

# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



June 2004, The One Hundred and Forty-Third Year of the Civil War

## June 10 Thursday Meeting

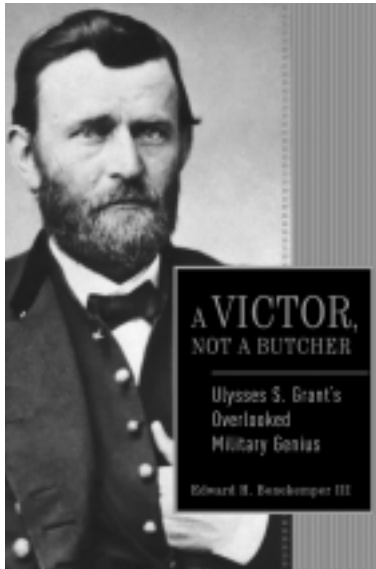
The June 10th Meeting of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table will start at 7:30 pm on Thursday at the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum at 1805 Pine Street in Philadelphia. The speaker will be **Edward Bonekemper**. Edward's topic will be "A Victor not a Butcher"

**"Historian EDWARD BONEKEMPER cuts through the Fog of Politicized History to reveal why ULYSSES S. GRANT was the Greatest General of the CIVIL WAR"**

Despite the fact that General Robert E. Lee lost the Civil War, historians have persistently named him the greatest general of the War and dismissed Ulysses S. Grant as a callous soldier who needlessly butchered his troops. On the contrary, *A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius*, documents how Grant was a shrewd military strategist and an inspired military leader.

Grant was a military genius who issued lucid orders, maneuvered his troops skillfully, and made excellent use of his staff. His perseverance, decisiveness, moral courage, and political acumen place him among the greatest generals of the Civil War---indeed, of all military history.

Bonekemper's extensive research and analysis also explores the paradoxes of Grant's early years and his struggles in civilian life--particularly the allegations of alcoholism--personal battles that led his contemporaries to underestimate him and allowed



him to fall victim to pro-Lee historians and Southern partisans.

*A Victor, Not a Butcher silences Grant's critics and restores Grant to the heroic reputation he so richly deserves.*

Regnery Publishing, Inc. Press Release

## Cold Harbor

The May 5th Special Program was speaker **Gordon Rhea**. Gordon's topic was "Cold Harbor". Gordon gave us another one of his fine presentations on his book "Cold Harbor". His presentation consisted of the Overland campaign starting at the Wilderness and ending at Cold Harbor. I think we all got a different perspective on the battle and it's outcome.

**Gordon Rhea**



**Bring a friend, neighbor and another Civil War buff to enjoy a fascinating subject and to support our speakers at Old Baldy.**



General Samuel Cooper



William Welsch



Photos - Pat Caldwell

## General Samuel Cooper ?

The May 13th Meeting had **William Welsch** as the speaker. William's topic was "General Samuel Cooper". William gave us a fine presentation of his favorite "General" Samuel Cooper CSA. Cooper was the highest ranking General in the Confederate Army. He was the Adjutant and Inspector General of both the United States of America and The Confederate States of America. He seem to lead a very lack luster military career in both armies and there is very little history of this man. He did save a lot of Confederate records that ended up in the "Official Records"

## The President's Letter

Hi Everyone,

First I would like to say thank you to **Mike Cavanaugh** for his hard work in pulling together a terrific World War II seminar. It was a day I am glad I did not miss. Thanks to everyone else who played any part in making this happen. For those who couldn't make it, please if you get the opportunity again next year, which I hope we all will, come and support not only your roundtable but the veterans who gave so much to our country. It really is an experience to hear their stories and they are only too happy to share them with us. It truly was an incredible day!

Our June speaker will be **Edward Bonekemper** who will speak on the subject of his new book "Ulysses Grant: Victor Not Butcher". It is hard to find speakers on Grant so come on out and join us for another night of information and maybe just to hang around afterward and get to know some of the other members too! I was sorry I missed the meeting last month with **Gordon Rhea** but I hear he was excellent. We had two speakers last month the second which was **Mr. Bill Welsch** who clued us in on a lesser known Confederate General Samuel Cooper.

I hope everyone has a good Memorial Day weekend. And let's not forget the true meaning of the holiday.

Hope to see you all at the meeting

Nancy

## Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers for Summer/Fall/Winter 2004

June 10 - Thursday

**Edward Bonekemper**

Author Topic: *Was Ulysses Grant a Butcher?*

July 8 - Thursday

**Nancy Caldwell**

President Old Baldy CWRT Topic: *Civil War Horses*

August 21 - Saturday

**H. Wilson Greene**

Executive Director of Pamplin Park, Author, Historian  
Topic: *TBA*

**Annual Fund Raising Dinner**

**Reservations Required**

**Radisson Hotel, Route One, Trevose, PA**

September 9 - Thursday

**Show and Tell**

Members bring in items of interest; books, relics, uniforms, weapons, veteran's diaries and letters, etc.

**IT'S YOUR NIGHT!**

October 6 - Wednesday

**Dr. Richard McMurry**

Professor of History, Author, Expert on the War in the West. Topic: *TBA*.

November 11 - Thursday

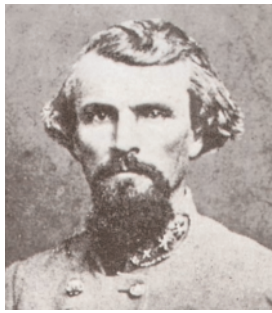
**The Civil War Preservation Trust**

Topic: *Battlefield Preservation*. Very important night for everyone concerned about the state and future of our Civil War Battlefields.

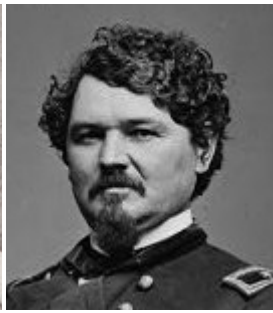
December 9 - Thursday - TBA

**All meetings, unless otherwise noted, begin at 7:30 PM at the Civil War Library and Museum, 1805 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**Questions to Mike Cavanaugh at 215.725.3602 or chief96pbi@juno.com**



Nathan Bedford Forrest



Samuel D. Sturgis

## Today in Civil War History

June 10

### 1864 Battle of Brice's Crossroads

Nathan Bedford Forrest's legend grows substantially when his Confederate cavalry routs a much larger Union force in Mississippi.

When Union General William T. Sherman inched toward Atlanta, Georgia, in the summer of 1864, he left behind a vulnerable supply line through Tennessee. Of utmost concern to Sherman was the Rebel cavalry under the command of Nathan Bedford Forrest, a daring leader who gave Union commanders in the west difficulty throughout the war. Sherman insisted that Forrest be neutralized and ordered a force from Memphis to hunt down Forrest's command, which at that time was in northern Alabama.

On June 1, some 5,000 infantry and 3,000 cavalry troopers under the command of General Samuel D. Sturgis trudged out of Memphis in search of the elusive Forrest. But rain and poor roads slowed them, and a week's travel found the Yankees only 50 miles from Memphis.

Forrest had been preparing for an assault on central Tennessee, but Sturgis's expedition forced him back to northern Mississippi. The Confederates spread out along a railroad between Tupelo and Corinth and awaited the Union advance. On June 8, Forrest learned that Sturgis was moving on Tupelo. He carefully selected Brice's Crossroads for its muddy roads and dense woods to mitigate the Union's numerical advantage and called for his men to attack the leading Yankee cavalry, which would force the trailing infantry to hurry to the battle and fight before recovering from the march.

The plan worked to perfection. Around 10 a.m. on June 10, the cavalry forces began fighting, and the Union infantry made a five-mile dash in intense heat and humidity to aid their fellow soldiers. In the afternoon, Forrest orchestrated a series of attacks all along the Union front, which broke the Yankee lines and sent the Federals from the field in disarray with the Confederates in hot pursuit. The chase continued into the next day.

Sturgis's command suffered over 600 killed and wounded and over 1,600 captured—more than a quarter of the entire force. Forrest's force suffered less than 600 killed and wounded, and the Confederates captured 16 cannons and 176 supply wagons. Forrest was never able to disrupt Sherman's supply lines. However, the Battle of Brice's Crossroads stands as his greatest military victory.

## History of the 90th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry

*Philadelphia in the Civil War 1861 - 1865*  
**Published 1913**



*Armory of the National Guards Regiment Race Street below Sixth Street*

### The National Guards

The National Guards Regiment of Philadelphia originated in a single company formed in 1840 under Capt. Thomas Tustin, who was succeeded in 1844 by Capt. Stephen B. Kingston. In 1846 Capt. Peter Lyie became commanding officer and recruited the company for the Mexican War, but its services were not required.

In 1856 the organization was incorporated as the "Infantry Corps, National Guards of Philadelphia." The armory built by the command, located on Race street, below Sixth street, was opened on November 16th, 1857. The "National Guards" first paraded as a regiment on December 11th, 1860.

As a part of the Reserve Brigade Militia the regiment was known as the "First Blue Reserves."

The regiment tendered its services to the Government on April 16th, 1861, and was mustered in on April 27th, for three months, as the 19th Regiment Volunteers. Following this term of service the 2d Regiment, National Guards, became the basis of the 90th Regiment Volunteers under Col. Peter Lyle. A large proportion of the three-year regiments originating in Philadelphia contained field and company officers who had been schooled in the National Guards.

Under command of Major Jeremiah W. Fritz the regiment was in the field, in September, 1862, during the Antietam Campaign.

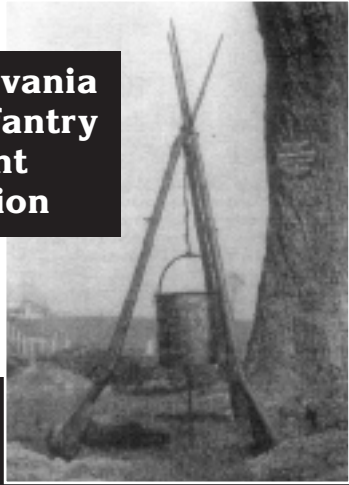
In addition to its services as the 90th Regiment, the National Guards were active in organizing, and furnished officers for Baxter's Philadelphia Fire Zouaves (72d Regiment), the 196th and 213th Infantry, the 52d (2d Union League 90-Day Regiment, 1863), and other bodies of troops sent into the field.

The Old Guard of the Regiment, composed of veterans and retired members, has long maintained a distinctive organization.

### Nineteenth Regiment Infantry Colonel Peter Lyle

The Second Regiment Infantry Militia, nine companies, mustered April 27th, 1861. Part of this regiment was already on duty at Perryville, guarding the rail road and the Susquehanna river bridge. The regiment, which had been increased from a militia battalion in

**90th Pennsylvania  
Volunteer Infantry  
Monument  
Rededication**



***Come See the Rededication of a New  
monument  
to the 90th Pennsylvania Volunteer  
Infantry on the  
Antietam National Battlefield,  
Sharpsburg, Maryland***

**Saturday, September, 18th  
(Rain or Shine)**

**Event to Start at 12:30 P.M.-Promptly  
At the original site of the 90th P.V.I.  
Monument on Cornfield Avenue**

***Come and Be a Part of a  
"Once in a, Lifetime Event"***

**There will be Speakers, Period Brass Band,  
Reenactors to portray 90th P.V.I,  
on Saturday and Render Honors  
Living- History the whole weekend  
in conjunction  
with Rededication Activities**

**Lodging- in Hagerstown for those interested  
hotel information**

**Sleep Inn, Inns & Suites  
18216 Colonel Henry K. Douglas Drive  
Hagerstown, Md. 21740, Ph. 301-766-9449  
On Route 65 South right off of Route 70 (exit 29A  
Eastbound, 29 West Bound)**

**Special Antietam Anniversary Weekend Rates  
were obtained for those who wish to stay near the  
Event Area**

**The Sleep Inn is the closest to the Battlefield!!**

**Rooms are Smoking & Non Smoking,  
Most rooms have microwave & refrigerator  
Deluxe Continental Breakfast Included  
other features: fitness center, indoor heated pool, 25"  
TV with premium movie  
channels, in room safe and coffee, ironing board and  
hair dryer,  
free local calls, USA Today, guest laundry**

**Rates per Night**

- |                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>1) Standard-Two Dbl. Beds</b>   | <b>72.00</b> |
| <b>2) Suites-Dbl/Dbl Beds</b>      | <b>83.00</b> |
| <b>3) Suites-King w/ Whirlpool</b> | <b>94.50</b> |

1860, was ordered to Fort McHenry and Baltimore upon May loth, where it remained during and for some days beyond the term of service, engaged in the maintenance of loyalty and good order. Mustered out at Philadelphia August 29th, 1861.

**Ninetieth Regiment Infantry  
Colonel Peter Lyle**

Total Enrollment, 1,600 Officers and Men. THE 90th Regiment was a re-organization of the I9th Regiment, of the three months service, and the parent command of both was the National Guard Regiment, 2d Regiment, First Brigade, First Division Pennsylvania Militia. On August 29th, 1861, at a meeting held at the National Guards' Armory, it was resolved to tender the services of the regiment to the Government. The War Department accepted the offer and recruiting was commenced at once. The "90th" established Camp McClellan, at Nicetown, and remained there through the winter, leaving for Baltimore upon March 31st, 1862, where arms were received. Three weeks later the regiment moved to Washington, from which six companies were sent to Aquia Creek and four companies to Belle Plain. Later the command was brigaded at Falmouth, Va., as part of the Second Brigade, Second Division, Third Corps. Near the end of May the Second Division was sent in haste to the Shenandoah Valley, but Jackson's "foot cavalry" had vanished and the troops returned to join Pope's army in time to move on Cedar Mountain, where the "90th" was first under fire. For two weeks, beginning upon August 15th, the Second Brigade marched and skirmished up to the battles of Gainesville and the Second Bull Run, where the "90th" was depleted by about two hundred officers and men in killed, wounded and prisoners. The "goth" was in line at Chantilly, but not actively engaged. On the way to Antietam the Second Brigade met and repulsed the Confederate force at South Mountain. At Antietam the "90th" lost ninety-eight killed and wounded. Among the latter was Col. Lyie, Acting Brigade Commander. In September the regiment was transferred to the First Corps, with which it was identified through the ensuing eighteen months. At Fredericksburg the command lost, among those killed, Lieut. Charles W. Duke, of Company K, the first officer of the "90th" to perish. In the Chancellorsville Campaign the regiment was in the battle line upon May 3d, sustaining some loss. Upon the night of June 30th, 1863, the "90th" camped gladly upon Pennsylvania soil at Marsh Creek, arriving

*continued on next page*

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Hagerstown**

in position at Gettysburg to the left of the Cashtown Road when the battle was already raging, holding this position until the line was forced back through the town to Cemetery Hill, there entrenching. Chaplain Horatio S. Howell was killed in front of the Lutheran Church during the retreat.\* The "90th" numbered that morning two hundred and eight. All of its loss, a total of ninety-four killed, wounded or captured, was suffered' in that heroic contest of the "first day" of Gettysburg. Among the officers wounded were Capt. John T. Durang and Adj. David P. Weaver. The First Corps was nearly destroyed.! In the great drama of the second and third days the "90th" had^but a minor part. Returning to the! old Virginia battle region, the opposing armies surged to and fro through the autumn and early winter, the devoted regiments marching, countermarching, responsive to every alarm. The "90th" added Mine Run to its battle list. In the course of the winter the First Corps was consolidated with the Fifth Corps, the "90th" being united with Maine, Massachusetts and New York troops to form the First Brigade, Second Division.

At intervals the regiment received accessions of recruits, mainly in drafted men, most of whom deserted whenever possible to do so. With the opening of the Wilderness campaign the regiment met with disaster through a confusion of orders, upon May 5th, losing half of its effective strength of two hundred and fifty-one men in an unsupported charge. At Laurel Hill (Spotsylvania), upon the loth, it again lost heavily, including Lieut. Jesse W. Super killed. The small contingent of the "goth" yet remaining shared in the fortunes of the brigade (now in the Third Division) at Cold Harbor, North Anna and in the vicinity of Petersburg. The regiment was now under the command of Capt. William P. Davis. Its last important fight was incident to the destruction of the Weldon Railroad, south of Petersburg, where Lieut. James S. Bonsall was killed and a number of officers and men captured. Upon November 26th, while in garrison at Fort Dushane (Weldon Railroad), the regiment's term of service ended. Those entitled to discharge were mustered out, and upon arrival at Philadelphia were received with great enthusiasm. The veterans and

recruits were attached to the nth Pennsylvania Infantry. Of the original officers at the time of the discharge, Lieut.-Col. William A. Leech and Maj. Jacob M. Davis were in captivity. Eighteen field and company officers were mustered out with the regiment or were transferred to other commands. Col. Peter Lyie was one of the few Philadelphia officers of his rank who were mustered out with their regiments.

#### **Total Losses**

Killed or mortally wounded officers 5; men, 98  
Died of disease officers 1; men, 126

#### **Battles and Engagements**

Cedar Mountain, Rappahannock Station, Sulphur Springs, Thoroughfare Gap, Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Fitzhugh House, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, Wilderness, Todd's Tavern, Spotsylvania, Laurel Hill, Guinea Station, North and South Anna, Bethesda Church, Cold Harbor, White Oak Swamp, Petersburg, Jerusalem Plank Road, Weldon Railroad, Poplar Springs, Ream's Station, Hatcher's Run.

*\*A bronze tablet marks the spot where Chaplain Howell, refusing to surrender, was slain.*

*fThe First Corps brought to Gettysburg 8,200 officers and men. Its total casualties, in killed, wounded and prisoners, amounted to 5,683, leaving less than twenty per cent. to answer roll call upon the morning of the 2nd of July.*

## **World War II Seminar**

Although the turnout was light the World War II Seminar at the Radisson was a huge success. The veterans were in rare form and were given a standing ovation at the end of the day. The final totals show we were able to raise a small sum for the World War II lecture Institute. The raffle drawing prizes went to the following:

First Prize - *Dorothy Heindel of Philadelphia, PA*  
Second Prize - *Rich Jankowski of Voorhees, NJ*  
Third Prize - *Wayne Olsen of Ridgefield Park, NJ*

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all those who bought tickets for your support.

**Old Baldy  
Civil War Round Table  
of Philadelphia  
1805 Pine Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103  
215.735.8196  
Founded January 1977**

**President: Nancy Caldwell  
Vice President: Pat Caldwell  
Treasurer: William George  
Secretary: Steve Lieberum**

**Annual Memberships  
Students: \$12.50  
Individuals: \$25.00  
Families: \$35.00**

## **E-MAIL Newsletter**

A list was made at the last meeting of those who requested their Old Baldy CWRT newsletter by e-mail. Those of you not at the meeting may request their newsletter by e-mail by contacting

**Don Wiles** at [cwwiles@comcast.net](mailto:cwwiles@comcast.net) or  
**Mike Cavanaugh** at [chief96pbi@juno.com](mailto:chief96pbi@juno.com)

This will save the round table money on postage and insure your newsletter's quality. There have been a lot of complains lately about the condition of the newsletter on delivery. Future newsletters will be mailed in an envelope.

# What's News?

The only way you'll know what's happening is the Civil War today is  
by reading

## “The Civil War News”

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