history, tours and more commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Events planned throughout the city, at the Fredericksburg battlefield NPS site and at George Washington’s Ferry Farm. Details: www.visitfred.com

9 Living History, Christmas camp at the Mt. Zion Church Historic Park, 40309 John Mosby Hwy, Aldie. 4 – 7 pm. Free. www.nvrpa.org

13¹⁵⁰ Dinner talks, book signings, “Battle of Fredericksburg,” featuring Gary Gallagher, Robert K. Krick and Bearss at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House hotel, 2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg. Proceeds go to battlefield preservation. 6 pm cocktails, buffet dinner 6:45 pm, program 8 pm. \$50. 540-374-0900 or www.cvbt.org

15 VA Living History, decorations and Civil War Santa at Ellwood Manor, near Routes 20 and 3 west of Fredericksburg on the Wilderness Battlefield.

www.fowb.org

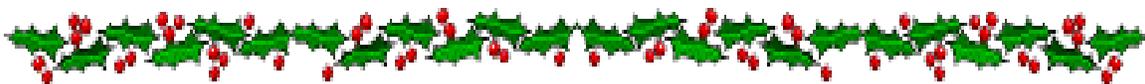
15MD Living History, “The Legend of Civil War Santa,” at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. Noon – 4 pm. Free with admission. www.surratt.org

16 DC/PA Bus Tour, “Mr. Lincoln’s November 1863 Trip to Gettysburg,” with Ed Bearss. 8 am – 6:30 pm. \$179. Begins at 550 C St SW. A Smithsonian Associates tour. Tickets: www.smithsonianassociates.org (click on Civil War).

16 MD Lecture, “Women’s Fashions of the Civil War Era,” at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, 401 Museum Dr in City Park, Hagerstown. 2:30 pm. \$5. www.wcmfa.org

16 VA Living History, “Civil War Christmas,” period music, Santa and refreshments at Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge. 10 am – 3 pm. \$2/person, \$6 maximum per family. **703-583-6904**.

31 PA General Meade Birthday Celebration at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia. Annual events begins 11:30 am. www.thelaurehillcemetery.org



*Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
From the Montgomery County Civil War Round Table
Executive Board!!!*



Montgomery County Civil War Round Table
10510 Moxley Road
Damascus, MD 20872

Fourth Regular Meeting of 2012 - 2013 Season

Date: December 13, 2012

Place: Hilton Hotel

Time: 7:00 p.m. – Dinner
8:00 p.m. – Speaker

Speaker: George Wunderlich

Topic: Sex and the Civil War

Dinner: \$25.00

Speaker only: \$5.00

Reservations: Bob Clark
301-253-3485
Email: bobclark3@aol.com

Reservation Deadline: 9:00 p.m., Monday, Dec. 7th.
Please remember that if you have made a dinner reservation and are a no show, then the Round Table has to pick up the tab. So help us keep costs to a minimum by honoring your reservation. Thank you.

Comments, Questions or Suggestions
If you have any questions, comments or suggestions
Contact Vivian Eicke at 301-681-6497

Next Month's Meeting
Speaker: Scott Patchan
Topic: Second Manassas
Date: January 10, 2013

The Maryland Line
Vivian Eicke, Editor
10510 Moxley Road
Damascus, MD 20872

Layout and Production
Vivian Eicke

Substitute Meals
If you have dietary restrictions, and require something other than what is on the menu, please let Bob know when you make your reservations.



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