
FRIENDS AND DESCENDANTS OF JOHNSON'S ISLAND CIVIL WAR PRISON
3646 CONFEDERATE DRIVE * JOHNSON'S ISLAND * OHIO * 43440



October 26, 2006

Sarah Hatch
13102 CR 42
Mancos, CO 81328

Dear Sarah,

Yesterday we received the autograph book of James Franklin Holliman that you so graciously donated to the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison. The Friends are very grateful for your kind donation and willingness to share your family's history with all that are interested in the history of the Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison site.

Enclosed are two copies of the Accession Form that the Friends use for the acquisition of historical documentation such as this book. Please sign one and return it in the self address envelope. The other is for your records. I will see to having the autograph book of James Franklin Holliman appraised and send you the appraisal value as soon as we have it. We use an individual from the area that is well versed in Johnson's Island Civil War Prison materials.

We will be starting to record this book, and will provide you with a photographed version as soon as it is available. Again, the Friends thank you for this donation, and I can assure you that many will benefit from your kindness.

Sincerely,

David R. Bush, Chairman
Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison



Friends and Descendants of
Johnson's Island Civil War Prison
3646 Confederate Drive
Johnson's Island, Ohio 43440
419-448-2327

Accession Record

Date of Receipt:	October 25, 2006	Accession Number:	06-01
-------------------------	------------------	--------------------------	-------

Received From:	Sarah Holliman Hatch
Signature (if required):	

Street Address:	13102 CR 42
City	Mancos
State/ Zip Code	CO, 81328
Telephone	970-533-9165

Accession Title:	"Day Book" for 1 st Lieutenant James Franklin Holliman, 58 th Alabama Infantry containing autographs of men imprisoned along with James Holliman at Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison.
Provenance:	Currently in the possession of James Franklin Holliman's granddaughter, Sarah Holliman Hatch.

Description of Materials Donated:	The book is 3" x 5" and 1/2" thick. It contains 65 pages, written on the front and back. Thirty-one of the pages are blank. 47 names of prisoners are listed in this book. The book contains the names and addresses of fellow prisoners at Johnson's Island. The book also contains a poem of possibly James Holliman's writing, names of ladies that may have visited James in prison, several sections of "coded" writings, and family notations and his attendance records for the children of the community where he taught after the war. The back cover of the book is missing.
--	--

Condition of Materials:	Fair-fading of text in parts-Back of book is missing
Conservation Notes:	Placed into protective cover. Will be photographed as soon as possible.

Restrictions/Conditions/Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is a donation to the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison.• An appraisal for tax purposes will be provided to Sarah Holliman Hatch for the "day book".• The Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison have an agreement with the Center
---------------------------------------	---

	<p>for Historic and Military Archaeology of Heidelberg College to house all of its collections in the Center's facilities. This "day book" will be housed with the rest of the historic document collection from Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Holliman Hatch will be provided with one copy of the entire scanned (or photographed) document on a CD. • Any transcription completed on the "day book" including the coded sections, autographs, and poem will be provided to Sarah Holliman Hatch. • This historic document will be used for research, educational, and interpretative activities related to the exploration of the Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison site. Use of this document will depend on its current and potentially restorable condition. It will not be exhibited or used in any way that would be detrimental to its long term survival. • Sarah Holliman Hatch will be notified of any exhibits or publications where any references or use of this book in any fashion occurs.
--	---

Accepted by:	<p>David R. Bush, Chair, Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison David R. Bush, Director, Center for Historic and Military Archaeology, Heidelberg College, 310 E. Market Street, Tiffin, Ohio 44883</p>
Signature	<p><i>David R. Bush</i> 10/25/06</p>

FRIENDS AND DESCENDANTS OF JOHNSON'S ISLAND CIVIL WAR PRISON
3510 ~~XXXX~~ CONFEDERATE DRIVE * JOHNSON'S ISLAND * OHIO * 43440



December 14, 2006

Sarah Holliman Hatch
13102 County Road 42
Mancos, CO 81328

Dear Sarah Hatch,

Enclosed please find the appraisal for the "Day Book" of 1st Lieutenant James Franklin Holliman, 58th Alabama Infantry. The appraisal was completed by John R. Tietjen, of Tietjen's Antiques. He conducts these appraisals for the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison as a courtesy for us.

Mr. Tietjen is very knowledgeable in the historic materials from the Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison site. He travels all over the country attending Civil War and antique shows where these materials are routinely bought and sold.

Mr. Tietjen placed the value on this book especially because of the autographs and the coded material at the back. We are investigating this coded material, and will furnish you with any information we find out about it.

Again, the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison thank you for your very kind donation. Please be assured we are taking very good care of this wonderful addition to our historic materials collection.

Sincerely,

David R. Bush, Ph.D.
Chairman, Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison

enc.

Tietjen's Antiques
1350 Englebeck Road
Marblehead, Ohio 43440
etietjen@cros.net
(419) 734-5716

Appraisal for:

Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison
3646 Confederate Drive
Johnson's Island, Ohio 43440
(419) 448-2327

Appraisal of "Day Book" of 1st Lieut. James Franklin Holliman, 58th Alabama

Infantry.....\$ 5,500

December 14, 2006
John R. Tietjen,
Dealer in Civil War Artifacts



Appraisal Fee: none

untitled

One morning, one morning, One morning in May

I heard a poor soldier Lamenting and say

I heard a poor soldier Lamenting and mourn

I am a Rebel prisoner And a long way from home

I'll build me a castle On some grand mountain high

Where my true love May see me as I am

Passing by Where my true love can See me and come to me mourn

I am a Rebel prisoner And far from my home

I'll eat when I get hungry And drink when I get dry

And if the Feds don't kill And I'll live until

I die and if Mollie Forsakes me it will cause Me to mourn

I am a Rebel prisoner And far from my home

Oh Mollie, Oh Mollie it's For your sake alone

That I left my dear Father my country to defend

I left my dear Mother To weep and to mourn

I am a Rebel prisoner And far from my home

A glass of good old whisky A cup of good old wine

You may drink with Your true love

Whilst for mine I do mourn

I am a Rebel prisoner And far from my home

JF Holliman

**Johnson's Island Prisoner Listing from Day Book of J F Holliman, 1st Lt.,
Company B, 58th Alabama Regiment
Captured Missionary Ridge, November 23, 1863**

William McKay, Lt.
Waul's Texas Legion
Captured near Yazoo City, Mississippi July 14, 1863
Address: Alabama PO
Houston County, Texas

J.E. Holley, Lt.
Company F, 3rd Brigade, Mississippi Cavalry
Captured Coffeeville, Mississippi, August 17, 1863
Address: Mississippi PO, Coffeeville

B.B. Mullins, Capt.
Company C, 1st Kentucky Mounted Rifles
Hodges Brigade
Address: Demossville, Pendleton Co. Kentucky

Eugene M. Kidd, 1st Lt.
2nd Louisiana Infantry- Stafford's Brigade (Jackson's old Division)
Captured: Gettysburg, July 5th, 1863
Address: Vernon PO, ANV (Army of Northern Virginia) Louisiana

A.F. Swadley, 2nd Lt.
Company E, 31st Regiment, Earley's Division ANV
Address: Hightown, Hightown County, Virginia

L. Pendergast,
Louisiana Brigade
Address: New Orleans, Louisiana

L.B. Jordan, 2nd Lt.
Company I, 38th Alabama Regiment
Captured Missionary Ridge
Address: Choctaw Corner, Alabama

I.H. Rowland, Lt.
3rd Regiment, Mississippi Cavalry
Address: Cornersi, Mississippi

C. I. Henagan, Major
31st Alabama Regiment
Address: Gainesville, Alabama

John A. Rankins,
Address: Maysville, Kentucky

Joseph Harding, Capt.
Company A, 1st Battalion, Kentucky Mounted Rifles
Address: Kentontown, Harrison County, Kentucky

M.W. Proctor, 1st Lt.
Company B, 2nd Battalion, Kentucky Mounted Rifles, General Gilmer's Brigade,
Morgan's Division
Address: Elizaville, Kentucky

F.M. Louderbahr, 1st Lt.
Company F, 7th Kentucky Cavalry, 2nd Brigade, Morgan's Division
Address: Kentontown, Harrison County, Kentucky

Richard E. Thomas, 1st Lt.
Company C, 2nd Battalion, Kentucky Mounted Rifles
Address: Vanceburg, Kentucky

L. D. Rhodes, Lt.
39th Mississippi Regiment
Address: Brandon, Mississippi

E.B. Waldrop, 2nd Lt.
Company G 18th Alabama Infantry
Address: Elyton, Alabama

E. Watkins, 1st Lt.
39th Mississippi Volunteers
Address: Jackson, Mississippi

C.R. Rice Lt.
8th Alabama Infantry
Address: Mobile, Alabama

G. H. Moore, Lt.
39th Mississippi Regiment
Address: Jackson, Mississippi

J.H. Cofer, Capt.
39th Mississippi Regiment
Address: Brandon, Mississippi

John H. Jones, Lt.
58th Alabama Regiment
Address: Uniontown, Perry County, Alabama

Jas. R. Walton, Lt.
Company A, 1st Missouri Cavalry
Address: Lexington, Missouri

Wm. A. Bedd, Adjutant
1st Regiment, Missouri Cavalry
Address: Lexington, Missouri

J.F. McElden, 1st Lt.
58th Alabama Regiment
Address: Ashville, Alabama

J.S. Plattenburg, 1st Lt.
Company A, 1st Missouri Cavalry
Address: Dover, LaFayette County, Missouri

Benj. F. Weathers, Lt.
Company E, 17th Regiment, Alabama Infantry
Address: Roanoke, Randolph County, Alabama

F.B. Davidson, Capt. & Adjutant
10th Missouri Cavalry- Marmaduke's Brigade & Division
Address: Weston, Missouri

Jas. (James) W. Goggin
Address: Lynchburg, Virginia

Robert S. Jackson, Lt.
Company B, 20th Alabama Regiment
Address: Greensborough, Alabama

C.J. Spencer, 1st Lt.
Company B, 20th Alabama Regiment
Address: Tuscaloosa, Alabama

H.H. Brown, 1st Lt.
Company E, 42nd Tennessee Regiment
Address: Bluff Springs, Florida

I.J. Harrell, Capt.
Company G, 2nd Battalion, Tennessee Cavalry
Address: Larence, Tennessee

Roland F. Walters, Pvt.
Company B, 4th Regiment, Kentucky Cavalry
Address: Covington, Kentucky

Wm. A. Sanford, Lt.
20th Alabama Regiment
Address: Maplesville, Bibb County, Alabama

John B. Thompson, Lt.
42nd Regiment, Tennessee Cavalry
Address: Morning Seven, Shelby County, Tennessee

J.J. Godwin, Lt.
18th Alabama Regiment
Address: Jefferson County, Alabama

Thomas H Cargill, Capt.
Company C, 42 (?) Regiment, Tennessee Infantry
Address: Colliarville PO, Shelby City, Tennessee

I.E. Cofer, Lt.
Company H, 34th Virginia Regiment, Wise's Brigade, ANV
Address: Buford County, Virginia

M.N. Cockrell, 1st Lt.
36th Alabama Regiment
Address: Pleasant Ridge, Greene County, Alabama

John R. Carville, Aide de Campe to General Kenshaw
Address Edgefield, South Carolina

W.D. Hull, 1st Lt.
17th Alabama Infantry
Address: Bucksville, Alabama

Randolph Owens, Capt.
1st Confederate Battalion
Greenville, Alabama

R.F. Dixon, Capt.
49th North Carolina, Rawson's Brigade
Address: Shelby, North Carolina

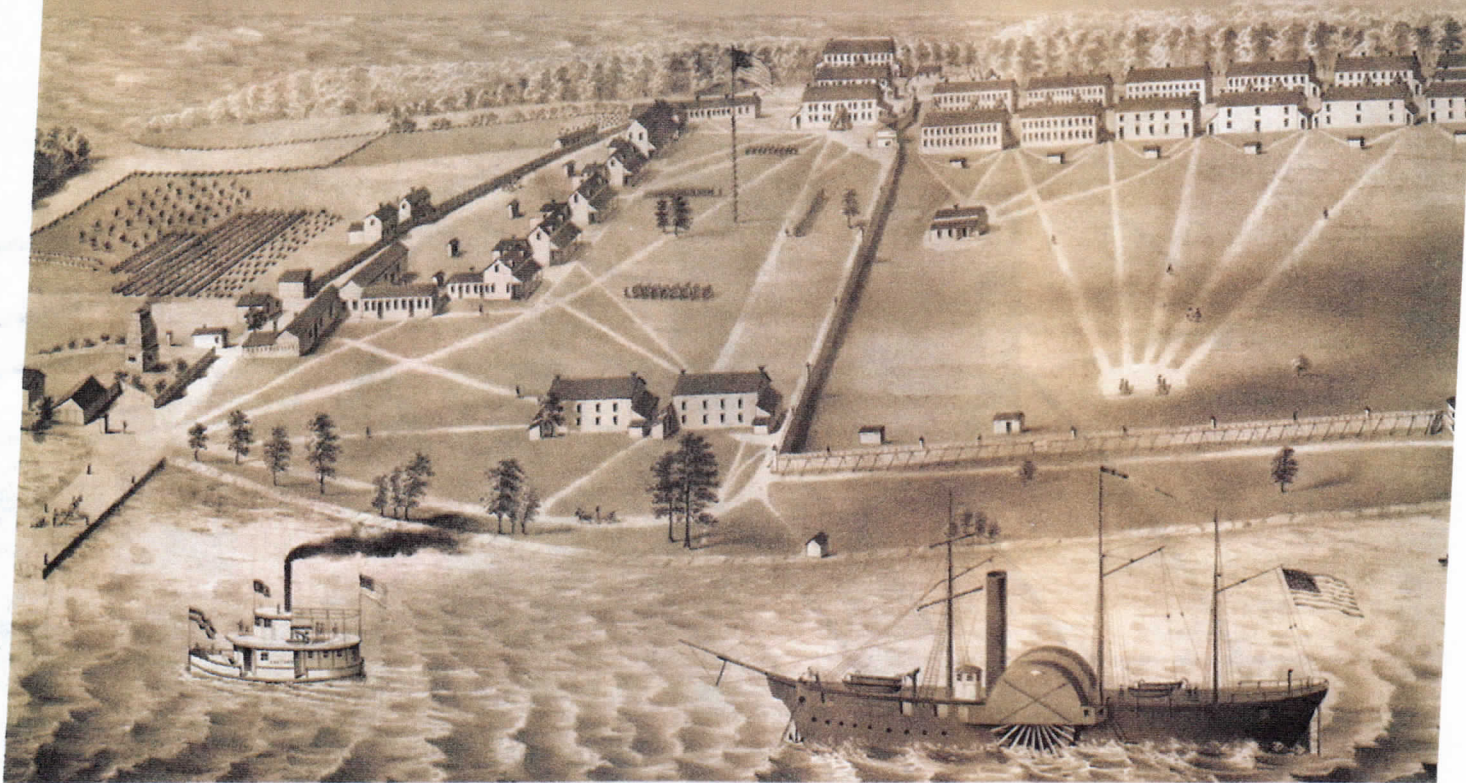
I.M. Johnson, Capt.
1st Confederate Infantry Battalion, ANV
Address: Pensacola, Florida

Wm. Bonne, Lt.
1st Missouri Cavalry
Address: Tabo, Missouri

W.B. Smedley, 1st Lt.
2nd Arkansas Cavalry
Address: Clarksville, Arkansas

J.W. Dawson,
Address: Belfontaine, Ohio

Prisoners Of War



This sketch of Johnson's Island prison was done by Edward Gould, a soldier in the 128th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in early 1864.

The conditions of inmates varied in Civil War prisons. In some cases they were brutal. David Bush has spent years investigating the living conditions and coping strategies of Confederate officers at the Union's Johnson's Island prison.

By Trudy E. Bell

David Bush made his way across the sun-dappled grass to a large white cylindrical tent. Inside the tent half a dozen students and volunteers were intently digging for evidence from Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison on the southeastern portion of Johnson's Island in Lake Erie, near Sandusky, Ohio.

"I didn't discover this site, but I can be credited with establishing its exact location," said Bush, an archaeologist at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. In the late 1980s, a developer planned to build houses on Johnson's Island, a 300-acre wooded island that was joined to the Ohio mainland by a causeway in 1972. It was known that a Union prisoner-of-war compound had been built on the island during the Civil War, but the prison's exact location was unknown. Over the intervening century, its stockade wall had been torn down and the wood used for other purposes and second-growth forest had sprung up in the middle of the island. The developer, who was required to have a cultural resource survey

TRUDY E. BELL

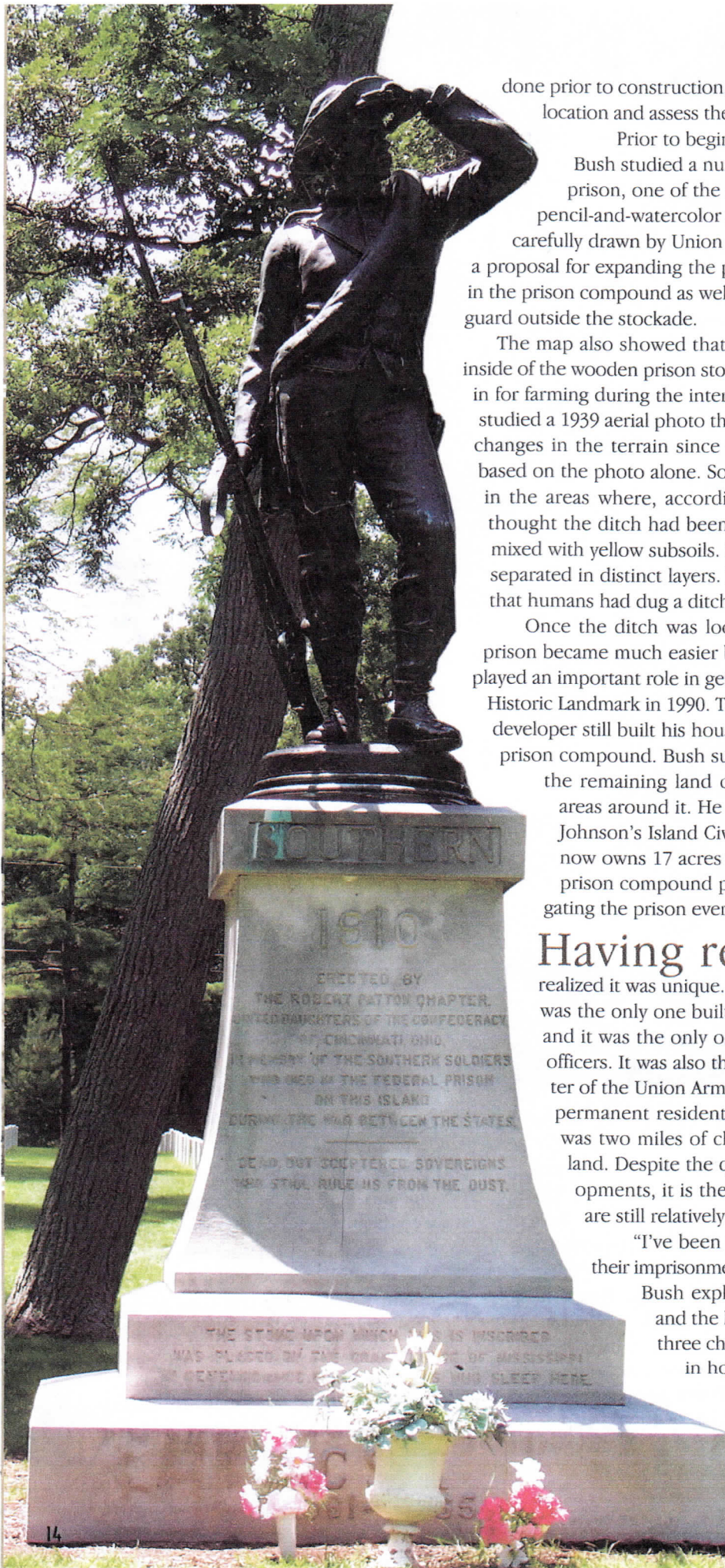


David Bush has been working at Johnson's Island since 1989.



ORION HUMBER

This tent-like structure, known as a weatherport, is erected each season over the excavation area to protect the researchers from the elements.



done prior to construction, hired Bush to determine the prison's exact location and assess the significance of its archaeological resources.

Prior to beginning his work on Johnson's Island in 1989, Bush studied a number of historical documents related to the prison, one of the most useful of which was a copy of a small pencil-and-watercolor map from the National Archives. The map, carefully drawn by Union surveyors in the summer of 1864 as part of a proposal for expanding the prison's water supply, showed the buildings in the prison compound as well as barracks and cookhouses for the Union guard outside the stockade.

The map also showed that a six-foot-wide ditch ran parallel with the inside of the wooden prison stockade, but most of this ditch had been filled in for farming during the intervening years. Searching for the ditch, Bush studied a 1939 aerial photo that showed its location. However, due to the changes in the terrain since that time, he couldn't pinpoint the ditch based on the photo alone. So he took a series of sediment core samples in the areas where, according to his reading of the photograph, he thought the ditch had been. The core samples revealed black topsoil mixed with yellow subsoils. In other parts of the site the two soils were separated in distinct layers. Bush thought the disturbed soils indicated that humans had dug a ditch and later filled it in.

Once the ditch was located, finding evidence of the rest of the prison became much easier because the map was drawn to scale. Bush played an important role in getting the entire island designated a National Historic Landmark in 1990. This afforded the site limited protection. The developer still built his houses, but the construction didn't disturb the prison compound. Bush subsequently spearheaded efforts to acquire the remaining land covered by the compound and important areas around it. He organized the Friends and Descendents of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison, a trust founded in 2001, that now owns 17 acres that cover the undeveloped section of the prison compound plus a Civil War fort. Bush has been investigating the prison ever since.

Having researched the prison, Bush realized it was unique. Out of the 32 prisons used by the Union, it was the only one built specifically to be a prisoner of war camp, and it was the only one designated exclusively for Confederate officers. It was also the only prison so isolated. The Quartermaster of the Union Army chose Johnson's Island because it had no permanent residents, no wineries to distract the guards, and was two miles of choppy water away from the nearest mainland. Despite the quarry, the farming, and the housing developments, it is the only Civil War prison site whose grounds are still relatively undisturbed.

"I've been trying to explore how the POWs survived their imprisonment, physically and—indirectly—emotionally," Bush explained. "Both the archaeological evidence and the historical record suggests they basically had three choices: assimilating into the Union, surviving in hopes of returning to their former lives, and trying to escape."

More than 300 prisoners died at Johnson's Island. This statue, erected at a cemetery on the island in 1910, commemorates those soldiers.

FRIENDS AND DESCENDANTS OF JOHNSON'S ISLAND CIVIL WAR PRISON

Block 11 Mess 2 Johnson's Island
Near Sandusky, Ohio, September 25, 1864

Dear Brother, I haven't received a letter from you since one dated August 5th containing five dollars, which I immediately answered returning my thanks for it. In that letter you said you had sent the same amt. to Cos. Geo[rge]. I heard from him the other day & he says it never came to hand. I expect I can do without, or with the little I have for sometime; but, if you send me any more send it by some man to the states & have him to express it to me.

We had a hurricane here night before last which unroofed three of the blocks or barracks. Although there are about 2600 men here & scantling planks etc. were flying thick, but 4 or 5 were hurt anything like serious.

I got a letter from home dated Aug. 26th. All well at home Little John Bird has lost his arm in battle & is at home now. I will tell you what sister Annie says about you. She says we are real glad to hear from Bro. Geo. again & that he was enjoying good health. Do tell him that we all was so very glad to hear from him. Tell [him] we still live in hopes of seeing him again. She further says she thinks of writing to you soon. This is all she said about you. Cousin J.L. Shumate was well sometime since he sends his love to you. I wrote to you Aug. 28th in answer to yours of the 6th of that month. I ought to have written to you sooner, but still expected a letter from you before this time, but none came. A friend of mine, who is still in Denver City, A. Smith & Col. Saml. McLane Atty's at Law are still in Denver City. John Bird & Benj. Hines Esqs. were prisoners at Camp Chase sometime ago. Let us know whether you are married or not for I have been asked the question several times. And could give no correct answer. I am well & the general health of the prison is good. I have never gotten you to consent to write to me once every two weeks. Hope you will. For I am always very anxious to hear from you. Write as soon as you receive this & give me all the news you can. I remain
Your Affectionate Brother
A. F. Swadley

Dear Brother, I haven't received a letter from you since one dated August 5th containing five dollars, which I immediately answered returning my thanks for it. In that letter you said you had sent the same amt. to Cos. Geo[rge]. I heard from him the other day & he says it never came to hand. I expect I can do without, or with the little I have for sometime; but, if you send me any more send it by some man to the states & have him to express it to me.

We had a hurricane here night before last which unroofed three of the blocks or barracks. Although there are about 2600 men here & scantling planks etc. were flying thick, but 4 or 5 were hurt anything like serious.

I got a letter from home dated Aug. 26th. All well at home Little John Bird has lost his arm in battle & is at home now. I will tell you what sister Annie says about you. She says we are real glad to hear from Bro. Geo. again & that he was enjoying good health. Do tell him that we all was so very glad to hear from him. Tell [him] we still live in hopes of seeing him again. She further says she thinks of writing to you soon. This is all she said about you. Cousin J.L. Shumate was well sometime since he sends his love to you. I wrote to you Aug. 28th in answer to yours of the 6th of that month. I ought to have written to you sooner, but still expected a letter from you before this time, but none came. A friend of mine request me to inquire if Judge H.P. A. Smith & Col. Saml. McLane Atty's at Law are still in Denver City. John Bird & Benj. Hines Esqs. were prisoners at Camp Chase sometime ago. Let us know whether you are married or not for I have been asked this question several times and could give no correct answer. I am well & the general health of the prison is good. I have never gotten you to consent to write to me once every two weeks. Hope you will. For I am always very anxious to hear from you.

Write as soon as you receive this & give me all the news you can. I remain
(address as Prison of War & as above)
Your Affectionate Brother
A. F. Swadley

This letter from prisoner A. F. Swadley is part of the immense historical record from Johnson's Island. Each historical account gives researchers insight into prison life.

Confederate officers were incarcerated at the prison from April of 1862 till September of 1865. The compound consisted of 13 two-story wood-frame barracks, which the map labeled Blocks 1 to 13; each was about 120 by 30 feet, and was divided into rooms where the men slept, cooked, and ate. Block 6 was the prison hospital. The residential blocks held officers of all ranks, including some 20 generals. And after mid-1864, Block 1 sequestered those Confederate officers who had signed an oath of allegiance to the Union, for which, historical documents indicated, they were given preferential treatment and promises of early release. Although the officers who signed this oath of allegiance were disdained as traitors by the other prisoners, letters show "they received better food, more luxury items, and extra privileges" for signing, Bush said.

Behind each block was a latrine. The latrines behind the

even-numbered blocks backed up onto a sort of no-man's land. If a prisoner was caught there, guards assumed he was trying to escape, and they would shoot to kill. Prison documents stated that about every five months the latrines reached their capacity, so they were capped and new ones were excavated nearby. Thus, over the course of the war, more than 60 latrines were dug in the prison compound. Bush said he "realized the latrines were virtual time capsules, sealed at recorded intervals and left undisturbed over more than a century—so, potentially, they were records of the prison activities over time."

The latrines were more than just outhouses; they were veritable middens where the men deliberately discarded refuse or contraband and accidentally lost combs, lockets, watches, or other items. Bush also suspected the latrines "might reveal how living conditions in the prison and

resources available to the men changed over the duration of the war." So between 1990 and 1995, Bush and his crews excavated half a dozen latrines: three of which were in use from April to September 1862 behind residential Blocks 4 and 8, plus behind the Block 6 hospital. For comparison, he also excavated three other latrines opened in July 1864, behind Block 8, Block 6, and Block 1.

"We found that in 1862, the men had more material wealth than they did later," said Bush. In the war's early years, the Union and the Confederacy had signed an agreement whereby they could exchange officers of equal rank. So the Union, wanting to get their own officers back in good shape, had incentives to treat the Confederate officers decently. The archaeological record bears that out. The 1862 latrines included large cow and pig bones, "showing they ate well," Bush said. There were also discarded wine glasses and a surprising variety of wine and whiskey bottles, indicating prisoners had access to luxury items. Moreover, the latrine behind the hospital turned up pharmaceutical and patent medicine bottles, suggesting their medical care was as good as could be expected. Bush concluded the prisoners "actually had a lot of liberties to live their lives as best they could without too many impositions."

By 1864 things had changed. The exchange agreement had fallen apart. Moreover, several Confederate prisons had become notorious for their horrible treatment of Union soldiers: "Andersonville, a Confederate prison in

Georgia where 13,000 Union POWs died, was especially harsh," Bush noted. To retaliate for such mistreatment, in mid-1864, the Federal government began curtailing the benefits of Confederate soldiers in Union prisons, limiting them to only half-rations and no new clothes unless their existing ones were in tatters. By then, Johnson's Island was also overcrowded, housing more than 3,000 prisoners in a space built for only 2,800.

"We read in diaries and letters that the prisoners were so hungry some were reduced to eating rats," Bush said "and we wondered whether that was an exaggeration." But the evidence from the 1864, Block 8 latrine confirmed this "Larger cow and pig bone items just weren't there." In spite of the prison housing twice as many men in 1864 as in earlier years, there were half as many bottles, indicating the prisoners had less access to the goods they previously enjoyed. Bush also found the dismembered skeletons of dogs, rabbits, and, indeed, rats. "We don't have a lot of information about how they prepared the rodents for eating," he said. "But it appears they may have been boiled in a stew rather than roasted, as no bones were charred."

Though this evidence is only directly associated with Block 8, Bush believes it's representative of the hardships most of the prisoners faced, with the exception of those held in Block 1. Those prisoners signed the oath of allegiance to the Union, and in that latrine Bush found numerous patent medicine and liquor bottles as well as

jars of relish and other luxury items, confirming the privileged treatment described in the historical documents. However, the same documents indicate the Block 1 prisoners were denied their most desired privilege, early release.

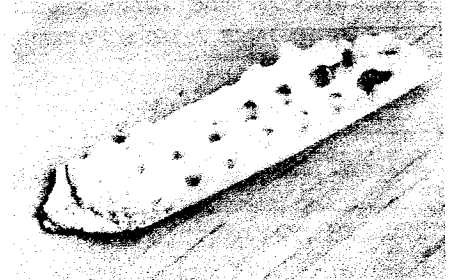
Despite their hardships, many Confederate officers still tried to maintain some semblance of their former ways of life. According to historical documents the prisoners engaged in a wide variety of activities ranging from French classes to debating societies to prayer services to minstrel shows. The documents also note that many prisoners passed their time making pendants, rings, brooches, and cuff buttons, with inserts of metal, stones and shell.

Most of the jewelry was made from what was commonly called gutta-percha, a hard black natural rubber and inlaid with other materials: "We've found thousands of fragments of fresh-water mollusk shell, and a few bits of gold and silver," said Bush.

Aside from passing the time, this black jewelry "was stylish during the Civil War for mourning clothes," Bush said. "Even though imprisoned, the men



Bush works on a laptop mapping features his crew has uncovered.



(Top left) A prisoner carved this cross made of shell. It was probably meant to be part of a piece of jewelry or to be affixed to a wooden box.

(Middle) This patent medicine bottle is typical of those found at the prison.

(Top right) It's possible that the missing part of this musket ball was used by the prisoners to make jewelry or other crafts.

(Above right) The recovery of several toothbrushes, like this one, indicates that the prisoners practiced dental hygiene.

(Left) Archaeologists have recovered several coins, including this 1862 Indian Head penny.

CHUCK HUMBERT

wanted to help their sweethearts and loved ones to remain fashionable even during the hardships of war. It was their way of trying to stay connected to their Southern roots" for emotional survival.

In the mid-1990s Bush made one of his most exciting finds: a number of escape tunnels that began at the latrines. Every latrine consisted of a fairly shallow vault of about eight by 12 feet whose depth was dictated by the bedrock, surmounted by a temporary wooden shed with four stalls. In excavating the latrines, Bush mapped the layers of soil they removed. Sometimes, however, one wall of a latrine vault looked dramatically different from the other walls: a layer of darker topsoil had fallen onto a layer of deep yellow clay without the usual layers of subsoils in between. The unnatural juxtaposition of these two stratigraphically separate layers puzzled Bush.

But as he excavated deeper he found tools that could have been used for digging. It was then that Bush realized he was looking at a tunnel whose roof had collapsed. "We'd read that someone was caught tunneling from the blocks and just assumed that meant from the housing block itself. The surprise was in finding that they were tunneling from the latrines," he exclaimed.

In some of the latrines where prisoners had tunneled, Bush found wooden planks or limestone blocks slanting at an angle from the top to the middle of the vault, which apparently served to deflect waste from above. "In some cases there were two or three tunnels from a single latrine," Bush recounted.

The digging tools included a broken table knife, a two-foot-long iron bar, and a stubby nine-inch-long broken leg bone from a cow. "From wear on the splintered shaft, we can tell the men held the bulky articulated end of the leg bone as a handle and dug with the shaft," Bush said. For seeing in the dark, "they must have used candles, but we've found no evidence yet." None of the tunnels was shored up by wood, although the clay soil typical of Ohio is compact enough to temporarily support the roof of a tunnel.

How could the prisoners have concealed their digging—especially when prison regulations called for the latrines to be closed at 9 P.M. and all men in their blockhouses for the night? Bush theorizes that the men may have primarily used the stalls nearest the blockhouses for relieving themselves. In the stalls closest to the stockade wall, they descended into the vault ("we don't know if they used ladders, but the vault was so shallow," he said, "only four or

five feet, that they could have just jumped in”), dug for a few minutes, pocketed the excavated dirt, and re-emerged into the prison yard to scatter the dirt around surreptitiously. Although this was done in broad daylight, hundreds of prisoners were milling around in the compound and entering and leaving the latrines, “so the activity might have been easy to hide,” Bush speculated. “These were intelligent men—officers, educated—and some were adamant about trying to escape.”

For all that work, no prisoner succeeded in escaping through a tunnel, although “one was shot in the head coming out of a tunnel, and another prisoner was stuck half-way out,” Bush said. Before the prison’s expansion, the tunnels were relatively short, as the no-man’s land between the latrines and the stockade was only 10 feet. After the guards discovered the tunnels, however, not only was the no-man’s land widened to 30 feet, but a six-foot-wide ditch was also dug down to bedrock all along the interior perimeter of the stockade, so that prisoners trying to escape would be seen as they emerged into the ditch. Furthermore, wooden pilings were driven along the side of the latrines facing the stockade to discourage further tunneling. But the archaeological findings suggest nothing shook some prisoners’ determination: “In the latrines behind Block 8, we found evidence of tunneling parallel to the pilings before taking a right angle turn at the end toward the stockade wall,” Bush said.

In summer 2006, Bush and his crew began digging in Block 6, the hospital, to learn about the prisoners’ medical



Teacher Theresa Mills sifts through soil recovered from Block 6. Primary and secondary schools teachers participate in a Heidelberg College class designed to help them teach science by learning archaeological field methods.



A crew member holds a reflector over a feature that will be mapped using a total station. The total station emits a beam that bounces off the reflector, allowing the archaeologists to plot the exact location of the feature.

treatment. “We know from letters that the prisoners suffered from dysentery, diarrhea, pneumonia, and smallpox, as well as wound infections,” he said. “The hospital was likely where the worst cases were kept.”

A volunteer discovered a one-inch fragment of green glass, which Bush rubbed clean with his thumbs. “This is likely from a bottle of Dr. Hostetter’s Stomach Bitters, a patent medicine of herbal extracts and a lot of alcohol, which was commonly used for a wide variety of ailments,” Bush said. “That would have been a common medicine for the Union soldiers; it may show that the POWs in the prison hospital received similar care.”

Indeed, though life became much harder for the prisoners as the war ground on, “most still found ways to maintain a certain level of their accustomed lifestyle,” Bush said. Johnson’s Island’s inmates “had more opportunities to maintain their higher standard of living” than other Union and Confederate prisoners.

Having concluded his 17th season, he is nowhere near done. “Johnson’s Island is the kind of site where an archaeologist could stay one summer or forever,” Bush said. “I still have many questions I’d love to research.”

TRUDY E. BELL, author of 10 books and over 400 articles about science, technology, and bicycling, is a former editor for *Scientific American* and *IEEE Spectrum* magazines.

To learn more about the Johnson’s Island investigation, visit the Web site www.johnsonsisland.com.

13102 CR 42
Mancos, Co 81328

Dear family,

I am sending along this packet of information concerning the daybook of JF Holliman. This fall there was an article in the magazine *American Archaeology*, a publication of the non-profit organization The Archaeological Conservancy, (Pat and I are members and receive this magazine quarterly) that concerned a project at Johnson's Island, Ohio. It was a very short piece simply stating that work was being conducted at the Civil War prison site in Ohio. I contacted Dr. David Bush, head of the excavation and president of the associated group, to visit with him about the work being done. After several email conversations, I decided to donate the JFH daybook to the group in care of Dr. Bush at Heidelberg College Anthropology Dept in Tiffin, Ohio. The book was deteriorating even though Pat and I had done all things advised to protect it and I felt it could be better documented at Heidelberg than I could do here. As you will notice in the letter of accession, I made several requests in return for the donation and will keep you all advised when I get any photos, code translations, or public appearance notices. The book is to be made available for research and study to anyone with appropriate notice to Dr. Bush. If you wish to "visit", I'm sure he would be most helpful.

Not long after the donation was completed, another article appeared in the magazine which I have copied for you all to read. It is interesting to note that the letter in the article is from one of the prisoners listed in the daybook indicating that JFH might have been housed in block 11 also, a piece of information we have not had.

Included in the packet is a poem that may have been original to JFH, but may also have been his rendition of a popular poem among the men since another name was in close proximity to that of JFH at the end of the poem. We just don't know. There is also the list of the prisoners who each signed the daybook with their information. This is all good information reinforcing that already available at Heidelberg and adding even more. As you may or may not know, there are no letters at all from JFH during the time of his imprisonment in the ones in my possession. Whether he wrote home or not is not known to us today.

As JHH would always say, "Regards to all",

Sarah

