



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

---

### Nation's library gains 'phenomenal' Civil War stereograph collection

BY CLINT SCHEMMER,  
Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star,  
March 29, 2015

WASHINGTON—Moments “frozen in amber” is what Robin Stanford calls these images from the Civil War.

An enslaved woman breastfeeding her baby at “Uncle July’s cabin” on a St. Helena Island, S.C., plantation Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter before and after they fell in the opening hours of the Civil War

Slaves worshipping in 1860 inside Zion Chapel, an Episcopal missionary church on Rockville plantation in South Carolina’s low country

Soldiers’ skeletons and fresh graves on the Spotsylvania and Wilderness battlefields

Scenes from the mid-war Port Royal Experiment, abolitionists’ attempt to remake African-Americans’ lives near Beaufort, S.C.

Those and 500-plus other images from America’s deadliest conflict are coming to your laptop, desktop or smartphone, thanks to one Texan and the photo geeks at “the nation’s library.”

Stanford is a Houstonian who devoted decades to collecting Civil War and Texas stereographs, taken by a twin-lens camera much as human eyes capture the same image from slightly different angles.

On Friday, a few journalists visiting the Central Vault of the Library of Congress’ Prints & Photographs Division got a sneak peek at a sample of the Stanford Collection and a chance to talk with the spirited, competitive person who assembled them.

The library has acquired a selection of her much larger trove, choosing scenes that it did not already have in its vast holdings. The division’s staff has already begun cataloguing, scanning and digitizing them. A first batch of 77 is now live on the library’s website, [loc.gov](http://loc.gov) (search “robin stanford collection”). The library’s high-resolution, downloadable scans are prized by researchers and widely enjoyed by the general public.

“The collection has extraordinary depth, and many of the images are exceedingly rare,” expert Carol M. Johnson, who recently retired as the library’s curator of photography, said of Stanford’s hoard. “It’s the largest Civil War stereo collection that I am aware of.”

Last summer, Johnson spent three days at Stanford’s home inventorying the collection based on her knowledge of the library’s Civil War holdings. Hired as a consultant by the nonprofit Center for Civil War Photography ([civilwarphotography.org](http://civilwarphotography.org)), which helped cement the sale, Johnson prepared a 40-page roster of images not held by the library.

Learning of a new collection, like Stanford’s, “makes the field of photo history exciting,” she said.

Johnson’s favorite scenes from the Stanford Collection are “the plantation views show us how the slaves lived,” she said via email. “They are great documentation of the slave homes, their workshops, even the interior of their church during a service. The 3-D aspect of the stereo puts the viewer right there on the plantation.”

Two Southern photo studios, Hubbard and Mix and Osborn & Durbec, recorded those scenes. There are very few in existence because there was little commercial market for views of slave life, said

Bob Zeller, president of the Center for Civil War Photography.

“They are so infrequently found that the auctioneer Wes Cowan has never even handled an Osborn & Durbec,” Zeller said. Cowan, a photo-collecting veteran, is one of the experts in PBS’ long-running “History Detectives” program.

Zeller said he is fascinated with the collection’s images of Beaufort, S.C., which fell in early 1862—one of the first areas of the South occupied by Union troops.

Plantation owners fled, leaving hundreds of African-Americans to fend for themselves. Northern missionaries came and set up schools for them. One abolitionist, Laura Towne of Philadelphia, started the Penn School on St. Helena Island and stayed 20 years.

The school ([penncenter.com](http://penncenter.com)) has operated ever since, and provided a safe haven during the civil rights movement for Dr. Martin Luther King and other leaders’ strategy sessions, Zeller noted.

#### THE WAR IN 3-D

A cool feature of stereographs is that, seen through red and blue glasses—available for free from the Civil War Trust—they pop to life in three dimensions.

That’s how most 19th-century people would have seen them. Some 70 percent of all Civil War documentary photos were shot as stereo views, were hugely popular and sold in huge numbers.

Now, inside the library’s Madison Building across from the U.S. Capitol, the experts marveled at what Stanford has preserved of those photographers’ work.

“To be able to add 500 stereographs that we didn’t have before—that’s pretty phenomenal,” division chief Helena Zinkham said in an interview.



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

"And why is it possible? Because a woman in the 1970s, raising a toddler, caught the history bug, and moved from a fascination with three-dimensional viewing to really looking closely and carefully at the cards. The pictures bring the war alive for her."

For the Texan, the obsession started innocently enough.

Raising her first son, she read Douglas Southall Freeman's biography of Robert E. Lee to pass the time, and grew entranced by his descriptions of people's lives during the war, she recalled last week.



ANDREW HARNIK/ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Collector Robin Stanford stands by some of her rare Civil War-era stereoscopic photographs at the Library of Congress on Friday.

Then she spotted an old stereo viewer and some photo cards at an antique shop, and thought they would make an interesting curio for the getaway farmhouse she was furnishing for her husband, a hardworking physician, and their family in the country west of Houston. But the stereo images proved fascinating to the history buff. Before long, she was buying them from dealers, eagerly awaiting the monthly catalogues they would mail. "One thing led to another," she said.

After five decades, Stanford, now in her 80s, had assembled more than 1,500 stereo views. She calls them her "babies."

Stanford had planned to give her collection to her surviving son, John, a physics professor at Concordia

University who shared her interest in American history.

But when he died a year ago, "the air just went out of me," she said, and she stopped collecting.

In time, Zeller urged her to consider finding a good home for her lifetime's work. She wanted proceeds from any sale to help finance her granddaughters' high school and college educations.

Stanford and Zeller's first and best hope was that the Library of Congress, because of how it shares Civil War images with the world, would be interested.

Zinkham, the library's photo chief, said its acquisition of Stanford's collection serves as a coda to the final weeks of the Civil War's 150th anniversary.

The library opened the sesquicentennial by receiving the Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War ambrotypes and tintypes, portraits that soldiers and their families held dear.

Zinkham said she sees Stanford's collection as a fine bookend to the sesquicentennial, one that "will carry us well into the future."

### Catonsville's connection to Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth

By Heather Norris, Catonsville Times, April 14, 2015

One hundred and fifty years ago President Abraham Lincoln was officially pronounced dead after being shot the night before at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

In the days that followed, an intense manhunt was launched for a Maryland man named John Wilkes Booth.

What many people might not know is that Booth spent a crucial part of his life in Catonsville.

Before he became the infamous assassin of a U.S. president and long before he was an actor traveling the country, Booth was a boarding school student at St. Timothy's Hall preparatory school in Catonsville.

Booth and his younger brother, Joseph, attended the school from 1852 to 1853, during which time they lived in the dorm on the school's campus, said Terry Alford, a professor of history at Northern Virginia Community College.

Their mother enrolled them at the strict military school for boys soon after their father died in an effort to provide them with some structure in their lives, but Alford says the time spent there may have been some of the most transformative in Booth's life.

"John didn't hear anything at the school that didn't confirm his thoughts about slavery," he said. "That was a thoroughly Southern school."

A large, imposing structure, the school was known for its austere environment and the thoroughly Southern attitudes of its students, according to Alford, who recently finished a book about Booth. The vast majority of the students came either from Maryland or states farther south, and though the faculty consisted mainly or northerners, the school became a breeding ground of Confederacy support, he said. Some of the Confederacy's most notable figures, including a few generals, were educated at St. Timothy's Hall, said Alford, who visited Catonsville as part of his research for the book.

"He was just in the middle of a cauldron of adolescent energy," said Alford. A lot of that energy, he added, was spent promoting the southern cause.

In 1985, when longtime Catonsville historian H. Ralph Heidelbach



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

---

comprised his booklet, "Catonsville Churches and Schools Before 1950," he devoted 10 pages to St. Timothy's Hall. In it, he quotes liberally from the 1977 work by Enick Davis that provided a history of the school for the Historical Society of Baltimore County's History Trails publication.

"By 1850, St. Timothy's Hall was prospering," wrote Davis. "In that year there were one hundred and thirty-two students enrolled at the school, with a staff of fourteen professors."

Students at the school, most of whom hailed from middle and upper middle class families, studied art, history, philosophy and other subjects, in addition to military tactics, Davis wrote.

Under the rules of headmaster Rev. Libertus Van Bokkelen, the boys were required to wear military uniforms while they attended classes and were forbidden from receiving food from home, singing, dancing or studying in groups, said Alford.

"Throughout the 1850's the school flourished and by 1860 was at the height of its prosperity," Davis wrote. "During the following months the nation plunged headlong into the impending civil war. In November, the Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln, was elected president, much to the disappointment of the students of St. Timothy's Hall, who had almost unanimously supported the Southern Democratic ticket of Breckinridge and Lane."

"The thing about Maryland was that it was very divided," said Anne Rubin, an associate professor of history at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, who teaches classes on the Civil War and the American South.

Throughout his adolescence, Rubin said, Booth was far from alone in his support for the Confederacy. There was a large contingent of people

living in Maryland at the time Booth was growing up who sympathized with the Southern cause and who, during the war, operated various underground networks to smuggle supplies to the southern states.

With each Southern state's secession, the student body at St. Timothy's paid homage with a sunrise artillery salute, not authorized by the school's faculty, according to the written account by Davis.

In fact, Alford said, there was some fear during the war that the boys might steal the school's training weapons and join the Confederate army.

In 1853, Booth, a young teen at the time, participated in an uprising at the school led by the upperclassmen in protest of the school's strict rules, Alford said. About half of the student body left the school and set up camp in the woods nearby to protest Van Bokkelen's policies. After a three-day standoff, he said, parents were called in to mediate an end to the boycott.

According to Alford, though Booth struggled at times in class, he excelled socially at St. Timothy's Hall, meeting a number of boys who would eventually become his comrades in his effort to upend the Union government.

"He was unbelievably popular," Alford said.

He easily made friends with his classmates, some of whom included Fitzhugh Lee, nephew of Robert E. Lee, the commanding general of Confederate forces, and a future Confederate general himself, and Samuel Arnold and Michael O'Loughlin, both future co-conspirators in Booth's initial plot to kidnap the president.

The Catonsville Library's Catonsville Room houses a number of official

records pertaining to the school and its history.

Located adjacent to the current site of St. Timothy's church on Ingleside Avenue, the school building was destroyed by fire in 1872, after the school had closed and the building was being rented out to boarders.

Sometimes, said Lisa Vicari, a volunteer at the Catonsville Room, it's interesting to think about what the town was like in the mid-19th century. With vocal support of the Confederacy among some prominent families and a free black community, "that makes for a very interesting mix," she said.

### **Confederate flag at center of US Supreme Court free speech case**

By Chantal Valery, AFP, March, 23, 2015

Washington (AFP) - Can US motorists put the Confederate flag -- seen by some as a symbol of racist oppression of the slavery-era South -- on their license plates and call it freedom of expression?

The US Supreme Court seemed sharply divided on the issue Monday.

The nine justices heard arguments in a freedom of expression case looking at whether a state or its residents should control the images and slogans featured on state-issued license plates.

In Texas, the Sons of Confederate Veterans filed suit claiming their First Amendment right to free speech had been violated when state officials refused to honor their request for specialty plates bearing the Civil War-era flag.

The Supreme Court took the case after a federal appeals court backed the Sons of Confederate Veterans, saying Texas had discriminated



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

---

against the group's view that the flag celebrates Southern heritage.

Nine other states allow specialty plates bearing the group's name and the flag.

In the United States, license plates often act as mini-billboards for a cherished cause or ideal. Some honor sports teams, universities and other organizations.

The motto "Live Free or Die" is printed on many license plates in New Hampshire, for example. Some plates in Kentucky, meanwhile, display an endorsement of the state's powerful coal industry.

Like most US states, Texas allows various interest groups to request the creation of such specialty license plates, and then allows motorists who pay an extra fee to purchase them.

State officials can however reject the request to create the plate if it determines that the requested message could be offensive to members of the public.

Such messages are the "government's speech," argued Scott Keller, the attorney representing the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. "Texas doesn't want to be associated with messages they find offensive."

Justice Sonia Sotomayor seemed to agree, saying she saw no reason "why the government should be compelled to endorse a message it doesn't approve and does not want to be associated with."

But the Sons of Confederate Veterans argued that Texas has been inconsistent at best in its attitude toward Confederate symbols, often allowing it at government-organized parades and other events celebrating Southern Civil War history.

James George, the attorney for the group, called the government's refusal to issue the requested license

plates a "sort of arbitrary control on speech."

That argument seemed persuasive for the court's more conservative justices, including Chief Justice John Roberts.

"If you don't want Al-Qaeda speech, don't go into the business of selling specialty plates," Roberts said.

The fact that a state's name is printed on the license plate, Roberts said, "doesn't mean you endorse" the message, adding: "Texas puts its name on everything."

Others on the court, like Justice Elena Kagan, found themselves in somewhat of a middle ground.

Kagan, the court's newest member, suggested that Texas has had "greater control over its citizens' speech than we've been comfortable with," but seemed less than totally convinced by the Confederate group's case.

The Supreme Court was expected to issue its ruling by June.

### **How Abraham Lincoln's assassination chair ended up in Michigan**

By Fritz Klug, fklug@mlive.com, April 14, 2015

DEARBORN, MI -- Today marks the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination at the Ford Theatre in Washington D.C. Lincoln was watching a production of the play "Our American Cousin" when John Wilkes Booth shot the 16th president point blank. Lincoln hunched down in the chair while his wife Mary Todd Lincoln held him. He died the next morning.

That chair Lincoln sat in became a piece of evidence during assassination investigation, then was placed in storage before being purchased and sent to Michigan and displayed at The Henry Ford.

There are Lincoln artifacts in museums across the country, but "this one is pretty powerful," said Jim Johnson, senior manager of creative programs at The Henry Ford.

"The presidency ended right there in that chair," Johnson said. "It's such a visceral connection to Lincoln to look at this thing. We know he was sitting there, people are fascinated by that and feel this amazing connection."

But how did the rocking chair that Lincoln sat in at the Ford Theatre end up 400 miles away in Dearborn, Michigan?

The rocking chair has a long history, Johnson said. The silk rocking chair was brought to the box by Ford Theater manager Harry Clay Ford -- no relation to Henry Ford. He would often bring in the rocking chair and a couch in for special guests.

After Lincoln was assassinated, the theater box was closed off for the investigation and the chair was acquired by the War Department, Johnson said. Years later, it was transferred to the Smithsonian for storage.

"It appears that people had access to it," Johnson said. "It was put into storage in what turned out to be a hidden break area, we think, for workers, because that's when the chair gets messed up."

Damage to the chair was caused by a water leaks, plaster dust, wet plaster and hair grease. It was common for men to wet and grease their hair.

"Anyone who sat in the chair put their greasy head on the back of the chair," Johnson said.

After some 30 years at the Smithsonian, Blanche Chapman Ford, the widow of theatre manager Harry Clay Ford, petitioned the government to get the chair back, Johnson said.



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Soon after it was returned to her, the chair was put up for auction. Israel Sack, a prominent antique dealer, purchased the chair for Henry Ford. It was a month after Ford had opened Greenfield Village, which included the Logan County Courthouse, where Lincoln had practiced law.



The chair in which President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865 is shown on display at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich. – photo courtesy The Henry Ford Museum

A 2010 Washington Post story on the chair reported that it was purchased for \$2,400 in 1929, which is \$32,943 in today's dollars. The Henry Ford said, according to photographic evidence, the chair was insured for \$10,000, which would be about \$137,000.

The chair has been in the Henry Ford collection ever since.

In the mid 1990s, a major conservation effort was taken on the

chair. The silk fabric is fragile and was encased in a polyester sheer fabric to keep the original silk in place.

A chemical analysis of the material found three locations of blood. "But what we don't know is whose blood it is." Major Henry Rathbone was stabbed in the arm by Booth during the assassination and bled a fair amount.

While there are some traces of blood on the chair, it is not the large discolored section some may think is blood. That came from hair grease that rubbed off from the heads of men who sat in it. Hair oil and other oils are the most prominent materials found on the chair.

Lincoln was someone who inspired Ford, Johnson said.

"Ford was very enamored with Abraham Lincoln," he said, "He fit into his perfect storm of the self-made man."

### Who received the reward for John Wilkes Booth's capture?

History.com, April 16, 2015

Twelve days after the murder of Abraham Lincoln, the largest manhunt in American history ended before dawn on April 26, 1865, in Richard Garrett's Virginia tobacco barn. The assassin John Wilkes Booth was himself felled by a fatal shot fired by Union Sergeant Boston Corbett, while co-conspirator David Herold surrendered without resistance.

As soon as the massive pursuit for the fugitives ended, however, the quest for the mammoth reward money began. On April 20, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton had offered an unprecedented \$50,000 for the capture of Booth and \$25,000 each for the apprehension of accomplices

John Surratt Jr., who by that point had actually fled to Canada, and Herold. Broadsides sporting descriptions and photographs—perhaps the first to have ever appeared on wanted posters—of the three men had poured off the printing presses.

Hundreds submitted flimsy claims for the blood money. Serious consideration, however, was mostly confined to the egotistical Lafayette Baker, summoned by Stanton to investigate the crime, and the 16th New York Cavalry Regiment, as well as two detectives—Everton Conger and cousin Luther Baker—Baker dispatched to Virginia to track down Booth and Herold. While Lafayette Baker had placed Conger in charge of the posse, a special War Department commission instead determined that the cavalry's Lieutenant Edward Doherty was the leader and deserving of the largest cut of the \$75,000 reward—a 10 percent share similar to the traditional bounty given to ship captains who captured enemy vessels. A committee of claims established by the U.S. House of Representatives, however, overturned the decision and gave the largest shares—\$17,500 a piece—to Lafayette Baker and Conger and reduced Doherty's reward to \$2,500.

Lafayette Baker's numerous enemies, however, howled in protest. When it gave its final approval, Congress adjusted the shares of the \$75,000 reward one last time. Conger received \$15,000 and Doherty \$5,250. Lafayette Baker's payout was slashed to \$3,750, while his cousin was given \$3,000. Corbett, the man who killed the assassin, walked away with just \$1,653.85, the same as his 25 fellow cavalrymen. The remaining \$5,000 was divided among four other



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

investigators and soldiers involved in the manhunt.

### Civil War "Silent Sentinels" still on guard in North, South

By Chris Carolla, Associated Press, April 18, 2015

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — After the Civil War ended in April 1865, statues depicting Union and Confederate soldiers went up across the country, from New England squares to Southern courthouses. A century and a half later, these weathered "Silent Sentinels" still stand guard, rifles at the ready, gazing off in the distance.

For a war that pitted brother against brother, many of them bear a strong family resemblance.



In the decades after the Civil War ended, statues depicting Union and Confederate soldiers were placed in countless American communities. A century and a half later, these weathered "silent sentinels" still stand guard. (Mike Groll, Associated Press)

Most of the statues were mass-produced by a handful of Northern companies that found a steady market selling to communities —

North and South — eager to honor their fallen soldiers and surviving veterans.

"They're not meant to represent one person or another," said Sarah Beetham, an art historian who teaches at the University of Delaware and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. "This way, people could go and see in them their sons or fathers who had fought in the war."

Known as the "Silent Sentinel," "Single Soldier" or similar names, he tops many of the thousands of Civil War monuments to be found in more than 30 states. Today, 150 years after the guns fell silent to end the nation's bloodiest conflict, the ranks of the more than 3 million citizen soldiers who fought on both sides are represented by some of our most ubiquitous yet often overlooked public symbols.

"Before the Civil War, you would never have had an image of the common soldier to memorialize. You would have a general or a biblical figure," said Earle Shettleworth, head historian for the state of Maine. "After the war, there was more of a democratic way of memorializing those who had participated."

With untold thousands of war dead buried in graves on or near battlefields and encampments far from their homes, some communities in the North and South erected hometown monuments to the fallen even as the fighting raged. Most were stone obelisks placed in local cemeteries.

Within a couple of years after Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Virginia, more elaborate monuments were being commissioned from sculptors. By 1867, monuments featuring sculpted or cast metal soldier statues were dedicated in cemeteries in Cincinnati

and Boston. The version depicting a single soldier at "parade rest" — hands gripping a musket at the end of the barrel, the stock resting on the ground — became the most popular way to honor the more than 2 million men who fought for the Union.

But commissioning a monument made of Italian marble or northern New England granite could cost tens of thousands of dollars, much too expensive for most small towns.



The Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Known as the "Single Soldier," "Silent Sentinel" or similar names depending on the locale, he tops many of the thousands of Southern Civil war Monuments. (Mike Groll, AP)

Many turned to the northern foundries specializing in cast bronze or zinc statuary used to decorate cemetery markers. Firms such as the Monumental Bronze Co. of Bridgeport, Connecticut, did a brisk business selling soldier statues. A life-size parade rest model was listed in its sales catalog for \$450, while the 8-foot-6-inch version sold for \$750.



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

---

"It's like going to Wal-Mart. It's less expensive," said Timothy S. Sedore, author of "An Illustrated Guide to Virginia's Confederate Monuments."

Because they had lost the war and were economically shattered, Southerners got a later start erecting monuments. By the time the 20th century arrived, they were making up for lost time, with hundreds of soldier statues installed across the South, typically outside county courthouses. But old animosities died hard, and folks in the South didn't usually publicize who was supplying the statues: mostly companies in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Ohio.

"The Southerners didn't talk about that, buying from Yankees," Beetham said.

Versions of the Silent Sentinel statue can be found from Amarillo, Texas, to Kennebunk, Maine. The Northern version features a Union soldier wearing a kepi and caped greatcoat, while his Southern counterpart typically wears the iconic slouch hat and bedroll strapped diagonally across his chest.

An accurate number of Civil War monuments is difficult to pin down. Beetham, who wrote her dissertation on post-Civil War citizen soldier monuments, estimates there are some 2,500 across the Northern states, with the Silent Sentinel version believed to account for as many as half of them. Estimates of Confederate monuments range between 500 and 1,000, including hundreds of the rebel version of the solitary soldier.

### **Civil War-era diaries found in Michigan garage document Lincoln's assassination**

By Brent Ashcroft, WZZM, April 14, 2015

LOWELL, Mich. – Seven score and ten years ago, our country had just celebrated the highest of highs – the end of the Civil War.

Five days later, it experienced the lowest of lows.

It happened while he was innocently attending a play at Ford's Theater in Washington DC: President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

It happened April 14, 1865.

Ron Stevens, a Lowell resident and former teacher in the East Kentwood school system, has taught students about this historical moment many times.

"It was a sad day," said Stevens, from his Lowell home. "When he died, they said, 'He now belongs to the ages.'"

When Stevens was 15, he discovered some historical treasures that linked President Lincoln to Grand Rapids.

When Stevens and his father were sifting through old boxes in a garage, they came across fifty leather-bound diaries, which they later learned were written by a gentleman named Robert Loomis.

"He kept track of everything," said Stevens, referring to what was detailed in the diaries. "It's really interesting stuff."

Mr. Loomis had daily entries spanning nearly six decades. Newspaper articles were pasted on key dates in each diary.

"I got a chance to open up some of the newspaper articles that hadn't

been opened for a hundred and some years," said Stevens.

Robert Loomis was born in 1832 in Newcastle Maine. He lived and worked in Washington D.C. during Civil War times, before relocating to Grand Rapids, Michigan. He served in Lansing as a state Senator for a period of time. Later, his political career took him as high as the pro tem governor.

"He did a lot for this city," Stevens added.

While delicately reading the diaries, Stevens discovered something very interesting about Loomis.

"He was good friends with President Lincoln," said Stevens. "He was invited to both of Lincoln's inaugural balls; he also made several visits to the White House."

A century and a half ago, Loomis was forced to make a devastating diary entry about his friend.

"Then we come to April 14<sup>th</sup>," said Stevens, while flipping through one of the diaries. "[The entry reads] He went to a meeting with his wife, then he drew a line, and this it says, 'President Lincoln shot at Ford's Theater at ten and a half p.m.; John Wilkes Booth; Mortal wound; just alive.'"

"It darn near brought tears to my eyes when I was reading it, because I was reading it on the day that it was happening," said Stevens.

There was a later entry by Loomis that was even more interesting.

"[Loomis] decided to go to Ford's Theatre and just see where everybody was seated," said Stevens. "Apparently, there was some loose paper on the wall and he took a piece of the wallpaper and glued it into his diary."

"They obviously need to be preserved somewhere," said Stevens. "They're in good shape."



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

---

Stevens says he's considered contacting the Smithsonian Institution about the diaries but feels that maybe they should remain in Grand Rapids, since they were written by a man who truly made his mark in Michigan.

"They're well worth reading, every bit," said Stevens.

### **Civil War veteran to be buried in southwest Missouri**

CARTHAGE, Mo. (AP) March 22, 2015

A Civil War veteran whose remains went unclaimed for more than a century will be buried next month with his family in southwest Missouri.

Major Raphael Guido Rombauer, who was on Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's staff for a time, was cremated after his 1912 death in Kirksville. For more than a century, the former Union soldier and Carthage businessman's ashes had remained on a shelf at the Valhalla Funeral Chapel, Cemetery and Crematory in St. Louis, The Carthage Press (<http://bit.ly/1BQIHVP>) reported.

That all changed when the Missing in America project, which arranges proper burials for veterans, came across the remains. The group was planning to bury them with more than 20 other veterans last fall in a ceremony at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, but the late amateur historian Bill Boggess found Elizabeth Young, a relative of Rombauer, and she claimed the remains.

Park Cemetery manager Frank Stine said Rombauer will be buried April 11 in one of the oldest sections of the graveyard in a service that will include volunteers wearing Civil War-era uniforms.

"With the great granddaughter's help we were able to get all this

information, we were able to get his veterans marker and we'll get to lay him next to his first wife, which is traditional," Stine said. "And apparently they had set it up that way because there is a space right next to her for a traditional burial."

Jeff Patrick, librarian with the Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Historic Site, said records show that Rombauer enlisted in 1861 with the First Missouri Infantry. Rombauer left the service when his initial 90-day enlistment expired in late 1861, but he reenlisted and served with the Illinois Light Artillery. Rombauer eventually was promoted to major and served on Grant's staff.

After the war, Rombauer lived and built businesses in Carthage from 1874 to 1897. When his wife died in 1899, her body was returned to Carthage for burial with their two children.

Young, who lives in the St. Louis area, praised Boggess, saying it was important to him that her relative be buried with his wife and children. "It was an honorable mission he was on," she said, "and we're grateful for it."

### **CSS Shenandoah and the Last Shot of the Civil War**

*How the Rebels saved the whales*

BY MIKE MARKOWITZ, DEFENSE MEDIA NETWORK, APRIL 9, 2015

It is a matter of odd historical fact that the last shot of the American Civil War was a blank fired at a New Bedford whaling ship in the Bering Sea off Siberia on June 22, 1865, more than a month after the conflict had actually ended. To understand this bizarre event in this peculiar location, we need to briefly recount the voyage of the Confederate raider

CSS *Shenandoah*, an extraordinary epic of seafaring long neglected as a minor footnote to maritime history.

When South Carolina's secession shattered the union on Dec. 20, 1860, the Confederacy gained many fine naval officers, but few seaworthy warships.

Stephen Mallory, the Confederacy's creative naval secretary, dispatched Southern agents to Europe to covertly buy or build fast cruisers for commerce raiding.

James Bulloch (1823-1901), the Confederate agent in Liverpool who managed the purchase and outfitting of *Shenandoah*, would later tell sea stories to his sister's son, young Theodore Roosevelt. Bulloch was opposed by Lincoln's top spies and diplomats, notably U.S. Ambassador Charles Francis Adams (1807-1886), son of President John Quincy Adams.

*Shenandoah* was launched at Glasgow, Scotland in 1863 as the merchant ship *Sea King*, a state-of-the-art clipper for the China tea trade. Built of teak planks over an iron frame, she displaced 1,160 tons, carrying three masts and a 200 hp coal-burning auxiliary steam engine driving a propeller that could be raised into the hull to reduce drag while sailing.

Slipping out of Liverpool under false papers on Oct. 8, 1864, *Shenandoah* rendezvoused with a chartered Confederate steamer in a remote cove in the Madeira Islands to load weapons and crew. A sailing vessel of her size needed at least 100 men to operate safely, and perhaps 50 more to handle the guns and form boarding parties. However, due to manpower shortages, *Shenandoah* was desperately under-manned throughout her 13-month voyage,



---

## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

---

*Shenandoah's* armament was composed of four 8-inch ("68 pounder") smoothbore cannon, two rifled Whitworth 32-pounders and two 12-pounder signal guns. But she was not meant to fight warships, and never engaged any U.S. Navy vessels. Her prey was unarmed merchant ships, in a Confederate strategy of "commerce raiding" that by 1865 ruined the American merchant marine, particularly the New England whaling fleet. In the course of a 58,000 mile cruise, *Shenandoah* captured 38 ships and burned 32. Despite taking over a thousand prisoners, not one was killed. Prizes that were not burned were packed with prisoners and sent into neutral ports.

*Shenandoah's* skipper, Lt. James Iredell Waddell (1824-1886) of North Carolina, joined the U.S. Navy in 1841, graduated from Annapolis and served in the Mexican War. Appointed as a lieutenant in the Confederate Navy, he was sent to England in 1863 with the hope of a seagoing command. A cautious mariner, Waddell was described by his junior officers as secretive, aloof, unpredictable, and often petulant. Warmly received by Australians, the Rebels narrowly avoided arrest as pirates by local authorities, who had no clear orders regarding them from London. Stopping in April at the Micronesian island of Ponape to burn four Yankee whalers and take on fresh water, *Shenandoah* sailed north, reaching the icy Sea of Okhotsk by May. Finding only one stray whaler, she turned into the Bering Sea, where the unarmed, unsuspecting New Bedford whaling fleet hunted the gray whales.

The final shots were probably fired by the British-born Gunner, John L. Guy. Cornelius Hunt, the Master's Mate

recorded in his journal at 5:45 pm on June 22:

*"We brought her to with a shot from our 32-pounder Whitworth rifle, which whistled past her stern. She had crowded on all the sail she could carry, but it availed her little..."*

Over the course of a few days, 24 vessels were captured – most burned, the rest loaded with prisoners and sent into San Francisco. American whaling never recovered. Without a reliable supply of inexpensive whale oil as a smokeless lamp fuel and premium lubricant, there was now a vast new market for kerosene distilled from that nasty black stuff that oozed out of the ground in Pennsylvania: *petroleum*.

On Nov. 6, 1865 *Shenandoah* arrived back in Liverpool and surrendered to the Royal Navy. Sold to the Sultan of Zanzibar, she was wrecked in a hurricane in 1872.

*Shenandoah's* battle flag is preserved at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va. One of her signal guns is in the Naval Academy Museum at Annapolis, Md.

In one of the many ironies of this story, the missile destroyer USS *Waddell* (in service 1964 -1992) named

for *Shenandoah's* commander, belonged to the *Charles Francis Adams*-class.