



ISSUE 4

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"Three Losses, No Closure: A Family's WWII Pain Echoes Through Generations"

By Carol Polkinghorne | Special Tribute

Almost eighty-two years ago, a young man from New Jersey named Paul Gunsauls climbed into the tail of one of the many B-17 Flying Fortress called Mr. Five By Five. It was November 23, 1943—a frigid, gray day over Bremen, Germany. The skies were filled with fire, smoke and the thunder of war. American bombers swarmed the skies in one of the most dangerous missions of the war against Nazi industrial targets. That was the last day anyone saw Paul and the rest of the crew alive. The plane never came home. My great-uncle, Staff Sergeant Paul Gunsauls, was the tail gunner on that B-17 Flying Fortress. He was 22 years old, from New Jersey, a young man with a new wife and a baby on the way. His life was just beginning when it ended violently following the mission flown over Germany, in November 1943. And though we know Mr. Five By Five went down in the North Sea, Paul's body was never found. He was newly married, just a boy from New Jersey who wanted to serve his country. He had dreams, a new wife, a baby on the way. A baby he never got to meet or hold. He had dreams, a new wife, a baby on the way, A baby he never got to meet or hold. He deserved a life. He at least deserves a grave.

So, we wait. Not for glory, not for medals, but for dignity. For closure. For peace that comes with knowing where he rests. For me, he's the great uncle I never got to meet but somehow feel deeply connected to. His face is etched into my memory through the old black-and-white pictures, young and grinning, wearing his bomber jacket like a badge of pride. My great-uncle. A brother. A son. A husband. A father. A tail gunner who volunteered to serve, to fight, to fly into enemy fire.



The war ended long ago. Cities have been rebuilt. Enemies became allies. But for my family, the war never truly ended. Paul didn't come home. He never held his baby boy. He never got to build the life he promised Betty Jo when they married in February 1943. Instead, he became a photograph, a telegram, a folded flag, and a hollow space in our history. My great-grandmother, Paul's mother, became a Gold Star Mother, with a broken heart that never healed, before she even understood what that truly meant. She sent four of her five sons to war. She pinned her hopes and pride to their uniforms. Just months after losing Paul in November 1943, her eldest son Joseph was wounded on the beaches of Normandy. A German shell shattered his leg, and he was shipped to a military hospital in Germany, where the lower part of his right leg was amputated. He survived, but he came back forever changed. Then, in 1946, more tragedy. Her 18 year old son, Eddie, died on January 2. And two months later, in March, her daughter Helen my grandmother also passed away. Four of her children gone in less than three years. I cannot begin to imagine the pain she lived with, nor the strength it must have taken to go on at all. No mother should have to bury three children. No family should carry that weight for generations.

I often wonder how she breathed after that. How she stood at the window every night and didn't collapse under the weight of it all. Paul was one of seven children. We tell these stories, not because they're rare but because they've become too common and too quiet. Paul was one of over 72,000 Americans still missing from World War II. His name is etched into the Netherlands American Cemetery, but there is no grave, no place where his son, his wife Betty Jo, or the rest of us could say goodbye. We've submitted DNA to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. We've searched archives. We've spoken to researchers and WWII historians. We've read military records and debriefs. Still, nothing. No grave. No body. No certainty. Only silence. This isn't just a story about Paul. It's a story about sacrifice. About a mother who gave everything. About a family shattered by war and still trying to pick up the pieces. We don't want medals or headlines. We just want to bring him home. My great-uncle Paul flew into history, but his story didn't end with the crash. It echoes in our family to this day. So we wait. Not for glory, not for medals but for dignity. For closure. For the peace that comes with knowing where he rests. I don't know if I'll live to see Paul's return. But I do know this: he is not forgotten. Not by us. Not by me. And as long as there's breath in our family, there will be someone saying his name, lighting a candle, and waiting for the day we finally know where he rests. In 2025, we're still waiting for him to come home. Because even after more than 80 years, the love hasn't faded. And neither has the waiting.

Did You Know?

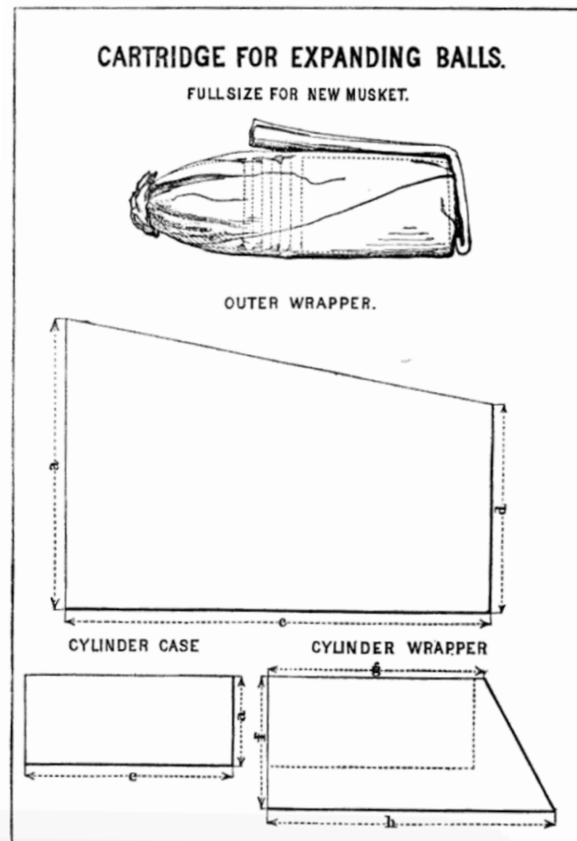
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A Living Historian's Primer on Confederate Cartridges

By Austin Williams

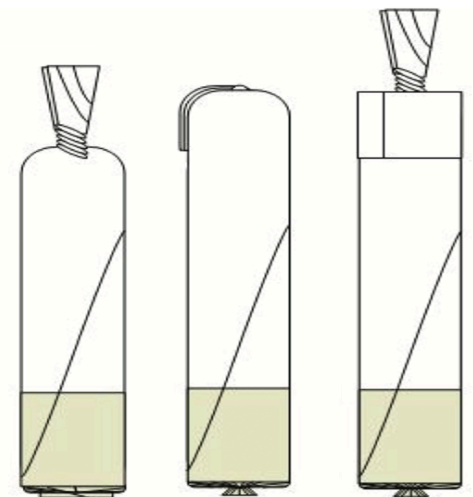
A key milestone in any living historian's journey towards improved authenticity is the moment he realizes the "paper ladies" he's been carrying in his cartridge box bear no resemblance to period ammunition and commits himself to do better. Unfortunately, like with so much else, the diverse array of small arms cartridges used by the Confederacy forces the dedicated living historian to ensure he has selected an appropriate cartridge for his impression.

Early in the war, dozens of locations across the South hurriedly fabricated cartridges. As the Confederate Ordnance Department became better established and Federal advances forced abandonment of peripheral locations, manufacture of cartridges largely consolidated by mid-1862 at Richmond, Charleston, Augusta, Macon, Atlanta, and Selma, supplemented by smaller or temporary facilities.¹ A March 1863 circular designated specific arsenals as the primary source of ordnance for designated forces, assisting the living historian in determining which arsenal most likely provided his ammunition. The Army of Northern Virginia drew from Richmond; coastal forces from Fayetteville, Charleston, Macon, and Columbus; the Army of Tennessee from Atlanta, forces in Alabama from Selma, and forces in Mississippi from an arsenal then active at Jackson. These are only broad guidelines, however, as cartridges were shipped between arsenals as needed. In 1863, Richmond received cartridges manufactured at Charleston and Augusta. The collection at the National Museum of the United States Army includes a cartridge box recovered at Gettysburg containing ammunition from Baton Rouge, an arsenal on the opposite side of the Confederacy that was captured over a year before. The standard rifle musket cartridge at commencement of the war was the U.S. Army's Model 1855 cartridge, referred to by Confederate ordnance officers as the "Old U.S. Style." This cartridge used three pieces of paper; a stiff cylinder case and inner wrapper folded under and glued at the bottom,



with an outer wrapper enclosing both the bullet and powder cylinder. The outer wrapper was choked and tied at the tip of the bullet, the cartridge filled with powder, and the top of the cartridge "pinched" and folded. Most reenactors making "authentic" cartridges are unknowingly approximating this pattern but omit the inner wrapper and cylinder. By 1862, Federal ordnance authorities had developed a simplified cartridge using just two pieces of paper. The Confederacy, however, continued to use the Model 1855 pattern. Confederate inventors, however, sought less labor-intensive designs. Frederick J. Gardner, better known to living historians for his wooden canteen design, received Confederate Patent No. 12 in August 1861 for a new pattern of cartridge. Gardner's cartridge machine crimped the base of the bullet over the bottom of the paper cylinder, allowing cartridges to be made quickly with a single wrapper without glue or tying. Gardner's invention produced most of Richmond's cartridges prior to January 1864 and was used to a lesser extent in Augusta and Charleston. Unfortunately for the living historian, the bullet was an integral, visible element of the Gardner cartridge, making it impossible to reproduce today as a blank cartridge. Despite the efforts of innovative southerners, the preeminent cartridge of the day was that designed in

England, for the Enfield rifled musket. The bullet was inverted relative to U.S. pattern cartridges and, since the bullet was loaded still wrapped in the paper, the bottom of the cartridge was lubricated with beeswax and tallow. By the Civil War period, the English cartridge used three wrappers, plus a glued paper band, and the top was twisted rather than folded. The earliest blockade runners carried English cartridges and the Confederacy continued to import and issue them throughout the war. One vessel, captured in 1862, was found to have 635,000 small arms cartridges onboard. Still, this cargo was only ten days' worth of production at Richmond alone and domestic production would always outstripped imports.



Evolution of the English Enfield cartridge, showing from left to right the 1856, 1859, and 1860s patterns (Courtesy British 1862 Pattern Enfield Rifle Cartridges by Bruce Carins)

English cartridges are thus appropriate for most impressions other than very early war scenarios, but should not be overrepresented. Confederate Superintendent of Laboratories John W. Mallet strongly favored the English pattern and labored to make it the prevailing Confederate cartridge, despite having been initially ordered to make the Gardner cartridge standard. In August 1862, his Rules for Laboratories stated: "all cartridges for all muzzle-loading rifled arms... will be made of one uniform pattern, namely, that of the English Enfield rifle cartridges (with three wrappers)." Surviving examples reveal some Confederate-made English cartridges followed the latest design, while others utilized an older Model 1859 design that omitted the glued band and folding the top

Continued on page 7

DID YOU KNOW?

Every historic site has a tremendous need for volunteers. If you have a site near your home, contact that site and volunteer. Even the simplest of skills make a difference.

The Hidden Heroines: Lesser-Known Women of the American Revolution Who Helped Forge a Nation

By: Carol Polkinghorne

When the cannons thundered and the revolution roared, it wasn't just men who answered the call. Beyond the famous names like Abigail Adams and Molly Pitcher, countless lesser-known women worked, fought, and spied for the cause of liberty. These unsung patriots faced hardship, broke societal norms, and risked their lives to support the birth of a nation. Their stories, though often buried beneath the pages of history, deserve to be told.

Anna Strong: The Silent Spy of Setauket



Operating in secrecy on Long Island, Anna Strong played a vital role in the Culper Spy Ring, one of George Washington's most valuable intelligence networks. Using her laundry line to signal fellow spies—different colored garments on her clothesline meant different messages—she helped pass on crucial British troop movements. Her courage in plain sight exemplifies how ordinary domestic work became extraordinary acts of rebellion.

Prudence Cummings Wright: The Rebel Guard

In Pepperell, Massachusetts, Prudence Cummings Wright rallied a group of local women, calling themselves the "Guard Daughters of Liberty," to defend their town when the men were away. Dressed in men's clothing and armed with whatever they could find, they captured two British spies near the New Hampshire border. Wright's militia remains one of the only known all-female units of the Revolutionary War.

Ann Bates: The Loyalist Spy Turned Patriot Asset

A schoolteacher by trade, Ann Bates was originally a Loyalist who acted as a spy for the British.

But in a twist of allegiance or clever subversion, her intelligence was later used by patriots. Posing as a peddler, she infiltrated American camps, gaining access few men could achieve. Her story is a complex portrait of a woman who maneuvered both sides of a volatile conflict.

Rachel Revere: The Messenger Behind the Midnight Ride



While Paul Revere galloped into history, his second wife, Rachel Walker Revere, remained behind—but not passively. She managed the family's affairs under immense British scrutiny and carried vital funds and messages to Paul while he was in hiding. Risking arrest and seizure of property, she acted as his silent partner in resistance.

Deborah Gannett: Beyond the Battlefield

Often confused with the better-known Deborah Sampson, Deborah Gannett also disguised herself as a man to fight in the Continental Army. While historical records are fragmented, oral histories suggest other women, like Gannett, served in this way but left little trace in official documents, either out of necessity or shame imposed by gender expectations.

Phoebe Fraunces: Daughter of the Tavern Spy

While her father, Samuel Fraunces, owned the famed Fraunces Tavern where Washington bid farewell to his officers, Phoebe Fraunces is believed to have thwarted a plot to poison the general. According to some accounts, she worked as a servant and alerted authorities when she learned

learned of the scheme—another example of how Black and biracial Americans, often enslaved or marginalized, were instrumental in securing American freedom.

Mary Draper: The Quartermaster of Dedham

A Massachusetts widow, she turned her home into a supply hub for American troops. She melted down household pewter to make bullets, linens into



bandages, and cook for passing soldiers. Her story is emblematic of the thousands of women who turned kitchens into supply lines and homes into hospitals.

Frances Slocum: The Young Captive with a Divided Identity

Though not a fighter, Frances Slocum's experience reveals the complexity of the Revolutionary frontier. Kidnapped by Native Americans during the war and adopted into the Miami tribe, she lived a life between two worlds. Her story highlights the broader impact the Revolution had on children and families, especially in border territories.

Conclusion: Hidden No More

The American Revolution was not solely forged on battlefields—it was waged in homes, taverns, laundry yards, and shadows. The women who toiled in silence, plotted in secrecy, and stood bravely in the face of an uncertain future were vital to American independence. As we continue to reexamine history with sharper, more inclusive lenses, their stories remind us that freedom was won not only by soldiers—but by mothers, daughters, and sisters whose patriotism knew no bounds.

Sidebar: Forgotten But Fearless

- **Grace Growden Galloway:** Refused to leave her home when it was seized by the Patriots—her diary remains a vivid record of loyalist women's lives.
- **Elizabeth Burgin:** Helped more than 200 American prisoners escape British ships.
- **Catharine Littlefield Greene:** Managed a war-torn plantation and supported General Nathanael Greene, while some credit her with contributions to Eli Whitney's cotton gin.

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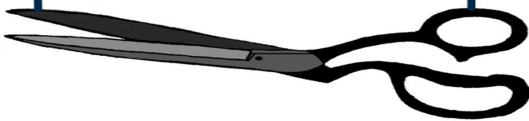
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By: Ashley Sonntag

I don't know about you, but after a vacation I can't stop thinking about the things that stood out about my experience. I just returned from a week in San Antonio, and there are a few things that stood out. As a museum professional and a person deeply interested in anything historical, I usually gravitate toward museums and historic sites even while on vacation. During these trips, not only do I enjoy the artifacts and exhibits, but I also can't help admiring the creativity and professionalism of the displays I encounter at institutions both big and small. One thing that I pay attention to that many museum visitors do not, is the display methods and supports used to cradle the artifacts. Cradles, stands, frames, mounts, pillows, batting, angled wedges, and so many more display solutions aid in preserving the artifact's shape and support its weak points while not in storage. Some of the artifacts that stand out due to their creative and multi-functional display elements includes: a pair of leather riding boots (on display at the Alamo) that are resting in a custom metal mount that supported specific points on each boot, the Burleson Family Bible (also on display at the Alamo) that is laid in an acrylic book cradle that supported the spine and carefully held it open, a late 1800s Sombrero (on display at the Witte Museum) supported by a system of batting/filler and a stiff board to maintain its brim shape, and a pair of late 1800s Cheyenne Moccasins (also on display at the Witte Museum) filled with a custom set of internal supports that allowed them to sit flat in the display case. Each support system represents a list of considerations that are taken when storing and displaying an artifact. How was this item constructed?



Where are the weak points that could be damaged if handled incorrectly? How are the unique features of this item able to be emphasized for display purposes? How could the effects of gravity damage the item over time? What display materials are appropriate for this item? These are just a few of the questions that will be asked during the assessment period, but many of the answers are in the descriptions of the items mentioned above. Custom mounts or support elements are ideal due to the level of care and detail that aids in their design. **Continued on page 7**

Camp Followers

By: Katlin McCreery

For as long as armies have formed and marched, civilians have followed. Some did so out of want of protection. Some out of a want to participate or help in some way. And some followed to make a profit. In many wars, only a few of the camp followers were welcomed. The men who followed were a welcomed sight while the women in the groups were often run-off or "drummed out of camp" for the slightest infractions. In other times of war, these women would be seen as necessities and openly welcomed. The reasons camp followers accompanied the armies of course were not singular in nature. One may have a variety of reasons to be where they were, others may become camp followers for reasons not even mentioned above. Why though would women be excluded from following at times? Ladies would be allowed in all wars to follow armies. They were often a part of an officer's family or his wife specifically, very well educated and "gentle," and notably would lift the morale and spirits of commanding staff. Women followers, as opposed to many of the Ladies, were considered harder sorts, not as refined, and unafraid of heavier work; partially due to the prevalence of heavier work already being a part of their everyday lives. They were typically not as well educated, and not as finely dressed. But due to the labors offered and performed by these women. Generals

and officers would turn a blind eye to some of these "shortcomings" eventually.

During the American Revolution for instance, Camp Followers were frowned upon for the first few years of the war by General Washington and others, however they later conceded that the women in camp were a "necessary evil." Keeping their men healthy and clean, but slowing their armies down when on march. What "necessities" did these women perform you may be asking? Well, they were laundresses, seamers or seamstresses, nurses, tradeswomen, suttlers, and much more. In more war than one, both men and women camp followers had to prove themselves useful to the army to be allowed to follow. Depending on their offered tasks, they often had to sign or mark agreements as well, stating that they wouldn't price gouge or sell low-quality items for more than they were worth.

Notice in that listing of jobs that women in camp weren't listed as cooking for the men. Occasionally such a thing would happen during long sieges and battles, when the men were otherwise occupied, but those instances were far from the norm. This isn't to say that camp followers didn't get food for the men though. As noted often during demonstrations at the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia, a small contingent of women coming up to your doorstep or farm is far less intimidating than a company of uniformed and armed men. This led to camp followers acting as the "liaisons" between civilian and soldier life. This means that followers were able to gather fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats easily; often exchanging these foods with soldiers for items they needed for their own survival. Men and women following soldiers into camps has long been a thing, even into modern life. Performing tasks necessary to the well-being of the common soldier, raising overall moral, and serving as a tangible symbol of what their soldiers were fighting for makes them an important part of army life. Their stories give us a chance to not only give glimpses of life in and around army camps from soldiers' perspectives, but also a chance to talk about civilian life within and around those same spaces.

DID YOU KNOW?**2025 marks the start of the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War.****Watch the schedule for updated events!****Continued from page 2 Cartridges**

instead of twisting it, or blended the two designs. The current pattern called for three slits in the outer wrapper to facilitate separation of the bullet from the paper upon firing, but Confederate arsenals were frequently reprimanded for omitting this detail. Despite Mallet's orders, arsenals continued to produce different styles of cartridge. Nearly a year after issuing his rules, Mallet reported Gardner cartridges, which Mallet judged too weak to withstand field use, were still being made at Richmond. Augusta also used the Gardner machine, as well as old U.S. style cartridges. Atlanta made exclusively old U.S. style rounds. Charleston made English cartridges and only discontinued use of the Gardner machine in May 1863. A smaller laboratory in Lynchburg used a design not seen elsewhere, a cartridge design patented by its Superintendent John W. Spillman that was exclusively folded without use of thread or glue. Macon, Columbus, and Selma appear to have been the most responsive to Mallet's directives, with the English style cartridges made at Selma repeatedly winning praise as the best made anywhere in the Confederacy.



Left to right: U.S. Model 1855 style cartridge, Macon Arsenal; Gardner cartridge, most likely made at Richmond; Commercial English cartridge, E & A Ludlow of Birmingham; English style cartridge, Augusta Arsenal; English style cartridge, Selma Arsenal (Courtesy, left to right, American Civil War Relics & Military Antiques, Heritage Auctions, American Civil War Relics & Military Antiques, Morphy Auctions, The Horse Soldier)

The English pattern faced challenges to widespread adoption. Soldiers, used to removing the bullet from the paper while loading, required additional instruction on proper loading, as otherwise the bullet was too small for accurate fire. The English cartridge was also longer than American patterns and only in late 1863 did Mallet question whether his ammunition would fit in Confederate cartridge boxes and experiment with shortened rounds.

Finally, since the thickness of the paper was factored into the diameter of the bullet, the English cartridge required a smaller diameter bullet and a consistent weight of paper to ensure the correct windage. Mallet requested the import of thin English "white fine" paper for making Enfield cartridges and thousands of reams were run in past the blockade. After the Bath Paper Company of Augusta, which had agreed in 1862 to provide the Ordnance Department a year supply of paper, burned to the ground on 2 April 1863, Mallet struggled to locate alternative suppliers. At one point he ordered Augusta to repurpose old account books if suitable paper could not be obtained. Mallet was ultimately forced use to smaller contracts with Millburnie Paper Mill and Forest Manufacturing Co. in North Carolina and Georgia's Rock Island Paper Co. to supply the southern arsenals. Richmond, meanwhile, relied on the city's own Franklin Mill, supplemented by the Buffalo Paper Mill in Shelby, North Carolina. Despite the challenges, Mallet appeared on the brink of a personal victory in early 1864. The Ordnance Department officially abolished use of the Gardner machine, much to Richmond's frustration, and on 21 January 1864, Chief of Ordnance Josiah Gorgas declared "the English Enfield made with three wrappers will alone be allowed." Some facilities were allowed to delay the switch until they exhausted their supply of paper already cut for old U.S. style cartridges. Mallet corrected small defects as facilities like Atlanta and Lynchburg switched to the new cartridge pattern. Then, abruptly, Gorgas issued a 19 March 1864 order suspending fabrication of English cartridges and directing adoption of the old U.S. style. His primary concern appears to have been that the length of English cartridges prevented the closure of cartridge boxes, exposing ammunition to the elements. Arsenals struggled to respond to the sudden change and Mallet obtained permission for limited production of English cartridges when appropriate molds were unavailable. Several U.S. style cartridges survive from various arsenals, likely from this period, and this pattern should predominate late war impressions.

This article is only a short primer on the topic. Those seeking to learn more are directed towards Round Ball to Rimfire Part 4: A Contribution to the History of the Confederate Ordnance Bureau by Dean Thomas, A Handbook of Civil War Bullets and Cartridges, also by Dean Thomas, Percussion Ammunition Packets: Union, Confederate & European, 1845 - 1888 by John Mallory, Dean Thomas, and Terry White, and The British Cartridge: Pattern 1853 Rifle-Musket Ammunition by Brett Gibbons.

Curators Corner Continued

There are no other supports like it, just as there is no exact same item to conserve. Cradles, specifically those for books (a commonly displayed item), support brittle spines made from glues and materials that often degrade over time. They allow books to remain open to a particular page without completely opening the book, thus preserving the structural integrity of the volume as a whole.



As for the articles of clothing (the Sombrero and moccasins), in nearly all cases specific support for their internal structures will be needed. Fillings or inserts placed in the article of clothing prevent gravity from creating creases in the material over time, fracturing seams or fabrics along weak points, and maintain the article's intended shape on the human body. Stiffeners support flat articles like wide-brimmed hats, and forms, fillings, or inserts fill an article of clothing similarly to how the human body would. All of these methods share the same goal of treating the items as gently as possible, while still reinforcing them for

Continued on Page 8

Vietnam War Living History



The Vietnam War has left a lasting impact on American culture and society. Living history, as it pertains to the Vietnam War, involves preserving and sharing the stories of those who lived through the conflict. This includes oral history interviews with veterans, museum exhibits, and educational programs that aim to educate future generations about the war's significance and the personal experiences of those who served. The Vietnam War was not only fought in Vietnam but also in the hearts and homes of Americans, leading to a "living room war" that exposed the brutal reality of combat to a wide audience. This has led to a powerful antiwar movement and a growing interest in understanding the war's impact on American society. Museums and educational institutions are actively working to document and share the stories of Vietnam War veterans, ensuring that their experiences are preserved and made accessible to all. These efforts not only help in understanding the war's history but also in fostering a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who served.



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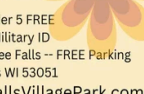
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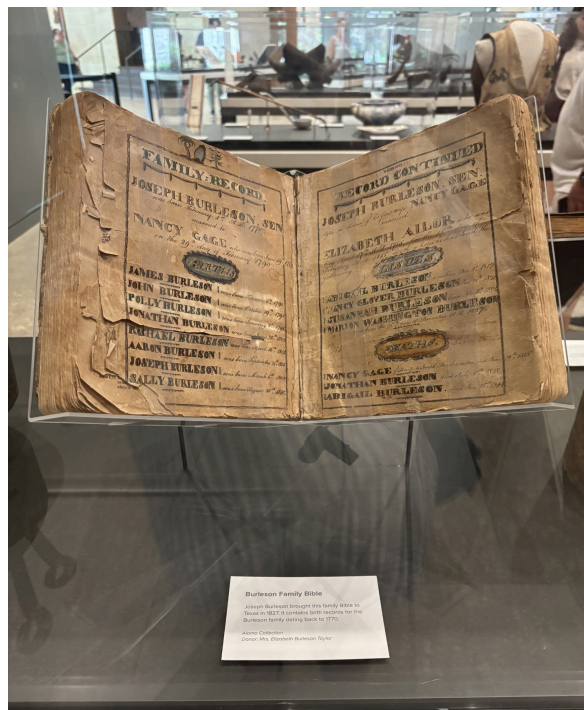


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Curators Corner Continued

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Written by 1st Lt Gene Harmon
February 4, 2010

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