

# SANITARY: 'This time period was smelly to begin with'

(Continued From Page A1) in the Smithsonian," Makey said. "She was surprised when I said I wanted to learn the oldest techniques she knew so I could show people during reenactments."

The Gullahs are descendants of slaves brought to the U.S. to grow and harvest rice. After slavery was abolished, the men turned to basketweaving as a way to provide for their families and, eventually, it morphed into a family-wide activity.

Basket-making is almost a sideshow to Makey's main role in the Union encampment. She regularly portrays a member of the U.S. Sanitary Commission. She found her role after her husband, Gary, decided to pursue tinsmithing.

"Some of the wealthier civilians were reading the writing of Florence Nightengale and they were sure that the U.S. Government was going to make the same mistakes that the British government did during the Crimean War. But, by golly, they were going to straighten out the government," Makey

said. Members of the group that became the commission argued with President Abraham Lincoln for recognition that finally came on June 9, 1861.

"The men started inspecting the camps and would write long reports and submit them to commanders. But, they found that the camps that abided by the recommendations were cleaner and the men were healthier," Makey said.

At the same time, the women in the group were making bandages and lint to supply the front lines while taking note of other supplemental efforts.

"Communities would try to send things to their soldiers. They would pack railroad cars full of supplies, including leftovers from last night's dinner. All the glass containers broke and the cars would get sidetracked for two or three weeks. They would open the cars and they wrote that the smell was overwhelming. This time period was smelly to begin with," Makey said.

The Sanitary Commission



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald  
Gary Makey works on a heat reflector for cooking in the Union camp's tinsmith shop.

created a collection and distribution system that started out filling the needs of soldiers on the battlefield and morphed into supporting the hospitals working with injured soldiers.

The sanitary commission also turned the idea of fundraising on its ear. They held Sanitary Fairs that started out earning just shy of \$100,000 and finished earning more than \$1 million when the last one was held.

"By the end of the war, the Sanitary Commission raised more \$4 million and collected and distributed more than \$60 million of goods and services,"

# COOK,

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I think she already had it in her mind to sign us up," Odell said.

Five years later, Odell's daughters are in the process of leaving the nest, but he still turned out last week to cook for the 69th New York Infantry Regiment.

Odell embraced the re-enacting scene with such gusto that he has a two personas he performs with some regularity. In Oregon, he's the camp cook. In Washington, where he travels to perform under a reciprocity agreement, he's a newspaperman. As a stay-at-home dad and author, both roles are equally fitting to some part of his modern-day persona.

"I research what it was that they ate and combine it with what we know about germ theory."

— Doug Odell

Odell takes great care to make meals for his "pards" in line with what would have been served during the Civil War, but it comes down to two things: "If I have fire and water, I can make just about anything,

but I research what it was that they ate and combine it with what we know about germ theory."

One of the mainstays is Odell's version of hardtack, complete with caraway seeds to represent the weevils that got into the recipe during the Civil War era. Hardtack is biscuit made of flour and water with an extraordinarily long shelf-life. Some versions are barely edible while Odell's is softer on the tooth and more tasty.

"I love cooking for this group because it brings us together as a club and community," Odell said.

# SURGEON,

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with some surgeries during non-presentations," he said.

Wetter can speak in depth about bone saws throughout the ages. "One of the things I had was four capital amputation saws from four different periods in time. The quiz was to put them in order, oldest to newest. It was surprising how many people couldn't really do it."

The trick, he said, is to look at the handle. Civil War-era bone saws have wooden handles, because they didn't know the importance of sterilization in medical practice and didn't realize that wood holds bacteria. Later bone saws have metal handles, which can be sterilized.

Wetter emphasizes how



KEIZERTIMES/Random Pendragon  
Bob Wetter demonstrates surgery techniques from the 1860s.

few Civil War deaths were the result of battlefield casualties. "Of the 750,000-plus soldiers, sailors and marines who died during the Civil War, two-thirds of them died from disease," Wetter said.

Even though interest in the era, Wetter said it's still important to understand our nation's history. "We're here to remind people of what it was like to be in the 1860s," he said.

# PAINTER,

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Nathaniel Hawthorne.

But, it was the hand-painted fashion plates that make each issue truly-unique.

"They were done with watercolors and then bound in the catalog and published. It's possible that no two are exactly alike because each woman would have had a different set of colors," Smith said.

The publisher, Louis A. Godey, enlisted women who worked from home to color the plates at a cost of about

\$8,000 per issue. At its peak, the magazine had 150,000 subscribers — subscriptions were \$3 per year — but lost about a third of its readership during the Civil War because Godey refused to acknowledge the unrest between the Union and Confederacy in the pages of *The Lady's Book*.

Smith said her interest in the process by which the book was published arose out of a conversation among fellow re-enactors about the trades and activities that got less notice during living history events.

"I can't sketch, but I can color," said Smith.

## crossword

### Cooperstown Immortals

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

#### ACROSS

- 1 Cicatrix
- 5 Lights
- 9 Teacart tidbit
- 13 A Turner
- 14 Poplar
- 15 Buck chaser
- 16 *Iliad*, e.g.
- 17 Easy \_\_\_
- 18 Look askance
- 19 "Muscles"
- 22 Rock blaster?
- 23 Kyoto guitar cousin
- 27 Like some seals
- 30 Herbal tea
- 31 "The Big Cat"
- 35 L.A. \_\_\_
- 36 Help a hood?
- 37 Vane reading
- 38 1976 US Open champ
- 39 Philip Wylie target
- 40 "The Silver Fox"
- 43 Go by
- 46 Colorado resort
- 47 Ole Blue Eyes
- 49 Deliverance
- 53 "Little Louis"
- 56 Vicinity
- 59 Iron relic?

#### DOWN

- 1 Luges
- 2 Head: anat.
- 3 What's \_\_\_ girl . . . ?
- 4 Overcharge the tenant
- 5 \_\_\_'s *Irish Rose*
- 6 Fred's portrayer
- 7 Balls of yarn
- 8 Arranged in a set
- 9 \_\_\_ cheap
- 10 You \_\_\_ There
- 11 Brooklyn Preacher
- 12 Anderson's *High* \_\_\_
- 14 Storage for defense weapons
- 20 Bring forth young
- 21 Ovid's 901
- 24 Dieter's dinner
- 25 Related maternally
- 26 More recent
- 28 Down-under ostrich
- 29 Part of a Durante

- ditty
- 31 Jesse or Frank
- 32 Bohemian coins
- 33 Wayne image
- 34 Last letters
- 38 Walrus, e.g.
- 40 Mocks
- 41 Jack and spouse
- 42 Kind of miss
- 44 Sense of taste
- 45 Bumbler Erwin
- 48 Theatrical *sotto voce*
- 50 \_\_\_-Irish
- 51 Houston grيدر
- 52 Ex-Yank Skowron
- 54 Asseverate
- 55 A corn bread
- 56 Carpenter \_\_\_
- 57 Vintage auto
- 58 Corny one

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