

MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

VIA: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM: John M. Ray  
Director of Logistics

SUBJECT: "The Boys from Vermont" Brochure

Attached is the brochure which you commissioned when you were the Deputy Director for Administration. As you will recall, the primary purpose of the brochure was to provide the Historical Society with something that could be mailed to all of the individuals who played a part in providing material and/or information for the display. Copies have been turned over to the Historical Society and additional copies will be made available in a plastic container located at the lower level of the auditorium.

STAT



*for* John M. Ray

Attachment

OL 10113-88



SUBJECT: "The Boys from Vermont" Brochure

STAT OL/FMD  (25 Mar 88)

Distribution:

- Orig - Addressee
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Because of Camp Griffin's proximity to Bailey's Crossroads, the sheer number of men assembled that late fall day for the review, and the fact that it would have been very unusual to exclude all five regiments of Vermont's finest from a day of high visibility and pageantry, it is generally believed that some of the troops who marched before and around Mrs. Howe belonged to the Langley outpost.

It did not take long for Mrs. Howe's words, following their February 1862 publication in the *Atlantic Monthly*, to catch on as a Union anthem. President Lincoln himself is said to have asked that the "Battle Hymn" be sung again, his voice barely audible over the applause the song received when it was first performed for him.



Julia Ward Howe

The Central Intelligence Agency gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the following individuals and organizations in the preparation of this display:

Barney Bloom  
Assistant Librarian  
Vermont Historical Society Library, Montpelier  
Philip Elwert  
Curator, Vermont Historical Society  
Thomas J. Evans  
John Graham  
President, Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association  
Kim Bernard Holien  
Historian, US Army Center of Military History  
The Houghton Library  
Harvard University  
Amy L. Johnson  
George R. Lindsey  
Curator of Local History and Genealogy  
Brooks Memorial Library, Brattleboro, Vermont  
Manassas National Battlefield Park  
Brian R. McCarthy  
Hugh McGonigle  
Communications Specialist, Stamps Division  
United States Postal Service  
Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association  
Walton Owen  
Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, Alexandria  
Art Pence  
National Firearms Museum, Washington, D.C.  
Perkins School for the Blind  
Watertown, Massachusetts  
Patricia H. Pickeral  
Laura E. Putnam  
And other members of the Samuel Gridley  
and Julia Ward Howe family.  
United States Cavalry Museum  
Fort Riley, Kansas  
Vermont Historical Society  
The Virginia Room, Fairfax City Regional Library  
The Willard Inter-Continental Hotel, Washington, D.C.

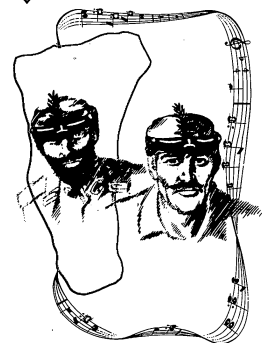
## The Boys from Vermont and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

This exhibition was arranged by the Interior Design Staff, Office of Logistics.

All research and collection of artifacts was conducted by the Historical Intelligence Collection staff, Office of Information Resources.

Shovel Inc. of Silver Spring, Maryland designed and produced the exhibit.

Printing and Photography Division produced the exhibit brochure.



Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2013/03/05 : CIA-RDP91-00981R000100080024-1



Overview of the exhibit area. The eleven photographs of Camp Griffin appear to the left. Julia Ward Howe and her poem are to the right. Note artifacts in the blue cases.

Accompanying the troops was a fellow Vermonter, the practiced photographer, George Harper Houghton. This Brattleboro resident learned his craft from one of the early pioneers of daguerrotype photography. Sensing the historic journey on which these men were embarking, Houghton followed the Vermont regiments to northern Virginia. At Camp Griffin, as the men suffered through the hardships and boredom endemic to Civil War encampments, Houghton recorded their story. Some of the eleven reprints displayed here reflect their struggles with disease and low rations.

Several of the photographs leap across one and a quarter centuries with images still evident today. "Salona," now designated a state and national historic landmark, served as the camp's headquarters. Captured in one of Houghton's prints, this structure is today the home of McLean resident, State Senator Clive DuVal 2nd. Two other pictures portray a group

courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society



This photograph, reproduced from the exhibit's collection, shows troops from the 5th Vermont Infantry Regiment. The two rock formations are still visible from Kurtz Road in McLean.

of rocks still visible along Kurtz Road. One depicts troops from the 5th Vermont mustered about the mound of boulders while another shows band members from the 4th Vermont Infantry Regiment, instruments in hand, seated casually atop the formation.

Tangible reminders of camp life included here are various tunic buttons, kepi insignia, and minie balls. Also featured are a cartridge strap breast plate and a musket powder flask.

Rounding out the Camp Griffin portion of the exhibit is a life size representation of a Vermont infantry soldier. In studying the uniform and accoutrements, careful research sought some peculiarity which set the Vermonters' attire apart from those of other Union regiments ringing Washington. It was too early in the war to expect brass buttons with the Great Seal of Vermont embossed on them and, in reality, some recruits were fortunate to have anything beyond their civilian clothes. The men did add something special to their apparel as the artist's conception suggests - the soldiers customarily sported a spray of hemlock in the brow band of their kepi. The sprig recalled home where the evergreen is prevalent.



Map showing the defenses of Washington. These forts eventually replaced outposts such as Camp Griffin. To the right is an artist's conception of a Vermont infantry soldier.

The other 125th anniversary represented in the exhibit is the publication of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" by Julia Ward Howe. While it is generally recognized that Mrs. Howe wrote her poem by flickering light in her Willard Hotel room, what is not as readily known is what inspired her to write the war's most famous and enduring song.

A lithograph reproduced in the exhibit shows the circumstances that resulted in the epic verse. 70,000 soldiers are depicted amassed at Bailey's Crossroads on November 20, 1861 for a Grand Review of Union Troops. Witnessing the the pageant from Munson's Hill were President Lincoln, General McClellan, and their invited guests. Julia Ward Howe, already noted in New England for her literary and abolitionist efforts, was one of the reviewing officials. Watching

the panorama unfold, she delighted in its patriotic fervor.

Once the parade was over, Mrs. Howe joined other members of the delegation for the carriage ride back to Washington. Again she soaked in in the scene about her. Men fresh from the review filed around the coach. She listened as they sang different marching songs. One tune prompted a traveling companion to ask if Mrs. Howe might not consider "better lyrics" for the stirring melody. "John Brown's Body" would be forever changed.

When Mrs. Howe wrote of seeing "Him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps", and of having "read a fiery gospel writ in burnished rows of steel," she was poetically restating the scenes associated with the review and her return trip the District. And the idea that she could read "His righteous sentence in the dim and flaring lamps" symbolically underscored her own vision of the war. To her, these men were the Chosen on their way to save the Union.