

THE CIVIL WAR

October 2011



Who is this?
See Page 2.

Roundtable of Central Massachusetts

www.centralmassroundtable.org

WORCESTER AREA SPOTLIGHT



Charlton in the Civil War

By Capt. William H. King
Read before the Historical
Society Jan. 25, 1904.

Charlton furnished 213 men for the war, which was 18 more than required to fill the quota. 31 died in the service, making a loss of a little more than one in seven.

While shot, shell and disease were thinning our ranks at the front, and our men at home were struggling to keep these vacancies filled, the women of Charlton were incessantly working to make, collect, box, and ship to the front such necessary articles as would be of service to our soldiers.

Herewith a list of the names of those who died and are inscribed on our soldiers' monument presented to the town by Wm. H. Dexter of Worcester and dedicated Memorial Day, 1903: *Wilson D. Stone, Edwin Taylor, Orman Stevens, George P. Davis, Herbert N. Fuller, Albert H. Williams, Elliot H. Robbins, Henry W. Dunn, John A. Cass, Harry March, Elbridge F. Perry, Charles F. Sanger, Edward Silk, Luther Spooner, Frederick E. Young, Calvin J. Darling, William O'Connell, Francis Clark, William H. Kenney, William J. Bond, Elisha W. Buxton, Livingstone Mower, Andrew Moore, Hezekiah Aldrich, Patrick Gillespie, Van Buren McKinstry, Cornelius P. Davis, Manson Gould, Charles H. Waite, Levi Maxwell, Lawson Lawrence.*

Up the river, 1860s and the 1960s

As a veteran with first-hand knowledge of what went on in Vietnam in the 1960s, Professor Jedd Watters of Assumption College, gave us a comparison of the riverine fighting in the rivers of the United States and the rivers of Vietnam. He has spoken to our group on four previous occasions.

The term "brown water navy" originated with the Civil War. Previous to 1860, the navy was considered a "blue water navy" that patrolled the high seas. The navy department, initially set up separate from the war department, was seen as an international military force of the United States. When the civil war broke out, and the "Anaconda Plan" was devised by Gen. Winfield Scott, the Navy was strictly a deep-water force. But Anaconda Plan was intended to surround it and choke off the Confederacy. Another part of the plan was to break the South apart and defeat each part individually.

The Mississippi River was key to this plan, the interstate highway of the time. The river had large, navigable rivers extending into most of the country. When the war broke out, President Lincoln was intent on saving the border states, especially Maryland and Kentucky. And the key to Kentucky – he said, "If we lose Kentucky, we lose the whole game." – was control of the Ohio River. Pres. Lincoln was intent on holding onto the loyalist people of Arkansas and upper Alabama and he could do that with the control of the Mississippi. Railroads were important, but they are

easily interrupted unlike the rivers. The question was that the Navy would not be up to the task. At the start of the war, the Navy had only 4 ocean-going ships ready to cover 5,200 miles of coast. It was first thought that the "brown water" forces would have to be done by the Army. But Captain John Rogers said it could be done in a short time because the Navy had the ready expertise. He got the critical assistance of Samuel Pook.

Jump ahead one hundred years. For the first time since 1861, the question of the brown water navy came up again, this time in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam. Again the same questions came up. Who runs it and what is the mission? The Vietnam mission was not always clear and would change from month to month. In 1860, the national mission was to prevent the creation of a separate nation but in 1960 initially the mission was to help protect a new nation, South Vietnam was established in 1956. It was the creation of the U.S. as part of cold war militancy. The effort in Vietnam was a tactical move to prevent the indigenous fighters from receiving supplies.

In 1862 the gunboat flotilla was first controlled by the army but commanded by navy officers. In early 1862 the army became interested in steam-powered boats with rams on them.

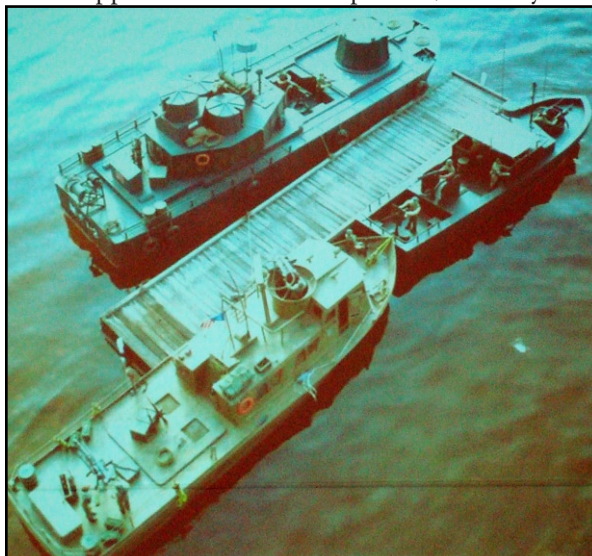
In Vietnam, the control was under the Military Assistance Command, an Army group. The Navy wanted more control so they could have more opportunities to promote their officers. They demanded a Navy role in the Mekong Delta. "We can do what they did in the Civil War." By 1965, the Navy had full control over the river operations.

Professor Watters recounted the several battles and tactics of riverine boats. The capture of Fort Donaldson and Fort Henry and the critical role

Continued on the next page.



Prof. Jedd Watters has taught several courses on Civil War history at Assumption College and has a strong following among several members of our group. He previously spoke to us regarding the Theory of Just War. He is currently teaching a course on environmental history. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War serving as a commanding officer on a MK II PBR river boat in the Mekong Delta.



Boats used by the U.S. Navy in Vietnam. The boat in the lower left is a MK II PBR, the type commanded by our speaker, Jedd Watters.

Gov. John Andrew

Pictured in the top corner of page 1 is the profile of Massachusetts Gov. Andrew. This image is a plaque on the huge Sailors' and Soldiers' Monument located on Worcester Common. This biography is from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Albian_Andrew.

John Albion Andrew (May 31, 1818 – October 30, 1867) was a U.S. political figure. He served as the 25th Governor of Massachusetts between 1861 and 1866 during the tumultuous American Civil War. He was a guiding force behind the creation of some of the first U.S. Army units of black men—including the famed 54th Massachusetts Infantry.

John A. Andrew was born in Windham, Maine. His father, Jonathan Andrew was a descendant of an early settler of Boxford, Massachusetts and a small but prosperous trader in Windham. His mother, Nancy Green Pierce, was a teacher at Fryeburg Academy. John Albion was the eldest son. His mother died in 1832.

Andrew entered Bowdoin College in 1833. Although he was studious and popular with other students, he did not shine academically and was ranked near the lowest in his class. After his graduation in 1837, he moved to Boston to study law under Henry H. Fuller, with whom he became close friends.

Andrew married Eliza Jane Hersey of Hingham on Christmas evening, 1848. They had four children: John Forrester, born November 26, 1850; Elizabeth Loring, born July 29, 1852; Edith, born April 5, 1854; Henry Hersey, born April 28, 1858.

After his admission to the bar, Andrew joined the Whig party and began to support the anti-slavery movement. In 1848, he helped organize the Free Soil Party, which opposed the expansion of slavery. Following the failure of the Free Soil Party, Andrew joined the Republican party in the mid-1850s.

He was elected to as a Representative in the General Court in 1857. Following John Brown's 1859 raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia, Andrew participated in organizing legal aid for Brown, generating favorable responses amongst the people of Massachusetts. In 1860, he was elected governor of Massachusetts by a huge margin.

When Andrew took office on January 2, 1861, on the eve of the Civil War, the Albany Argus called him "a lawyer of a low type and a brutal fanatic" who "proposes to maintain the condemned [personal liberty] statues of [Massachusetts], and to force upon the South by arms, an allegiance to the Constitution thus violated." Andrew immediately began to ready the Massachusetts militia for duty. He also asked the governors of Maine and New Hampshire to prepare for war. Among his early actions were to accept recruits from other states to serve in Massachusetts regiments, including 500 men from California who he encouraged to join the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry in 1862 and early 1863.

Andrew's strong feelings about emancipation are clearly expressed in the following quote from an 1862 speech:

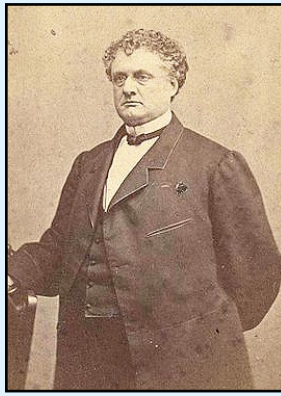
"I know not what record of sin awaits me in the other world, but this I know, that I was never mean enough to despise any man because he was black."

Andrew was receptive to the concept of using black men as uniformed soldiers in the Union army. In April 1862 he began working closely with the Federal government and with Frederick Douglass. He wrote letters to different states and to Lincoln trying to get support. He authorized the formation of two regiments of black infantry, the 54th and 55th Massachusetts, composed of blacks from the state, as well as Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and other states. Shortly after the Battle of Antietam, Andrew became one of the leading state executives at the Loyal War Governors' Conference in Altoona, Pennsylvania, which ultimately backed Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the war effort.

In 1864, Andrew wrote a letter to his close friend and distant cousin President Abraham Lincoln describing a woman named Lydia Bixby who lost five sons in battle and asking Lincoln to express his condolences. Lincoln then sent the famous Letter to Mrs. Bixby to Bixby, who turned out to not only dislike Lincoln, but was also a Confederate sympathizer.

He left the office of governor in 1866 and again took up the practice of law, although he intended to remain active in politics. Having associated with the Radical Republicans during the war, Andrew took a more conciliatory tone towards Reconstruction, and did not favor some of the Radical Republicans' more extreme measures.

He died in 1867 and is buried in Hingham, Massachusetts.



gunboats played at Shiloh, when they came up the river just in time to bombard the confederate forces. This "combined operation" was a key to Union successes during the war. In Vietnam there was not the same cooperation.

He also discussed the geography of the Mekong Delta, where over 90% is water and the highest point was only 130 feet. They set up many floating advanced patrol bases. There was no place to block a five-mile wide river. A number of other assets were needed to provide interdiction in the Mekong Delta and needed combined operations. The good relationships among the commanders during the civil war — between Gen. Grant and Gen. Andrew Foote, for example — was critical to their success. In Vietnam, turf building was the order of the day. When the Navy wanted air assets from the Army, they were told they were on their own. The communication systems didn't even talk to each other. The last part of his tour was the worst six months of his life. He recounted a battlefield incident where he and his men were almost killed by incoming enemy rockets. He concluded that their patrols were meant to be "bait" and once found the enemy would be attacked by helicopter gunships.

The civil war command handled the brown water navy and the idea of combined operations much better than in Vietnam.

Have you ever been on a Civil War battlefield tour? Now is your chance.

The Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston is recruiting for an excursion to the Manassas battles in 1861 and 1862. The tour will have two top guides, Scott Patchan of the National Park Service and Garry Adelman of the Civil War Preservation Trust. The tour will also visit many other historical sites.

The "Four Days in May" trip takes place from May 17 to May 20. The fee of \$595 (double room occupancy) or \$675 (single room) includes 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts, 2 evening meals and ALL fees for admissions guide fees and drivers. A \$50 deposit will hold your place.

Please send your check made out to the CWRT of Greater Boston to David Smith, 3 Waverley Oaks Road #202, Waltham, MA 02452. cwrtmass@comcast.net, 781-647-3332

Next Meeting - Nov. 16, 7PM, Holden Senior Center

Chris McCarthy,
Battle of New Market

NOVEMBER ROUNDTABLE QUESTION:
What do you think of the recent CW movie *The Conspirator* and what is your favorite CW movie?