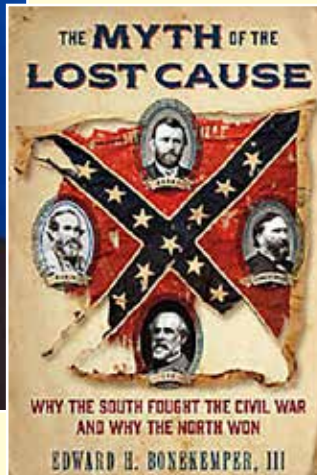


# Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

December 8, 2016

The Civil War: April 12, 1861 - May 9, 1865

## “The Myth of the Lost Cause: False Remembrance of the Civil War”



Join us at **7:15 PM** on **Thursday, December 8th**, at **Camden County College** in the **Connector Building, Room 101**. This month's topic is **"The Myth of the Lost Cause: False Remembrance of the Civil War"**

The Southern-created Myth of the Lost Cause has long dominated Americans' remembrance of the Civil War, the country's watershed event. In many ways, that Myth has been America's most successful propaganda campaign. Historian **Ed Bonekemper** examines the accuracy of the Myth and how it has affected our perception of slavery, states' rights, the nature of the Civil War, and the military performance of Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, and James Longstreet. He begins by discussing the nature of slavery in 1860, including whether it was a benign and dying institution.

The heart of his analysis is whether slavery was the primary cause of secession and the Confederacy's creation. He does this by examining Federal protection of slavery, slavery demographics, seceding states' conventions and declarations, their outreach to other slave states, Confederate leaders' statements, and the Confederacy's foreign policy, POW policy and rejection of black soldiers.

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

Drawing on decades of research, Bonekemper then discusses other controversial Myth issues, such as whether the South could have won the Civil War, whether Lee was a great general, whether Grant was a mere "butcher" who won by brute force, whether Longstreet lost Gettysburg for Lee, and whether the North won by waging "total war."

**Ed Bonekemper** earned a B.A., cum laude, in American history from Muhlenberg College, an M.A. in American history from Old Dominion University, and a J.D. from Yale Law School. He is the author of six Civil War books. Ed was the Book Review Editor of Civil War News from 2010 until mid-2016 and was an adjunct lecturer in military history at Muhlenberg College from 2003 to 2010. He served as a Federal Government attorney for 34 years and is a retired Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.

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

Another successful year for the Old Baldy Round Table is drawing to a close. We are very grateful for the support the membership has given to grow our group to 70 members. Be sure to submit your dues to allow us to continue our great programs and support the Civil War community. Let others know of our Round Table so they can join us next year.

Last month **Paul Kahan** shared a different perspective of Simon Cameron to broaden our view of politics in the Civil War era. This month we welcome **Ed Bonekemper** to debunk the **Myth of the Lost Cause**. We will also have elections for our Board as seasoned members move on and fresh leaders take their place. If you are interested in serving, nominations will be open at the meeting.

Our 40th anniversary luncheon on January 21st is shaping up. Registration is open, we are assembling a program on our history and inviting all to join us for the celebration. By the date of the meeting the Round Tables tour will be complete. Sales for the Iwo Jima print raffle have been brisk thanks to **Harry Jenkins**. Tell everyone you know it is going off at the luncheon. Let us know how you would like to assist with the luncheon. We are seeking support with designing a program and presenting the history.

Our Board has purchased wreaths to be placed on the graves at the **Beverly National Cemetery**. If you would

*Continued on page 2*

like to volunteer to lay wreaths on December 17th, visit the **WreathsacrossAmerica.org** website. Thank you to all who ventured to Trevese to attend the Del Val Award ceremony last month, it was appreciated. Had an opportunity to dine with our webmaster **Hal Jespersen** and his lovely wife **Nancy** when he was in town to run in the Philadelphia Marathon. They departed with an Old Baldy glass, a symposium program and some Tastykakes. Join other Old

Baldy representatives in Laurel Hill Cemetery on December 31st at noon for the champagne toast at the grave of General Meade.

*Come to the Lamp Post Diner around 5:30 to have dinner. If you are unable to join us see you at the meeting, please travel safe.*

*Rich Jankowski, President*

## Del Val Civil War Round Table's Award of Merit to Rich Jankowski



Every organization needs a person who understands and has a drive to improve the group. Old Baldy Civil War Round Table has such a leader in Rich Jankowski. On November 15, 2016 members of Old Baldy attended the Del Val Civil War Round Table meeting to see our president receive an award for merit as the person who has made a difference in Civil War History by widening the scope of the Civil War community in New Jersey. Many people are interested in Civil War history and Rich has tried to build on that foundation to make all aware of the growing Round Tables. As Rich is expanding the interest in New Jersey Civil War Round Tables, he continues his enthusiasm to make our own Civil War Round Table the best in New Jersey. He has built up our membership from the time there were only six members to a list of seventy today. Our Civil War horizons are always changing and expanding by many of Rich's accomplishments within the Civil War community and within Old Baldy. He has worked with the 150th Committee, began wreath laying and cleanup at Hancock's grave as well as worked with other Round Tables to help organize and extend their place in the New Jersey Civil War community. Just recently Rich helped such a group, the South Jersey Shore Civil War Round Table, get it's start.



community and our round table come alive and be a part of an expanding group of history buffs. We are looking

forward to the future with many more learning experiences and new adventures with Old Baldy and beyond.

## Today in Civil War History

1861 Sunday, December 8

### Naval Operations

Naval Operations CSS Sumter destroys the northern Whaler Eben Dodge in the Atlantic.

#### CSS Sumter

The CSS Sumter, a bark-rigged screw steam cruiser, was originally built as the



merchant steamship 'Habana' (Sometimes referred to as 'Havana') and purchased by the Confederate Government in New Orleans in April 1861, before being hastily converted to a cruiser. When this had been completed, the Havana was quickly renamed CSS Sumter, after the Southern Fort Sumter which had already fallen to Union troops on the 13th April 1861.

This ship was originally a barque rigged steamer of 473 tons, having a length of 184 feet, her beam, 30 feet, and she drew only 12 feet of water. In trials she made about nine knots and coal bunkers were of enough capacity to

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

enable her maintain steam for eight days. Built in Philadelphia in 1859 for McConnell's New Orleans & Havana Line and used to ferry both passengers and freight both ways, on the run between New Orleans and Havana.

As the CSS Sumter, she was transformed into a formidable fighting ship for her size, with a single 8 inch pivot gun and four 32 pounders available for broadsides. This small vessel took the honor of being the first warship to fly the Confederate States Flag.

Thomas Sumter, "Carolina Gamecock," (born August 14, 1734, Hanover county, Virginia [U.S.]—died June 1, 1832, South Mount, South Carolina, U.S.), legislator and officer in the American Revolution. He was the last surviving general officer of the Revolution. Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor was named for him.



**Brigadier General  
Thomas Sumter**

### 1862 Monday, December 8

#### Trans-Mississippi

During the night the Confederates have slipped away from Prairie Grove and retreated toward the Boston Mountains. Union losses in the previous day's battle are 167 killed, 798 wounded, and 183 missing. Confederate losses are estimated at 300 killed, over 800 wounded, and 250 missing.

### 1863 Tuesday, December 8

#### The North

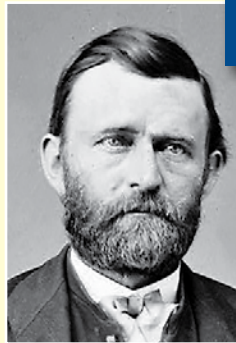
President Lincoln announces a Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction at the end of his annual message to Congress. He offers a full pardon to all Confederates, except former officers in the US forces who resigned their commissions to fight for the South, senior government or military officials, and anyone who has mistreated Union prisoners of war. All property, except slaves, will be re-

stored. He also offers Federal statehood to any Southern state in which 10 percent of the citizens swear allegiance to the Union and abandon slavery.

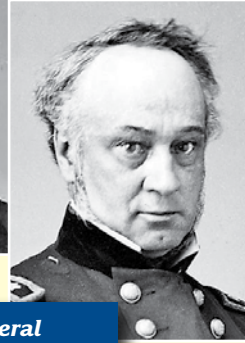
### 1864 Thursday, December 8

#### The North

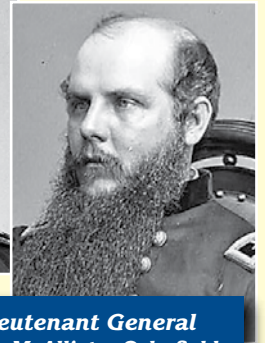
Grant tells Halleck that Thomas must be replaced by Schofield if he does not attack Hood without delay. Grant and Thomas exchange telegrams, Thomas pointing out that many of his cavalry are still waiting for their horses and that without a powerful mounted force an attack is pointless.



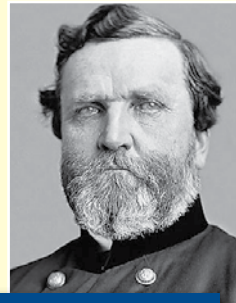
**General of the Army  
Hiram Ulysses Grant**



**Major General  
Henry Wager Halleck**



**Lieutenant General  
John McAllister Schofield**



**Major General  
George Henry Thomas**



**Lieutenant General  
John Bell Hood**

## Bruce Sirak to Retire

Bruce Sirak is retiring after 16 years as president of the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table in Hamilton, NJ. The Old Baldy Civil War Round Table extends congratulations and gratitude for his service to the New Jersey Civil War community and assistance in rebuilding our Round Table. The guidance and council he provided was significant in the planning and execution of the recent "New Jersey in the Civil War" Symposium in October which was a grand success. Bruce worked his way up and served as Commander of the Abraham Lincoln Camp 100 of the Sons of Union Veterans. We have seen him as Governor Charles Olden, a private in the 28th Massachusetts Company B (part of the Irish Brigade) and the coordinator of the Ham-



**Governor  
Charles Olden  
(Bruce Sirak)**

ilton Civil War encampments. He has appeared as Governor Olden in movies about Civil War New Jersey. He is a trustee of the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association. He served on the New Jersey Sesquicentennial Committee for six years bring the message of New Jersey's involvement in the Civil War to the citizens of the State. He has planned the programs for Camp Olden over the years bringing to the State several prominent presenters including Dr. Jim Green from NASA. He also served his church community during two terms as Grand Knight of his Knights of Columbus Council. He is a retired printer for the State of New Jersey who resides in Burlington, NJ with his wife Mary Ann. We are always pleased when he pops



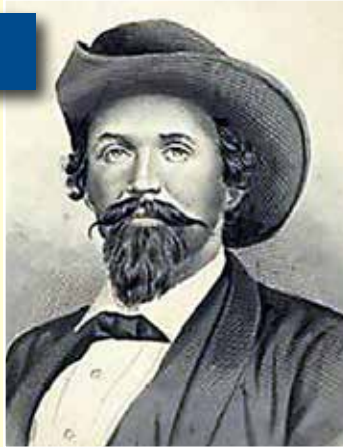
Bruce at the rededication of the "Swamp Angel"



into our meetings to witness one of our programs. The OBCWRT wishes him success in his future adventures and looks forward to seeing him around.

Captain John Hunt Morgan

## John Hunt Morgan Visits the Telegraph Office



Late on March 15, 1862, a forty-man company of Kentucky cavalymen under Captain John Hunt Morgan set out from

Murfreesboro, Tennessee, bound for Gallatin, in order to destroy Union rolling stock and capture prisoners and mail that might provide some useful intelligence. Having crossed the Cumberland River and camped overnight, the little column reached Gallatin around 4:00 p.m. on the 16th.

Disguised in Federal uniforms, Morgan and three other men rode into town and proceeded to the telegraph office near the railroad station.

Entering the office, Morgan hailed the operator, "Good day, sir. *What news have you?*" "Nothing, sir, except it is reported that that d-d rebel, Captain John Morgan, is this side of the Cumberland with some of his cavalry," replied the telegraph operator. "I wish I could get sight of the d-d rascal," the man added, displaying a Colt Navy revolver. "I'd make a hole through him larger than he would find pleasant."

Morgan quietly asked, "Do you know who I am?" "I have not that pleasure, sir." "Well, I am Captain Morgan."

At that the telegraph operator went pale, dropped the revolver, and very nearly fainted, or to use an eyewitness' word—"wilted."

When the man recovered, Morgan obliged him to send a few telegraphs to Louisville, including one to George Denison Prentice, the staunchly Unionist editor of The Louisville Journal, facetiously inviting him to visit Nashville sometime.

In addition to sending some telegrams, Morgan took charge of various documents found in the office, among them

orders issued by Union major general Don Carlos Buell. The raiders also captured a train that had just entered the town. Then, assisted by sympathetic local citizens, they collected the available rolling stock and burned it all.



Some of Morgan's men in prison after being captured.

Morgan and his men spent the night in Gallatin. The next morning they took the captured engine and reconnoitered several miles up the line, before retiring toward Murfreesboro, which they reached on the 18th.

## "You'ns Hain't no Yankees."

While on a foraging expedition near Decatur, Georgia, during Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, two Union cavalymen paused at the house of an old country woman and asked if they could have some water and something to eat. She complied, and watched as they wolfed down the cornpone that she provided.

"**And who mout you'ns be?**," she asked.

Both men owned up to being Yankees. Surprisingly, the woman refused to believe them, saying "**You'ns hain't no Yankees.**"

Although the two men insisted, the woman cut them off, saying "**I know you'ns hain't no Yankees, for you'ns hain't got no horns.**"

At this one of the soldiers said "**Oh, I we're young Yankees, our horns haven't sprouted yet. The horned Yankees are in the rear and will be along directly.**" Then the two rode off, leaving the old woman staring apprehensively down the road.

## "Where are their horns"

"On our way to the Provost Marshal's, I had an opportunity to learn for myself that some, at least, of the Southern people believed that Yankees had horns. On account of my disability, I was unable to keep pace with the other prisoners, and a comrade was detailed to help me along, and a guard to keep us company. Before reaching our destination, we made a detour from the main road to a dwelling house, for the purpose of getting a drink of water, if possible, procuring something to eat. We secured a drink at the spring in the rear of the house, and passing to the front, encountered a middle-aged and two younger ladies sitting on the porch. Our guard, who acted as spokesman, asked for something to eat, telling them, at the same time that we were Yankee prisoners. One of the young ladies, in all sincerity, immediately asked the guard: "Where are their horns?" "Upon which we all commenced to laugh, when the young lady innocently replied that she had been told that all the Yankees had horns on their heads like cows. I hardly need say that we got nothing to eat, doubt if we would, even if we had had horns."

# Civil War Battles With Multiple Names

It's pretty well known that there are quite a number of Civil War battles that have two names. Many have a "Union" name and a "Confederate" one, so that we have Shiloh or Pittsburgh Landing, Antietam or Sharpsburg, and so forth. Many of the actions during the Civil War are known by two or even more names.

The practice began early in the war, apparently with a little action known as Patterson's Creek or Kelly's Island, fought on June 26, 1861, in Virginia, and continued right to the end.

This multiplicity of names persists, sometimes to the confusion of even the most serious student of the struggle. Writing after the war, former Confederate Lieutenant General Daniel H. Hill pointed out that the "Union" name for a battle was usually that of a local terrain feature, while the "Confederate" name was frequently that of a town, "In one section the naming had been after the handiwork of God, and in the other section it has been after the handiwork of man." He advanced an elegant explanation for this.



**Lieutenant General  
Daniel Harvey Hill**

Southern soldiers, he claimed, being mostly from the rural areas, were impressed by man-made features, while their Northern counterparts, being mostly from towns and cities, were more impressed by natural features. Unfortunately both Hill's observation and his explanation are inaccurate. For a number of battles it is the Southern name which refers to a geographic feature and the Northern one that refers to a place, such Olustee or Ocean Pond (February 20, 1864). And most Union troops came from very small towns or rural areas. In any case, battles are not usually named by the common soldiers. For a better explanation one must look elsewhere.

During the Middle Ages the heralds of the opposing armies often met after a battle to decided upon an appropriate name. In modern times the two sides rarely communicate and so battles are named by generals, politicians, historians, and common usage. There are sound reasons for differences in the naming of battles, not just during the Civil War, but during any war. Frequently, the name of a battle is drawn from that of the most prominent locale on the field or in the immediate vicinity behind friendly lines. It thus is perfectly possible for a different place or geographic feature to catch the fancy of one side and not the other. So in the Civil War we have approximately two dozen major battles that have two names, including some of the most famous. Now this is relatively easy to understand, since the two sides did not confer on the naming of a battle.

More difficult by far, is the fact that nearly a score of important battles have three or more names. In fact, about ten percent of the twenty-five hundred largest of the approximately ten thousand combats in the war have more than one name. The multiplicity of names borne by some battles resulted from the use of different names by officers

making reports, by newspapermen filing dispatches, and even by political leaders making public pronouncements. Fortunately, most of the multiple names have fallen out of use.

The record for multiple names is held by the battle near Richmond on June 30, 1862, during the Peninsular Campaign, that is variously known as White Oak Swamp, Frazier's Farm, Glendale, Charles City Cross Roads, Nelson's Farm, Turkey Bend, or New Market Cross Roads, for a total of seven names, or eight if you count the variant spelling "Frayser's Farm" separately.

The following six battles or operations have five names. Arkansas (July 7, 1862): Bayou Cache, Cotton Plant, Round Hill, Bayou de View, Hill's Plantation. Virginia (August 9, 1862): Cedar Mountain, Slaughter Mountain, Southwest Mountain, Cedar Run, Mitchell's Station. Louisiana (April 13-14, 1863): Irish Bend, Bisland, Bayou Teche, Indian Ridge, Centreville. Louisiana (May 18, 1864): Bayou de Glaize, Old Oaks, Yellow Bayou, Simmsport, Calhoun Station. Georgia (May 24-June 4, 1864): Dallas, New Hope Church, Burned Hickory, Pumpkin Vine Creek, Altoona Hills. Georgia (June 9-30, 1864): Kennesaw Mountain, Lost Mountain, Nose's Creek, Marietta, Big Shanty.

Four others have four names: Missouri (October 13, 1861): West Glaze, Shanghai, Henrytown, Monday's Hollow. Virginia (October 21, 1861 )1 Ball's Bluff, Edward's Ferry, Harrison's Island, Leesburg. Mississippi (February 4, 1864 )2 Champion Hill, Baker's Creek, Raymond, Bolton Depot. Louisiana (May 14-16, 1864): Mansura, Avoyelle's Prairie, Moreaus-ville, Marksville.

Further confusing the issue is that there are several instances in which two or more different battles bear the same or quite similar names. But that's another story.

## The One that Almost Got Away

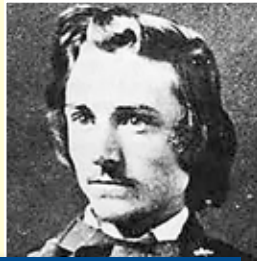
After General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, the Civil War rapidly wound down. There were still pointless skirmishes to be fought, and unnecessary casualties to be suffered, but after a few more weeks the war was finally over.

Most of the Confederate soldiers went peacefully back home. There were a few diehards, however, who chose to leave the country. Most tended to be high-ranking officers and politicians, who could afford to pack up and cross the Atlantic, or head into Mexico and points south.

There was one group of Confederates, however, who decided to fight their way out—the officers and crew of the CSS William H. Webb. Commanded by twenty-five-year-old Lieutenant Charles W. Read, the Webb was a double engine steamship of 500 tons, originally built in New York

City. It was sold to the authorities in Louisiana for use as a towboat. The ship was also known for its speed, which was to play a role in its last adventure. After the war broke out, the Confederates converted the craft into a warship. They added 3 guns, including one that could fire a 32-pound shot. When Admiral David Farragut captured New Orleans on April 28, 1862, the Webb was taken out of his reach, up the Red River, where it was further armed with a ram.

On April 16, 1865, just two days after John Wilkes Booth shot Abraham Lincoln, the Webb left its station near Shreveport, Louisiana. The ship was going to try a getaway, but it was not going to be easy. The Red River and the Mississippi River were thronged with Union ships, guarding New Orleans, and moving soldiers and supplies. The Confederates intention was to escape into the Gulf of Mexico and head for Havana, Cuba, where they would sell the ship's cargo of cotton.



**Lieutenant  
Charles William Read  
"Seawolf  
of the Confederacy"**

The Webb first stopped at Cote's Landing, 25 miles upriver from Alexandria, and took in 250 cords of pine knots as fuel. Pine fuel was bulky, and not really suitable for a ship's engines. Also, it gave off clouds of black smoke, which the crew called the "black squall". Coal would have been cleaner and more efficient, but with the U.S. Navy everywhere, the Webb could not get any.

In Chapter 4 of his *Life on the Mississippi*, Mark Twain mentioned that whenever a steamboat pulled into his childhood town of Hannibal, Missouri, the crew would toss a few chunks of pine wood into the furnace just before arriving: "great volumes of the blackest smoke are rolling and tumbling out of the chimneys—a husbanded grandeur created with a bit of pitch pine just before arriving at a town". In peacetime this was fun, a spectacle to be enjoyed. In wartime, the last thing the Webb needed was to signal its presence for miles up and down the river.

On April 21, the men aboard ship decided it was now or never. Besides fueling up, they had also covered the ship with cotton bales, as a kind of armor. There was even an American flag, at half-mast, as if in deference to the recent death of Abraham Lincoln. It was time to go.

At 4:30 AM, they set out. On the 22nd they ran the gauntlet of the Union fleet at the mouth of the Red River and embarked upon the Mississippi River. The fleet opened fire, nine times, but only one shot hit the Webb. This cut the jackstaff, a small pole up front used for displaying a flag, and it also knocked off a bale of cotton. The Webb doesn't seem to have done any shooting itself.

Just after the bombardment, a crewman came out with a pot of black paint. The Webb had originally been painted white all over, an odd choice, since it made the ship conspicuous even at night. The crewman began work by painting over the smokestack.

Day by day the ship sped along, with no further trouble. At some point, a torpedo was attached to a pole and added to the bow. Every 10 or 15 miles, a landing party would cut any nearby telegraph wires. At one point, however, near

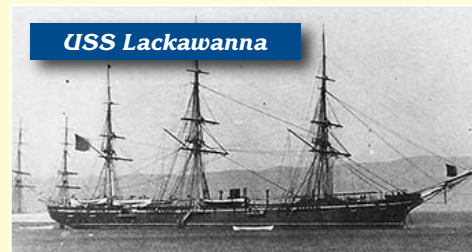
the mouth of the Red River, a unit of black Union soldiers prevented them from doing so.

On April 24 they cut the wires 13 miles above Bonnet Carre, itself about 30 miles upriver from New Orleans. Today would be the day—could they run past New Orleans and escape? Had the Webb but known it, they had a Union man as an unwitting ally. He would prove quite effective at disrupting telegraph service, without even using a wire-cutter.

The comedy of errors began when a young Lieutenant Enos, who had seen the Webb upriver from Bonnet Carre, galloped down to Bonnet Carre and told what was happening. A problem now presented itself. Where was the Union telegraph operator, to warn New Orleans? The operator, an L.C. Hebard, had left his post and disappeared into a coffee house. By the time his superiors found him, the Webb was six miles past Bonnet Carre and its crew was cutting more wires. So, Enos galloped off again, on a fresh horse, while Hebard was sent off in an ambulance with men and wire, to fix the line and warn New Orleans.

Hebard took along his telegraph, to relay a warning from the officers at Bonnet Carre. Somehow, though, he wandered off into the countryside along the way. When he finally returned, he was thoroughly drunk. By this time, there was yet another wire break to fix, 12 miles farther down. One of the officers at Bonnet Carre, Colonel Charles Everett, wrote an April 24 message to a Lieutenant Maloney, ending with,

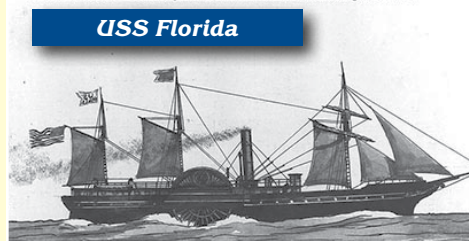
"I hope a new operator will be sent here soon, as I am obliged to keep this one under guard in his own office and work him drunk or sober."



**USS Lackawanna**

Despite Hebard's dubious assistance, by noon of that day, the 24th, the U.S. fleet at New Orleans were (somehow) notified—though they would have known about the Webbs imminent arrival anyway, with the "black squall" coming over the horizon. By 12:30 PM the Webb came into view, zipping along at 30 miles an hour. Crowds of New Orleans people ran to the levee to watch.

The Union crews may have felt a certain admiration for the Webb's crew, for having gotten so far, but there was probably some bitterness as well. By April 24, the surviving U.S. sailors must have figured they had gotten through their tour of duty, and could go home soon. Now they might have to fight a battle, and risk getting injured or killed.



**USS Florida**

A U.S. ship called the Lackawanna fired a 250-pound shot, hitting the Webb above the water line at the bow, but doing no serious damage. A torpedo didn't explode, either. At this point the Webb lowered the

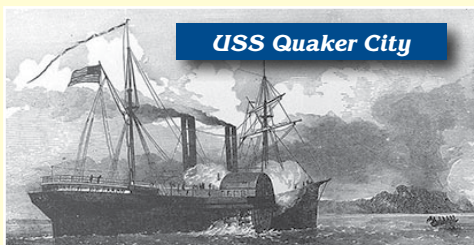
U.S. flag. The firing from other ships did even less damage to the Webb, some missing their target altogether. Again, the Webb did not fire back. As the ship passed the river bend below New Orleans, it raised the Confederate flag.



**USS Ossipee**

The Union ships fired up as soon as they could, and gave chase. The Hollyhock

led the pack, accompanied by the Florida, the Ossipee, and the Washington, which was described as a "tin-clad". Tin-clads were not actually armored with tin. They were iron-clads all right, but with a bare minimum of armor, armor that could stop a bullet maybe, but not a determined artillery attack. In other words, a tin-clad was a second-rate, quickie job.



**USS Quaker City**

The pursuers also included the Quaker City, which had seen service from the earliest days of the war. Just two

years later, in 1867, the Quaker City was used for a group tour of the Mediterranean. One of its passengers was Mark Twain, who later wrote up the trip in 1869 in his first major book, *The Innocents Abroad*.



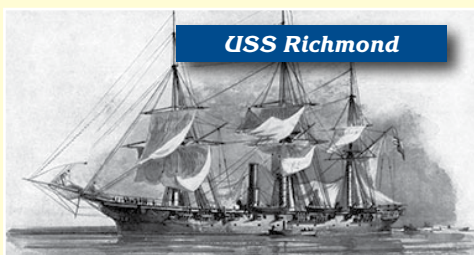
**USS Washington**

The Hollyhock was the only one that could keep up. For 28 miles, the two ships raced, the Hollyhock neither losing

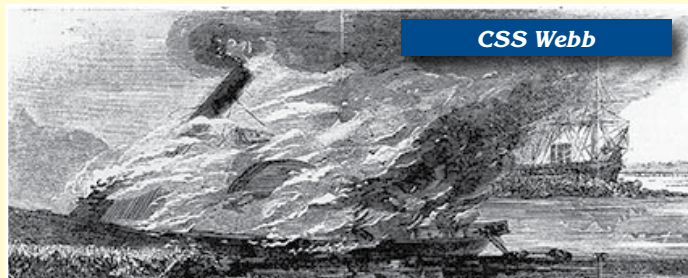
ground nor gaining any. It was almost like the prewar steamboat races described in *Life on the Mississippi*.

The Webb's plan was eventually to turn and capture the Hollyhock, then wait until nightfall. It would then continue downriver, hurrying past two forts that guarded the river, one on each side- Forts Jackson and St. Philip. In other words, they were hoping to run past the forts without being destroyed, the way Farragut had run past the forts in 1862, only in the opposite direction.

Then all the plans went awry. A warship, the Richmond, loomed up ahead, blocking the way. As the April 25 "Daily Picayune" of New Orleans phrased it, "There was a Richmond in the field", a reference to Shakespeare's "Richard the Third", where the evil Richard is defeated by the heroic Richmond at the battle of Bosworth Field in 1485.



**USS Richmond**



**CSS Webb**

*The Burning of the Webb by Her Crew*

There was no point in losing lives—the escape had failed. Read ran the ship aground, and the crew set it on fire, clambered onto the levee, and ran for the swamps. The U.S. ships were unable to extinguish the flames, but they did rescue one Charles Preston, an overlooked engineer down below, who had slept through it all.

The fugitives soon discovered what a muddy, bug-laden place a swamp was to wade through. Accordingly, they turned themselves in to the Union authorities, at a place called McCall's Flats. They were taken back upriver to New Orleans and placed in custody.

Perhaps the April 26 *Daily Picayune* said it best: "If it had succeeded, it would have lived in story as the most extraordinary feat in the days of naval warfare. As it failed it will only be regarded as an act of desperation."

## Confederate Operations on Lake Erie

Confederate efforts to carry the war to the North by means of raids from Canada form an obscure chapter in the history of the Civil War. As a strategy it was not likely to win the war, but if pursued with greater resources and determination it might have caused significant problems for the Union. One scheme, was to capture the U.S.S. Michigan, a lightly armed gunboat that was the only federal warship on the Great Lakes, and use her to liberate the Confederate prisoners-of-war held at Johnson's Island, Ohio. There were actually two attempts to seize the vessel.

The first attempt was engineered by Captain John Wilkinson, C.S.N., who had had a long career in the United States Navy before the war. The plan was really quite simple. Funds from the sale of cotton smuggled through the blockade would be used to purchase arms, including a nine-pounder, and these would be procured in Canada. Other needed equipment would be shipped to Montreal from Britain and elsewhere in crates labeled "machinery." Wilkinson would concentrate his men at Montreal, recruiting additional personnel from among the many escaped Confederate prisoners-of-war living in Canada. When all was in readiness, the "machinery" was to be loaded



**USS Michigan**

aboard an American lake steamer at a Canadian port, and the men would take passage in various guises. Once in U.S. territorial waters, the Confederates would seize the steamer, break out their weapons, and make for Sandusky, where the Michigan was normally to be found.

Timing their arrival for dawn,

the raiders were to stage a collision with the Union vessel, which would permit them to board and capture her. They would then commission her in the Confederate navy and head for Johnson's Island. After liberating the prisoners, Wilkinson intended to terrorize Union lake traffic.

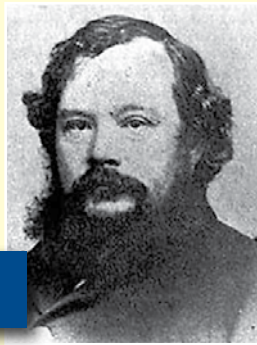
Initially the operation went smoothly. In January 1864 the fast steamer Robert E. Lee sailed from Wilmington, North Carolina,

with a load of cotton, successfully eluded the Union blockade, and put in at Halifax. With the proceeds from the sale of the cotton, Wilkinson soon procured the arms and equipment he needed, then moved his men to their rendezvous in Montreal. However, Union intelligence, apparently warned by Canadian authorities, got wind of the scheme. The Michigan was alerted to the danger, the garrison at Johnson's Island was increased, and other precautions were taken. Apprised of these developments, Wilkinson dispersed his men. Making his way back to the Confederacy, he for a time commanded the famed ironclad Albemarle. Although Wilkinson's scheme failed, it was sufficiently reasonable to be adopted virtually whole for a second attempt on the Michigan.

John Yates Beall, a Confederate army officer who had fought at Bull Run before being invalidated out of the service, had transferred to the navy and acquired a considerable reputation conducting what would today be called "commando" raids in the Chesapeake Bay area. Captured in late 1863, after being exchanged he was sent to Canada in the

spring of 1864, essentially with a

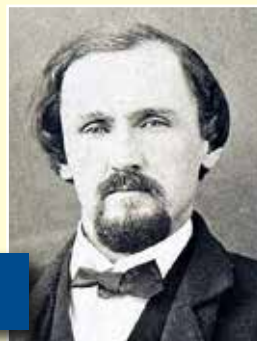
commission to implement Wilkinson's plan to liberate the prisoners at Johnson's Island. Beale recruited men from among the Confederate escapees in Canada. On September 19, 1864, Beall and his men seized the lake steamer Philo Parsons and set course for Sandusky. Beall's plan called for Confederate agents ashore to distract the attention of crew of the Michigan, thereby making it easier for him seize the ship. However, the attempt to distract the crew was unsuccessful and Beall had no choice but to



**Captain John Wilkinson**

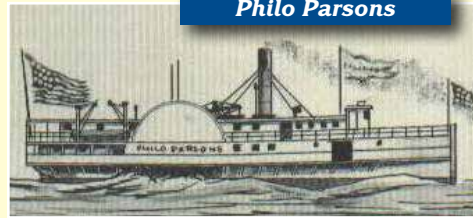


**CSS Robert E. Lee**



**John Yates Beall**

abort the operation. Steaming back to Canada aboard Philo Parsons, Beall chanced to encounter the American steamer Island Queen, which he seized and scuttled, the only naval



**Philo Parsons**

casualty of the war on the Great Lakes. While Beall could have attempted to use Philo Parsons a while longer, he was in a precarious situation, for both American and Canadian authorities were looking for him. As a result, shortly after his encounter with the Island Queen, he ran his ship aground and abandoned her. Beall shortly afterwards conceived a scheme to intercept a train carrying Confederate prisoners-of-war across New York, only to be captured, and later executed as a spy.

There were some fuzzy aspects to these plans to liberate the prisoners at Johnson's Island. After all, what was to be done with all those thousands of men, many of them ill, wounded, or otherwise debilitated, and hundreds of miles from the Confederacy. But had the plan succeeded, Union lake commerce would have been disrupted for some time, and Yankee morale would probably have suffered, with a concomitant boost to that of the Confederacy.

## Having Jeff Davis For Dinner



**Jefferson Finis Davis**

Foraging was a common practice in both armies during the war. After all, neither army did a great a job of getting rations to the men, and the troops had to

eat. Naturally, foraging was hard on the civilians, especially in the South, since the war was mostly in the South. To be sure, the troops might hand out cash or vouchers, but these were usually worthless. Quite often foraging amounted to little

more than theft, a grim business that might leave a family literally without anything to eat.

But like much that occurred in the war, foraging did have occasional moments of humor.

Consider the experience of an unnamed Union regiment campaigning in northern Mississippi.

While on the march from here to there, the regiment made a temporary halt at a large plantation. While the regimental commander paid his respects to the lady of the house, some of the troops made for the chicken coops. Fearing the worst, the good lady appealed to the colonel.

As the boys in blue began chasing her chickens all over the yard, the woman explained that her family were Unionists, who had stood up for the Old Flag despite harassment



from their Rebel neighbors. Now this might well have worked, after all, an appeal from a young Southern matron might stir chivalrous instincts in the good colonel, who might, after all, be in need of some feminine attention.

But just then, one of the colonel's men got his hands on a big rooster. And one of the woman's children cried out,

"Mother, that horrid Yankee's got 'Jeff Davis' and is going to wring his neck!"

At that, the loyalties of the family could no longer be doubted, and the troops had Jeff Davis for dinner, along with a number of other "Rebel" chickens.

## November 10th Meeting

### "Amiable Scoundrel: Simon Cameron"

At our November gathering, Paul Kahan gave an entertaining presentation on his research and findings on Amiable Scoundrel: Simon Cameron, who was a skillful political figure who rose from poverty to prominence. During his Old Baldy stop on his tour of area Round Tables, he teased the members with tidbits about Cameron, encouraging them to read his book. He placed the Secretary of War in the context of the era, showing he was not much different from other politicians of that time. Removing the stereotypes and myths, Cameron was a complex member of Lincoln's

cabinet. Kahan infused humanity into the statesman from Pennsylvania; going behind his reputation covering various the positions (senator, ambassador, secretary of war, political boss) he held as well as the policy achievements he advanced. Cameron laid the groundwork for what became the Union's military strategy during the War. He was politically active after War, working for the rights of freed slaves. Similar to other politicians from that era, he supported the business interest of his home state. All who listened departed with a better understanding of Simon Cameron and the role he played in National politics for over four decades. Kahan also had copies of his recent book *The Bank War: Andrew Jackson, Nicholas Biddle*, available for members to purchase.

Paul Kahan



### Coming Up Events

#### Saturday, December 3; 2pm

The documentary "Civil War Prison - An American Tragedy" will be presented at the Burlington County Library, 5 Pioneer Road, Westampton, NJ 08060. There will be a Q and A discussion period with the producer after the screening of the film. For information: contact Joseph Wilson at joel21@aol.com. This is another chance to see this documentary, if you haven't seen it yet this is a great opportunity to see a wonderfully produced film.

#### Tuesday, December 6; 5pm-7pm.

Father Christmas at the Farmstead by the fire in the summer kitchen. Van Nest-Hoff-Vannatta Farmstead, 3026 Belvidere Road, Harmony Township, NJ 08865. Information: www.hoffvannattafarm

#### Sunday, December 11; 4pm

University of Delaware Chorale performs "Carols by Candlelight".

Copeland Lecture Hall, Winterthur Museum, 5105 Kennett Pike, Winterthur, DE 19735. Reservation in advance; purchase tickets at 302-888-4600. \$10/members; \$20/nonmembers; \$5/children (10-17). For information: 800-448-3883 or www.winterthur.org

### Delaware Valley CWRT Civil War Institute at Manor College

Our updated Civil War Institute at Manor College class format has undergone several changes that allow a greater variety of choices for students who in the past have found it difficult to attend 3-week or 6-week courses.

Our semesters now include multiple-week courses, 2-week courses and 1-night seminars. Classes may be taken as part of the certificate program or individually. Completion of four core courses, and any 12 nights of electives (any combination of length) will now be required to receive the certificate.

# 40th Birthday Celebration Luncheon

January 21, 2017 · 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Adelphia Restaurant  
1750 Clements Bridge Road

Deptford Township, NJ 08096

Cost: \$37.00 or (2) \$70.00 for Buffet Lunch

Charlie Zahm, Civil War Music Presentation and Performance

Door prizes and Iwo Jima Print Raffle  
installation of New Board  
Memories, Pictures, and Fellowship.

Information: 856-904-5481 · OldBaldyCWRT@verzion.net · OldBaldyCWRT.org · Old Baldy Facebook

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

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

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Make checks payable to "Old Baldy Civil War Round Table" or "Old Baldy CWRT")

(Credit Cards can be used at [Brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com))

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2716013>

Mail Completed FORM and PAYMENT to:

OBCWRT · C/O Rich Jankowski · 211 Bergen Avenue, Voorhees, NJ 08043

## Return to Iwo Jima Print

The drawing is a pen and ink rendering of the flag-raising on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Japan, on February 23, 1945, during the battle for Iwo Jima.

A framed limited edition (1/25) Gyclee print on 100% Acid Free conservator stock, glass is Ultra Violet and Glare-Free.

Signatures include: last surviving Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams from the battle; Samuel Holiday, a Navajo Code Talker; a Corpsman; Mike "Iron Mike" Mervosh, a Marine Corps legend, the non-commissioned officer's club on Camp Pendleton MCB is named after him- all the signatures are veterans of the battle.

Also included is a portion of Black Sand from the invasion Beach area.

Tickets for the print drawing are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00

Contact information: Rich Jankowski - Phone: 856-427-6966

[jediwarrior11@verizon.net](mailto:jediwarrior11@verizon.net)

Mail Ticket Sales: Bob Russo - 856-424-2155

15 Lakeview, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

[RJRUSSO58@yahoo.com](mailto:RJRUSSO58@yahoo.com)

Drawing will be held at the  
40th Anniversary Luncheon - January 2017.





# On the Trail with Old Baldy

Thursday,  
January 12, 2017

For our next Round Table Discussion Night, we invite members to present an interesting Historical Site that you've visited. Plan to show the history, pictures, learnings, etc. Share your interests and enlighten us with your experience!

To ensure the best use of everyone's time, participation in this month's program will be limited to 3 topics of about 15 minutes each. The participation schedule will be confirmed no later than our December 8th Round Table meeting.

If you would like to share your historical travel experience, please contact:

Dave  
ddsghh@comcast.net  
or  
Harry hj3bama@verizon.net

## 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  
Adjustable Closure

Orders will be shipped 2 weeks after they are placed. All orders will be shipped UPS ground, shipping charges will be incurred. UPS will not ship to PO Boxes, please contact Jeanne Reith if you would like to make other shipping arrangements.

Items are non-returnable due to customization, please contact Jeanne Reith if you have questions on sizing.

Jeanne Reith Tuttle Marketing Services 1224 Gail Road West Chester, PA 19380 jeanne@tuttlemarketing.com 610-430-7432

<https://tuttlemarketing.com/store/products/old-baldy-civil-war-round-table-651>

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



7 - Irish Fluted Glass - \$7.00  
Can be used with either Cold or Hot Liquids

Our core courses are being reduced from six weeks to four weeks each. This will allow a student to earn a certificate after attending 56 hours of instruction (32 hours of core courses plus 24 hours of electives), instead of an average of 72 hours of instruction.

Manor College is located at 700 Fox Chase Road in Jenkintown, PA. You may call (215) 884-2218 to register or for an application for the certificate program, or online [www.manor.edu/cont-ed/civil-war/courses.php](http://www.manor.edu/cont-ed/civil-war/courses.php)

**Class hours are 6:30 till 8:30 pm, unless otherwise noted.**

**\* Indicates Core Course**

**\*\* Indicates Elective Course/Seminar**

### Spring 2017

The following seminars and courses will be offered in the Spring 2017 semester. Of special interest are two classes that will – for the first time – add material on World War II to the Institute's curriculum. All classes will begin at 6:30 p.m. on the dates specified.

#### **\*\*Washington in the Civil War 2 hrs**

The Union capital had a unique role, especially as it was situated in the midst of Confederate sympathy. Explore life in the city during this tumultuous time.

**Instructor: Hugh Boyle  
Thursday, January 12**

#### **\*\*The Battle of Antietam 4 hrs**

Sept. 17, 1862, saw the bloodiest day in American military history, and one of the most decisive battles of the war. Federals and Rebels pounded each other through the Cornfield, across the Sunken Road and over Burnside's Bridge. The narrow Union victory gave President Lincoln the chance to announce the Emancipation Proclamation.

**Instructor: Jerry Carrier  
Mondays, January 23 and 30**

#### **\*Life of the Common Soldier 8 hrs**

Who served in the armies of the Blue and the Gray? What were their living conditions? What were their thoughts as they marched into battle? This class describes the soldier's life, which has been described as "weeks of utter boredom, interrupted by moments of sheer terror."

**Instructor: Herb Kaufman  
Thursdays, February 16 and 23, March 2 and 9**

#### **World War II Seminar**

#### **\*\*Pearl Harbor: The Surprise Was Complete 2 hrs**

The shout of "General Quarters" rang throughout the fleet. Explore the political background, eyewitness accounts and historical analysis of the attack that brought the United States into WWII.

**Instructor: Herb Kaufman  
Monday, March 13**

#### **\*\*The Role of Horses in the Civil War 2 hrs**

Horses and mules played a critical role in the Civil War – as mounts for officers and cavalry, or as mobile power for artillery and supplies. This class also describes some well-known and lesser-known horses of the Civil War

**Instructor: Nancy Caldwell  
Wednesday, March 22**

#### **\*\*Philadelphia in the Civil War 2 hrs**

The city and its citizens played a major role during the Civil War, particularly as suppliers of war materiel.

**Instructor: Herb Kaufman  
Wednesday, April 5**

#### **\*\*The Battle of Fredericksburg 4 hrs**

On Dec. 13, 1862, the Army of the Potomac, under Ambrose Burnside, suffered its most disastrous defeat. Futile assaults on Confederate positions brought about the slaughter of many Union soldiers. This class will explore why the Union lost, portray the brave men who fought, and the strategies and blunders that made this battle one of the most memorable in the Civil War.

**Instructor: Walt Lafty  
Wednesdays, April 12 and 19**

#### **World War II Seminar**

#### **\*\*The Music That Got Us Through World War II 2 hrs**

During the war, radios were filled with new patriotic and sentimental songs. The music, highlighted by many original 78 rpm records, that has been woven into the fabric of our American culture is presented. Learn about the composers, bands and singers that got us through the war.

**Instructor: Herb Kaufman  
Wednesday, May 3**

#### **\*\*The Irish in the Civil War 4 hrs**

Both Blue and Gray had a generous touch of green. So why did these men fight and die so bravely in a country that was new to them? And what generals were more gallant than the Union's Phil Sheridan and the Confederacy's Pat Cleburne?

**Instructor: Hugh Boyle  
Mondays, May 8 and 15**

## Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for 2016/2017

**December 8 – Thursday  
"The Myth of the Lost Cause"  
Edward Bonekemper  
(Author, Historian)**

**January 12 – Thursday  
"On the Trail with Old Baldy"  
Member's Historical Site Trips  
(Round Table Discussion)**

**February 9 – Thursday  
"This will make a man of me: The Life and Letters  
of a Teenage Officer in the Civil War"  
James Scythes  
(Author, Historian)**

**Questions to  
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**

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Vice President: Bob Russo  
Treasurer: Herb Kaufman  
Secretary: Bill Hughes  
Programs: Dave Gilson  
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**Editor: Don Wiles - cwiles@comcast.net**