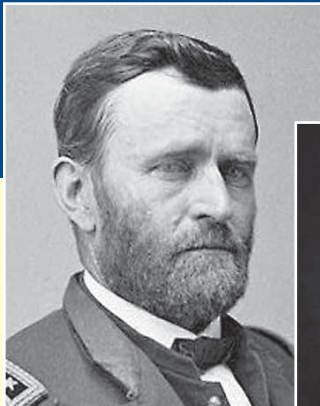


# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

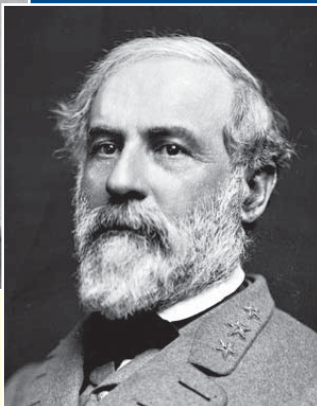
January 8, 2015 The One Hundred and Fiftieth Year of the Civil War

## “Did Grant Win the Fight... or did Lee Lose the Fight?”

*A Round Table Discussion*



*Grant and Lee*



Join us on **Thursday, January 8th at 7:15 PM at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building - Room 101** for an old fashion Civil War Roundtable discussion.

“To be a good soldier, you must love the army. To be a good commander, you must be willing to order the death of the thing you love.” Robert E. Lee

“In every battle there comes a time when both sides consider themselves beaten, then he who continues the attack wins.” Ulysses S. Grant

While both Generals Grant and Lee had West Point educations, their respective views of warfare differed greatly. Grant believed in swift action, striking the enemy with vigor and force; Lee was a master tactician, evaluating his enemy’s strengths and weaknesses.

At our January meeting, all members of our round table will have the opportunity to consider their own feelings and beliefs of Generals Grant and Lee. Once Grant took command of the Union armies in 1864, how did the North’s perspective of the war change? How did Lee respond to Grant’s tactics? Was Grant truly a “butcher” in his use of the army? Did Lee fail to use his resources in the most effective manner? What could either of them have done differently?

These and other topics will be explored during our discussion. Everyone is encouraged to come to the meeting and join the discussion and give voice to your views and opinions. We promise you a lively discussion.

### *Notes from the President...*

Welcome to 2015 as the Old Baldy CWRT celebrates 38 years. Hope everyone had a safe, joyous and enjoyable Holiday Season. Thank you to the membership for believing in the Board to re-elect them to continue our mission. Welcome to **Frank Barletta** and **Kathy Clark**. Thank you to the nominating committee for the fine job they did with the election. This year will be another spirited campaign of expansion and spreading the Old Baldy message to more folks in Southern New Jersey. Be sure to pay your dues to partake in the activities we will be having this year.

The year begins with a super event, the luncheon honoring **Mike Cavanaugh** on January 17th at Adelphia Restaurant in Deptford. There will be many door prizes, much reminiscing, a presentation by **Dr. Randall Miller**, and good fellowship as well as a superb meal. If you have not purchased your ticket yet, please do so at the meeting or send your order to **Bob Russo**. (use form on the web site or in this newsletter) Rumor has it there will be an additional raffle prize for those present. Don’t miss out on what will be a memorable event.

We closed out last year with an outstanding presentation by **Bill Sia** on Reconstruction. Everyone in attendance felt his passion for and knowledge of the subject. In thanking him, I informed him he would be returning in 2016 on another topic. We hope the guests who came to see Bill will visit us at a future meeting. This month members will discuss the merits of General Grant and General Lee in the Overland Campaign. Come prepared for a warm, energetic debate with your colleagues.

If you know of upcoming events in the Civil War community, please let Don know so he can post in the newsletter for all. Next month will be Catto and Lincoln events. Stop by the Lamp Post Diner before the meeting for some nourishment and enrichment.

See you all on the 8th at 7:15.

*Rich Jankowski, President*

**2015 Dues Due - See Page 8 for Details**

**Join us at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, January 8th, at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building, Room 101.**

# 26th Annual Memorial Illumination

Bob Russo  
Photos, NPS

On December 13, 2014 my wife Carol, and I, along with our dog Bella traveled west across Maryland to visit my favorite Civil War site, the Antietam National Battlefield. We were there to see the 2014, 26th Annual Memorial Illumination. This event normally takes place on the first Saturday in December but torrential rain this year on December 6 caused an early postponement of the event.

To be blunt, this was the most humbling experience that I ever had and my wife is entirely of the same mindset on this sentiment. She does not share my intense interest in the Civil War era but she was made speechless at the sight of 23,110 candles over such a long distance. Our dog even seemed mesmerized by the flickering candles at times and seemed to realize that silence was in order. I'm not talking about candles just lining the roadway. In some places candles were set about ten feet apart in a grid that ran north to south and east to west across multiple ridges in both directions.

There are many videos on You Tube that will give you an idea of the event but this is something that every Civil War enthusiasts should have on their bucket list to see first hand! The American Business Women's Association, the Antietam National Battlefield and the Hagerstown—Washington County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, sponsored the 2014 event.

The Memorial Illumination as stated in the program guide is, "dedicated to those brave soldiers, who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that you and I could enjoy the freedoms of today." 23,110 candles are lit to honor the, "...soldiers, of both Blue and Gray, who were casualties of the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862." A volunteer force of 1400 people was needed to set, light and remove the candles.

If you plan to attend this event in the future it is critical that you recognize it is a long wait. Patience is required. The gates open at 6:00 PM but the line forms long before that. We arrived at 5:00 PM and at that point the back of the line was a little over one mile from the entrance. After waiting and then moving at a sluggish crawl we eventually drove through the entrance gate at about 6:25 PM. I can't stress enough that the prolonged wait to enter was worth every second. The number of about 23,000 casualties during the Battle of Antietam will have an entirely new meaning to you when you see that quantity of candles lit on the Battlefield. For us it's a perspective we will never forget.



The line begins on the westbound shoulder of Boonsboro Pike (Route 34) and enters the Battlefield on Richardson Avenue. The route continues past Bloody Lane, through the Union Advance area and past the Mumma Farm. Continuing on, the course takes you up Smoketown Road onto Mansfield Avenue and past the East Woods and North Woods where Union movements began a catastrophic twelve hours of fighting. The tour then winds down the path of the original Hagerstown Pike, past the Cornfield and West Woods, passes the Dunker Church and the Visitor's Center, where the tour ends at the modern day Hagerstown Pike (Route 65).



The full tour once on the Battlefield is about five miles and it took about one hour to wind our way through. At the entrance they do ask everyone to turn off their headlights, driving only with their amber lights on. This simple request does create the need to be extremely cautious in your driving but also significantly improves the experience. It is stressed that no one can stop or exit their vehicle. To say it is dark is an understatement.

Another added attraction is that at multiple locations on the Battle-

field, reenactors off in the distance can be seen standing next to campfires. Their simple silhouettes by the fire, add a reminder that each candle represents a human being with a story, a family and a life, all with a great historic sacrifice and significance.

If you plan to attend next year there is no actual charge but they do ask for donations to help cover the cost of the event. The next event will occur on December 5, 2015 with the postponement date being December 12, 2015. There are also "Sponsor-A-Candle" fundraisers and other donations accepted throughout the year to help continue this dignified event!

In total it was about two hours and thirty minutes from the time we got in line, to the time we exited the park and I have every hope and expectation to return next year and sit in that line again!

# January 8, 1864

## The First Shots of the Civil War

### January 8, 1861

After the secession of South Carolina in late December, tensions in the Pensacola region quickly escalated. In early January, the Florida state legislature began working on a declaration of secession. Once finished, the outbreak of hostilities could commence at any time. Now facing an imminent threat with absolutely no guidance on how to respond, the United States forces in Pensacola made ready to go to war.

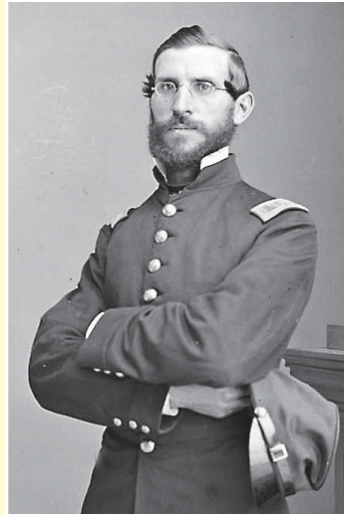
The commander of the few army troops in the area was 1st Lieutenant Adam Slemmer, West Point class of 1850. Slemmer's men were outposted at Fort Barrancas, on the northern shore of the bay. In addition to being right in the middle of everything, they had mounted guns with a fair supply of ammo. A small ordnance team was at Fort McRee on the west side of the harbor entrance. It too had guns mounted and ammo stored. Fort Pickens, a mammoth stronghold on the east bank of the channel on Santa Rosa Island, had been abandoned since 1850 and was completely empty with few, if any, working heavy guns. Nevertheless, it was a much stronger defensive position that would control the entrance to the bay. Fort Barrancas had guns and ammo, but was easily cut off and rendered untenable. Lt. Slemmer and his men would make their stand at Fort Pickens, which he was determined to hold at all costs.

On January 8, Slemmer took action. He pulled all his troops into Fort Barrancas and informed the commander of the Navy Yard that he was transferring out to Fort Pickens. The first signs of trouble came calling that night. A group of 20 Florida militiamen gathered by the drawbridge that led into the main entrance of Fort Barrancas. When they refused to disperse or answer challenges, jumpy Union sentries fired in their direction. These were the first shots of the Civil War.

### January 8 to 12, 1861

#### Slemmer makes his move

Lt. Slemmer planned his evacuation for January 10, but first they had work to do and some havoc to wreak. During the 8th and 9th, they spiked guns and blew up or flooded magazines at Fort Barrancas and Fort McRee. They loaded as much of everything as they could on several small sloops. What they couldn't carry they destroyed. On January 9, he received a dispatch from Washington D.C. instructing him to prevent the capture of facilities and stores to the best of his ability. While the Florida legislature was voting to create "... the sovereign and independent nation of Florida" on January 10, Union soldiers and sailors were making multiple



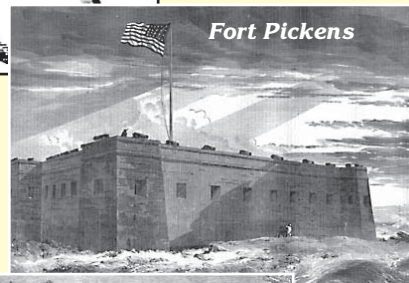
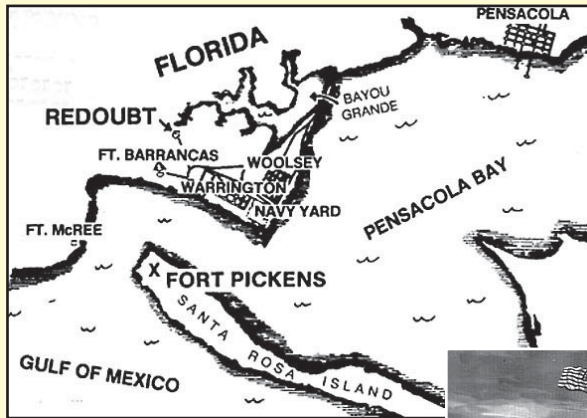
Lieutenant Adam Slemmer

boat trips a mile and a half across the bay to Fort Pickens.

Two days after secession, on January 12, 500 Confederate troops moved on Pensacola. There they confronted Commodore James Armstrong, the commander of the Navy Yard and the senior Union officer. They demanded the surrender of the Navy Yard and the four forts that protected it. The 67 year old Armstrong had been in the Navy since 1809 and was in failing health. With no hope of successful

resistance and no personal reserves left to draw on, Armstrong capitulated. He and the captured Union sailors were paroled back to New York aboard a Navy ship. The Confederates seized huge stores of weapons, ammo, medicine and other war stocks. They also got a first class ship repair facility, complete with drydock, and the infrastructure to support it.

When the new owners entered forts McRee and Barrancas, they found little of use and immediately got to work preparing the forts for action. Across the bay, the Union was doing the same thing at Fort Pickens.



Union troops rolling into Fort Pickens that day found an empty shell of a fort. It had been stripped, abandoned and unmaintained since 1850. There were 40 cannon, but many were dis-assembled or pointing the wrong way. Originally designed to defend against an at-



Confederate Troops

tack from the sea, Fort Pickens had to reverse itself to defend against an attack from inside the bay. There were no stocks or stores of any kind. Designed to be manned by 1,200 troops, they had 81 men and one mule. The new garrison got to work in a two day torrential downpour. They worked all day and

stood guard all night.

On the night of January 13, Union sentries spotted a Confederate patrol doing a recon of the fort. The sentries opened fire and the patrol returned fire as they withdrew. Nobody was hit. This was the first exchange of gunfire in the Civil War.

Within a month, they had 14 guns operational, but in the near term they had almost nothing. The work continued non-stop.

<http://exploringoffthebeatenpath.com>

## January 8, 1864 David Owen Dodd Hung as a Spy

**David Owen Dodd**  
(November 10, 1846  
– January 8, 1864) was  
an American 17-year-  
old who was tried, con-  
victed and hanged as a  
Confederate spy in the  
American Civil War.

In December 1863,  
Dodd carried some  
letters to business as-  
sociates of his father in  
Union-held Little Rock,  
Arkansas. While travel-  
ing to rejoin his family  
at Camden, Arkansas,  
he mistakenly re-en-  
tered Union territory. Found to be without a pass, Union sol-  
diers questioned him and discovered that he was carrying  
a notebook with the locations of Union troops in the area.  
He was arrested and tried by a military tribunal, with little  
defense offered for his actions. The tribunal found him guilty  
of spying and he was hanged for his crime on January 8,  
1864. Though Dodd did not reveal the source of the infor-  
mation, a 15-year-old girl named Mary Dodge and her father  
were summarily escorted back to their home in Vermont.  
These events have led to David Owen Dodd being called the  
"Boy Martyr of the Confederacy".

### Early life

David Owen Dodd was born in Victoria, Lavaca County, Tex-  
as, to Andrew Marion Dodd, a merchant, and Lydia Echols  
Owen. His Baptist parents had married in a village south of  
Little Rock, Arkansas and moved to Texas with daughter Se-  
norah, where David and his sisters, Leonora, and Ann Eliza,  
were born. David's third  
sister, Ann Eliza, died before  
the Civil War.

In 1856, the family returned  
to Arkansas and settled  
near Benton. In 1861, the  
Dodds moved to Little Rock  
to be closer to Senhora,  
who attended school in the  
city and lived with her aunt,  
Mrs. Susan A. Dodd. David  
Dodd went to classes at St.  
John's Masonic College.  
His father left the family to  
serve as sutler with the 3rd  
Arkansas Cavalry. In 1862,  
David went to Louisiana  
and worked as a telegraph  
operator until crossing the river to join his father and assist  
him in his sutlery. In the fall of 1863, after the Union Army  
occupied Little Rock, David returned to escort his mother  
and sisters to Mississippi but never left Arkansas. In Decem-  
ber his father Andrew arrived and the entire Dodd family  
moved south to journey to Mississippi to be near Andrew.



*Confederate General Fagan  
gave Dodd a pass so he could  
travel to Little Rock.*

### Trip to Little Rock

As Union troops destroyed southern fields, tobacco was  
becoming scarce. Andrew Dodd devised a plan to buy to-  
bacco and store it for later sale at a higher price. He looked  
to his business associates in Little Rock for the needed  
cash. Because Little Rock was in Union hands, he could  
not make the trip himself.

On December 24, 1863, he sent David Dodd, a minor and  
therefore assumed neutral, to Little Rock to deliver letters  
to former associates seeking investments for the tobacco  
deal. Confederate General James F. Fagan issued the boy  
a pass. Dodd rode a mule to Little Rock, carrying a birth  
certificate showing he was an underage 17 along with his  
pass.

Dodd stayed with his aunt, Mrs. Susan Dodd, in Little Rock.  
Except for some Union soldiers, there were very few teen-  
age boys in the city, and Dodd was popular with the city's  
younger girls. He even became popular with some of the  
younger servicemen at the arsenal, especially because he  
usually was accompanied by a local girl or two. In addition  
to his father's letters, he also delivered letters to several  
people he knew. Dodd attended some holiday dances with  
at least two girls, Mary Swindle and Minerva Cogburn. He  
also spent some time with 16-year-old Mary Dodge at her  
home, where Union officers were quartered. Mary sup-  
ported the Southern cause; her father, R. L. Dodge, was a  
Vermont native on friendly terms with the Northern troops.  
On December 28, 1863, Dodd visited the Provost Marshal's  
office at St. John's College (several hundred yards south-  
west of the arsenal) and had no trouble obtaining a pass  
through Union lines to rejoin his family in Camden. Dodd  
left Little Rock the next day. As he left Union territory, the  
guard tore up Dodd's pass since he would no longer need it  
now that he was in Confederate land. He went to spend the  
night with his uncle, Washington Dodd, on the Middle Hot  
Springs Road southwest of Little Rock. The next day, Dodd  
traveled through the woods and found himself back behind  
Union lines.

### Arrest and trial

On December 29, 1863,  
Dodd was stopped by a  
Union sentry in west Little  
Rock, near Ten Mile House  
on Stagecoach Road,  
and was discovered to be  
without a pass. For iden-  
tification, he showed his  
small leather notebook,  
where Union soldiers  
found his birth certificate  
and a page with dots and  
dashes. A Union officer  
was able to read some of  
the Morse code messages,  
which contained informa-  
tion about Union troop



*Union General Steele set the  
date for hanging.*

strength and locations in Little Rock; Dodd was arrested.

The next day, Dodd was taken to Little Rock to face  
Brigadier General John Davidson, who was commanding  
the Union occupation forces in General Frederick Steele's  
absence. A telegraph operator translated the Morse code,  
which provided precise locations and strengths of Union  
troops. David was formally charged as a spy and was taken

*Continued on page 5*

to the military prison on the site of the present Arkansas State Capitol building. Dodd was interrogated for two days by Union officers who tried to discover the source of the information. On the third day, under personal orders from General Steele, Mary Dodge and her father were escorted under armed guard to a Union gunboat on the Arkansas River and transported to Vermont, where Mary was kept until the end of the war. This suggests that Steele had discovered that Mary Dodge was involved, and that he would not be able to hang a 16-year-old girl.

On December 31, 1863, Dodd's trial began in Little Rock by a military tribunal of six Union officers. Brigadier General John M. Thayer presided with Captain B. F. Rice as Judge Advocate. Other members were Colonel John A. Garrett, Major Phineus Graves, Major H. D. Gibson and Captain George Rockwell. The Court Martial lasted four days.

The official charges were read by the Judge Advocate:

*"In this, that said David O. Dodd, an inhabitant of the State of Arkansas, did as a Spy of the so-called Confederate States of America, enter within the lines of the Army of the United States, stationed at Little Rock, Arkansas, and did there secretly possess himself of information regarding the number, the kind, and position of the troops of said Army of the United States, their commanders, and other military information valuable to the enemy now at war with the United States, and having thus obtained said information did obtain a pass from the Provost Marshal General's office, and endeavor to reach the lines of the enemy - therewith; when he was arrested at the cavalry outposts of said Army - and did otherwise lurk, and act as a spy of the Rebels now in arms against the United States - This at the Post of Little Rock, and the encampments of the Army of Arkansas, on or about the 29th and 30th of December, 1863."*

To these charges, David pleaded "Not Guilty".

On January 1, 1864, the trial continued with Dodd represented by attorneys T. D. W. Yonley and William Fishback, who was pro-Union and later became Governor of Arkansas. The defense attorneys proposed amnesty, which was rejected by the tribunal after an adjournment to deliberate the matter. Court was adjourned until the next day.

On January 2, 1864, witnesses were called to testify against Dodd. Private Daniel Goldberg testified that he tore up Dodd's pass because "he did not need a pass anymore". Sergeant Frederick Miehr testified that he arrested Dodd after the boy could not produce a pass. 1st Lieutenant C. F. Stopral found Dodd's memoranda book, discovered that the Morse code reported the positions and armaments of the 3rd Ohio Battery and 11th Ohio Battery, and sent him to the guard house. Captain George Hanna testified that he interrogated Dodd, and discovered that Dodd was carrying one pocketbook containing Louisiana money, Confederate money, ten dollars in greenbacks, and some Confederate postage stamps; one postal currency holder, one loaded Deringer pistol, and a package between his shirts containing letters. Captain John Baird testified that, per Hanna's orders, he took the prisoner and the papers into Little Rock the next morning to General Davidson. Captain Robert C. Clowery testified that he interpreted the Morse code as containing detailed information about the locations and strengths of Union forces and armaments. First Lieutenant

George O. Sokalski then testified about the actual Union troop strength and weaponry, which was a match of Dodd's coded message.

During the trial, Dodd was asked several times to name the Union traitor who gave him the troop information; each time he remained silent. The defense tried to explain the Morse Code information as something Dodd did to exercise his telegraph skills. Dodd did not testify, although his written deposition was submitted. Only character witnesses were called.

By a 4-2 vote, David Dodd was convicted of spying for the Confederacy and was sentenced to be hanged. He was taken back to the State Prison. General Steele designated Friday, January 8, 1864 for the execution day.

### **Hanging**

On January 8, 1864, David O. Dodd was brought to the grounds of his former school, St. John's, just east of the Little Rock Arsenal, for his hanging. A crowd of five or six thousand gathered to watch the hanging. Dodd stood on the tailgate of a wagon under the noose. The executioner, named Dekay, fixed the rope around David's neck, and the prop was knocked from under the tailgate. The rope stretched and the boy dangled, strangling to death over a full five minutes. Onlookers and Union soldiers became ill. The record is unclear about exactly how Dodd died. Some contend that one or two soldiers grabbed his legs to add weight and hasten his death. Others told that a soldier shinned up the gibbet to grab the noose, twist the rope and raise the condemned off the ground. Military doctors who examined Dodd's body reported death due to "a disrupted spine."

Just prior to the funeral, Union Headquarters ordered no spoken or sung words at the memorial service, and that only Dodd's relatives in Union-held territory (two aunts and their husbands) would be allowed to attend. The town was tense; a riot was possible; there was fear that a Confederate raid would take advantage of the situation. Security around General Steele's Headquarters was increased; no one was allowed to see him except on official business. Calm prevailed, and David O. Dodd was buried in plot Elm 355 in the southeast portion of Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock, in a grave donated by a Little Rock resident. This cemetery was also the eventual resting place of R.L. Dodge and General Fagan.

At a time when Union sympathies ran high in Arkansas and a constitutional convention was in session to enable the state to rejoin the Union, Dodd's execution fueled renewed divisions between Union and Confederate factions. Dodd quickly became a folk hero and a force behind renewed Confederate dissension. After hearing the news of their son's execution, Andrew and Lydia Dodd spent the remainder of their lives in ill health. Andrew died of yellow fever in 1867, while Lydia died in Pascagoula, Mississippi in 1885. In March 1864, General Steele was relieved of responsibilities in Little Rock and was replaced by a harsh anti-southern commander.

### **Legacy**

Dodd's story has been told in the poem *The Long, Long Thoughts of Youth* by Marie Erwin Ward, a full-length play and a 1915 silent Hollywood movie whose film has not survived.

There are more monuments to David O. Dodd in Arkansas than to any other of its war heroes, including General Douglas MacArthur. A monument marks the spot of Dodd's hanging, now in the corner of the parking lot of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's School of Law. Dodd's grave is marked by an eight-foot marble monument, engraved "Here lies the remains of David O. Dodd. Born in Lavaca County, Texas, Nov. 10, 1846, died Jan. 8, 1864." Nearby is a marble scroll with the words "Boy Martyr of the Confederacy." David O. Dodd Elementary School in southwest Little Rock is located on land that was once a part of Washington Dodd's Farm. A stone marker on school grounds, believed to be the place where he was captured, was erected by the David O. Dodd Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and is dedicated to "Arkansas' Boy Hero of the War Between the States."

In 1908, the Arkansas Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy started raising funds for a stained-glass window in Dodd's honor. The window was built by the

Charles F. Hogeman Company in New York City and depicts Dodd as Southern saint and martyr with curly blond hair, even though his only known photograph shows him with straight black hair. The David O. Dodd window was unveiled at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia on November 7, 1911 where it was displayed for several years. In 1988, it was found in storage and was moved back to Arkansas. The David O. Dodd window debuted at the Arkansas Museum of Science and Industry in January 1990. The Dodd window was returned to Richmond in 1998. In January 2004, the Museum of the Confederacy again loaned the Dodd window to Arkansas to commemorate the 140th anniversary of Dodd's trial at the renamed MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History (formerly the Little Rock Arsenal).

Each January, the Sons of Confederate Veterans honor Dodd in a ceremony at his grave site. In November 1984, the Sons of Confederate Veterans awarded the Confederate Medal of Honor to Dodd, one of only twenty-two persons so honored.

*Wikipedia*

## **January 8, 1865 The Battle of Dove Creek – The Battle That Should Not Have Been.**

*by Tom Ashmore  
<http://cvassanangelo.org>*

No-ko-aht was his name. He was a chief of the Kickapoo Indians and it was the fall of 1864. His tribe, some 1700 strong, was about to make their way from Oklahoma to Mexico by passing through Texas. They were going to meet up with others of their tribe already in Mexico, hoping to escape the 'white' blood letting of the Civil War. Although the Kickapoo had been involved in fights on both sides of the white man's Civil War and the previous Indian territorial and trade wars with the French, British, and 'long knives', they were not a warring tribe and just wanted to get away from the bloodshed.

Kickapoo Indian in standard dress similar to the 1865 period. The tribe decided to split into five parties and take different routes. They would avoid Texas settlements by passing through the western unsettled portion of Texas. No-ko-aht's group and two other parties eventually joined back together in the northern Texas area and took the most easterly route, just skirting some of the settlements. These three parties numbered about 700 men, women, and children. The other two parties also joined together to make approximately 1000 and took a more westerly route.

Fall turned into a cold December and their movement was slow with the women and children. They had to stop often and hunt buffalo and trap in order to feed such a large group.

Their size also made a large trail out on the open plains of northern Texas and on December 9th it was this trail that caught the attention of a State Militia scouting party at a crossing of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River.

Captain Gilentine and his twenty three man scouting party

from the Second Frontier District were alarmed to see such a large trail of Indians crossing into Texas territory and reported back to his headquarters of a possible large war party heading southwest into Texas. His headquarters, in turn, sent an alarm out to the Confederate Frontier Regiment requesting reinforcements. Captain Henry Fossett, located at Camp Colorado, was the senior captain of the Confederate Frontier Regiment, essentially Texas Rangers taken over by the Confederate authority. He was ordered to rendezvous with Captain S.S. Totten, the senior captain of the Texas State Militia. He gathered up about 165 men and proceeded to the rendezvous point to wait.

A Texas Ranger company of the Frontier Battalion, 1885 No-ko-aht and his party arrived in the area of Dove Creek, about 16 miles from present day San Angelo, on January 1st. It was now bitterly cold and the party needed to rest and replenish their food supply. However, before they made camp they went to visit the Tankersley ranch. Richard Franklin Tankersley was the first settler in this area and was known to the Kickapoo from previous trips through the area. At first Tankersley thought the Indians to be hostile. As No-ko-aht rode up to him Tankersley drew down on him with his revolver. No-ko-aht waived a white flag and said, "me no fight." After explaining their intentions Tankersley invited the Kickapoo to stay as long as they needed and a few days later they repaid his generosity. According to Tankersley's son, "They were very friendly and in scouting some days later, found some of our horses which had strayed off and brought them home."

Back at the rendezvous point Captain Fossett became impatient waiting for Capt Totten. It took some time to gather the local volunteers that eventually number around 350 from all the various counties in the area who were to converge on Camp Salmon before moving to join Captain Fossett and they were two days late. Fossett decided not to wait any longer and pushed down the trail with his small group of men.

Apparently, Fossett was spoiling for a fight because when his men were later questioned they all stated the evidence of items left behind gave them the impression that these were

*Continued on page 7*

not unfriendly Indians. This should have been very easy to tell since the frontier fighting units had been guarding against and trailing hostile Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians for quite a number of years. They even found a grave of a little Indian girl of two or three that had died along the way and exhumed it. They noted the grave was similar to graves prepared by whites and the child was "well and tastefully dressed." Captain Fossett's scouts located the Kickapoo party camped on Dove Creek on January 7th. Fossett stopped at the Tankersley ranch inquiring about the Indians. Apparently, Tankersley tried to convince him the Indians were friendly. However, Fossett was not interested, stating that they had a large number of fine horses, which would be of more value to the Confederacy than their friendship. Fossett continued on to within three miles of the Indian camp before stopping to plan the attack.

Fossett wanted to attack immediately but was encouraged to send a runner back to the militia, now 35 miles behind, ordering them to make all haste to join in the upcoming battle. At 9 o'clock that evening he made a temporary camp three miles from the Indian camp to wait for the militia to arrive.

With Fossett was a Lieutenant Mulkey, an old Indian guide of Indian descent, born and raised in the Cherokee Nation. He was well acquainted with Indian character and habits and informed Fossett he believed this band of Indians to be Kickapoo and they were probably friendly. He also suggested they attempt to communicate with them before attacking. Lieutenant Mulkey's guidance fell on deaf ears. Fossett stated, "I recognize no friendly Indians on the Texas frontier."

Upon receiving the dispatch from Capt Fossett, Captain Totten broke camp immediately to ride all night to join in the battle. He arrived at 8 o'clock in the morning with a bedraggled group in no condition for a fight. They had a hasty conference in which Fossett insisted on an immediate assault.

The plan was to split the forces into two groups. The militia would dismount and make a frontal assault on the Indian camp from the north by crossing the creek. The Confederate force would maneuver around to the west, capture their horses and attack the camp from the south. The Indians were initially caught by surprise by the militia's assault, but quickly set up fighting positions, using the cover of the creek, draws, and live oak thickets in the area. What neither of the captains knew was that although these Indians were not looking for a fight they were battle hardened from their time in Oklahoma and Kansas and all

their warriors were marksmen with the new Enfield muskets they carried with them. The Enfield was a rifled musket, capable of grouping its shots into a 4 inch circle at 100 yards and could hit a man at 600 yards. The 500 grain bullet could penetrate 4 inches of timber at 1000 yards. The Enfield 1853 Rifled Musket (also known as the Pattern 1853 Enfield, P53 Enfield, and Enfield Rifled Musket).

Still wanting to avoid a fight the Indians sent an Indian squaw out to the militia as a peace messenger. Captain Totten, rejecting the peace offer, killed the woman and the fight was on. However, instead of stampeding from the onslaught the Indians stood their ground, showing their bravery and marksmanship. The militia was also at a distinct disadvantage trying to assault an entrenched enemy. By some accounts 18 militia were killed and 14 were wounded in the first few minutes of the assault. From No-ko-aht's account: "A good many were killed on both sides. When we drove them to one side another force came in behind us. Then we whipped the second party back and the third one attacked us and we fired on them. We killed a good many of the first party, a few of the second and none of the third."

Captain Fossett had no trouble capturing the horses, as only an old man and two young boys were watching them. They captured the three and took them to Fossett. The old man's name was Aski and he tried to tell Fossett the tribe was friendly and if they would talk to the chief "all things would be made satisfactory." Fossett told the Indian he recognized no friendly Indians in Texas. Aski then replied that he must then be his prisoner. Fossett replied, "We take no prisoners here" and Aski was executed. Fossett also ordered the children shot, but the men refused and they were taken prisoner.

By the time Fossett's men began their attack the militia was in full retreat with a good number of Kickapoo behind them. Fossett's men were also soon routed from their flanking position and pushed into the draws along the creek. They fought all day and retreated at sundown to take stock of their losses. They apparently suffered five men killed and a number wounded. In all the two forces suffered 25 were killed and 60 wounded, many of which died later during a bitterly cold march back through a

deep snow.

No-ko-aht reported 15 killed, two of those being Aski and the squaw and another being a young boy. The two young prisoners escaped their captors during the battle. Although they lost most of their horses the Indians left immediately to get to Mexico, many on foot. They left most of their possessions behind. It was a battle that embittered the Kickapoo for many years to come as they made cross border raids from Mexico into Texas looking for retribution.



*Kickapoo Indians and typical Lodge*



**Our first meeting of 2015... A real Round Table discussion on "Victory and/or Defeat"... did Grant win and did Lee loose?... Will be a great discussion.**

### **From The Treasurer's Desk**

*Greetings and best wishes for a very wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year to all the members of the Old Baldy CWRT.*

Our round table has just completed a banner year that featured outstanding speakers on a wide variety of topics. Of course, all members will continue to receive our truly superb monthly Old Baldy newsletter. More importantly, the round table has continued to flourish in South Jersey. Our membership has steadily increased, and it is anticipated that your continued membership and participation will allow Old Baldy to continue as the premier Civil War round table in this area.

Thanks to all members who are attending our monthly meetings. The Program Committee has already been hard at work lining up a great list of speakers and programs for next year.

**Remember, it is your round table.** Let us know of your interests and how Old Baldy CWRT can best provide you with education, friendship and an enjoyable evening.

As we enter 2015, your annual dues are due. We have some really great programs and discussions planned and we hope that you will remain a member of our renowned round table.

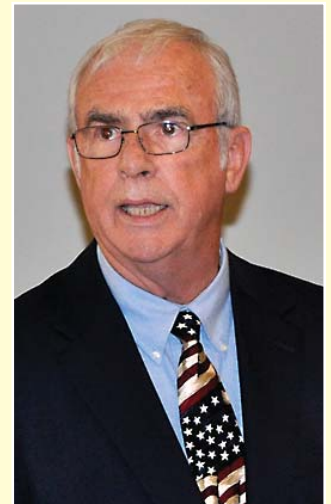
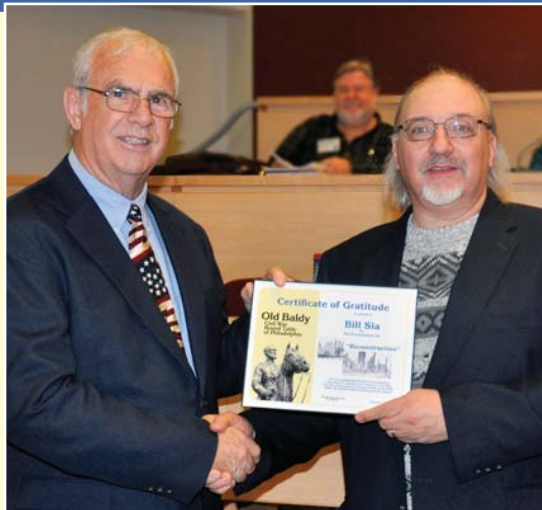
Dues remain only \$25.00 (\$35.00 for the entire family). If you wish to continue to have our outstanding newsletter sent by USPS, please add a donation of \$10. for the year, in addition to your dues.

**Please bring your dues to the next meeting, or mail your dues your dues payable to:**

**"OLD BALDY CWRT"  
to: Herb Kaufman, Treasurer,  
2601 Bonnie Lane  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.**

We hope that everyone will come out to a meeting and join in the discussions. It's a great night out with friends who share your interests and enthusiasm for this era.

*All the best for the holidays and coming year,  
Herb*



**Bill Sia**

### **December 11th Meeting... "Reconstruction"**

**Bill Sia...** what a great program to finish out the year. Bill's presentation made the "Reconstruction" come alive and give us an insight into all the impacts it had on bringing the country back together as the nation it was. Bill's love and knowledge of the Constitution gave us a great look into the history of the affect all three branches had on affecting that document as we know it today. The treatment on the Seceded states coming back, the politics of give and take, the military occupation of those states, the Presidential affects, the Congressional affects and the Supreme Court influences. He discussed how new amendments were to be added to the Constitution. How a lot of legal changes affected the country then and how some of those changes affect us today. Bill's presentation was another example of the fine speakers and subjects that will help this Round Table interpret, preserve and advance the history of the Civil War era.



# Several of Mike Cavanaugh's Projects and Accomplishments

## Civil War Book Exchange to the Civil War News

**Civil War News**  
 Vol. 40, No. 11  
 2 Months, 48 Pages, October 2011

**Six Brothers From Iowa Died In War**  
 By John Baker

**Rev War & 1812 Battlefields**  
 By Mike Cavanaugh

**- In This Issue -**  
 Collection 4  
 Battle 14  
 The Wolfing 21  
 News Briefs 17  
 Classified 11  
 Next Issue: Annual Calendar & Receiving Section, November Dec. 1

**1861 CIVIL WAR 1865**  
**Book Exchange**  
 FOUNDED 1974

**BOOKS: For Sale**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION'S GEOGRAPHICAL SERVICE SERIES (ONE)**  
 VOLUMES # 1 (2 copies), # 2, # 3, # 4, # 5, # 6, # 7, # 8, # 9, # 10, # 11, # 12, # 13, # 14, # 15, # 16, # 17, # 18, # 19, # 20, # 21, # 22, # 23, # 24, # 25, # 26, # 27, # 28, # 29, # 30, # 31, # 32, # 33, # 34, # 35, # 36, # 37, # 38, # 39, # 40, # 41, # 42, # 43, # 44, # 45, # 46, # 47, # 48, # 49, # 50, # 51, # 52, # 53, # 54, # 55, # 56, # 57, # 58, # 59, # 60, # 61, # 62, # 63, # 64, # 65, # 66, # 67, # 68, # 69, # 70, # 71, # 72, # 73, # 74, # 75, # 76, # 77, # 78, # 79, # 80, # 81, # 82, # 83, # 84, # 85, # 86, # 87, # 88, # 89, # 90, # 91, # 92, # 93, # 94, # 95, # 96, # 97, # 98, # 99, # 100, # 101, # 102, # 103, # 104, # 105, # 106, # 107, # 108, # 109, # 110, # 111, # 112, # 113, # 114, # 115, # 116, # 117, # 118, # 119, # 120, # 121, # 122, # 123, # 124, # 125, # 126, # 127, # 128, # 129, # 130, # 131, # 132, # 133, # 134, # 135, # 136, # 137, # 138, # 139, # 140, # 141, # 142, # 143, # 144, # 145, # 146, # 147, # 148, # 149, # 150, # 151, # 152, # 153, # 154, # 155, # 156, # 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 By Francis T. Miller  
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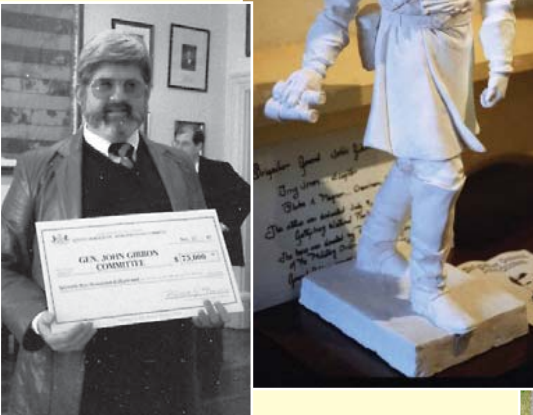
## Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia



## Preservation of Old Baldy's Head



## Hancock's Tomb Preservation and Wreath Memorial



## General Gibbon's Monument at Gettysburg



## Meade Society Events

### Champagne Toast Brunch and Awards Ceremony

Sunday, January 25, 2015  
Meade Society will hold it's annual Brunch  
and presentation of the "Order of Merit" award.

A silent auction of Civil War and other historical items will  
be offered. It will be held at the  
**Cannstatter Volksfest-Verein**  
9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, Pa.  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**\$40.00 per person; \$75 per couple**  
To make a reservation contact  
Gerry McCormick at 215-848-7752  
or [gedwinmc@msn.com](mailto:gedwinmc@msn.com).

### 17th Annual Meade Society Symposium "General George G. Meade – Life & Career in his 200th Anniversary Year"

Sunday, February 15, 2015  
Featuring noted historians Ralph Peters  
and author Tom Huntington, other speakers  
and authors on General Meade.

**Book sale and raffle.**  
12 noon to 5 p.m.

Held at the  
**Conservatory, West Laurel Hill Cemetery**  
Bala Cynwyd, PA.  
\$40 person  
including registration, refreshments and luncheon.

Contact Jerry McCormick at 215-848-7753  
or [genwinmc@msn.com](mailto:genwinmc@msn.com)

### Octavius V. Catto Honor Ceremony

Saturday, February 21, 2015  
10 a.m. on the corner of 6th and Lombard Streets  
Philadelphia, PA

The Meade Society will join other organizations to honor  
the great black civil rights and military leader  
**Major Octavius v. Catto**  
on this his birthday anniversary

All military units, period civilians, veterans and heritage  
groups are encouraged to participate.

**PA National Guard Award Ceremony to follow at 1:00  
p.m. in the Union League for the  
"Major Catto Medal"  
awards ceremony.**

For information, contact Andy Waskie, 215-204-5452  
or [awaski@temple.edu](mailto:awaski@temple.edu)

### William A. Newell: A Life of Service

January 28, 2015  
5:30 PM  
Union League  
of Philadelphia



Dr. William A. Newell graduated from the Uni-  
versity of Pennsylvania medical school in 1839,  
and practiced in Manahawkin, New Jersey. He  
was a volunteer who helped shipwreck victims  
in Barnegat Bay. As a Whig Congressman in  
1848 he helped pass an act creating the US Life  
Saving Service that would become the US Coast  
Guard. In 1857, Newell was elected as the Re-  
publican Governor of New Jersey. Newell would  
later become the private physician to Abraham  
Lincoln and his family. In 1860, Lincoln named  
Newell as Superintendent of the Life Saving  
Service. As a close family friend, Newell accom-  
panied Mary Todd Lincoln to Long Branch NJ  
for her summer vacation. Newell would end his  
career of public service as the Governor of the  
Washington Territory. Local actor Christopher  
Johnson, familiar to League members as Abra-  
ham Lincoln at our Lincoln Day festivities, will  
give a first-person performance as Dr. Newell.

## Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2015

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@verizon.net](mailto:hj3bama@verizon.net)  
Herb Kaufman - 215-947-4096 - [shkaufman2@yahoo.com](mailto:shkaufman2@yahoo.com)  
Don Forsyth - 856-207-8669 - [ngf1301@comcast.net](mailto:ngf1301@comcast.net)

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](mailto: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

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

**WEB Site: <http://oldbaldycwrt.org>**  
**Email: [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)**  
**Blog: <http://oldbaldycwrt.blogspot.com/>**  
**Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table**

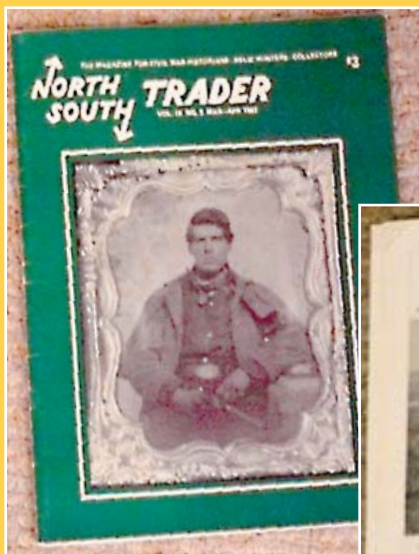
# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia Cavanaugh Luncheon Raffle



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

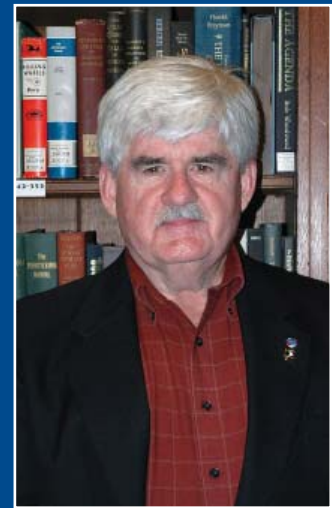
Civil War  
Round Table  
of Philadelphia

## 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's 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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