



# The Lincoln Sentinel



*SUVCW Charitable Foundation Newsletter*  
**November 2022** **Vol. 1**

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## *Donate to the SUVCW Charitable Foundation while you shop*

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# Quaker Cannons



*Armies from the Trojan Horse era to today's electronic technology have tried to deceive their enemies into making a maneuver that leads to an advantage themselves or a disadvantage for their enemies. Some tricks were to have a few men keep lots of campfires burning while the bulk of the army slipped away. Others had the band play loud music late into the night and play morning calls when the army had already left. Another popular trick was to march the same troops past the view of the opposing army again and again to convince them that there were more troops than were actually present. At times old uniforms were stuffed with grass and sticks to look like more troops. A few men would move these scarecrows around to make them seem more realistic. The most widely used tactic in the 17th and 18th centuries was the log canon, commonly referred to as a "Quaker cannon". A Quaker cannon was just a wooden log, some had wagon wheels attached; others were just stacked on top of other logs. The barrel log was carved and painted, from a distance these looked like real cannons. They were sometimes mixed in with actual cannons. Some had gun crews acting like they were getting the log ready to fire. This tactic worked so well, that, at times, real cannons were made to look like Quaker cannons. When the enemy attacked, thinking it was just a log, the real cannon opened fire. A real cannon could be placed and fire a few rounds, then under cover it would be replaced with a log. This increased the deception, and the real cannon could be moved to another location. There were times when 40 to 50 cannons were lined up where they could be seen, but only 5 to 10 of them were real.*



*A few examples of Quaker cannon use: During the American Revolutionary War , Continental forces under the command of Colonel William Washington came upon a force of loyalists that had barricaded themselves in a fortified barn. Colonel Washington ordered his men to surround the barn and to make a pine log that looked like a cannon. He pointed the log cannon at the barn and announced that he intended to fire on the building, all the men inside announced that he intended to fire on the building, all the men inside surrendered without a shot being fired.*

*The Quaker cannons were used extensively during the Civil War by both sides. The Confederates used them more and more effectively than the Union. During the Peninsula Campaign, 8,000 Confederates held back a Union army of over 100,000 foe weeks using Quaker cannons and other types of deception, giving the Confederates more time to bring in troops. Later both Navies started using the cannon deception; large tree stumps wre carved and painted to look like mortars. These were placed on flat boats along with a few Quaker cannons, which made the opposing side believe there was a large gun boat coming down a river.*

## *Recent Grants*

*The following are examples of some of the most recent grants the Charitable Foundation has donated funds to support.*

*Restoration of the GAR Union Foot Soldier Monument at Mountain Grove, MO. 100 year old life-size bronze sculpture. (In Progress)*



## Providing funds for interpretive markers at the site of the Battle of Sugar Loaf in Carolina Beach, NC.

**"To close the port of Wilmington is undoubtedly the most important and effective demonstration that can be made."** U.S. Navy Department Secretary Gideon Welles

The U.S. Navy Department proposed several plans for closing Wilmington Harbor to blockade running in 1862 and 1863, but failed to get the necessary support from either the U.S. War Department or President Abraham Lincoln's administration. Yet Gideon Welles, the Secretary of the Navy Department exclaimed: "To close the port of Wilmington is undoubtedly the most important and effective demonstration that can be made."

Not until General William T. Sherman captured Atlanta, Georgia, a key industrial and railroad hub in the heartland of the South in early September 1864, did Secretary Welles get the go-ahead to organize an attack against Fort Fisher that guarded entry into the Cape Fear River at New Inlet.

Admiral David D. Porter, commander of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron headquartered at Hampton Roads, Virginia, assembled 64 warships, the largest fleet organized during the Civil War, to attack Fort Fisher. General U.S. Grant, commander of all U.S. Army forces, assigned 6,500 troops in support.

Learning of the planned assault, General Robert E. Lee dispatched a division of more than 6,400 troops led by Maj. Gen. Robert F. Hoke, from Petersburg, Virginia to ensure that Wilmington remained in Confederate hands. "If Wilmington falls I cannot maintain my army," Lee cautioned. In overall command at Wilmington was General Braxton Bragg, the newly appointed, but disliked, commander of the Department of North Carolina.

For two days, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 1864, Admiral Porter's mighty armada shelled Fort Fisher in the largest naval bombardment of the war. Despite the intensity of the attack, Fort Fisher held.

During the grand battle, a diverse force of approximately 3,400 gray-uniformed soldiers, including North Carolina State Troops under General W. W. Kirkland of Hoke's Division, South Carolina cavalry, Virginia artillery, and North Carolina Junior and Senior Reserves manned the Sugar Loaf defenses. After the Union fleet and army sailed away, General Bragg withdrew the troops from Sugar Loaf to Wilmington. It would be a fatal mistake.



Currier & Ives lithograph of the  
"Victorious U.S. Navy's Bombardment of Fort Fisher, January 15, 1865."

HEADQUARTERS  
Sugar Loaf, December 26, 1864.  
Arms-bearing men present for duty: Kirkland's brigade, 1,478; Hagood's brigade, 720; Connally's brigade, 600; total, 2,798. Second South Carolina Cavalry, 359; Parle's battery (approximated), 125; Southerland's battery (approximated), 125; total, 250; grand total, about, 3,398.

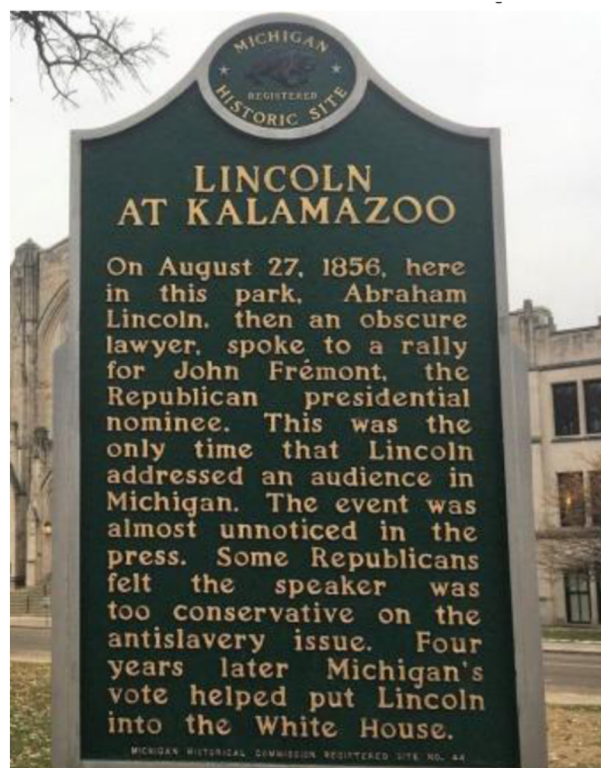
*Official Record of the Union and Confederate Armies*

Although Union naval and army forces failed to capture Fort Fisher at Christmas 1864, they returned for a second attempt less than three weeks later. Their campaign turned out to be the largest combined operation in American military history until D-Day, World War II. The U.S. Navy's pinpoint shelling dismantled the defenses and enabled U.S. Army troops, commanded by Brig. Gen. Alfred H. Terry, to capture the fort after heavy hand-to-hand combat on January 15, 1865. In keeping with his controversial reputation for being "not a fighting general," Braxton Bragg declined to reinforce Fort Fisher with troops from General Hoke's Division, which did not reach Sugar Loaf until after U.S. Army's expeditionary forces had come ashore. After securing Fort Fisher, Federal forces turned their gun sights on Wilmington.



Sponsored by the  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Charitable Foundation

Assistance in funding of commemorative statue of Abraham Lincoln in Bronson Park, Kalamazoo, MI, where Lincoln spoke on 8/27/1856.  
(Project in progress)





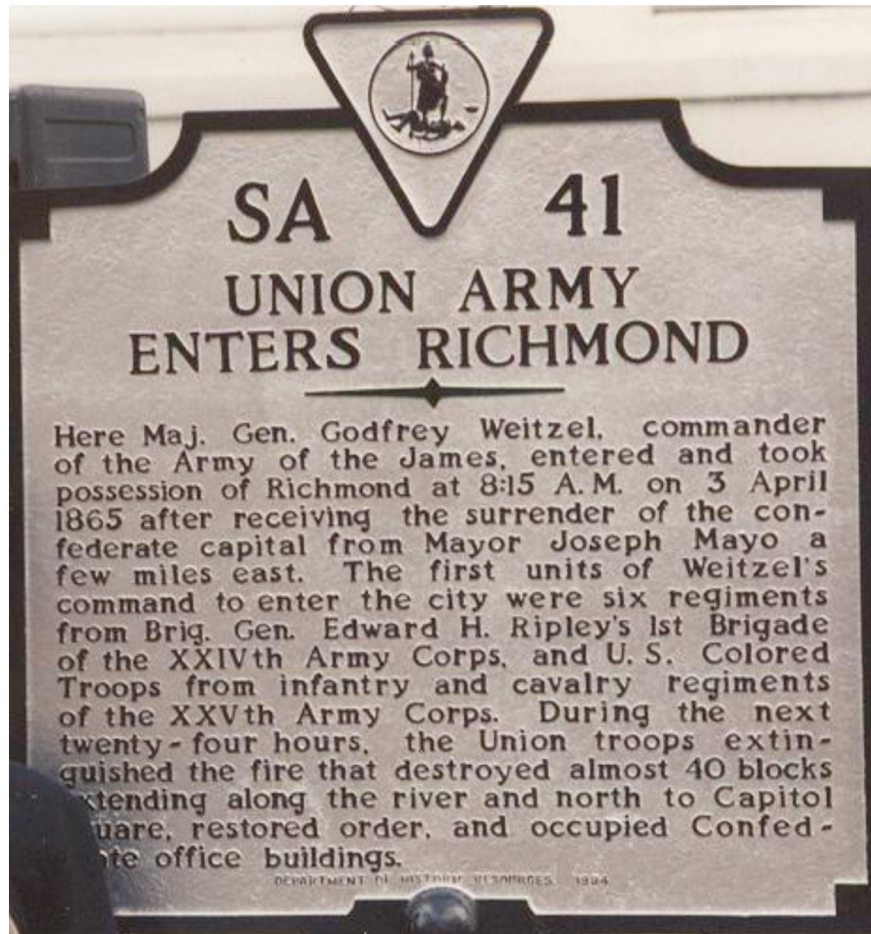
*Interpretive sign at Kernstown Battlefield, Winchester, VA.*



*Restoration of Defenders of the Flag Monument at  
Mt. Hope Cemetery, Rochester, NY.*



*Repair of VA State Highway marker damaged, Richmond, VA.*



## ***Books Anyone***

*Here is a recommendation for a book to read, "In God We Trust", written by William Bierly. The author is a member of the SUVCW. You will find it's roots in the Civil War. The book is an easy read, interesting, informative and well written. Tell us if you have a recommendation for a book written by a member of the SUVCW.*

*If there is a subject you would like to see covered in a future issue, please e-mail: [director3@suvchw-cf.org](mailto:director3@suvchw-cf.org) or [director5@suvchw-cf.org](mailto:director5@suvchw-cf.org)  
We hope you have found this newsletter informative.*