

Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863, Conyers, Ga.

# GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



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### Coming Events

Jan. 11, 2011 - **29th Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner** - Philologia Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

July 14 - 16, 2011 - **2011 SCV Reunion**, Montgomery, Alabama

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## Civil War dolls get X-rayed for signs of smuggling

By: Steve Szkotak, Associated Press



RICHMOND, Va. —

Two Civil War-era dolls thought to have been used to smuggle medicine past Union blockades were X-rayed Wednesday, disclosing hollowed papier-mache heads that once could have contained quinine or morphine for wounded or malaria-stricken Confederate troops.



The 150-year-old dolls, dubbed Nina and Lucy Ann, were likely packed with the drugs and shipped from Europe in the hope that Union troops would not inspect toys when looking for contraband, a museum official said.

Nina and Lucy Ann were taken to VCU Medical Center from their home next door, The Museum of the Confederacy, to see if the contours inside their craniums and upper bodies were roomy enough to carry the medicines.

The conclusion: yes.

The next step could be foren-

sic testing for any traces of the drugs.

The dolls were given to the museum by donors who said they were used to smuggle medicine past Northern blockades to Southern troops.

Nina was donated to the museum in 1923 by the children of Gen. James Patton Anderson, who commanded the Tennessee Army of the Confederacy. She has red felt boots.

Lucy Ann, attired in a salmon-colored cape and dress, was given to the museum in 1976 by an anonymous donor. She is adorned with a coral necklace.

Lucy Ann has an open gash on the rear of her bonneted head, possibly made when its contents were emptied. Nina was likely disassembled then stitched back together.

Museum officials believe the dolls were in fact used for smuggling in the Civil War.

"In all of the research that I have been able to do, these are the only two confirmed smuggling dolls that I've been able to find," said Catherine M. Wright, collections manager at the museum. The X-rays were conducted as part of the museum's continuing research of its vast Confederate holdings, believed to be the largest in the U.S.

"People have been so interested in children's toys and dolls from the Civil War in general," she said. "The smuggling aspect is very captivating."

Wright carried the dolls, each 2 to 3 feet long, in a box to the radiology department of the hospital.



Registered technologist Lanea Bare gently placed each doll on the X-ray table, taking images of each facing up, then on their sides. Ghostly images were then displayed on a screen in the busy radiology department, drawing stares and wisecracks from passing doctors and technicians as the dolls lay neatly back in their box.

"Looking here, this looks like a cavity in the head and upper chest," said Dr. Ann S. Fulcher, pointing to Nina's image on the screen. "That's probably where the majority of the goods, the medicine, was put."

Continued on page 3



# Our Commanders Comments



*By: Commander Tommy Cook*



Fellow members and friends of Joe Wheeler Camp 863,

The first order of business for our camp is the election of officers for 2011-12 and our "Compatriot" and "Person of the year"

awards. As we look forward to the sesquicentennial of the "War for Southern Independence" it is important that our new officers and members put forth their best effort to make the next 5 years a success. You will find a ballot in this publication for the election of our Camp Commander as well as Compatriot and Person of the year. The other officers have been nominated, voted on and approved by the members of the camp. Please make your selection for Commander, Compatriot and Person of the year and return your ballot to the next camp meeting where I will tally the votes. If you can not make the next meeting please return your vote to me by email no later than December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at [bigpoppat@bellsouth.net](mailto:bigpoppat@bellsouth.net).

The following officers were nominated and approved by the membership on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

First Lt. Commander – Tommy Cook

Second Lt. Commander – Jerry New

Adjutant – Steve Camp

Historian/Photographer – Dan Bass

Chaplain – John Maxey

If you have not done so already please welcome our newest member Don Stark. Don joined in October and is officially in our ranks. Thank you Don for choosing our camp!

Speaking of thanks, by the time you receive this newsletter you will have celebrated Thanksgiving with your families. As we recognize and give thanks to our ancestors for their bravery, sacrifice and service to our nation, please remember to be thankful for our present family members and friends. As for myself, I truly have a lot to be thankful for. I am thankful for my job, my home and my wife and children who have always supported me in my participation in the SCV. I am also thankful for my compatriots who stand with me to proclaim our Southern Heritage and I am thankful for the freedoms in our country which guarantee my right to cele-

brate our way of life.

At our last meeting the program was provided by Madelyn Stark who is the president of the James M. Gresham Chapter of the UDC in Social Circle. Madelyn is the wife of new member Don Stark and she provided us with information about today's UDC and their recent 100 year anniversary; thank you Madelyn for a great program.

At our next meeting we do not have formal program planned as we need finalize the votes for Camp Commander, Compatriot and Person of the year. We will also discuss our Lee-Jackson dinner scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. **Please bring a snack to share with your fellow compatriots and we will celebrate the Christmas season.**

I look forward to seeing all of you on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the next camp meeting. Your attendance is needed and appreciated; please make it special by joining us!

Yours in the South,

Tommy Cook



## CWPT Starts A Gettysburg 'Battle App' For Apple's iPhone



*Article from December issue of "Civil War News"*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) recently unveiled its first "Battle App," a mobile battlefield tour that takes advantage of GPS technology and Apple's iPhone platform.

The Gettysburg Battle App, which focuses on battle action at Devil's Den and Little Round Top, was created in partnership with Intermap Technologies, an industry leader in mobile GPS-enabled touring.

The Battle App features a GPS-guided bat-

tlefield tour with numerous "virtual signs" and other points of interest that can be accessed with a few clicks.

Each stop along the way contains a description of the site's historical significance, photos, video commentary from battlefield experts and audio accounts from soldiers and civilians who were there.

According to CWPT, the application is initially available for iPhone, but will become available on other GPS-enabled platforms,

such as Blackberry and Android phones

A second project featuring the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg is in production. Battle Apps for other battlefields, including Antietam, Chancellorsville, Chickamauga, Manassas, Shiloh and the Wilderness, are also planned.

For more information about the content, use and availability of GPS-enable CWPT Battle Apps, visit [www.civilwar.org/battleapp](http://www.civilwar.org/battleapp).



## Civil War dolls get X-rayed for signs of smuggling



By: Steve Szkotak, Associated Press (Continued from page 1.)

The hospital visit was free-of-charge.

The dolls' heads and shoulders are stitched to the bodies, which are stuffed with wool or cotton. Safety pins used to secure their clothing, including undergarments, were visible in the X-rays.



The museum knows little about the dolls' silent service to the Confederacy.

One theory is that they were purchased in Europe, then shipped to a Southern port with the medicines stuffed in their heads to avoid detection by the North's blockade of Southern ports.

"The idea behind the smuggling dolls is that even if a ship was boarded and searched, it was unlikely that they were going to do such a thorough search that they would find this medication hidden inside of dolls," Wright said.

The blockade from 1861 until 1865 was intended to thwart the delivery of arms, soldiers and supplies such as medicine to the South. Rhett Butler, the fictional rogue in Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind," was a blockade runner.

A well-known illustration from the period shows a woman tying bundles of medication under her hoop dress for delivery to Confederate troops, Wright said.

Once the dolls reached a port, the

powdered quinine would be pressed into pills for Southern troops, Wright said.

Malaria was widespread among [Union and Confederate troops](#). Some 900,000 Union troops contracted malaria during the war, leaving 4,700 dead, according to the "Medical and Surgical History of the Civil War."

Statistics for Southern troops were not compiled but malaria was probably more widespread, said Robert Krick, [park historian](#) at the Richmond National Battlefield Park, which includes the site of the Confederacy's largest hospital.

Wright, the museum collections manager, was elated after the examination.

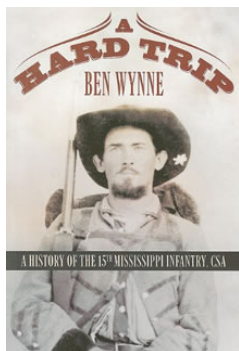
"This has been really thrilling," she said. "It's not often that you get to research a topic that one else has ever worked with before."



## "A Hard Trip" Review



Review by: Robert L. Durham



This volume is a reprint of the 2003 hardcover edition. The 15th Mississippi served throughout the war, through some of the Western Theater's hardest battles, from Shiloh to Bentonville. Ben Wynne follows the 15th through all these hard-fought campaigns and battles with the help of some great maps. However, the best part of the book is the regiment's social history.

From letters, diaries and memoirs, Wynne utilizes first-person accounts to place the 15th

in the context of the times. He starts with these infantrymen's reasons for going to war in the first place, the prelude to secession and the organization of the 15th Mississippi in five counties in the north-central region of the state.

There were large numbers of slaves in all these counties, and the white populations of none favored emancipation. On the other hand, few of the young men (the average age was 23) were large slaveholders, most of them being farmers or farm laborers.

Wynne keeps checking with the home front so the reader never loses sight of what happens to the folks back home during the war.

The 15th Mississippi Infantry was typical of many regiments in the Confederacy. Throughout the war, they saw their numbers steadily plummeting due to death, disease and desertion. Wynne continues to track the "hard trip" of the 15th after the end of the war: veterans' organizations, monuments and the embracing of the Lost Cause mythology universal to most Confederate veterans.

This is a well-written unit history that greatly deserves a reprint. I recommend it highly to all those interested in regimental accounts, the Civil War in the West, or Mississippi Civil War history.

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## Plaque Tells Salona House History

By Chuck Mauro, "Civil War News"



McLEAN, Va. — A marker was dedicated Oct. 31 to mark the history of Salona, a house and property used as part of Camp Griffin during the Civil War. The marker is located just west of Trinity United Methodist Church a 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. in McLean.

The presentation at the unveiling was led by Carole Herrick, the Dranesville representative on the Fairfax County History Commission. The marker reads in part as follows:

“Salona was built on part of the 1719 Thomas Lee, 2,862 acre grant known as Langley. During the war of 1812, the estate’s owner, the Rev. William Maffitt, reputedly gave refuge to President James Madison as the British burned Washington.

“Civil War Camp Griffin occupied Salona, then owned by Jacob Smoot, through the winter of 1861/62. The house served as headquarters for Union General William “Baldy” Smith.

“Salona was a working farm until the Smoot family began selling acreage in 1947. Salona was purchased in stages by Clive and Susan DuVal beginning in 1953. The DuVal family later arranged for the preservation of the house and property.”