

THE BATTLE CRY



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VALENTINES & CIVIL WAR

Valentine's Day was a well-established holiday by the 1860's. Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day probably took its name from a priest who was martyred about ad 270 by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and with whom he had fallen in love, "from your Valentine."



NEXT PROGRAMS

Feb. 16, 2016

Jeff Seymour

Confederate Navy

Mar. 15, 2016

Wayne Motts

National Civil War
Museum, Harrisburg

Apr. 19, 2016

Joe Reinhart

Germans in the Civil War

During the War Between the States it was a common occurrence for loved ones at home to receive letters and small items from their soldiers off at war but during special holidays, those items often took on a more romantic and sentimental tone. Harpers Weekly, the leading Newspaper of the time period, even published a special Valentines Days greeting page in 1864 celebrating the Valentine tradition. Recognizing that many soldiers sent letters and cards, to their sweethearts back home, Harper's weekly celebrated undying love on Valentine's Day during the War with a special edition devoted to soldiers' love.

Some soldiers could not read or write and instead had friends write love letters and make-shift cards to their loved ones. But, most soldiers bought Valentine Cards from a Sutler, who besides carrying supplies for warfare and comfort, also sold stationery and greeting cards. These manufactured cards were made by companies that had started in the mid-19th century and when War broke out they began targeting soldiers away from home. Some of the cards showed sweethearts parting and others pictured battle-field tents.

Other Valentines were more creative, such as a heart split in two, reflecting the absence of their loved ones and the soldiers wishing they could be with them. Soldiers that were more artistic made window Valentines. These cards had flaps that revealed a soldier inside a tent waiting for his sweetheart with open arms. Another popular novelty during the War was a Valentine containing a lock of hair from a girlfriend or wife, which the soldiers treasured. Also, the Puzzle Purse was invented during this time as well. These were made by folding the four corners of a square envelope inward and writing a message on the inside of each flap. Many times the puzzle contained a piece of jewelry or a lock of a sweetheart's hair.

Love letters between soldiers and their sweethearts have become collectors' items and family heirlooms. These serve as a reminder that love and romance is present in even the most difficult circumstances. Not all Valentines were a happy occasion to read however. One such Valentine is a rather elaborate one from a Confederate soldier named Robert King to his wife Louiza. He used his penknife to cut one sheet of a newspaper and a used envelope together so that he could intertwine the two in a basket weave pattern while serving on the front lines. After finishing, he folded it and sent the memento to his wife Louiza in Montgomery County, Virginia, probably in a folded piece of paper because envelopes were hard to come by during the war. Once in her hand, Louiza could then open the heart and find that the seemingly random dot-

(con't on p.2)

TRIVIA QUESTIONS

- I was born in Spain, yet my service to my real home was not more pronounced than my leadership at Gettysburg
- What future Supreme Court Chief Justice was a lawyer in many fugitive slave cases?
- When Robert E. Lee's hands were severely injured, how did he stay on his horse, Traveler?
- What was the first pitched battle west of the Mississippi River?
- What was the name of the first warship ever sunk by electrically activated torpedoes?
- How many horses were shot from under General Nathan Bedford Forrest during the war?



ted holes were actually intentional so that the valentine turned into the shape of two people sitting opposite one another, crying. Also enclosed are two other trinkets with basket weaves- one that looks like a spade and one that is similar to a book mark. The memento must have come as a bittersweet token of his affection when Louiza received it: Robert King died in battle and never saw his wife or their child again.

During the Civil War era, Valentine's Day cards were very popular greetings exchanged between soldiers and their worried wives and sweethearts. By that time there were many companies manufacturing cards designed just for lonely sweethearts parted by the war. Locks of hair were commonly included with the card; a keepsake to be treasured by the separated couples.

Civil War Valentines From Soldiers



So, give your sweetheart a big hug on Valentine's Day and remember that life is short.



THE STORY OF THE HAT BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Sergeant Duckett's Hat

There is a gleam in his eye; the slight smile partially obscured by his goatee reveals a certain smugness under that old weather beaten, bullet-torn hat, a relic of his service in a war fought fifty years before when he was a much younger man. Though the body may have aged, it does not appear to have dimmed his spirit. He sits rather demurely for the cameraman in the heat and dust, proud of his service and proud to be a Confederate veteran.

Of the many photographs taken at the 1913 Anniversary and Reunion, one of the more intriguing is this image of Thomas J. Duckett. Born in 1842 in Lauren District, South Carolina, Thomas J. Duckett went off to war April 14, 1861. The day before he had witnessed a train filled with companies of militia leave the station in Clinton, headed to the capital of Columbia. The sight must have inspired him for he enlisted the very next day and was soon a member of the "Musgrove Volunteers", which became Company I, 3rd South Carolina Volunteers. Duckett must have done well in the early months of service for he was elected corporal after June 30 and served in that position until February 11, 1863, when he was promoted to fifth sergeant. Within months he was third sergeant of Company I and also a veteran of two years worth of battles and campaigns, from the bitter Seven Days through Gettysburg. Sgt. Duckett had served through all of them until that September when he was seriously injured in the Battle of Chickamauga; so seriously that his survival was in doubt. Yet, he did recover and returned to the regiment in 1864 whereupon he was elected lieutenant. Captured at Bentonville, North Carolina, in March 1865, Duckett was imprisoned at Johnson's Island during the final days of the war. He returned home to Laurens that summer, having survived the war and many close calls.

After the war, Duckett prospered in Laurens County. He served two terms as County Sheriff from 1901 to 1908 and was a member of Camp Garlington of the South Carolina Chapter of the United Confederate Veterans. In 1913, he accompanied other veterans of the Palmetto State to Gettysburg to partake in the Great Reunion, held during the anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and packed within his luggage was his worn hat- possibly the only relic he kept from the war. On it he painted a small Confederate battle flag with his name and the battle where a Yankee bullet ripped through the crown of his hat- one that a few inches lower would have taken his life.

If only these relics could talk; but then this photograph of Duckett, seated, with his old, worn hat perched on his head, speaks a thousand words. A life lived to the fullest. A proud southerner who survived not only the disease of camp life and danger of the battlefield, but lived long enough to see old enemies come together as comrades at Gettysburg in 1913.

-John Heiser



Officers

GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN — JULY 18, 1863: BUD?? CONFEDERATE SOLDIER

3RD SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY, KERSHAW'S BRIGADE

President: Gordon Balme
 Vice President: Matt Donovan
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 Newsletter Editor: M. Bruce Maxian

DUES FOR THE 2014-2015 CAMPAIGN ARE PAYABLE TO PAT McINERNEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DUES KEEP THE PROGRAMS AND NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE TO YOU.

Our Annual Campaign runs from Sept. through May, dues are \$30 .

Anyone interested in receiving "The Battle Cry" by e-mail please see Bruce Maxian at one of our meetings or e-mail me at:

Sarasota.cwrt@gmail.com

Meetings 3rd Tues. of the month (7 pm)
GRACE CHURCH
ADULT ANNEX, 8000
 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota, FL 34236. On Occasion time and location of the meeting will be changed.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR T-SHIRTS TO THE MEETING. IN THE MEANTIME WEAR THEM WHEREVER YOU ROAM.

OUR MONTHLY RAFFLE ALWAYS NEEDS YOUR DONATED BOOKS & MAGAZINES.

LETTERS HOME: from the Collection of Alan Sessarego

My Dear Sister,

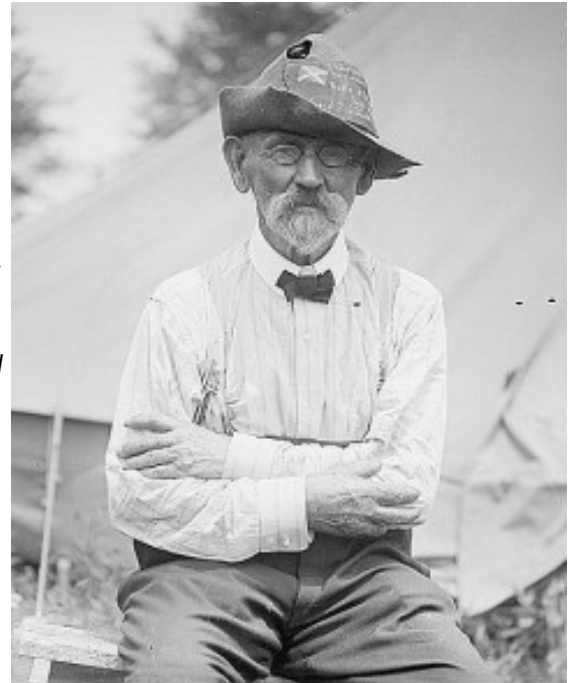
I seat my self to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time. We have had a hard time of it for the last six weeks. We left Fredericksburg on the 2nd day of June, and marched at the rate of twenty miles a day until we got in to Pennsylvania, and fought one of the Bloodiest Battles of the war. We passed through some of the prettiest country I ever saw in my life, they, they have the finest land in the world, and, and some of the ugliest women that I ever saw, they are mostly Dutch. They have the finest houses you ever saw, all made of brick, and there is a house every half mile.

Our Generals would not allow us to touch a thing, and the consequence we had to live on one pound of flour to the man for four days. I had to eat wheat. I would take it and boil it in a cup, and salt it, and then eat it, and it was good, at least it was good to a hungry man. I received [sic.] your letter of the 21 of June on the 10th of this month, and was glad to learn that you were all well. I wish that I could have been at home during commencement. You must give my love to all the girls.

Sis, I am (Bare Footed), haven't got a Shoe to my name. Sis you must excuse my short letter this time, for this is all the paper that I have got in this world. I have not seen Jim on the march, I heard from him since the fight, he was not hurt. Cousin Ben is well at this time. Willie Gunnels was left in the hands of the enemy, he was hit in the side with a grape shot, and it broke three of his ribs, but the shot did not go through the skin. Joel Anderson was wounded, but he was not left. We lost (80) men in our Regt. In all, killed and wounded and missing. I did not get hit, but I thought that they would hit me every time they shot. There was not one man in our company that was badly hurt, there was four of them got slightly wounded, but are with the company at this time.

Sis you must excuse my short letter, but this is all that I have to write on, this time. I will give you all the news the next time I write, which will be in a few days. Nothing more at this time. Give my love to the rest of the family.

Nothing more, I remain your affectionate — BUD



SERGEANT T.J. DUCKETT WITH HIS HAT

Check our monthly newsletter, *Battle Cry* at:

<http://www.sarasotacwrt.yolasite.com>