Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



December 11, 2014, The One Hundred and Fiftieth Year of the Civil War

"Reconstruction"



William Sia

Join us on Thursday, December 11th at 7:15 PM at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building - Room 101

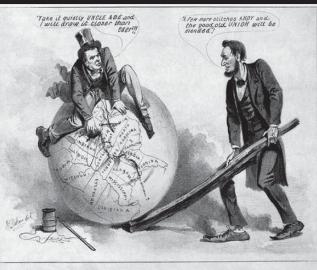
to hear William Sia on "Reconstruction"

With the goal of stimulating thought and discussion, Old Baldy Civil War Round Table member **William (Bill) Sia** will be reviewing the positions taken by Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson while serving as Chief Executive, the specific actions taken by members of Congress to assert their leadership, that is through legislation and Constitutional amendments, during these administrations, and key decisions handed down by the Supreme Court during this era.

After earning a B.A. at King's College and an M.A. at Trenton State College, Bill Sia taught American Government to seniors at Pennsauken High School for thirty-five years. He would like to think, as all teachers do, that he contributed to their growth both as students and citizens.

Notes from the President...

Hope everyone had a splendid time with family over Thanksgiving as another year winds down. It was a very good year for the **Old Baldy CWRT** as we continue to establish ourselves and grow in southern New Jersey. The great programs we have had, the Fall lecture series we sponsored with the College, our second year at the History Fair and being at Cold Springs Village has aided in spreading our message in the area.



THE 'RAIL SPLITTER" AT WORK REPAIRING THE UNION.

With the By-law change at our last meeting our elections will be at the December meeting. Nominations from the floor will be open before voting, so if you want to serve the Round Table as an officer, speak up then. Our new officers will be installed at the Luncheon in January.

Joe Wilson shared some of his fine artifacts at our last meeting, everyone went home better informed. Be sure to check out his November 10th article in the Philadelphia Inquirer about the Merchant Marines. Copies will be available at the meeting. This

month senior member **Bill Sia** will enlighten us on an often under covered aspect of the War, the government's positions and actions on Reconstruction. Join us for a stimulating presentation as we close out the calendar year.

Our luncheon honoring **Mike Cavanaugh** is on January 17th at the Adelphia Restaurant in Deptford. If you have not already done so, purchase a ticket for what will be a grand event, at the meeting or order through **Bob Russo**. Raffle tickets will also be sold at the meeting.

As this term comes to an end, I want to thank our current officers for their service to the Round Table. Thank you to **Kerry Bryan** for the great programs she brought to us during her term as Program Director and to **Rosemary Viggiano** for her work on the luncheon and servicing on our Board for half a year. Check out our website for information on our upcoming programs in the new year. We should have data on our clothing line soon.

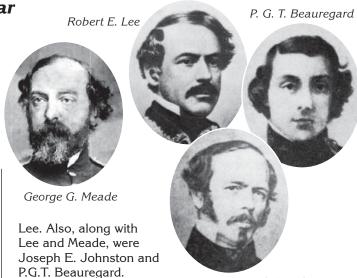
If you are not able to join us on the 11th, please have a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season and Happy New Year.

Rich Jankowski, President

Join us at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 11th, at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building Room 101.

What If ... An Incident in the Mexican War

In March 1847, General Winfield Scott, along with Commodore David Connor were preparing to land American forces for a planned attack on Vera Cruz, Mexico. Looking to examine the beaches south of the city, Connor arranged for Scott and his staff to accompany him aboard a small boat. Scott was satisfied with the site and approved Conner's plan. The outing would have been unremarkable had the party not ventured too close to the Fort of San Juan de Ulua. Shells from Mexican guns were fired scoring no hits on the small boat, but several shots did splash uncomfortably close. If the Mexican gunners had been better shots the boat might have been sunk and the United States would have lost not only Scott and Connor but all of Scott's general officers, plus valuable members of his staff. George Meade, one of the officers aboard, wrote home disapprovingly that "One shot hitting the vessel . . . might have been the means of breaking up the expedition." And nobody could have foreseen the effect of such a mishap on the American Civil War, still years in the future. Two men aboard were destined to command the Union and Confederate armies at Gettysburg - George Meade and Robert E.



Joseph E. Johnston From: So Far from God: The United States War with Mexico 1846 -1848. By John S. D. Eisenhower.

Dear Editor,

Over the years I have wondered why Robert E. Lee was portrayed in drawings, portraits, and photographs wearing a Confederate colonel's uniform. Even at Appomattox, Lee met Grant sporting a brand new dress uniform, it had the colonel's stars on the collar. I did not think much of it until a few years back when the Museum of the Confederacy did a Lee image display asking the same question. I posed this question to many astute and informed historians and none of them gave, what I believe, the definitive answer. Anybody out there that has a theory or, better yet, something more concrete on the subject, please contact me.

Mike Cavanaugh, chief96pbi@rcn.com

Doing some quick research on the Internet I (Editor) found a couple of sites that have some information but not conclusive. There are several sites that are blogs and facebook types that have a lot of conversation about this subject but no real concise answer to this mystery.

Museum of the Confederacy's Answer

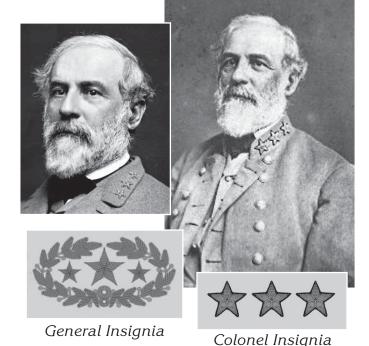
Did You Know...

Every wartime photograph of Robert E. Lee shows him wearing a uniform coat bearing three stars on his collar; the insignia denoting the rank of colonel in the Confederate Army. Why did Lee prefer the insignia of a Confederate colonel? Lee had finally attained the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army on the eve of the war and some have speculated that Lee wore the three stars as a gesture of Lee's famous modesty. Another explanation is that three stars had been in the U.S. Army the appropriate insignia for a lieutenant general a rank that only two men had held: Lee's idol George Washington and his mentor Winfield Scott.

Wikipedia's Answer

General Insignias

On the upright collar of full generals, lieutenant generals,



major generals, and brigadier generals three stars were stitched within a wreath, all embroidered in gold coloring. The center star was slightly larger than the other stars. It was not possible to know which grade of general an officer was by his collar insignia. However, major generals and lieutenant generals wore two rows of nine buttons in groups of three down the front of the overcoat, and brigadier generals wore two rows of eight buttons in groups of two. However, Confederate Army Regulations had no distinction between the General Officer grades, and had only the insignia for Brigadier Generals recognized. At least three Generals officers did not wear the prescribed uniform: Robert E. Lee who wore the uniform of a Colonel, refusing to wear a generals insignia until the Confederate victory; Joseph L. Hogg, who died of a fever; and Benjamin McCulloch.

Veterans Day Woodlands Cemetery

On November 11th "Mrs. Elizabeth Hutter" (OBCWRT member and living historian **Kerry L. Bryan**) and **Dr. Robert Hicks**, director of the Mutter Museum and portrayer of a Civil War surgeon, participated in Veterans Day observances sponsored jointly by the Philadelphia Veterans Hospital and the adjacent Woodlands Cemetery in West Philadelphia. After introductions and speeches held in an auditorium at the hospital, the Philadelphia Police and Firemen's Pipe and Drum Corps led the parade of participants down Woodland Avenue to the cemetery. There the proces-



sion stopped first at the grave of Civil War surgeon Dr. John H. Brinton (1832-1907), where Dr. Hicks read excerpts from Brinton's memoirs. After then proceeding to the grave of Civil War volunteer nurse Emily Bliss Souder (1814-1886), "Mrs. Hutter" read excerpts from Souder's Leaves from the Battlefield of Gettysburg, a posthumously published collection of some of her 1863 letters from the field and her patriotic wartime poems. A letter written by Emily Souder on July 15. 1863 mentions her having crossed paths with fellow Philadelphia volunteer nurse Elizabeth Hutter on that date in Gettysburg.

"The Battles of Iuka, Corinth and Hatchie's Bridge (Davis Bridge)"

Continued from November issue.

The Second Battle of Corinth...

So far the advantage had been with the Confederates. Rosecrans had been driven back at all points, and night found his entire army except pickets inside the redoubts. Both sides had been exhausted from the fighting. The weather had been hot (high of 94°F) and water was scarce, causing many men to nearly faint from their exertions. During

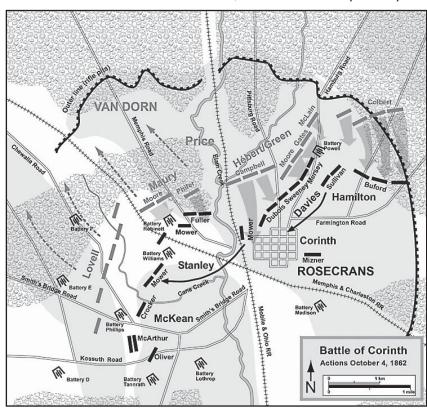
the night the Confederates slept within 600 yards of the Union works, and Van Dorn readjusted his lines for the attack the next day. He abandoned his sophisticated plans for double envelopments. Shelby Foote wrote, "His blood was up; it was Rosecrans he was after, and he was after him in the harshest, most straightforward way imaginable. Today he would depend not on deception to complete the destruction begun the day before, but on the rapid point-blank fire of his guns and the naked valor of his infantry."

Rosecrans's biographer, William M. Lamers, reported that Rosecrans was confident at the end of the first day of battle, saying "We've got them where we want them" and that some of the general's associates claimed that he was in "magnificent humor." Peter Cozzens, however, suggested that Rosecrans was "tired and bewildered, certain only he was badly outnumbered—at least three to one by his reckoning." Army of the Tennessee historian Steven E. Woodworth portrayed Rosecrans's conduct in a negative light:

Rosecrans ... had not done well. He had failed to anticipate the enemy's action, put little more than half his troops into the battle, and called on his men to fight on ground they could not possibly hold. He had sent a series of confusing and unrealistic orders to his division commanders and had done nothing to coordinate their activities, while he personally remained safely back in Corinth. The movements of the army that day had had nothing to do with any plan of his to develop the enemy or make a fighting withdrawal. The troops and their officers had simply held on as best as they could.

Battle of Corinth, October 4, 1862

At 4:30 a.m. on October 4, the Confederates opened up



Union Commanders

on the Union inner line of entrenchments with a six-gun battery, which kept up its bombardment until after sunrise. When the guns fell silent, the Federal troops prepared themselves to resist an attack. But the attack was slow in coming. Van Dorn had directed Hébert to begin the engagement at daylight, and the artillery fire was merely preliminary to enable Hébert to get into position for the assault.

At 7 a.m., Hébert sent word to Van Dorn that he was too ill to lead his division, and Brig. Gen. Martin E. Green was ordered to assume

command and advance at once. Nearly two hours more elapsed before Green moved to the attack, with four brigades in echelon, until he occupied a position in the woods north of town. There he formed in line, facing south, and made a charge on Battery Powell with the brigades of Gates and McLain (replacing Martin), while the brigades of Moore

(replacing Green) and Colbert attacked Hamilton's line. The assault on the battery was successful, capturing the guns and scattering the troops from Illinois and Iowa. Hamilton repulsed the attack on his position and then sent a portion of his command to the assistance of Davies, who rallied his men, drove the Confederates out of the battery, and recaptured the guns.

Maury had been engaged sometime before this. As soon as he heard the firing on his left, he knew that Davies and Hamilton would be kept too busy to interfere with his movements, and gave the order for his division to move straight toward the town. His right encountered a stubborn resistance at about 11 a.m. from Battery Robinett, a redan protected by a fivefoot ditch, sporting three 20-pounder

Parrott rifles commanded by Lt. Henry Robinett. Fierce hand-to-hand combat ensued, and Maury was forced to retire with heavy losses from arguably the hottest action of the two-day battle. Col. William P. Rogers of the 2nd Texas, a Mexican-American War comrade of President Jefferson Davis, was among those killed in the charge. Col. Lawrence Sullivan Ross of the 6th Texas was thrown from his horse and mistakenly reported killed with Rogers.



USA Major General William Rosecrans



USA Brigadier General David Stanley



USA Major General Charles Hamilton



Thomas McKean



USA Brigadier General USA Brigadier General Thomas Davies



USA Brigadier General John McArthur

Phifer's brigade on the left met with better success, driving back Davies's left flank and entering the town. But their triumph was short-lived, as part of Sullivan's brigade, held as a reserve on Hamilton's left, charged on the Confederates. who were thrown into confusion in the narrow streets, and as they fell back came within range of batteries on both flanks of the Union army, the cross-fire utterly routing them. Cabell's brigade of Maury's division was sent to reinforce the troops that had captured Battery Powell, but before it arrived. Davies and Hamilton had recaptured it, and as Cabell advanced

against it, he was met by a murderous fire that caused his men to retreat.

Meanwhile, Lovell had been skirmishing with the Union left in the vicinity of Battery Phillips, in preparation for a general advance. Before his arrangements were complete he was ordered to send a brigade to Maury's assistance, and soon afterward received orders to place his command so as to cover the retreat of the army. At 4 p.m., reinforcements from Grant under the command of Brig. Gen. James B. McPherson arrived from Jackson. But the battle of Corinth had effectively been over since 1 p.m. and the

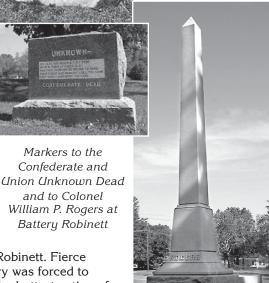
Confederates were in full retreat.

Aftermath

It lives in the memory of every soldier who fought that day how his General plunged into the thickest of the conflict, fought like a private soldier, dealt sturdy blows with the flat of his sword on the runaways, and fairly drove them to stand. Then came a quick rally which his magnificent bearing inspired, a storm of grape from the batteries tore its way through the Rebel ranks, reinforcements which Rosecrans sent flying gave impetus to the National advance, and the charging column was speedily swept back outside the entrenchments.

Whitelaw Reid, Ohio in the War

Rosecrans's army lost 2,520 (355



killed, 1,841 wounded, and 324 missing) at Corinth; Van Dorn's losses were 4,233 (473 killed, 1,997 wounded, and 1,763 captured or missing).

Confederate Commanders



Confederate dead lay gathered at the bottom of the parapet of Battery Robinett on the day after the Battle of Corinth. Col. William P. Rogers of the 2nd Texas (on the very left) seized his colors to keep them from falling again and jumped a five foot ditch, leaving his dying horse and assaulted the ramparts of the battery. When canister shot killed him, he was the fifth bearer of his colors to fall that day.

Once again, Rosecrans's performance during the second day of the battle has been the subject of dispute among historians. His biographer, Lamers, paints a romantic picture:

One of Davies' men, David Henderson, watched Rosecrans as he dashed in front of the Union lines. Bullets carried his hat away. His hair flew in the wind. As he rode along he shouted: "Soldiers! Stand by your country." "He was the only general I ever knew," Henderson said later, "who was closer to the enemy than we were who fought at the front." Henderson (after the war, a Congressman from Iowa and Speaker of the House of Representatives) wrote that Rosecrans was the "Central leading and victorious spirit. ... By his splendid example in the thickest of the fight he succeeded in restoring the line before it was completely demoralized; and the men, brave when bravely led, fought again."

Peter Cozzens, author of a recent book-length study of luka and Corinth, came to the opposite conclusion:

Rosecrans was in the thick of battle, but his presence was hardly inspiring. The Ohioan had lost all control of his infamous temper, and he cursed as cowards everyone who pushed past him until he, too lost hope. ... Rosecrans's histrionics nearly cost him his life. "On the second day I was everywhere on the line of battle," he wrote with disingenuous pride. "Temple Clark of my staff was shot through the breast. My saber-tache strap was caught by a bullet, and my gloves were stained with the blood of a staff officer wounded at my side. An alarm spread that I was killed, but it was soon stopped by my appearance on the field."

Rosecrans's performance immediately after the battle was lackluster. Grant had given him specific orders to pursue Van Dorn without delay, but he did not begin his march until the morning of October 5, explaining that his troops



CSA Major General Sterling Price



CSA Major General Earl Van Dorn



CSA Brigadoer General Louis Hebert



CSA Major General Mansfield Lovell



CSA Brigadoer General Dabney Maury

needed rest and the thicketed country made progress difficult by day and impossible by night. At 1 p.m. on October 4, when pursuit would have been most effective, Rosecrans rode along his line to deny in person a rumor that he had been slain. At Battery Robinett he dismounted, bared his head, and told his soldiers, "I stand in the presence of brave men, and I take my hat off to you."

Grant wrote disgustedly, "Two or three hours of pursuit on the day of the battle without anything except what the men carried on their persons, would have been worth more than any pursuit commenced the next day could have possibly been." Rosecrans returned to Corinth to find that he was a hero in the Northern press. He was soon ordered to Cincinnati, where he was given command of the Army of the Ohio (soon to be renamed the Army of the Cumberland), replacing Don Carlos Buell, who had similarly failed to pursue retreating Confederates from the Battle of Perryville.

Although his army had been badly mauled, Van Dorn escaped completely, evading Union troops sent by Grant later on October 5 at the Battle of Hatchie's Bridge, and marching to Holly Springs, Mississippi. He attributed his defeat to the failure of Hébert to open the second-day engagement on time, but nevertheless he was replaced by Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton immediately after the battle. There were widespread outcries of indignation throughout the South over the senseless casualties at Corinth. Van Dorn requested a court of inquiry to answer charges that he had been drunk on duty at Corinth and that he had neglected his wounded on the retreat. The court cleared him of all blame by unanimous decision.

The Battle Of Davis Bridge...

The Battle of Hatchie's Bridge, also known as Battle of Davis Bridge or Matamora, was fought on October 5, 1862, in

Union Commanders

Hardeman County and Mc-Nairy County, Tennessee, as the final engagement of the luka-Corinth Campaign of the American Civil War. Confederate Major General Earl Van Dorn's army successfully evaded capture by the Union Army, following his defeat at the Battle of Corinth.

Union
District of Jackson – Major
General Edward O. C. Ord (W)
4th Division:
MG Stephen A. Hurlbut
1st Brigade:
BG Jacob G. Lauman
2nd Brigade:
BG James C. Veatch
Provisional Brigade:
Col Robert K. Scott

Artillery, Cavalry

Confederate
Army of the West – Major General Earl Van Dorn
Price's Corps – Major General Sterling Price

Van Dorn's (Confederate) Army of Tennessee retreated from Corinth, Mississippi, on October 4, 1862, but Union Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans did not send forces in pursuit until the morning of October 5.



USA Major General Edward Ord



USA Major General Stephen Hurlbut

Confederate Commanders

Maj. Gen. Edward O.C. Ord, commanding a detachment of Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee, was, pursuant to orders, advancing on Corinth to assist Rosecrans. On the night of October 4-5, he camped near Pocahontas. Between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. the next morning, his force encountered Union Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut's 4th Division, District of Jackson, in the Confederates' front. Ord took command of the now-combined Union forces and pushed Van Dorn's advanced element, Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's Army of the West, back about five miles to the Hatchie River and across Davis's Bridge. After accomplishing this, Ord was wounded in the ankle and



CSA Major General Sterling Price



CSA Major General Earl Van Dorn

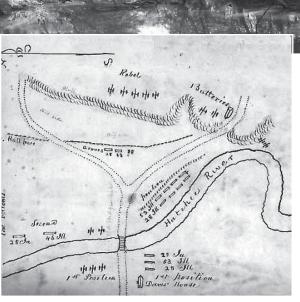


Hurlbut assumed command. While Price's men were hotly engaged with Ord's force, Van Dorn's scouts looked for and found another crossing of the Hatchie River. Van Dorn then led his army back to Holly Springs. Grant ordered Rosecrans to abandon the pursuit. Ord had forced Price to retreat, but the Confederates

escaped capture or destruction. Although they should have done so, Rosecrans's army had failed to capture or destroy Van Dorn's force.

Article: Wikipedia Maps: Hal Jespersen

Markers to the Confederate Dead buried near by



Map drawn by Unknown Union soldier





Old Baldy Civil War Round Table thanks Harry Jenkins for making the Fall Lecture Series with Camden County College a success for 2014.

Remembrance Day Parade - Gettysburg 2014

The weather was much better than last year - sunny and low 40s. While at Gettysburg, I also stopped by to pay my respects to Lieutenant Alonzo Cushing after his recent award of the Congressional Medal of Honor. And I also paid a visit to the GAR Hall where my wife, Carolyn, and I got married 23 years ago this November 24th. I hope to see all the Old Baldy folks at the Jim Heenehan December meeting.



Harry Jenkins and Rich Jankowski

Photos - Jim Heenehan





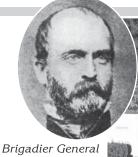




Editor's Note: Found a photo of the GAR Hall. This was the site of the First Methodist Church which was used as a hospital during the battle. Was turned over to the GAR in 1878. Jim and Carolyn... Congratulations on your 23 years of marriage.

Masonic Service Rememberance Day **Gettysburg**

Old Baldy member Bill Hughes on left, attending annual Masonic service at the Friend to Friend Masonic monument at Remembrance weekend in Gettysburg.



Lewis Armistead



Captain Henry Bingham



Friend To Friend (Masonic Memorial)

On July 3, 1863 Confederate Brigadier General Lewis Armistead led his Virginians in the great charge against the Union Line on Cemetery Ridge. Armistead was wounded when he breached the

wall and coming to his aid was Union Captain Henry Bingham. A Masonic greeting was passed by each man. Armistead is shown giving his watch with the Masonic emblem on his watch fob and asking Bingham to give it to his long time friend Union Major General Winfield Handcock who was also wounded by this time.



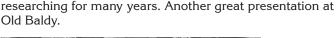
December gives us Bill Sia and his discussion on the "Reconstruction" of a split nation and the effect it will have on that nation than and now... this will lead into our first meeting of 2015. A real Round Table discussion on "Victory and/or Defeat"... did Grant win and did Lee loose?... should be a great discussion.

November 13th Meeting... "Civil War Artifacts:The Story Behind the Relics"

Joe Wilson gave us a great look into the history of some of the great artifacts in his collection. He discussed the story behind the artifact. How he came across finding certain artifacts and what they mean to him and to the soldier who may have used them. He displayed a Cavalry sword and a type of short bladed sword and how they were used. An Artillery shell and how it was used. Included was the personal Bible of Joe's great-great-grandfather, Corporal

George Garman of the 36th PA Volunteers, which came into Joe's possession by a series of strange coincidences after a visit to Greenwood Cemetery in Northeast Philadelphia. On the back cover of the Bible, was a photo of Corporal Garman taken upon his release from Andersonville Prison. This image lent a face to an ancestor he had been







Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2014/2015

December 11 – Thursday "Reconstruction"

Bill Sia

(Historian/Teacher/Scholar)

January 8 – Thursday
"Grant vs Lee: Did Grant Win... or did Lee Lose?"
Round Table Discussion

February 12 – Thursday Presidential Assassins

Hugh Boyle (Lincoln Historian)

March 12 – Thursday
The Medical Treatment of Our Assassinated Presidents

Herb Kaufman (Historian)

Questions to

Harry Jenkins - 302-834-3289 - hj3bama@version.net Herb Kaufman - 215-947-4096 - shkaufman2@yahoo.com Don Forsyth - 856-207-8669 - ngf1301@comcast.net

WEB Site: http://oldbaldycwrt.org Email: oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net Blog: http://oldbaldycwrt.blogspot.com/ Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia Camden County College Blackwood Campus - Connector Building Room 101 Forum, Civic Hall, Atrium

856-427-4022 oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net Founded January 1977

President: Richard Jankowski
Vice President: Bob Russo
Treasurer: Herb Kaufman
Secretary: Bill Hughes
Programs: Harry Jenkins
Herb Kaufman
Don Forsyth





Joe Wilson



Annual Memberships

Students: \$12.50

Individuals: \$25.00

Families: \$35.00

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia Cavanaugh Luncheon Raffle



Highwater Mark Framed Mort Kuntsler Print



New York Times Complete Civil War Book

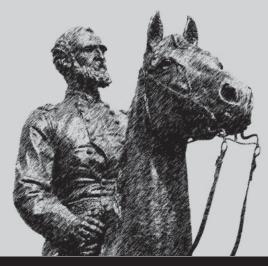


Signed article by Mike Cavanaugh about Old Baldy in March/April 1982 North-South Trader



Tickets: \$2 each or 3 for \$5

To be drawn at the Old Baldy Luncheon on
January 17, 2015



Old Baldy Civil War

Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

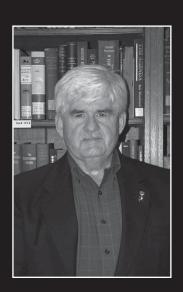
Honor Luncheon

A Luncheon to Recognize and Honor

Michael Cavanaugh

Round Table Founder
Civil War Scholar
Book Exchange Founder
(Civil War News)

January 17, 2015 11:30 AM Adelphia Restaurant 1750 Clements Bridge Road Deptford, NJ 08096



Presentation by Dr. Randall Miller Saint Joseph University Professor "Armed for Freedom: Black Soldiers and Emancipation"

Full course buffet lunch with soup, salad, entrees, vegetables and dessert.

Cash Bar, Door Prizes and Raffle.

Tickets Available \$40.00 Each or 2 for \$75.00 Rich Jankowski - 856.904.5481 Rosemary Viggiano - 856.924.0718

Make check payable to: Old Baldy CWRT and send to: OBCWRT/Bob Russo, 15 Lakeview Place, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

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