



**News from the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners**

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**History Remembered, Inc.**  
A Civil War History Partner

**Michigan Civil War  
Sesquicentennial Circular**

July 2012

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**History Partners**

Keith Harrison  
Chair

*The Military Order  
of the Loyal Legion*

**Michigan Remembers the Civil War -**

In a letter to Quintin Campbell, written June 28, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln said:

"...Allow me to assure you it is a perfect certainty that you will, very soon, feel better - quite happy - if you only stick to the resolution you have taken..."

I share this because it has been my goal to publish this circular on a monthly basis during the Civil War Sesquicentennial and so, even though July is nearly past, I am delivering this to you.

Who is Quintin Campbell? Here is the story as told on a website titled: The Lincoln Log

To Quintin Campbell [1]

Cadet Quintin Campbell Washington D.C.

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Michigan Commandery*

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My dear Sir June 28. 1862

Your good mother tells me you are feeling very badly in your new situation. Allow me to assure you it is a perfect certainty that you will, very soon, feel better---quite happy---if you only stick to the resolution you have taken to procure a military education. I am older than you, have felt badly myself, and know, what I tell you is true. Adhere to your purpose and you will soon feel as well as you ever did. On the contrary, if you falter, and give up, you will lose the power of keeping any resolution, and will regret it all your life. Take the advice of a friend, who, though he never saw you, deeply sympathizes with you, and stick to your purpose. Sincerely your friend  
A. LINCOLN

Annotation

[1] ALS-F, St. Paul, Minnesota, Pioneer Press, February 12, 1909. Quintin Campbell, the son of Mrs. Lincoln's cousin Mrs. Ann Todd Campbell of Boonville, Missouri, had just entered West Point. According to the account published in the Pioneer Press, Quintin's mother wrote to Mrs. Lincoln about her son's dissatisfaction, and at his wife's suggestion Lincoln wrote this letter. Quintin graduated at West Point in 1866.

I hope you enjoy this recap of July 1862.

Thank you for your support in commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Respectfully,

Bruce B. Butgereit, Executive Director  
History Remembered, Inc.  
Grand Rapids, MI



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## July 1862 Recap -

July 1862 was an eventful month in the Civil War. July 1st saw the last battle of what was called the Peninsula Campaign or the Seven Days Battles during which Gen. George B. McClellan attempted to take the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia.

### July 1: Battle of Malvern Hill

**Background** - The final battle of the Seven Days was the first in which the Union Army occupied favorable ground. For the preceding six days, McClellan's Army of the Potomac had been retreating to the safety of the James River, pursued by Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Up to this point, the major battles of the Seven Days had been mostly inconclusive, but McClellan was unnerved by Lee's aggressive assaults and remained convinced that he was seriously outnumbered, although in fact the two armies were roughly equal.

Malvern Hill offered good observation and artillery positions, having been prepared the previous day by the V Corps, under Brig. Gen. Fitz John Porter. McClellan himself was not present on the battlefield, having preceded his army to Harrison's Landing on the James, and Porter was the most senior of the corps commanders. The slopes were cleared of timber, providing great visibility, and the open fields to the north could be swept by deadly fire from the 250 guns placed by Col. Henry J. Hunt, McClellan's chief of artillery. Three gunboats on the James River, the USS Galena, USS Jacob Bell, and USS Aroostook, added even more firepower. Beyond this space, the terrain was swampy and thickly wooded.

The entire Army of the Potomac occupied the hill, with the exception of Brig. Gen. Silas Casey's Division, now commanded by Brig. Gen. John J. Peck, of the IV Corps, which had proceeded to Harrison's Landing and, while not engaged, formed the extreme right of the Federal line. The Federal line extended in a vast semicircle from Harrison's Landing on the extreme right to Brig. Gen. George W. Morell's division of Porter's Corps on the extreme left, which occupied the geographically advantageous ground on the northwestern slopes of the hill. Adjoining the right of Morell's command was Brig. Gen. Darius N. Couch's division, which had been detached from the IV Corps, now at Harrison's Landing, and occupied the effective center of the Federal position. Although Porter commanded the portion of the field on which Couch's troops were positioned, he elected to allow Couch to act in command independently, not bringing his detached division under the command of one of the other corps commanders. Extending the Federal line on Couch's right were the divisions of Brig. Gens. Philip Kearny and Joseph Hooker of Brig. Gen. Samuel P. Heintzelman's III Corps. To the right was Brig. Gen. Edwin Sumner's II Corps, consisting of the divisions of Brig. Gens. Israel B. Richardson and John Sedgwick, which were anchored to Peck's Division of the IV Corps at Harrison's Landing. For the most part however, the Union infantry were passive spectators in the battle.

Rather than flanking the position, Lee attacked it directly, hoping that his artillery would clear the way for a successful infantry assault (just as he would plan the following year in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg). He also believed that his soldiers were in better fighting shape than their Union counterparts, despite the six preceding days of hard fighting and marching. (A number of the

Union Corps had in fact not yet participated in direct combat.) Lee's plan was to attack the hill from the north on the Quaker Road, using the divisions of Maj. Gens. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, Richard S. Ewell, D.H. Hill, and Brig. Gen. William H.C. Whiting. Maj. Gen. John B. Magruder was ordered to follow Jackson and deploy to his right when he reached the battlefield. Maj. Gen. Benjamin Huger's division was to follow as well, but Lee reserved the right to position him based on developments. The divisions of Maj. Gens. James Longstreet and A.P. Hill, which had been the most heavily engaged in the Battle of Glendale the previous day, were held in reserve. Seeing how strong the Union position was, D.H. Hill opposed the idea of a direct attack, but Lee was confident that one final push would work.

**The Battle** - As with most of the battles in the Seven Days, Lee's complex plan was poorly executed. The approaching soldiers were delayed by severely muddy roads and poor maps. Jackson arrived at the swampy creek called Western Run and stopped abruptly. Magruder's guides mistakenly sent him on the Long Bridge Road to the southwest, away from the battlefield. Eventually the battle line was assembled with Huger's division (brigades of Brig. Gens. Ambrose R. Wright and Lewis A. Armistead) on the Confederate right and D.H. Hill's division (brigades of Brig. Gen. John Bell Hood and Col. Evander M. Law) on the Quaker Road to the left. They awaited the Confederate bombardment before attacking.

Unfortunately for Lee, Henry Hunt struck first, launching one of the greatest artillery barrages in the war from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Union gunners had superior equipment and expertise and disabled most of the Confederate batteries,

which were concentrated on a hill 1,200 yards north of the Crew House and at Poindexter's farm to the northeast. The advancing columns of Confederate infantry were blasted to pieces by the massed artillery. Even more terrifying were the huge 50-pound shells lobbed from the three gunboats. Despite the setback, Lee sent his infantry forward at 3:30 p.m. and Armistead's brigade made some progress through lines of Union sharpshooters. By 4 p.m., Magruder arrived and he was ordered forward to support Armistead. His attack was piecemeal and poorly organized.

Meanwhile, D. H. Hill launched his division forward along the Quaker Road, past Willis Church. Across the entire line of battle, the Confederate troops reached only within 200 yards of the Union Center and were repulsed by nightfall with heavy losses. As the sun was going down, Brig. General Isaac Trimble of Ewell's division began to move his troops forward. Jackson stopped him and asked "What are you going to do?" Trimble replied "I'm going to charge those batteries, sir!" "I guess you'd better not try it." Jackson said. "General [D.H.] Hill has just tried with his entire division and been repulsed. I guess you'd better not try it."

**Aftermath** - D.H. Hill wrote afterward in a postwar article, "**It wasn't war; it was murder.**" Lee's army suffered 5,650 casualties (versus 2,214 Union) in this wasted effort, but continued to follow the Union army all the way to Harrison's Landing. On Evelington Heights, part of the property of Edmund Ruffin, the Confederates had an opportunity to dominate the Union camps, making their position on the bank of the James potentially untenable; although the Confederate position would be subjected to Union naval gunfire, the heights were an exceptionally strong

defensive position that would have been very difficult for the Union to capture with infantry. Cavalry commander Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart reached the heights and began bombardment with a single cannon from Capt. John Pelham's artillery. This alerted the Federals to the potential danger and they captured the heights before any Confederate infantry could reach the scene.

Malvern Hill ended the Peninsula Campaign. When McClellan's army ceased to threaten Richmond, Lee sent Jackson to operate against Maj. Gen. John Pope's army along the Rapidan River, thus initiating the Northern Virginia Campaign. After reporting to the Union authorities in Washington that a further advance on Richmond was hopeless, McClellan's army was slowly transferred to northern Virginia to reinforce Pope.

**July 1:** President Lincoln signs the Pacific Railway Act, incorporating the Union Pacific Railroad and subsidizing it with federal funds.

**July 1:** United States public debt exceeds \$500 million for the first time.

**July 11:** Ulysses S. Grant [US] ordered to assume command of the Army of the Tennessee, Army of the Mississippi and other western troops.

**July 12:** Congress authorizes the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action for non-commissioned officers and privates who "...distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldierlike qualities...". While the military is almost evenly split on the creation of the medal, politicians are strongly for it.

**July 13:** Abraham Lincoln reads a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to Secretary of State

William Seward and Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, both strong abolitionists.

**July 14:** U. S. Senate passes a bill creating West Virginia.

**July 16:** We are coming, Father Abraham, Three Hundred Thousand More appears in the Saturday Evening Post. Written by James Sloan, the marching song was intended to help raise volunteers following Lincoln's request to Congress that it increase the size of the army to 500,000 men.

**July 22:** President Lincoln presents his Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet. William Seward recommends waiting until a victory to present it to the public.

**July 28:** The term Copperhead is used for the first time in writing by the Cincinnati Gazette. It was used to indicate people who would not admit they were Southern sympathizers, and "peace at any price" Democrats. People who did admit Southern sympathies were called "dough-heads." The paper used the term when referring to members of the Indiana Democratic Convention.

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### **Michigan at Antietam -**

The Michigan Historical Commission and Bianco Tours and Transportation have partnered together to bring you an opportunity to commemorate **Michigan at Antietam**.

For more information, please click [HERE](#)

More details about the Sunday ceremony will be in the August Circular.

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## Scheduled Events -

For upcoming events, please visit the:

[History Partners Website](#)

## Interesting Websites -

### The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln:

[The Abraham Lincoln Association at U of M](#)

### Follow the Restoration of the Detroit G.A.R. Memorial Hall:

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