

## THE BARLOW-GORDON CONTROVERSY: REST IN PEACE

by John C. Fazio

[Editor's Note: This is continuation from last month. When we left off, the issue was Arabella's arrival.]

Still further corroboration of Arabella's arrival comes from a passage in *A Gallant Captain of the Civil War*, edited by Joseph Tyler Butts. Describing the events of the evening of July 1, after the fight on the knoll, Frederick Otto Baron von Fritsch, a war correspondent, says that:

"By seven o'clock we had several hundred men of the Division together. General Barlow lies wounded outside of Gettysburg," the General (Ames) said, "and I take command of the Division. You'd better stay with me, Captain." "Thanks, General," I returned. "Here comes Mrs. Barlow with an ambulance," I added, and we both approached her, and tried to describe where her husband could probably be found. The courageous lady, sitting next to the driver, with a white flag in her hand, then drove quickly towards the town, although we could still hear firing."

A passage in the *War Diary of Stephen Minot Weld*, a staff officer for General John F. Reynolds, is also relevant. In an entry dated July 1, Weld describes a discourse he had with General Howard concerning the identity of troops coming out of the woods toward the cemetery. He rode into town, on Howard's order, and identified the troops as "rebs." Then he writes:

On my way back I saw a lady riding in (i.e. into Gettysburg), through all those bullets, on a horse with a side-saddle, who turned out to be Mrs. General Barlow. She had heard of her husband's dreadful wounds and came in to nurse him. She came in safely, as I afterwards heard, and undoubtedly saved her husband's life.

But there is more.

Daniel Skelly, a teenaged resident of Gettysburg who was a clerk at a dry goods company at the time of the battle, wrote his account of the battle in 1932 under the title "A Boy's Experiences During the Battle of Gettysburg." In pertinent part, this is what he said:

Day dawned on the second of July bright and clear... About dusk, Will McCreary and I were sent on some errand down on Chambersburg Street and as we were crossing from Arnold's corner to the present Eckert corner, we were halted by two Confederate soldiers who had a lady in their charge. She was on horseback and proved to be the wife of General (Francis) Barlow who had come into the Confederate lines under a flag of truce looking for her husband, who had been severely wounded on July 1...

It is reasonable to conclude from these accounts that Arabella arrived at the battlefield on July 1. Because it is unlikely that Gordon's message reached her before sunset, inasmuch as he says he sent it at the close of the day's fighting, and that such shooting as Howard describes would occur at night, it follows that Arabella must have crossed into no-man's land some time in the long summer twilight between sunset and nightfall.

We can thus say with certainty that she came through Confederate lines from Union lines successfully and that once inside Confederate lines she was given an escort. That could only have been accomplished if she had a safe passage or escort and she could have had that only if it had been given to her by a Confederate officer of very high rank. Lt. Pitzer does not fit that description, but Brig. Gen. John B. Gordon does.

Two other Confederate generals also fit the description: Lieutenant General Jubal Early, Gordon's division commander, and Lieutenant General Richard Ewell, their corps commander. Early wrote memoirs, mentioning the fight on the knoll and Barlow, but he says not a word about conversing with him, learning