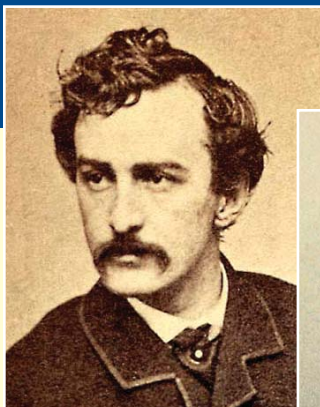


Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

February 12, 2015 The One Hundred and Fiftieth Year of the Civil War

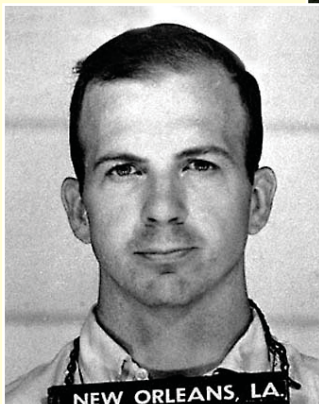
“Presidential Assassins”

by Hugh Boyle

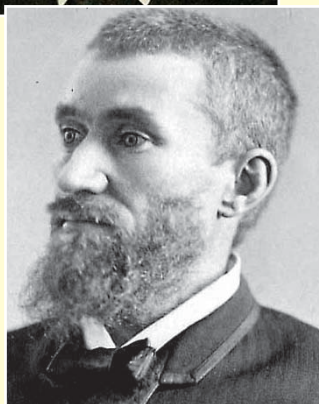


John Wilkes Booth

Leon Frank Czolgosz



Lee Harvey Oswald



Charles Julius Guiteau

Join us on **Thursday, February 12th at 7:15 PM at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building - Room 101** for a presentation on **"Presidential Assassins"** by **Hugh Boyle**.

Four men have taken the lives of American presidents. Their murderous acts have changed the course of American politics. Who were these murderers? Why did they do it? What did they hope to gain? What brought them to commit these crimes? These are their stories and what brought them to these tragic conclusions.

Hugh Boyle is a founding member and president of the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table and the April 1865 Society. He serves on the faculty of the Civil War Institute at Manor College in Jenkintown, PA, where he teaches courses on Abraham Lincoln's life and assassination as well as other

Civil War topics. He also serves as Executive Director of the GAR Library and Museum. He is on the board of directors of the annual Bensalem Reenactment. He is a member of the Surratt Society and the General Meade Society and the Abraham Lincoln Association. He is a member of the Lincoln Forum and a book reviewer for Lincoln Herald magazine. He is the former publisher and book review editor of the "Civil War Brigadier" newspaper. He has given lectures to Civil War Round Tables, Museums, Historical Societies and civic groups. He has spoken at seminars and symposiums on Abraham Lincoln, his life his presidency and death. He is now retired from his position as National Sales Manager of Roadpro 12 volt electronics and lives with his wife Rose in Bensalem, PA.

To all members and friends of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table:



It was indeed a special day! My sincere thanks goes to all who attended the luncheon on Saturday past. It was a delight to see so many old friends, many whom I haven't seen in years. I know, from past experience, how much work it takes to put on one of these events. The officers and membership of Old Baldy did a fine job of making everything run

smoothly. It was also great to see so many members of other area Civil War round tables in attendance. A special thanks to those who came from afar to join us. And to those who were unable to attend they sent special messages which were well received and appreciated.

With the excellent program presented by Dr. Randall Miller of Saint Joseph's University this topped off a fine after-

Continued on page 2

2015 Dues Due - See Page 11 for Details

Join us at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, February 12th, at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building, Room 101.

noon. Conversations with many of you brought back fond memories of the years with the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table. A special thanks to my dear friend Steve Wright for the kind introduction. Steve has been a major player in the many successes Old Baldy has obtained over the years. When a job needed to be done, Steve would be among the first to step up.

The membership is to be congratulated for recognizing Debbie Holdsworth. For many years Debbie and her husband Bill, along with Steve Wright, have faithfully represented Old Baldy at the Memorial Day service held at the tomb of General Winfield Scott Hancock. Debbie's always put together a beautiful wreath for the occasion.

There are so many people to thank who made the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table a success over the years. They not only educated the Civil War community with great programs and field trips, they were also huge contributors to Civil War battlefield preservation and support of the Civil War Library and Museum.

We must remember, however, those who are no longer with us – Dave Charles, John Craft, Blake Magner, Todd Meisenhelter, Lee Quinn, John Reilly, Harvey Wilson and Leonard Wissow. All were instrumental in making the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table one of the best known and productive Civil War round tables in the country.

Again, many thanks for the honor you placed on me and the beautiful plaque. It will be hung in a prominent place in our home. Please remember, this is not the end of the line for me with the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table. I consider myself an active member and I will look forward each month to Don Wiles' excellent newsletter. Whatever projects the membership is involved in I believe I can still contribute to the betterment of our round table and the Civil War community.

*Your Obedient Servant,
Mike Cavanaugh*

Old Baldy kicks off New Year with Impressive Event

All reviews returned on the luncheon honoring Mike Cavanaugh stated it was a grand success. From the weather, location, food, program, MC, attendees, door prizes, presentation to the welcome ladies everything went well. Those who were unable to attend missed a remarkable event. In addition to recognizing Mike for his years of service to the Civil War community, we were able to publicly acknowledge the dedication and continued support of Debbie Holdsworth in our Memorial Day wreath laying at the Hancock tomb and our web master Hal Jespersen for the outstanding work he does to keep us current and spreading the Old Baldy message on the internet. It was good to see old members whom we have not seen in a while especially those who traveled a distance. Hope to see more of you in the future. Old Baldy is rebuilding and we need your support.

Want to send out a thank you to everyone who worked on and contributed to the event. Thanks to Mike's family and friends for coming out to support him. Thanks to members of area Round Tables who joined us. Thanks to Steve Wright for the tribute to Mike and creating the Book Award in Mike's name. Thanks to Walt Lafty for videoing the presentation to Hal so we could share it with him. Thanks to Bob Russo for keeping us on track and moving forward. Thanks to Herb Kaufman for running the door prizes and Rosemary Viggiano for selling raffle tickets. Thank you to all who donated door prizes as more than two thirds of those present went home with something. An article is being written for the Civil War News about the event. Those who enjoy this luncheon, tell your friends so we can have a larger crowd at our 40th celebration in 2017!



*Master of Ceremonies
Bob Russo
Vice President, OBCWRT*

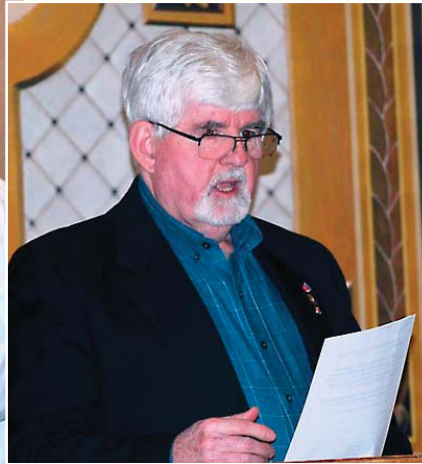
*Accolades from
Ed Root
CWRT of Eastern
Pennsylvania*

*Benediction,
Bruce Sirak
President
Camp Olden
CWRT*

*Accolades from
Bill Holdsworth
OBCWRT*

*A Tribute to Mike Cavanaugh
from Steven Wright
Past President, OBCWRT*

Continued on page 3

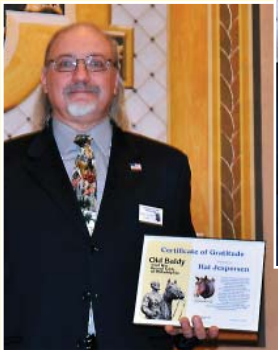


Remembrances and Remarks by Michael Cavanaugh. Guest of Honor, Founder, Past President, OBCWRT

A Tribute and Honor to Michael Cavanaugh. Rich Jankowski, President, OBCWRT - Michael Cavanaugh, Founder, Past President, OBCWRT - Steven Wright, Past President, OBCWRT

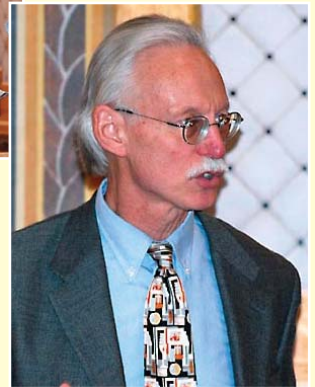


Introduction of Guest Speaker Dr. Anthony Waskie, Professor, Temple University



Recognition of Deborah Holdsworth for 20 years of service, Hancock's Tomb Memorial Day wreath

A Certificate of Gratitude to Hal Jespersen for his design and operation of the OBCWRT WEB



Guest Speaker "Armed for Freedom: Black Soldiers and Emancipation" Dr. Randall Miller, Professor, St. Joseph's University

Notes from the President...

Old Baldy has started the year on a high and plans to continue it as we grow and expand in South Jersey. Doesn't our newsletter look great in color! Thanks to **Don Wiles** for his continued effort in making it one of the best Round Table newsletters. It received many compliments at the luncheon. Mother Nature continues to remind us how winters in the Northeast can be, but we are grateful she paused on January 17th to allow our luncheon to happen. See the article with some notes on this event that was enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to everyone who aided in making it a success.

Our Board recently met to set direction for the year. You can find highlights of the proceedings in this newsletter. Review them and let us know how you would like to assist in moving our Round Table forward. It has been a team effort that has brought us to this point and your input is needed as we continue to improve. Watch for more information soon on our Woodland Cemetery trip and clothing line. Please pay your dues if you have not done so yet to insure the Round Table continues on its mission.



Herb Kaufman

At our meeting last month **Herb Kaufman** led a spirited discussion of Grant and Lee in the Overland Campaign. Many opinions were expressed and points made, and members look forward to our next Round Table discussion. This month we welcome to our new location, local Lincoln historian and friend of OBCWRT, **Hugh Boyle** for a program on **Presidential Assassins**. This new program will be as good as those Hugh has presented to us in the past. Come out and enjoy it on the 12th.

Be sure to check this newsletter and our great website for information on upcoming local and regional Civil War events. This month there are several **Lincoln and Catto events**.

Provide any information you have on events to Don so it can be included. Travel safe and try to join us for dinner around 5:40 before the meeting at the **Lamp Post Diner** as we hope to have our presenter there.

See you all on the 12th at 7:15.

Rich Jankowski, President

Board Meeting Summary

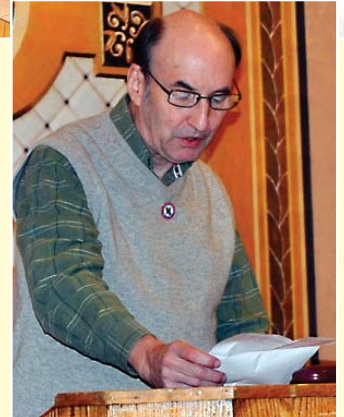
As requested by the membership last year here is an overview of the matters covered at the meeting of your Board of Directors. The Luncheon was reviewed, comments collected and a report planned to use on future meal events. The Round Table cleared \$158 on the luncheon. Old Baldy is in good financial status.

Committee Reports: There is an opening on the Program Committee, seeking a member to work alongside Herb and Harry to plan our future programs. **Arlene Schnaare** and **Priscilla Gabosh** have agreed to work with **Frank Barletta** to strengthen and grow our membership. Old Baldy has joined the League of **Historical Societies of New Jersey**. The Board is accepting requests for someone to chair and coordinate our Publicity program in updating our Facebook page, getting notices to newspaper and blogs as well as new avenues to spread news about our Round Table. **Bob Russo** has agreed to continue to manage our external events until another member is available to take over. The Book Award committee presented a draft framework as they continue to progress on setting up the award. An exploratory committee has been set up to investigate the feasibility of hosting a Symposium next year. Forward your comments to **Rosemary** and **Don Forsyth**.

Upcoming appearances for the Round Table are April 25-26 at Neshaminy [look for signup sheets at the March and April meetings]; May 17th at Manor Day and May 23rd at Montgomery Cemetery at the Hancock Tomb. **Bob Russo** will contact **Jim Mundy** to determine a date for our tour of Woodland Cemetery. The Board will explore locations in South Jersey for the Monument cleanup project requested by the membership in last summer's survey. The following donations were made from the Round Table: \$100 to the **Confederate Hall Museum in New Orleans**; \$100 to support **Hal Jespersen** in the 2015 Vancouver Marathon for Leukemia & Lymphoma; and \$200 to the **Center for Civic**



Frank Barletta
Kathy Clark
Herb Kaufman
Bill Hughes
Harry Jenkins
Bob Russo
Rich Jankowski



Jim Heenahan installs the new Officers for 2015

Leadership and Responsibility at Camden County College.

The Board reviewed samples of various logos to be used on our clothing line. Once one is chosen a connection will be set up on our website for members to order items. The comments from our Fall lectures were reviewed. Examples of letterhead were presented to be used in our correspondence.

If you have any questions or comments please contact a Board member to have them addressed.

150 years after sinking, Confederate submarine slowly reveals its secrets.

Scientists may finally solve the mystery behind the sinking of Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship.

A century and a half after it sank and a decade and a half after it was raised, scientists are finally getting a look at the H.L. Hunley's hull. Experts hope to solve the mystery of why the famed hand-cranked submarine sank during the Civil War.

"It's like unwrapping a Christmas gift after 15 years. We have been wanting to do this for many years now," said Paul Mardikian, senior conservator on the Hunley project in North Charleston, S.C.



The Hunley sank the Union blockade ship USS Housatonic off Charleston in February 1864 as the South tried to break the Union blockade strangling the Confederacy. But the sub and its eight-man crew never made it back to shore.

The Hunley was discovered off the South Carolina coast in 1995, raised in 2000 and brought to a conservation lab in North Charleston.

Continued on page 5

It was covered with a hardened gunk of encrusted sand, sediment and rust that scientists call concretion. Last May, it was finally ready to be bathed in a solution of sodium hydroxide to loosen the encrustation. Then in August, scientists using small air-powered chisels and dental tools began the laborious job of removing the coating. Now about 70 percent of the outside hull has been revealed. The last remaining areas have been described as "forensic hot spots."

Friends of the Hunley, a group dedicated to conserving and eventually exhibiting the vessel, says that the remaining parts of the vessel's exterior should be revealed during the coming weeks. The team of conservators from Clemson University has already made some interesting discoveries, such as an area of the hull where the metal surface is stamped with the letters "C N." Experts are investigating the meaning of the stamp, which is thought to represent the foundry where the Hunley's iron was forged.

Mardikian said the exposed hull indeed has revealed some things that may help solve the mystery of the sinking. "I would have to lie to you if I said we had not, but it's too early to talk about it yet," he said. "We have a submarine that is encrypted. It's like an Enigma machine."

He said the clues will be studied closely as scientists try to piece together what happened to the 40-foot submarine that night in 1864.

The Hunley had a 16-foot spar tipped with a charge of black powder that was exploded, sinking the Housatonic. After close examination of the spar two years ago, scientists speculated the crew was knocked unconscious by the shock wave of the explosion.

When the Hunley was first raised, scientists speculated the crew may have run out of air before they could crank back to the coast. Scientists have also discussed the possibility the sub may have been sunk by an open hatch.

After the Hunley was raised, the sand and the silt and the remains of the crew in the interior were removed.

In April 2004, thousands of men in Confederate gray and Union blue walked in a procession with the crew's coffins four miles from Charleston's waterfront Battery to Magnolia Cemetery in what has been called the last Confederate funeral.

Fascinating Civil War artifacts are still being unearthed. A cleanup of the Congaree River in Columbia, SC, for example, may lead to the recovery of Confederate munitions seized and then dumped by Gen. William T. Sherman's Union army.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

February 12, 1862

Queen of the West

A Short Summary

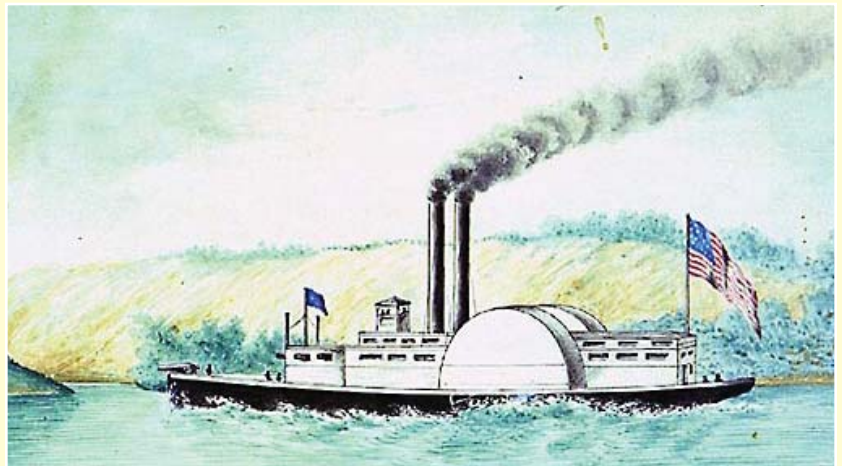
Federal ships including the Queen of the West take more than \$2 million in cargo in a single day on the Mississippi, Red, and White Rivers and the clipper ship Jacob Bell in the Caribbean

Queen of the West, a 406-ton side-wheel towboat (built 1854, Cincinnati, Ohio) was converted to a federal ram in 1862 for Colonel Charles Rivers Ellet's U.S. Ram Fleet. As Ellet's flagship, she played a prominent role in the battle of Memphis, which largely cleared the Mississippi of Confederate naval forces.

On July 15, 1862, the Queen joined two boats from Admiral David Farragut's fleet, the USS Carondelet and USS Tyler and engaged the Confederate ironclad CSS Arkansas on the Yazoo River. The Arkansas sailed downstream to the Mississippi in spite of heavy damage and found refuge at Vicksburg.

A week later Queen of the West and Essex attacked Arkansas in spite of the Rebel shore batteries at Vicksburg. The Essex steamed through a hail of shell past the guns to join Farragut's ships below Vicksburg, and the Queen rammed Arkansas before rejoining her flotilla above the river fortress.

During the rest of 1862 and into 1863, she was involved in operations around Vicksburg, Mississippi, including an expedition up the Yazoo river in November and December. On 2 February 1863, Queen of the West attacked the

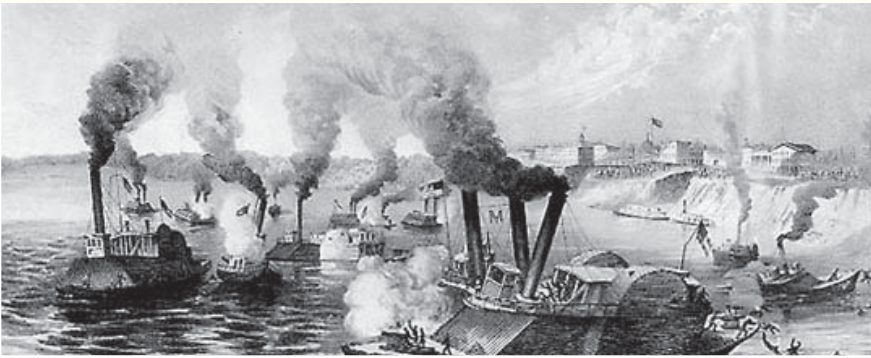


Confederate steamer City of Vicksburg under the guns of the Vicksburg fortress. Though damaged, she then moved down the river. For nearly two weeks, she operated independently on the Mississippi and its tributaries, where she captured four Confederate steamers. On February 14 at Fort de Russy, Queen of the West ran aground near an enemy shore battery and was captured. Raised and repaired, she became the Confederate warship Queen of the West.

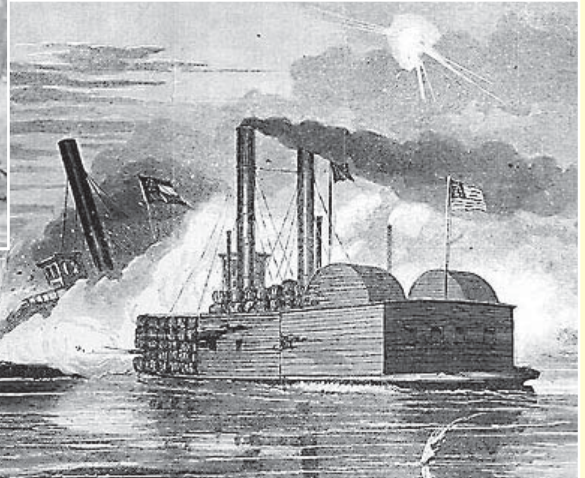
On February 24, 1862, she joined CSS Webb in forcing aground and capturing the Federal ironclad USS Indianola near the mouth of the Red River. Queen of the West was later sent to the Atchafalaya River area of Louisiana. On 14 April 1863, while in Grand Lake, she was attacked by three U.S. Navy gunboats. Hit by a shell fired at long range, Queen of the West was set afire and destroyed.

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

Decisive victory over Confederate River Defense Fleet in the Battle of Memphis. The Queen is pictured center background.



Vicksburg: After ramming the City of Vicksburg, the Queen's forward guns fired combustible balls saturated with turpentine into the ship, but her own cotton cladding caught fire in the conflagration and was forced to withdraw.



Under heavy fire by the shore batteries of Fort DeRussy, the Queen was captured by Confederates after allegedly being run aground purposely by a replacement pilot who was later accused of being a rebel sympathizer.

Commanded by Colonel Charles Rivers Ellet (the Fleet commander's son), Queen of the West, ram USS Monarch, and five ironclad gunboats of the Western Flotilla engaged the Confederate States River Defense Fleet at Memphis, Tennessee on June 6, 1862. In the Battle of Memphis, Queen of the West was rammed and the elder Colonel Ellet was mortally wounded, but the Union ships destroyed the Southern flotilla and won for the Union control of the Mississippi as far south as Vicksburg, Mississippi.

On July 15, Queen of the West, USS Carondelet, and USS Tyler engaged Confederate ironclad ram CSS Arkansas in the Yazoo River. The Southern ram escaped into the Mississippi and, heavily damaged, found refuge under the Southern batteries at Vicksburg. On July 22, Queen of the West and USS Essex attacked Arkansas, despite the Southern guns. Essex steamed through a hail of shell past the shore batteries and joined Admiral David Farragut's ships below Vicksburg, and Queen of the West rammed Arkansas before rejoining the Western Flotilla ships above the river fortress.

In ensuing months, Queen of the West continued to support operations against Vicksburg. On September 19, while escorting two troop transports, she had a short engagement with Confederate infantry and artillery above Bolivar, Mississippi. As the year closed, she was busy clearing the Yazoo of torpedoes and engaging Confederate batteries at Drumgold's Bluff.

On February 2, 1863, after ramming and firing incendiary projectiles into the Confederate steamer CSS City of Vicksburg under the fortress's guns, Queen of the West was caught in the conflagration and forced to withdraw down stream, fighting fires in the bow and near her starboard wheel. The next day she forced ashore and captured Confederate steamers O. W. Baker, Moro, and Berwick Bay.

On February 12 she ascended the Red River and entered the Atchafalaya River where a landing party destroyed Confederate Army wagons. That evening, Southern planters fired into the ship, severely wounding the senior naval officer aboard. The next day, in reprisal, Ellet destroyed all nearby buildings.

On February 14, Queen of the West captured steamer Era No. 5 some 15 miles above the mouth of the Black River and continued on upstream seeking three vessels reported at Barbin's Landing. Taken under heavy fire by the shore batteries of Fort DeRussy, she ran aground directly under Confederate guns, which pounded her until Ellet ordered "abandon ship," and the formidable vessel fell into Confederate hands. The Queen was not burned out of concern for the Captain of the ship who was wounded and could not be

Under the Confederate flag, the Queen of the West together with CSS Webb forces the surrender of USS Indianola off Palmyra Island.





The Queen's destruction at Grand Lake, after attack by USS Estrella (left), Arizona (center), and Calhoun (right).

moved. In his official report, Ellet alleged the grounding was done purposely by the replacement pilot whom he accused in his report of being a rebel sympathizer.

During their escape downstream, the pilot also grounded the captured Era running the paddles long after contact, whereupon the pilot was placed under arrest.

Queen of the West operated thereafter under the Confederate Army. In conjunction with another Confederate ram,

CSS Webb, she forced the surrender of USS Indianola in the Mississippi River below Vicksburg on February 24. On April 11, 1863 she was attacked on the Atchafalaya River, Louisiana by Union ships USS Estrella, Calhoun, and Arizona. A shell from Calhoun set fire to Queen of the West's cotton, and her burning wreck drifted down the river for several hours before she grounded and exploded.

<http://www.wikipedia.org>

February 12, 1865

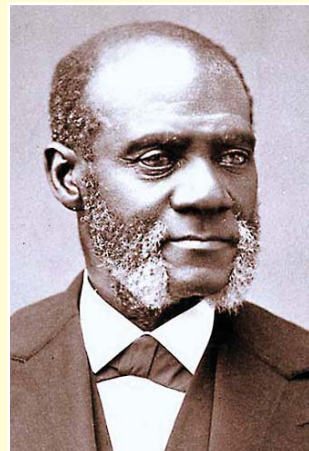
Henry Highland Garnet

Henry Highland Garnet (December 23, 1815 – February 13, 1882) was an African-American abolitionist, minister, educator and orator. An advocate of militant abolitionism, Garnet was a prominent member of the movement that led beyond moral suasion toward more political action. Renowned for his skills as a public speaker, he urged blacks to take action and claim their own destinies. For a period, he supported emigration of American free blacks to Mexico, Liberia or the West Indies, but the American Civil War ended that effort.

Henry Garnet was born into slavery in New Market, Frederick County, Maryland, on December 23, 1815. According to James McCune Smith, Garnet's father was George Trusty and his mother was a woman of "extraordinary energy." In 1824, the family, which included a total of 11 members, secured permission to attend a funeral, and from there, they all escaped in a covered wagon, first to Wilmington, Delaware, and then to New York City. When Garnet was ten years old, his family reunited and moved to New York City, where from 1826 through 1833, Garnet attended the African Free School, and the Phoenix High School for Colored Youth. While in school, Garnet began his career in abolitionism. With fellow schoolmates, he established the Garrison Literary and Benevolent Association. It garnered mass support among whites, but the club ultimately had to move due to racist feelings. Two years later, in 1835, he started studies at the Noyes Academy in Canaan, New Hampshire.

Due to his abolitionist activities, Henry Garnet was driven away from the Noyes Academy by an angry segregationist mob. He completed his education at the Oneida Theological Institute in Whitesboro, New York, which had recently admitted all races. Here he was acclaimed for his wit, brilliance, and rhetorical skills. After graduation in 1839, the following year he injured his knee playing sports. It never recovered, and his lower leg had to be amputated in 1839.

When the American Civil War started, Garnet's hopes ended for emigration as a solution for American blacks. He



Henry Highland Garnet

worked to found black army units to aid the Union cause. In the three-day New York draft riots of July 1863, mobs attacked blacks and black-owned buildings. Garnet and his family escaped attack when his daughter quickly chopped their nameplate off their door before the mobs found them.

When the federal government approved creating black units, Garnet helped with recruiting United States Colored Troops. He moved with his family to Washington, DC so that he could support the

black soldiers and the war effort. He preached to many of them while serving as pastor of the Liberty (Fifteenth) Street Presbyterian Church from 1864 until 1866. During this time, he was the first black minister to preach to the House of Representatives, addressing them on 12 February 1865 about the end of slavery.

After the war in 1868, Garnet was appointed president of Avery College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Later he returned to New York City as a pastor at the Shiloh Presbyterian Church (formerly the First Colored Presbyterian Church, and now St. James Presbyterian Church in Harlem).

His first wife Julia died. In 1879, Garnet married Sarah Smith Tompkins, who was a New York teacher and school principal, suffragist, and community organizer.

Garnet's last wish was to go to Liberia to live, even for a few weeks, and to die there. He was appointed as the U.S. Minister to Liberia in late 1881, and died in Africa two months later. Garnet was given a state funeral by the Liberian government and was buried at Palm Grove Cemetery in Monrovia. Frederick Douglass, who had not been on speaking terms with Garnet for many years because of their differences, still mourned Garnet's passing and noted his achievements

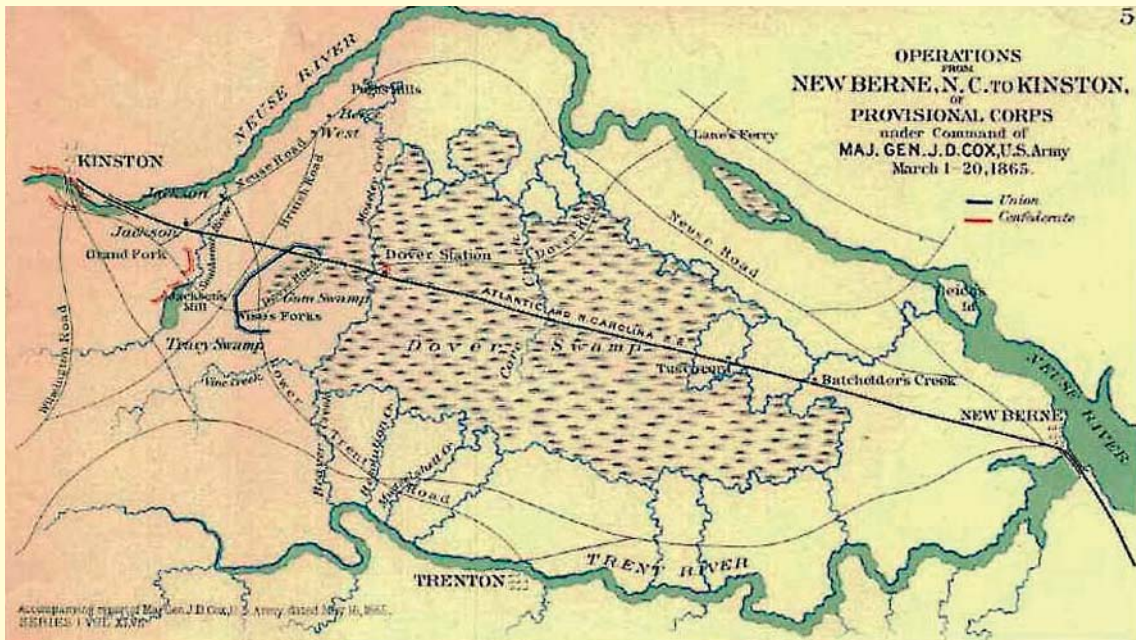
<http://en.wikipedia.org>

February 12, 1864

Kinston Hangings

Short Introduction

It was a dark time in North Carolina. While North Carolina had seceded along with the other upper South states in April 1861, a significant percentage of North Carolina's population remained skeptical or even opposed secession. North Carolina had the dubious distinction of providing more soldiers and more deserters than any other state in the South. By 1864, North Carolina's soldiers already had a reputation in the Confederacy for deserting or just sort of wandering away from their units.



It was under these circumstances that a mostly Virginian force under Virginian Major General George E. Pickett arrived in eastern North Carolina tasked with attacking New Berne—or at least raiding it. On February 1, 1864, Pickett probed the defenses of Union-held New Berne and captured several Union prisoners—among them 53 men of the 2nd North Carolina Union Volunteers. Of the 53 members of the 2nd North Carolina Union Volunteers captured, several had deserted from the Confederate Army after being drafted. On February 4, 1864, their Confederate captors discovered the presence of two of these deserters among their captives, and resolved among themselves to inflict the ultimate penalty.

On February 5, 1864, at Kinston, North Carolina, the first two of these men were executed for desertion—in a series of incidents that has since become known as "the Kinston Hangings." Some—if not all—of these hangings would be declared illegitimate on the basis that not all the men executed had been properly inducted into the Confederate Army, and therefore could not be properly labeled deserters.

February 12, 1864: Five more men hanged at Kinston, North Carolina

Extract from the "Weekly Confederate," Raleigh, "Wednesday, February 17, 1864.

PUBLIC EXECUTION.

J. S. Stanley, Lewis Bryan, Mitchell Busick, William Irvin, and Amos Amyett, of Nethercutt's battalion, lately found as deserters to the enemy, have been tried and hanged, thus paying with their lives the penalty of their shocking crime. These men, we believe, were from the county of Jones. They were poor and ignorant men; but some of them had near relatives, and all of them had friends. The hearts of their kindred have been sore stricken by their sad and disgraceful end. Are they only to blame? They left the service, and assumed that of the enemy, on the plea of some fancied wrong done by our government in the removal of Colonel Nethercutt's command from the outpost service, in which they were engaged in Jones and Onslow counties, into General Martin's, and the ordering them to

Wilmington. This slight supposed grievance furnished the excuse for their great crime; but was there no newspaper which, circulating in that section, aggravated to their eyes the injury they complained of? Did no newspaper take also the ground that the government had committed towards them a breach of faith? If there were, then that paper exceeded the liberty of the press, to interfere, wantonly and injuriously, with the military movements. That paper instigated the crime, and is responsible for the consequences its

teaching has produced. When any person gives counsel which leads immediately to the commission of felony, that person is an accessory before the fact.

If these poor, deluded men have friends or kin—and we know Colonel Nethercutt at least to be their friend so far as to see that they have justice—they ought to search the press; and if it be found that pernicious counsels have led to this deplorable crime and its attending calamity, the blood of these men appeals for justice upon all guilty—the instigator as well as the actor.

February 13, 1864: "I ask for them the same treatment . . ."

By February 13, 1864, enough rumors about ill treatment of Union prisoners at Kinston have filtered through the lines to make Union Major General John J. Peck uneasy about what may have happened to the 53 members of Company F, 2nd North Carolina Union Volunteers captured on February 1, 1864 outside of New Berne, North Carolina. On this day 150 years ago, Peck wrote to Pickett to specifically enquire about the 53 men and ask that they be treated as prisoners of war—Peck does not know that seven of the men have already been hanged and another thirteen have already been sentenced to death.

HDQRS. ARMY AND DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, New Berne, N. C., February 13, 1864.

Major-General PICKETT, Dept. of Virginia and North Carolina, Confederate Army:

GENERAL: I have the honor to inclose a list of 53 soldiers of the U. S. Government who are supposed to have fallen into your hands on your late hasty retreat from before New Berne. They are loyal and true North Carolinians and duly enlisted in the Second North Carolina Infantry. I ask for them the same treatment in all respects as you will mete out to other prisoners of war.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN J. PECK, Major-General.

February 16, 1864: "... for every man you hang, I will hang 10 of the United States Army."

On this day 150 years ago, George E. Pickett responded to a Union commander's concerns about war crimes by threatening to hang every Union soldier in his custody.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA, Petersburg, Va., February 16, 1864.

Major General JOHN J. PECK, U. S. ARMY, Commanding at New Berne:

GENERAL: Your communication of the 11th of February is received. I have the honor to state in reply that the paragraph from a newspaper inclosed therein is not only without foundation in fact but so ridiculous that I should scarcely have supposed it worthy of consideration; but I would respectfully inform you that had I caught any negro who had killed officer, soldier, or citizen of the Confederate States I should have caused him to be immediately executed.

To your threat expressed in the following extract from your communication, viz: "Believing that this atrocity has been perpetrated without your knowledge, and that you will take prompt steps to disavow this violation of the usages of war and to bring the offenders to justice, I shall refrain from executing a rebel soldier until I learn



your action in the premises," I have merely to say that I have in my hands and subject to my orders, captured in the recent operations in this department, some 450 officers and men of the United States Army, and for every man you hang, I will hang 10 of the United States

Army.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. E. PICKETT, Major-General, Commanding.

By the time Pickett sent this message on February 16, 1864, a total of 20 of the original 53 members of F Company, 2nd North Carolina Union Volunteers taken prisoner on February 1, 1864, had already been hanged in accordance with Pickett's orders.

February 17, 1864: "prisoners captured before New Berne and executed at Kinston..."

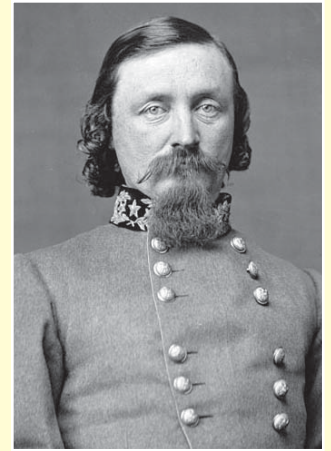
On this day 150 years ago, Confederate Major General boasted about having hanged several Union soldiers and mocked Union Major General John J. Peck for having provided him with a list of 53 Union soldiers from North Carolina, "which will enable me to bring to justice many who have up to this time escaped their just deserts."

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA, Petersburg, Va., February 17, 1864.

Major General JOHN J. PECK, Commanding U. S. Forces, New Berne, N. C.:

GENERAL: Your communication of the 13th instant is at hand. I have the honor to state in reply that you have made a slight mistake in regard to numbers, 325 having "fallen into your (our) hands in your (our) late hasty retreat from before New Berne," instead of the list of 53 with which you have so kindly furnished me, and which will enable me to bring to justice many who have up to this time escaped their just deserts. I herewith return you the names of those who have been tried and convicted by court-martial for desertion from the Confederate service and taken with arms in hand, "duly enlisted in the Second North Carolina Infantry, U. S. Army." they have been duly executed according to law and the custom of war.

Your letter and list will, of course, prevent any mercy being shown any of the remaining number, should proper and just proof be brought of their having deserted the Confederate colors, many of these men pleading in extenuation that they have been forced into the ranks of the Federal Government.



Major General George E. Pickett



Major General John J. Peck

Continued from page 9 - "Kingston Hangings"

Extending to you my thanks for your opportune list.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. E. PICKETT, Major-General, Commanding.

[Sub-inclosure.]

List of prisoners captured before New Berne and executed at Kinston, N. C., as deserters from the Confederate Army: David Jones, J. L. Haskett, John L. Stanly, Lewis Bryan, Mitchell Busick, William Irving, Amos Armyette, John J. Beck, William Haddick, Jesse Summerlin, Andrew J. Briteau, William Jones, Lewis Freeman, Calvin Hoffman, Stephen Jones, Joseph Biock, Lewis Taylor, Charles Cuthrell, William H. Daughtry, John Freeman, Elijah Kellum, William J. Hill.

Pickett had gotten a bit ahead of himself: the last two men on this list—Elijah Kellum and William J. Hill—were not hanged until February 22, 1864, bringing the death toll in the Kingston Hangings to 22.

February 27, 1864: Pickett justifies the Kinston Hangings

On this day 150 years ago, Confederate Major General George E. Pickett wrote to Union Major General John J. Peck to threaten him and try to dissuade Peck from retaliating for the Kinston Hanging. In all, Pickett had hanged 22 of the 53 members of the 2nd North Carolina Union Volunteers taken at New Berne at the beginning of February. Pickett may have begun to feel uncertain about his actions, because the hangings ceased. Unfortunately, the surviving 31 members of the 2nd North Carolina Union Volunteers in Pickett's hands were sent to the Confederate prisoner of war prison at Andersonville and only one man survived the war.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA, Petersburg, Va., February 27, 1864.

Major General JOHN J. PECK, U. S. Army:

GENERAL: Your communication of the 20th instant is received. Your letter of the 13th referred to was received and replied to by flag under date of 17th.

You have doubtless perused my reply ere this, and are aware of the fact that the men "duly enlisted into the Second North Carolina Regiment" spoken of by you, had been duly enlisted in the Confederate service previously, and had deserted from same; that they were taken in arms fighting against their colors, were tried by a duly organized court, sentenced, and executed.

If the officers of the C. S. Army, whom you speak of "as hostages for their safety," can be proven to be deserters from the Federal Army, you will certainly be fully justifiable in treating them similarly; otherwise, should you "retaliate" you will simply be guilty of murder.

The subject does not, however, admit of discussion, and I refer you to the concluding paragraph of my letter of the 16th instant.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

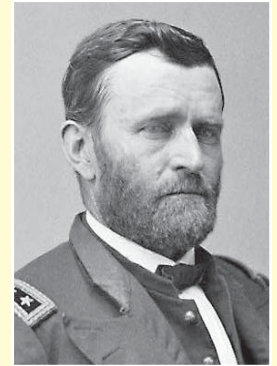
G. E. PICKETT, Major-General.

<http://www.civilwar-online.com>

February 12, 1862

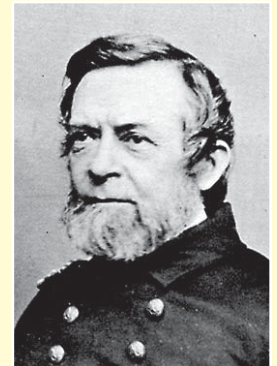
Fort Donelson

The Battle of Fort Donelson was fought from February 11 to 16, 1862, in the Western Theater of the American Civil War. The Union capture of the Confederate fort near the Tennessee-Kentucky border opened the Cumberland River, an important avenue for the invasion of the South. The Union's success also elevated Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant from an obscure and largely unproven leader to the rank of major general, and earned him the nickname of "Unconditional Surrender" Grant.



Brigadier General, US
Ulysses S. Grant

The battle followed the Union capture of Fort Henry on February 6. Grant moved his army 12 miles (19 km) overland to Fort Donelson on February 12 and 13 and conducted several small probing attacks. (Although the name was not yet in use, the troops serving under Grant were the nucleus of the Union's Army of the Tennessee.) On February 14, Union gunboats under Flag Officer Andrew H. Foote attempted to reduce the fort with gunfire, but were forced to withdraw after sustaining heavy damage from Fort Donelson's water batteries.



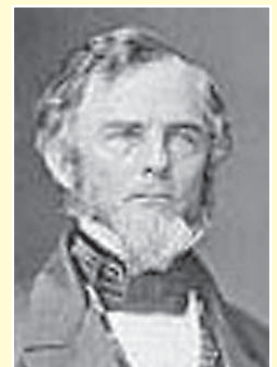
Flag Officer, US
Andrew H. Foote

On February 15, with the fort surrounded, the Confederates, commanded by Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd, launched a surprise attack against Grant's army in an attempt to open an escape route to Nashville, Tennessee. Grant, who was away from the battlefield at the start of the attack, arrived to rally his men and counterattack. Despite achieving partial success and opening the way for a retreat, Floyd lost his nerve and ordered his men back to the fort. The following morning, Floyd and his second-in-command, Brig. Gen. Gideon J. Pillow, relinquished command to Brig. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner (later Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky), who agreed to accept Grant's terms of unconditional surrender.



Brigadier General, CS
John B. Floyd

The casualties at Fort Donelson were heavy, primarily because of the large Confederate surrender. Union losses were 2,691 (507 killed, 1,976 wounded, 208 captured/miss-



Brigadier General, CS
Gideon J. Pillow

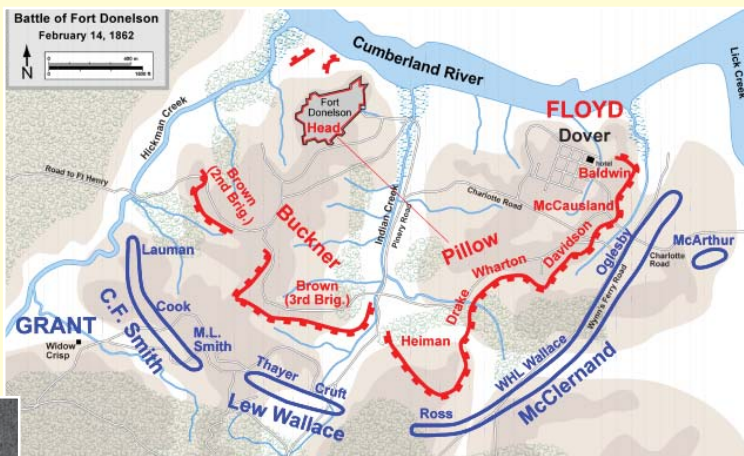
Continued on page 11

ing), Confederate 13,846 (327 killed, 1,127 wounded, 12,392 captured/missing).

Cannons were fired and church bells rung throughout the North at the news. The Chicago Tribune wrote that "Chicago reeled mad with joy." The capture of Forts Henry and Donelson were the first significant Union victories in the war and opened two great rivers to invasion in the heartland of the South. Grant was promoted to major general of volunteers, second in seniority only to Henry W. Halleck in the West. After newspapers reported that Grant had won the battle with a cigar clamped in his teeth, he was inundated with cigars sent from his many admirers. (Grant would eventually die of throat cancer, likely brought on by his heavy smoking). Close to a third of all Albert Sidney Johnston's forces were prisoners. Grant had captured more soldiers than all previous American generals combined, and Johnston was thereby deprived of more than twelve thousand soldiers who would otherwise have provided a decisive advantage at the impending Battle of Shiloh in less than two months time. The rest of Johnston's forces were 200 miles (320 km) apart, between Nashville



Brigadier General, CS
Simon B. Buckner



Troop positions on February 14, 1862
Map - Hal Jespersen

and Columbus, with Grant's army between them. Grant's forces also controlled nearby rivers and railroads. General Buell's army threatened Nashville, while John Pope's troops threatened Columbus. Johnston evacuated Nashville on February 23, surrendering this important industrial center to the Union and making it the first Confederate state capital to fall. Columbus was evacuated on March 2. Most of Tennessee fell under Union control, as did all of Kentucky, although both were subject to periodic Confederate raiding.

Wikipedia

Old Baldy is invited to help out and more info will follow.

Gettysburg Brush Cutting

Save the Date
Saturday, April 25, 2015

Our Round Table has a long history of conservation work at Gettysburg dating back over 20 years. In fact, we were given official credit for being a part of the genesis for the Adopt a Position program. We cut brush, trimmed bushes and dragged trees in many places on that sacred field. We toiled from Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery on the Chambersburg Pike, to the 17th Maine Infantry position at the edge of the Wheatfield to Little Round Top and Culp's Hill where the trails we placed are still being used and many sites in between.

Last year we selected are the fence line of the McPherson barn and the regimental monuments to the 143rd and 149th Pennsylvania Infantry. Forty volunteers, including Round Table members, Boy Scouts from Troop 89 in New Tripoli, Saucon Valley High School students and folks from the Whitehall Historical Society all turned out for a beautiful day of helping to conserve and protect the Gettysburg Battlefield. Dick Jacoby and Ed Root subsequently interpreted the battlefield action of July 1st where we so diligently worked.

So save Saturday, April 25, 2015 for our next adventure. With all this notice we will hopefully have no prior commitment issues! Sign up at any meeting or email Ed Root at sartilly@hotmail.com. More details on logistics and program will be forthcoming. Please spread the word as the more the merrier!

Ed Root - Eastern PA CWRT



From The Treasurer's Desk

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 coming year,
Herb

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

February 12th meeting... Get ready for an interesting and informative presentation by our friend Hugh Boyle on Presidential Assassins.

Events

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

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 2 PM
Annual Temple University Black History Conference, Lincoln, Emancipation and the End of the Civil War

Civil War & Emancipation Studies
at Temple University (CWEST) sponsor.
Walk Auditorium, Ritter Hall, 13th St & Cecil B. Moore Ave
on Main Campus of Temple University.
Speakers; books; discussion; displays.

Free: Register:
andy.waskie@temple.edu 215-204-5452

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2015

February 12 – Thursday
Presidential Assassins
Hugh Boyle
(Lincoln Historian)

March 12 – Thursday
The Medical Treatment of Our Assassinated Presidents
Herb Kaufman
(Historian)

April 9 – Thursday
Transport to Hell - "Sultana" - An American Tragedy
Don Wiles
(Historian)

Questions to
Harry Jenkins - 302-834-3289 - hj3bama@verizon.net
Herb Kaufman - 215-947-4096 - shkaufman2@yahoo.com
Don Forsyth - 856-207-8669 - 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
Founded January 1977

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

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