

# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

June 11, 2015 The One Hundred and Fiftieth Year of the Civil War

## *The Battle of Gettysburg: Where Were the Women?*

*Jane Peters Estes*



Join us on **Thursday, June 11th** at **7:15 PM** at **Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building - Room 101** for a presentation on **"The Battle of Gettysburg: Where Were the Women?"** by **Jane Peters Estes**

From the best known to the most obscure, this program discusses the many roles filled by women during the deadliest battle of the Civil War. With information gleaned from diaries, letters, and newspapers of the period, many parts of this program are told in the actual words of the women who lived through the battle.

**Jane Peters Estes** has been a living historian and active member of Delaware Valley region historical organizations for almost 30 years. Her current affiliations include: Historical Military Impressions, GAR Museum, 26th and 28th PA Volunteers, Mount Holly Historical Society, New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association, General Meade Society, and the Union Patriotic League. She has had articles published in Civil War Lady Magazine, Citizen's Companion Magazine, Philadelphia Bride Magazine, and People Magazine.

Jane last shared some of her expertise with members of OBCWRT in 2011 when she presented "Christmas Past," a delightful overview of the origins of many of our Christmas traditions. Her many programs and presentations include: Civil War Nurses, Fashions of the 1860s, Grave Matters (Victorian Mourning Customs), Wedding Customs and Traditions, Women's Lifestyles of the 1860's, Vivandieres, Pets of the Past, and The Battle of Gettysburg: Where Were the Women?

*The History of the  
Old Baldy Civil War Round Table  
by Mike Cavanaugh... page 7*

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

It is graduation season and summer will soon be upon us as the weather is heating up. May was a busy month for area events. At those events, we shared our message, met some fine folks and identified presenters who will visit us next year. It was good to see **Faith** and **Mark Hintzen** and **Kathy Clark** at the Civil War concert in Manalapan. **Bob Russo** led our display team to Manor Day and our Round Table was represented at the Memorial Day Hancock wreath presentation. Thank you to **Debbie Holdsworth** for the wreath. Look for articles on these events in this newsletter. If you are attending any activities or events in the next months, provide **Don Wiles** a short write up for a future newsletter.

At our last meeting, half of the **Scheier Brother** team enlightened us on Civil War Women. This month we welcome back those members who were away when **Jane Peters Estes** joins us to talk about the women at the Battle of Gettysburg on June 11th. We look forward to **Jim Heenehan** joining us regularly now that he has retired. Bring a friend to enjoy our gatherings.

Our website is five years old this month and our master **Hal Jespersen** does an excellent job keeping us informed and up to date. Check out those wearing the new clothing line at the next meeting. If you are interested in submitting a group order, bring your checkbook.

There are still a few spaces left on our tour of Woodland Cemetery on June 13th. The Membership Team is almost finished with the membership list. Our Facebook page has over 410 likes. The Book Award committee is restructuring and will have news in July. We are working on grant pro-

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

posals to obtain funds for our symposium next year.

As our Round Table continues to prosper and expand we are exploring opportunities to be out in the community

## Today in Civil War History

### Tuesday June 11, 1861 Wheeling Wrestles With Withdrawal

While Stonewall Jackson was fighting to keep the Yankees from retaking Virginia, a part of it was starting to slip out of his grasp already. Western Virginia had voted heavily against secession before the war, reflecting the deep social and economic divisions between the mountainous West and the tidewater East. Today a group of pro-Unionists held a very quietly organized meeting in Wheeling, just across the river from Ohio. The purpose of the gathering was to set up a secession from the Secessionists, and most of the membership later held office in the new state of West Virginia.

### Wednesday June 11, 1862 Miserable Menu Makes Men Mad

Private John Jackman of the Orphan Brigade kept a diary during his war years, which remains popular and in print today. His note for this day may be of interest, particularly to those who cook under Civil War conditions. "Edibles are running low in camp--bill of fare: corn-bread, pickled beef, fat back--and molasses. Sometimes we get something from the country people. Prices current: Spring chickens, 50 to 75 cts.; tough hens, 80 cts. to \$1; old roosters, \$1 to \$1.25; old ganders, \$1.50; goose, same; vegetables, 50 cts for peeping over the fence into the garden!"

### Thursday June 11, 1863 Vexatious Vallandigham Vote Victorious

Clement Vallandigham had been a duly elected member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio. He was so dedicated to peace, and opposed to a war of reunification that Lincoln had ordered him exiled to the Confederacy. They didn't want him either and sent him to Canada. Today he was nominated for President by the Peace Democratic Party at their convention in Ohio. The fact that he was liable to arrest if he stepped foot back in America seemed to bother no one.

### Saturday June 11, 1864 Hated Hunter Harms Historic Habitations

U.S. Gen. David Hunter was in the middle of a campaign in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia that would make Sherman's March Through Georgia pale in comparison. While Phil Sheridan was busy fighting the Battle of Trevilian Station, claimed by some to be the biggest cavalry battle of the War, to join him, Hunter was busy in Lexington. First he burned the Virginia Military Institute, most of whose faculty, staff and students were off serving the Confederacy. He then committed depredations on historic Washington College, including, allegedly, stabling his men's horses in the main building. The major military consequence of this was that Hunter's delay allowed Jubal Early to join forces with Breckinridge at Lynchburg.

[www.civilwarinteractive.com](http://www.civilwarinteractive.com)

sharing out message, to travel to interesting Civil War sites and host projects that help preserve the heritage of the Civil War. We hope to soon setup a fundraising team to generate funds for projects, events and preservation. Please forward your comments and suggestions to a Board member to be discussed.

If you are unable to join us on the 11th, have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day weekend. Be sure to bring us some good stories at the July meeting.

*Come to the Lamp Post Diner for a pre-meeting meal.*

*Rich Jankowski, President*

*Kathy Clark OBCWRT Member*

## Manalapan Music Muster: The Civil War in Song

I have always enjoyed listening to Civil War music for the songs in themselves tell a story. The words and music both helped raise the spirits of the soldiers as well as give direction before or during the battle. Music



was as necessary as having a gun or food to eat. I decided to travel to the Monmouth County Library on Saturday, May 16, 2015 to attend the Manalapan Music Muster. It was an entire day of music with seven different presenters with many stories to tell. Rich Mendoza of the Libby Prison Minstrels was emcee and keynote speaker was Dr. David Martin. Between musical groups Dr. Martin talked about how music helped bring the troops together both in the field and in camp. From Civil War Music came the development of American folk music. His talk was very enlightening.

The event started with pianist Helen Beedle in a beautiful period dress ready to dance to one of her pieces called a "Gallop". It made you want to tap your feet and get up and dance. Other works were "Home Sweet Home", a waltz, some Irish folk music, and "Godshaw's Banjo". This tune was played during the time of the battle of Gettysburg but was not able to be played in Northern concerts while the battle was playing out in Pennsylvania.

Second group to perform were The Irish Volunteers Civil War Band. They started with a wonderful rendition of the "Battle Cry of Freedom". They did an Irish jig, "Golden Slippers", and "Red Wing" played with



*The Irish Volunteers Civil War Band*

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a hammer dulcimer. The dulcimer is an interesting instrument to listen to and quite unique along with the pony banjo which was used to play "Shorten Bread". This was a very entertaining group.

The next group was "The Susquehanna Travellers" who traveled from York, PA to perform. The song "Abraham's Body" which was a recruiting song. They also did "Wayfare Traveler" from the movie Cold Mountain. There were a few war and fighting song along with "Shenandoah" which is one of my favorite song. I had never heard the group before and was delighted with their music.

From Ohio came Steve Bell and Lisa Williams on a bass violin. Steve was playing an 1851 Martin guitar model 26. They played "Darling Nelly Gray" and a toe tapping rendition of "Dixie". Everyone got to their feet and were singing along. There were a few inaugural songs from the 1861 confederate election, "Tenting Tonight on the Old Camp Grounds", and ended with the "Battle Hymn of the Republic". An interesting fact about Steve and Lisa is that they are going to be married in the near future and hopefully will be together singing for a lifetime.

Jed Marum



The Susquehanna Travellers

Joe Becton

ments were made to have Jed come from Texas to perform and it was truly appreciated by all who heard him sing.

There were two more presenters starting with The Libby Prison Minstrels and then Joe Becton. The Libby Prison Minstrels began with the "Battle Cry of Freedom", "Send in the Old Union Wagon" and "Irish Volunteer" election songs of 1861. "Patty's Lamintation" and a

Steve Bell



The Libby Prison Minstrels



Manalapan Music Muster

tune taken from "Listening to the Mockingbird" called "Listen to the Mini Ball" which was played at the battle of Vicksburg. Joe Becton played a medley of fiddle tunes including "Marching to Georgia". He also played a few tunes using his harmonica.

Jed Marum all the way from Dallas, Texas was the next performer. He wrote the music for the movie "The Road to Valhalla" which will be playing in the fall of this year. He did some music from the movie as well as "Swing Home Sweat Chariots" and other tones of the times. Special arrange-

It was a beautiful day of music and well worth the travel to see all these groups perform. It was all made possible by the NJ Civil War heritage Association and a grant from the NJ Council of the Humanities.

# Manor Day May 17, 2015

Bob Russo OBCWRT Member

On May 17 the heat and high humidity made for a warm 2015 Living History Day at Manor College in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. However, the weather didn't spoil the event and those who attended had some interesting options to choose from.

Once again Old Baldy Civil War Round Table proudly expressed our Civil War interests. **Harry Jenkins, Kathy Clark, and Priscilla Gabosch** gave generously of their time as did **Rich Jankowski** once again walking around, meeting and greeting many of our friends. While the event wasn't heavily attended it was an enjoyable time and we did speak with some visitors who wanted to hear about our namesake, his history and our Round Table.

Unfortunately, many of the people we met were from well outside the south Jersey area and unlikely to visit us. However, **Don Wiles** beautifully designed brochures still found their way into the hands of various visitors. We also had the pleasure of setting up near our friends from the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table and enjoyed that camaraderie throughout the day.

Old Baldy members **Kerry Bryan, John Voris, and Herb Kaufman** were also present during the day as Featured Presenters, as Mrs. Elizabeth Hutter; abolitionist and nurse, John Nicolay; President Lincoln's Secretary, and Dr. H. Earnest Goodman; the Regimental Surgeon of the 28th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The day also provided



appearances by Harriet Tubman, John Hay, Commodore Percival Drayton and the men of Company C, 28th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The Fort Delaware Society, GAR Museum and Library and other area historical societies were also present.



The members of Old Baldy Civil War Round Table can once again be proud of the great job done by our members in support of your Round Table. The history of Old Baldy, the horse, and Old Baldy, the Round Table, were both enthusiastically spoken about during the day. I remain proud and thankful for the founders and those that carried the organization through the years to get us to this point in our history. For me, it's an absolute honor and a joy to work at these events promoting Old Baldy Civil War Round Table and I also greatly enjoy my conversations with our members and other visitors.

At the moment, we are working on getting a spot at the Mullica Hill Civil War Reenactment in October. This is a two day event and we hope once our participation is confirmed that you will be able to give us an hour or two of your time at the event. Please look for additional information in the future. This event presents a strong opportunity for us to talk with potential members in our own backyard and I'm looking forward to that opportunity!

## Those women of Gettysburg

*Editor's Note: To go along with the subject of our June meeting the May issue of the newsletter had some information on the part women played at Gettysburg... mostly as Nurses. I have expanded in this issue a little of the part played by Elizabeth C. Thorn. She was the model used for the Monument to the Women who played a large part in the Battle and it's aftermath. I also added some interesting information about a little known caring lady of Gettysburg... Lydia Hamilton Smith.*

### Elizabeth C. Thorn

At the time of the Battle of Gettysburg, Elizabeth



Thorn was caretaker of Evergreen Cemetery, a job normally performed by her husband Peter but he was away serving in the Union Army. Her elderly parents and her three small sons were living with her in the cemetery gatehouse, and she was six months pregnant. The cemetery grounds were littered with dead soldiers and horses, and it was her responsibility to bury them.

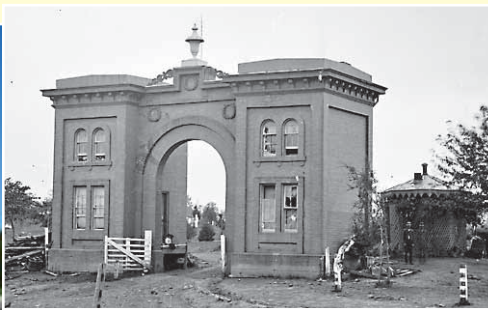
*Image: Elizabeth Thorn Monument This 7-foot bronze statue created by sculptor Ron Tunison of Cairo, New York, depicts a weary Elizabeth Thorn, leaning on a shovel as she rests from her work. The memorial was dedicated in November 2002 and honors the contributions of all women who served before, during and after the Battle of Gettysburg.*



Peter and Elizabeth Thorn emigrated from Germany and were married on September 1, 1855, the same day the cornerstone was laid for the

Evergreen Cemetery gatehouse. The Thorns were the first family to live in the gatehouse when Peter was hired as the

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Evergreen Cemetery Gatehouse July 1863

Evergreen Cemetery Gatehouse Today  
first caretaker of the 30-acre Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on February 9, 1856. There are 13,000 burial plots, 300 of which are from the Civil War.

On August 16, 1862 Peter Thorn enlisted in the 138th Pennsylvania Infantry, leaving the care of the cemetery to his German-born wife Elizabeth, age 30. She also had the responsibility of caring for their three sons and her elderly parents.

The cemetery gatehouse was home to the Thorns. Each side of the stone and brick structure had a cellar, where the fireplaces were located, and there were two rooms above. The north gatehouse was built with a first-floor living room and an upstairs bedroom, which was Elizabeth Thorn's room.

Battle of Gettysburg At the time of the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, Elizabeth was pregnant. Peter was serving with the 138th Pennsylvania which was at Harpers Ferry and Washington, DC during the Gettysburg Campaign. Her parents, age 63, and her three sons, age 7, 5, and 2, were living with her in the cemetery gatehouse.

By the summer of 1863, the cemetery had become well established, and the height on which it was located had become known as Cemetery Hill. During the Battle of Gettysburg, it served as a major position of the Union Army of the Potomac.

On July 1, Elizabeth Thorn rode with Union General Oliver O. Howard along the lines on the evening of July 1st, pointing out to him the main roads radiating from Gettysburg.

So at last they came to the Cemetery House and wanted a man to go along out with them (a young boy was there about thirteen years, and I thought he was too young, and my father was too old) I offered myself to go along. He refused at first, but I thought there was danger all around, and said I wasn't afraid so he said 'Come on.'

I showed him the Harrisburg Road, the York Pike, and the Hunterstown Road. It was with one of General Howard's men that I went. Then he took me back home. He said, 'They will commence very heavy firing now, walk on the other side of my horse.' And so as soon as I jumped on our porch he went back again.

By her account, she also served supper to three Union

corps commanders - Howard, Henry Slocum, and Daniel Sickles:

Soon one of General Howard's men came and ordered me to have supper for General Howard. I complained I had no bread, for I had given it all away in the morning. But I said I could make cakes, and he said they were good enough for war times.

They did not come for so long, it was near twelve o'clock. The house was so full of soldiers that the boys had to lay on the floor in the kitchen, on feather beds. And as they saw the children lying there, they said it was very sad.

About four o'clock we went to the cellar. There were seventeen of us [other civilians]... We were in the cellar about two or three hours. The noise of the cannonading was terrible. At last the door flew open and someone said: 'This family is commanded by General

Howard to leave this house and get as far in ten minutes as possible. Take nothing up but the children and go.'

After three days of horrific battle, the armies moved on. Evergreen Cemetery and its gatehouse suffered damage from artillery shells and the thousands of men and horses who tramped through it during and after the fighting.

Under the broiling sun, hundreds of corpses lay strewn about the fields of Gettysburg. The subsequent days and nights were filled with the screams and mutterings of thirsty, dying men on the battlefield.

The smell of decaying flesh permeated the air. The citizens wrapped rags around their faces, and some smeared camphor ointment beneath their nostrils, trying to mask the putrid smell.

Elizabeth wrote:

We were down the country four days and the fifth (July 7) we went home. On the way home, we met Mr. McConaughy. He was the president of the Cemetery at that time and he said to me: 'Hurry on home, there is more work for you than you are able to do.' So we hurried on home. When we looked at the house I could only say 'O my!'

There were no window glass in the whole house. Some of the frames were knocked beside the pump shed. I went to the cellar to look for the good things I had put there on the first night. One chest was packed with good German linen, others packed with other good things—everything was gone, but three featherbeds and they were full of blood and mud.

After I had dragged them out of the cellar I asked an officer who was riding by, if I would ever get any pay for things spoiled like this. He asked me what it was, and I told him bed clothes that were in the cellar, and he said in a very short way: 'No!' So as soon as the pump was fixed I sent for three women and we washed for four days before we got them clean.

The cemetery was littered with bodies of dead men and horses. After seeing the bodies, the president of the cemetery, attorney David McConaughy, ordered Elizabeth to



A Memorial Marker in Evergreen Cemetery for the Women and Children of Gettysburg



Elizabeth C. Thorn Sketch

bury them. He picked a plot that faced East Cemetery and Culp's Hills, the rockiest soil in the cemetery.

*Then I got a note from the president of the Cemetery, and he said: 'Mrs. Thorn, it is made out that we will bury the soldiers in our Cemetery for a while, so you go for that piece of ground and commence sticking off lots and graves as fast as you can make them.'*

The mother of three, and six months pregnant, buried 105 soldiers in the July heat. She dug the shallow graves in the rocky ground, assisted at times by her aged parents. Men from the town offered to help, but they could not tolerate the foul smell.

*Well, you may know how I felt, my husband in the army, my father an aged man. Yet for all the foul air we two started in. I stuck off the graves and while my father finished one, I had another one started. This lasted for days, until the boys sent word, if I couldn't get help at all I should telegraph to some of my friends to come and help me.*

*Two came, but one only stayed two days, then got deathly sick and left. The other stayed five days, then he went away very sick, and I had to pay their fare here and very good wages for their work. By that time we had forty graves done. And then father and I had to dig on harder again.*

*[We] kept on burying the soldiers until they had the National Cemetery ready, and in that time we buried one hundred five soldiers. In front of this house there were fifteen dead horses and beside the Cemetery there were nineteen in that field. So you may know it was only excitement that helped me to do all the work, with all that stench.*

The baby Elizabeth was expecting in July 1863 was named Rose Meade, but she was never healthy and died at the age of 14.

*And in three months after I had a dear little baby. But it was not very strong, and from that time on my health failed and for years I was a very sickly woman. In my older days my health has been better, but those hard days have always told on my life.*

In the ensuing months, David McConaughy led efforts to purchase portions of Cemetery Hill for a Federal cemetery, where most of the dead Union soldiers (except those buried by Mrs. Thorn in the civilian graveyard) could be reinterred.

In November 1863, President Abraham Lincoln spoke at the dedication ceremony for the new National Cemetery, delivering the Gettysburg Address from a platform constructed in Evergreen Cemetery.



*The Graves of Elizabeth and Peter Thorn in Evergreen Cemetery*

Elizabeth Thorn continued to run the cemetery until 1865, when her husband returned, after witnessing the surrender of General Robert E. Lee's troops at Appomattox. The family stayed at Evergreen Cemetery until 1874. Her

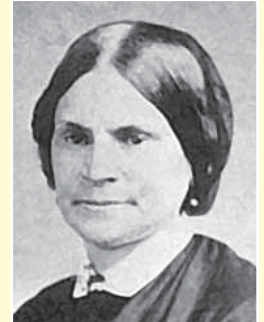
post-war reminiscence, written in 1905, is one of the best known civilian accounts of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Peter and Elizabeth Masser Thorn both died in 1907 and are buried at Evergreen Cemetery. Their adjoining graves are approximately 200 yards from the gatehouse.

*from the Blog of Maggie MacLean*

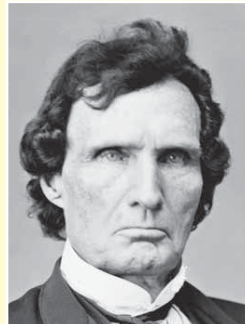
### Lydia Hamilton Smith

A woman of great heart, Lydia Hamilton Smith was born on Valentine's Day at Russell Tavern in Adams County, Pennsylvania, to an African American mother and an Irish father. She married a free black man named Jacob Smith and bore two sons but they separated before he died in 1852 and she raised the children alone.



*Lydia Hamilton Smith Sketch*

Thaddeus Stevens of Lancaster, whom Lydia Smith and her mother knew when he was an attorney and abolitionist in Gettysburg, offered her a position as his housekeeper. She moved there with her young sons in 1847. In 1848 Stevens was elected to the U.S. Congress, where he advocated ending slavery. In recent years, archeologists have discovered evidence that the cistern at his Lancaster house was used as a hiding place for freedom seekers and suspect that Stevens and Smith participated in the Underground Railroad. Smith accompanied Stevens on his trips to Washington, D.C. She was a close friend, included in Stevens's social gatherings and addressed as "Madam" or "Mrs. Smith." A noted artist, probably Charles Bird King, painted her portrait. In 1860 Smith purchased her home from Stevens, on a lot adjacent to his.



*Thaddeus Stevens LOC*

The 1860s brought hardship and Civil War. Lydia Smith's oldest son William died in 1860 and Isaac, a noted banjo player and barber, enlisted in the 6th U. S. Colored Troops in 1863. He and his regiment served primarily in Virginia. After the Battle of Gettysburg in July, Lydia Smith acted upon her compassion for the tens of thousands of wounded soldiers. Driving a borrowed horse and wagon through Adams County to a field hospital, she collected donations of food and clothing and distributed them among the wounded men, Union and Confederate alike.

One person said about Lydia, "She was a poor colored woman who had saved a little money by years of hard labor. After the battle, she hired a wagon and horse and traveled through the farms, telling of the thousands of suffering men. She accepted donations of food and clothing and, when the donations dried up, began spending her own money. Each day, with her wagon heaped high, she turned toward the hospitals; and when she reached them, weary from miles of travel, she began to distribute the articles she had brought. To Union soldiers only? No. Union and Confederate alike. In the latter, she was able to see past their role as warriors who were fighting to perpetuate slavery and view them only as wounded, suffering humans. She continued to provide the

makeshift hospital populations around Gettysburg with food, clothing and delicacies until she had spent her entire life savings."

Smith and Stevens's partnership lasted twenty-four years, until "the Great Commoner" (as Stevens was known in Congress) died in 1868. He left \$5,000 to Smith in his will. She purchased Stevens's home in Lancaster and a large boarding house across from the prestigious Willard Hotel in Washington, DC. She spent most of her time operating the establishment and earned a reputation as an astute businesswoman, but she returned often to Lancaster. Lydia Smith died on Valentine's Day 1884 in Washington, D.C., and was buried in the cemetery of St.



Burial:  
Saint Marys Roman Catholic Cemetery  
Lancaster  
Lancaster County  
Pennsylvania, USA  
Inscription:  
Lydia Hamilton  
Relict of Jacob Smith  
for many years the trusted housekeeper  
of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens  
Born at Gettysburg, Penna. on St. Valentine's Day, 1813.  
Died at Washington, D.C. on St. Valentine's Day, 1884.

Mary's Catholic Church in Lancaster, where she had long been a member.

*from the PlainTruth.com*

## 2015 Memorial Day - Hancock Tomb

The 2015 Memorial Day wreath laying at the General Winfield Scott Hancock tomb was a grand event. The new roof still looks great; thanks to all who assisted in raising funds for it. Our Round Table was represented by **Bill Holdsworth, Harry Jenkins, Jim Heenehan, Walt Lafty, Ed Root, Mike and Susan Cavanaugh** and **President Rich**



**Jankowski.** Once again the Old Baldy wreath was the best of the day thanks to **Debbie Holdsworth** working into the night to complete it in her weakened condition. The tour also visited the graves



of Generals John F. Hartranft, and Samuel K. Zook and the GAR plot with a brief review of the career of each at the gravesite before a wreath was placed at it. Next year a stop at the grave General Adam J. Slemmer may be included after several suggested were received. All are welcomed to attend next year on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.



## History of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

By Mike Cavanaugh

With the after-glow of the wonderful luncheon in January, I began to think back to the beginning of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table and some of the highlights over the past thirty-eight years. Who were the people who made the history of our round table? Looking back on those first days made me smile, laugh, and sometimes, shake my head in disbelief. But there is also sadness remember-



ing those who are no longer with us. They were not only fellow members, they were close friends. With that, I hope to offer some tidbits on the history of our round table in future issues of our newsletter. Let me start at the top.

**Bill Hayes:** was the person who came up with the idea of forming a Civil War round table in Camp 200, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He was the first president and he did the most to organize and direct us to become one of the best known and active round tables in the country. As best as I

can recollect, beside Bill Hayes and myself, these were the people present at the first meeting at Camp 200: **Harvey Wilson, Joe Rzotkiewicz, Warren McGuigan, Herman Poehler, and Clarence Riddle.** Herman and Clarence were officers in Camp 200 but they never attended another meeting and then the Camp was dissolved. But that's a story for another day.

Bill Hayes and I were members of the Philadelphia Police Department assigned to the 25th District along with Harvey Wilson, who was our lieutenant. The first order of business was a vote to name the round table. It was a choice between Old Baldy and General Winfield Scott Hancock. You know who won, but I must admit I voted for the general. No regrets! The first official meeting was held at the Civil War Library and Museum on Pine Street. Dues were set at \$10 per individual, \$15 family, and \$5 student. It was agreed we would meet on the third Thursday of the month throughout the year. Initially the meetings consisted of members presenting programs on their favorite Civil War subject. That being we were a true Civil War round table. And as for this so called round table, it was not uncommon to see a case of beer and maybe a bottle of Rebel Yell whisky or Old Grand Dad bourbon. This, for me, was before I discovered Guinness. I was a late bloomer! This venue, as you can imagine, produced some heated discussions. It never got down to challenging someone to a duel and it was usually forgotten by the next meeting. We probably did not bring in an outside speaker in well over a year. Bill Hayes could always be counted on to liven up the room. He was a big fan of Major General Dan Sickles, commander of the Union Third Corps. Bill's ancestor, Major John P. Dunne of the 115th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was assigned to Sickles' Third Corps. Bill would argue with anyone who criticized Sickles. He stood almost alone in his support of the general and his action at Gettysburg. Some said it was almost impossible to hold a conversation on any subject with Bill Hayes without the name of Dan Sickles coming up. One thing Bill was good at was running field trips. He was one of the most organized people I ever met. On camping trips with our boys everything had to be cleaned and put back into its original box. Bill was the cook and breakfast took forever getting everything just right.

Bill Hayes was promoted to detective in the mid-1990s and



Left to Right: **William Hayes, Tom Monahan, Clarence Riddell, Warren McGuigan, Mike Cavanaugh, Dave Charles, Dr. Nelson Aspen, Herman Poehler, Joe Rzotkiewicz, Russ Pritchard**

retired soon after. He and his wife Ruth relocated near Orlando, Florida. He worked for the "Mouse" for several years. I hear from him and Ruth by email now and then, but I don't believe he is in good health.

Joe planned to write a book on the subject but, as far as I know, he never did. I believe he had a degree in political science, but ended up working as a clerk in the Pennsylvania State Store system.

Joe loved Gettysburg and Bill Frassanito, the famous Civil War photography expert and author. He was known to knock on Bill's door on Baltimore Street any day or night ignoring the absence of a "welcome" mat. Bill Frassanito was not a warm and fuzzy guy. He went to bed usually after three in the morning and awoke well into the afternoon - ala Winston Churchill. When we dedicated the John Gibbon statue on the 125th Anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg, Bill was invited to say a few words. He asked what time the program would start. When we told him 9:30 a.m. he gracefully declined. I ran into Joe and his son at the Camp Geiger Civil War Days in Whitehall, Pennsylvania a few years back. Meeting my wife Susan for the first time, he gave her a big hug. He was still the same old Joe.



**Harvey Wilson and Dr. Nelson Aspen**

**Harvey Wilson:** was one of my most favorite people ever. He had hundreds of stories about the Civil War, the Police Department, World War II, and life in general. Harvey was a World War II veteran serving in the Army Air Corps as a photographer. He shot photos from a B-29 in the aftermath of the Atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Harvey had his own copies which he proudly would show to anyone interested. He loved to visit all the Civil War battlefields but his favorite, by far, was Antietam. When any talk turned to the major battlefields

- especially Antietam - Harvey called that the "thick stuff." However, when the conversation turned to some obscure Civil War event or personality Harvey would politely interrupt with "Can we get to the thick stuff?"



I remember we used to visit battlefields crowded into a medium size car. Harvey became friends with a local International Harvester dealer (are they still in business?) in our police district. They had a nine passenger van perfect for battlefield trips. One day Harvey's friend said why not take the van for a test drive over the weekend. We did - to Petersburg, Virginia! 802 miles! Thankfully Harvey's friend was okay with it. He did say, however, in thirty-five years in the business it was the longest test drive he could remember.

Harvey was old school, a real gentleman. My wife referred to others in the round table as "Your Civil War friends!" But she loved Harvey. After I transferred to Highway Patrol I lost touch with him. His health failed and I deeply regretted not seeing him in the end. He was not the same old Harvey Wilson and, at that time, I could not handle it. He passed away in October 1991.

**Warren McGuigan:** a close friend of Bill Hayes was sort of a mystery man. Warren listed his occupation as a "security specialist." He was always well armed. Better than Har-

vey, Bill and I put together. The crown jewels of his collection included a NRA Match M-1 Garand rifle and a NRA Match Army 45 semi-automatic pistol. The last we heard of Warren he was working somewhere in the Middle East. He was on a bus traveling between countries when it was stopped by a band of robbers (This was well before 9-11) and they took everything but the clothes on his back. Thank heavens he was not injured or killed. Fortunately Bill Hayes had possession of Warren's guns. I don't believe anybody has heard from him since. It would be great to hear from him again and know he is OK. He is a great guy and a good Old Baldy member. By the way, his Civil War ancestors were from West Virginia which he loved to talk about. But sorry Warren, this would not be acceptable in Harvey Wilson's definition of "thick stuff."

**Note:** Hope you enjoy the articles. Let me know if you have any questions, comments, and yes, criticisms.

**Next Issue:** We will talk about early members who had the greatest impact on the development of our round table.

Mike

## Clement Laird Vallandigham delivered to the Confederacy.

Union Correspondence, Orders, Etc., Relating To Prisoners Of War And State From December 1, 1862, To June 10, 1863

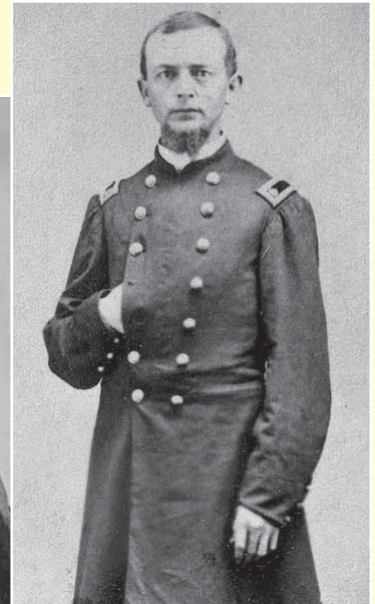
*Office Provost-Marshal-General,  
Murfreesborough, May 5, 1863.  
Brigadier-General GARFIELD,  
Chief of Staff, Department of the Cumberland.*

*General: As directed by the major-general commanding I proceeded at 11 p. m. yesterday with a guard of six men to the railroad depot and received the person of C. L. Vallandigham, a prisoner from the Department of the Ohio, conducted him to my office and after furnishing him with refreshments I in company with Col. J. C. McKibin, aide-de-camp, and with two companies of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry as escort conveyed him to the house of Mr. Butler five miles south from Murfreesborough on the Shelbyville pike, where the prisoner was kept under close guard until daylight when we proceeded as far as to our cavalry vedettes. Here the escort was halted and the prisoner left in charge of Lieutenant-Colonel Ducat, inspector-general of the department.*

*Colonel McKibbin and myself proceeded under flag of truce to the Confederate cavalry vedettes, when Colonel McK. sent a note to the Officer commanding outpost informing him of the object of our visit. We remained there nearly two hours when the officer in command (Colonel Webb, Alabama cavalry) appeared and stated that Mr. Vallandigham would not be received under a flag of truce or in any official manner, but that if he were set beyond our lines and approached those of the Confederate Army to request admittance he would be received and treated as any other citizen. Feeling that it was necessary to dispose of him within the rebel lines I*



Clement Laird Vallandigham



Provost Marshal General  
Major William McKinley Wiles

*insisted upon the permission and it was granted to take him within a short distance of their lines where I delivered him to an orderly sent from the rebel lines to receive him. In the presence of Captain Goodwin and myself Mr. Vallandigham delivered himself up as a prisoner, stating that he was a citizen of the State of Ohio and the United States of America.*

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

WM. M. WILES,

*Major and Provost-Marshal-General.*

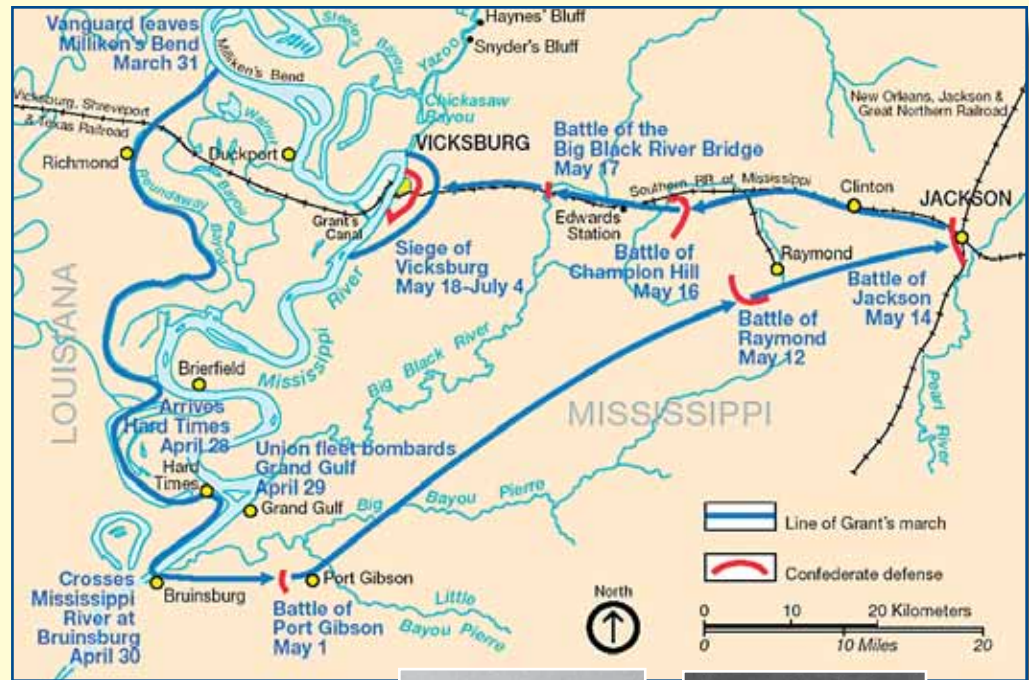
OR Army, Series II, Volume 5, Prisoners of War, Etc., Pages 705, 706.

# The Battle of Champion Hill

## May 16, 1863

Grant's Vicksburg Campaign Map

Map by Hal Jepersen



The Battle of Champion Hill, fought May 16, 1863, was the pivotal battle in the Vicksburg Campaign of the American Civil War. Union commander Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and the Army of the Tennessee pursued the retreating Confederate Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton and defeated his army twenty miles to the east of Vicksburg, Mississippi, leading inevitably to the Siege of Vicksburg and surrender. The battle is also known as Bakers Creek.

### Background

Following the Union occupation of Jackson, Mississippi, on May 14, both Confederate and Federal forces made plans for future operations. General Joseph E. Johnston, commanding all Confederate forces in Mississippi, retreated with most of his army up the Canton Road. However, he ordered Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton, commanding three divisions totaling about 23,000 men, to leave Ed-



Monument for the Battle of Champion Hill

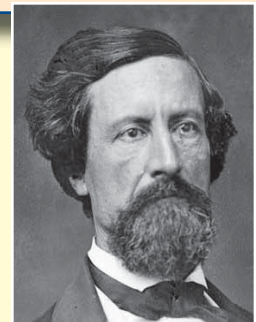
wards Station and attack the Federals at Clinton. Pemberton and his generals felt that Johnston's plan was likely to result in disaster and decided instead to attack the Union supply trains moving from Grand Gulf to Raymond. On May 16, however, Pemberton received another message from Johnston repeating his former orders. Pemberton had already started after the supply trains and was on the Raymond-Edwards Road, with his rear at a crossroads one-third mile south of the crest of Champion Hill. When he obediently ordered a countermarch, his rear, including his supply wagons, had become the vanguard of his attack.

### Battle

At about 7:00 a.m. that day, May 16, Union forces engaged the Confederates and the Battle of Champion Hill began. Pemberton's force formed into a three mile (5 km)-long defensive line that ran southwest to northeast along a crest of a ridge overlooking Jackson Creek. Grant wrote in his Personal Memoirs, "... where Pemberton had chosen his position to receive us, whether taken by accident or design,



Major General, USA  
Ulysses S. Grant



Lieutenant General, CSA  
John C. Pemberton



was well selected. It is one of the highest points in that section, and commanded all the ground in the range." Pemberton was unaware that one of the three Union columns was moving along the Jackson Road against his unprotected left flank on Champion Hill. Pemberton posted Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Lee's Alabama brigade on Champion Hill where they could watch



Continued on page 11



Brigadier General, CSA  
Loyd Tilghman (K)

Tilghman  
Marker  
Champion  
Hill



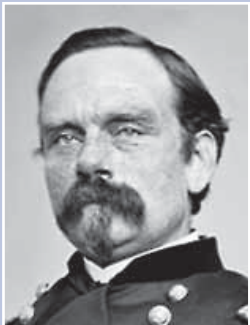
Tilghman Monument, Vicksburg

for a Union column reported moving on the crossroads. Lee soon spotted the Union troops and they in turn saw him. If enemy force was not stopped, it would cut off the Confederates off from their Vicksburg base. Pemberton was warned of Union movement and sent troops to defend his left flank. Union forces at the Champion House moved into action and their artillery began firing.

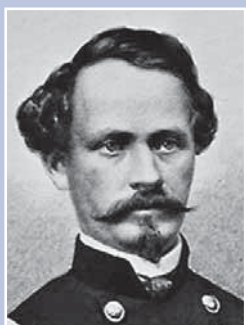
When Grant arrived at Champion Hill at about 10:00 a.m., he ordered an attack to begin. John A. McClernand's corps attacked on the left and James B. McPherson's on the right. William T. Sherman's corps was well behind the others, departing from Jackson. By 11:30 a.m., the Union forces had reached the Confederate's main line. At 1:00 p.m., they took the crest, the troops from Carter L. Stevenson's division retiring in disorder. McPherson's corps swept forward, capturing the crossroads and closing the Jackson Road escape route. The division of John S. Bowen counterattacked in support of Stevenson, pushing the Federals back beyond the Champion Hill crest before their surge was halted. However, they were too few to hold the position. Pemberton directed William W. Loring to

send forces from the southern area of the line, where they were only lightly engaged with McClernand's ineffective attack, to reinforce the Hill. However, Loring refused to budge, citing a strong Union presence to his front.

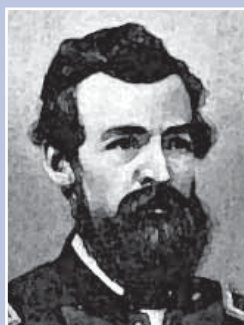
Grant now counterattacked, committing his forces that had just arrived from Clinton by way of Bolton. Pemberton's men could not resist this assault, and he ordered his men to use the one escape route still open, the Raymond Road crossing of Bakers Creek. By now, Loring had decided to obey Pemberton's order and was marching toward the fighting by a circuitous route that kept them out of action. Brig. Gen. Loyd Tilghman's brigade formed the rearguard and held at all costs, including the death



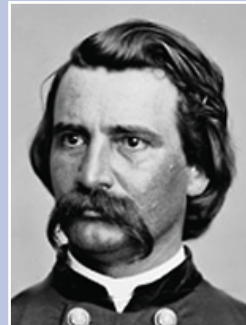
Brigadier General, USA  
Peter J. Osterhaus



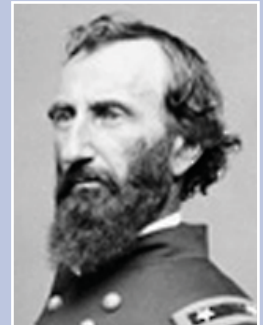
Brigadier General, USA  
Alvin P. Hovey



Brigadier General, USA  
Marcellus M. Crocker



Major General, USA  
John A. Logan



Major General, USA  
John A. McClernand



Major General, USA  
James B. McPherson



Brigadier General, CSA  
Stephen D. Lee



Major General, CSA  
William W. Loring



Major General, CSA  
Carter L. Stevenson



Brigadier General, CSA  
John Bowen

of Tilghman, killed by artillery fire. Late in the afternoon, Grant's troops seized the Bakers Creek Bridge, and by midnight they had occupied Edwards. The Confederates fell back to a defensive position at the Big Black River in front of Vicksburg. The Battle of Big Black River Bridge the next day would be the final chance for Pemberton to escape.

**Aftermath**

Champion Hill was a bloody, but decisive, Union victory. In his Personal Memoirs, Grant observed, "While a battle is raging, one can see his enemy mowed down by the thousand, or the ten thousand, with great composure; but after the battle these scenes are distressing, and one is naturally disposed to alleviate the sufferings of an enemy as a friend."

Grant criticized the lack of fighting spirit of his rival, McClelland, dissatisfied that he had not killed or captured Pemberton's entire force. McClelland's casualties were low on the Union left flank (south); McPherson's on the right constituted the bulk of the Union losses, about 2,500. The Confederates suffered about 3,800 casualties. Their effective loss included most of Loring's division, which had marched off on its own to join Joseph E. Johnston in Jackson.

**Battlefield Preservation**

Large sections of the battlefield remain well preserved, including original roads, as evidenced by a view of the field from approximately the site of the Davis sketch. The map reference refers to the small stone historical marker at the corner of Billy Fields Road and DJ Johnson road, very central in the field.

As of October 2012, residential development had encroached only limited parts of the field, near the center, along DJ Johnson Road. Thousands of acres of the core

battlefield are privately owned, listed as II.1. Class A (opportunity for comprehensive preservation, good integrity, low threat) by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. Discontinuous portions of the battlefield, totaling over 800 acres (3.2 km<sup>2</sup>), are owned by the State of Mississippi. These properties are being held for possible future inclusion in Vicksburg National Military Park. The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) has been able to protect 402 acres (1.63 km<sup>2</sup>) of the battlefield through conservation easements and land purchases. In October 2007, Sid Champion, together with three family members who co-own the land, worked with the CWPT to craft a unique easement to



protect 147 acres (0.59 km<sup>2</sup>) of the family farm comprising a key part of the field.

The Coker House stands adjacent to a south portion of the Champion Hill battlefield. It was

used as a hospital by Federal forces and upon departing, they extensively looted both the house and the plantation stores. Bullet holes in the front door and jamb and cannon-ball holes on the west side of the Coker House remained as evidence of the battle. In 1985, the historic property was donated to the Jackson Civil War Roundtable, which later deeded it to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. As of 2005 the house was in ruins, but it has since been rebuilt using the original materials as much as possible, as it had deteriorated too far to be restored. Historical markers at the house detail the battle and the history of the house.

*Wikipedia*

***"To hear the call of the whippoorwill is a sound that, for me, epitomized the loneliness of the Champion Hill battlefield."***

**Margie Riddle Bearss  
1925-2006**

Margie Riddle Bearss of Arlington, Virginia, and Brandon, Mississippi, is the author of Sherman's Forgotten Campaign: The Meridian Expedition which details Sherman's 1864 path of destruction from Vicksburg to Meridian and the co-editor of My Dear Wife ~ Letters to Matilda: The Civil War letters of Sid and Matilda Champion.

In 1962, when the Grand Gulf Museum opened at Grand Gulf State Park, she designed and made all of the exhibits, including maps and paintings. She also wrote the historic markers for the now extinct town of Grand Gulf, while her husband, Ed Bearss, former chief historian of the Vicksburg National Military Park, wrote the markers for the Grand Gulf Military Park. In 1964, she helped to recover and restore over 10,000 artifacts taken from the USS Cairo after the vessel was lifted from the bottom of the Yazoo River. In 1966, Margie and Ed moved to Arlington, Virginia, where Ed accepted the position as Chief Historian of the National Park Service. Together, Margie and Ed are



*Photograph of Margie Bearss taken around 1958.*

recognized as "A History Power Couple."

Margie was elected to membership in the National Military Collectors and Historians and named a Fellow for her work pertaining to the USS Cairo and Grand Gulf Museum. Margie is recognized nationally for her vast knowledge of the Civil War but nothing remains of more interest to her than the hallowed grounds known as Champion Hill.



*Margie and Ed Bearss on their wedding day, July 30, 1958, in Brandon, Mississippi.*



## May 14th Meeting...

### Civil War Women: Nurses, Leaders, Soldiers, and Spies

Robert Silverman presented a great and informative presentation on some of the New Jersey Women who participated in the Civil War as Nurses, Spies and Soldiers. The stories punctuated with period photographs, art, and humor. The finding of Barlow's grave and her dedication to her husband at Gettysburg. How women would disguise themselves as

men to fight along side their husbands. How women used their wiles to get information from the enemy. It was another great presentation to educate and entertain our members.



**Robert Silverman**



### Civil War at Hagley Family Fun Weekend

June 27 and 28

Saturday and Sunday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War with a living history event presented by the USS Lehigh Civil War Navy Re-enactment Group. Guests enjoy hands-on family activities and entertainment. Activities are included in regular admission and free for members. Use Hagley's main entrance off Route 141 in Wilmington, Delaware.

Visit <http://www.hagley.org/event/civil-war-hagley> for more information.

## 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

**Joseph A. Campbell** (1817–1900), businessman, founder of Campbell Soup Company

**Thomas Eakins** (1844–1916), artist

**John Ely** (1816–1869), Civil War Union brevet major general

**Alice Fisher** (1839–1888), nursing pioneer at the former Philadelphia General Hospital

**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 14 to:**

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

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

*Continued on page 12*

## Upcoming Events

### MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Through August 23, 2015 The Civil War Through the Eyes of Thomas Nast. Macculloch Hall Historical Museum 45 Macculloch Avenue, Morristown. Weds, Thur. & Sun 1- 4 PM. And while you are there say Hello to NJCWRT Treasurer, Al Girdaldi, who is an archivist at the museum and who may be working somewhere in a windowless subcellar. Various museum rates.

## 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](mailto:rjrusso58@yahoo.com)

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

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

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

**June 11th meeting... Get ready for an interesting and informative presentation by Jane Peters Estes on *The Battle of Gettysburg: Where Were the Women?***

### Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours

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.

#### **"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.

### Events at Andersonville in the Fall

Will provide more details as it gets closer. Several members expressed interest in attending the Funeral.

#### **Memorial Illumination**

On September 18 & 19, 2015, volunteers will place nearly 13,000 candle luminaries on the prison site; each representing the death of a United States soldier during the fourteen month operation of the prison. On those evenings, the luminaries can be seen by driving the prison loop road after dark.

#### **Funeral for Thirteen Thousand**

On September 19, 2015 Andersonville National Cemetery will host a ceremony to remember the nearly 13,000 American soldiers who died while held captive at Andersonville prison, part of the 56,000 Americans who died as prisoners of war during the Civil War. This service will be the funeral they never received.

**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

**June 11 – Thursday**  
**The Battle of Gettysburg: Where Were the Women?**  
Jane Peters Estes  
(Historian)

**July 9 – Thursday**  
**The Southern War Against the Confederacy:  
Unionism in the Seceding States**  
John Jorgensen  
(Historian, History teacher)

**August 13 – Thursday**  
**Your Favorite Civil War Movies**  
Round Table Discussion by Members and Guests

**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)**

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia  
Camden County College  
Blackwood Campus - Connector Building  
Room 101 Forum, Civic Hall, Atrium  
856-427-4022 [oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net](mailto:oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net)  
Founded January 1977

**President: Richard Jankowski**  
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**Secretary: Bill Hughes**  
**Programs: Harry Jenkins**  
**Herb Kaufman**  
**Dave Gilson**

**Editor: Don Wiles - [cwwiles@comcast.net](mailto:cwwiles@comcast.net)**