



CHAMPLAIN VALLEY HISTORIC REENACTORS
2nd Vermont Volunteer Infantry, Co. A;
1st Vermont Cavalry, Co. K;
Vermont Brigade Field Dressing Station
and associated Green Mountain Citizens

"We, therefore, the People of South Carolina, by our delegates in Convention assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, have solemnly declared that the Union heretofore existing between this State and the other States of North America, is dissolved, and that the State of South Carolina has resumed her position among the nations of the world, as a separate and independent State; with full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do." ~ **South Carolina** December 20, 1860

"In the momentous step, which our State has taken of dissolving its connection with the government of which we so long formed a part, it is but just that we should declare the prominent reasons which have induced our course." ~ **Mississippi** January 9, 1861

"The people of the State of Florida assembled in Convention having declared the separation of the state from the confederacy of the United States of America and resumed all the powers granted to the Government of that Confederacy, it is due to ourselves to our - late - confederates and to the civilized world that we should set forth the causes which have forced us to adopt this extreme measure fraught as it is with consequences the most momentous." ~ **Florida** January 10, 1861

"Be it declared and ordained by the people of the State of Alabama, in Convention assembled, That the State of Alabama now withdraws, and is hereby withdrawn from the Union known as "the United States of America," and henceforth ceases to be one of said United States, and is, and of right ought to be a Sovereign and Independent State." ~ **Alabama** January 11, 1861

"The people of Georgia having dissolved their political connection with the Government of the United States of America, present to their confederates and the world the causes which have led to the separation." ~ **Georgia** January 19, 1861

We, the people of the State of Louisiana, in convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained, That the ordinance passed by us in convention on the 22d day of November, in the year eighteen hundred and eleven, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America and the amendments of the said Constitution were adopted, and all laws and ordinances by which the State of Louisiana became a member of the Federal Union, be, and the same are hereby, repealed and abrogated; and that the union now subsisting

between Louisiana and other States under the name of "The United States of America" is hereby dissolved. ~ **Louisiana** January 26, 1861

JANUARY 2011

Happy New Year CVHR!

Well, the old draws to a close, the new begins! And the new year brings us many , new exciting happenings in each of our lives. For CVHR it brings about the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Hopefully everyone will be able to partake of one event or another!

Due are due:

Annual dues are now due!! Individuals are \$25.00 and families are \$40.00. Please make check out to CVHR. To those of you who have paid a huge Thank you to you! To those of you who have yet to pay them, please get them to Jim Buell, 223 Stokes Avenue, Shelburne, VT05482. These funds primarily cover the costs of the groups' insurance for the year. You really need to get yours paid at once so that your name can be listed on the insurance policy. Thank you.

CVHRI Shirts

There are a few CVHR shirts still available! Get yours while they last! The shirts are available through Mike Frisbie (4frisbies@comcast.net) at the following prices. Please make your check payable to CVHRI.

Tee-Shirts

Small - XL @ \$12.50/shirt
2 XL @ \$14.00/shirt

Long Sleeve

Small - XL @ \$16.00/shirt
2 XL @ \$17.50/shirt



CVHR Potluck Dinner ~ February 5

The 2nd annual potluck dinner will be held Feb. 5 at Cpl. Hendees house, located at 178 Tatro Rd., Starksboro, VT! Social hour will begin at 5:00, with dinner at 6:00. We hope everyone can make it in period dress, but please no hoops due to space limitations. **Also, please remember that brogans with heel plates need to removed at the door!!!** We are considering this a whole family event, so please be sure to bring the family whether they reenact or not.

Please let Sue Brown know what you are bringing for a dish to share and how many people will be in your entourage. You can let her know at redwolf363@aol.com or by calling 802-537-4474, if no answer, please leave a message. We need to have a head count by **January 15**, so please be courteous and respond by then! Hope to see you all there!

Saranac Lake Winter Carnival parade- February 12

~ Steve Smith

stevooo99@gmail.com

Don't forget the Winter Carnival Parade in Saranac Lake, NY! We will be meeting @ the Ice Castle in Saranac Lake, NY @ 9:00 am for demonstrations & public interaction. Immediately following the parade we will be having the Arctic Picnic. If you decide to attend, please bring a dish to add to the party. This party is BYOB. This is a real

fun event & I encourage anyone wishing to have a good time to attend this event.

CVHRI 2ND VT CALENDAR 2010

January:

January 22nd - USV Annual Meeting - Harrisburg, PA

February:

February 5th - CVHRI Potluck at the Hendee's

February 12th - Saranac Lake Winter Carnival parade - Saranac Lake, NY

March:

March 3-5 - Gettysburg Cavalry Training Meeting

March TBA - Drill

April:

April 6th - Farmers Night - Vermont Statehouse, Montpelier, VT

April 30th, May 1st - Hague Drill - Tom LaPointe's in Hague, NY

May:

May 3rd - Drill at Cpl Hendee's, Starksboro, VT

May TBD – Friday education day in Shelburne – possible May 6th or 20th

May 13th – 15th - Plattsburgh, NY

May 28th – Lakeview Cemetery – Burlington, VT

May 29th - Orwell Memorial Day Parade (sleepover in Benson at Brown's)

May 30th - Middlebury Memorial Day Parade

May 30th - Vergennes Memorial Day Parade

June:

June 3rd – 5th - Norlands w/ 3rd Maine - Livermore, ME

June 3rd – 5th Troy, NY

June 7th - Drill at Cpl Hendee's, Starksboro, VT

June 10th 12th Peterboro, NY

June 18th – 19th Brandon, VT Living History – VT Sesquicentennial
Event ***Date might need to be changed to June 25 & 26

July:

July 4TH – Richmond 4th of July Parade – Richmond, VT

July 29th – 31st - living history - St. Albans, VT – [Steve Smith]

**July 22nd-24th - Manassas, Virginia 150th battle reenactment
(USV Event)**

August:

August 2nd - Drill at Cpl Hendee's, Starksboro, VT

August 12th – 14th Woodbury, CT

August 20th - Hillsborough Cav

August 26th-28th Massena, NY

September:

September 15th – 18th Tunbridge World's Fair, Tunbridge, VT

September 16th – 18th Lewis, NY

September 23rd – 25th – German Flats, NY

September 30th – October 2nd - Old Mill Village, PA

October:

October 4th - Drill at Cpl Hendee's, Starksboro, VT

October 14th – 16th Cedar Creek – Middletown, VA

November:

November 5 - Boy Scouts Veterans Day Parade

November 19 - Remembrance Day Parade Gettysburg, PA

The Rebel Yell

~ Lt Steven Smith ,2nd Mississippi

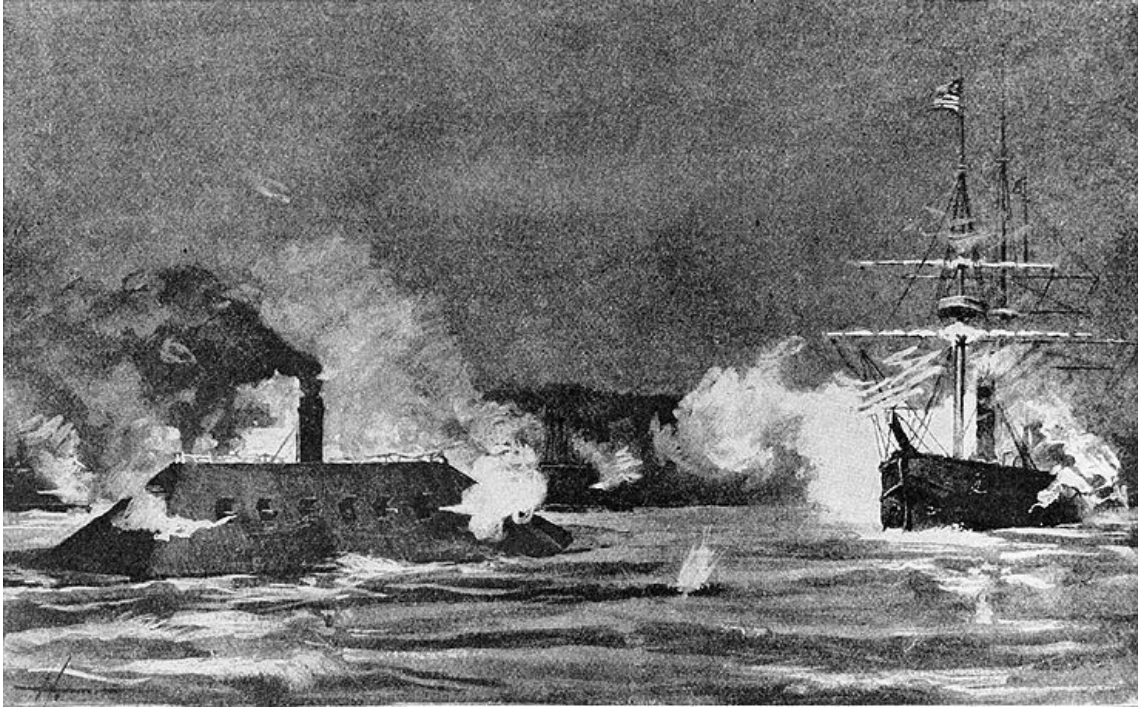
DIXIE'S BROWN WATER GLORY

If the following sounds like a sales and marketing pitch for the Vicksburg Chamber of Commerce, then my sincere apologies. In my opinion the campaign for Vicksburg has

many elements that should make it an attractive topic of Civil War study. While scholars believe it's capture by Federal forces in summer 1863 was the pivotal turning point of the war, it does lack some of the captivating appeal of Gettysburg's Picketts Charge and Chamberlain's heroic stand on Little Round Top. Instead, it has bewildering movements as Grant attempted to befuddle Confederate general John Pemberton. It has dashing cavalry raids as Union Brigadier Benjamin Grierson led his troopers across the state of Mississippi. It features miners tunneling underneath massive fortifications and detonating tons of black powder a year before Petersburg's Crater. A Union gunboat was sunk by an explosion of an underwater device at the time called a torpedo. Finally, there are the exploits of a rickety-rackety rebel ironclad built in a corn field called the *CSS Arkansas*.

The *Arkansas* was built along the lines of its famous predecessor *CSS Virginia*. It was a casemate design with almost perpendicular armored sides instead of a revolving turret or two like the northern Monitor designs. Like all Confederate naval efforts it was scratch built made from materials on hand with improvisation along the way. Construction was started in Memphis in October 1861, but with Federal forces threatening that city, the *Arkansas* had to be towed down the Mississippi River to the small town of Yazoo City a couple of dozen miles or so north of Vicksburg. There, here new Commander, Isaac Brown, found a simple hull, no armor, and guns and just about everything else in pieces. Even the railroad iron intended for use as its armor was lying in the mud at the bottom of the Yazoo River. Brown enlisted the help of local construction workers and five weeks later the *Arkansas* was just about ready.

By that time rumors of the *Arkansas* had reached Admiral David Farragut who commanded the Union fleet which at the time was blockading and shelling Vicksburg. To investigate, in mid July 1862, Farragut dispatched three gunboats to see if the stories were true. The *Tyler*, *Queen of the West*, and ironclad *Carondolet* headed up the Yazoo. Scouts spotted smoke just ahead around one of the bends, and their fears were confirmed when they saw the *Arkansas* coming straight for them. The three gunboats immediately turned around and steamed downriver as quickly as possible. Soon the *Carondolet* was disabled when her steering chain was shot away. The *Arkansas* blasted her for good measure as she passed the stricken vessel. The monster was on the loose.



CSS Arkansas Blasting Her Way Through Farragut's Fleet at Vicksburg

Several minutes passed and the remaining Federal boats blasted their whistles as warning. Soon, the drama entered the Mississippi River and Brown gazed at the Yankee fleet of 20 ships moored in the river. None had any steam up. His intentions were to guide the *Arkansas* through the Union ships as close as possible so that none would find it easy to ram the rebel boat. Along the way he would blast as many as he could. This was exactly what he did. *Arkansas* blasted both port and starboard broadsides as she maneuvered through the northern ships. It was a deadly business. Some shots pierced the *Arkansas*' armored rails and several sailors were killed. Considerable damage was done to Farragut's fleet too.

After several minutes of furious action the *Arkansas* emerged on the other side of the Union fleet and arrived at the Vicksburg docks to the cheers of hundreds of towns folk who witnessed the action. City shore batteries protected the *Arkansas* and prevented Union attempts to damage the rebel boat. Confederate losses were 12 killed and 18 wounded including Brown. Union casualties were 23 killed, 59 wounded, and 10 missing.

Farragut authorized several ramming attempts to destroy the *Arkansas* but none were successful. Frustrated, the Union fleet departed downriver having realized that the *Arkansas*' presence made their operations at Vicksburg pointless.

In the days that followed the *Arkansas* was repaired and refitted and Lt Henry Stevens was placed in command after Brown was moved to Grenada, Mississippi. Her next assignment was to coordinate with Confederate land forces in an attempt to recapture Baton Rouge downriver in Louisiana.

Up until now the crew of the *Arkansas* had been lucky with the engines. They were inconsistent at best being old and made from ad hoc parts and pieces. Once before a pipe had burst and escaping steam moistened powder in the magazine. The *Arkansas* had to tie up to shore and the crew had to spread the powder on tarps for it to dry. Now, as the *Arkansas* chugged down the Mississippi to Baton Rouge the engines had already broken down twice. On August 16, 1862 while in an engagement with the USS Essex a few miles above Baton Rouge their luck ran out. The engines stopped and despite the engineers best efforts could not be restarted. Drifting powerless and out of control, Stevens ordered the *Arkansas* to be run to shore, scuttled, abandoned, and burned.

Though her life as a Confederate ironclad was brief, the *CSS Arkansas* had a big impact. Today, the *CSS Arkansas* rests roughly under a levee 1.4 miles south of the auto/rail bridge below Free Negro Point, 690 feet past river mile 233. Its ensign (naval flag) is displayed at the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia. "Naval history records few deeds of greater heroism or higher professional ability than this achievement of the *Arkansas*," reads the August 16, 1862, report of Confederate secretary of the navy Stephen Mallory of the *CSS Arkansas*.

The Civilian Side

~Sue Brown

Marriage

Most men and women expected to marry some day. Each preferred to marry then to board with relatives. Men wanted to be the head of the household and women certainly preferred marriage to becoming a maiden aunt and having to board around earning their keep by cooking, sewing, or watching the young children of the household they were boarding with. (Popular autograph book of the time are filled with sayings such as "A long life and good husband is the sincere wish of your friend".)

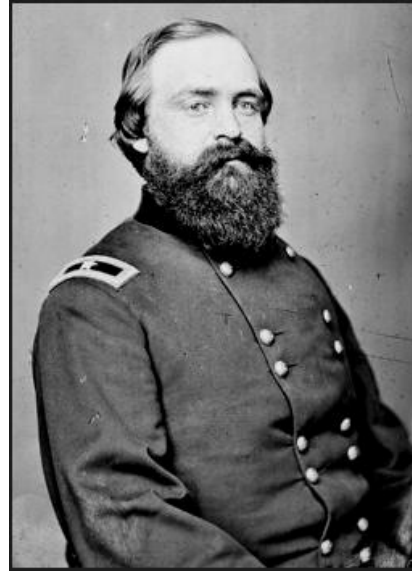
Finding a mate was the goal of many young people. Those who found a potential mate courted under the watchful eyes of not only their family but their community. Although public manners dictated that the young people restrain from displays of passion, private matters between lovers (married as well as unmarried) were quite different and may have been more enjoyable due to the secrecy.

Engagements were very serious business and considered legally binding. (There are still laws on the books which allow parties to sue each other for breaking an engagement.) As of today, weddings of the 1800's varied greatly. Couples with time and money might

have large formal celebrations while others simply visited the clergyman with or without family.

Civil War Quiz

by Charles Martin



NAME THIS VERMONT GENERAL

His first brigade command came after his the wounding of his predecessor who is buried in Burlington. He saw action on the Peninsula, at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He lost his command in the 1864 reorganization of the Army of the Potomac because of a reputation of alleged improper handling of his units but had been exonerated by a command staff investigation. He served in the honor guard for Lincoln's funeral train, and after the war he held several diplomatic posts in Central and South America. Answer in next month's minutes.

Did You Know?

Six days after the people of South Carolina, in convention assembled, adopted an ordinance of secession, U.S. Army Major Robert Anderson abandoned the indefensible Fort Moultrie and secretly relocated the 85 men under his command, companies E and H of the 1st U.S. Artillery, to Fort Sumter. Under the cover of darkness on December 26, 1860, Anderson spiked the cannons at Fort Moultrie and moved his command to Fort Sumter.

