

# Intelligence Service Europe

SCV Europe Camp #1612

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## Intelligence Service Europe, Year V, Issue 1, Feb. / Mar. 2012

### Commander's Letter

Members and Friends of the SCV Europe Camp, the final step is done! We have it finally achieved to complete the necessary amount for the restoration of the Page-tomb in Rome. I feel especially proud to know the amount has been completed with so many donation from American SCV Camps, thus we'll be able to present this important Confederate grave monument to future generations and to know that no soldier's grave is forgotten. Our ancestors risked and sacrificed their lives in the darkest hour. Much Southern blood was shed. To keep this in mind and to preserve the Cause of all that means to fulfill The Charge. We will continue doing that and make is clear to a wider public what the Old South was and what the real causes of the War of Northern Aggression were. Our little newsletter is a helpful tool to achieve that.

As not only our Camp members are working hard in these tasks; I must mention all our friends and supporters from outside. My personal thanks to Compatriot Bob Sadler, SCV Gen. Richard Heron Anderson Camp # 0047, Beaufort in South Carolina for his interesting contribution about the French roots of the hero of the Battle of the Crater.



*Commander Achim Bänsch*

## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

When Israeli scientist Dan Shechtman claimed to have stumbled upon a totally new crystalline chemical structure, colleagues mocked him, insulted him and kicked him from his research group. After years in the scientific exile, though, October last year he received the ultimate vindication: the Nobel Prize in chemistry. Shechtman said about his basic attitude towards research: "A good scientist is a humble and listening man and not one that is sure 100 percent in what he read in the textbooks". The same fits to a historian who seeks for a truthful source of information. Southern historians, working in telling the truth, just the truth, about culture and religion in the Old South are often exposed to similar mockery as Schechtman was. And there is the flood of Northern-worship textbooks brainwashing people. There seems to be a fix historiography regarding the South, the Confederacy, the War and its causes. More than ever we must look for scholars, journalists and teachers capable to preserve the truth of all the Southern treasures and the truth and honor of all the soldiers who fought to preserve this common good. May this little newsletter be a small impulse in such an important task.

To preserve the heritage of the South and to honor the memory of the Confederate soldier is the main task of the SCV. The restoration works on the most important Confederate funerary monument in Europe, Capt. Thomas Jefferson's grave in Rome, Italy, are ready to start now. Funding has been completed and the SCV General Executive Committee, as agreed to last year, will carry the other 50% of the expenses. Read the pre-restoration report inside.

Bertil Haggman's 2011 report on his Guerrilla blog shows the international interest shown in this most valuable historical site. We are proud of him! And Tom Landgraf has again a report from his muddy winter camp!

This issue includes the guest contribution of Bob Sadler, descendant of Brigadier General Girardey, hero of the Battle of the Crater in Petersburg 1864 and the quickest promotion in the whole WBTS.

Don't miss the probably most battle some pro-Confederate movie ever reviewed in our Educational Movies section. The Camp Library is offering as e-book the memoirs of Brigadier General Elisha F. Paxton. Remember: reading is for free!



**Raphael Waldburg-Zeil**  
**Editor**

## CAPTAIN THOMAS JEFFERSON PAGE'S TOMB IN ROME: PROVISIONAL RESTORATION AND FUNDING REPORT



**White marble, covered with the dirt of more than a century**

The major project of the Camp since 2010 has been the Restoration of the Family Tomb of Captain Thomas Jefferson Page, C.S. Navy. In Rome, Italy. \$14,000 (10,910,20 EU) is a considerable amount, so we need to fully understand the importance of this tomb and where the significant costs will be required. It is not only an impressive tomb. It is not only an unreconstructed Confederate veteran's grave site.

It is THE most important Confederate funerary monument on European soil. That is what makes Captain Page's tomb so special; it's a testimonial of the Southern cause made visible to thousands of American tourists every year in the Non-Catholic Cemetery of Rome, where Capt. Page lies amongst several of the greatest poets of English language, like Percy Shelley, John Keats and many other important people, mostly artists and thinkers. The Embassy of the United States is one of the 14 Embassies which are official trustees of the NCC. These Embassies often bring their official guests for a tour.

The funerary monument is the work of Ettore Ximenes, a well-known sculptor whose work is to be found in Rome (on the Victor Emmanuel monument and on the Palace of Justice) and elsewhere in Italy. Between 1911 and 1926 he also carried out numerous commissions' abroad, gaining considerable fame. The Page tomb and funerary monument is built of Carrara marble and travertine. It consists of a statue, an obelisk, a sarcophagus and columns.



**Capt. Page's sarcophagus is in worst condition, both dirt and decomposition by urban pollution have done great damage. The lower part is even close to fracture and to break-open.**

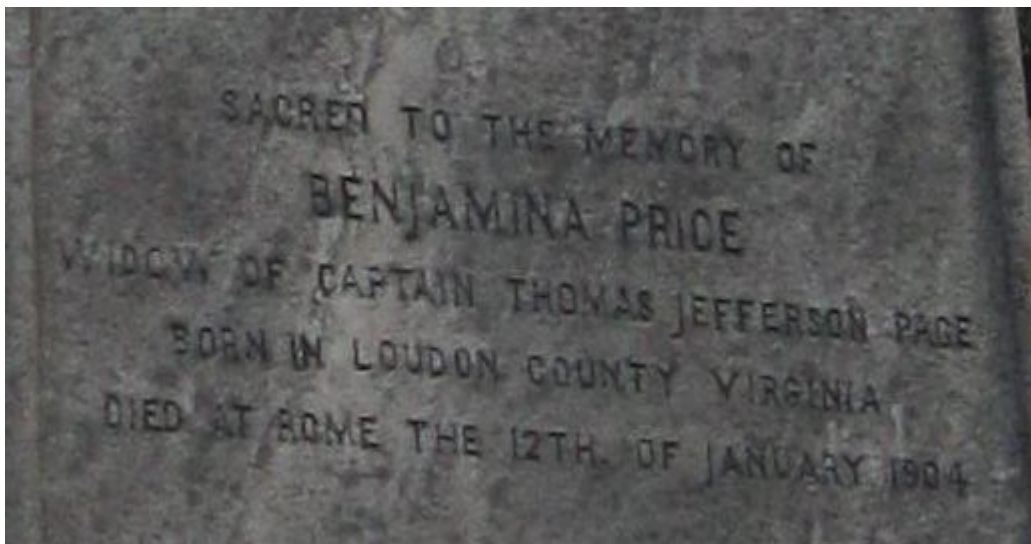
In 2007-2008 scientists from the University of Calabria analyzed the materials and the deterioration of the Page tomb. They found that it has a number of serious conservation problems, the predominant one being a biodeterioration which is due to its location in an environment rich in vegetation. Another important factor is the atmospheric pollution caused by the heavy traffic in the vicinity.

The stones of the monument are subject to different forms of deterioration, such as carbonate dissolution, fractures, patinas, staining and runoff streaks. In the biological patina of the surfaces, they have identified biodeteriogens such as cyanobacteria, actinomyces and ascomyces. Equally worrying are the various fracture lines visible in the monument's surfaces which, if neglected, could lead to the detachment of fragments.



**Close-up of the Female Guardian at the tomb.  
Dirt and dissolution process at work.**

Our project will restore the Page monument to a sound condition, thereby making it more legible and attractive.



**Memorial inscription to Capt. Page's wife, Benjamina Price. Both the carved letters and the marble surface are in need of a good cleansing.**

Because the Cemetery is located within the Rome World Heritage Site, the Project must be carried out in accordance with the conservation procedures defined by Italian law. Thus, the Project will be executed under the supervision of the Archaeological Authorities of Rome. The cemetery will undertake all liaison work with official authorities for permissions.

We are aware that this project is costly. SCV Headquarters therefore expects our Camp to have a vigilant eye on the restoration process. And we will

certainly monitor workmanship and quality, including taking photos of the work's progress to be submitted to every interested donor. There is no question that the final results will be exceptional and accomplish our goal.



One of the memorial pylons at the tomb. This one is devoted to Thomas J. Page jr., Major of Artillery, ANV, and his wife Mary Belle. Although not so badly deteriorated, water runoff streaks can be seen on this and the other column.

### THE ONES WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

Stateside funds (SCV Camps and individuals, private donors):

Captain Page Restoration Project				
Date	Check No.	Amount	Name	Balance
10/27/10	2309	\$50.00	Mildred P. Long	\$50.00
10/27/10	8044	\$500.00	McKendree R. Long III	\$550.00
11/16/10	1013	\$500.00	Secession Camp 4	\$1,050.00
3/25/11	1386	\$500.00	H.L. Hunley Camp 143	\$1,550.00
4/8/11	Transfer	\$500.00	South Carolina Division	\$2,050.00
4/9/11	2231	\$500.00	McGowan Camp 40	\$2,550.00
4/11/11	2972	\$150.00	Brag Bowling	\$2,700.00
4/11/11	1197	\$200.00	Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp 3000	\$2,900.00
4/25/11	13574	\$150.00	Jeffrey A. O'Cain	\$3,050.00
5/19/11	6485	\$100.00	Kenneth E. Hall	\$3,150.00
8/22/11	1050	\$125.00	Raphael Semmes Camp 1321	\$3,275.00
12/14/11	3857	\$20.00	ISE Correspondent Nancy Hitt	\$3,295.00
				EU 2,567.80

Europe Camp #1612 total funding:

**689,10 EU**

**Additional Europe Camp funding by selling books:**

**Sum will cover the necessary amount to complete funding**



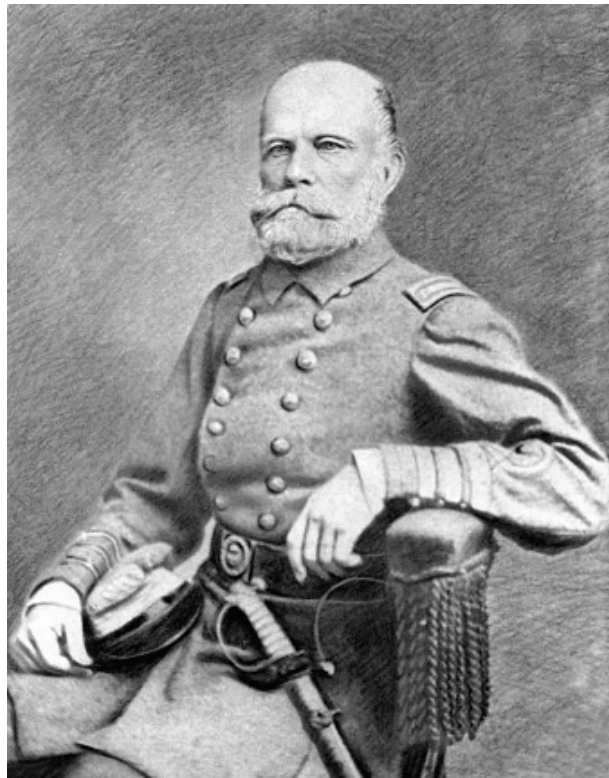
**Funds from the SCV General Executive Committee, USA**

**5247 EU**

**Private European donors, non-SCV:**

de la Pena, Pedro J.	200 EU
Fabras Dominguez, Martin	20 EU
Fadrique Aman, Federico	10 EU
Gimenez de Soto, Fernando	20 EU
Ivanez de Lara, Vicente	250 EU
Martin Klops, Samuel	40 EU
Montero Trenor, Luis	40 EU
Perez de Guzman, Rodrigo	40 EU
Perez Perches, Gustavo	80 EU
Rapado Alameda, Aurelio	20 EU
Trenor diCenta, Maria	100 EU
Varas Domingo, Francisco	50 EU

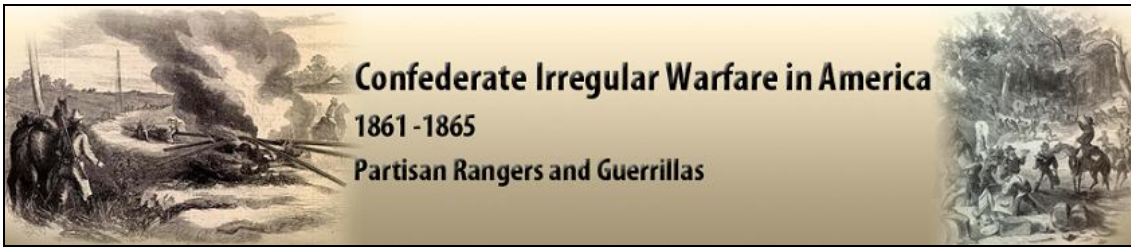
After the re-dedication of the tomb, which will be one of the major events during the Sesquicentennial in Europe – and the most important and lasting one - the final resting place of a Confederate hero will shine again in all its beauty and dignity.



Captain Thomas Jefferson Page, CS Navy,  
Commanding officer of CSS Stonewall







## **BLOG REPORT 2011**



**By full member Bertil Haggmann, Sweden**

Just a few lines to provide some information on my blog on Confederate Irregular Warfare (see below). It has been modestly successful and I have now published around 100 pages of my 400 page book manuscript. This means I feel rather certain I can continue the manuscript publication until 2015 but I will also try to publish other contributions. Please pay a visit if you have time and a wish to do so. <http://grayguerrillas.wordpress.com/>

### **Crunchy Numbers**

A San Francisco cable car holds 60 people. This blog was viewed about 1,200 times in 2011. If it were a cable car, it would take about 20 trips to carry that many people. In 2011, there were 76 new posts, not bad for the first year! The busiest day of the year was September 20th with 67 views. The most popular post that day was NO. 29 CIW CH 1 ALABAMA 51ST REGIMENT PARTISAN RANGERS, MOUNTED INFANTRY (NA).

### **How Did They Find the Blog?**

The top referring sites in 2011 were:

mail.yahoo.com  
scveuropecamp.jimdo.com  
web.mail.com  
stumbleupon.com  
74.6.238.254

Some visitors came searching, mostly for robert von massow, baron robert von massow, creation of confederate partisan, letter and 1 Alabama cavalry.

### **Where Did They Come From?**

Most visitors came from the United States. Italy & France were not far behind.

## Who Were They?

Your most commented on post in 2011. These were your 5 most active commenter's:

1. Rodger Wilson 1 comment
2. Dave Simpson 1 comment
3. Todd Fife 1 comment
4. Billy Godwin 1 comment
5. Canon EOS Review 1 comment

## Attractions. The most viewed posts in 2011:

1. NO.29 CIW CH 1 ALABAMA 51ST REGIMENT PARTISAN RANGERS, MOUNTED INFANTRY (NA) 0 comments September 2011.
2. RANGER ROBERT VON MASSOW - 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry, Mosby's Rangers, C.S.A. 0 comments March 2011.
3. LT. COL. WILLIAM T GUNTER COMMANDING FIRST ALABAMA CONFEDERATE PARTISAN RANGERS (LATER EIGHTEENTH ALABAMA CONFEDERATE RANGERS) 0 comments April 2011.
4. SWEDISH OFFICER FOUGHT WITH CONFEDERATE GENERAL STAND WATIE - CAPTAIN THOMAS F. ANDERSON 2 comments March 2011
5. CONFEDERATE MARTYR HENRY C. MAGRUDER (1843 - 1865) 0 comments March 2011.



© State Historical Society of Missouri



## WINTER CAMP REENACTMENT 2012



By full member Sgt. Tom Landgraf

Again January 2012 activities started with the Winter Camp. 16 men of my reenactment group got ready to spend the weekend in the "Muddy Hills". From Friday 20 to Sunday afternoon, all the time under harsh conditions.



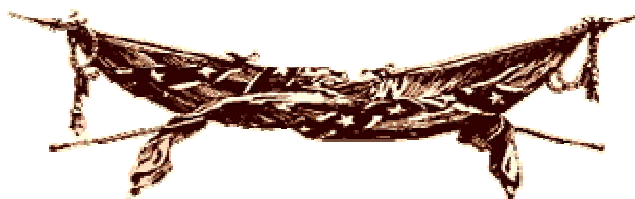
Camp was established Friday early afternoon in a stormy weather. The heavy rain made it difficult for the men to fix the tents. The downpours made the classic winter camp name "Muddy Hills" very appropriate, much like the Tullahoma encampment of 1863. Weather didn't change the whole weekend, it rained almost continuously every hour.

Climatic conditions were far more a threat than potential Yankee troops. Right in the night from Friday to Saturday the wind took two of the tents and made them to fly away, thus we had some soldiers thoroughly wet and having to seek refuge among their comrades in other tents.

The whole drill exercise program was executed under rain, cold and in muddy terrain. Average temperature was around 0° C (32° Fahrenheit). Drill exercises were performed under command of Lt. Banks (below).



But beside the toughness, we had also fun during camp life. During the usual pay-call and mail-call the soldiers re-enacted reading letters from the first year of the War. And we had a court-martial! Pvt. Schenkel was arrested for having a counterfeit 100 CS-dollar bill. Once detected as a fake (it was signed a year in the future!) and under strict re-enactment rules he was to be indicted for that.





Lt. Banks acted as judge, Pvt. Becker was the prosecutor and I was given the job of the defense attorney. Schenkel was our hair-stylist and very surprised of being put under arrest by one-eyed Provost-Sgt. Duda (left).

During the trial I spent all the time (even during my defense speech) in looping a hangman's knot, which irritated the blamed Private a lot. He said the court was biased, but all the audience screamed him down by yelling wild.

Of course he was found guilty, "hanged" and even "shot" (to ensure justice was executed). Although it was a serious re-enacted scene, we had grins on every man's face.



Proven guilty.



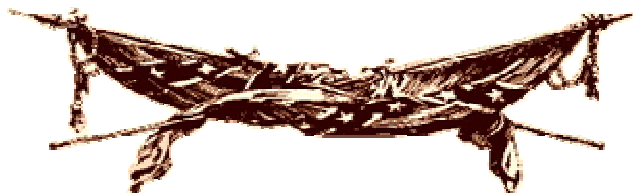
Sgt. Landgraf preparing the hangman's knot during the trial session



The food was first-class, especially for a first winter of the War. Pvt. Becker had brought Lamb-sausages and sliced rosmary-potatoes. The final day we had a Wurstfest with boar-sausages I had brought (and made by myself). See below:



All in one, another great success which brought us the winter hardships of the Confederate soldier close to mind (except for the wonderful sausages. . . ) while we had a lot of fun in comradeship.



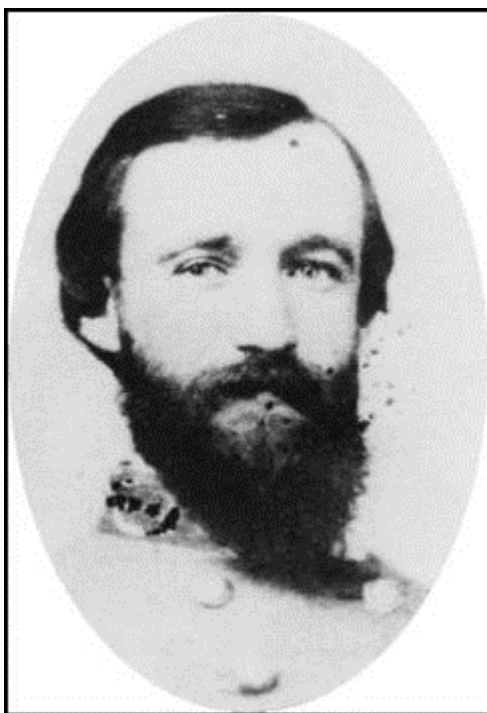
## A CONFEDERATE GENERAL WITH FRENCH ROOTS: VICTOR JEAN BAPTISTE GIRARDEY



By guest writer **Bob Sadler, General Girardey's descendant.**  
**SCV Gen. Richard Heron Anderson Camp # 0047, Beaufort, South Carolina**

Victor Jean Baptiste Girardey was born June 26, 1837 in Hirsingue, Alsace, France. He came to America with his family aboard the *Herculean* in December of 1842. Victor was orphaned at the age of 16. For a period of time he lived with his family in the home of the Martin Frederick family in Augusta.

Victor went to New Orleans to live with his brother Camille. There he completed his education and went to work as an auctioneer with C.E. Girardey and Company. While in New Orleans he met and in 1858 married Clotilde LeSueur, a sister of Emma LeSueur wife of his brother Camille. He was naturalized in New Orleans October 20, 1859. Victor and his wife were residing in New Orleans at the time of Louisiana's secession from the Union (January 26, 1861).



**Quickest promotion in the War:  
Brigadier Girardey**

Girardey was involved in the organization of the Louisiana Guard militia. He was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant from Louisiana seemingly following the footsteps of his brother Camille. In October of 1861 he was listed as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and aide-de-camp to General Albert Blanchard. Blanchard, a native of Charlestown,



Massachusetts, joined the Confederacy as a colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Volunteers and was promoted brigadier general in 1861. From there Girardey was attached to General A.R. Wright's Brigade and appointed assistant adjutant general.

Victor fought in all of the battles of Northern Virginia during the remainder of his service. During the Seven Days battle – the culmination of the Peninsula Campaign –he served in Major General Huger's division which consisted of the brigades of Brigadier Generals William Mahone, Ambrose R. Wright, Lewis A. Armistead, and Robert Ransom, Jr. He served directly under Wright. After the battle of Oak Grove Wright wrote, "I was greatly assisted throughout the entire days fight by my assistant adjutant-general, Captain V.J.B. Girardey, whose coolness, courage, and daring intrepidity throughout the hottest of the fight entitled him to receive the warmest commendations of the Department".

After the failure of McClellan's Peninsula Campaign ending in the Seven Days Battle of June, 1862, Wright wrote in his report "I am again called upon to acknowledge the valuable services of my assistant adjutant-general, Captain V.J.B. Girardey, during the protracted movements of my brigade".

President Lincoln appointed John Pope to lead the Virginia Federal forces. On the Confederate side Major General Richard H. Anderson took over Huger's division.

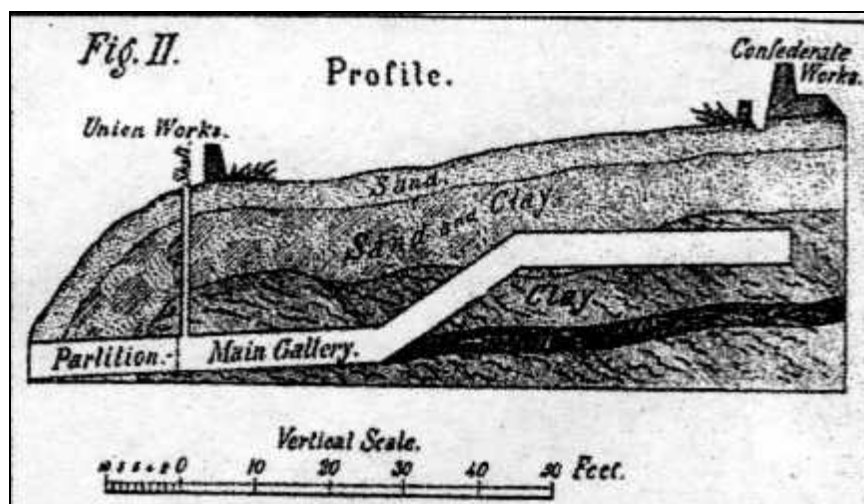


**Ruins of Stone Bridge at Bull Run Creek; 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Bull Run or 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas, March 1862, Captain Girardey Assumes a Command**

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Second Manassas Campaign Colonel Walker, who commanded the brigade, was wounded. Captain Girardey assumed command of the movements on the left while Captain C.H. Anderson, the ranking officer on the field, commanded the right. Captain Anderson in reporting the engagement said, "Great credit is due Captain V.J.B. Girardey, assistant adjutant-general who superintended the movements on the left of the brigade, and his gallant behavior nerved the weakest soldier to a full discharge of his duty". On June 4, 1863 Victor was on a reconnaissance mission around the Fredericksburg area. As he was leading skirmishers he had his horse shot out from under him. He was also reported as killed in action by the *Augusta Daily Chronicle & Sentinel*.

July 29, 1863 Victor Girardey filed for resignation for an unspecified family reason. He was granted a leave of absence instead. He proceeded to Augusta, Georgia and was requested by His brother, Isadore, and Colonel George Washington Rains (who was appointed by Jefferson Davis to erect and/or maintain the Powder Works, Arsenal and government foundry in Augusta) to help organize the local Augusta forces to protect the vital facilities. He headed the six companies of Augusta Arsenal Battalion. He wrote to Brigadier General Samuel Cooper (who was the Adjutant and Inspector General throughout the war) requesting duty in Augusta. With the decision being passed on to Robert E. Lee, Lee wrote "In my opinion it would be a waste of service of such a man as Capt. Girardey to place him in such a position".

On April 5, 1864 Victor Girardey is ordered to Virginia. Here he was transferred to Mahone's brigade. In May of 1864 he participated with the brigade in both the Wilderness and Spotsylvania campaigns distinguishing himself as an officer. On July 30, 1864 the Union forces exploded a mine (in the battle known as the Battle of the Crater) in Major General's Ambrose E. Burnside's IX Corps sector blowing a gap in the Confederate defense of Petersburg, Virginia. The Confederates quickly recovered and launched several counterattacks led by Brigadier General William Mahone. Here, once again, Girardey distinguished himself in battle by calmly bringing up the brigade in a time of chaos.



Drawing of the mine tunnel at Petersburg. Below, entrance to the tunnel photographed a few days before the explosion



In early July of 1864 Brigadier General Wright became ill and had to leave the command of his troops. With Wright's absence of more than 30 days, Brigadier General Mahone wrote a lengthy letter to A.P. Hill recommending that Girardey be promoted to brigadier general. R.E. Lee concurred with their recommendation. Samuel Cooper, previously mentioned, suggested that a legal promotion would be the rank of Major. Despite Cooper's objections, Robert E. Lee stated, "*I consider Captain Girardey one of our boldest & most energetic officers. He has been particularly efficient in the field*". On August 3, 1864 he was promoted to brigadier general to rank from July 30 ---. He was placed in charge of Wright's Brigade.

A letter came to auction in 2006 before I began the research on the Girardey family. This letter was done in pencil and Girardey writes to his brother:

*Head Quarters Wright's Brigade  
August 5, 1864*

*Since last I wrote you we have had another battle in which I had the honor to participate and escape uninjured owing I suppose to the fact of having a very hard head a ball struck me plump on the head & strange to say did not injure, except making me quite weak & faint for a while. – you have heard of what a part of our Division has accomplished, only 3 Brigades retook the works held by two Yankee Corps & supported by another & slaughtered them like sheep. I never yet have seen so many Yankees dead on the same space of ground. They acknowledged a loss of men 5000 –We captured about 1200 prisoners & 18 flags- Our Division has done all the fighting for this Army at this point –since we have been here at Petersburg We have fought four (4) battles and never had more than three Brigades engaged at any one time. We have taken in three battles alone 19 pieces of Artillery, 29 stand of Colors, about 5000 stand of small Arms & about 3700 prisoners, 300 horses 50 wagons & 30 ambulance(sic).all this is exclusive of what we captured in the Campaign before reaching this point – this is doing very well – you have ere this heard of my promotion to Brigadier General, & at present in command of this Brigade – so you see I have at least gone up with a jump and trust I will stick – what do you think of your little Brother – no sarcasm. We also have other honors a pouring in and the Girardy boys-are come- If you can spare a little of your good old what You keep in your cellar, it would be very acceptable and, and no doubt add to comfort t-very hot-& dry' My last I wrote you in relation to your forges, send them –My love to Mother & Angy kiss the Children for me.*

*Your affection (ate) Bro (ther)*

*Victor*

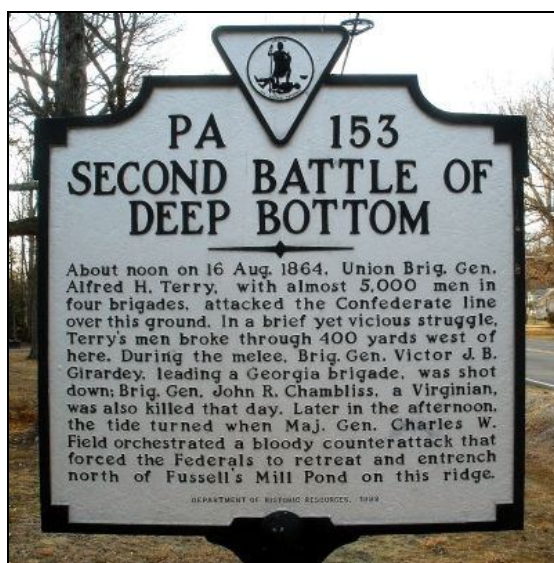
*Remember me to the gals in the office -Tell Mac to hurrah*

This letter was sold at the Heritage auction in Dallas, Texas in December, 2006. It came from the Henry Luhr's Collection and came with a LOA from PSA/DNA.

The letter was written only 11 days before Victor was killed.

The Second Battle of Fussell's Mill began on August 13, 1864. Deep Bottom is the colloquial name for an area in the James River in Henrico County 11 miles southeast of Richmond, Virginia. It is a horseshoe-shaped bend in the river known as Jones Neck (Figures 26 and 27). It was named Deep Bottom because of the depth of the river at that point. On August 16<sup>th</sup> the Union cavalrymen drove the enemy as far as White's Tavern but were eventually pushed back to Fisher's Farm. Confederate Brigadier General John R. Chambliss was killed during the fighting.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Corps had a more successful day as Union Brigadier General Alfred H. Terry's division led by Colonel Francis Bates Pond's brigade attacked the breastworks of the Confederate lines. The fighting led to hand to hand combat. Without any support the Wright's Brigade's Georgian line broke between the 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgian Battalion and the 10<sup>th</sup> Georgian Battalion. Brigadier General Girardey, the acting commander of Wright's Brigade, attempted to rally his men. With the colors of the 64<sup>th</sup> Georgia in his hands, and leading a charge, he fell with a mortal head wound. At age 26 this young Confederate was dead.



**Marker locating site of Deep Bottom Battle  
(Photograph from "My Markers" located near Variana, Henrico County, VA).**

Girardey's body was recovered by the Federals and returned through the lines. A Virginia funeral was planned but word was received that a brother was en route from Augusta to take the body home. His remains arrived on August 26, 1864. The 1<sup>st</sup> Local Troops formed in procession August 27 for his funeral, first at Saint Patrick's, then at City Cemetery now known as Magnolia Cemetery.

There is a “Circle of Honor” for the seven Brigadier Generals laid to rest in Magnolia with a plaque in the center honoring their memory.



**Circle of honor for Brigadier Generals— Marcellus A. Stovall, Goode Byron, John King Jackson, William Duncan Smith, Victor J.B. Girardey, Ambrose R. Wright, and Edward P. Alexander (Author’s Photograph).**



**VA marker for Brigadier Girardey at the circle of honor**



## THE PREACHER'S CORNER



**Hold, Christian brother! Do not despair because your prayers of certain blessings, however apparently great, may have for a time been unanswered. Where is your faith? Where is your allegiance to your almighty, all-wise, all merciful Sovereign? Collect yourself. Put on the panoply of God. Stand against these troops of fiends that would dislodge you from the citadel of your faith. Look up. God, your Redeemer and Deliverer, reigns. See, He sits on yonder throne, and suns and systems of light are but the sparkling dust beneath His feet. Thousands of thousands of shining seraphs minister before Him. Infinite empire is in His grasp. The sceptre of universal dominion is borne aloft in His almighty hand. His eye is upon His afflicted people. See, see, He comes, He comes, riding upon the wings of the whirlwind, wielding His glittering sword bathed in the radiance of heaven, driving His foes like chaff before His face, and hastening to the succour of His saints with resources of boundless power, and illimitable grace.**

**John Lafayette Girardeau  
Chaplain, 23rd Regiment South Carolina Volunteers**



## EDUCATIONAL MOVIES

### BELLE STARR (1941)



**Plot summary:** Gorgeous Belle Shirley (Gene Tierney) sympathizes with Southerners who continue the war in Missouri after the Confederate surrender. She helps Captain Sam Starr (Randolph Scott) hide from Yankee patrols by letting him stay in her home after he is wounded. When the Yankees discover this, they burn her mansion to the ground. Defying them, she joins Starr and his followers at their mountain hide-out and begins assisting them in raids and chasing carpetbaggers. Belle and Sam get married and continue with the Southern cause for Missouri. But only when things get far too dangerous Belle realizes that death with useless result may be too high of a price to pay for what she so immensely believes in. Sam Starr insists that there will be a last raid, after agreeing to go with his wife to Texas seeking for a new life there. Warned by her faithful Mammy Lou that her husband is going to step into a trap, Belle rides through the dark forest to warn him. There she is shot by a traitor. She seals her cause with death and the legend of the “Bandit Queen” begins.

**Analysis:** This is probably one of the most battle some pro-Southern motion pictures. Randolph Scott, the king of so many western movies has here a perfect cast partner in Gene Tierney’s leading role, both achieving a good chemistry. It has not the power of “Gone with the Wind” – but it is an entirely different story.

Beside the fact that's there much fantasy in this Starr story (i. e. her links to the James/Younger Gang are entirely omitted, for a critical opinion about the real Belle Starr see Chapter 23 of Cole Younger's autobiography in our April issue's Camp library offer), it includes everything to make you get a feeling about some realities of the Old South, not based on propaganda but only in the truth. From the very beginning we see faithful Negro servants and peasants, merciless Yankee occupation forces burning down Belle's home just for reprisal, then a glorifying of Missouri Guerrillas hunting down and scaring away carpetbaggers and traitors, etc. However the movie marks a difference between the idealistic hardcore Confederates, who keep fighting for a free Missouri even knowing the war is over, and bandits coming from abroad to commit murder and pillage. The story itself leans much on romantic fantasy adaptation of the Starr couple, but this is acceptable in a movie. Many details inspire us to better imagine the strength of a Southern woman: as the Yankees burn her mansion down, Belle cries in desperation, as everyone would by seeing childhood home and family roots erased from the earth. After she recovers her temper, a resolute fighter emerges. But she never loses her feminine Southern upper-class elegance; she never becomes a kind of Calamity Jane. This is revealed in details like that even in the hardest riding scenes she is always shown mounting her horse in a ladies side-saddle.

The movie has been called "racist" in recent retro-active reviews for its portrayal of Reconstruction Negroes as Carpetbagger-clerks, wild dancing wannabe-Gentlemen and even some Black women dressed as "ladies" but looking like whores. Today's people tend to forget that this is shown just as it was. It is in our times that PC does not allow showing the truth. On the other side also the normal black/white interrelations and mutual loyalty are shown in the movie.



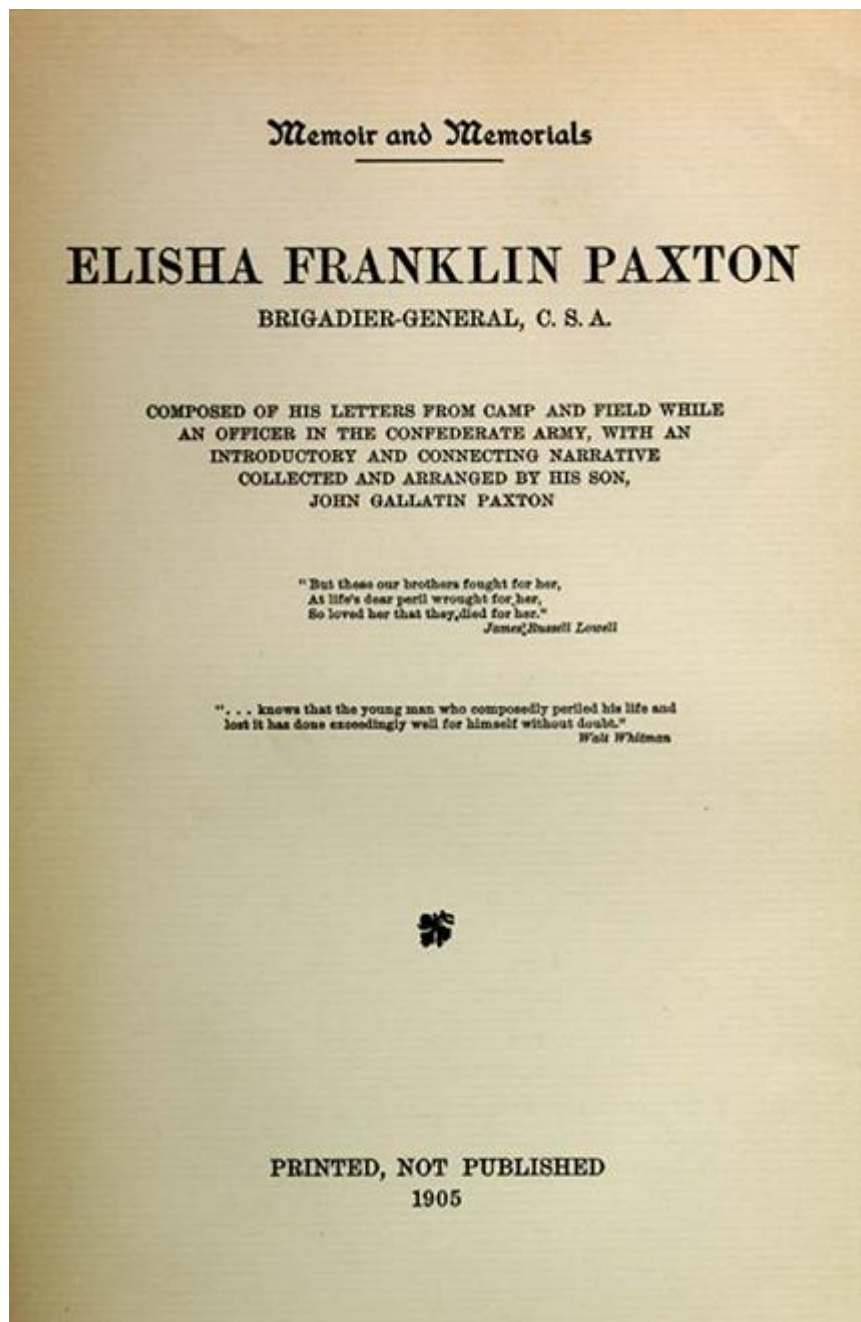
**Loyalty links from childhood on: Black Mammy Lou, who protects Belle in every occasion, warns her Missy about an ambush prepared by Yankee bluecoats to capture her husband, Sam Starr. This is the kind of normal black and white relations in the South so well portrayed in this motion picture, long before "political correctness" became an imposition.**

Belle gives her life to warn her husband: she is murdered by a most despicable Yankee-sympathizer (she's shot in her back). Then there is the wonderful scene of a mounted Captain Starr coming into the town in Confederate full-dress uniform (his splendid appearance making the Yankee soldiers tremble) to surrender and to identify his wife's corpse together with faithful Mammy Lou. To avoid the thug getting his blood money, they act as not recognizing Belle. Thus, it is never cleared if she died or not and Belle becomes a legend forever, as two Negroes sitting nearby the building tell one another at the ending scene of the movie. This is a romantic adventure of good old Hollywood times. Despite being not historically accurate, it is the message of the Old South as it is told that is interesting the film includes so many truthful scenes reflecting very well the aftermath of the War in Missouri and the horrors of Reconstruction, that we can recommend it to you in the strongest way.





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From the original 1905 editor's prologue: "*Mr. John G. Paxton, General Paxton's son, had this volume printed to preserve as a memorial the letters which his father had written from the scene of war. It was not intended that it should ever be offered for sale. The story which these letters tell is so full of heroism and pathos, so truly do they lay bare the noble soul of the writer and show the spirit which animated him and his comrades, that there has been a considerable demand for its publication. This house [Neale Publishing] has therefore obtained Mr. Paxton's permission to take up the publication of the book, and offers the volume as originally published for private distribution without change of any kind.*" The SCV Europe Camp Library has retaken Mr. Paxton's will and offers the book in electronic version available to every reader. Contact the editor and get your free copy! [partisanranger@swissmail.com](mailto:partisanranger@swissmail.com)

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