GENERAL FRANCIS CHANNING BARLOW

As Portrayed by Andre Wagner

Fort Sumter was fired upon on April 12, 1861, and President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers from the northern states on April 15th. Francis C. Barlow enlisted as a Private in Company F of a three month militia regiment, the 12th New York, on April 19, 1861. Francis married Arabella Wharton Griffith on April 20th and sailed from New York to Fortress Monroe, Virginia, on April 21, 1861. The 12th New York was sent to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and served in General Patterson's Army, north of Winchester, VA. The Battle of Bull Run was being fought at that time, but Barlow did not participate. When the three-month term of the 12th New York expired and First Lieutenant Barlow was mustered out at New York City on August 5, 1861. Barlow re-entered the service on November 9, 1861, as Lieutenant Colonel of the 61st New York Infantry Regiment, the "Astor Regiment." The regiment left New York on November 9th for Washington City, where it became part of the 2nd Corps of the newly formed Army of the Potomac commanded by General McClelland.

The 61st New York participated in McClelland's Peninsula Campaign and saw action at the Siege of Yorktown and the Battle of Fair Oaks. Barlow was promoted to full Colonel on April 14, 1862, during this campaign.

After the Peninsula Campaign, Lee invaded Maryland which led to the Battle of Antietam near Sharpsburg, MD. Colonel Barlow commanding two regiments was severely wounded. On September 19, 1862, he was promoted to Brigadier General.

General Barlow commanded a brigade at the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Fighting north of Gettysburg on the Union the right flank, Barlow was severely wounded and his brigade was overwhelmed by the Confederates. He was found on the field by Confederate General John B. Gordon. This incident generated one of the most notable human interest stories of the Civil War. General Gordon discovered General Barlow on his back and did not appear likely to survive. Gordon gave him a drink, carried him to the shade of a tree and asked his name. Barlow told him and gave Gordon some letters. Barlow also asked that his wife, a nurse with the Union Army, be sent for. General Gordon arranged for her safe passage through the lines. Under his wife's care, Barlow survived, recovered, and fought on throughout the war. On August 1, 1864, he was brevetted to Major General with a confirmation date of May 25, 1865. Barlow resigned his commission on November 16, 1865. After the war, Barlow resumed his law practice at New York City. He was active in Republican politics, and was one of the founders of the American Bar Association. Barlow held several public offices, and as Attorney General for New York, he conducted the prosecution of the "Boss" Tweed ring of Tammany Hall.

Meanwhile, General John B. Gordon had risen to prominence as both Senator and Governor of Georgia. By coincidence, and unknown to each other, both Gordon and Barlow were invited to a political dinner in Washington. Their re-introduction to each other after the span of years evoked a curious and happy re¬union. Both had believed the other to be dead and this chance reunion resulted in a lasting relationship.

Barlow's wife Arabella had died during the war on July 27, 1864, at Washington DC and they had no children. In 1867, Barlow married Ellen Shaw, and the couple had three children. Barlow died on January 11, 1896 in New York City and he was buried at Brookline, MA.

Andre Wagner has been a living historian since 2001. He has portrayed several personas including Sergeant Harrison M. Strong, Chief of Clerks: Lt. Gen. U.S. Grant's staff, Captain Robert Lincoln, Aide: Lt. Gen. U.S. Grant's Staff, Chief of Provost: Birney's Division, Captain Nelson Byers: 147th PVI Company G. In 2007, Andre began portraying General Barlow. Andre is currently the military coordinator of the Keystone Guards & Civilians portraying the 147th PVI Company G, and also Deputy Provost Marshal: Birney's Division.