



## **The Whitemarsh Encampment 1777 Historical Society of Fort Washington Presentation via Zoom Tuesday 15 June 2021; 7:30 pm**

When we hear of Valley Forge, we think of the suffering of the Continental Army and George Washington's efforts to keep everything together. But what happened during the weeks before that fateful march into the winter camp in December of 1777?

Having lost two major battles at Brandywine and Germantown, the Continental Army was utterly exhausted and needed to rest. George Washington and the army spent the rest of October 1777 attempting to resupply and make their way towards British occupied Philadelphia, all while figuring out their next move. Find out what happened during the final chapter of the Philadelphia Campaign with the Continental Army's encampment in the hills of the Whitemarsh area, and the British Army's attack on the Continental position in early December.

About the Presenter: Bob Bradley is a tour guide and volunteer with Historic Hope Lodge in Fort Washington, where he was awarded Volunteer of the Year for 2019. He is also a former Trustee with HSFV and is a member of the American Revolution Round Table of Philadelphia. He continues to enjoy learning everything he can about the Revolutionary era.

Please RSVP by **June 14** to [robinc1209@gmail.com](mailto:robinc1209@gmail.com) for the presentation's link. ♦

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## **John Lincoln "Johnny" Clem**



In May of 1861, nine-year old John Lincoln "Johnny" Clem ran away from his home in Newark, Ohio, to join the Union Army. But he found the Army was not interested in signing on a nine year old boy. The

commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Regiment told him he "wasn't enlisting infants," and turned him down. Clem tried the 22<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Regiment next, and its commander told him the same.

Determined, Clem tagged after the regiment, acted out the role of a drummer boy, and was allowed to remain. Though still not regularly enrolled, he performed camp duties and received a soldier's pay of \$13 a month, a sum collected and donated by the regiment's officers.

The next April, at Shiloh, Clem's drum was smashed by an artillery round, and he became a

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## **THE CLIFTON HOUSE IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



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minor news item as "*Johnny Shiloh, The Smallest Drummer*".

A year later, at the *Battle of Chickamauga*, he rode an artillery caisson to the front and wielded a musket trimmed to his size. In one of the Union retreats a Confederate officer ran after the cannon Clem rode with, and yelled, "*Surrender you damned little Yankee!*"

Johnny shot him dead. This shot won Clem national attention and the name "*Drummer Boy of Chickamauga*." Clem stayed with the Army through the war, served as a courier, and was wounded twice.

Between *Shiloh* and *Chickamauga* he was regularly enrolled in the service, and he began receiving his pay. Soon after promoted Clem was promoted to the rank of Sergeant when was only 12 years old.

After the *Civil War*, he tried to enter *West Point* but was turned down because of his slim education. A personal appeal to President Ulysses S. Grant, his commanding general at *Shiloh*, won him a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant's appointment in the Regular Army on 18 December 1871. In 1903 he attained the rank of *Colonel* and served as *Assistant Quartermaster General*. He retired from the Army as a *Major General* in 1916, having served an astounding 55 years.

General Clem died in San Antonio, Texas on 13 May 1937, exactly 3 months shy of his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday, and is buried at *Arlington National Cemetery*.

Put together by Rob Johnson ❖

FortWashingtonHistoricalSociety



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Please send contributions c/o Treasurer. Thank you for your continued support of the Historical Society of Fort Washington which is a 501(c) (3) and your membership and/or any donations to the Society are tax deductible. ❖

### Did You Know?



The **Month of JUNE** is named for the Roman goddess Juno, patroness of marriage and the well-being of women. Also from the Latin word juvenis, - "young people."

The **Month of JULY** is named to honor Roman dictator Julius Caesar (100 B.C.– 44 B.C.) after his death. In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar made one of his greatest contributions to history: with the help of Sosigenes, he developed the Julian calendar, the precursor to the Gregorian calendar that we use today.

The **Month of AUGUST** is named to honor the first Roman emperor (and grandnephew of Julius Caesar), Augustus Caesar (63 B.C.– A.D. 14). Augustus (the first Roman emperor) comes from the Latin word "augustus," meaning venerable, noble, and majestic. ❖

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