

The things that were done during the Civil War have not been forgotten... It is a part of American legend, a part of American History, a part of American romance.

Abraham Lincoln did not live to see the war end. On the morning of April 14, Lincoln had a cabinet meeting in the White House. Everybody was feeling relaxed because Lee had surrendered, and Lincoln remarked that they were going to get big news somehow in the next twenty-four hours. His Cabinet members wanted to know what made him think so. He said he had had a dream. It was a recurrent dream that he had frequently during the war, and every time he had it, it foreshadowed some great event - a huge battle, a big victory, a political move of some kind. Well, of course, people wanted to know what the dream was like, and Lincoln said it was rather mysterious. In this dream, he was on some sort of boat, moving rapidly forward over a dim, hazy sea toward, as he put it, a dark and indefinite shore. In the dream, he had never actually reached the shore, but when he woke up, he knew that a big development of some kind was about to take place.

He was quite right. That night, he went to Ford's Theater, and less than twenty-four hours after he told about his dreams, he was dead. He had, presumably, reached that dark, indefinite shore. He left his country with the war won, moving likewise on a mysterious vessel across a mysterious sea, toward a dark, indefinite shore. There was no chart for that shore, because nobody had ever been there. We still don't have a chart, but we are still on our way. We are crossing the seas on which the Civil War put us afloat. Like Lincoln, we are moving toward a destiny bigger than we can understand. The dark, indefinite shore is still ahead of us. Maybe we will get there some day if we live up to what the great men of our past won for us. And when we get there, it is fair to suppose that instead of being dark and indefinite, that unknown continent will be lit with sunlight. - *Bruce Catton. "Reflections on the Civil War"*



Austin Johnson
16th Mass. Infantry

The Taughannock District Spring Camporee is fast approaching. On the weekend of April 24-26, 2020, **your Scouts will have the opportunity to share this experience in "The Battle of Cortland-Homer" or "the Battle of the Tioughnioga"** Most Civil War battles had two names - the North used the name of the nearest stream or river, and the South used the name of the nearest town. The Camporee will be held at Camp Doubleday, where the 76th New York Regiment mustered in before they took the cars to head off to war. For **twenty-first century folks, that's the Cortland County Fairgrounds on Fisher Avenue, halfway between Route 281 and Route 11 in Cortland.**

If your troop is registered, you should have received a Regimental History for a real Civil War regiment's service in the War, so that you can get your Scouts in the proper spirit.

Competition will start promptly at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 25th. The patrols will follow a trail through the Camporee site on a closely timed schedule. Each patrol will need to make up at least **15 flags representing their "company", which they will bring to the Camporee, as the Scouts have fun and learn about this defining moment in American history.** At each station, two patrols will meet to compete head-to-head in an activity with a Civil War theme. Many stations will require your best Scout skills, others will reward Civil War military prowess or athletic ability. Still others will be just-for-fun games. There will also be non-competitive stations - we hope for some Civil War re-enactors to visit, and we will have a museum of artifacts. Also, each patrol will be expected to help out in a Good Turn. Patrols will have lunch wherever they happen to be on the camporee trail at noon on Saturday. Note that we will *not* be having patrols denominated as "Yankee" or "Rebel" - patrols will compete without reference to their being on any particular side.





Pvt. Edward Jemison, 2d La.
died at Malvern Hill age 17

The winning patrol at each station will “capture” one of the losing patrol’s flags (see why you need 15?). Additional flags will be presented by the “US Sanitary Commission” for noncompetitive stations, the Good Turn, ongoing competitions, and other activities. *A note on patrol flags:* please make sure that the Scouts do *not* include any symbology on the flag which would be offensive to anyone - and in this hyper-sensitive age, there are people who take offense easily. Specifically, the Confederate Battle Flag (that’s the one with the blue diagonal cross and stars on a red background) is prohibited by BSA policy, and it would probably be best not to include any references to specific Confederate people, places or things. Remember that we might get some good publicity out of this

event - **let’s not blow it by including things which will offend the uninvolved.**

The day will end with a mass game, with more flags going to winning patrols, and a big campfire where the patrol with the most captured flags will receive the thanks of a grateful populace (and an appropriate reward)! We’d like to have troops lead Civil War songs at the campfire - let us know if your troop is willing, and we’ll send out a songsheet for you to choose from (or let us **know if you already have a choice**). **If you’ll need some help, we can provide an MP3 file or CD** so your unit can learn the song.

Troops should plan to arrive Friday night, April 24th, so that the Scouts will be ready to start competing promptly when the station rotation begins. Troops may leave after the campfire Saturday, or can choose to stay over to Sunday morning (no activities are planned for Sunday).

Because of the nature of the event - we need to have exactly the right number of stations for the number of patrols - advance registration is required. Walk-ins at the camporee will not be permitted to participate. Please send your reservation form to Mike Brown as soon as possible, or e-mail the form to Camporee@TCScouts.org.

The Camporee fee will probably be \$8.50 per participant, but there are still some details which **aren’t clear which the committee is working on. A firm fee will be announced at the March Roundtable** (and e-mailed to out-of-district units at that time). A patch will be provided to all participants. A \$20 per unit deposit (to be applied against the total fee) is due *before April 1st*.

Scout Leaders: This Camporee has been held in nine councils, (that we know of) since it was first tried in 1993 at Camp Barton, 27 years ago. In April it will all come together again. All we need is you! Your Scouts will have a great time at the camporee, but we **can’t do it without your help. We’ll be asking leaders to help at the camporee to run stations or help with logistics.**

Watch the Camporee Webpage for more information:

<http://www.TCScouts.org/bluegray.htm>

Please Note: This is a Scouts BSA activity - it is not age-appropriate for Cub Scouts, and Cub Scout dens may not participate. *There will be no provision for Webelos dens to compete in Scout competitions.* As this camporee is in April, if a Webelo is ready to join a troop, they should attend with that troop. Second year Webelos/AoL dens may observe, visit the noncompetitive stations, and attend the campfire *with a troop*, but may not participate in the competitive stations as a den.



Gilbert Marbury, drummer, 22nd NY, age 12