

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

December 10, 2015 The One Hundred and Fiftieth Year of the Civil War



“Rock Carvings at Gettysburg”

Join us at **7:15 PM on Thursday, December 10, at Camden County College** in the **Connector Building, Room 101**. This month's topic is **Randy Draais "Rock Carvings at Gettysburg"**

One of the more unusual facets of the

Gettysburg battlefield is the existence of many rock carvings. Made by soldiers during the battle or by veterans upon their return or by civilians or tourists, rock carvings can be found on many areas of the 6,000 or so acres that encompass the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Looking for rock carvings is an extremely interesting and unusual way to explore the battlefield, but it is also an extremely interesting and unusual way to discover some of the battlefield history that is often overlooked or quickly forgotten, especially of the personal and often tragic stories of soldiers, both Union and Confederate, who left their mark, both figuratively and literally, on this hallowed ground.

Join Randy Draais, amateur Civil War historian and Battle of Gettysburg buff, for a look at many of the rock carvings on the Gettysburg battlefield and the stories behind them.

Born and raised in York, Pennsylvania, Randy Draais developed a keen interest in the Battle of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Campaign immediately after a 5th grade field trip to that famous Civil War battlefield. A lifelong passion to learn more resulted in his creation in March 2008 of a website, <http://battleofgettysburgbuff.com/>, for individuals who wish to learn and do more than the average visitor to the battlefield. A companion website, <http://battleofgettysburgbuff.net>, Facebook page, and a quarterly newsletter soon followed.

See Page 11 for some examples

Join us at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 10th, at Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Connector Building, Room 101.

A graduate of York College of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in International Studies, Randy has worked in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, the Pennsylvania Department of State, and the Pennsylvania Senate. Married with two daughters, Randy recently retired on January 1, 2015, and will be able to devote even more time to his main passion, learning even more about the Battle of Gettysburg and sharing that information with others.

Notes from the President...

As another successful year for Old Baldy closes, plans for a great 2016 are in the works. The highlights for next year include our **Iwo Jima** event, the **Hancock Tomb** wreath laying, the **Symposium** in October, the first presentation of the **Mike Cavanaugh Book Award** and our **40th Anniversary** luncheon. Let us know which event you would like to make happen. Welcome to our five new members from the Mullica Hill event. Get involved soon to enjoy the full Old Baldy experience. Other members remember to submit your dues for 2016 so we can continue our development in Southern New Jersey.

On Veterans Day **Paula Gidjunis** shared her research on the 128th PA to the delight of those present. She was the first presenter to receive the new Old Baldy Irish Fluted glass. It is available to members for \$7. They will make great Holiday gifts. Join us on December 10th for “Rock Carvings at Gettysburg” by **Randy Draais** as he presents a different look at the battlefield. **Bob Russo** will have flyers promoting our Iwo Jima program in February available at the meeting. Take some to share with folks who are interested in attending.

Our Civil War Symposium is set for October 22nd at the College. The event is being co-sponsored by the Camp Olden CWRT. It will include presentations on various topics, displays and Civil War music during lunch. This interaction with the Civil War community of South Jersey provides several opportunities to support the Round Table in getting the Old Baldy message out. Let **Frank Barletta** know of your interest. Based on discussion at the Board meeting our “New Member” kits are being assembled and will be available soon.

Be sure to review the articles on member visits to the Andersonville event and Union Mills. If you have had any adventures you want to share with the membership, write



Welcome... to the New Recruits
Robert Wittmann, Voorhees
David & Amanda Scott, Sewell
Dietrich & Ellen Preston, Woodbury

Laurel Hill Cemetery, plan on being there. Car pools will be available.

If you are not able to attend our meeting on the 10th, may you and your family have a safe and joyous Holiday Season. Travel safe and we look forward

to seeing you in 2016. If you are coming, consider joining **Randy Drais** for dinner at the Lamp Post Diner at 5:30 like **Ellen** and **Dietrich Preston** did last month with **Paula** and **John**.

Rich Jankowski, President

it up and send to **Don Wiles**. **Frank Barletta** is still raising funds to repair Civil War tombstones at Woodland Cemetery, consult him for more details. The big event for December is at the champagne toast for General Meade's 200th birthday at noon on December 31st at his grave in

Today in Civil War History

Tuesday December 10, 1861 Aggressive Action Along Ashepoo

The United States Navy was lacking in many areas of ships and supplies, but one thing it had was some aggressive ship commanders. One such, Lt. James W. A. Nicholson, was in command of the USS Isaac Smith, and he and his crew pulled a slick maneuver today. Nicholson proceeded carefully up the Ashepoo River in South Carolina until he got to Otter Island. Upon this land there had been built a small fort by the Confederates, but at this time it had been deserted. Nicholson landed part of his crew there and took possession of it. The Navy men managed to hang onto it until regular Army reinforcements could be brought in, and it remained in Federal hands.

Wednesday December 10, 1862 Falmouth Fears For Fredericksburg Fate

The Army of the Potomac was making its final preparations today for the assault across the Rappahannock River tomorrow. Rations were being cooked, weapons checked, ammunition issued. Most importantly, the pontoon rafts which would be used to build temporary bridges across the waterway were checked over and readied. The men on the bluffs of Falmouth were not the only ones contributing to this threat to the Army of Northern Virginia. As far south as North Carolina operations were being carried out against roads, railroads and supply lines which might be used to reinforce Lee, Longstreet and the other southerners. Unfortunately the problems of communication and scheduling led to many of these attacks, particularly the one against the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, being carried out days or a week after the battle of Fredericksburg was already over.

Thursday December 10, 1863 Lingering Languor Leaves Lincoln

In this day and age, when the President of the United States undergoes a mandatory physical once a year with the results widely reported in the public press, it is difficult to remember just how recently such candor about the Presidential person has developed. Even in the 1940's a president could serve most of four terms and not have much of the public aware that he was confined to a wheelchair; in the 1860's it was not difficult at all to hide an executive affliction from common knowledge. President Abraham Lincoln was becoming more active today, to the great relief of his family and staff. He had suffered for several weeks from an attack of varioloid. The symptoms and suffering were approximately those of adult measles or chickenpox, much worse than those of childhood particularly in the days before aspirin. The disease, in fact, was a mild form of smallpox.

Saturday December 10, 1864 Sherman Scouting Southern Savannah

The march from Atlanta to the Sea was so nearly over that the men with Gen. William T. Sherman could smell the salty ocean air—but they weren't quite there yet. With a mere 18,000 men to defend Savannah, Gen. William Hardee was forced to be creative. The area around the city was a prime rice-growing area, and Hardee put even the land to work for him by flooding the already-harvested rice paddies. This creative tactic, besides causing no harm to agricultural land, had the profound effect of forcing Sherman's men to keep to the roadways instead of being able to just march across the open countryside as they had been in the habit of doing. Although Sherman's men were well-supplied, the horses were in need of forage which was waiting for them on Union Navy ships offshore. Between the horses and their hay, however, waited one more obstacle: Ft. McAllister, on the Ogeechee River.

www.civilwarinteractive.com

Union Mills

By Rich Jankowski, OBCWRT Member

At the invite of John Shivo and Paula Gidjunis, my wife Debbie and I were able to tour the Union Mills Homestead near Westminster, MD. Joining us on the special event

were Matt Bruce, Carol Ingald and Carol's friend Susan Murosko. The home began as four rooms in 1797, as the Shriver brothers founded a mill near the Pipe Creek. The combining of their efforts formed Union Mills. The location also had a tannery, a blacksmith shop and canning business. The brothers built homes across from each other.

Continued on page 3

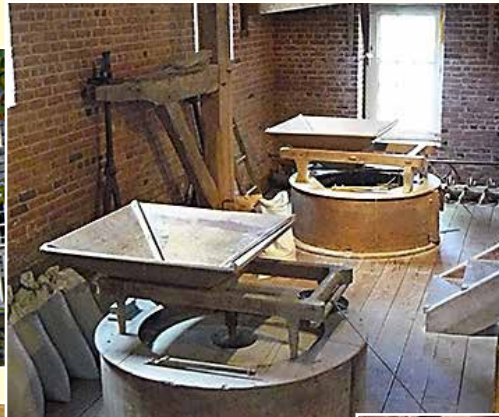
When one sold out his interest in the business to relocate, the remaining one joined the two homes into a large one. The home has been through many stages of growth and has been occupied by six generations of the family up until 1959. It still has original decorations on the walls and relics dating back to Jefferson's time. The occupants during the war were split. On the night of June 29, 1863 Confederate Cavalry under the command of Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, camped along Big Pipe Creek at the homestead. They departed Union Mills, led to Hanover, Pennsylvania by young T. Herbert Shriver. Within a matter of hours the Union V corps, under the command of Major General George Sykes arrived in Union Mills. Among the units camped in the area was the 20th Maine. Early on July 1, 1863, the Union Army broke camp and marched away from Union Mills to the fields of Gettysburg.

After a fine tour of the house, we met the master miller for

a description and tour of the granary mill. He highlighted the construction, the tools around the building and stones, and then actually milled corn for us using the water wheel. It is a working Oliver Evans' designed mill with wooden parts. The miller reviewed the various grains ground at the mill, which are available to purchase along with recipes. Upon the completion of the tour we walked to see Big Pipe Creek. Information about visiting the homestead is available at: <http://www.unionmills.org>. It is open in the summer and for special events in the Fall.

Be sure to lunch at Baugher's Restaurant and Fruit Market just off Rte. 140 West in Westminster <http://www.baughers.com/>. It is about 7 miles from the Homestead. They have a varied menu including homemade ice cream and pies. Following a fine meal, we stopped at different points along the Pipe Creek Line before finishing with a walking tour of downtown Taneytown.

The Miller's Homestead



Inside Mill Showing Some of the Milling Equipment



Blacksmith Shop



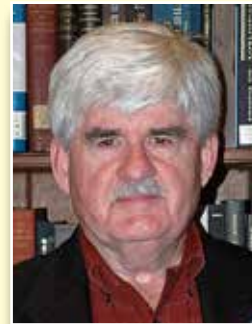
Pike Creek



Waterwheel Power



"We Fought Desperate:" A History of the 153rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment.



"We Fought Desperate:" A History of the 153rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment. By Jeffrey D. Stocker. Photos, maps, appendices, notes, bibliography, index, 842 pp., 2014. Private printing. Order from the author jsmw@ptd.net \$44.95.

Here we have a new regimental history 842 pages long written for a nine month Pennsylvania regiment. Its size, I'm sure, had something to do with the fact that 993 men served in the unit at one time or another during its nine months of existence. The author reports he identified and found information on every single man. This is backed up by a 284 page roster. There is also much more material to write about when you take into consideration the regiment fought at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg with the much maligned XI Army Corps. Through diligent research, the author unearthed a ton of material (much of it primary) on the regiment. The end product is a thoroughly researched and well written history of the 153rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Although hundreds of Northampton County men were already serving in the Union army, President Abraham Lincoln called again for more troops in the summer of 1862. He requested that Pennsylvania's Governor Curtin raise twenty-one new regiments. In Northampton County public meetings and war rallies (along with the so-called "extra efforts" of promised bounties) boosted the patriotism of hundreds of able-bodied men to take up arms. Enough answered the call to form the 153rd PVI.

The new regiment, thirteen companies strong, arrived at Camp Curtin in Harrisburg for training. Some companies were short of officers and men, while others had more recruits than required. After some adjustment, the companies were set at the ten. The makeup of the regiment was not unlike the many towns in the southeastern section of Pennsylvania. The officers were lawyers, merchants, physicians, teachers, and tradesmen. The rank and file was mostly made up of students, laborers, and farm workers. The regiment began training for war in late September 1862. When they were deemed ready for service they were moved into the defenses of Washington, D. C. Soon after they were attached to the XI Army Corps and the Army of the Potomac. The men of the 153rd Pennsylvania - if they survived - would never forget the next nine months.

Jeff Stocker, I believe, has put together a regimental history as complete as it can be written. In the text, he incorporates information on individual men. You get to know them as individuals and share their experiences. The regiment fought in two major battles, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. These two chapters are especially well written and researched augmented by detailed battle maps. Thrown right into the mix the 153rd took heavy casualties. At

Chancellorsville they were routed, along with the XI Corps, in Stonewall Jackson's flank attack. At the battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, at Blocher Knoll (named Barlow's Knoll after the battle) they were driven back through the town by Confederate general John B. Gordon's Georgians all the way to Cemetery Hill. It was these two battles that the conduct of the XI Corps, along with the 153rd, was severely denounced by the press, high military officers and officials. They were called cowards and "panic stricken Dutchmen." Even their fellow soldiers took up the attack calling them the "Flying Dutchmen." General Barlow himself, who commanded the First Division, XI Corps, on July 1st, wrote in a letter to his family proclaiming "[T]hese Dutch won't fight." The author does not shy away from this controversy regarding the conduct of the regiment and the XI Corps. He presents both sides. You can come to your own conclusion.



153rd
Pennsylvania
Infantry
Regiment
Monuments at
Gettysburg



The rosters include the usual personal and military information. It should be noted that only nine men deserted the regiment over the nine months. The endnotes are detailed with a wealth of additional information. The bibliography is extensive taking up thirteen pages. The ten appendices list such items as men who were born in foreign countries, fathers and sons and siblings (nine sets of father and sons and eighty-four sets of brothers, an amazing statistic in its self). Another chart lists the members who died of disease, wounds, or by accident. There are detailed casualty lists for the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg arranged by company. The photos are plentiful (59) and nicely reproduced and the maps are quite unlike those you have seen before. The author describes his map maker as "putting faces on the dots on the maps!"

Jeff Stocker's *We Fought Desperate* will become, I believe, a model for future regimental histories, Union or Confed-

erate. It will be indispensable, of course, for those doing research on the 153rd PVI, and Northampton County Pennsylvania in the Civil War. Although the men had completed their nine months of service, scanning the roster it appears that many enlisted in other regiments after mustering out the 153rd. There were probably many reasons; boredom, bonus money, camaraderie, or just plain missing the fight. But also a good number, I believe, must have felt it was

their duty to see the war to its end. Reading *We Fought Desperate*, this reviewer came to the conclusion that the men of the 153rd had nothing to be ashamed of. Look at their casualty lists. They did their duty and then some.

This one belongs in your library. I highly recommend it.

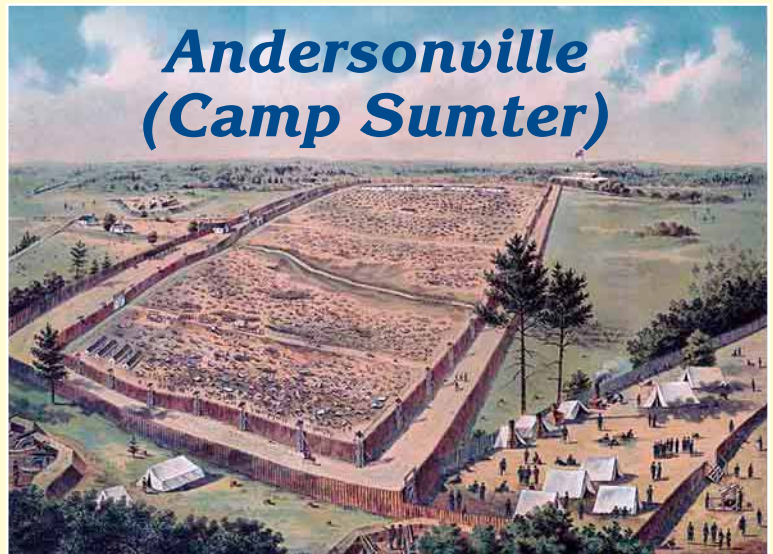
Mike Cavanaugh
Bethlehem, PA.

A Civil War Adventure!

By Kathy Clark, OBCWRT Member

On Wednesday, September 16th I gathered my suitcase, AAA maps and guides, snacks, and water for my road trip to Georgia for the 150th Anniversary events at Andersonville Prison Camp, also known as Camp Sumter. It took me a day and a half to get to Americas, Georgia for my three night stay. Traveling 95 was open, direct, and fairly easy to follow the map (I did not make any mistakes), not so once I crossed the state line into Georgia. I never saw so many back roads and open spaces. AAA was giving me certain street signs to look for and back routes where I saw some of the most beautiful farm land and scenery. Even though I did get lost at times, I must say doing the back roads gave me a new prospective on the state of Georgia, plus I had very little traffic.

Arriving in Americas (only 20 minutes from the prison site) I was really looking forward to the events of the following day. The next day, the 18th, I was on the road early making a stop in the village of Andersonville at the Drummer Boy Museum. I am glad I did because "The Ride Home" had many different motorcycle groups, police vehicles, trucks, and cars riding by honoring the service of so many men and women with National POW/MIA Recognition Day. They were on their way to the cemetery for the 150th Anniversary opening ceremony and Recognition Day for all the POW/MIA during all wars. It was moving to see so many people attending the service: walking, riding, or by bus going into the cemetery as the American flags were blowing in the wind which became the symbol of all that represents America. Remarks were made by Pam Cain, daughter of Col. Oscar Mauterer who is still looking for her father's remains. She promised her mother she would continue searching. She had a moving account of all the organizations used to help find her father. Pam was also in touch with Superintendent Charles Sellars



of Andersonville Prison Camp for additional help. The second speaker was Mr. Bill Norwood who was president of the Korean POW Association, which has since disbanded. He honored the museum with the flag this organization used and will now be displayed in the National Prisoner of War Museum. This was a moving ceremony with the wonderful opportunity to thank all the US Military men and women who served or are serving on our behalf. Thanks to all former POW/MIA and their families for what they have endured in the service to our country. After the event was concluded, I had the time to visit the National Prisoner of War Museum and then walk the prison grounds. To walk the area where prisoners lived in the worst conditions possible, trying with every fiber of their being to survive disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition and exposure was very moving. Every sense is awakened to the horrors of this prison camp for the suffering and for those who perished. What kind of a life did the solders have who were lucky enough to survive?

In the afternoon, I went to the Museum Tent to hear a talk by Dr. Lesley Gordon author of "A Broken Regiment: The

POW/MIA Recognition Day - Bikers Walking to Cemetery and Service



POW/MIA Recognition Day Showing the Colors at Service



Korean POW Association Flag given to the National Prisoner of War Museum





National Prisoner of War Museum

16th Connecticut's Civil War". Dr. Gordon talked about one soldier from the 16th Connecticut,

Sgt. Maj. Robert Kellogg and his life at Andersonville. The 16th Connecticut fought at the Battle of Antietam, losing a quarter of their troops then panicked and fled the field. The group continued to participate in minor skirmishes but then surrendered en mass in North Carolina in 1864. Many members went to Andersonville stockade where over 100 members of the unit did not survive. Robert Kellogg was one of the lucky ones who did survive the prison. He went on to marry, had a family, and lived a reasonable life.



Drummer Boy Museum Village of Andersonville

Captain Henry Wirz Monument in the Village of Andersonville



Captain Henry Wirz

He wrote a daily journal of prison life and from his observations brings to the public the true meaning of prison survival. Dr. Gordon is professor of history at the University of Akron, Ohio.

I am back to the grounds after dark to do the luminary loop with one illuminate for each person who died while in camp. Going after dark, I thought it would be a spectacular event but was a little disappointed after seeing Gettysburg's cemetery at night. I was not as impressed as I expected. Not only was it not as impressive as first thought but it was a continuous loop around the park and I could not stop to take photos.

I went back to the Village of Andersonville on the 19th early in the morning to take photos and visit exhibits at the Drummer Boy Museum. The museum has 15 mannequins wearing 15 authentic Civil War uniforms, Union and Confederate. Numerous 1850's and 1860's revolvers, carbines, muskets, and swords are on display along with a wonderful model of the prison camp. The collection was from the estate of Gen. Thomas T. Eckert, president of Western Union and Chief of the US Military Telegraph Department under Abraham Lincoln. The train station is part of this village where prisoners came to walk up the hill to the North Gate. Once inside they had no idea what was ahead for each of them. Andersonville Village is also the headquarters of Capt. Henry Wirz as well as a monument honoring his life.

I arrived back inside the prison just in time to see the wreath ceremony. There was a wreath representing civilians and each branch of the service. After the ceremony,



Veterans return to drink from Providence Spring



Providence Spring

I walked among the many monuments to the North Gate and

then on to Providence Spring. It was here on August, 1864, when a spring suddenly gushed from the hillside. Whether

it was an act of nature or divine providence, the effect of the stream was an answer to many prisoners' prayers. I would like to think the latter as I am hoping some higher being was watching over the lives of all the prisoners.

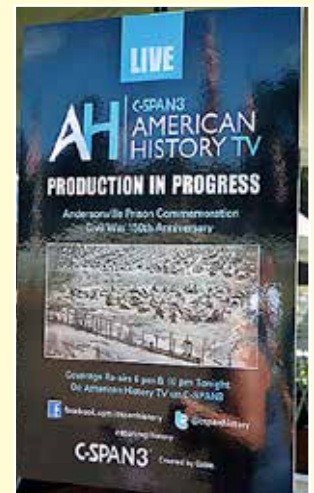
The Funeral for 13,000 began in the afternoon beginning with beautiful music for a moment of reflection on the lives of the prisoners and their death. C-Span3 filmed the Andersonville Prison remembrance for airing later. This was a profound moment for all who attended and honored this 150th Anniversary event. As the horse drawn caisson was brought to the service all branches of the military were represented. The solitary pine box draped with the American flag represented all the prisoners who died at Andersonville, never having had any type of funeral service or remembrance. The bagpiper led the casket to the podium with pallbearers from all services. There was a poem read by Judson Mitcham, Poet Laureate of Georgia, called "Prayer at Andersonville, 2015" also an "American Revolutionary War Medley" by the MCOE Brass Quintet, along with key note speaker Superintendent Charles Sellars. The program continued with remarks by Dr. Lesley Gordon and Sergeant Major of the Army, Daniel A. Dailey. The raising of the cemetery flag with comments by Bg. Ronda Cornum (ret) made this impressive service well deserved and never forgotten.



North Gate



An Example of how prisoner's lived





Cassion with Pine Box Representing all who died at the Prison



Wreath Ceremony



Walking through the cemetery, I stopped at some of the monuments and walked among the Civil War stones.

There were many who were named but many unknown. As John McElroy, Pvt., Co. L., 16th Ill Cavalry stated, "Five



Andersonville Cemetery

hundred weary men moved along slowly through the double lines of guards...marched silently along towards the gates that were to shut out life and hope from most of them forever...We came to a massive palisade of great logs standing upright in the ground. Two massive wooden gates, with heavy hinges and bolts swung open as we stood there, and we passed through the space beyond." The massive wooden gates closed for many and were never opened again for death came first and no one knew. Now the world knows and remembers all the men and women, for they did not die in vain".

The adventure continues with a brief trip to Plains, Georgia to follow the life of Jimmy Carter, Georgia's Native Son. I started at his school (which is the visitor's center), the church where he teaches Sunday School, his presidential campaign headquarters, and his home (behind a tall black iron field). I then road by Brother Billy Carter's gas station and stopped to get a few bags of peanuts.

On the 20th I am on the road again toward Savannah, Georgia and a visit to Fort Pulaski. As soon as I got into town, I found a place to stay overnight, and then was on the road to the fort. After Georgia seceded from the Union and after Federal troops occupied Fort Sumter, Georgia's Governor Joseph E. Brown ordered state militia to siege Fort Pulaski. By the end of the summer of 1861, Abraham Lincoln ordered the US Navy to blockade southern ports. In November, 1861 Federal warships bombarded Fort Walker and Beauregard, so that union troops could land unopposed on Hilton



Head Island. A Federal base was established against Fort Pulaski and the whole southern Atlantic coast. After the Confederates abandoned Tybee Island it gave the enemy the only site where Fort Pulaski could be taken. On April 10, 1862, before the union opened fire they had been given the chance to surrender. This was not expectable to the Confederate force; as a result the Union fired using new experimental rifled cannons which was too much for the walls of the fort. The Confederates surrendered 30 hours after the bombardment began.



I had a tour of the fort and saw a rifle demonstration which were both very informative. The damage is still in the walls where cannons made holes into the exterior of the fort. In the future new types of building material would have to be developed for building forts.

Fort Pulaski

Here are a few facts about Fort Pulaski: After the union Army took the fort the black families fled to Fort Pulaski



for protection and freedom. Black men were required to enlist and became the first black regiment in the Union Army. Following the Union capture of Fort Pulaski, April 13, 1862, Maj. General David Hunter issued order #7 freeing those enslaved at the fort and on Cockspur Island. Hunter, an abolitionist, declared them free men if the enlisted in military service. President Abraham Lincoln overturned the order. Hunter's orders became a precursor to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, and eventually establishment of the Bureau of Colored Troops on May 22, 1863. As a side note: you always knew the men of Hunter's regiment because they wore red trousers.

I spent a night in Savannah and then headed for Charleston, SC. I wanted to see the Hunley exhibit but it was only open on the weekends. At the visitor's center a suggestion was made to visit Fort Moultrie on Sullivan Island. I was glad for the suggestion as I found the story of the fort extremely interesting. To my added delight I found the Sullivan Island Lighthouse. The Fort Moultrie visitor's center has wonderful displays of the history of the fort from revolutionary days to World War II. The first battle took place on June 28, 1776, during the Revolutionary War. In the 1860's, it was used by Confederate forces but the masonry walls crumbled (like Fort Pulaski) under shelling. During

Fort Moultrie

Sullivan Island Lighthouse



World War I and World War II anti-aircraft guns were added as well as mines in Charleston Harbor. In 1944, a new Harbor Entrance Control Post (underground) was built from which all cities' defenses were coordinated.

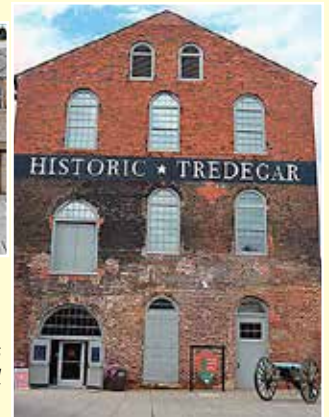
One famous person who enlisted at the fort was Edgar Allan Poe, enlisting as a private in the US Army for five years. He was 18 although he told everyone he was 22. He was trying to escape some gambling debts that he acquired during his young life. By the end of 1828, Poe was disillusioned and wanted to leave military service but his stepfather would not give his permission for discharge until he got an appointment to West Point. He entered West Point July, 1830 and left February 19, 1831. He was most happy when he was writing his poetry and went back to it after he left.

Famous people buried at the fort are Oseloa the Seminole leader who lead his people to fight to remain in Florida, five men from the USS Patapsco which sunk in the Charleston Harbor from a mine, and Maj. General William Moultrie who saved Charleston from British occupation.

I did not stay in Charleston but made my way to Richmond for an overnight stay and a visit to the Tredegar Iron Works. I have been to Richmond many times but have never visited the iron works so now was my chance to see the site. Purchased by Joseph Reed Anderson in 1848, it produced 1,099 cannon for the confederacy, about half the cannon produced in the South during the Civil War. With Tredegar, the armory complex, the gunpowder lab on Brown's Island, with nearby woolen and flour mills made Richmond the industrial heart of the South. The Pattern Building is the visitor's center. The exhibits shows two military threats



Statue of Lincoln at the Tredegar Iron Works



Tredegar Iron Works
Richmond

to Richmond: the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, and the Overland Campaign of 1864. The gun foundry houses "In the Cause of Liberty" exhibit and outdoors there is a very impressive statue commemorating President Abraham Lincoln's visit to Richmond, April 1865, just a few weeks before his death. I had a grand time traveling and exploring, especially Civil War sites, and will be ready to do it again in the future. I would like to conclude my travelogue with a poem from the iron works display by Francis Miles Finch (1827-1907) called "*The Blue and the Gray*".

***"By the flow of the inland river,
Whence the fleets of iron have fled,
Where the blades of the grave-grass quiver,
Asleep are the ranks of the dead:
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the Judgement Day:
Under the one, the Blue,
Under the other, the Gray.***

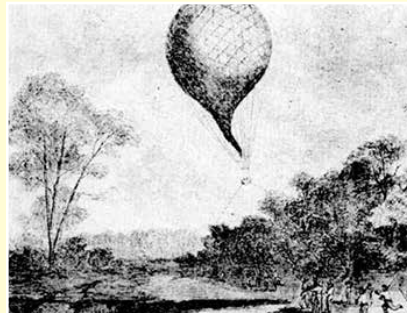
***These in the robings of glory,
Those in the gloom of defeat,
All with the battle-blood gory,
In the dusk of eternity meet:
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the Judgement Day:
Under the laurel, the Blue,
Under the willow, the Gray."***

Aircraft Carriers of the Blue and Gray

Continued from the November Issue

During this same period, waterborne balloon operations were further extended when Commodore Charles Wilkes had one of his ships tow a balloon along a section of the Potomac River, holding it at an elevation of 1,000 feet while examining the surrounding countryside.

The Navy's increasing role in waterborne balloon operations at that time is further shown by the order of Commodore Wilkes which established the first aircraft carrier task force. "*It is desirable,*" Wilkes wrote the commander of the USS Wachusett, "*to make a balloon reconnaissance*



John La Mountain flight over Land

in the neighborhood of Fort Powhatan. I desire you to superintend and take charge of the party. The Stepping Stones will be ordered to tow the balloon lighter down tomorrow morning, and leave at 4 o'clock. Near the Fort at Powhatan

Station you will find the USS Delaware, USS Tioga, and USS Port Royal-the former off Windmill Point-which vessels you will use as guards and, should the balloonists report any works in progress, you will shell them effectually and destroy the works if, in your opinion, you have sufficient force to overcome any opposition that

may be expected. Gather all the information from the balloonists you can, and return by the convoy in the afternoon."

Several ascensions were made as the task force worked its way up the Potomac, but there is no clear indication of results. The entire record of waterborne balloon operations becomes almost nonexistent in this period.

In this connection, it must be recognized that Lowe's balloon corps, from its beginning, had been a sort of semi-independent, quasi-military, quasi-civil organization. Nominally attached to the topographical engineers of the army, it was held together largely by Lowe himself.

Lowe's control of his balloon corps was weakened in late 1862 and early 1863 by a combination of illness, which forced him to take sick leave, and the transfer of some of his strongest supporters (in particular Generals George B. McClellan, Fitz-John Porter, and Humphreys) to duties where they were no longer in a position to support his work. To make matters even worse, the new chief of the topographical engineers (under whom Lowe worked directly) refused to recognize the independent way in which the balloon corps operated.

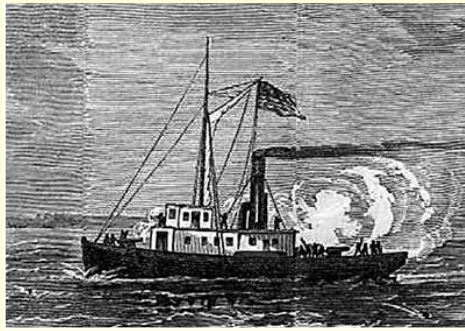
The ensuing snarl of red tape made further work impossible for a man of Lowe's temperament, and led to his resignation immediately after the Battle of Chancellorsville in May of 1862. Without Lowe's aggressive leadership, the corps literally fell apart at the seams and there was no further significant use of balloons during the war. The George Washington Parke Custis was sent to the Washington Navy Yard for repairs in the spring of 1863 and soon fell into obscurity with the remainder of the balloon corps.

The potential of waterborne aerial operations was, of course, never fully recognized during the Civil War; and it was not until the airplane was proved successful that the Navy recognized the value of eyes in the sky. Even so, the great aircraft carrier task forces of today must trace their heritage back to the George Washington Parke Custis and the balloon pioneers of the Civil War, who first demonstrated the value of aerial observations from a floating platform.

The Union Balloon Corps was short-lived, and due to lack of military leaders' support it was disbanded in 1863. Only seven Yankee observation balloons and their supporting apparatus were ever created.

This premature subsequently adjudged a mistake by the nation's armed forces. In later conflicts, balloons, huge dirigibles and blimps were put to a variety of uses by America's military. Even today, unmanned helium-filled balloons carrying cameras augment drones over Afganistan's rugged terrain and provide useful observations of insurgents' movements.

In 1983, the contributions made by the Union Balloon Corps during the Civil War were remembered when this



John La Mountain's "Carrier"
the USS Fanny



postage stamp was issued, highlighting the INTREPID.

Confederate

As Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston held back McClellan's Peninsular advance at the siege of Yorktown throughout April and early May 1862, the first confirmed Confederate balloon reconnaissance took place. In an effort to counter the Union's balloon advantage, General Johnston had a rigid Montgolfier style balloon made. The Montgolfier balloon was called a "fire-balloon" or "smoke-balloon" because it was filled with hot air from a fire to provide buoyancy. This technology was not on par with the union gas balloons, but

with gas in relatively short supply, it was the best option at the time.

General Johnston sent out a request for a man familiar with the area and able to estimate the strength of enemy forces before him. This request crossed the desk of a young clerk in General Magruder's staff. Thinking this was an opportunity for excitement and glory as a spy, Captain John R. Bryan volunteered for the assignment with no idea of what he was getting himself into.

Upon reporting to General Johnston, Captain Bryan was questioned extensively to determine if he was suitable for the job. After which, the nature of his service was revealed:

"Having shown myself sufficiently familiar with these matters the General then turned to Colonel Rhett and remarked, 'I think Mr Bryan will do very well. You will please assign him to the balloon service to make the reconnaissance, and instruct him as to what information we want, and the kind of report we desire from him.' On hearing this order I at once sprang to my feet, protesting that while I could ride a horse, and would gladly do anything in my power, that I had never even seen a balloon, and that I knew absolutely nothing about the management of it, and that if the General simply wanted some information as to the position of the enemy and their numbers at any given point, that I would very cheerfully go into the lines and get this information and return as speedily as possible and report. My words had however small effect upon the General. He told me very curtly and positively that I had been assigned to him for duty, and that he expected me to perform the duty to which I was assigned without any questions. He added that he had plenty of scouts already, and what he wanted was a man to go up in the balloon, and that I could now go and prepare myself to be in readiness when sent for. This was pretty hard, but as there was no sort of question about it, I could only make my bow and walk out with as brave an appearance as possible."

Captain Bryan did make a few flights for General Johnston and gathered intelligence for him. After making his first report, Bryan asked to be reassigned to his old position, but General Johnston responded by saying, "My dear sir, I fear you forget that you are the only experienced aeronaut that I have with my army, and you will please hold yourself in readiness, as we may wish you to make another ascension at any time!" Bryan did indeed make at least two more

ascensions to gather information concerning the activities of the Union troops. His last ascension was much like the previously mentioned unintentional free-flight of General Porter, and I believe the two stories together will make a very humorous page of their own.

After Captain Bryan's last flight, another Confederate balloon was introduced, the Gazelle. This was a gas balloon designed by Dr. Edward Cheves of Savannah, Georgia. Due to the shortage of materials, this balloon was actually made of bolts of dressmaking silk, which gave it a bright, colorful, patchwork appearance. This appearance gave rise to the popular myth that the balloon was actually made from silk dresses donated by the patriotic southern ladies, and the Gazelle was often referred to as the "silk-dress" balloon.

The Gazelle was piloted by the famous Confederate artillery commander, E. P. Alexander. The balloon was typically filled with gas in Richmond and then transported by rail to the battlefield so that Alexander could make observations. It is believed that his first flight was made during the Battle of Seven Pines. Alexander made repeated flights throughout the month of June 1862 and during the Seven Days Campaign. These flights gave General Lee valuable information concerning the enemy and the progress of battles as he drove the Union troops back from Richmond and ended the Peninsular Campaign.

The Gazelle was captured aboard the CSS Teaser after she ran aground on July 4, 1862. E. P. Alexander returned to his artillery command and was eventually promoted to general before the end of the war. He is also well known for his memoirs of the Civil War, which are considered to be one of the best, most objective histories of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Dr. Cheves made another "silk-dress" balloon which was flown over Richmond until the summer of 1863, when it was blown from its moorings and lost. By this time, the Union was disbanding its Balloon Corps, and, with no pressure from the north, the Confederacy was happy to abandon its "air force" as well.

The Confederacy did not possess, nor could it easily obtain or manufacture the equipment needed to produce hydrogen gas, and largely depended on utilizing captured Yankee equipment to support its operations. The South's first balloon was made of varnished-covered cotton, which proved unsuitable.

Filled with coke gas at Richmond's municipal gas works, the brightly-colored balloon was tethered to a locomotive, which carried it into position near Yorktown, Virginia. There it was used briefly to spy on nearby Union troop positions and movements.

This same balloon was later transferred to an armed tugboat operating on the James River. The result of that adventure...albeit ever so briefly...was the creation of the first and only Confederate aircraft carrier (i.e., balloon tender). A privately owned tugboat named YORKTOWN was purchased by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1861 during



Edward P. Alexander

Lieutenant William A. Webb
Commander of the CSS Teaser



Model of the CSS Teaser's



the unsettled period following the start of the Civil War, but before Virginia seceded from the Union.

Once Virginia

joined the Confederacy, the tug, a vessel of only 64 tons displacement and a length of 80 feet, became a unit in the South's small navy. Renamed CSS TEASER, she operated for several months as part of the South's James River Squadron. In March of 1862, she played an important role by escorting

the ironclad CSS VIRGINIA during the Battle of Hampton Roads.



USS Maratanza

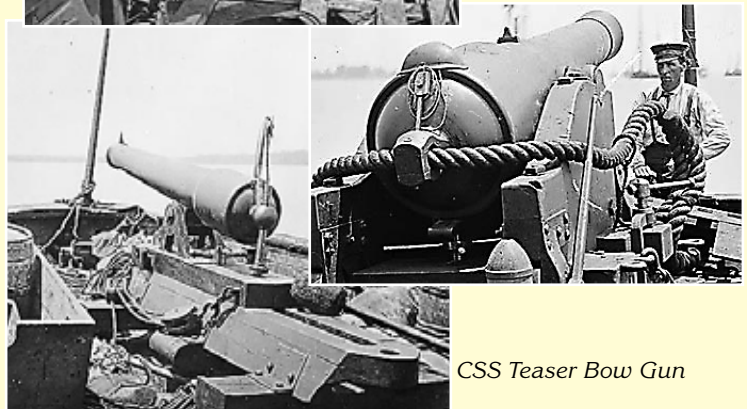


Capture of the CSS Teaser



Damage to the CSS Teaser

CSS Teaser Stern Gun



CSS Teaser Bow Gun

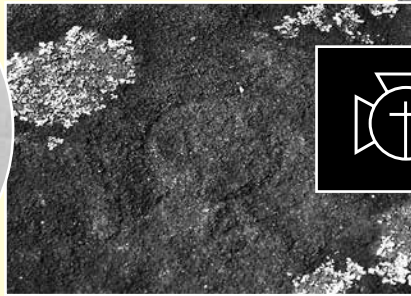
This article is made up from several articles from Wikipedia, Foundation 209, Naval Institute, www.nnaprentice.com

Some Gettysburg Rock Carvings

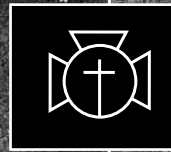
Lieutenant
Willis G. Babcock (K)
64th New York Infantry
SKETCH



Captain
Henry Van Aernam Fuller (K)
64th New York Infantry
USMHI



The carving is becoming very weak



Henry Fuller/Willis Babcock Rock Carving

Captain Henry Fuller and Lieutenant Willis Babcock of the 64th New York Infantry were field-buried on July 2, 1863 near this rock. A soldier (Major Bradley) had cut this design onto the boulder nearby with a sharp object to help identify the location of the bodies. Fuller was reinterred in Little Valley Cemetery in New York. Babcock was reinterred in the cemetery in Homer, New York.



D.A.
140
P.A.



Captain David Acheson (K)
140th PA Infantry
USAMHI

D.A. 140 P.A. Rock Carving

Capt. David Acheson of the 140th Pennsylvania Infantry was field-buried on July 2, 1863. A soldier had cut his initials, "D.A." onto the boulder nearby with a sharp object to identify the location of the body. Acheson was reinterred in the family plot in Washington Cemetery, Washington, PA.

November 11th Meeting

"A Country Worth Fighting For: The History of the 128th Pa"

Another one of those unique subjects that gives us a look into the people who fought in the Civil War. **Paula Gidjunis** gave us a look into those regiments that only enlisted for 9 months. She gave us the stories of three young men who went off to fight for their country. How they stood the battle line at one of America's most bloody battles... These volunteers enlisted in August 1862 for nine months in response to the fear of invasion of the North by the Confederate Army. Entering the battle of Antietam in Maryland after one month's service, they had very little military training and paid with heavy casualties. By the time of the battle of Chancellorsville, they were trained soldiers and possibly the catalyst in the friendly fire that killed General Stonewall Jackson. As they became harden veterans, their enlistment expired. Once again Paula did an excellent presentation and is always welcome at Old Baldy... She also was the first to receive our new Fluted Glass.



Paula Gidjunis

Return to Iwo Jima



Steven Wright (l) and Bill Holdsworth (r) on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima – flanking their friend, and Iwo Jima survivor, Carl DeHaven. Mr. DeHaven (of League City, TX) served with the Fifth Marines on Iwo Jima and Guam.

**Thursday, February 11, 2016
7 p.m.
Large Lecture Hall-Room 105,
Connector building,
Blackwood Campus
Camden County College**



On February 19, 1945, the first of an eventual 70,000 U. S. Marines landed on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima, to face over 20,000 determined Imperial Japanese defenders. By the time it was over thirty-six days later, Americans had suffered over 26,000 casualties, of which more than 6,800 were killed. Japanese losses were staggering: of the nearly 21,000 defenders, only 216 were captured alive.

In March 2015, as part of the joint American-Japanese 70th anniversary “Reunion of Honor” ceremonies, independent historians Steven J. Wright and William C. Holdsworth visited the island with more than fifty veterans of the battle – including one Japanese survivor, Tsuruji Akikusa – and the last surviving Iwo Jima Medal of Honor recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams. Holdsworth and Wright will present their experience in the program: Return to Iwo Jima.

Steven J. Wright has authored 2 books and over 300 articles and reviews on the American Civil War. He holds advanced degrees in American History and American Indian Studies, and Library and Information Science. He is a member of the faculty of the Civil War Institute of Manor College, and is a member and past President of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia.

William C. Holdsworth attended Montgomery County Community College, and has made a successful career in Sales & Marketing in the record business, working for RCA Records, PolyGram Records, and the Universal Music Group. He and his wife have three sons, one of whom is a U. S. Marine. Bill is a member and former Vice President of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia.



**Old Baldy
Civil War Round
Table
of Philadelphia**



No Charge

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table Clothing Items

1 - Short Sleeve Cotton Tee - \$23.00

Gildan 100% cotton, 6.1oz.

Color Options: Red, White, Navy, Tan

Sizes: Adult: S-3XL Adult Sizes: S(34-36); M(38-40); L(42-44); XL(46-48); XXL(50-52); 3XL(54-55)

2 - Long Sleeve Cotton Tee - \$27.00

Gildan 100% cotton, 6.1oz.

Color Options: Red, White, Navy

Sizes: Adult: S-3XL Adult Sizes: S(34-36); M(38-40); L(42-44); XL(46-48); XXL(50-52); 3XL(54-55)

3 - Ladies Short Sleeve Polo - \$26.00

Anvil Pique Polo - 100% ring-spun cotton pique.

Color: Red, White, Navy, Yellow-Haze

Logo embroidered on left chest

Sizes: Ladies: S-2XL Ladies

Chest Size Front: S(17"); M(19"); L(21"); XL(23"); 2XL(24")

4 - Mens Short Sleeve Polo Shirt - \$26.00

Anvil Pique Polo - 100% ring-spun cotton pique.

Color: Red, White, Navy, Yellow-Haze

Logo embroidered on left

Sizes: Mens: S-3XL

Chest Size Front: S(19"); M(21"); L(23"); XL(25"); 2XL(27"); 3XL(29")

5 - Fleece Lined Hooded Jacket - \$48.00

Dickies Fleece Lined Nylon Jacket 100% Nylon Shell;

100% Polyester Fleece

Lining: Water Repellent Finish

Color: Navy or Black

Logo Embroidered on Left Chest

Size: Adult S-3XL

Chest Size: S(34-36"); M(38-40"); L(42-44"); XL(46-48"); 2XL(50-52"); 3XL(54-56")

6 - Sandwich Caps - \$20.00

Lightweight Cotton Sandwich Bill Cap 100% Brushed Cotton;

Mid Profile Color: Navy/White or Stone/Navy

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Items can be seen and ordered from the Old Baldy Web Site or the Manufacture's Web Site.



FALL/WINTER PLUS EVENTS

Assembled by Kathy Clark

ONGOING EVENTS

Monmouth County Historical Society opens a new exhibition called "Beautiful Childhood: Portraits from the Permanent Collection" at the Monmouth County Historical Association's Museum at 70 Court Street. The exhibition created by Dr. Carol Lowrey, features 19th century portraits of children in various stages of development from toddlers to teenagers. For further information about the exhibition and association call 732-462-1466 or visit www.monmouthhistory.org.

Independence Seaport Museum through December 31, "Titanic Philadelphians", a spotlight on the personal lives of the city residents directly impacted by the Titanic's disastrous fate! The exhibits tell the accounts of 40-plus Philadelphians who sailed on the Titanic during the maiden voyage. Information: www.visitphillyseaport.org or 215-413-8655, 211 South Columbus Blvd. at Walnut Street.

"Disasters on the Delaware: Rescues on the River", a chance to explore the disasters that unfolded as the Delaware developed into the watery highway for trade and commerce while experiencing the misfortunes, the miracles and lessons learned. Through December 31, Independence Seaport Museum, www.phillyseaport.org.

Underground Railroad Exhibit at the Worker's House and Gallery at Smithville. The exhibit offers visitors a visual presentation of the Underground Railroad experience in America and Burlington County where it was active before the Civil War. Smithville Visitor Center, 803 Smithville Road, Eastampton; open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10am-4pm and Sunday, noon-4pm. Co.burlington.nj.us/958/visitor-center or 609-265-5858

OTHER EVENTS

Tuesday, December 1, 5pm-7pm

Visit with Father Christmas by the fire in the Summer Kitchen at the Van Nest-Hoff-Vannatta Farmstead. Sponsored by the Historic Preservation Commission of Harmony Township and Harmony Township Historical Society; free, 3026 Belvidere Road, Harmony Township, NJ 08865. www.hoffvannattafarm.org

Continued on page 14



7 - Irish Fluted Glass - \$7.00

Can be used with either Cold or Hot Liquids

Thursday, December 3, 7pm

Camp Olden Civil War Round Table monthly meeting will feature Ed Bonekemper and his book, "The Myth of the Lost Cause: Why the South Fought the Civil War and Why the North Won". Hamilton Township Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel A. Alito Drive, Hamilton, NJ. Free
www.campolden.org

Sunday, December 6, noon-5pm

Jack Wright presents The History of the Philadelphia Fire Department at the GAR Museum and Library; 4278 Griscom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124. Information: www.garmuslib@verizen.net or 215-289-6484

Sunday, December 27, 8:30am

Day long tour "Washington Ups the Ante". The tour will visit Washington Crossing State Park and Trenton, to see the battle reenacted, and follow the army's route to the Princeton battlefield. Buffet lunch at Nassau Inn in Princeton, the tour will visit Kingston and Millstone. Reservations: 732-356-8856; \$65/person includes lunch. Meet at the Van Horne House, 941 E. Main Street, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Burlington County Library new series

"Through Their Eyes"; presentations by the American Historical Theatre at the Burlington, Evesham, Cinnaminson, and Bordentown branches

November 8; 2PM

at the Evesham Library: Traditional Celtic Tales from Scotland, Ireland, and Wales

November 14; 3PM

at the Cinnaminson Library: Stephen Hopkins, Mayflower passenger and assistant to the governor of Plymouth Colony

November 19; 7PM

at the Bordentown Library: Clara Barton

December 16; 7PM

at the Burlington County Library: George Washington

December 17; 7PM

at the Bordentown Library: Abraham Lincoln

Two Great Civil War Classes presented by Manor College

Researching the War: with the right techniques and resources, you too can be a Civil War historian. You can gain more insight into specific battles - or learn the role your own ancestor played in the conflict.

Thursday, 12/10 (1 night); 6:30-8:30pm; \$29

Philadelphia in the Civil War: More famed for its Revolutionary heritage, Philadelphia was a major Civil War city. It was a huge hospital and arsenal, and many Philadelphians played prominent rolls in the war. This power point presentation tells the story of the role of the city and its contributions through the four years of the Civil War. It also takes a tour of the monuments and cemeteries of Civil War Philadelphia.

Thursday, 12/17 (1 night); 6:30-8:30pm; \$29

Both of these seminars will be given by Herb Kaufman Questions or to register call Lori Cohen at 215-884-2218 or register on line at

www.Manor.edu/cont-ed/civil-war/courses.php

Through December 27

School House Museum at 650 E. Glen Ave., Ridgewood, NJ introduces an exhibit, "Hemlines: Women's Fashion 1900-1969". Museum will open on Sundays 2 to 4. Starting in September the museum is open Thursday, Saturday 1 to 3 and Sundays 2 104. Donation suggested; \$5/adult, \$3/children; \$10/family

December 10th meeting... Get ready for an interesting and informative presentation by Randy Drais on "Rock Carvings at Gettysburg"

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

Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2015/2016

December 10 - Thursday
"Rock Carvings at Gettysburg"
Randy Drais
(Historian)

January 14 - Thursday
"Your Family Military History"
Roundtable Discussion Night
Share your Family's Military History

Questions to
Harry Jenkins - 302-834-3289 - hj3bama@verizon.net
Herb Kaufman - 215-947-4096 - shkaufman2@yahoo.com
Dave Gilson - 856-547-8130 - 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
Founded January 1977

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

Editor: Don Wiles - cwwiles@comcast.net