

The Old Barney Beacon

The Mysterious Telegraph Girl of Cemetery Hill



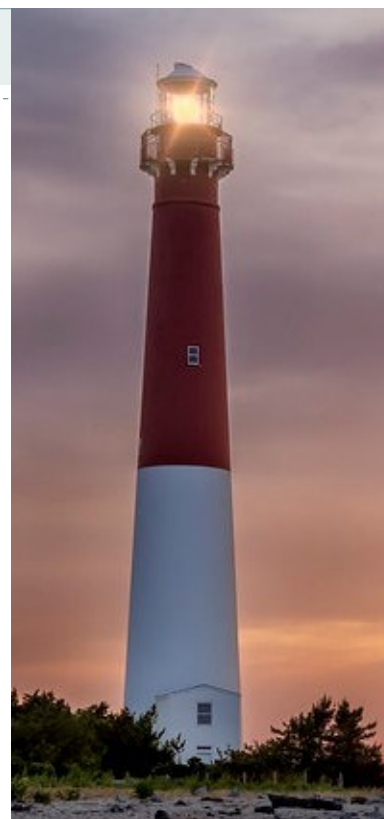
WASHINGTON DAILY OBSERVER - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1890

THE HEROINE OF A TELEGRAPHIC STORY OF THE BATTLE OF GETTYS-BURG. - It was my privilege to meet with the "old Time Telegraphers" in Kansas City recently, and one of our many "good times" was a visit to the Solders' Home near Leavenworth, Kansas.

You are not to have a description of that beautiful retreat now, but only a little telegraphic story of the battle of Gettysburg told by Cap. O. R. McNary, Post No. 6, who was well acquainted with its heroine, and was near her temporary of- fice during the battle.

When the enemy entered the town driving away the citizens, the railroad station operator, a young, girl, took the machine from the operating table, connected the wires so as to preserve the circuit intact and carried the instrument to Cemetery Hill a quarter of a mile distant. Placing it on the block of wood she instructed the boys how to cut the line and reconnect the wires and seated upon the ground sent and received news for the of- ficers all through the battle, faltering not in her resolution when the brains of a man

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2022 DUES ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED



Dues are \$25

Students and Military are free.

Dues can be mailed to:

PO Box 117, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Or for electronic submission:

<https://paypal.me/OBARCDUES>

For any questions contact Tom Preiser, N2XW

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at the Ocean Acres Community Center.

VE CORNER

There was no VE session in December.

VE sessions are held Wed nights before the meeting at the community center at 6pm.

If you are looking to upgrade your license or you know someone who needs a session please contact Rick at n2rpg@arrl.net.

“BRING A FRIEND”

This year I would love to see the club grow. It's always great to have new members join our ranks. It gives us a chance to share our knowledge, interest them in aspects of amateur radio that they may not know about.

We probably all know someone, who may already be in the hobby or who may be interested, that we can invite to join us for our meetings and events. Bring them out and let them see who we are. We may just offer them something that they want to be part of.

All of our meetings are always open to guests but I'm not sure who would know that if we don't spread the word.

Whether we get new members or just make new friends the world of amateur radio is about who we are and that is people who love the aspects of the hobby and want to share it with others.

So what do you say? Is there someone you can invite?

struck by a shell not six feet away were scattered over her – faithful to her post throughout, all those awful scenes for three days. When the end came, she replaced the telegraphic machinery in its old position and resumed her work at the station.

It is a story that belongs in history, but like many other incidents of that time especially therein women were the heroes remains unrecorded.

My informant could give me only meagre details, had forgotten unfortunately, the name of the brave girl. She was an orphan, reared by a Mr. Lee (Brown Lee) in Washington county, Pa. It is known that she remained a year in the Gettysburg station after the battle.

The "Old Timers" want to learn her name, and, if living, her whereabouts. Should this meet the eye of one who can give further information, will the person kindly forward to the writer, No. 354 South Hoyne avenue, Chicago, Ill.

A little incident may aid in identifying. A bunch of wild flowers and grasses gathered just above her as the operator watched and waited in the midst of the carnage, was given to the Rev. J.R. Johnson; the flowers were splashed with blood of the brave men who fought near by on these terrible days.

Let us hear from the "Old Timer" at Gettysburg. – Mary Dye, in Chicago Inter Ocean.

Why hadn't I ever heard of this? I went to Gettysburg College. I am familiar with both telegraph and Morse code. I spent four years running and walking all over the battlefield. How could such an interesting story have escaped me?

In an exercise of caution, I sent the story along to a former classmate who not only still lives in Gettysburg but personally knows many of those historians who have devoted their life to eating and breathing the Battle of Gettysburg.

The response: "Forget it Mark. It didn't happen. It couldn't have happened. That's why you never heard of it."

The story had a ring of truth to me. I have spent the last 40 years of my life cross examining liars in criminal court. I would like to think I have acquired some insight to into what might be true and what is not.

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"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."— **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2022, what will it bring? What will happen this year with our clubs events and meetings?

I am hoping and praying that this year we can get back to doing all the events on our schedule and enjoy time in person with each other.

There is nothing better than sharing the fun of our hobby. Of course we are all still concerned about COVID and we will take the proper actions to keep everyone healthy and safe as a top priority.

I know it can be hard to be optimistic when every time we get past a hurdle another one is waiting, but I am going to take the optimistic stand that we will have a good year.

I know that because all of you make things the best even when the chips are against us!

I am honored to continue as your President. Thank you!!!

Until next month...

N2RPQ

2022 ARRL CONTESTS

Straight Key Night	Jan 1
Kid's Day—Jan	Jan 1
RTTY Roundup	Jan 8-9
Jan VHF Contest	Jan 15-16
School Club Roundup	
	Feb 14-18
DX Contest—CW	Feb 19-20
DX Contest—SSB	Mar 5-6
Rookie Roundup	Apr 10
June VHF Contest	Jun 11-13
Kid's Day—June	Jun 18
Field Day	Jun 25-26
IARU HF World Championship	
	Jul 9-10
222MHz & Up Distance Contest	
	Aug 6-7
10 GHz & Up—Round 1	
	Aug 20-21
Rookie Roundup (RTTY)	
	Aug 21
Sept VHF Contest	Sep 10-12
10 GHz & Up—Round 2	
	Sep 17-18
EME 2.3GHz & Up—Wknd 1	
	Sep 17-18
EME 50 to 1296 MHz—Wknd 2	
	Oct 15-16
School Club Roundup	
	Oct 17-21
Nov Sweepstakes—CW	
	Nov 5-7
EME 50 to 1296 MHz—Wknd 3	
	Nov 12-13
Nov Sweepstakes—Phone	
	Nov 19-21
160 Meter	Dec 2-4
10 Meter	Dec 10-11
Rookie Roundup—CW	
	Dec 18

2022 Events

This year we are working on having the following events:

- Annual Dinner
- Picnic
- Field Day
- Tuckerton Lighthouse Event
- Old Barney Lighthouse Event
- A Fox Hunt

As dates and more information becomes available it will be distributed. If you are interested in helping spearhead one of these projects please let us know.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

At the January 2022 meeting president Rick Kennard, N2RPQ presented the following awards (virtually):

- **John Sawina, NA2R**—Certificate of Appreciation for serving the club as Vice President in the year of 2021
- **Mike Libonati, WA2ACV**— Certificate of Appreciation for serving the club as Treasurer for the years of 2015-2021.
- **Cheryl Conley, W1CLC**—Awarded the W1UL Mentoring Award for her role in sponsoring the Southern Regional HS ARC.
- **Ira Hosid, N2WAA**—Awarded the W1UL Mentoring Award for his role as liaison to the Southern Regional HS ARC
- **Tom Preiser, N2XW**—Awarded the 2021 President's Award for his dedication to constantly working to help in any way he can for the betterment of the club

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEARS RECIPIENTS!

OLD BARNEY GEAR

You can find Old Barney Gear at all these places:

Southern Ocean Marine Sportswear (Hats & Jackets Embroidered)

79 South Main Street, Barnegat, NJ 08005

(609) 698-8868

Email: sales@soms4u.com Website: www.soms4u.com

Café Press (All types of logoed items available)

New Logo Items: <https://www.cafepress.com/oldbarneyarcnewlogo>

Old Logo Items: <https://www.cafepress.com/obarc>

Gold Medal Ideas (Personalized Old Barney Items)

1160 Thompson Blvd, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

https://stores.goldmedalideas.com/ygs/Old_Barney-Products/10000170



HAVE YOU JOINED THE MEMBER'S AREA?

The member's area of the OBARC website is being developed to provide useful tools to our members. Currently there is:

- Club Documents & Meeting Minutes
- Swap and Shop Postings (You decide if yours is just for members or the public)
- A "Ask for help/Questions" area to post questions to other members for assistance.
- A members directory for those who want to be listed.

Take a look. Suggestions are welcome! You can request access to the area by going to: www.obarc.org/members

OUR MEMBERS

Welcome to Our New Members:

January Birthdays:

- 1/14—Robert Hayner
- 1/18—Norman Stackhouse

JOIN US ON THE AIR

Join us for our club net. The net is held every Thursday night at 7:30pm (except holidays and special occasions) on the WU2E repeater.

Every week we host a random topic of discussion.

Find us at: 146.835 (-600)
PL 127.3

We look forward to sharing time with you!

For any comments or questions regarding the weekly net please contact Tom Preiser, N2XW at n2xw@arrl.net.

Old Barney would like to thank the 835 users group for allowing us to use the WU2E repeater to host our club nets.

There is a big difference between it COULDN'T happen and it DIDN'T happen. If Johnny is accused of shooting the bartender last Saturday night at the Piggly Wiggly bar and it turns out that he was locked up in Phoenix, Arizona for auto theft at the time the shooting took place – that's a "COULDN'T have happened." However, if Johnny was in town last Saturday night when the bartender was shot but the regulars there said the shooter didn't look like Johnny – that's a "DID or DIDN'T happen."

So here is how I'm going to approach the problem: IF I can demonstrate that this COULD have happened in the substantially the same way that the story relates, then I am going to leave it up to the Gettysburg 'experts' to try to convince me that it DIDN'T happen. So here we go.



A BIT OF HISTORY

1820 Danish scientist Hans Christian Oersted discovers that the magnetic needle in a compass can be deflected by a nearby electric current.

1825 British Inventor William Sturgeon discovers electromagnetism and builds the first electromagnet.

Pennsylvania's Delaware and Hudson Railroad is the first railroad to operate a locomotive in the United States.

American Joseph Henry sends an electric current over a mile of wire to an electromagnet causing a bell to strike.

1835 British Chemist John Daniell develops the first workable voltaic battery that can produce a constant reliable source of electric current. (A later variant called the "gravity cell" or "crowsfoot cell" would become the popular choice for electrical telegraphy).

1837 William Cooke and Charles Wheatstone patent a telegraph system in England. Their system requires two wires.

January 6, 1838 The first public demonstration of the telegraph in the US takes place at the Speedwell Ironworks in Morristown NJ. Over a 2-mile line the following message is sent: "A patient waiter is no loser."

March 3, 1843. Congress provides funds for Samuel Morse to connect Washington to Baltimore with a telegraph line. Originally started as an "underground" line Morse learned that the English were putting their wires up on poles and decides to follow their lead. Unlike the English system, the Morse system only requires one wire.

May 22, 1844 The Baltimore Washington telegraph line is complete, and Samuel Morse sends his famous message "What hath God Wrought." (quite an improvement from the first message.)

January 1846 The first commercial telegraph line is constructed between Lancaster and Harrisburg PA. The local farmers are weirded out by the strange whistling and moaning noises created by the wires as the winter winds blow through them. However other commercial lines quickly follow, connecting Washington, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New York, north to Albany, then west to the Great Lakes. The great telegraph race is on!

1846 The Pennsylvania Railroad is formed and will become the largest railroad in the United States. They decide that they will own their own telegraph lines and employ their own telegraph operators.

1847 A virtual explosion of telegraph line construction begins. By the end of the year, all major cities on the east coast are connected including Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

1850s The telegraph and railroads develop together. Although telegraph lines can be placed anywhere, the railroad right of way is a flat and convenient place to put up poles and telegraph lines. The railroad needs the telegraph to keep track of cargo, railroad cars, and to avoid collisions. America becomes hooked on the telegraph just like our modern society is addicted to the Internet. Information travels from city to city over the telegraph lines and every major paper has a telegraph office. By the end of 1850, 20 different companies have laid 12,000 miles of telegraph lines in the United States.

1852 The Hanover Junction railroad station is completed by the Hanover Branch Railroad. It is located 5 miles east of the town of Hanover and 20 miles east of Gettysburg.

1858 Hanover Branch Railroad Company connects Littlestown, Pennsylvania to Hanover Junction. Littlestown is 12 miles of southeast Gettysburg.

1858 The Hanover Branch Railroad Company connects Hanover to the brand-new train station at Gettysburg. Plans begin to continue the line from Gettysburg, west through the mountains to Hagerstown, Maryland.

1858 The Northern Central Railway becomes the main line between Baltimore and Elmira New York. It runs through Hanover junction north to Harrisburg and then north to Elmira. It is the major north-south railway connection during the Civil War and indispensable in shipping troops and equipment from Baltimore north.

THE CIVIL WAR

June 21, 1860 The US Army Signal Corps is formed under the leadership of Major Albert Myer. The Corps has three divisions; observation from balloons; flag (wig-wag) signaling, and electromagnetic telegraphy. Major Myer proposes the use of telegraph trains (wagons) that travel with the armies,

an idea that is adopted. The horse or mule drawn wagons carried telegraph sets, reels of insulated copper wire, and lances for stringing temporary telegraph lines. Separate wagons carried galvanic batteries of 100 cups, which could be separated and attached to different stations.

January 1861 Lincoln is inaugurated. There is not one telegraph line into the War department, much less the White House.

April 12, 1861 South Carolina Milita fires on Fort Sumpter in Charleston, South Carolina. The Civil War has begun.

April 19, 1861 the Confederates capture Harpers Ferry on the Baltimore and Ohio line cutting off railroad and telegraph communication to western Pennsylvania and Ohio. The only remaining telegraph line out of Washington is thru Maryland - a shaky proposition. Lincoln realizes how quickly Washington can be isolated and decides to do something about it.

April 27, 1861 the US Military Telegraph Corps is formed in Harrisburg. The original members are taken from the Pennsylvania railroad. Technically, they are not part of the military, and its employees are civilians. Their orders come directly from the Secretary of War in Washington.

Oct 1861 The first transcontinental telegraph across the United States is completed. The Pony Express closes two days later.

The issue as to who is going to control the telegraph lines during the war (civilian or military) comes to a head in 1862 when the major telegraph companies complete their connections in Washington by running their lines into General McLean's Office. Secretary of War Stanton is unhappy with this arrangement and orders that the lines be redirected to his office in the War Department. Major Myer protests, and is promptly exiled to Memphis Tenn. for the remainder of the war. The telegraph lines are turned over to the Military Telegraph service.



THE SOUTHERN INVASION



May 1863 General Lee decides to move the war north into union territory. A general plan is devised where he will march the Army of Northern Virginia northward from the Shenandoah, hide behind the Appalachian Mountains and execute a surprise tack on Harrisburg. Jeb Stuart and his cavalry division are to move northward 30 to 40 ahead of and to the east of the main army wreaking havoc and distracting the union army from discovering Lees precise location and intentions. They will then rejoin forces on the Southwest side of the Susquehanna River overlooking Harrisburg.

June 20 - 25. The telegraph office in Gettysburg is sending ominous messages east to Hanover Junction that there have been sightings of confederate troops in the area.

June 26, 1863 Southern Calvary appear in Gettysburg from the west shooting and screaming. The Calvary is followed by 5000 Confederate troops. General Early meets with David Kendlehart, president of the Gettysburg's town Council. Early demands food, supplies, and shoes for his troops or they will burn the town. The president of the Council replies that they don't have anything that he wants in the quantity that he wants but that he will "open up" the stores of the town. The soldiers begin a free shopping spree and are apparently satisfied. Upon discovering that some of the local militia captured by the Confederates are actually Gettysburg College students, General Early pardons them and tells them "Go home to your mothers before you get hurt."

The next morning (June 27) the Confederates leave Gettysburg, and the residents breathe a sigh of relief.

Jubel Early's Division now turns east with instructions to capture the prosperous town of York, approximately 30 miles away. The confederate cavalry follows the train tracks east to the town of Hanover, destroying telegraph lines as they go. As they arrive at the outskirts of the town telegrapher Danial Trone sends a message to Hanover Junction telling them that the Rebs are here and headed their way. He packs up his equipment and takes off.

The Rebs commence a second shopping spree in the town of Hanover and seem to be getting the hang of it. They pay the merchants with worthless Confederate paper currency.

The locomotives at Hanover Junction had previously been moved to safety and the last one - the Heidelberg - hooked up to a freight train - was getting ready to roll out. At the last moment the chief telegrapher, Howard Scott, takes one look at the approaching confederate calvary, one look at the departing train, and legs it down the track just managing to pull himself up on the rear of the caboose. The train roars south towards Glen Rock. Left standing there, apprentice John Shearer removes the telegraph key and sounder and throws it in some bushes. The calverman take Johns watch, money, and shoes. They tear down the telegraph lines and looked for the telegraph equipment - and finding a second key - they were satisfied. Railroad equipment is destroyed and the bridge over Codorus creek is burned.

June 28, 1863 Lincoln replaces Gen. Hooker with Major General George "porcupine" Meade as head commander of the army of the Potomac. Lincoln believes that Hooker has become too cautious after his loss at Chancellorsville in May. Meade has a welllearned reputation of getting the job done. He also has the reputation of being a disagreeable short-tempered man.

As the union and confederate army's square off in Gettysburg preparing to fight the largest battle ever seen on the planet, Gen. Lee laments, where is Jeb Stuart?"

June 30, 1863 early morning. Union soldiers now pass through Hanover to the relief of the residents. . Moving northward they leave a small rear-guard force behind. They are unaware that Jeb Stewart's cavalry has just crossed into Pennsylvania and is moving toward Hanover in force. By noon vicious street fighting is taking place between the 5th NY Cavalry and Stewarts cavalry. The battle is a draw and Stewart continues his march northward through the night - completely unaware that 30 miles to the west the primary armies are about to clash at Gettysburg and that Lee will not be meeting him on the banks of the Susquehanna River as planned.



THE BATTLE



June 30, 1863. Upon realizing the Union Army is closer to his position than he was led to believe, and not wishing to get trapped with his back against the Susquehanna River, Lee decides to turn his army around, march south through the Cashtown Gap, to confront the Union Forces at Gettysburg.

July 1, 1863. The Confederate and Union Armies clash north of the town. Both sides scramble to gain a quick strategic advantage - but after a day of brutal fighting, neither does. By evening, the Confederate forces overwhelm the Union forces and in a state of disarray, they are pushed backwards through the town. The Union forces regroup on a hill - known as Cemetery Hill - approximately half mile south of town. About midnight, General Meade and his entourage arrives on the battlefield and he commandeers the residence of Lydia Leister, located on the back side of a ridge, approximately 800 yards South of Cemetery Hill.

July 2, 1863. Lee makes numerous attempts to do and end run around both ends of the Union position. Cemetery Hill becomes the linchpin of the northern end of the Union Battle line. Its position is strategic for another reason - unlike other hills and outcroppings in the area - it is relatively clear of trees. It commands a view to the north, east and to the west - territory now controlled by the confederate forces. Lee recognizes all of this and the hill receives more than its fair share of shelling. Southern forces are never able to take the hill.

July 3, 1863. Lee decides that a decisive victory can only be obtained by a massive allout attack on the Union line - straight up the middle. In what has become known as Pickett's Charge, the Army of Northern Virginia marches across open fields toward Cemetery Ridge approximately one mile south of Cemetery Hill. The southern forces march into a hailstorm of union artillery - firing everything they can get their hands on, including grapeshot. It is a massive slaughter of human life, and in the end, the Lees forces retreat from the battlefield.



THE ARGUMENTS



Young Women Don't Do Telegraph

Wrong. The telegraph office was probably the first equal opportunity employer. Telegraphy began as a

gender-neutral profession. (You can't practice sex discrimination if you don't know if the person at the other end of the line is a man or a woman!) In 1846, Sarah Bagley is appointed as Telegraph Superintendent of the Lowell Massachusetts telegraph office. Phoebe Wood is appointed head telegrapher of the Albion Office of the Erie and Michigan Telegraph line in 1849. As the telegraph lines snake across the country, the need for operators exceeds the supply. In 1851, Emma Hunter of West Chester, Pennsylvania becomes an operator for the Atlantic and Ohio Telegraph Company. The Pennsylvania Railroad begins hiring female operators in 1855. By the early 1860s, the New York and Boston Magnetic Telegraph Company has approximately 50 female telegraphers. This list goes on and on.

As to age - it was the teenagers who grasped the language most quickly and became the most proficient. As an example - in 1852, Ellen Laughton became an operator at the Dover and New Hampshire telegraph office at the tender age of 14. (The general rule was for a young woman to start at a new or small telegraph office, prove that they could both copy accurately and send a nice clean code, and then move up to a larger and better paying position somewhere else.) Not only did young women do it - they did it well.

Hugh Scott was the telegraph operator for the Gettysburg Train Station and there's no evidence that anyone else held that position in the summer of 1863.

True. Our little lady was not the telegraph operator or station master at the Gettysburg Train Station at the time of the battle. Either Capt. McNary was lying (or mistaken) when he spoke to the reporter 30 years later - or - he was accurately reporting what the young lady had told him. In other words, she was lying and he had no reason to question or disbelieve what she said.

The telegraph key at the Gettysburg Train Station was removed by Hugh Scott, the Telegraph Operator of the station.

True. However, it should be pointed out that nearly all train stations had at least three keys and sounders - two related to railroad operation and one reserved for the use of the telegraph company that owned the telegraph lines - Western Union, for example. In addition, there were portable units called KOB's (keys on a board.) The KOBs would allow an operator or apprentice to practice in the station or at home without being connected to the system. Operators often took their own keys with them, just as a musician would take his trumpet with him as he traveled from one place to another. The fact that the "station" key was removed does not mean that there were not others available.

The Confederates had torn down all the telegraph lines connecting Gettysburg with the outside world days before the Battle.

True. The entire country - including Lincoln - paced back and forth the first 3 days in July having absolutely no idea who was winning or who was losing in the clash of the Titans. But note that our storyteller says that the little lady was taking and receiving messages from military personnel. She had to be on a local or field line - sort of like two cans connected by a string. Our storyteller never said she was connected to the outside world.

The idea that the telegraph girl could have rerouted a telegraph line from the Gettysburg Train Station to Cemetery Hill is unbelievable.

Agreed. If this story has any truth to it, it couldn't have happened that way. The train station is over a mile from Cemetery Hill. The telegraph lines stretched east away from Gettysburg, not South. Let's not overlook the fact that the Confederate Troops occupied the town during the battle and would have cut or destroyed any wire connecting the telegraph office to anywhere. Lastly, you need electricity to operate a telegraph. The Confederate Troops would have destroyed the batteries in the train station.

Ok. The story can't be true. Now what?

Not so fast. Not so fast. When General Meade rolled into town shortly before midnight on July 1, 1863, he would have been accompanied by his telegraph and battery wagons. These wagons contained keys, sounders, wire, and plenty of batteries. If the wagons were parked in the vicinity of General Meade's headquarters (which is highly probable), all of this equipment was located less than a half mile from Cemetery Hill. From a technical standpoint, running a wire from a telegraph wagon up to the top of the hill would have been a piece of cake. It would have made sense too. It would have given General Meade and his staff "eyes" to most of the battlefield.

So, what really happened?

Our nameless telegraph girl is born and raised in Washington County, just south of Pittsburgh. By the time she is five, Pittsburgh is already a hub of railroad activity and telegraph activity, so the telegraph is not "new" to her. She is a spunky and highly motivated young lady and decides that being a telegraph operator is where it's at. She practices and practices until she can send and receive clean morse code at a speed that will allow her to get a job as an apprentice operator.

Getting a job in Pittsburgh is difficult because the Pennsylvania Railroad already employs the best of the best. However, there are other smaller stations and telegraph offices that might be hiring. She hears that there is a new train station in town called Gettysburg and they might be looking for an apprentice. Gettysburg is an easy train ride away - Pittsburgh - Harrisburg - Hanover Junction - Gettysburg. She arrives in Gettysburg in June of 1863 and the station agrees to take her on as an apprentice to see if she works out.

She is in Gettysburg on June 27th and watches helplessly while the Confederate Troops loot all the stores and humiliate the townspeople by dancing down the street in hoopskirts that they have just stolen. When they destroy the telegraph lines the following day, they put her out of work.

On July 1st, the Confederates return. But now, the Union Army is there to meet them. Damn right! It's payback time! Destiny is calling - and she is going to get into this fight and do her part.

So just how did this young lady convince a couple young men of the telegraph corps to string her out some wire and let her sit up on the top of cemetery hill? The question is why wouldn't they let her do it? They are all fighting for their lives - you don't turn down a helping hand at a time like that. She lied and said that she was the telegraph operator at Gettysburg to "get in the door" and they would not have any reason to disbelieve her. They would have spent a minute or two watching her send and receive on a key and were apparently satisfied. Their primary responsibility is to keep a line of communication open between general Meade and Washington – not sit up on the front line with the soldiers and get shot. Remember, they are civilians just like her. They are not busy at the moment - all of the telegraph lines within 30 miles in every direction had been destroyed. They are sitting there doing nothing, waiting to get hit by a well-aimed artillery shell. If this crazy little girl wants to go and sit up on top of that hill over there and report what she sees, they are certainly willing to sit down at the bottom and listen to whatever messages she might send. And that's exactly what they did.

No young woman would lie to risk getting her head shot off.

Not true. A foreign army, with no justification, had invaded her home state. She wasn't a skilled marksman – but she was a skilled telegrapher. She was determined to get into this fight and do what she could do to help beat them back - even if she had to lie to do it.

Was she alone in this lying thing? Not hardly. It is estimated that over 200,000 young men lied about their age to enlist to fight in the Civil War. It is also estimated that at least 500 women lied about their sex and enlisted as men so that they could fight (not quite sure how they pulled that off). If the lie necessary to get you into this fight was telling the US Signal Corps that you were the telegraph operator at the Gettysburg train station - then so be it.

If there's a whole lot of lying going on, how do you know the whole story isn't a lie?

Having studied the art of lying for most of my professional career, I would suggest to you the following: First, as a general rule, a person tells a lie when (a) he or she believes it's in her best interest to do so at the moment, and (b) the chance of the lie being discovered is relatively small. Second, it is easier to get away with a lie if you tell it to a person that you will never see again. Third, your chances of getting away with the lie are increased if you mix it in with a bunch of truths. One lie hidden among 19 truths will be virtually undiscoverable. With all that in mind, let's go back and take a new look at the story.

What did Captain O.R. McNary actually observe firsthand with his own two eyes? He observed a young girl setting up a telegraph key on a block of wood while soldiers assisted her in wiring it up. She spent the next two days sending and receiving messages. That's it.

What did she tell him? She told him that she was the telegraph operator of the Gettysburg Train Station. She also told him that she was born in Washington County as an orphan and raised by Mr. Lee Brown. It is unclear whether she ever told him her first name.

What did he surmise? It is apparent that Sergeant O'Malley had to connect the dots and made an educated guess that if she was the telegraph operator at the train station, she must have taken the key and the necessary wiring and reestablished herself on Cemetery Hill. That would be an extremely rational conclusion. However, there is no evidence that our young lady ever told him that and he certainly never observed it. The possibility that there was some other set of facts which placed her up on the hill with her telegraph key never entered his mind.

Is Sergeant O'Malley lying? No. He would have absolutely no reason or motive to do so. Her actions on that hill had such a profound affect upon him that he went back to Gettysburg after the war to find her. At least one person in Gettysburg knew who he was talking about and told him that she had stayed approximately a year and then had left for parts unknown. It would appear that his motive in telling the story was to give an unsung hero the credit that she rightfully deserved, and perhaps – if she was still alive – and read the story – she might reach out to him.

Did our young lady lie to Sergeant O'Malley? She did. She was not the telegraph operator at the train station. The chance of her being caught in this lie was small - she was never going to see any of these soldiers again. However, everything else has the ring of truth – there is no reason to disbelieve that she was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania as an orphan and raised by Mr. Lee Brown.

Why didn't Sergeant O'Malley remember her name? Frankly, she probably never told it to him. She wasn't sitting up there trying to get a date with a good-looking soldier - she was up there doing her duty to God and her Country. Sending and receiving telegraph messages with a key and sounder is difficult enough. Doing it while there is a battle raging all around you - and there is still living brain tissue splattered on your clothes and equipment - makes the job all the more difficult. She was on that hill conducting business. Period.

Conclusion

With all due respect to the readers of this article, I believe that I have established that this story could be true. I will now wait for someone to try and convince me that it isn't true.

About the author: Mark Roddy Esq. is a practicing criminal trial attorney with his office located in Pleasantville, NJ. Primarily a "morse code" guy, he operates a modest 100 watt set up on a multi-band long wire. He and his wife Denise have two adult sons, one who works in the fiber optics division of Atlantic City Electric and the other who works in the "secret squirrel" division at the Patuxent Naval

NEWS FROM AROUND OUR SECTION...



OCEAN COUNTY ARES® JANUARY 2022

The Ocean County ARES Net Schedule, in general, is as follows:

The first Wednesday of the month;

7:30 PM, Digital Training Net, 145.170 MHz, WA2RES/R, No Echolink

8:30 PM, ARES Voice Training Net, 449.825 MHz, WA2RES/R, Echolink WA2RES-R Toms River.

The second Wednesday of the month;

7:30 PM, Digital Training Net, 449.825 MHz, WA2RES/R, Echolink WA2RES-R Toms River.

8:00 PM, Ocean County Skywarn Training Net, 145.170 MHz, WA2RES/R, No Echolink

8:30 PM, ARES Voice Training Net, 145.170 MHz, WA2RES/R, No Echolink

The Third Wednesday of the month;

7:30 PM, Digital Training Net, 145.170 MHz, WA2RES/R, No Echolink

8:30 PM, ARES Voice Training Net, 449.825 MHz, WA2RES/R, Echolink WA2RES-R Toms River.

The fourth Wednesday of the month;

7:30 PM, Digital Training Net, 449.825 MHz, WA2RES/R, Echolink WA2RES-R Toms River.

8:30 PM, ARES Voice Training Net, 145.170 MHz, WA2RES/R, No Echolink

The fifth Wednesday of the month (If it should occur);

7:30 PM, Digital Training Net, 145.170 MHz, WA2RES/R, No Echolink

8:30 PM, ARES Voice Training Net, 449.825 MHz, WA2RES/R, Echolink WA2RES-R Toms River.

The 449.825 MHz repeater has a PL of 131.8, -5 MHz shift (444.825 MHz).

The 145.170 MHz repeater has a PL of 131.8, -600 KHz shift (144.570 MHz).

Digital Nets use FLDIGI/FLMSG (MT63-2KL) over the repeater or a designated simplex frequency and/or VARA FM Winlink on 145.010 MHz.

All ARES Voice Training Nets are wide FM. Anyone checking in on C4FM are asked to change to FM Mode.

There are no training nets on the third Wednesday for the months of February, April, June, August, October and December because of ARES meetings, either in person or Zoom.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.



Southern NJ Section News January 2022

Tom Preiser N2XW SNJ Section Manager

n2xw@arrl.org

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope this is the beginning of a happy and healthy New Year. There should be many improvements coming from the ARRL this year. As they roll out, I will let you know. Many clubs have been able to meet in person again, I hope this will continue. Remember to check out the ARRL Club Newsletter for club happenings around the country.

Hurricane Watch Net Recorded 300 On-Air Hours in 2021

Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, says 2021 was the third most-active hurricane season on record in terms of named storms, and was the sixth consecutive above-normal season. “We’ve completed another hurricane season. The Atlantic basin was extremely busy again for 2021,” Graves told HWN members. “For the year, we had 21 named storms, seven of which became hurricanes, and four of those became major hurricanes — Category 3 or stronger.” Graves noted that 2021 marked the first year on record that two consecutive hurricane seasons exhausted the list of 21 storm names. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/hurricane-watch-net-recorded-300-on-air-hours-in-2021> for more information.

I would like to wish all the Clubs a successful 2022. Please encourage more people to join your club. Make sure you take the time to help the new members get involved and help them experience this great hobby. I hope to get around and visit as many clubs as possible this year. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance at n2xw@arrl.net

WHO IS OLD BARNEY?

The Old Barney Amateur Radio Club (OBARC) was established in 1975 by a diverse group of individuals with a common goal of promoting Amateur Radio.

Today the group continues towards making the amateur radio hobby rewarding through participation in several events throughout the year, training sessions, VE testing and monthly meetings.

Our meetings are held at the [Ocean Acres Community Center](#), 489 Nautilus Blvd, Manahawkin, NJ 08050*, beginning at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except holidays). We welcome anyone (licensed or not) to come and meet with us to learn more about amateur radio.

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SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The newsletter is open to anyone who would like to submit articles. Please join me in contributing to content and share the knowledge you have about our hobby with all our readers.

Presentations are also welcomed. We try to host a presentation at each monthly meeting covering different topics. We would even welcome "special" sessions via Zoom for presentations that are too long to host at a meeting.

Please contact me at n2rpg@arrl.net with any articles or to arrange a presentation.

THE OLD BARNEY RADIO CLUB IS ARRL AFFILIATED



Old Barney Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 117
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

E-mail: n2ob@arrl.net

Visit the ARRL at www.arrl.org

