

The Norwich Arms GAZETTE

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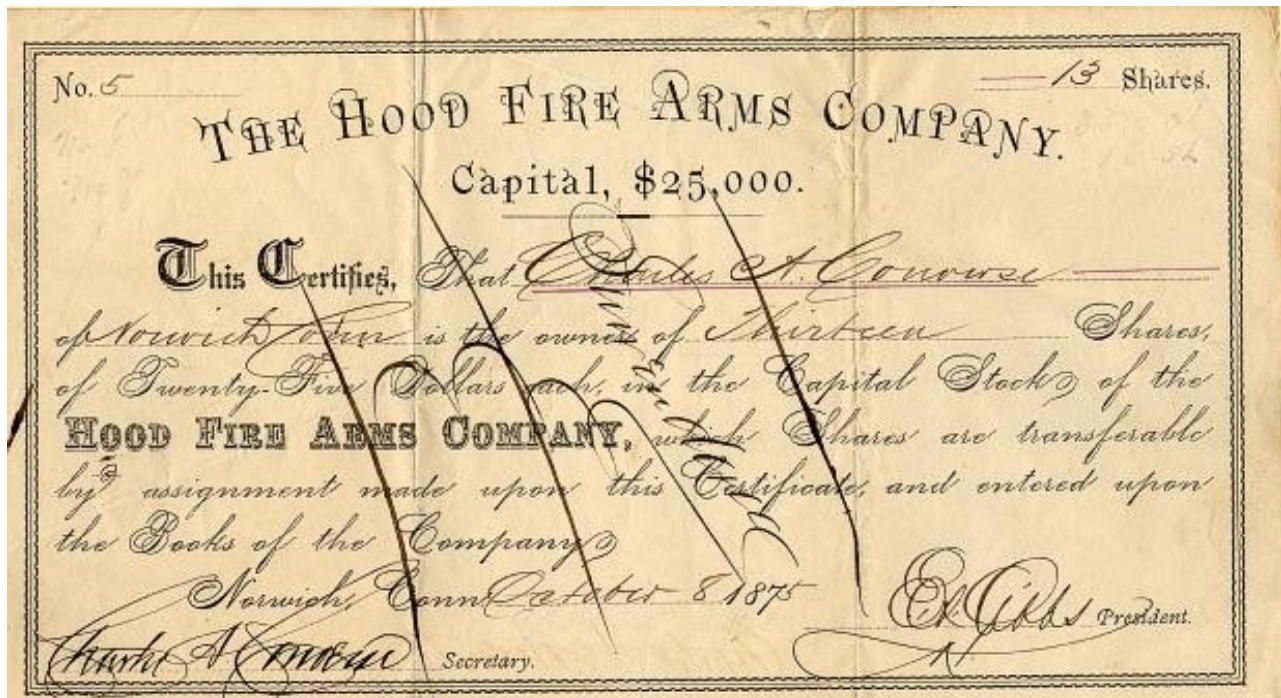
Hood Fire Arms Company - Norwich, Connecticut 1875

The Hood Firearms Company of Norwich CT was active from 1875 - 1879. It used the patents of Freeman W. Hood, Worcester and Boston Mass. and Norwich CT. Hood was a designer of a variety of firearms and related components. The Hood Firearms Company established 1875 with an initial capital stock \$25,000. The company officers included E. N. Gibbs, president; C. A. Converse, treasurer and general agent; E. A. Converse, secretary; J. C. Webb, mechanic superintendent.

Edward Gibbs also served as president of the Thames National Bank and was an officer and incorporator of the Dime Bank. Following Lorenzo Blackstone, Edward Gibbs served as president of the Ponemah Mills Company.

Colonel Charles A. Converse another well known Norwich businessman was also a founder of the Hopkins & Allen Manufacturing Company, considered third largest gun maker in the nation behind Colt in Hartford and Winchester in New Haven. Colonel Converse donated funds sufficient to build a new art building at the Norwich Free Academy.

Below is pictured a rare and beautiful certificate #5 from the Hood Fire Arms Company issued in 1875. This historic document has an ornate border around it and has the signatures of the Company's President, E. Gibbs and Secretary, Charles A. Converse. Over 132 years old, this certificate was issued to Charles A. Converse.



Civil War Roundtable (April 14, 2008)

Jim Jordan author of “Savannah Grey: A Tale of Antebellum Georgia” will be guest speaker at next Monday’s Civil War Roundtable at the United Congregational Church, Norwich beginning at 7PM. All are welcome.

“Savannah Grey: A Tale of Antebellum Georgia”

An unforgettable journey into Savannah's antebellum past!

“A stunning tale of life in Georgia in the years leading up to the Civil War. The fictional characters are as real as the historical ones.”

—Dr. John Duncan, Professor Emeritus, Armstrong Atlantic State University

Though Savannah’s beautiful squares and architecture were already acclaimed in antebellum years, the city also struggled with dramatic challenges. A third of the population was enslaved. A steamship explosion killed many of its leading citizens. A local businessman tried to reopen the slave trade. And events were leading, inevitably, to civil war.

Into this fascinating locale two young men are thrust: Joseph, a plantation owner’s son, destined for a life of privilege, and Andrew, who is enslaved and being trained to manufacture bricks. But many things in Savannah were not as we might think, and the two boys become inseparable friends. They grow up to face the contradictions that surround them: the graciousness and the violence, the accomplishments and the tragedies. They help build some of the city’s greatest architecture. They become ensnared in the illegal slave ship expedition of the *Wanderer*, which landed 400 Africans on the Georgia coast, tore apart Savannah, and edged the country closer to war.

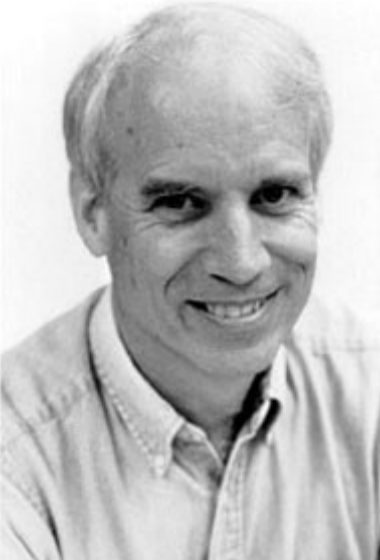
Both Joseph and Andrew face life-changing choices, made more difficult by the sweep of national politics. Can these two individuals maintain their friendship? And if so, at what price?

JIM JORDAN is a Savannah historian and tour guide. He lives on Callawassie Island, South Carolina with his wife, Kathleen. Savannah Grey is his first novel.

Civil War Roundtable, June 9, 7PM at United Congregational Church, Norwich

The June 9th meeting (7PM) will feature Michael Burlingame as guest speaker and author of many books and articles on American History, Civil War and the life of Abraham Lincoln.

“The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln”



Author: Michael Burlingame

Published to a flurry of praise--and consternation--from Lincoln scholars, Burlingame's book takes a hard and unsentimental look at, among other things, Abraham Lincoln's excruciating yet fruitful midlife crisis, his marriage to a dishonest woman who often embarrassed and sometimes physically abused him, his estrangement from his father, his explosive temper, and his aversion to women.

As a psychohistorian, Professor Burlingame tried to apply the insights of depth psychologists like Freud and Carl Jung to the study of the past. His view that history is "psychology teaching by examples" informed his writings and his teaching, especially his course on "Psychohistory and the American Presidency." He also taught a course on The Civil War and Reconstruction, a seminar on Abraham Lincoln, and "Eugene O'Neill and His America," with Professor Linda Herr of the theater studies

department.

A former Woodrow Wilson Fellow and Fulbright Scholar, Professor Burlingame devoted his scholarly energies to investigating the life and times of Lincoln, about whom he has published six books. The first, titled *The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln* (University of Illinois Press, 1994), has been described by reviewers as "a revelation," "a triumph," "the most convincing portrait of Lincoln's personality to date," based on an "incredibly diverse range of sources," and "perhaps the most important piece of Lincoln biography" to appear in the last forty years. His second book, *An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln* (Southern Illinois University Press, 1996) won the Abraham Lincoln Association Award.

Burlingame is treasurer of the Connecticut Association of Scholars, an affiliate of the National Association of Scholars, which is devoted to the reform of higher education. He is also on the board of directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association (Springfield, IL), the Abraham Lincoln Institute of the Mid-Atlantic (Washington, DC) and The Historical Society. He also serves on the board of advisors for the Abraham Lincoln Studies Center at Knox College (Galesburg, IL.)

"Traditional historians, who tend to assume that history is driven by the pursuit of rational self-interest, often underestimate the role of irrational, unconscious forces in shaping events. History was once regarded as 'philosophy teaching by examples,' I view it as 'psychology teaching by examples'." *Michael A. Burlingame*

Guns of Norwich Historical Society, Inc

The **Guns of Norwich Historical Society** will hold its next meeting on

April 16, 2008 at 7:00PM at the Yantic Firehouse.
Election of officers and plans for the New Norwich Memorabilia Show
As always, this meeting is open to members and friends.
Also, Remember to bring items for “Show and Tell”

Are your dues paid up?

Annual membership dues should be paid in full each year by February. Anyone not up to date with his/her membership dues will be dropped from our mailing list.

Annual membership in The **Guns of Norwich Historical Society** is a \$15 contribution. Each membership includes a subscription to our newsletter “**The Norwich Arms Gazette**”.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____

Mail to: David Thompson, 20 Aspen Court, Norwich, CT 06360

