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***Notes from Nancy Arthur***

February of 1861 found this country being torn apart; six states had already left the Union and Texas was making the decision to follow. A convention was being planned for early in the month in Montgomery, Alabama, and a Peace Convention in Washington. President Buchanan was ineffective in his actions. Lincoln, as president elect, was traveling from Springfield. What must have been going on in his mind? Did he step in before his inauguration? Or let the current president do his business? Eight slave states were on the border; how many of these would move to the Confederate South?

On February 1st, Texas left the Union and, on the 4th, Montgomery was abuzz with activity. The Peace Convention, called together by Virginia, was trying to keep the country together.

Jefferson Davis was elected as president of the Confederacy on the 9th of the month; Davis had not campaigned for this office, and was helping his wife prune roses when the word arrived. He was stunned; he had wanted to be appointed to a military office, which would explain his hands on during the war.

Lincoln arrived in Washington on the 23rd. The Peace Convention was still meeting.

Now President Lincoln was offered “war elephants” from the king of Siam but declined the offer. Indiana Senator Jesse Bright was expelled from the Senate for working with the enemy. McClellan was given direction from the president but decided to go his own way, one of the many times while serving as general. Willie Lincoln, the youngest son, was critically ill and passed away on the 20th. Grant moved close to Fort Donelson. On the 16th, the fort fell; General Buckner stayed behind to meet General Grant, hoping for favorable terms, but instead heard “No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender…”. Grant was promoted to Major General of Volunteers.

In February 1863, President Lincoln set up the national banking system.

February 1864 found Sherman on the march from Vicksburg, set on tearing up Confederate railroads. On the 17th, an officer on a sloop, the U.S.S. Housatonic, off the coast of Charleston, SC, saw “something in the water”. A torpedo hit the ship and sank it. The submarine attacking was the Hunley, commanded this time by Lieut. George Dixon. He and his six crew members died.

By February 1865, Sherman was turning North to march into South Carolina. Lincoln was meeting with others on the River Queen off Fort Monroe, Virginia, to discuss terms of ending the war. Lincoln let all attending know that troops must disperse, and the courts would determine property rights.

The Confederate members attending were not ready for unconditional surrender; they went back to President Davis and that was the last try before the final surrender.

Maryland, New York, and West Virginia ratified the 13th Amendment.

On February 12th, Lincoln’s birthday, he was elected to his 2nd term to former General McClellan by a vote of 212 to to 21.

And we move into March!

***Tales by Bill Teegarden***

Salisbury Steak's Historic Connection To The Civil War

In the preface to his landmark diet book, "The Relation of Alimentation and Diseases," published in 1888, Dr. James H. Salisbury relays that his interest in germ theory began as early as 1849. That would have been when he was still studying for his medical degree at Albany Medical College in New York, which he received in 1850, per Exploring Upstate. As a result of these studies and his microscopic and chemical analysis of the human body, Dr. Salisbury became convinced that our health — for good or for ill — is inextricably linked with the foods we eat. While it seems obvious now, at the time, Dr. Salisbury was a pioneer in the field.

By 1854, according to his book, Dr. Salisbury became obsessed with diets consisting of a single food. The most famous example of this obsession involved an experiment in which he ate only baked beans for three days with predictable results. "I became very flatulent and constipated, head dizzy, ears ringing, limbs prickly, and was wholly unfitted for mental work," he noted.

These experiments, unusual as they were, ultimately led to the invention of the steak that now bears his name, and his use of it as a single-food preventative (with the occasional complement of broiled mutton) for dysentery and chronic diarrhea during the American Civil War. (via Smithsonian Magazine)

The Salisbury steak's history with soldiers

Disease killed more men during the American Civil War than combat, accounting for more than half the 600,000 fatalities during the conflict. Dysentery and its accompanying diarrhea alone were responsible for an estimated 100,000 deaths, reports HistoryNet. Poor diet was one of the causes of this, per Smithsonian Magazine, and Dr. Salisbury, by this time a physician for the Union Army, believed he had a solution. His prescription was lean minced beef formed into patties, which he gave to soldiers to improve their nutrition and digestion.

Dr. Salisbury's description of his steak is a rather unappetizing one: "muscle pulp of beef." (via Smithsonian Magazine) Over time, its actual makeup would be codified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which notes in its Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book that Salisbury steak must be at least 65% chopped meat, of which no more than 25% of that may be pork. The rest should be beef, with no more than 30% fat allowed in total. Liquids such as milk and cream may also be used, undoubtedly in the brown gravy.

The chopped beef patties in Salisbury steak were closely related to hamburgers, of course, but it took another war to promote the differences. During World War I, anti-German sentiment led the U.S. Army to eschew hamburgers in favor of the Salisbury steak, which it served to troops, according to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

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**As It Were: Runaway slave Jerry Finney was ‘kidnapped’ in Columbus, returned to mistress**

**Ed Lentz**

August 15, 2022·4 min read

[64](https://news.yahoo.com/were-runaway-slave-jerry-finney-180920411.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=ma)

Columbus, Ohio, is a crossroads city. Founded in 1812 as a planned town to become the new capital of the state, Columbus is a town of diverse origins.

Platted on the “High Banks opposite Franklinton at the Forks of the Scioto,” Columbus was a focal point where several early American land grants came in contact one with another.

To the west and across the Scioto River was the Virginia Military District. First settled on its north side was the village of Franklinton in 1797. Largely settled by southerners from Kentucky and Virginia, newcomers soon met with settlers from New England who had founded Worthington in 1803.

All of these settlers wondered who would settle where Columbus was located – in a place called the Refugee Tract. Running from Fifth Avenue in the north and Refugee Road to the south, the tract began at the Scioto River and ran east for several miles.

Set aside for residents of Nova Scotia who had lost property because of their revolutionary loyalty, most refugees never made it to Ohio. They sold their land grants for pennies on the dollar to speculative “proprietors.” Some local proprietors founded Columbus under the direction of the Ohio General Assembly. Others sold their land to anyone who wanted to buy it. So Columbus soon found itself the home of people from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and even Canada.

All of these people mixed one with another in the social cauldron of Columbus on several major issues of the day. Some citizens favored temperance or even alcohol prohibition.

Other advocates promoted increased rights for women. In early Ohio, as in much of America, women had few rights to their own children, could not enter contracts on their own and could not vote. Some Ohioans fought for equal rights for women. Other Ohioans opposed them.

But the major issue dividing Ohioans in the early days was slavery. Slavery was forever prohibited in Ohio by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the later Ohio Constitution of 1802. But although slavery was prohibited, runaway slaves could be pursued and returned to their owners.

Some runaway slaves escaped to final freedom in Canada along a path called the Underground Railroad. The escape route was operated by local residents – Black and white – who were opposed to slavery. Columbus was home to several stops along the railroad.

Runaways who decided to stay in Ohio always faced the possibility of capture and return to slavery. By 1840, Columbus was a city of more than 6,000 residents, and more than 500 were African American, many of them emancipated slaves or who had been born free in Ohio. Many others were runaways. It was a firestorm waiting for a spark.

Jerry Finney was the spark.

In 1857, local historian William T. Martin told the story of Jerry Finney in the first published history of Franklin County.

“In the spring of 1846, a case of kidnapping occurred in Columbus. On the 27th of March, after dark, Jerry Finney, a black man, who had resided in Columbus some fourteen or fifteen years, was decoyed over to the town of Franklinton, to the office of William Henderson, Esq., who was, at the time an acting Justice of the Peace in Franklin Township.

“The necessary certificate having been previously prepared, Jerry was forthwith delivered over by the Justice, in his official capacity, to the decoying party, one of whom was Alexander Forbes, of Kentucky, who held a power of attorney from Mrs. Bathsheba D. Long of Frankfort, Kentucky, to whom it was claimed that Jerry belonged, and owed service, as an escaped slave. Jerry begged for a fair trial but in vain, He was immediately handcuffed, and put in a carriage, standing at the door for that purpose … and delivered over to his former mistress.”

“As Jerry was generally known by our citizens (having been cook and general waiter or servant at most of our public houses) his sudden disappearance from our midst, and the time and manner of his capture, created some excitement.”

Henderson, the local justice of the peace, and several others “were arrested and held to bail to answer the charge of kidnapping.” At the September term of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, the men were put on trial. William Dennison of Cincinnati led the prosecution. He later became governor of Ohio. The defense was led by Noah Swayne, who later became a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

It was a formidable legal clash and lasted for quite some time. The defendants were found guilty, but the verdict later was set aside on appeal.

“Jerry remained in Kentucky for some months as a slave, until by subscription from the citizens of Columbus, a sufficient amount of money was raised to purchase his freedom, and restore him to his family. He returned but the seeds of consumption were sown in his system. Within a short time, he wasted, sickened and died.”

It was a conflict that helped set the stage for the greater struggle called the American Civil War.

Local historian and author Ed Lentz writes the As It Were column for This Week Community News and The Columbus Dispatch.

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***To OPEN HYPERLINKS with PC -place cursor on Subject line, hold down Control and Left Click mouse / with Smart Phone – touch with finger or stylus***

*Books from Bill Teegarden*

[The 14 Best Civil War Movies](https://www.slashfilm.com/1053891/the-14-best-civil-war-movies-ranked/)

[And There Was Light - Lincoln by Jon Meacham](https://www.npr.org/2022/10/18/1129462244/lincoln-biography-jon-meacham)

[Underground Railroad - by Brian Martin](https://www.washingtoninformer.com/book-review-from-underground-railroad-to-rebel-refuge-canada-and-the-civil-war-by-brian-martin/)

[Ways and Means to Finance the War - Roger Lowenstein](https://www.thenation.com/article/society/roger-lowenstein-ways-and-means/)

[August Willich's Civil War - David Dixon](https://www.yourvalley.net/stories/civil-war-author-discusses-latest-book-at-scottsdale-public-library%2C339243)

[Irish American Civil War Songs - Catherine V. Bateson](https://currentpub.com/2022/11/04/the-authors-corner-with-catherine-v-bateson/)

[Decisions at Fredericksburg - Chris Mackowski](https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/tri-cities-civil-war-round-table-welcomes-author-chris-mackowski/article_5da1244e-6152-11ed-93ca-bf0512bf1ec4.html)

[From Binghamton to the Battlefield - Amy Truesdell](https://www.pressconnects.com/story/news/connections/history/2022/12/05/broome-county-history-meet-the-authors-of-2-new-books/69692689007/)

[The Lion and the Fox - Alexander Rose](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/06/books/review/lion-and-the-fox-alexander-rose.html)