

TIPTON-HAYNES

PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

Volume 25, No. 4, 2013

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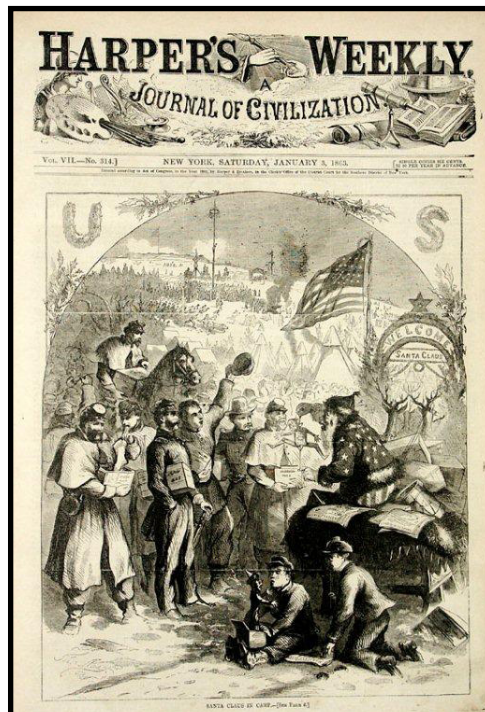
Visions of Christmas: 1863 & Thomas Nast and the First Santa Claus

Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site continues its celebration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial with the Visions of Christmas: 1863. The Confederate States of America had experienced the worst six months of its existence as the year came to a close. Countless men had lost their lives during the major battles of Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, Fort Sanders in Knoxville – all but one being a Southern loss. As Unionists of Northeast Tennessee celebrated the arrival of Union forces, the family of Landon Carter Haynes suffered the agonizing loss of their home to Union authorities. A different Christmas celebration swept across Northeast Tennessee as pro-Southern families were forced out, like the Haynes family, while local Unionist families enjoyed the holiday with gifts from Santa Claus.

The legend of Santa Claus had been around for nearly a hundred years by 1863, but it was not until Thomas Nast popularized the image of Santa by his printed illustrations. Nast was born on September 27, 1840 in Landau, Germany. Around 1850, the Nast family moved and settled in New York City. In the mid-1850s, Nast studied under several different artists and attended the National Academy of Design. On his way to becoming considered the “Father of the American Cartoon,” he worked for several illustrious newspapers such as *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, *New York*

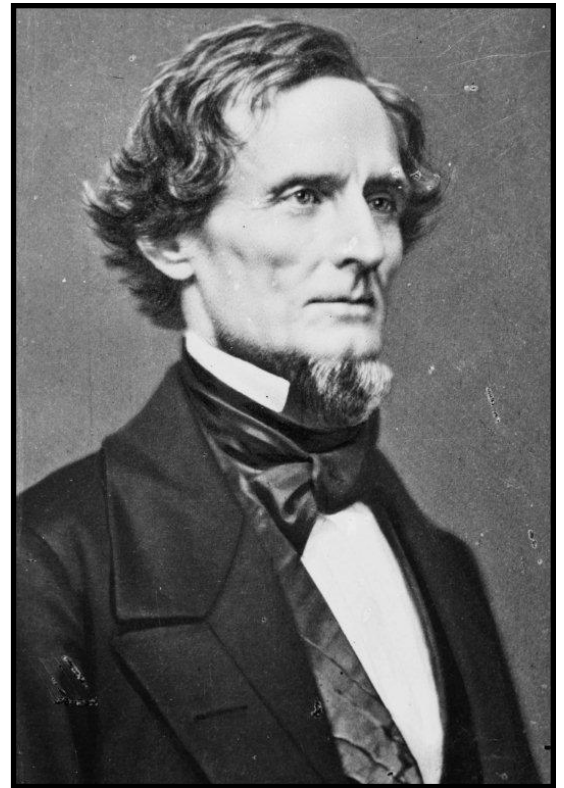
Illustrated News, and *Harper’s Weekly*. Nast went on to cover such topics as national and local politics, the Civil War, Reconstruction, world affairs, and much more. His most lasting impression is his iconic drawings of what we know today as Santa Claus, Uncle Sam, the Republican elephant, and the Democratic donkey. In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Nast to be the Consul General for the United States in Ecuador. On December 7 of that year, he succumbed to yellow fever.

The image of Santa Claus that we envision today comes from the several Thomas Nast drawings of the character in the late 1800s. On January 3, 1863, the first drawing of today’s version of Santa was printed in the *Harper’s Weekly*. Nast’s image depicts Santa visiting Union soldiers in camp and distributing presents from his reindeer pulled sleigh. One soldier is shown opening a box and receiving a pair of socks, which would have been much needed. Most interesting of all, is that the patriotic Santa holds a dancing puppet of Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederate States of America. Around the neck of Davis is a string in which Santa is lynching the Confederate President.





Thomas Nast's cartoon-like depiction of himself



Civil War era photograph of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America

2014 Membership Appreciation

We are very thankful for the 2014 Memberships that have already been sent to the Association. We encourage everyone to join and we appreciate all of the support.

Family \$35

Robert & Rebecca Clark
Ann & Dean Bare
Kandace Beaver
Chris & Tracy Campbell
Dan & Shirley Greaser
Michael Lilley
Christi Shepherd
Landon & Robert Tipton

Supportive \$50.00

Lynn Distelhorst
Leona Price
Oscar & Joan Wagner

Sustaining \$100.00

Tom & Joy McGinnis
Anne Brading & Robert Peplies

Tipton-Haynes extends an apology for not including the generous Sustaining Membership of \$100 made by Travis & Linda Keller that should have been listed in the previous newsletter. We were sad to learn of the passing of Travis A. Keller on October 4, 2013. We appreciate his ongoing support of Tipton-Haynes.

Fall 2013



Scenes from
Fall 2013
events include the
Sorghum Making Festival, Stories
from the Pumpkin Patch, and Scouts camping in the
field for a weekend of activities.



THE TIPTON-HAYNES HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

invites your participation and support with a **2014** membership in the Association

___ Student - \$20.00 ___ Individual - \$25.00 ___ Family - \$35.00 ___ Supportive - \$50.00

___ Sustaining - \$100.00 ___ Benefactor - \$250.00 ___ Grand Benefactor - \$500.00 ___ Philanthropist - \$1,000

NAME _____

(Name(s) as you wish to be acknowledged)

Address _____ zip code _____
E-mail _____ Telephone _____

Mail Application & check to: **P.O. Box 225, Johnson City, TN 37605**

Tipton _____ Haynes _____

The Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, a 501 (C) (3) organization is a friends group supporting Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

2014 Events

February 15

Maple Syrup Festival 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Pancake breakfast from 8:30 - 10:00 am

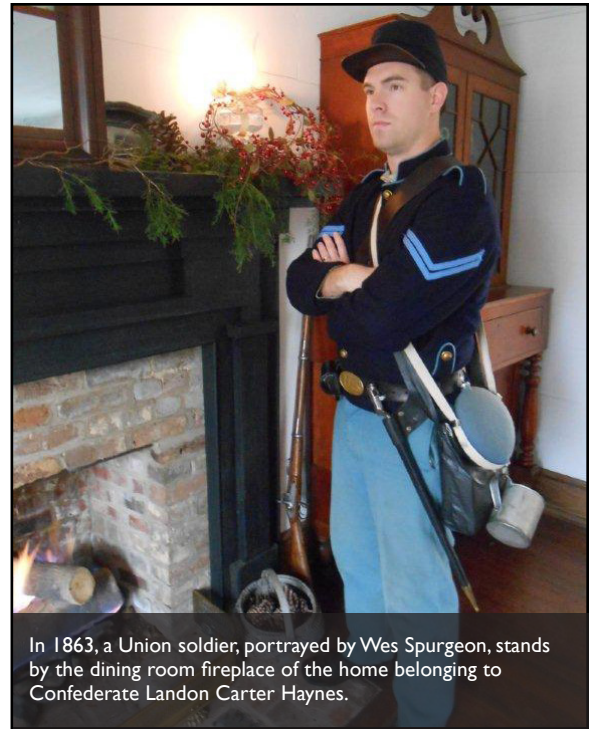
Free breakfast for members



You can find us at

<https://www.facebook.com/tiptionhaynes>

This newsletter is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, Tennessee Historical Commission and by your generous donation to the non-profit Tipton-Haynes Historical Association.



In 1863, a Union soldier, portrayed by Wes Spurgeon, stands by the dining room fireplace of the home belonging to Confederate Landon Carter Haynes.

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