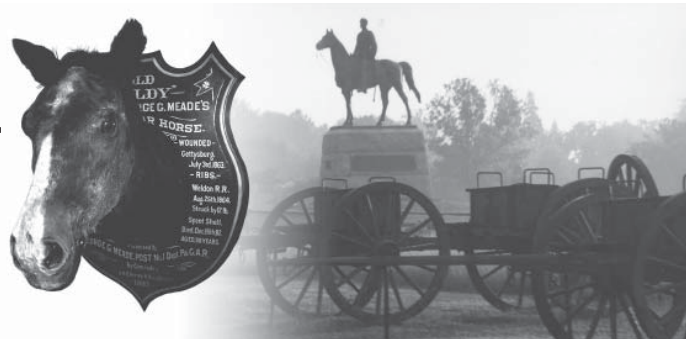
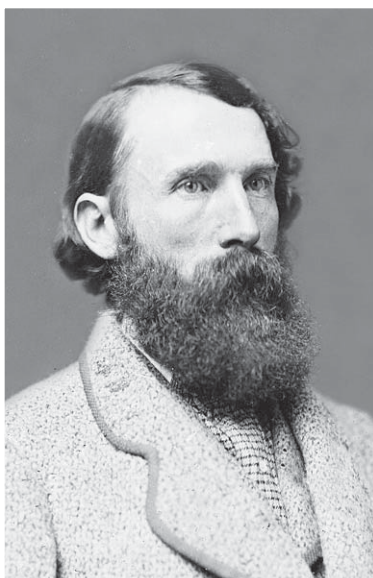


Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



May 21, 2009, The One Hundred and Forty-Ninth Year of the Civil War



“The Man in the Red Battle Shirt: The Life of General A. P. Hill”

Ambrose Powell Hill (Nov. 9, 1825 – Apr. 2, 1865) was born in Culpeper, Virginia, and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1847, ranking 15th in a class of 38 graduates. He was appointed to the 1st U.S. Artillery as a second lieutenant. He served in the Mexican-American War and Seminole Wars and was promoted to

first lieutenant in September 1851. From 1855 to 1860, Hill was employed on the United States' coast survey. In March 1861, just before the outbreak of the Civil War, Hill resigned his U.S. Army commission. When Virginia seceded, he was appointed colonel of the 13th Virginia Infantry Regiment and distinguished himself on the field of First Bull Run. He was promoted to brigadier general in the Confederate Army. Known as a very able Confederate general, he commanded "Hill's Light Division" under Stonewall Jackson, and later commanded a corps under Robert E. Lee in the Army of Northern Virginia. He had a reputation for arriving on battlefields just in time to prove decisive and achieve victory. He met his death in front of the lines at Petersburg, Virginia, just seven days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Hill was affectionate with the rank-and-file soldiers, and was fondly known to his men as "Little Powell.

It is widely felt that no one in the study of Civil War history, in reenacting, or on stage or screen, more embodies the likeness and character of A.P. Hill than **Mr. Patrick Falci**. He gained fame not only for his role as the General Hill in the film "Gettysburg", but also director and screen-writer Ron Maxwell's historical advisor for both that movie and "Gods & Generals". Patrick continues to enlighten the public about "Lee's Forgotten General", and he continues

(See Article on Page 4 on A. P. Hill)

Continued on page 2

President's Message

I hear the program last month was great, sorry I missed it. We did have good time visiting Vicksburg, the Cairo, Arkansas Post, Corinth and the Atlanta Cyclorama [and attending games at six more minor league ballparks]. It will provide material for future newsletter articles. Seeing Vicksburg again did help with the paper I am writing for my Historical Research class. Kudos to own **Steve Wright** for his excellent presentation on Lincoln's last day to the Del Val CWRT last month

A special Thank you to **Bill Holdsworth** for presenting a wreath for OBCWRT at the Decoration Day tribute on Monday, May 25th at 11 AM to 1 PM at Montgomery Cemetery, 1 Hartranft St., Norristown, PA. Be sure to join him if your schedule allows.

Some notes from our recent Board Meeting: Harry is doing a great job filling in our open dates with quality speakers. The Fort Mifflin tour is on for June 20th. Harry will be stepping down at the end of the year to address some personal matters. We will be looking to fill his post soon so the new program chair can work with Harry for a few months. Let us know if you are interested. Our limited finances have caused the Board of Directors to implement a \$10 annual fee for members wishing to continue receiving a hard copy of the newsletter in the mail instead of an emailed copy. This will start in September with the fee for the rest of 2009 being \$5. If you have an email address to get the newsletter please send it to Don or Old Baldy. Look for the spotlight feature in the newsletter soon. We will be moving ahead on our Display Board and brochure soon. If you would like to assist in the project let us know. This will be used to promote OB when we attend Civil War events in the area. We are always looking to add new members. We are exploring methods of fund raising for our donation and for next year's conference. On that subject, we are waiting to hear confirmation about Manor College co-hosting the event next October (2010). We will be meeting with the Round Tables that offered us assistance at the March Sym-

Continued on page 2

The Old Baldy CWRT will meet at the Union League of Philadelphia at 7:30 PM, the second Thursday of the month. Members go out to a local restaurant for dinner at 6:00 PM, Applebees on 15th Street between Walnut and Locust. You're Welcome to Join Us!

Continued from page 1 - "The Man in the Red Shirt"

his devotion to preservation with his Lifetime Membership in the Civil War Preservation Trust. In fact, he participated in the unveiling of A. P. Hill's 13th Virginia regimental flag at the Museum of the Confederacy, a project so dear to his heart that he helped to raise over \$10,000 toward its restoration.

Join us on Thursday, May 21st as Old Baldy is pleased to once again welcome Pat Falci with his presentation and performance dedicated to General Ambrose Powell Hill. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM in the 2nd Floor Library of the Union League at Broad & Sansom Streets. As always, you are welcome to join us at 6:00 at Applebee's for a bite to eat before the meeting. It's just a block south of the Union League on 15th Street.

See you there! Harry P. Jenkins, Program Chairman

Notice: Attire for Men at the Union League Jacket and tie would be preferred; otherwise collared shirts, long pants and jacket are recommended. For men and women, the following attire is never acceptable on the first or second floors of the League: jeans, denim wear, tee shirts, athletic wear, tank, halter, or jogging tops, shorts, baseball caps, sneakers, extremely casual or beach footwear. Current or historical military uniforms are appropriate.

Parking... A \$2 coupon (off of parking) is available at the Union League front desk (through the side door on Sansom Street)

Dear Members of the Old Baldy CWRT:

The Board of the round table wishes to extend its sincere appreciation for your continued participation and support of the round table. One of our most important goals is to bring you the best possible speakers presenting a wide variety of topics. Also, we are so very proud of your contributions to our outstanding *Old Baldy Newsletter*. We firmly believe that we have the best monthly newsletter of any civil war round table or historical organization.

As you are undoubtedly aware, costs for both speakers and the newsletter have risen dramatically. We now provide all visiting presenters with an honorarium to help mitigate their travel expenses, and the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter have continued to rise to over \$70.00 every month.

Most historical societies and organizations now send their newsletters solely by email. **Therefore, starting with the September edition, the Old Baldy Newsletter will be sent to you by email.** This will allow us to reallocate the climbing costs of printing and postage to continue to bring you the finest possible speakers and programs, while maintaining the high quality of the newsletter.

Therefore, please provide us with your email address by sending it directly to our Newsletter Editor, Don Wiles at cwwiles@comcast.net. The Newsletter is send in PDF format. Simply go to www.adobe.com, and down-

Continued from page 1 - President's Message

posium, later this month. We have started getting names of advisors and committee members so we are ready to go once we get the word. Let us know how you would like to help. It will be a total team effort and we can do it! Initial tasks include contacting potential speakers, drafting letters to businesses for donations, fund raising, publicity, collecting raffle prizes, and the budget. Hope to hear from many of you soon.

Be sure to tell everyone you know to come down on the 21st to enjoy the presentation by Pat Falci, let's pack the house.

Thank you for your continued support of our Round Table.

Rich Jankowski, President

Memorial Day Ceremony, W.S. Hancock Mausoleum Monday May 25th @ 11AM, Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, Pa

I wish to personally invite each of my fellow Old Baldy CWRT members and their families and friends to join myself and several other members this Memorial Day at the final resting place of Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock. One could not easily choose anywhere in our region a more fitting place to be or person more worthy of recognition on this day when our Nation honors those who've served and who've died for our country. Come and stand in the presence of greatness – the cemetery is full of citizen-soldiers who answered their Nation's call, and they rest beneath the visage of an officer of whom it was said during battle – "one felt safe when near him." Visit Montgomery Cemetery on Memorial Day and I assure you that you will leave it with an enhanced feeling of patriotism and appreciation for those who've served. Among Civil War notables buried here, are Maj. Gen. John Frederick

Continued on page 3

load the FREE Adobe Reader. The newsletter will then open in a fraction of the time.

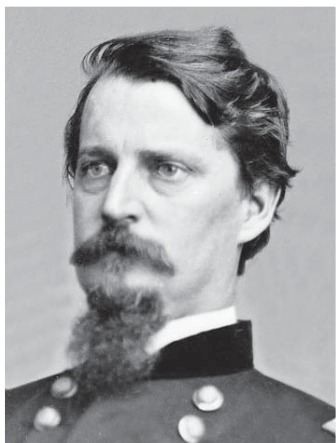
As a service to all our members we will, at your request, continue to provide the newsletter by USPS if you desire. In this case we must ask you to be kind enough to help subsidize the cost of printing and mailing by contributing \$10.00 annually in addition to your dues. If you wish to continue to receive the Newsletter by mail please send \$10.00 payable to "Old Baldy CWRT" to: Herb Kaufman, 2601 Bonnie Lane, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

We are sure that you understand the necessity of this change and sincerely hope that you will continue to support what has become one of the finest round tables in the country.

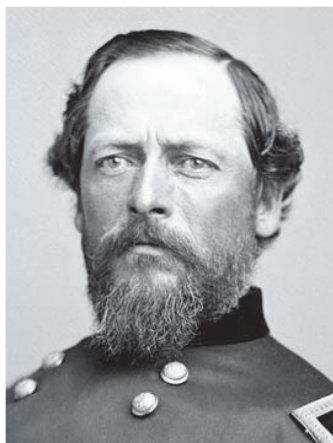
*Sincerely,
The Members of the Board*

**"He can compress the most words into the smallest ideas
of any man I ever met."**

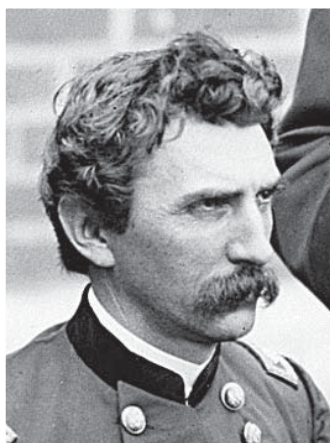
*Lincoln Quotes from
John Bamberl*



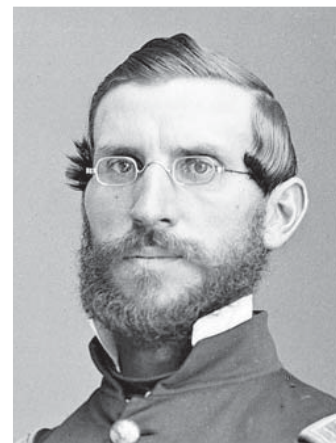
Major General
Winfield Scott Hancock



Brigadier General
Samuel Kosciuszko Zook



Major General
John Frederick Hartranft



Brigadier General
Adam Jacoby Slemmer

Hartranft, Brig. Gen. Adam Jacoby Slemmer, and, along with Hancock, another hero of Gettysburg, Brig. Gen. Samuel K. Zook.

For many years going back to the 1970's, our Roundtable has been involved in preserving and maintaining the general's tomb and has participated in annual Memorial Day ceremonies to honor this great figure in American History. In 1976, founding members Dave Charles, **Mike Cavanaugh**, with some help from MOLLUS and other members erected a chain-link fence around the tomb to help keep vandals from damaging or destroying it.

In the early 1990's, Paul Koons, a member of the Historical Society of Montgomery County and ardent Hancock admirer, along with his daughter Karin Stocking, formed a group called Hancock Restoration and Maintenance Committee, dedicated to restoring and maintaining the mausoleum of Maj.Gen. Hancock. This small group of volunteers has grown into an organization now known as the WS Hancock Society. Since 1994, they have led the effort to restore and preserve the General's mausoleum, and, along with the Historical Society of Montgomery County, have done much to restore and maintain Montgomery Cemetery. Several Old Baldy members, including myself, are members of the WS Hancock Society and support their efforts. Attending the Memorial Day ceremony at Hancock's Mausoleum is something that I eagerly look forward to each and every year, and I consider it an honor to lay a wreath on behalf of our RoundTable. This year will mark my 15th year representing Old Baldy CWRT at the General's tomb.



William Holdsworth and eight
year old "Billy" at the 1996
Memorial Day Ceremony

So, please join us Monday, May 25th, 2009 at 11 AM at Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, PA for the annual Decoration Day ceremony at the Hancock Mausoleum hosted by the WS Hancock Society and the Historical Society of Montgomery County, and remember those who fought for your liberties! Ceremonies begin at 11 AM at the GAR plot, followed by ceremonies at Hancock's Mausoleum at Noon. WS Hancock Society Historian Bruce Stocking will take us through a timeline in American History from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War and recall how our country was forged, tempered and delivered into a nation. We'll also pay tribute to the soldiers of Montgomery Cemetery, including my hometown hero, Major General Winfield Scott Hancock. Come out and represent our RoundTable and honor those who have served our Nation, and pay tribute to the memory of this superb soldier and native Norristonian.

William Holdsworth

Fort Mifflin Trip Promises To Be Fun & Informative

On Saturday, June 20th, Old Baldy Members and Guests, along with our Friends from the CWRT of Eastern Pennsylvania, and the Cape May CWRT, will venture to nearby Fort Mifflin for an enjoyable day of history and learning!

The Fort sits on the banks of the Delaware River just off I-95 near the Philadelphia International Airport. With some folks traveling from the Lehigh Valley in the north, and others from Cape May in the south, we'll start our guided tour at 11:00AM sharp, and should last a few hours. There are no concessions available at the fort, nor any restaurants nearby, so we're suggesting you bring along a bag lunch, and we'll take a break along our tour route to relax and have a bite to eat.

There is no charge to visit Fort Mifflin, but as I'm sure you can understand, they are feeling the budget crunch just as other historic landmarks. With this in mind, we are suggesting that each attendee make a \$10 donation. This

Continued on page 5

"Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm."

He is

“The Best Soldier of his Grade with Me.”



Major General
Ambrose Powell Hill

By Herb Kaufman

Upon the death of Lt. General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson, Robert E. Lee was forced to reorganize the Army of Northern Virginia from two into three army corps. In a letter written to Jefferson Davis on May 20, 1863, General Lee details his plans for military reorganization. He explains that the two corps organization leaves each corps “too large for one commander.” He proposes to

promote Major General Richard Ewell to command one of the new corps, and Major General A. P. Hill the other. A. P. Hill, describes General Lee, “upon the whole is the best soldier of his grade with me.” Lee further states that each corps should be commanded by a Lt. General “and I do not know where to get better men than those I have named.”

When war came to the United States, Ambrose Powell Hill was a 35 year old graduate of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. Born in Virginia in 1825, Powell, as he was called by his mother and most friends, originally entered West Point in what would become the storied class of 1846. When he arrived at West Point 17 year old Powell Hill was assigned to room with a 15 year old youth from Pennsylvania, George B. McClellan. Hill and McClellan soon became close friends, and McClellan, who eventually graduated first in his class, tutored Hill in a number of subjects.

In 1844 Hill went home on a summer furlough, and “enjoyed the leisure of the summer.” Then, apparently on his way back to West Point he stopped in New York City and indulged in the “pleasures of the flesh.” As a result, when he returned to West Point he was officially admitted to the infirmary with the diagnosis of venereal disease. Without antibiotics, these diseases were incurable, although a number of medications were administered to ease the patients’ suffering. However, young cadet Hill apparently contracted a most severe form of the disease and he became seriously ill. Hill took a leave of absence, and slowly recuperated at home. He returned to West Point in 1845, but was advised that he had missed too many classes and would have to repeat the third year. Thus Hill was separated from his new friends and even-

tually graduated 15th in the Class of 1847. This class included a number of future general officers including Henry Heth, Julian McAllister, and Ambrose Burnside.

In 1847, second lieutenant Hill was ordered to report for duty with the 1st U. S. Artillery Regiment in Mexico. Hill fought in a number of battles and in November, illness struck yet again when he became seriously ill with typhoid fever. He eventually recovered and remained in the military. Again, in 1855, while serving in Florida, Hill became critically ill with either malaria or yellow fever. Again, the young officer recovered, however his affliction with at least three lingering and serious illnesses would haunt him for the remainder of his life.

Powell Hill was also terribly unlucky in matters of the heart. His first infatuation with Emma Wilson around 1849, was disrupted by her parents, who found Hill of less than equal social status. His second great love was the beautiful Mary Ellen Marcy. In 1855, Hill proposed and Mary Ellen accepted. However, in the Victorian Era, parents exerted great influence on their children. Mary Ellen’s mother had her eye on another young officer, and apparently through her military connections learned of Hill’s affliction with venereal disease. Bringing great pressure to bear on her daughter, Mary Ellen had no choice but to reconsider and return Hill’s ring. In 1860, Mary Ellen became the devoted wife of Hill’s first West Point roommate, George B. McClellan.

Hill lost yet another beloved to a prospective Union general when Emily Chase married Gouverneur Warren. Warren, being somewhat less than modest after defeating Hill’s forces at Bristoe Station sent a note across the lines, “I have not only whipped you, but married your old sweetheart.”

Powell Hill finally found his life’s love when he married Dolly McClung in 1859.

With the beginning of the war, A. P. Hill rose in rank rapidly. On May 27, 1862 he became the youngest Major General in the Confederate Army when he was given command of a division by General Joseph Johnston. When Robert E. Lee took command on June 1st, he enlarged Hill’s division to six full brigades and an artillery section, making Hill’s new “Light Division” the largest in the entire Confederate army. Hill left no record of how or why he began calling his unit a Light Division. However, soon the name A. P. Hill and his light division became famous through its timely arrival on the battlefield.

Hill and his division fought in all of the major battles of the Army of Northern Virginia, and upon the death of Stonewall Jackson, Hill was given command of the new Third Corps.

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“Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed.”

General Hill's physical appearance demonstrably changed during the four years of the war. The young, dashing mustached officer of the early 1860's, became a thin, bearded, pale officer by 1864. It became apparent that Hill's prior suffering with a number of debilitating and lingering illnesses was causing his physical condition to progressively worsen. "George Tucker, his chief courier, felt that Hill "was an invalid" the last six months of his life." Hill was so incapacitated that on March 20, 1865 he took leave from the army. However, learning of the continuous pressure being applied to Lee's lines by the Army of the Potomac, Hill returned to duty within the week.

On April 2, 1865 General Hill and several aides started out to reconnoiter the Confederate lines. Hill recognized that there were few southern forces in the area, and continued along the road with accompanied solely by courier Tucker. Seeing a large force of Union soldiers Hill turned to Tucker and said, "Sergeant, should anything happen to me, you must go back to General Lee and report it."

Then, for what seems to be an inexplicable reason, General Hill rode forward and challenged several Federal soldiers to surrender, said Hill "We must take them!" Two members of the 138th Pennsylvania Regiment were amazed to see Lieutenant General and a single aide riding down on them. They raised their rifles and fired. The bullet "passed directly through his heart, and ripped out his back. Hill died instantly."

"In him fell one of the knightliest Generals of that army of knightly soldiers."

As a final postscript to the life of A. P. Hill it should be noted that in their final moments, both Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee called for A. P. Hill to "come up" and "prepare for action."

Check out your memory...

Answer from last month...

How many horses did Nathan Bedford Forrest have shot out from under him? 29

New Question...

How many regiments went into Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg? (Too many doesn't count)

**Answers next issue
Quiz questions from Mark Seymour**

Continued from page 2 - Fort Mifflin

will help to cover the expenses for our Interpretive Guide in Civil War uniform and equipment, with money left over for a general donation to the Fort.

We'll ask for a show-of-hands at our May 21st and June 11th meetings to see who is going, or if you can't make the meetings, you can drop me an e-mail if you're coming; hj3bama@comcast.net . Look for further information and details in the June Newsletter.

Harry P. Jenkins, Program Chairman

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2009

May 21, 2009 - Thursday
(Note change to **third** Thursday of the month)

**The Man in the Red Battle Shirt:
The Life of General A. P. Hill**

By **Patrick Falci**

Actor/Historian/President of the New York City CWRT
Portrayed General A.P. Hill in the film "Gettysburg"

June 11, 2009 - Thursday

**Red, White and Blue-Gray:
The Gettysburg Reunions of Civil War Veterans**

By **Alyce Army**

Stories of The Gettysburg Veterans Reunions - 50 and 75
Years After

June 20, 2009 - Saturday

**Field Trip to Historic Fort Mifflin:
"Valiant Defender of the Delaware"**

Located on the Delaware River in southern-most Philadelphia
With our Friends from the Lehigh Valley
and the Eastern Pennsylvania CWRT

July 9, 2009 - Thursday

Illustrating the Civil War

By "Old Baldy's" own Bill Brown

Professor at Moore College of Art / Vice President of
OBCWRT

There is no meeting in August

September 3, 2009 - Thursday

(Note change to **first** Thursday of the month)

Grant's Generalship during the Overland Campaign

By Historian & Author Gordon Rhea

October 8, 2009 - Thursday

A good old-fashion "Round Table" Discussion

**"So you think you know all about Gettysburg:
But what really matters?"**

Join in on the discussion, and stand up and be heard!

October 24, 2009 - Saturday

**Field Trip to the National Guard Militia Museum
of New Jersey**

With Joseph G. Bilby, Curator / Writer / Historian
At the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, NJ

November 12, 2009 - Thursday

The Role of Railroads in the Civil War

By Matthew Bruce

December 3, 2009 - Thursday

(Note change to **first** Thursday of the month)

Dr. Kevin Weddle, Professor of Military Theory & Strategy,
US Army War College, Carlisle, PA,
speaking on his new book

Lincoln's Tragic Admiral:

The Life of Francis Samuel DuPont

**All meetings, unless otherwise noted, begin at 7:30 PM
in the 2nd Floor Library of the UNION LEAGUE,
Broad & Sansom Streets in Philadelphia.**

**Questions to Harry Jenkins at 856-428-8773 or
hj3bama@comcast.net**

**Members go out to a local restaurant for dinner at 6:00 P.M.
Applebees on 15th Street between Walnut and Locust
You're Welcome to Join Us!**

Today in Civil War History

Tuesday, May 21, 1861

Price Promotes Pro-Secession Proclamation

A deal was cut in St. Louis, Mo. today between Gen. William S. Harney and Gen. Sterling Price, both of the Union army, agreeing that Price would command the state militia to maintain order. The only problem with this in some people's eyes was that Price was well-known to be pro-secession. Harney, who seemed to be much more concerned that the St. Louis Riots not be renewed, even promised in this deal that he would not bring in Federal officers as long as order was maintained. Pro-union locals and officers were not amused.

Wednesday, May 21, 1862
Federals Fear Fast Footed Forces

"Foot cavalry" was what they were beginning to call the soldiers of Thomas J. Jackson, for the speed with which they could maneuver up and down the Shenandoah Valley. These fast marchers were headed north in a section known as the Luray Valley today, headed for a town called Front Royal. There were some federal troops there, and they went out for a reconnaissance but found nothing. Gen. Banks had no real idea where Jackson was either but was heading his men north as well.

Thursday, May 21, 1863
Yazoo Yard Yielded

The actions of the Federal Navy in the river warfare of the Western Theater is little noted today, but during the war their effects were considerable. A flotilla was sent up the Yazoo River today, its destination Yazoo City. There was a Confederate navy yard there, and its occupants did not even wait for the flotilla to arrive. As soon as its mission became known the yard was abandoned, its shops destroyed, and three ships—two steamships and an uncompleted gunboat—were burned.

Saturday, May 21, 1864
German General Gets Gate

One of the worst curses of the Union Army was the "political generals". One of these was Gen. Franz Sigel, a native of Germany who was massively popular among the large number of troops who were immigrants from that country. For some of these men the only phrase of English that they knew was "I fights mit Sigel!" which they would repeat if they became separated from their units. Sigel, alas, was not a very good general, and today he was replaced by Gen. David Hunter on the grounds that Sigel had not done very well in the Shenandoah Valley action recently.

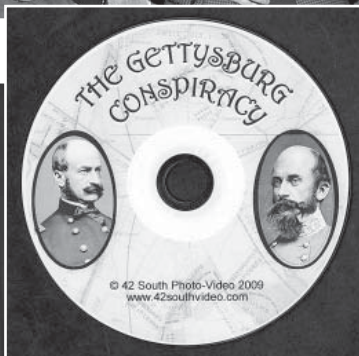
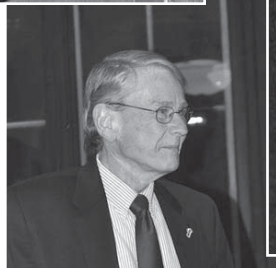
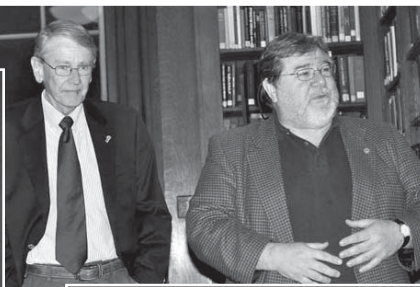
www.civilwarinteractive.com

April 9th meeting

"The Gettysburg Conspiracy"

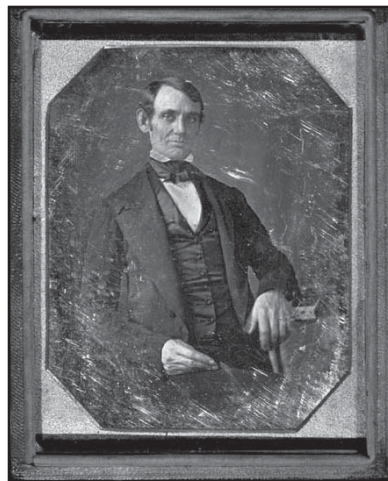
Bob Quigley gave us something to think about... was Adolph Steinwehr and Richard Ewell the same person? Is this how the Union Army knew what was going to happen at Gettysburg? Is this why the Confederates made some poor judgements. Bob put together a great Conspiracy theory and had us guessing what was going to happen next. Columbo could have never figured this one out. It was a great relaxing and fun program. Bob is always welcome at Old Baldy...

Bob Quigley



Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition at Library of Congress

On the last day of our recent trip we stopped by the Library of Congress in Washington to see the "With Malice toward None" Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition. It was truly



worth the time to see this great presentation. The exhibit charts Lincoln's growth from prairie lawyer to preeminent statesman and addresses the monumental issues he faced, including slavery and race, the dissolution of the Union, and the Civil War. Filmed commentaries from distinguished Americans appear throughout the exhibition, forging a personal connection to the documents Lincoln wrote. Interactive programs trace the president-elect's celebratory rail trip from Springfield, Illinois, to Washington and the return of his funeral train to Springfield as the nation mourned.

The exhibition draws on the vast and varied collections of Lincoln material in the Library and includes letters, photographs, political cartoons, period engravings, speeches, and artifacts. The actual grammar book studied by Lincoln in his effort to master English, the notes he

Continued on page 7

prepared in advance of his debates with Senator Stephen Douglas, and the personal scrapbook he assembled of newspaper clippings of the debates. Other items include campaign and election ephemera and such treasures as an autobiography which Lincoln supplied to admiring biographers, his penciled "Farewell Address" as he boarded the train from Springfield, Ill., his first and second Inaugural Addresses, the Bible upon which he took the oath of office on March 4, 1861, his unforgettable Gettysburg Address, and his impassioned letter to Albert Hodges in defense of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The exhibition is made possible by the generous support of Union Pacific Corporation. It was soon to be on tour around the country and you should see it if you can in your travels. It will make stops in Sacramento, Chicago, Indianapolis, Atlanta and Omaha in the next two years.

Events, Seminars, Tours, etc....

September 11-13, 2009 Brigades at Gettysburg Profiles of the Famous and the Forgotten

The **Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides**
2009 Gettysburg Seminar: "Brigades at Gettysburg
Profiles of the Famous and the Forgotten". For additional
information or to register online, visit:
www.gettysburgtourguides.org/seminars.html
or write: ALBG Seminar, P. O. Box 4152, Gettysburg PA
17325

Packing Old Baldy

by Andrew Coldren, Curator
Civil War Museum of Philadelphia

Perhaps the most famous single item in our collection is the stuffed head of Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade's favorite war horse, Old Baldy. Old Baldy had occupied a position of honor in our museum, specifically a case of honor, in the Meade Room for decades. In that case, relatively secure against the passing of time, Old Baldy looked out at the world with his particular glassy-eyed stare. He saw the museum through good times and bad, endured many a joke, and through no effort of his own became our most enduring symbol. I have a passion and reverence for all things Civil War, both as a person and a professional, so everything in our collection is of great significance to me. But for some reason, perhaps it is his record of service and battle wounds, or that he is the remains of a living thing, it is very hard not to get a little sentimental about Old Baldy.

Old Baldy has been on display in a custom made case for over two decades. In that time, the only access to him was through an opening in the top of the case, and even that was mostly to change the light bulbs in the fixture inside. So, like the large painting, a big part of the challenge of packing Old Baldy was that we would have no clear idea how to do it until we cracked open the case and looked at the situation. Even this proved harder than we thought.

The case itself had essentially been assembled around him, and was clearly intended to be hard to open. It was a steel frame with the wood and Plexiglas built over it. There was a good bit of redundancy built into it, as we discovered when we started taking screws out. After we had removed every screw that could conceivably be

holding the case together, nothing moved. We pushed, pulled, jimmied, and wedged as gently as possible, and still nothing. We climbed over it, under it, and through it until we removed every screw we could find. It turned out that the backboard to which Old Baldy was attached was connected to the rest of the case in a way we never would have thought of, and it wasn't until we removed the very last screws that it finally came loose. Once we knew how it

came apart, we had the information we needed to make a plan for packing Old Baldy for moving. As a precaution, we reassembled the case so that he would be protected as other items were being moved out of the room.

The plan to pack Old Baldy was beautiful in its simplicity. I have to give all the credit to Justin, one of the excellent movers who worked on this project with us. Clearly a student of the measure twice, cut once school of doing things, Justin had the job broken down

into four steps that were prepped and ready so we could move easily from one step to the other. The idea was this: we would pack Old Baldy on an L-pallet that fit inside a crate. We would remove him from the backboard that fit in the case and attach him to a new board that fit in the L-pallet. In preparation, we disassembled the case, and had two saw-horse work stations set up, and had the L-pallet and the crate lined up.

One thing we did have to think of before we actually moved Old Baldy was the safety of both Baldy and the crew. We knew nothing of Old Baldy's internal structure and little about the hazardous chemicals that were used to treat him. In this area we got a great assist from Jennifer, who works for one of the outstanding natural science museums here in Philadelphia. Her familiarity with taxidermy, and her evaluation of the condition of Old Baldy, gave us vital information on the issues relating to the safety of the object and the crew and the confidence to proceed with the move.

To be Continued next Issue - June



The Civil War Institute

Manor College has announced its program of classes for the 2009 Summer Session. Instructors are all members of the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table.

All classes are Act 48 approved. Class hours are 6:30 till 8:30 PM. Call (215) 884-2218 to register or for an application for the certificate program. Manor College is located at 700 Fox Chase Road in Jenkintown, PA.

Civilians: The Homefront to the Warfront.

- 0.6 CEUs - Act 48 approved -

Although it was the soldiers who did the war's fighting (and dying), the civilians were much more than bystanders. On a greater scale than ever before, the war frequently came to the civilian's doorstep. No one, in or out of uniform, was untouched by the Civil War.

Instructor: Paula Gidjunis & Sandy Kaufman
Dates: Mondays, June 1, 8, 15
Fee: \$45

A Perfect Shower of Bullets: Actions, Skirmishes and Engagements of the Civil War.

- 0.6 CEUs - Act 48 approved -

Names like Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Antietam and Shiloh - the huge, bloodbaths of the Civil War - are familiar to most Americans. And the Civil War Institute has classes on most of them. But there were hundreds of fascinating smaller engagements, fought at places called New Market, Glorietta Pass, Sabine Pass and Pea Ridge. This course examines many of them.

Instructor: Herb Kaufman
Dates: Wednesdays, July 8, 15, 22
Fee: \$45

A Town in Turmoil - Gettysburg, the Aftermath of War.

- 0.6 CEUs - Act 48 approved -

The biggest battle ever fought on American soil obviously had a major impact on the outcome of the war and on the men who fought it. But it also changed the lives of the civilians who lived in the little Pennsylvania crossroads town. When

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the armies left, the people of Gettysburg had to pick up the pieces.

Instructor: Nancy Caldwell
Dates: Wednesdays, July 29, August 5, 12
Fee: \$45

Antietam Campaign.

- 0.6 CEUs - Act 48 approved -

This is an account of the bloodiest day in American military history. It turned out to be one of the most decisive battles of the war and gave President Lincoln the chance to announce the Emancipation Proclamation. Even after he received a captured copy of General Robert E. Lee's plans, Union General George McClellan, known to President Lincoln as a man who had "a bad case of the slows", couldn't take the initiative. Union and Confederate forces pounded each other through the Cornfield, the Sunken Road and over Burnside's Bridge.

Instructor: Jerry Carrier
Dates: Thursdays, August 13, 20, 27
Fee: \$45

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia Union League

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Founded January 1977

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