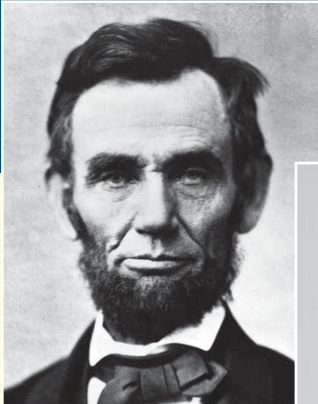


# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

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

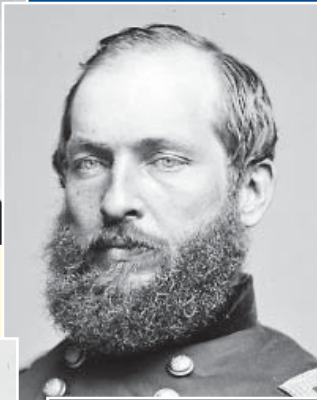
## "The Medical Treatment of Our Assassinated Presidents"

by Herb Kaufman



**Abraham Lincoln**

**James A. Garfield**



**John F. Kennedy**



**William McKinley**

Join us on **Thursday, March 12th at 7:15 PM at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building - Room 101** for a presentation on "The Medical Treatment of Our Assassinated Presidents" by Herb Kaufman.

Over the years, many, many questions concerning the treatment of our assassinated Presidents have been raised. Beginning with the shooting of President Lincoln in 1865, this presentation will examine the medical methods and treatment of our four assassinated presidents: Would President Lincoln have lived with modern medical treatment? Did the doctors really kill President Garfield? Why was President McKinley not taken to a hospital? How did the medical team approach the treatment of President

Kennedy? These and other questions will be answered in this presentation, "The Medical Treatment of Our Assassinated Presidents."

We will follow the circumstances of their shooting, explore the medical practices of that era, and analyze the medical advances or lack thereof, over the decades that intervened between the assassinations.

**Herb Kaufman** has been a life-long student of the Civil War era. He is a founding member of the faculty of the Civil War Institute at Manor College, and has taught life long learning courses on a wide variety of Civil War topics at a number of local universities and community groups. He is a well known speaker on a variety of topics relating to the era of the Civil War having presented programs to civic and community groups, and educational and historical associations throughout the Philadelphia area.

He is currently a member of the Editorial Staff of the Civil War News, writing both news and feature articles. He also has been a Civil War reenactor, and has received numerous awards for his continuing work in education and support of the history of the Civil War. He presented programs for students and adults at the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the GAR Civil War Museum and Library of Philadelphia. He is currently the treasurer of both the Delaware Valley and Old Baldy Civil War Roundtables, and is a member of numerous historical and community organizations. Mr. Kaufman possesses a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education from Temple University.

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

Spring is just around the corner and we will see more green and continued warmth soon. No matter the weather Old Baldy is moving forward expanding and growing in Southern New Jersey. Be sure to plug in and be part of the experience. If you have not paid your dues for the 2015 adventure please do so soon.

*Continued on page 2*

**2015 Dues Due**

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

We will be attending our first meeting of the League of History Societies of New Jersey as a member on March 7th and will report on it at our monthly meeting. Look for the article on the Temple University Conference by some of our members who attended it. Ask those who attended the Meade Symposium to share their experience. When you attend an event or visit a related site, compose an article and send it to Don for a future newsletter.

The **Book Award Team** is making progress and will have a report at the meeting. The Membership Team has been working on collecting information to share with us. **Dave Gilson** has stepped up and is moving forward with his duties on the Program Committee. Thanks Dave. We will also have an update on our clothing line at the meeting. Thanks to **Bob Russo**, the By-laws are now available on our website in the About section. After it is published in the **Civil War News**, the article he wrote on the **Mike Cavanaugh** luncheon will also be posted on the website. If you have any suggestions or comments about our website please let us know.

Last month **Hugh Boyle** gave us great information on the four presidential assassins including their backgrounds, motives and results. This month our own **Herb Kaufman**

follows up with the medical treatment of the four presidents after they were shot. Plan on joining us on the 12th for Herb's medical adventure into how each was handled.

The Abraham Lincoln Institute is holding its 18th annual Symposium at Ford's Theater on March 21st details are available in this newsletter. Also find information on our visit to **Woodlands Cemetery** on June 13th. If you are interested in attending get your registration to Bob. Be prepared to sign up at the meeting for a session to staff our table at the Neshaminy re-enactment on April 25-26. We will also be represented at Manor Day on May 17th in Jenkintown. If you know of somewhere we can get the Old Baldy name out, let us know.

Old Baldy made a donation to Fisher House in the name of **Patricia Bilby**, the recently deceased wife of our friend **Joe Bilby** in honor of service to the Civil War and History community and the nation. Thank you to all who are working to spread our message, promoting our Round Table to insure continued improvement and growth.

Join us for some pre-meeting fellowship at the **Lamp Post Diner**.

*Rich Jankowski, President*

## 12th Annual Temple University Black History Conference, Lincoln, Emancipation and the End of the Civil War

On Wednesday, Feb. 18th, Priscilla Gabosch and Arlene Schnaare (and Arlene's Husband, Roger) attended the **12th annual Underground Railroad and Black History Conference At Temple University**, sponsored by the Temple University Department of African American Studies and CWEST (Civil War and Emancipation Studies) moderated by Dr. Anthony Waskie, with opening remarks by Dr. Molefi K. Asante, and introduction by Dr. Nilgun Anadolu-Okur.

The three sessions included "Abraham Lincoln and the Passing of the 13th Amendment and Abolition of Slavery" presented by M. Kelley Tillery, Esq. "The Assassination of Lincoln and its Effect on the People" presented by Matthew Pinsker, PhD Dickinson College, and the third session was "The End of the War, 'Juneteenth' and the Services of the U.S. Colored Troops" presented by Don Ogbewi Scott, Sr. Professor, Community College of Philadelphia.

The speakers were excellent, and the sessions very informative.



M. Kelley Tillery, Esq.



Matthew Pinsker, PhD  
Dickinson College



Don Ogbewi Scott, Sr.  
Professor, Community  
College of Philadelphia

There was a display of slave artifacts, brought by members of the 3rd Regiment Infantry colored troops, who came in uniform.

All in all a very good afternoon.

*Arlene Schnaare, Member OBCWRT*

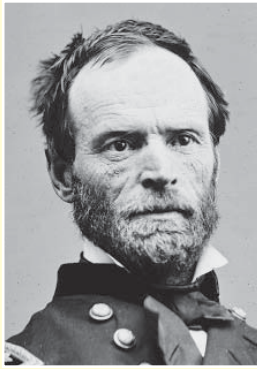
## Letter from William Sherman to Ulysses Grant, March 12, 1865

Union General William Sherman wrote the letter to the head of the Union Army, General Ulysses S. Grant, on

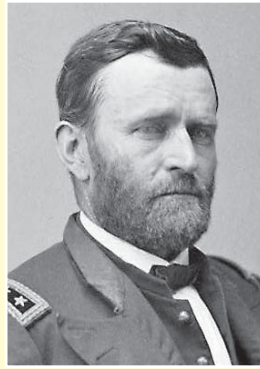
March 12, from Fayetteville, North Carolina. Sherman discussed general topics, such as the morale of his men, their health and overall conditions. Sherman believed that his men, largely, were in good shape, and would eventually go towards Goldsboro as soon as possible to continue chasing Confederate General William Hardee. In the letter, Sherman wrote of the importance of his march, and how a city like Fayetteville should never be able to possess an arsenal, as it was "such valuable property to a people who



have betrayed a trust." Sherman promised to destroy the arsenal. The destruction of the arsenal was essentially to destroy a valuable resource that a traitorous enemy possessed. Local Confederates took a vastly different opinion, as it was a source of pride for the locals. Sherman finished the letter by discussing the great progress he had made, and Grant had no reason to worry.



Major General, US William T. Sherman



Lieutenant General, US Ulysses S. Grant

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI, IN THE FIELD, FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA,

Sunday, March. 12, 1885.

Lieutenant-General U. S. GRANT, commanding United States Army, City Point, Virginia.

DEAR GENERAL: We reached this place yesterday at noon; Hardee, as usual, retreating across the Cape Fear, burning his bridges; but our pontoons will be up to-day, and, with as little delay as possible, I will be after him toward Goldsboro. A tug has just come up from Wilmington, and before I get off from here, I hope to get from Wilmington some shoes and stockings, sugar, coffee, and flour. We are abundantly supplied with all else, having in a measure lived off the country. The army is in splendid health, condition, and spirits, though we have had foul weather, and roads that would have stopped travel to almost any other body of men I ever heard of. Our march, was substantially what I designed—straight on Columbia, feigning on Branchville and Augusta. We destroyed, in passing, the railroad from the Edisto nearly up to Aiken; again, from Orangeburg to the Congaree;

again, from Colombia down to Kingsville on the Water-ee, and up toward Charlotte as far as the Chester line; thence we turned east on Cheraw and Fayetteville. At Colombia we destroyed immense arsenals and railroad establishments, among which wore forty-three cannon. At Cheraw we found also machinery and material of war sent from Charleston, among which were twenty-five guns and thirty-six hundred barrels of powder; and here we find about twenty guns and a magnificent United States' arsenal. We cannot afford to leave detachments, and I shall therefore destroy this valuable arsenal, so the enemy shall not have its use; and the United States should never again confide such valuable property to a people who have betrayed a trust. I could leave here to-morrow, but want to clear my columns of the vast crowd of refugees and negroes that encumber us. Some I will send down the river in boats, and the rest to Wilmington by land, under small escort, as soon as we are across Cape Fear River. I hope you have not been uneasy about us, and that the fruits of this march will be appreciated. It had to be made not only to destroy the valuable depots by the way, but for its incidents in the necessary fall of Charleston, Georgetown, and Wilmington. If I can now add Goldsboro' without too much cost, I will be in a position to aid you materially in the spring campaign. Jos. Johnston may try to interpose between me here and Schofield about Newbern; but I think he will not try that, but concentrate his scattered armies at Raleigh, and I will go straight at him as soon as I get our men re clothed and our wagons reloaded. Keep everybody busy, and let Stoneman push toward Greensboro' or Charlotte from Knoxville; even a feint in that quarter will be most important. The railroad from Charlotte to Danville is all that is left to the enemy, and it will not do for me to go there, on account of the red-clay hills which are impassable to wheels in wet weather. I expect to make a junction with General Schofield in ten days.

Yours truly,

W. T. SHERMAN, Major-General.

<http://history.ncsu.edu/projects/cwnc/items/show/295>

March 12, 1862

## Union occupation of Jacksonville and St. Augustine, Florida

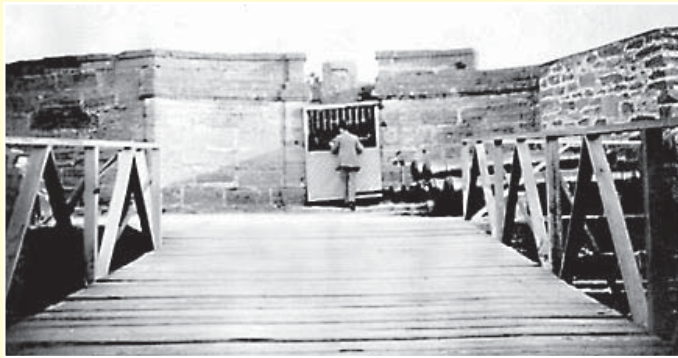
After taking Ft. Clinch and the Town of Fernandina on 3-4 March 1862, elements of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, along with transports carrying US Army troops, arrived off the mouth of the St. Johns River, Florida on 8 March 1862. After reconnoitering the bar at the river mouth, and after repeated attempts to cross, Lt. Thomas H. Stevens of the gunboat USS Ottawa took the ship's helm himself, ordered "full speed ahead," and scraped across the bar on 11 March, along with the gunboats Seneca, Pembina, and Ellen. Ottawa, Seneca, and Pembina were all "Unadilla" class



US Navy Base at Mayport Mills, Florida, St. Johns River

("90-day") gunboats, and Ellen was a converted New York ferryboat. Lighter draft ships had penetrated upriver prior to that and captured Ft. Steele, a small Confederate fortification near the mouth of the river built of palmetto logs and armed with 7 guns. The Confederates had abandoned the fort a few days earlier after sighting the arrival of the Union flotilla off the river mouth.

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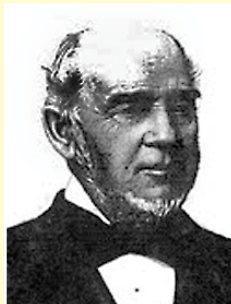
Fort Marion, St. Augustine

On 12 March, the first occupation of the City of Jacksonville occurred, as companies of the 4th New Hampshire Infantry Regiment were landed. Jacksonville had a fairly large proportion of pro-Union folks, who were overjoyed to see the Union occupation of the city. To their dismay and horror, by the end of the month, Army forces were ordered withdrawn from the city. Officers on the Union Navy vessels were aghast at this action. In an effort to provide some assistance, the Navy established a permanent base of operations at Mayport Mills, three miles upstream of the river mouth and about 6-7 miles downstream of Jacksonville.

On 10 March 1862, the USS Wabash hove to off the mouth of St. Augustine Inlet, south of the St. Johns River mouth. Shallow depths in the inlet and the harbor did not allow the huge Wabash to enter, and heavy weather that day restricted the use of ship's boats to cross the bar in the Inlet. The next day, 11 March, Commander C.R.P. Rogers entered the inlet in a ship's boat with an unarmed landing party, arrived at the harbor, and accepted the surrender of Ft. Marion (the present-day Castillo de San Marcos National Monument) and the adjacent Town of St. Augustine, Florida. In the span of barely two weeks, the Union Navy and Army had secured a strong foothold in a big chunk of northeast Florida, securing fortifications, land, and secure harbors. This formed the basis for subsequent operations in this area of Florida.

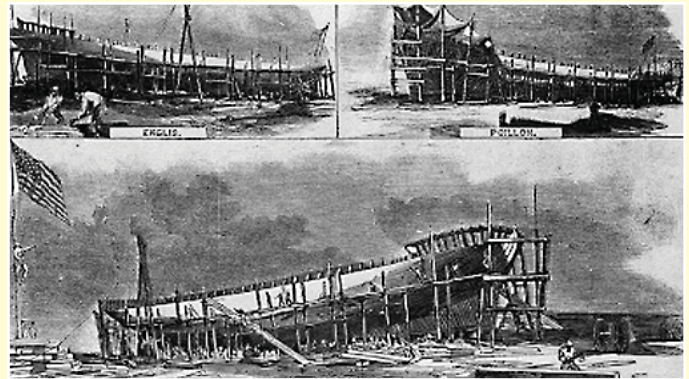
## Building the "90-day" Gunboats.

As part of its emergency building program to put ships on the blockade, the U.S. Navy designed a shallow draft, steam-powered gunboat that could be easily assembled. Labeled the "90-day" gunboats as the contract stipulated that the private shipyards had to complete the construct of the vessels in ninety days, these warships became a mainstay of blockading squadrons. While none of them were completed in the allotted time, the program still demonstrated the Union's tremendous industrial advantage over the South as the program cranked out twenty-three good warships in five months.

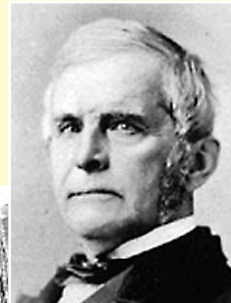


William Henry Webb

Four of New York City's most prominent shipbuilders, John Englis, William H. Webb, Jacob Aaron Westervelt (Westervelt & Company), and Cornelius Poil-



Unadilla, Winona, and Ottawa under construction



Jacob Aaron Westervelt

Finished "90-day" gunboats



lon (Bridge Street Yard) are credited with the remarkable success of the project as they built the ships in an almost assembly like fashion.

Each ships was 158 ft. long, had a 28 ft. beam, displaced about 560 tons, and only drew 10 feet of water. Despite their small size, the Navy armed the ships with several Dahlgren boat howitzers, a few older cannons, and one IX-inch or XI-inch Dahlgren smoothbore. One sailor reported that when the main gun was fired, it "would shake the whole ship." Despite their hasty construction, the ships would serve in every blockading squadron and every major littoral campaign. Many of the ships would serve in the Navy after the war.

## The Unlikely Warships

At the beginning of the Civil War, the US Navy had to create a huge fleet to effectively implement the blockade of the Confederate States of America. They did this by a combination of an accelerated program of building new warships, putting captured blockade runners into service, and by acquiring existing merchant vessels and converting them into warships.

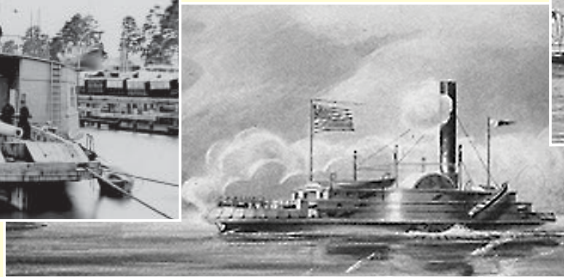
Perhaps the most unlikely candidates for the noble title of "US Gunboat" were the ferryboats. Many came from the New York City region, but others came from harbors on the eastern seaboard from Boston to Chesapeake Bay. While they lacked the imposing appearance of their purebred warship cousins, these tough little ships turned out to be ideally suited for the jobs they were given. They were not built for seaworthiness, but their shallow draft and double-ended design made them ideal for blockade work in the shallow inshore waters of the southeastern U.S. and Gulf of





Commodore Perry

Commodore Hull



Westfield was purposely destroyed by her crew

Mexico. Typical drafts ranged from 10 feet to as little as 6+ feet. Most were side-wheel steamers.

They were built to carry heavy loads, and so required little modification for mounting big guns. Their deck armament was variable, but the more common guns were VIII and IX inch Dahlgren smoothbores, 100 pdr Parrot rifles, 24 and 32 pdr smoothbores, and various calibers of rifled guns. These were mounted in the platform areas at each end of the ships (see photos), and were positioned to provide fire from forward, quarter, beam and aft positions. Iron plates, which could be raised or lowered, were sometimes mounted along the gunwhales to protect the gun crews from small arms fire. Ferryboats saw service in all four of the US Navy blockading squadrons:

North Atlantic squadron – the ferries Hunchback, Southfield, Commodore Hull, Commodore Perry and others served along the Virginia and North Carolina coasts. The Hull and Southfield were involved in the engagement with the rebel ironclad CSS Albemarle in April 1864. The Southfield sank after being rammed by the ironclad. In sinking, however, she temporarily disabled the ironclad and enabled the rest of the Union ships to escape, forcing the ironclad to withdraw from the engagement.

South Atlantic squadron – the ferry R. B. Forbes (a Boston twin screw steamer, rather than a New York sidewheeler) joined the South Atlantic squadron in October 1861 and was part of Flag Officer DuPont's fleet which took Port Royal, South Carolina in November of that year. The Commodore McDonough participated in numerous expeditions in the rivers and sounds of South Carolina, where her shallow draft proved invaluable. East Gulf squadron – the former New York ferry USS Fort Henry established a reputation as the "Terror of the Gulf." Patrolling the sector of the Florida gulf coast from Tampa Bay north to the St. Marks River area, the ship and its crew, under the command of Acting Lt. Edward Y. McCauley, captured blockade runners, conducted shore raids to destroy salt works, and provided assistance and shelter to escaped slaves and Floridians who were sympathetic to the Union. West Gulf squadron – the ferries Westfield, Jackson, and Clifton were part of Flag Officer Farragut's West Gulf squadron. All three ships were participants in the conquest of the Mississippi River, and subsequently assisted with operations along the Texas coast. The Westfield was purposely destroyed by her crew, accompanied by the death of her captain William B. Renshaw, to avoid capture by the Confederates along the Texas coast on New Year's Day 1863.

<http://civilwarnavy150.blogspot.com>

## March 12, 1864 Red River Campaign Begins

The Red River Campaign or Red River Expedition comprised a series of battles fought along the Red River in Louisiana during the American Civil War from March 10 to May 22, 1864. The campaign was a Union initiative, fought between approximately 30,000 Union troops under the command of Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks, and Confederate troops under the command of Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor, whose strength varied from 6,000 to 15,000.

The campaign was primarily the plan of Union General-in-Chief Henry W. Halleck, and a diversion from Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's plan to surround the main Confederate armies by using Banks's Army of the Gulf to capture Mobile, Alabama. It was a Union failure, characterized by poor planning and mismanagement, in which not a single objective was fully accomplished. Taylor successfully defended the Red River Valley with a smaller force. However, the decision of Taylor's immediate superior, General Edmund

Kirby Smith to send half of Taylor's force north to Arkansas rather than south in pursuit of the retreating Banks after the Battle of Mansfield and the Battle of Pleasant Hill, led to bitter enmity between Taylor and Kirby Smith.

### Union objectives

The Union had four goals at the start of the campaign:

To destroy the Confederate Army commanded by Taylor.

To capture Shreveport, Louisiana, Confederate headquarters for the Trans-Mississippi Department, control the Red River to the north, and occupy east Texas.

To confiscate as much as a hundred thousand bales of cotton from the plantations along the Red River.

To organize pro-Union state governments in the region.

Union strategists in Washington thought that the occupation of east Texas and control of the Red River would separate Texas from the rest of the Confederacy. Texas was the source of much needed guns, food, and supplies for Confederate troops.

Other historians have claimed that the campaign was also motivated by concern regarding the 25,000 French troops

in Mexico sent by Napoleon III and under the command of Emperor Maximilian. At the time, the Confederates offered to recognize the government of Maximilian in return for French recognition of the Confederacy; the Confederates also hoped to gain access to valuable war goods through this recognition.[4] However, Banks's campaign on the Texas coast during November and December 1863 had satisfied President Abraham Lincoln, who wrote to Banks: "My thanks for your successful and valuable operations in Texas."

### Planning

Halleck's plan, finalized in January 1864, called for Banks to take 20,000 troops up from New Orleans to Alexandria, on a route up the Bayou Teche (in Louisiana, the term bayou is used to refer to a slow moving river or stream), where they would be met by 15,000 troops sent down from Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's forces in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and under the command of Brigadier General A.J. Smith. Smith's forces were available to Banks only until the end of April, when they would be sent back east where they were needed for other Union military actions. Banks would command this combined force of 35,000, which would be supported in its march up the Red River towards Shreveport by Union Navy Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter's fleet of gunboats. At the same time, 7,000 Union troops from the Department of Arkansas under the command of Maj. Gen. Frederick Steele would be sent south from Arkansas to rendezvous with Banks in his attack on Shreveport, and to serve as the garrison for that city after its capture.

This plan was ready to be set in action in early March 1864, after somewhat belated communication initiated by Banks to inform Sherman and Porter of their roles in Halleck's strategy. Banks sent Sherman, Halleck, and Porter a report prepared by Major David Houston clearly showing the near impossibility of maintaining an occupation in Shreveport and east Texas without major resources. Most of Banks's men, accompanied by a large, poorly trained, cavalry force would march north toward the middle river. Banks would allow cotton speculators to come along, and Porter was bringing barges to collect cotton as lucrative naval prizes.

The Confederate senior officers were confused as to whether the Red River; Mobile, Alabama; or coastal Texas was the primary Union target for the spring 1864 campaign. The commander of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department, General Edmund Kirby Smith, nevertheless started moving many of his men to the Shreveport area.

### Opposing forces

#### Union

The US forces consisted of four elements, the first three of which worked together:

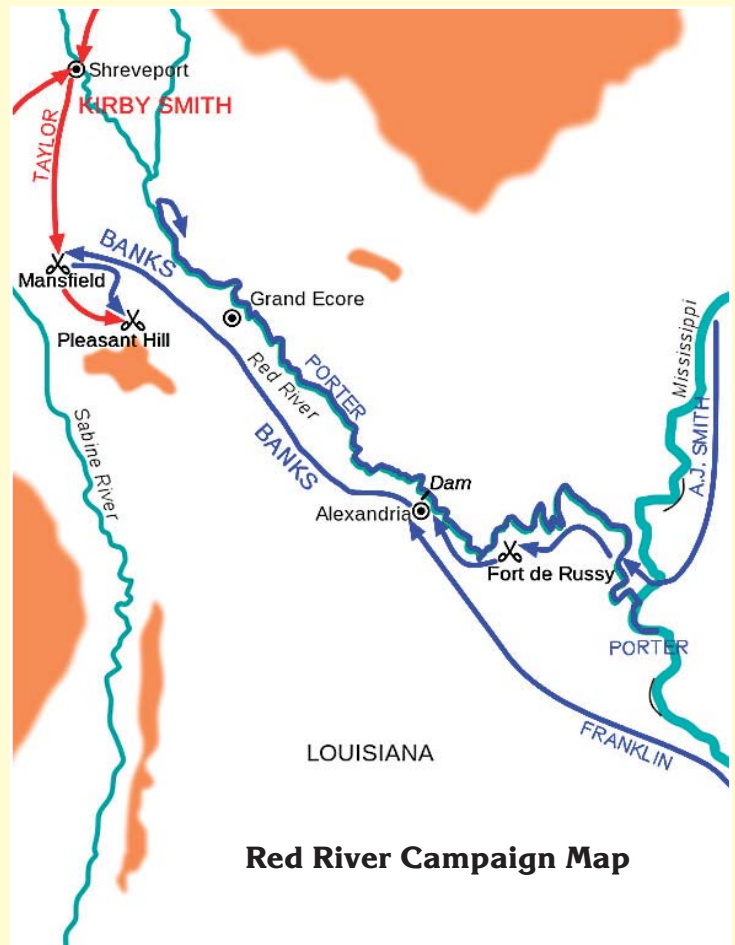
1. Troops from the Department of the Gulf, commanded by Maj Gen Banks, consisting of two infantry divisions from the XIII Corps, two infantry divisions from the XIX Corps, a cavalry division, and a brigade of US Colored Troops. In total approximately 20,000 men.
2. 10,000 men from XVI Corps and XVII Corps from the Army of the Tennessee under A.J. Smith.
3. The Mississippi flotilla of the US Navy, commanded by Admiral Porter, consisting of ten ironclads, three monitors, eleven tinclads, one timberclad, one ram, and numerous support vessels.

4. 7,000 men under General Steele in the Department of Arkansas.

### Confederacy

Confederate forces consisted of elements from the Trans-Mississippi Department, commanded by E. Kirby Smith.

1. District of West Louisiana, commanded by Richard Taylor, contained approximately 10,000 men consisting of two infantry divisions, two cavalry brigades and the garrison of Shreveport.
2. District of Arkansas, commanded by Sterling Price, contained approximately 11,000 men consisting of three



**Red River Campaign Map**

infantry divisions and a cavalry division. As the campaign began, Smith ordered two of Price's infantry divisions to move to Louisiana.

3. District of Indian Territory (Oklahoma), commanded by Samuel Maxey, contained approximately 4,000 men in three cavalry brigades.
4. District of Texas, commanded by John Magruder, 15,000 men, mostly cavalry. As the campaign began, Smith ordered Magruder to send as many men as he could. Over the course of the campaign almost 8,000 cavalry came from Texas to aid Taylor in Louisiana; however, it arrived slowly and not all together.
5. The Confederate Navy based in Shreveport had the ironclad CSS Missouri, the gunboat Cotton, and the ram CSS Webb.

### Battles

Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin, commanding the advance

divisions of Banks's Army of the Gulf, began his march from southern Louisiana on March 10. Meanwhile, A. J. Smith and his two corps traveled via boat from Vicksburg down to Simmesport. After an all-night march, Smith's men surprised and captured Fort de Russy on the Red River on March 14, capturing 317 Confederate prisoners and the only heavy guns available to the Confederates. This signaled the beginning of the campaign. Admiral Porter was then able to remove a giant raft blocking the river without much difficulty. Taylor was forced to retreat, abandoning Alexandria, Louisiana, and ceding south and central Louisiana to the Union forces.

A.J. Smith's force arrived at Alexandria on March 20, 1864, intending to rendezvous with Banks's forces, under the immediate command of Franklin. However, Franklin did not arrive at Alexandria until March 25, 1864, and Banks himself, travelling separately from his troops, did not arrive at Alexandria until March 26, 1864. Banks's failure to arrive in a timely manner for his rendezvous with Smith was the first of many logistical miscues that caused much acrimony between Banks and his subordinates during the campaign. While he waited for Banks to arrive, Smith sent Brigadier General Joseph Mower on a successful mission to capture much of Taylor's cavalry and his outpost upriver from Alexandria at Henderson's Hill on March 21. Nearly 250 Confederates and a four gun artillery battery were captured without a shot being fired.

When he arrived at Alexandria, Banks found an important message waiting for him. Two weeks earlier, on March 12, 1864, General Ulysses S. Grant had been named General-in-Chief of the Union Army, replacing Halleck. In Grant's message, he told Banks it was "important that Shreveport be taken as soon as possible" because A.J. Smith's command must be returned to Sherman by the middle of April "even if it leads to the abandonment of the main object of your expedition."

Kirby Smith had nearly 80,000 men to call upon but was yet undecided where to move them to counter the three Union forces now known to be moving toward Shreveport. Taylor would never fight with more than 18,500 men throughout the entire campaign.

By March 31, Banks's men had reached Natchitoches, only 65 miles south of Shreveport. Franklin's men had been delayed most of a week by rain, but it had not mattered because Admiral Porter had a similar delay trying to get his heaviest gunboats over the falls at Alexandria, which was covered with mines because the river had failed to achieve its seasonal rise in water level. Porter had also spent time gathering cotton in the interior, and Banks conducted an election in the interim. Taylor now stationed himself 25 miles northwest at Pleasant Hill, still with fewer than 20,000 men. Once Banks had assembled more supplies, he continued advancing a week later.

Constant cavalry and naval skirmishing had been going on since March 21. On April 2, Brig. Gen. Albert Lindley Lee's division of Union cavalry collided with 1,500 arriving Confederate Texas cavalrymen. These Confederates would continue to resist any Union advance. Union intelligence, meanwhile, had determined that there were additional forces besides Taylor and the cavalry up the road from them. All the senior Union officers expressed doubts that there would be any serious Confederate opposition, except for the naval flotilla. Banks' army followed Taylor

and the cavalry into a dense pine forest area away from the river, probably to keep them in their front. Approaching Pleasant Hill, the Union army was excessively long due both to the existence of only a few camping areas with water, and there was no monitoring of the position of the rear elements. Taylor kept moving back toward Shreveport.

### **Battle of Mansfield**

Heavy cavalry fighting, often dismounted, had continued on April 7, at Wilson's Farm and Tenmile Bayou. On April 8, Lee boldly charged a small force of Confederate cavalry at the Moss Plantation, three miles south of Mansfield, Louisiana, and pushed the Confederate horsemen off Honeycutt Hill. Taylor had stationed one infantry division (Mouton) in the woods along the edge of the clearing just north of Honeycutt Hill and east of the road. Seeing this increase in enemy strength, Lee requested infantry support. Landram's 2,400-man division of the 13th Corps was sent to Lee's aid and deployed to face Mouton. Banks went to the front to see for himself. Meanwhile, Taylor brought up a second infantry division (Walker) to the woods on the other side of the road in the middle of the day. The arrival of Walker's division gave Taylor a numeric edge – he had about 9,000 men; Banks had about 5,000 men. More significantly, the Union deployment was aligned to its right, facing Mouton, with only a cavalry brigade holding the left wing.

Taylor had hoped to provoke Banks into attacking him but following an artillery duel he became convinced that the Union army was in disarray and would not attack. Around 4 p.m., Taylor ordered the attack to begin. Brig. Gen. Alfred Mouton led his infantry across an 800-yard wide field and attacked the Union right, formed behind a rail fence. While Mouton's assault was repulsed by Landram's infantry, Taylor advanced the rest of his entire line, including Walker's division, against the Union left. Walker's men brushed aside the lone cavalry brigade, sweeping in behind the rest of the Union forces. Banks had called for additional reinforcements, but they were too late. The Union line collapsed and a significant number of men from Landram's division were captured. A few hundred yards down the road, the reinforcements – Cameron's division – set up a second line, but this line also broke when faced with Taylor's superior numbers. The wagon train of the Union cavalry obstructed the road, resulting in the loss of artillery which could not be extracted in the retreat. However, Confederate soldiers halted to loot some of the Union wagons giving Banks' troops needed time to fall back.

As Confederate command and control was reestablished for the pursuit, the men ran into a third Union force under General William Emory of about 5,800 men sitting atop a ridge overlooking Chatman's Bayou. The Confederates pushed forward, but Emory's division repulsed the attempts to take this location. However, the Union forces did not have control of the precious water in the bayou. During the night, Banks decided to withdraw back to Pleasant Hill because of lack of water and the desire to unite with A. J. Smith's men.

The Battle of Mansfield was over. The Federals suffered approximately 2,400 casualties, almost half of which were from Landram's division – two of his eight regiments were captured in the battle, and both of his brigade commanders were wounded and captured. The Confederates suffered about 1,000 casualties, including Mouton, who was killed leading his men in the opening charge.



### **Battle of Pleasant Hill**

Taylor didn't discover Bank's retreat until dawn the next day; he then ordered an immediate pursuit with Green's cavalry. When they came upon Banks' line of battle near the town of Pleasant Hill, Taylor had the cavalry retreat a mile and wait for the infantry to arrive, which started arriving shortly after noon. Since the infantry had marched forty five miles in thirty six hours, Taylor let them rest for two hours before ordering an attack.

At 4 p.m. the next day Confederate Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Churchill's arriving infantry started the attack on the Union forces. Taylor thought he was sending them into the Union flank, but it was actually the center. Confederate cavalry also miscalculated positions and suffered heavily from flank fire. Churchill's men did succeed in collapsing this Union center position, but this also brought his men into the middle of a U-shaped position, with A. J. Smith's unused divisions forming the base of the "U". Though part of the advanced Union right had also collapsed, the forces of Smith and Mower next launched a counterattack, and joined by neighboring regiments they routed Taylor's men from the vicinity of Pleasant Hill. Some cannon were recaptured.

Short of water and feed for the horses, not knowing where his supply boats were, and receiving divided opinions from his senior officers, Banks ordered a rapid retreat downriver to Natchitoches and Grand Ecore. Both sides at the Battle of Pleasant Hill suffered roughly equal casualties of 1,600. It was a tactical victory for the Federals but a strategic Confederate victory because the Union army retreated following the battle.

### **Smith splits the Confederate forces**

On the river, the Confederates had diverted water into a tributary causing the already low Red River level to fall further. When Admiral Porter, slowly heading upriver, learned that Banks was retreating, he followed suit. There was a brief engagement near Blair's Landing on April 12, in which Confederate cavalry general Thomas Green was decapitated by a naval shell.

At Grand Ecore near Natchitoches, Banks received confidential orders from Grant to move the army to New Orleans. The river also continued to fall, and all the supply boats had to return downriver. Sensing that they were involved in a perceived defeat, Banks's relations deteriorated with the cantankerous A. J. Smith and the navy and with most of the other generals as well.

General Kirby Smith decided to take three infantry divisions from Taylor and lead them north into Arkansas to crush Steele's army, despite General Taylor's strong protests they should be used against Banks. General Steele would never make it to Shreveport, due to supply difficulties and fights with Confederates. The Camden Expedition ended with Steele retreating to Little Rock. Smith left Taylor with one infantry division and the cavalry with which to continue to harass Banks. Learning that some of Taylor's 5,000 men had gotten south of him and that the fleet had left for Alexandria, Banks ordered a retreat from Grand Ecore. At the Battle of Monett's Ferry on April 23, some of Banks's forces crossed the Cane River on the Confederate flank and forced a division of Confederate Cavalry under General Hamilton P. Bee to flee. The rest of the march to Alexandria was unremarkable, but Porter ran into a delay-

ing ambush at the mouth of Cane River after he tarried to blow up the stuck USS Eastport.

### **Banks retreats**

At Alexandria, relations between Banks and many of the others deteriorated further. Each side sent exaggerated accounts to friendly newspapers and supporters. General John McClernand arrived with reinforcements from Texas, and he had also previously had poor relations with A. J. Smith and Porter. Smith obeyed only those orders he wanted to obey.

Porter could not get many of his ironclads over the falls at Alexandria. Colonel Joseph Bailey designed Bailey's Dam, to which Banks soon gave night-and-day attention. Several boats got through before a partial dam collapse. An extra upriver dam provided additional water depth, allowing the march to resume. When the Federals left Alexandria, the town went up in flames, the origins of which are disputed. Because the Confederates had already burned most of the cotton, many speculators at Alexandria were disappointed.

Taylor attempted to fool the Union command into believing many more men were present, but Taylor did not try to stop the dam construction. He did shut down the lower river by attacking boats. Yet though General Taylor had promised to prevent the escape of the Federals, he could not do so. He blamed Kirby Smith for lack of support. En route to the Mississippi, an engagement at Mansura, May 16, was fought with almost no casualties. Yellow Bayou, the final conflict, took place on May 18 with significant casualties in a burning forest. Transport ships were lashed together to allow Union forces to cross the wide Atchafalaya River. General Banks, on arrival near the Mississippi, was met by General Edward Canby, who had been named Banks's superior in a newly created regional department.

### **Conclusion**

The Red River Campaign was a Union failure, the outcome of which did not have a major impact on the war. Conversely, it may have extended the length of the war by several months[citation needed] as it diverted Union efforts from the far more important objective of capturing Mobile, Alabama. That event did not occur until 1865, and could probably have been accomplished by June 1864 if not for the Red River Campaign.

The failure of the campaign effectively ended the military career of Banks, and controversy surrounding his retreat, the presence of cotton speculators and the use of military boats to remove cotton dogged his early postbellum congressional campaigns. Admiral Porter realized a substantial sum of money during the campaign from the sale of cotton as prizes of war.

The Confederates lost two key commanders, Mouton and Green, and suffered casualties they could not afford. Perhaps more importantly, relations between the aggressive Taylor and cautious Smith were permanently damaged by their disagreement over Smith's decision to remove half of Taylor's troops following the battle of Pleasant Hill. The lost opportunity to capture the entire Union fleet as it lay helpless above the falls at Alexandria haunted Taylor to his dying day, certain that Smith had robbed him a chance to cripple the Union forces. The arguments between the two generals resulted in Taylor's transfer to command of the Department of East Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama soon after the campaign ended.

*wikipedia*





## 5 Forks Diorama

Here are some diorama photos for the battle of 5 Forks on April 1, 1865. The first (1) is an overview of the diorama from the perspective of Warren's flank attack. The 5 forks junction is at the lower left while Hatcher's Run is at the top at the end of the main road. The second (2) picture features Sheridan encouraging Joshua Chamberlain's brigade in its successful charge across Sydnor's field. The third (3) photo has Warren redirecting Crawford's lost division back into the battle where they will cut off the main Rebel retreat route. Ironically, this will get Warren removed from command since Sheridan claimed Warren was not at the front. The



final (4) photo has Pickett and some aides taking a break from their shad bake along Hatcher's Run to peer back down the road, trying to figure out what all the commotion is about.

*Jim Heenehan, Member OBCWRT*



Camden County College's, Jack Pesda, introduces upcoming college Lecture Series:  
*America and The Middle East: A Search for Solutions.*  
*Topics in History: America and The Middle East.*  
*Your Body, Your Health: A Comprehensive Examination of the Functioning of the Human Body. Autism Series.*

*A Comprehensive Examination of the Functioning of the Human Body. Autism Series.*



## February 12th Meeting... "Presidential Assassins"

**Hugh Boyle**

Hugh Boyle a good friend and a great historian gave Old Baldy another great presentation on "Presidential Assassins". We were given the reasons these people committed these crimes. We learned their mental makeups, what they had to gain from their crimes, how they plotted the crime and what brought them to these tragic conclusions. How these crimes changed the course of American history and politics. Hugh is one of those people who is always welcome and we hope he comes back many times.

# Coming... an Extraordinary April... 1865

Here is a summary of those events:

**April 1** – Union General Phil Sheridan attacks and routs the rebel forces at Five Forks, Virginia, capturing three brigades.

**April 1** – Confederate General Robert E. Lee begins his final defence.

**April 2** – An assault along the whole line in front of Petersburg, Virginia. Major General Horatio G. Wright, Major General John G. Parke and Major General Edward O.C. Ord break through the rebel lines, and a brilliant victory is achieved. Twelve thousand prisoners and fifty pieces of artillery are taken.

**April 2** – Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet flee the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, which is taken by Union troops the next day.

**April 2** – News received of the burning of the steamer General Lyon, between Wilmington and Fortress Monroe, March 31. Four to five hundred soldiers perished.

**April 2** – Battles of Fort Blakely, Alabama and Selma, Alabama

**April 3** – The Battle at Namozine Church, Virginia (Appomattox Campaign).

**April 3** – The Union forces under Major General Godfrey (Gottfried) Weitzel occupy Richmond, which, with Petersburg was evacuated by the Rebel forces. Rejoicing through the Union States on the fall of Richmond.

**April 4** – Fire in Brooklyn, New York. Several firemen killed.

**April 6** – Major General Philip Henry Sheridan attacks and routs the forces of General Lee and drives them across Saylor's Creek.

**April 6** – Skirmish at High Bridge, Virginia (Appomattox Campaign).

**April 7** – Battle of Farmville, Virginia

**April 9** – Surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee and his whole army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia effectively ending the American Civil War.

**April 10** – Rejoicing throughout the Union States on account of the surrender of Lee and the end of the rebellion.

**April 10** – Appomattox, General Robert E. Lee issues General Order Number 9, his last.

**April 11** – President Abraham Lincoln urges a spirit of generous conciliation during reconstruction.

**April 12** – Mobile, Alabama occupied by the Union forces.

**April 12** – General Stoneman occupies Salisbury, N. C., after a series of victories, having advanced upon the State from the west. Vast amount of military property captured.

**April 13** – Battle of Raleigh, North Carolina.

**April 13** – Sherman's march through Georgia begins.

**April 14** – Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. He is shot while attending an evening performance of the farce *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. by actor and Confederate sympathizer John Wilkes Booth. Doctors move the unconscious President to a bed in a house across the street. An attempted murder of Secretary of State William H. Seward and an attack on his family at his home by Lewis Powell. Seward was badly injured.

**April 14** – The flag removed by General Anderson from Fort Sumter in 1861 is raised by him back at Fort Sumter with appropriate ceremonies.

**April 15** – Death of President Lincoln. The whole country goes into mourning.

**April 15** – Inauguration of Andrew Johnson: President Lincoln dies early this morning from his gunshot wound and Vice President Andrew Johnson becomes the 17th President of the United States.

**April 16** – Great fire in New York. Loss \$2,000,000.

**April 16** – The Battle of Columbus and West Point, Georgia (Fort Tyler).

**April 17** – Mary Surratt is arrested as a conspirator in Lincoln's assassination.

**April 18** – Second great fire in New York. Loss \$1,000,000.

**April 18** – Arrest of Lewis Powell, for the attempt upon the life of Secretary Seward.

**April 18** – Major General William Tecumseh Sherman concludes a treaty with Brigadier General Joseph Eggleston Johnston, which is not ratified. He is ordered to resume hostilities at once.

**April 18** – Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his entire cabinet arrive in Charlotte with a contingent of 1,000 soldiers.

**April 19** – The funeral of President Lincoln at Washington.

**April 21** – The reward now offered for the arrest of John Wilkes Booth is \$150,000.

**April 21** – The remains of the late President are taken from Washington, D.C. to Springfield, Ill., where he is to be laid to rest.

**April 26** – Battle of Durham Station, North Carolina (Greensboro)

**April 26** – Battle of Fort Tobacco, Virginia

**April 26** – Brigadier General Joseph Eggleston Johnson surrenders to the Union force with all the troops in his department (Department of Tennessee) at Durham, North Carolina

**April 26** – Union cavalry cornered John Wilkes Booth in a Virginia barn, and cavalryman Boston Corbett shoots the and kills the assassin. Booth was accompanied by David Edgar Herold who was arrested and later hanged.

**April 27** – The steamboat SS Sultana, carrying 2,300 passengers, explodes and sinks in the Mississippi River, killing 1,700, most of whom were Union survivors of the Andersonville, Georgia and Cahaba, Alabama Prisons.

**April 29** – President Andrew Johnson declares Thursday, June 1, as a day of National humiliation and prayer.

**April 30** – Plot discovered to burn the city of Philadelphia.

## Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours

The program coordinator of Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours based in Chambersburg, PA, would appreciate your help in spreading the word about our 2015 seminars to your Civil War Round Table!

We understand how important Civil War Round Tables are in preserving our Civil War history, and we offer a special Civil War Roundtable discount of 10% off when three or more Civil War Roundtable members register for our complete weekend package at one of our 2015 tours.

**Please call with any questions or to receive the discount: (717) 264-7101 ext. 206.**



Our 2015 seminars are listed below and more information about our seminars can be found at [www.civilwarseminars.org](http://www.civilwarseminars.org). If you would like more information, or are interested in us mailing hard copies of our brochures to your Round Table, please contact me.

**"Ed Bearss Symposium:  
Leadership and Combat in the Civil War"  
April 10-12, 2015**

This event features speakers and guides including Ed Bearss, Dennis Frye, Tom Huntington, Perry Jamieson, Wayne Motts, John Priest, Dr. Richard Sommers, and others. The weekend will include sessions and a bus tour of Gettysburg. Based in Chambersburg, PA and back by popular demand.

**"On the Trail of Those Damn Black Hats:  
Weekend with Lance Herdegen and the Iron Brigade"  
May 15-17, 2015**

Weekend will include a bus and walking tour of South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburg along with sessions by Lance Herdegen, Tom Clemens, Gordon Dammann, Joe Mieczkowski, Dan Welch and others. Based in Chambersburg, PA.

**"The End of the War:  
Richmond, Petersburg, and Appomattox"  
July 22-26, 2015**

Join Dr. Richard Sommers, Dr. James "Bud" Robertson, Ed Bearss, Robert E. L. Krick, Lt. Col. Ralph Peters, Chris Calkins, Ted Alexander, and many others as we explore 1864 and 1865 battle sites. Based in Richmond, VA.

**"Lincoln"  
Sept. 24-27, 2015**

Join Ed Bearss, Bob Allen, Dr. Edward Steers, and others with bus tours of Gettysburg, the John Wilkes Booth Escape tour, and sessions by leading Lincoln historians. Based in Chambersburg, PA.

**Old Baldy is invited to help out.  
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.

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.

So save Saturday, April 25, 2015 for our next adventure. Email: Ed Root at [sartilly@hotmail.com](mailto:sartilly@hotmail.com).

*Ed Root - Eastern PA CWRT*

**Old Baldy CWRT Trip  
to Woodlands Cemetery  
in West Philadelphia**

**Location: 4000 Woodland Ave,  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
Date: Saturday, June 13, 2015  
Time: 10:00 AM to about Noon  
Cost: \$10.00 Per Person (Cemetery Charge)  
Cemetery Tour Guide: Jim Mundy**



The Woodlands 54-acre undulating landscape is a one-of-a-kind 18th-century English pleasure garden and 19th-century rural cemetery that is designated a National Historic Landmark District in recognition of its unique history and rich resources.

Actively used today, the cemetery, mansion, landscape, and programs are an educational resource for local school children, university students and motivated scholars seeking further understanding of American architectural and botanical history. There are over 1,000 trees and over 32,000 people buried at the historic cemetery.

**Just A Few Notable Burials at Woodlands Cemetery**

- John Joseph Abercrombie** (1798-1877), Civil War general
- Hartman Bache** (1798-1872), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general
- David B. Birney** (1825-1864), Civil War Union major general
- Sylvester Bonaffon, Jr.** (1844-1922), Civil War Medal of Honor recipient
- Joseph A. Campbell** (1817-1900), businessman, founder of Campbell Soup Company
- Edward Coles** (1786-1868), 2nd governor of Illinois, private secretary to Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison
- Thomas Cripps** (1840-1906), Civil War Medal of Honor
- Francis Anthony Drexel** (1824-1885), father of Saint Katharine Drexel
- Thomas Eakins** (1844-1916), artist
- John Ely** (1816-1869), Civil War Union brevet major general
- Clement Finley** (1797-1879), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general
- Alice Fisher** (1839-1888), nursing pioneer at the former Philadelphia General Hospital
- James Gwyn** (1828-1906), Civil War Union brevet major-general
- Charles Herring** (1829-1889), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general
- John Lane** (1831-1903), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general

**Please fill out and send application on page 12 to:**

**Old Baldy CWRT: C/O Bob Russo,  
15 Lakeview Place, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003**

**Questions: [rjrusso58@yahoo.com](mailto:rjrusso58@yahoo.com)**

## Woodlands Cemetery Tour Application

Please Send Payment of \$10.00, Check or Cash to:  
Old Baldy CWRT:  
C/O Bob Russo, 15 Lakeview Place, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003  
Questions: rjrusso58@yahoo.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**March 12th meeting... Get ready for an interesting and informative presentation by our member Herb Kaufman on The Medical Treatment of Our Assassinated Presidents.**

### Major General George G. Meade (1815 – 1872) "Victor of the Battle of Gettysburg" Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of his Birth

The General Meade Society of Philadelphia in conjunction with a number of Philadelphia based Civil War history related organizations is planning a special tribute for George G. Meade during his 200th Anniversary year. There will be ceremonies, history symposiums, tours, and a formal dinner hosted at the Union League. The year will culminate on Meade's 200th Birthday at his final resting place in Philadelphia at Laurel Hill Cemetery on December 31, 2015. A splendid tribute is planned. All fans of General Meade and Civil War history are invited to participate in the following:

**Annual General Meade Spring Trip** "Meade Sites in Philadelphia" – Saturday, May 2, 2015, itinerary: Meade family dwellings in Old City and Center City; Meade graves in Old St. Mary's Catholic Church, Meade's office on Girard Avenue; Union League Meade Collection; Meade monuments and memorials in Philadelphia; Buffet lunch at McGillin's Old Ale House; if time allows – Grand Army of the Republic Museum's Meade and Old Baldy Rooms; Meade family graves at Laurel Hill Cemetery. Departs 8:00 a.m. from Laurel Hill Cemetery and returns to Laurel Hill at 5:00 p.m. for refreshments. \$60.00 per person includes bus, driver tip, lunch and post tour reception. Contact Jerry McCormick at gedwinmc@msn.com or 215-848-7753.

**Annual General Meade Birthday Celebration** – Thursday, December 31, 2015, will mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of General Meade and his and Margaretta's 176th anniversary wedding anniversary. The General Meade Society of Philadelphia will celebrate these events at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, where the victor of the Battle of Gettysburg is buried. A military parade and ceremony will commence at 12 noon. Military and civilian living historians are encouraged to participate. Visitors and participants are asked to gather at the Gatehouse at 11:30 a.m. A champagne toast and reception will follow the ceremony. A tour of the cemetery will be offered. For directions, call 215-228-8200.

WEB Site: <http://oldbaldycwrt.org>

Email: [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)

Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

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

**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)

**May 14 – Thursday**  
**Civil War Women: Nurses, Leaders, Soldiers, & Spies**  
Bob Silverman & Diana Newman (Scheier Brothers)  
(Historians)

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)  
Dave Gilson - 856-547-8130 - [ddsghh@comcast.net](mailto:ddsghh@comcast.net)

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Blackwood Campus - Connector Building  
Room 101 Forum, Civic Hall, Atrium  
856-427-4022 [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)  
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Herb Kaufman  
Dave Gilson

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