

# THIS CIVIL WAR WAS THE BLEAK WARTIME CHRISTMAS, 1863

By MERTON T. AKERS  
United Press International  
This was Christmas 1863, the third of the Civil War:  
In Richmond—"No war news today. It is a sad Christmas: cold and threatening snow. My two youngest children, however, have decked the parlor with evergreen, crosses, stars, etc. They have a cedar Christmas tree, but it is not burdened. Candy is held at \$8 a pound."  
— John B. Jones, clerk in the Confederate war department.  
In Washington—"A lonesome sort of Christmas. I breakfasted, dined and supped alone. Went to the theater and saw 'MacBeth' alone. Came home and slept alone."  
— John Hay, one of President Lincoln's secretaries.



CHISTMAS IN WARTIME—Christmas 1863 was a day not unlike others in war-torn America. In Richmond, Va., Mrs. Jefferson Davis was able to round up some candy and a few gifts for her children. In Washington, one of President Lincoln's secretaries wrote that it was a "lonely day." In the field, on both sides, soldiers paused for prayers, a few carols and whatever they could gather together for a Christmas dinner. Some received packages from home and shared them with their comrades. The packages were few and those who received them were fortunate. This drawing from the Library of Congress collection shows soldiers in camp at Christmas time opening a parcel from home. (UPI)

In Richmond—"We had for dinner oyster soup, besides roast mutton, ham, boned turkey, wild duck partridge, plum pudding, sauterne, burgundy, sherry and madeira. There is life in the old land yet!"  
— Mrs. Mary Boykin Chestnut, wife of a Confederate brigadier general.  
In Belle Isle Prison Camp, Richmond—"One year ago today first went into camp at Coldwater (Mich.) little dreaming what changes a year would bring... (Christmas) supper... was a big thing, consisting of corn bread and butter, oysters, coffee, beef, crackers, cheese, etc... costing the snug sum of \$200 in Confederate money or \$20 in greenbacks. As (the bells) rang out Christmas morning I imagined they were in Jackson, Michigan, my old home..."  
— Sgt. John Ransom, 9th Michigan Cavalry, who had been captured in Tennessee in November.

In Tennessee—South of Chattanooga in winter quarters with his regiment, the 10th Michigan Infantry, Corydon E. Foote, a drummer boy who now had attained the ripe old age of 14, ate hominy made from corn snatched by a fellow drummer from the mule lot. That and hardtack made up his Christmas dinner.

A Confederate camp near Orange, Va.—"I am bare footed." (He also had a cold and disentry.) "I think the Southern Confederacy is broke, for it seems so to me."  
— George Woodward of Wilson, N. C., wrote to his brother.  
In Ohio—Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman arrived in Lancaster, his home town, his first vacation there for 20 years.  
He found himself a hero. For seven days photographers, newspapermen, autograph hunters and just curious people crowded around him. A couple of years before newspapers had said he was "crazy." Now he was the man of the hour. As always he stood the adulation for a time but then grew gruff and avoided people.

He talked politics with his father-in-law, Thomas Ewing. He felt, and said so, that President Lincoln's amnesty proclamation was "unwise" and he was highly critical of the Federal practice of paying bounties of up to \$400 for enlistments. The proclamation looked like weakness, he said, and bounty jumping would become a national scandal in a few months.

Dictator Davis  
In Richmond—Mrs. Jefferson Davis rounded up some candy for her children and a few presents. President Davis gave Mrs. Chestnut what she described as a "love of a parasol" as a Christmas present. Davis could read that day in the Richmond Examiner that he was "a dictator."

En route to Georgia—Gen. Joseph E. Johnston was traveling to Dalton, Ga., to take command of the Confederate Army of Tennessee, replacing Gen. Braxton Bragg who had been "promoted" to military adviser to President Davis. He would take command on Dec. 27 under orders from Secretary of War James Seddon, who "desired"

Johnson to restore "the discipline, prestige and confidence of the army, and to (increase) its numbers" and to "leave no means untried to restore and supply its deficiencies in ordnance, munitions and transportation."  
Another letter a few days later from Davis urged Johnston to "prompt and vigorous action" to whip the army into fighting trim and recapture Tennessee.  
Johnston bridled at what he considered "prodding." He saw "difficulties," the army was far from ready to go on the defensive.  
But the soldiers liked the general they called "Old Joe."

Papal Recognition  
In Europe—The Continent read with discreet smiles that A. Dudley Mann, Confederate representative in Europe, had obtained a letter from Pope Pius IX addressed to the "illustrious and honorable Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America."  
To Mann this was tantamount to recognition of the Confederacy by a European ruler, for the Pope was temporal head of the Papal States.

"We are acknowledged, by as high an authority as this world contains, to be an independent power of the earth. I congratulate you, I congratulate the President, I congratulate the cabinet; in short, I congratulate all my true-hearted countrymen and countrywomen upon this benign event."  
Neither Benjamin nor Davis could read recognition into the Pope's letter, particularly since the Pope had called the conflict a "civil war," something which the Confederacy never acknowledged. To have done so would have refuted its claims that it was a separate state and not a rebelling part of the United States. A civil war, the Confederates held, was a war between separate factions of the same state. It had seceded and therefore was sovereign in its own right.

Mann, who had sworn never to return until the Confederacy was victorious, remained in Europe the rest of his life, dying alone and neglected in England.  
FICHES FIG LEAF  
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, England (UPI)—A controversial fig leaf, ordered placed on a bronze statue of a naked discus thrower here by city officials, was stolen Sunday.



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**Small Worlds Around Us**  
Lynn W. Watkins  
By  
Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1962

**Licorice Used 2000 Years Prior To Birth of Christ**  
The small boy with the penny never suspects the significance of his purchase, when he planks down his money for a piece of licorice. Most adults have, at some time or other, purchased and enjoyed licorice even if now they may deny it, thinking such a liking to be childish. But it's still an important act of childhood, buying licorice which still comes in chunks, plugs, sticks and tubes.  
There has been more licorice used, over a longer period of time, and by more people than any other flavoring discovered. Quantities of the sweet root of the licorice plant were found in the tomb of King Tut; but there probably by his subjects to sweeten his long journey into the hereafter.  
The use of licorice goes back a long time before the birth of that ancient Egyptian ruler. Records show it was extensively used 2,000 years before the birth of Christ. Little wonder that present-day investigators call the licorice "the mystery plant of the ages." Even today, after 4,000 years of use, licorice has never been completely analyzed; neither has the flavor ever been duplicated synthetically. Yet the flavor of genuine licorice is so strong that one part in 20,000 parts of water can be readily detected. Chemically it is 50 times sweeter than cane sugar.

**Pea Family**  
The plant from which licorice is derived is a member of the pea family; of a scraggly growth, requiring four years to develop long, limber roots large enough to use. Licorice is a Greek word meaning "sweet root." The roots are dug, crushed and boiled; the resultant juice dries into a brilliant black solid which will break at a tiny fracture.

Licorice is extensively cultivated in Spain, Italy, Turkey, Greece and throughout most of Northern Europe, as well as Western Asia where it is supposed to have originated. Tons of licorice are shipped to America. Besides flavoring for confections, it is used in curing tobacco, sometimes being almost 20 per cent of the finished product. It not only flavors the tobacco but retains in it the proper degree of moisture to keep the tobacco fresh.

This moisture-retaining process, as well as the thirst-quenching quality of licorice has never been too well understood. It is claimed that licorice carried in the mouth will quench thirst for long periods of time. Records show that soldiers of ancient armies held licorice in their mouths on long marches across arid regions and suffered not at all from thirst.

Medicine  
For 4,000 years, right up to the present time, licorice has been used as medicine. It was once supposed to cure coughs, colds, and other disorders of the human respiratory organs. A couple of thousand years ago, it was used as an elixir for the postponement of old age and in keeping the body supple. A piece of licorice root, soaked in water, was a refreshing drink that perturbed the breath, and gave the indulger the benefits of its pharmaceutical qualities. The curative effects of licorice are recognized by many people for soothing irritated bronchial tubes. It is used by public speakers to clear overworked throats.

Although modern medicine takes little notice of the curative benefits attributed to licorice, it is peculiar that anything which has been in use for 4,000 years, by so many millions of people, could be useless. Licorice has been a standard medicine longer than any other product science knows anything about; a remedy that played an important part in ancient and modern cultures for 4,000 years must have something that is very good. It hardly seems possible that so many people could have been wrong for so long a time.

## One-Source Method Of Gift Shopping Would Be Welcome

NEW YORK (UPI)—To one who has survived the annual holiday shopping rush, suggestions on how it could be made easier in the future would be welcome.

The one-of-its-kind object, or the cluster of the same gifts to spread around to a number of recipients, all may have been elusive, and required time and labor to find, unless the buyer knows one spot to which he can go and clean up the whole job in a hurry.

**Advantages Long Known**  
The advantages of the one-source method have long been known to businessmen, particularly to manufacturers and technicians who suddenly face needs for components not in stock; the missing essential part, the replacement for a broken or worn item.

In few industries is this more true than in the electronics field, with its thousands of items needed in today's complex machines functioning in factory and home, school and hospital, office and communications.

Max J. Epstein, head of Federated Purchaser Inc., Springfield, N. J., one of the largest of the nation's electronic distri-

## Businessman Gets Triple Damages

PORTLAND (UPI)—A federal court jury has Friday awarded a Vancouver, Wash., businessman \$1,009,213.71 triple damages in settlement of a suit against Standard Oil Co. of California.

Clyde A. Perkins, former executive vice president of the Portland Beavers baseball club, charged Standard had discriminated against his Perkins Oil Co. by selling petroleum products to competitors at a lower price.

Perkins operates a chain of Champion stations in the three West Coast states. He sued for \$600,000, but the jury fixed the settlement at \$336,404.57 which, under federal anti-trust laws was automatically converted to triple damages.

The jury received the case Thursday, six weeks after the trial opened. More than 20,000 exhibits were introduced before Judge William East. An earlier trial which ran five weeks ended in a mistrial after Perkins' attorney, ignoring an admonition of the court, made a statement that Standard had hired one of the plaintiff's witnesses.

**Santa Claus Served With Subpoena**  
SYRACUSE, N.Y. (UPI)—Gerald Jones, mayor of the Syracuse suburb of Manlius, was playing Santa Claus for the children at a shopping center Saturday when a man approached him and asked, "are you the mayor?"  
"Yes," replied Jones.  
The man promptly served Jones with a subpoena in connection with a dispute over a proposed sewer program.



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