Old Baldy
Civil War Round Table
of Philadelphia

July 8 Thursday Meeting

The July 8th 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 **Nancy Caldwell**. Nancy's topic will be *"Sometimes Forgotten: The Role of the Horse in the Civil War"*

Typical Officer's Mount
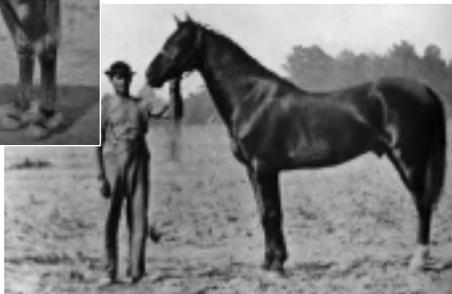
One of Grant's Horses "Egypt"

Nancy Caldwell is a long-time member, former Vice-President, and current President of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Delaware Valley CWRT, where she also serves as Program Director. Nancy has long been a volunteer at the Civil War Library and Museum on Pine Street in Philadephia, now the Philadelphia Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum. Her volunteer services have included participation in AMART (Association of Mid-Atlantic Civil War Round Tables) and the annual reenactment at Neshaminy State Park. Nancy's life-long association with horses, and her interest in the Civil War, has led to her current involvement in researching and documenting the varied and unrecognized roles of horses and mules in the Civil War, a subject she is presenting to various area Round Tables. A resident of Mayfair in Northeast Philadelphia, Nancy had been employed for 25 years in the Financial Offices of Strawbridge & Clothier, and can now be found at Northeast Catholic High School.

"A Victor, Not a Butcher"

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

The June 12th Program was speaker **Edward Bonekemper**. Edwards's topic was *"A Victor, Not a Butcher"*. Edward gave us a fine presentation on his book *"A Victor, Not a Butcher"*. His presentation consisted of Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius. How Grant was a shrewd military strategist and an inspired military leader. Bonekemper's research and analysis explored 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 underes-

Edward Bonekemper

Photos - Pat Caldwell

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

We had a great surprise...C-SPAN taped the presentation for the "Booknotes" segment that appears over the weekend and I believe there are several reruns. As soon as we find out the date of showing we will let you know.

The President's Letter

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and making the most of the beautiful weather we have been having.

Old Baldy had an interesting twist to last month's meeting. C-Span was there to tape our speaker Dr. Ed Bonekemper. Despite the summer heat all went very well. Dr. Bonekemper defended US Grant's reputation as a military commander and argued his unfair title of "butcher". If you missed the meeting you have a chance to catch the rerun on C-Span. As soon as we find out when the air date is we will let you know.

This month's speaker will be none other than "yours truly", as I get another opportunity to speak about my favorite subject- the Horses of the Civil War. I'll also have slides to show and some interesting horse items. So come on out and listen. I might even make you start thinking like me!

*Hope you all have a terrific Fourth of July!!
And hope to see you at the meeting,*

Nancy

Dear Members

It is my sad duty to report the passing of Old Baldy CWRT founding member David Wise Charles. Dave died on Thursday June 17 in Lancaster PA. He served as our first treasurer and was chairman of the committee to save and restore the tomb of Major General Win field Scott Hancock in the mid 1907s. Dave always put historic preservation first and his first love was the battlefield of Antietam. He was an expert on Civil War photography and had at one time the largest private collection of CDVs anywhere. Dave was a member of the Sons of Union veterans, his grandfather a member of the 2nd PA. Heavy Artillery. Dave served in World War II in the 8th Armored Division and a member of the Veterans of the Battle of Bulge.

Our condolences go out to Dave's wife Sally and his family. Dave Charles was a dear friend and his hardy laugh will be missed.

I will bring a sympathy card to the next meeting for all to sign.

Mike Cavanaugh

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

July 8 - Thursday
Nancy Caldwell
President Old Baldy, Board Member Del-Val CWRT
Topic: *Civil War Horses*

August 12 - Thursday
David H. Doughlas
Author, Historian
Topic: His book, *"A Boot Full of Memories: Capt. Leonard Williams, 2nd S. C. Cavalry"*

August 21 - Saturday
H. Wilson Greene
Executive Director of Pamplin Park, Author, Historian, Tour Guide
Topic: *Southern City in the Crucible of War (Petersburg, VA.)*
**Annual Fund Raising Dinner
Reservations Required
Radisson Hotel, Route One, Trevose, PA**

September 9 - Thursday
Herb Kaufman
Board Member, Old Baldy and Del-Val CWRT, CW Library and Museum guide
Topic: *Philadelphia's Civil War Monuments*

October 6 - Wednesday
Note Meeting Night Change
Dr. Richard McMurry
Professor of History, Author, Expert on the War in the West
Topic: *Faults of the Atlanta Campaign*

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. Speakers from the CWPT will conduct the evening's program.

December 9 - Thursday
David A. Welker
Author
Topic: His book, *"Tempest at Ox Hill, The Battle of Chantilly (September 1, 1862)"*

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

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

Members go out to a local restaurant for dinner between 5:30 & 6 P.M.

You're Welcome to Join Us!
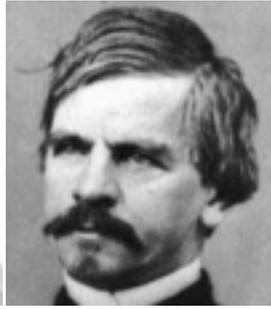
Franklin Gardner   *Nathaniel Banks*

Today in Civil War History
July 8
1863 Surrender of Port Hudson, Louisiana

Port Hudson, the Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River in Louisiana, falls to Nathaniel Banks' Union force. Less than a week after the surrender of Vicksburg, Mississippi, the Confederate garrison's surrender at Port Hudson cleared another obstacle for the Federals on the Mississippi River.

In late 1862, Banks was given orders to clear the river as far north as possible. He seemed hesitant, however, even with David Farragut's naval forces at his disposal. After much prodding, Banks finally began to move in February 1863. But by March, Farragut had failed to move past Port Hudson; he lost one ship and the others retreated back down the river. So Banks delayed action against Port Hudson until May. At first unsure whether to join Ulysses S. Grant's force up at Vicksburg or attack Port Hudson, Banks opted to attack the fort. On May 27, Federal cannons and riverboats opened fire on Port Hudson, but Banks directed a poorly coordinated attack against the stronghold, which was defended by General Franklin Gardner and a force of 3,500 men.

Although the tiny Confederate force was able to hold off the Union assault in May, Banks had Port Hudson surrounded. The garrison held out through June, but word of Vicksburg's surrender convinced Gardner that further resistance was futile.

History Channel

Monuments to the Civil War Horse

The sculpture of the war-weary Civil War horse in the courtyard of the National Sporting Library in Middleburg, Virigina had its origin in the mind of Paul Mellon. Mellon turned his idea over to sculptor Tessa Pullan of Rutland, England.

With the Library's Civil War horse completed in 1997, the bronze waited in the Mellon garden at Rokeby until the new building was completed for the NSL. In the meantime, Mellon commissioned a second copy for the U.S. Cavalry Museum in Ft. Riley, Kansas. That horse carries the dark patina.

The horse at Fort Riley was the second copy from the same mold as the one for the Library.

Mellon also wanted a third to be placed at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. When he visited the site. He decided that the horse was too small for the outside of the Historical Society. A company in England enlarged the mold to full size for the third and so far final bronze. "The Civil War horse has become the most visited landmark in this area," says NSL President Kenneth Tomlinson. "What a legacy to the spirit of Paul Mellon and the horses he chose to honor."

Horses and Their Equipment
Compiled by Lynne Fulton

The horse was one of the most important tools used by the military during the American Civil War. Horses carried unit staffs. Horses WERE the cavalry. Horses pulled the caissons and limbers of the artillery, the supply wagons, and the ambulances.

The Cavalry

The cavalry was the "EYES" of the nineteenth century army and for the first two years of the war, the Confederates had the upper edge in horsemanship. By the time of the Gettysburg Campaign, however, the Federal cavalry had come of age and remained respectable during the rest of the War. The cavalry also produced some of the most flamboyant personalities who served during the Civil War, including J.E.B. Stuart, Wade Hampton, Judson Kilpatrick, George Soneman, and George Armstrong Custer.

"War was much harder on horses than it was on men, and it required an enormous supply of animals to keep the troops mounted." In the case of the Confederacy the men supplied their own mounts. If the horse was killed, the troopers was compensated by the government. If the horse was captured, disabled, or lost, he was not. In either case, the cavalryman was required to replace the mount himself. This could be a difficult task, as by the end of 1863 horses in the South were selling for $2,000 to $3,000 each. [1]

In the North, cavalrymen were more apt to be city boys, and therefore not a horse owner. For this reason either the Federal of State government, or possibly some patriotic organization, furnished mounts, with the price of an average horse being $140. [2]

By 1863 the typical cavalry regiment consisted of 800 to 1000 men. It was commanded by a colonel with one lieutenant colonel, three majors, a commissary (lieutenant), and a regimental surgeon with his assistant. Other regimental and company members included a quartermaster sergeant, commissary sergeant, saddler sergeant, farrier or blacksmith, wagoner, hospital stewards, and musicians. A Confederate cavalry regiment was similarly organized. [3]

Horse equipment was also similar in the two armies. The typical Federal equipment included a McClellan saddle, single reins, curb bit, saddlecloth, and breast straps. Saddle bags included straps on the saddle used for attaching things like blanket rolls and ponchos. [4]

Equipment used by officers was usually non-regulation. The saddles were flat or English style [Confederate of all ranks often used imported types]. Gear also included iron stirrups, breast and crupper straps, running martingale, bridoon or snaffle bit, as well as a curb bit. [5]

Gettysburg Horse Stories

The Campaign

The largest cavalry battle fought in North America was Brandy Station, Virginia, on June 9, 1863, at the very beginning of the Gettysburg Campaign. One staff officer who participated in the action was a young lieutenant, George Armstrong Custer, the recent graduate of the Military Academy at West Point. As the Federals retreated from the initial assault, Custer's horse spooked and bounded into a fence alongside the road where it "huddled in fright, neighing madly but budging not an inch." The Lieutenant scrambled out of the saddle, and in a fit of cursing and tugging was able to get the horse turned around and headed in the direction of friendly territory. He then managed to mount the animal just before it took off like a rifle shot. Within a few minutes, the two came to a stone wall which was jumped with great difficulty, causing the horse to stumble and sending Custer "flying head over heels through the air." Dazed but unhurt, Custer remounted the horse and dashed off to safety."

Lieutenant Custer continued to have problems with his horses (he was to have two killed and one wounded during the campaign). At the battle of Aldie his horse, "Harry," spooked and bolted, carrying the Lieutenant to the front of the fighting. This time, however, Custer turned the event to his advantage. Galloping through enemy lines, he unhorse two Confederates, and after gaining control of the horse, continued though the enemy's flank, around the field, and back to General Kilpatrick's headquarters. [36]

Although the Confederate snatched up many civilian horses, they were not always pleased with what they got, or who got them.

The horses brought back from Maryland and Pennsylvania proved "utterly unserviceable and seemingly have as little taste or talent for war as their fat Dutch proprietors." Mennonites and Dunkards had followed the way of peace for generations. Could anyone expect more than quiesent dispositions in their horses? Another interesting commentary came from General Rodes. He complained that all of the horses seized by Jenkins's men were "rarely accounted for." This observation gives further credence to the claim that many of the foragers were in business for them-selves. [46]

About 5:00PM, July 2, Captain Von Fritsch, whose horse had gotten him out of possible capture the day before, became quite upset when one of his men yelled , "look at your horse, Sir!"

I turned around and found a piece of shell had torn away poor Caesar's nose! The poor fellow stood there trembling, his lower jaw exposed. It gave me a shock, as the sight was horrible. Stepping near him, I pushed his head down and fired a bullet from my revolver behind his ear; he dropped, but was not dead, so I had to shoot twice more before he gave his last convulsive shudder. I shall never forget the look he gave me before I fired the first time; it seemed to say: " What made you bring me back here, after I saved your life?" [65]

The Aftermath

Major Osborn's 11th Corps artillery had some horse-power problems following the battle.

I lost in the battle about 100 horses. The government had no spare horses with the army or anywhere immediately available. Unless these horses were replaced, I should be compelled to dismount one battery, take its horses for the others and leave it. This was not advisable. I therefore asked General Howard for an order to send men into the country and gather up the horses required from the citizens, in other words, press them into service. This order he gave, and I sent out the quartermaster sergeants of all the batteries with instructions to take from the citizens the horses that each battery required and gave memoranda receipts for them. The orders were carried out to the letter and much to the consternation of the farmers. The receipts were given, and the government soon after paid $125 for each horse without inquiring as to its market value. It was a good sale for some, a bad one for others. [90]

"The dead horses left on the field were estimated to be between three and five thousand. After the soldiers were buried these animals were dragged into piles and burned; an extremely slow and odorous process." [92]

Following the battle, many of the wounded horses were taken to a field near Rock Creek and put out of their misery. The site was south of Culp's Hill, just east of the Abraham Sprangler Farm and along the Baltimore Pike. The horses were not buried, and for many years the bones lay in a thicket on a runwhich flowed into Rock Creek. Although unmarked on today's battlefield, the area is within sight of the Park's Visitor Center. [94]

The civilians of the town often had to deal with the corpses of dead horses. Mrs. Hannah McClean related how this was done.

[Mrs. McClean] left the safety of her house to go help son William with his sick wife. On her way up Baltimore Street to Middle Street she came upon the body of a dead horse, killed the day before. The carcass was already swelling and in the July heat would soon be a source of putrid odor. Upon her return she notified here husband of the dead horse. Moses McClean went with fellow attorney, Robert McCreary, to see General Ewell about removing the horse. Ewell was sympathetic, but declined to help with the explanation; " he had more important business on hand just then than to burying dead horses." [95]

Civilian accounts of the battle, and its aftermath, are full of stories relating to the awful conditions and smell surrounding the town when the soldiers left.

There was a great number of dead horses on the field, and itwas found very difficult to dispose of them, and there were not crows or buzzards enough to act as their executors. Consequently, they rotted where they lay, and the atmosphere was, as a result, vitiated and corrupted. When you would open the windows for the morning air, you would be assailed by the foul odor-swhich arose all over the field. We citizens became gradually acclimated to it, but some visitors coming from a pure atmosphere into this, were poisoned, and went home and died. [97]

All excerpts are from the booklet, "Traveller and Company: The Horses of Gettysburg" by Blake A. Magner.

Endnotes:

[1] Thiele, The Evolution of the Cavalry in the American Civil War, 1861-1863, pp. 175-179, 215.
[2] Ibid, p. 180
[3] Coggins, Arms and Equipment of the Civil War, pp- 48-49
[4] Ibid, p. 55
[5] Ibid
[36] Longacre, The Cavalry at Gettysburg, p 108
[46] Conrad and Alexander, Where War Passed this Way, p 140
[65] Vol Fritsch, A Gallant Captain of the Civil War, p 84
[90] Crumb, The Eleventh Corp Artillery at Gettysburg: The Papers of Thomas Ward Osborn. Pp 44-45
[92] Bennett, Days of "Uncertainty and Dread": The Ordeal Endured by the Citizens at Gettysburg, p 73
[94] Vertical Files, GNMP
[95] Bennett, Days of "Uncertainty and Dread": The Ordeal Endured by the Citizens at Gettysburg, p 75.
[97] Unidentified periodical, Scrapbook, Vol 1, p 155 Verticle Files GNMP

Officer Horses of Gettysburg

E. Porter Alexander	Dixie
William Blackford	Magic
John Buford	Grey Eagle
Joshua L. Chamberlain	Charlamayne
George Armstrong Custer	Lancer, Don Juan, Harry, Roanoke
Henry Kyd Douglas	Dixie
Richard B. Garnett	Red Eye
John Gibbon	Fanny
John B. Gordon	Milroy
David McM. Gregg	Pretty
Wade Hampton	Captain
Frank Haskell	Billy, Dick
Alexander Hays	Dan, Leit
John B. Hood	Jeff Davis
Henry J. Hunt	Bill

Patrick Kelly	Faugh-a-Ballagh
Judson Kilpatrick	Old Spot
Fitz Hugh Lee	Nellie Gray
Robert E. Lee	Traveller, Lucy Long
James Longstreet	Hero
George G. Meade	Old Baldy, Old Bill, Blackie, Gertie
Alfred Pleasonton	Slicky
John F. Reynolds	Prince, Fancy
Robert E.Rodes -	Firefly
John Sedgwick	Rambler, Handsome Joe, Cornwall
Daniel Sickles	Tammany, Grand Old Canister and Grapes
George H. Steuart	Pocohontas
J.E.B. Stuart	Virginia, Highfly, My Maryland
Walter H. Taylor	Fleetfoot
Isaac Trimble	Jinny
Strong Vincent	Old Jim
Charles Wainwright	Billy

Vital Statistics

Number of Horses at Gettysburg

	Army of the Potomac	Army of Northern Virginia
Total	43,303	28,940 (est.)

Approximate total number of horses at Gettysburg = 72,243
Approximate number of horses killed at Gettysburg = 3,000 to 5,000

Physical Data

Each horse consumes ten gallons of water per day: 72,243 x 10 = 722,430 gallons per day

Each horse consumes twelve pounds of grain (oat preferred) and fourteen pounds of hay per day:
Grain: 72,243 x 12 = 866,916 pounds per day
Hay: 72,243 x 14 = 1,011,402 pounds per day

Each horse produces twelve to fifteen pounds of manure per day (using a average of thirteen and one half pounds per day):
72,243 x 13.5 = 975,281 pounds per day.

Each horse produces two gallons of urine per day: 72,243 x 2 = 144,486 gallons per day

So over the course of the approximately four days that the two armies were in Gettysburg, the horses consumed or produced:

Water:	2,889,720 gallons	Urine:	577,944 gallons
Hay:	4,045,608 pounds	Manure:	3,901,124 pounds
Grain:	3,467,664 pounds		

Standards

Federal standards for Artillery horses: 5 to 7 years old; standing 15 to 16 hands high (1 hand = 4")
Federal standards for Cavalry horses: 4 to 9 years old; standing 15 to 16 hands high
Confederate standards were similar.

E-MAIL Newsletter

A list was made at the meetings 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** or
Mike Cavanaugh at **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.

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      1805 Pine Street
   Philadelphia, Pennsylvania