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Daniel Reid Ross, Soldier, Teacher and Berkeley County Doctor, Part 1,

**By
D. Reid Ross**

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Daniel Reid Ross was training to become a teacher in New York's Hudson River Valley. He had been born in Saratoga County, New York, but grew to manhood in Washington County on a family farm on the opposite side of the Hudson, close to the river. His father's family had lived along the Hudson for at least three generations, his mother's for five. His motivation to teach sprang from his religious background and family traditions. Daniel was one of four brothers and three sisters, all born between 1831 and 1845 into a close-knit, clannish, covenanting Reformed Scots Presbyterian family. Church and school went hand-in-hand, reflecting the Calvinist heritage of the family, and the first Rosses known to have come to America helped build the community schoolhouse. Several generations later, his sister, Anna Marie, and a brother, William, became teachers. Family correspondence indicates they were Daniel's favorite brother and sister. Early in the war, he wrote to William, stating his determination to teach. William enlisted two days after the outbreak of the Civil War while employed as a schoolteacher in Illinois. Anna Marie spent the last fifteen years of her teaching career as a Presbyterian missionary schoolteacher in southern Colorado, until she contracted tuberculosis. Another brother,

Melancton, who was blinded in the Civil War, married a music teacher.

Dan had attended an eighth-grade public school in upstate New York as well as a two-year private secondary school, preparing to be a teacher. War broke out just as he graduated.¹ Within a week of his graduation, he instead enlisted in the Union Army for three years, the first of two such enlistments. Service in the 123rd New York brought him to the region that became West Virginia and, later, his home.

Daniel Ross's initial contact with the Shenandoah Valley, Berkeley County, and the Potomac River was in the fall of 1862. In January 18-20, 1863, he participated in the famous "Mud March" when Gen. Ambrose Burnside ordered the entire XII Corps to Fredericksburg, Virginia, to join the XI Corps in order to engage Lee. During the winter of 1862-1863, his regiment was in various camps in nearby Bolivar Heights, Maryland Heights, Ashby's Gap, Loudoun Heights, and Harpers Ferry, as well as to the southeast in Fairfax Station, Fairfax Court House, and Stafford, Virginia. All of these camps were in or near the Shenandoah Valley or near the Potomac. Like other Union soldiers who had seen considerable wartime service in the valley and migrated there with their families after the war, Dan surely fell in love with its beauty and climate.

In his nearly two years of guard duty, marching, countermarching, drilling, fighting, and destroying churches, farms, and homes, most—if not all—of this duty was to protect the Baltimore

and Ohio (B&O) Railroad and the Chesapeake and Potomac Canal from Confederate raids.² Protection of the B&O Railroad was the main concern of the Union Army; the Confederate Army's main aim in the area was to destroy the railroad's tracks and rolling stock, including coal cars, stations, warehouses, bridges, telegraph lines, and equipment. The B&O was of primary importance to the economy of western Virginia. It was the commercial highway to the Atlantic seaboard.

The town where Daniel Ross would eventually settle, Hedgesville, was the scene of significant Union and Confederate activity. It is located near Skinner's Gap, the northernmost pass in the North Mountain ridge that traverses Berkeley County and through which troop movements could be made.³ The B&O mainline tracks at North Mountain and the telegraph station were only a few miles from Hedgesville. Hence, it was frequently occupied, raided, marched through, and fought over.

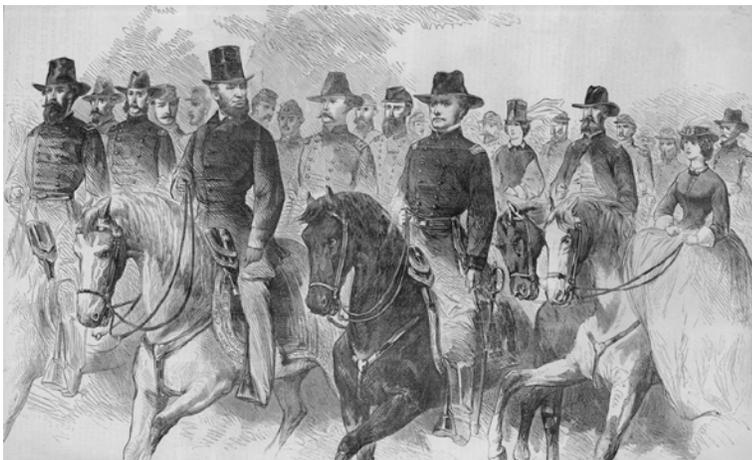
The West Virginia statehood bill had passed the U.S. House and Senate in December 1862. On September 22, President Lincoln had issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, declaring slaves in those territories still in rebellion "forever free" as of January 1863. The counties that were to become part of West Virginia were excepted. Lincoln noted that it was a matter of necessity for West Virginians loyal to the Union to live in a state that belonged to the Union. They had been through severe trials but had been true to the Union. Having accurately judged popular sentiment, Confederate

Gen. Robert E. Lee withdrew his troops from all of western Virginia.

At the beginning of the war, the feeling in Berkeley County on the issue of secession had been ambivalent. It was a slaveholding county that did not cast a single vote for Lincoln in the 1860 presidential election. In May 1861, when the debates began that led to the formation of the new state of West Virginia, Berkeley County was essentially a non-participant, even though it would send delegates to the founding convention in Wheeling. In Berkeley County, six companies of Confederate volunteers were recruited two months after the war began. The county appropriated \$10,000 to equip them, while only two companies were recruited for the Union Army. Col. Ward Lamon, a Virginian and Lincoln's old and close friend, organized one of these companies. Altogether, about 450 Berkeley County men served in the Confederate Army and 150 in the Union. However, the six panhandle counties together sent more than 30,000 men to the Union Army while fewer than 10,000 fought for the Confederacy.⁴

On April 8, 1863, the 12th Corps, to which the 123rd New York and Daniel's artillery battery were attached, passed in review before President Lincoln and Gen. Joseph Hooker, the new commander of the Army of the Potomac, at Stafford, Virginia. Lincoln was escorted for the review to a position near an apple orchard on a gentle slope. His face was pale and revealed anxiety. The president took off his hat and bowed as each regimental flag, including that of the 123rd, passed before him. The artillery, including Dan's Battery F, 4th U.S. Artillery, came last in the review, with all 200 guns making an immense rumbling noise. The batteries were drawn by fine horses and the officers and men appeared to be in the best of condition. It took the entire day for Lincoln and Hooker to review some 8,000 men standing in a line some two miles long in their new uniforms. That afternoon, Lincoln and Hooker rode alone the line, generating great enthusiasm among the men. This was the first and only time Daniel Ross ever saw the president.

Lincoln had reviewed the 93rd New



The President, General Hooker, and Their Staff at a review of the Army of the Potomac. A. R. Waud sketch. *Harper's Weekly*, May 2, 1863

York, the regiment to which Dan's brother, William, belonged, the previous day at Falmouth. As headquarters guard, the officers of the 93rd were invited to a reception that Hooker held for the president. William undoubtedly also saw Lincoln. This occasion also was one of the last opportunities Dan would have to see his brother before William was killed on the opening day of the Battle of the Wilderness, thirteen months later.

During the review, Lincoln rode a small horse for the entire two miles while wearing a military cloak over his suit and "a tall stovepipe hat, which he had difficulty keeping on his head. He was so tall and his legs so long that, while his feet seemed only a foot from the ground, his hat loomed higher than Hooker's head. Following came the general's staff and the President's little son on an [Indian] pony. . . Each regiment gave three cheers as they passed the President. The cheering was not military but the men could not be restrained from so honoring him. He was the ideal of the Army." During the review, the president merely touched his hat when returning salutes from officers, but he took it off to the men in the ranks. Mrs. Lincoln was present in a carriage. The visit also refreshed the weary, care-worn president and boosted troop morale, particularly for those who held abolitionist views as strongly as Daniel Ross and who had them reinforced by the president on this occasion. Three weeks later, May 1-3, the 123rd had its baptism under fire at Chancellorsville and suffered severely. Dan's regiment suffered 148 casualties, but he came through unscathed, although sixteen men in his artillery battery—one-seventh of its complement—were casualties.

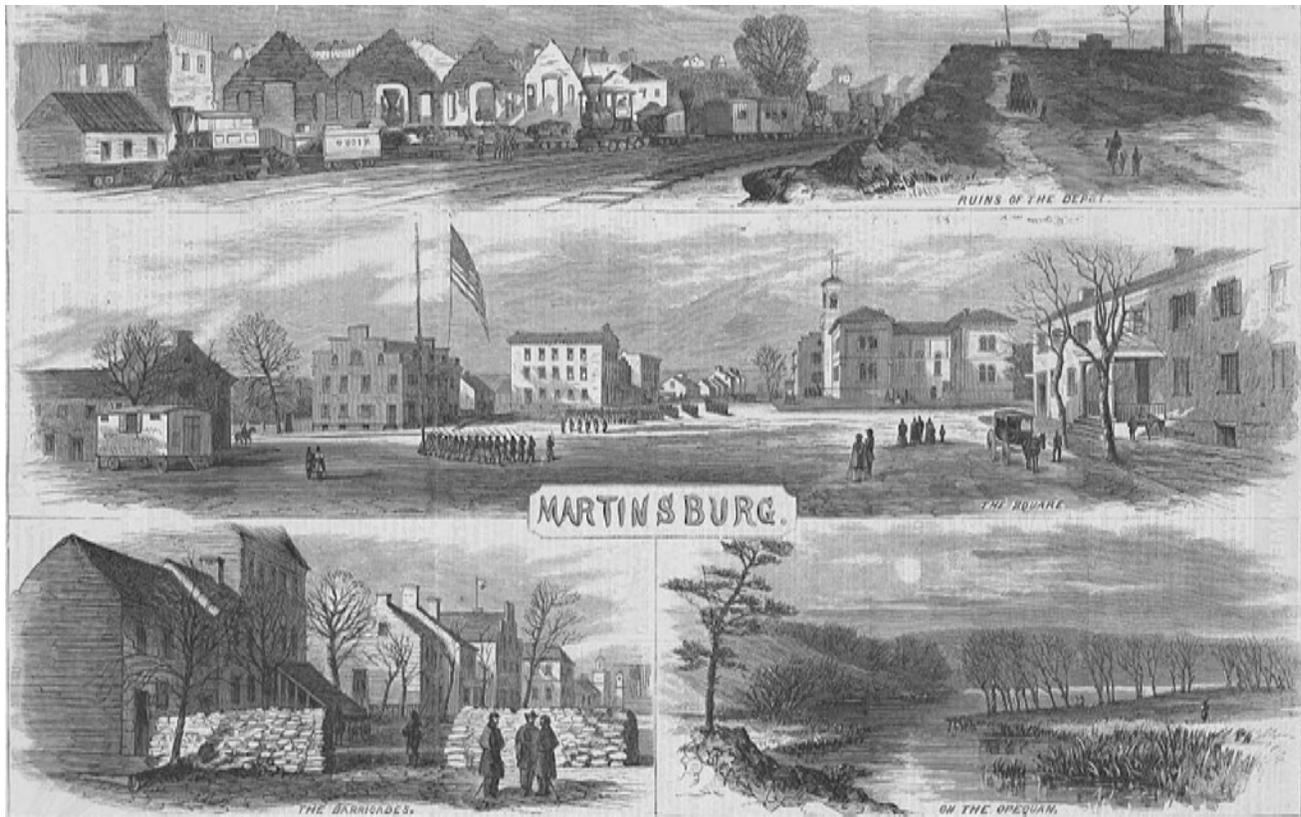
Within two weeks of Lincoln's return to Washington from his week's "vacation" in April, he reviewed the troops near Harpers Ferry on April 20, 1863, and issued his West Virginia statehood proclamation. Because of the unsettled military conditions throughout the Shenandoah Valley, the statehood election was postponed until May 28. Under the protection of military forces, Berkeley County citizens voted 665 to 7 to join the new state at the same time that West Virginia held its first statewide election. Without military occupation, statehood would never have been achieved. The state officially came into existence on June 20, 1863. It was the supreme moment of the Civil War

in West Virginia, and the thirty-fifth star was added to the American flag. On August 5, Berkeley County became part of West Virginia. By 1865, the election returns clearly indicated that "The Whig Democratic . . . ex-Confederate party [was] totally routed."⁵

In late June 1863, the main body of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia crossed the B&O tracks between Harpers Ferry and North Mountain on their way to Gettysburg. They burned the ties, bent the rails, and destroyed telegraph lines, rolling stock, equipment, stations, and bridges. Led by Gen. Robert E. Lee on his retreat from Gettysburg in mid-July, part of his army crossed the Potomac at Falling Waters and passed through or near Hedgesville and Martinsburg, camping at Darkesville. On this retreat, they wreaked even more havoc with the railroad by tearing up its tracks and foraging through the countryside. At night, burning ties illuminated the skies. However, by August 11, 1863, the trains were back in operation.

In July 1863, after marching through the Shenandoah Valley following the retreating Confederate Army following its defeat at the Battle of Gettysburg, Daniel Ross's regiment and his artillery battery had its second exposure to Berkeley County. In mid-July, while on their way to reoccupy Harpers Ferry, they fought two brief skirmishes with the retreating Confederates on the Maryland side of the Potomac near Falling Waters, all in an effort to cut off Lee's retreat from Gettysburg and to keep his troops out of the fertile valley.⁶ Union Gen. George Meade had previously ordered the destruction of a Potomac River pontoon bridge at Falling Waters over which Lee's troops would have to retreat into Virginia. On the night of July 13-14, Lee's men hastily constructed another pontoon bridge resting on boats, largely from lumber scavenged from warehouses and abandoned homes they had destroyed. From Hagerstown, Maryland, the Confederate soldiers marched in the mud and rain into Berkeley County, West Virginia, at Falling Waters.

Confederate Maj. Gen. Henry Heth, who led this march, said in his memoirs that it was the most uncomfortable night he spent during the entire war. It rained unceasingly in torrents, and the roads were eight or ten inches deep in mud and water. The



Scenes of Martinsburg drawn by A. R. Waud. *Harper's Weekly*, December 3, 1864

night was pitch-black. The men found whatever shelter they could at every halt, dropping to sleep in fence corners, houses, and barns. Many, as a consequence, were left behind. Before daylight, the exhausted men began to cross the Potomac over the new pontoon bridge. Their entrenchments stretched over eleven miles from Fallings Waters to Williamsport. Meanwhile, the 123rd slept behind its line of breastworks as splendid “as were ever built by soldiers.” However, it and the remainder of the division, when moved out at 7 a.m. on July 14 to reconnoiter, discovered that the Rebels by this time were almost all across the river.

Lee’s ragged ranks—exhausted, demoralized, and thinned by casualties and desertion—totaled only 35,000 to 40,000. He had filled every house and barn along his route of retreat with his wounded. Pennsylvania militia units made it difficult for him to forage for supplies. He was low on food, clothing, and ammunition. Meade, in contrast, had 85,000 troops at his command. They had ample ammunition and a rail supply line capable of delivering all necessary supplies.

Although food and fresh horses were in short supply, these troops were anxious to fight. One soldier at the time remarked, “Well, here goes for two years more [of war].”⁷ Dan Ross shared those sentiments yet spent those next two years almost to the day to see it through, motivated to do so—at least in part—by his strong anti-slavery convictions. When Lincoln learned that Lee’s army had crossed the Potomac, his son, Robert, saw his father in tears, the only time in his life he had ever seen him cry.

Daniel Ross also knew that Falling Waters was where both Stonewall Jackson and Jeb Stuart had received their first battlefield promotions in the Confederate Army. He had fought their troops both at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, losing the first round and winning the second. Given these experiences, he, more than most, had a keen appreciation of the role of Berkeley County and Falling Waters in the Civil War.

Dan’s last exposure to West Virginia during the Civil War was on September 27, 1863, when he passed through North Mountain and Martinsburg

on the B&O in the largest troop movement by rail of the entire war. The train stopped in Martinsburg for the men to have a cup of coffee. This rail movement took place when Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker's newly formed XX Corp was moved from Virginia to Tennessee in twelve days to bolster the Union Army there. Earlier that month, Lincoln had been awakened for a dramatic midnight War Department conference. The information provided him led to the decision to send four divisions from the Army of the Potomac to reinforce Gen. William Rosecrans's besieged army after the Battle of Chickamauga in Tennessee.

On September 24, Lincoln had authorized Hooker to take military possession of all railroads necessary for this huge troop movement from Virginia to Tennessee, and further directed all employees of these railroad lines to obey Hooker's commands. A total of 17,615 officers and men, including ten artillery batteries and their horses—Dan's being one of them—were involved in this movement. At Brandy Station, Virginia, on September 26, the infantry boarded the trains, fifty men to a closed car with plain boards for seats. They reached Indianapolis on October 5 and Jeffersonville, Indiana, on October 6. The batteries were unloaded from the B&O then ferried across the Ohio River to Louisville and put aboard the Louisville and Nashville. They left for Nashville on October 7 and, upon reaching Murphreesboro on October 8, they unloaded the batteries and went into park, positioning them so they were ready for use when needed.

Meanwhile, in mid-October 1863, a battalion of Rebel raiders was plundering Back Creek Valley in North Mountain. Union pickets and a citizen spotted them about two miles from Hedgesville while preparing to burn the Back Creek bridge and culverts on the B&O tracks. Union troops surprised and captured the raiders, who were napping in a thick grove of timber in mid-afternoon. The last major battle took place on July 4, 1864, when Confederate troops captured 2,500 Union troops and burned the B&O bridge at North Mountain, its train station, and the blockhouse at Back Creek, and captured the small detail of soldiers that guarded it.

Sgt. Henry Morhous of the 123rd NY, Daniel Ross's regiment, described West Virginia the way Dan must have felt about it as they had ridden through it. "If there was one loyal state in the whole Union, it was Western Virginia. As beautiful flowers are often found springing from the trunks of fallen and decayed trees, so this new state, full of energy, of industry, of pure Republican heart, had grown out upon the decaying body politic of a proud and false aristocracy."⁸

On duty to the west, Battery F, 4th U.S. Artillery, and the 20th Connecticut Infantry were posted first at Dechard, Tennessee, on October 13 and later in October at Stevenson, Alabama. When the train passed through Ohio on this trip, Daniel may have first encountered his wife-to-be, Samantha Jane Mathews. On their way to Tennessee, the XII Corps, his unit, took the Central Ohio Railroad through Columbus, Xenia, and Dayton, passing near Kilbourne, Ohio, where she lived. Loyal citizens, including young girls, turned out at every railroad station to cheer the soldiers and offer them food and drink. As one soldier wrote, "Our mouths were crammed with cakes, pies, cookies, meat, eggs, and fruit, which the loyal Ohio people brought us without money or price." Soldiers wrote their names, addresses, and love notes on anything handy, including their paper collars, and tossed them to the girls. After the war, more than one marriage resulted from the exchange of correspondence that followed.



View from the main gate at Andersonville Prison in Georgia of prisoners being issued rations, August 17, 1864. Courtesy Library of Congress

Daniel Ross was captured on June 22, 1864, while on the skirmish line during Gen. William T. Sherman's march on Atlanta. He spent the last ten months of the war in Andersonville and four other prisons before being released on April 2, 1865, only one week before General Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox. While on his way to rejoin his regiment, he was assigned to a detail guarding Confederate President Jefferson Davis, his family, and members of his cabinet, who had just been captured as they attempted to escape to Mexico. They were taken by ship to Fortress Monroe, where Davis was to be tried for treason. Upon arrival at Fortress Monroe, Dan was released from the guard detail. His assignment, after guarding Jefferson Davis, required him to board a ship fitted with stalls to transport 75 horses the army wanted to buy. It was on its way up the Potomac Canal to Maryland, upstream from Washington, D.C. His regiment was already in the capital to participate in the May 23 and 24 Grand Review of the Army before President Andrew Johnson and Generals Grant and Sherman, prior to discharge.

In Maryland, across the Potomac from Little Georgetown, Berkeley County, Daniel Ross was either loading or unloading the horses, and one kicked him. He stayed a few days with the Jacob Ropp family on their Potomac riverside farm at Little Georgetown to recuperate from his injury. The farm was close to Johnson's Ferry.

Berkeley County would nurse the wounds of the Civil War for years to come. It had been occupied by one army or the other for at least 46 months of the 4-year war, 31 by the Union and 15 by the Confederate armies, and had changed hands a number of times as the contending armies wrestled for it. It became a virtual no-man's land. Five major military operations were conducted in the county. The Shenandoah Valley Turnpike, the most direct route between the North and the South, traversed the county. Both armies fought to control it, as well as the B&O Railroad and the Chesapeake and Potomac Canal.

In mid-June 1865, after his discharge in Washington, Dan made a brief trip to upstate New York to visit his family, including one brother who had been blinded and another who had been deafened in the war, all of whom he hadn't seen for

three years. His oldest brother, William, had been killed May 5, 1864, in the Battle of the Wilderness. He also saw his sister, who was teaching school there. His aged parents, both crippled with rheumatism, were struggling to subsist on their farm after suffering a severe crop loss as a result of a hailstorm and drought in the summer of 1865. He then returned to Little Georgetown.

D. Reid Ross is the grandson of Daniel Reid Ross. He is a retired urban planner and the author of a number of Civil War and family history articles. He also wrote *Lincoln's Veteran Volunteers Win the War: The Hudson Valley Ross Brothers and the Union's Fight for Emancipation* (New York: 2008).

1. Reid Mitchell, *Civil War Soldiers* (New York: 1988), 56-57; Wayne E. Reilly, ed., *Sarah Jane Foster, Teacher of the Freedmen* (Charlottesville, VA: 1990), 59, 95; Thomas C. Miller, *The History of Education in West Virginia*, revised edition (Charleston, WV: 1907), 105-106; James Edmund Stealey III, "The Freedman's Bureau in West Virginia," *West Virginia History* vol. 39, Nos. 2-3 (January/April 1978): 109; Ross family records.
2. Willis F. Evans, *History of Berkeley County, West Virginia* (Martinsburg, WV: 1927), 294; K. Jack Bauer, ed., *Soldiering: The Civil War Diary of Rice C. Bull, 123'd New York Volunteer Infantry* (Novato, CA: 1977), 21, 32. The unsuccessful effort at Fredericksburg so demoralized the entire Army of the Potomac that Lincoln removed Burnside from command. Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker replaced Burnside.
3. William D. Moore, *Hedgesville and the Civil War*, pamphlet (October 1983), 29, 32; M. H. Farniner and A. H. Gardiner, *Chronicles of Old Berkeley* (Durham, NC: 1938), 6, 7, 126; Festus P. Summers, *The Baltimore and Ohio in the Civil War* (New York: 1939), 121-24.
4. Carl Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln* (New York: 1954), 339; Richard O. Curry, "A Reappraisal of Statehood Politics in West Virginia," *Journal of Southern History* vol. 28 (November 1962), 411; William Thomas Doherty, *Berkeley County, U.S.A.: A Bicentennial History of a Virginia and West Virginia County, 1772-1972* (Parsons, WV: 1972), 160, 164, 181; Moore, *Hedgesville*, 24.
5. Bauer, *Soldiering*, 33; David H. King, A. Judson Gibbs, and Jay H. Northrup, *History of the Ninety-Third Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry 1861-1865* (Milwaukee, WI: 1895), 268-70; James P. Brady, *Hurrah for the Artillery!: Knaps Independent Battery*

E, Pennsylvania Light Artillery (Gettysburg, PA: 1992), 209.

6. Sgt. Henry C. Morhous, *Reminiscences of the 123rd N.Y.S.V.* (Greenwich, NY: 1879), 56-57.

7. J. Cutler Andrews, *The North Reports the Civil War* (Pittsburgh, PA: 1955), 433; George Edgar Turner, *Victory Rode the Rails: The Strategic Place of the Railroads in the Civil War* (Indianapolis, IN: 1953), 280; Herman Hattaway and Archer Jones, *How the North Won: A Military History of the Civil War* (Urbana, IL: 1983), 412; Earl Schenck Miers and Richard A. Brown, eds, *Gettysburg* (New Brunswick, NJ: 1948), 206-207; Robert U. Johnson and Clarence C. Buel, eds., *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, vol. 4 (New York: 1888), 81.

8. Morhous, *Reminiscences*, 64-67; Brady, *Hurrah*, 290-293; Gabor S. Boritt, *Lincoln's Generals* (New York: 1994), 83; James M. McPherson, *Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution* (New York: 1990), 67; *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series 1, vol. 29, pt. 1, 151; New York State Monuments Commission, *In Memoriam, Henry Warner Slocum* (Albany, NY: 1904), 198-99; Patrick Abbazia, *The Chickamauga Campaign* (New York: 1988), 141. Mantie must have been at the station near Kilbourne and received a note tossed from the train by Daniel.

Important Anniversaries in United States and West Virginia History

December 7, 2016, marked the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, which brought the United States into World War II, while April 6, 2017, marks the 100th anniversary of United States entry into World War I. The fact that the United States ended up in both of these conflicts was not a complete surprise to United States citizens, since the country had been moving toward war in both cases.

With a small and inadequate military force, the declaration of a state of war between the United

States and Germany in 1917 brought mobilization of West Virginia National Guard companies around the state. Company L of Morgantown had arrived at Camp Cornwell, Fairmont, before the congressional vote on April 4, and other companies from the First Regiment soon followed. The Second Regiment began assembling at Camp Kanawha, Charleston, on April 5 with the arrival of companies from Parkersburg, Ravenswood, and Spencer; companies from Bluefield, Welch, and Williamson left for Charleston later in the day.¹

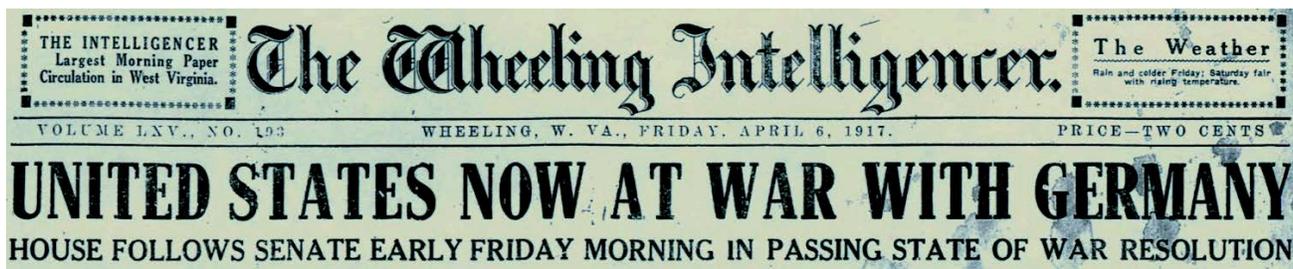
In late March, Governor Cornwell had urged all patriotic, commercial, and civic organizations to hold meetings on April 2 to pledge support to the president. On April 3, the Wheeling Commercial Association began distributing declarations around town for residents to sign and asked the heads of businesses to have loyal employees sign ones sent to those establishments. On the night of the congressional vote, a group met in Martinsburg to organize the Home Defense League of Berkeley County to encourage patriotism among school children, spur enlistment of able-bodied men, and provide for defense at home.²

As Governor Cornwell's April 5 statement reveals, as was the case elsewhere in the country, not all West Virginians were imbued with a patriotic spirit regarding American entry into the conflict, however.

I have received letters from citizens of the state complaining of being held up by troops on guard at certain points and who feel that they hereby suffered an indignity.

I hope all citizens of this states will bear in mind:

1. That this county is in a state of war with a foreign power which has many subjects and sympathizers as well as a great number of secret agents within our borders.



2. That many depredations have been committed by such sympathizers and spies who are secretly plotting against our government.

3. That the troops on guard over lines of communication and other instrumentalities of the United States in West Virginia are in the service of the Federal Government; that they were called into such service by the President and they are acting under the orders of the War Department.

4. That while it would be improper for me to quote the orders, they are stern, and strict, and any citizen halted by soldiers on guard should instantly obey the order. To fail to do so will be needlessly jeopardizing the citizen's life.

5. That the purpose of the government in placing soldiers on guard is to protect American citizens, their lives and property, and to prevent depredations that will embarrass the government in its operations.

6. That citizens here and there may suffer temporary inconveniences but war can not be conducted without inconvenience, loss of life and sacrifices of every kind.

7. That it is the duty of every good citizen to aid his country in every way possible, the least of which is to aid the soldiers of his county in the discharge of their duties and to submit to any temporary inconvenience without complaint.

Bear in mind that these are not normal times. We must be patriots and not murmur at imaginary indignities.³

While a number of West Virginians in service would eventually die during the war, many from the deadly influenza that spread at home and abroad, and the state would experience various wartime changes such as the building of the Nitro plant, United States entry into World War I had no equivalent to the surprise of the attack on Pearl Harbor nearly twenty-five years later. West Virginians, like the rest of the country, were shocked when the Japanese attacked. With U.S.

allies already at war in Europe, plants around the state had been engaged in military manufacture, and security measures were in place; but, as news of the attack spread on December 7, West Virginia men began lining up at recruiting stations to join the military.⁴

Within the week, Huntington's civilian defense council had met and appointed chairmen for thirteen subcommittees. On the same day, December 11, more than 400 women gathered at the Hotel Frederick in Huntington to learn about courses for those who wished to volunteer for defense. Civilian defense councils met in other communities, and the State Council of Defense also began initial activities. Usually lit by floodlights at night, the state capitol dome went dark.⁵

Unlike the first few days of America's entry into World War I, West Virginia suffered immediate loss when World War II came. While many younger West Virginians associate Pearl Harbor with the *U.S.S. West Virginia*, the attack on Hawaii caused numerous families who had loved ones in service in the Pacific to worry for days while the names of the casualties were released. In the end, state residents would learn that more than two dozen West Virginians, most of them sailors on one of the ships in the harbor and including one set of brothers, had died as a result of the surprise attack.

Howard Lucas Adkins, Mercer County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. California*

Earnest Hersea Angle, Greenbrier County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Arizona*



Tilmon David Browning, Logan County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Arizona*

Claude L. Bryant, Nicholas County—U.S. Army, Fort Kamehameha

Joseph William Carroll, Marion County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Oklahoma*

Charles Ray Casto, Hancock County, brother of Richard Casto—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Oklahoma*

Richard Eugene Casto, Hancock County, brother of Charles Casto—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Oklahoma*

William Garnett Christian, McDowell County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. West Virginia*

Harold C. Elyard, Tucker County—U.S. Army, Hickam Field

Robert Lee Hull, Ohio County—U.S. Army, Wheeler Field

Robert Paul Laderach, Randolph County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Arizona*

Donald Robert McCloud, Logan County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Oklahoma*

Clarence William McComas, Logan County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. West Virginia*

George Vincent McGraw, Marion County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. California*

Carl Nichols, Mingo County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Oklahoma*

Frank Edward Reed, Kanawha County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Utah*

Robert Maxwell Richey, Brooke County—U.S. Army Air Corps, Hickam Field

Robert Warren Robinson, Tyler County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Arizona*

Eugene Mitchell Skaggs, Fayette County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Oklahoma*

Morris E. Stacey, Marion County—U.S. Army Air Corps, Wheeler Field

Carey K. Stockwell, Clay County—U.S. Army Air Corps, Hickam Field

Randall James Thomas, Webster County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Arizona*

Russell P. Vidoloff, Fayette County—U.S. Army, Wheeler Field

Clyde Richard Wilson, Harrison County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. West Virginia*

Bernard Ramon Wimmer, Mercer County—U.S. Navy, *U.S.S. Oklahoma*

Thomas Monroe Wright, Monongalia County—U.S. Army Air Corps, Hickam Field

The above names are included on the West Virginia Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Complex in Charleston, as are the names of the

many others who died in the months and years of warfare ahead.⁶

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1. *The Clarksburg Exponent*, April 5, 1917; *The Charleston Mail*, April 5, 1917; *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, April 5, 1917.
 2. *The Wheeling Intelligencer*, March 27 and April 4, 1917; *Martinsburg Evening Journal*, April 5, 1917.
 3. *The Charleston Mail*, April 5, 1917.
 4. *The Morgantown Post*, December 8, 1941.
 5. *The Herald-Dispatch*, December 12, 1941; *The Morgantown Post*, December 13, 1941.
 6. The names were compiled from the West Virginia Veterans Memorial Database available on the West Virginia Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/>. The Archives and History volunteer who works on biographies of the men and women on the memorial will be working with a group of high school students in 2017 on biographies of the men who were killed on December 7.

Recent Books Related to West Virginia

Bell, Shannon Elizabeth. *Fighting King Coal: The Challenges to Micromobilization in Central Appalachia*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 2016.

Fighting King Coal looks at the lack of action by residents of central Appalachia, specifically of West Virginia, in the face of social injustice in the coal fields such as flooding, pollution, and other environmental threats produced by practices like mountaintop removal.

Lowry, Terry. *The Battle of Charleston and the 1862 Kanawha Valley Campaign*. Charleston, WV: 35th Star Publishing. 2016.

The Battle of Charleston details the long-neglected 1862 campaign and battle between Confederate Gen. W. W. Loring and Union Col. Joseph A. J. Lightburn. With dozens of images and information gleaned from primary-source materials in collections from several states, the nearly 500-page book provides an in-depth study of the campaign that wrecked havoc on the valley in the Fall of 1862.

Spencer, Darla. *Early Native Americans in West Virginia: The Fort Ancient Culture*. Charleston, SC: The History Press. 2016.

In this book, Spencer looks at sixteen Fort Ancient sites in West Virginia located along the Ohio River south of Sistersville as well as on a few tributaries that date to the prehistoric and protohistoric periods, shedding light on Native American inhabitation of the area.

Tartar, Brent. *A Saga of the New South: Race, Law, and Public Debt in Virginia*. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia. 2016.

Tartar discusses the decades-long controversy over repayment of Virginia's pre-Civil War public debt. While it played out against political shifts in Virginia, the controversy involved dozens of legal disputes, including one with the State of West Virginia that took the two states to the United States Supreme Court and was not resolved until the twentieth century.

How is Your Local Historical or Genealogical Society Doing?

A few decades ago, genealogical and historical societies were popping up all over West Virginia. The last few years, however, have seen the demise of several groups. The most recent is the Braxton County Historical Society, which folded late last year. Why the decline?

The obvious and easy answer is the computer. For all the benefits that computers and the Internet have brought, the technology has been a double-edged sword for genealogical and historical organizations. They have made use of technology to spread information about themselves and their resources. However, online access to an increasing amount of information has reduced the number of people who visit or contact local groups. After all, everything is online, isn't it?

At the same time, many societies have an aging membership. The inability of historical and genealogical societies to recruit younger members has hurt groups that were thriving a couple of

decades ago. The state's declining population and hard economic times have not helped either. Some groups with more financial and/or human resources appear to be doing fine, but even a few of them are facing challenges.

Have history-related societies outlived their usefulness? If so, what does the future hold for the local history, documents, and/or buildings they are trying to preserve? These are important questions that await answers.

Upcoming Events

West Virginia History Day at the Legislature will be Thursday, March 9, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Capitol Complex. Historical, preservation, museum, and like organizations from around the state will have displays at the capitol. History Heroes who were nominated by these groups will be recognized during a morning ceremony at the Culture Center. The West Virginia Historical Society is one of the sponsors of this annual event.

The annual Hoot Owl at the West Virginia Archives and History Library will take place April 7-8, 2017. The opportunity to research through the night will start at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, the 7th, and end at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, the 8th. The event is sponsored by the Mining Your History Foundation and West Virginia Archives and History. Registration information is available at <http://www.wvculture.org/history> or by calling (304) 558-0230.

The National Genealogical Society 2017 Family History Conference will be held May 10-13, 2017, in Raleigh, North Carolina. The conference will offer more than 175 lectures and workshops covering a range of local, regional, and general genealogy topics. For information about cost, registration, conference sessions, speakers, and tours, visit <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>. Early-bird registration ends March 27.

Submissions

The West Virginia Historical Society magazine welcomes manuscript submissions for publication consideration that deal with state or local history-related topics. Submissions, which should be of a length suitable for publication in the magazine and include footnote/ endnote citations of referenced materials, should be sent to the editor, West Virginia Historical Society, P.O. Box 5220, Charleston, WV 25361.

Membership is available at the cost of \$10 per year for individuals and \$15 for institutions. Members receive the society magazine, which is published two times a year. Dues should be sent to West Virginia Historical Society, P.O. Box 5220, Charleston, WV 25361.

If you are moving, please send us your new address so that we can update our records.

West Virginia Historical Society

P.O. Box 5220

Charleston, WV 25361-0220

