

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

July 12, 2018

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

“Independence—an Ideal, a National Park and a World Heritage Site”

Join us at **7:15 PM** on **Thursday, July 12th**, at **Camden County College** in the **Madison Hall, Room 210**. This month's topic is **“Independence—an Ideal, a National Park and a World Heritage Site”**

Only a few miles from where many of our members live, sits what is known as the most historic square mile in the United States of America. Independence National Historical Park, located in Old City Philadelphia encompasses approximately 55 acres,

and includes numerous original historic structures that tell the story of our Nation's founding and our Founders. Independence Hall, Congress Hall, Old City Hall where the United States Supreme Court met from 1791 to 1800 will be discussed in this presentation. Additional buildings, such as Benjamin's Franklin's Print Shop, the First and Second Banks of the United States, and some important players in our Nation's founding will be discussed. Also discussed will be the famed Liberty Bell, a symbol of freedom and liberty for people all over the world and an inspiration for oppressed people everywhere.

Stories of Independence Hall will include the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Room, the Assembly Room where great events happened and the Long Gallery on the second floor, which is often overlooked but has great importance in both the Revolutionary Era and just previous to the Civil War Era. The presentation occurs just a week after our July Fourth celebration.

In 1948, the National Park Service took over operations of the Park and they continue to maintain the structures and grounds throughout the Park. Previous to the Bicentennial of Independence in 1976 vast improvements were made throughout the Park in advance of that celebration. We now look forward to the Nation's 250 birthday in 2026 with improvements already taking place.

Bob Russo is a current member and former Vice President of Old Baldy Civil War Round Table. He can also be found many Saturday mornings volunteering for the National



Bob Russo

Park Service at Independence National Historical Park. While there he conducts tours of Independence Hall, Congress Hall and offers interpretation at the Liberty Bell and other sites within the Park. Bob has a vast interest in American history that dates back to his teen years. He has been a member of numerous historical organizations over the years that include the Gettysburg Foundation, Surratt Society, Ford's Theater Society, Civil War Trust, National Constitution Center, the Museum of the American Revolution and others. Bob recently became a Share Holder of the Library Company of Philadelphia. In 2014 Bob also received the Certificate of Completion from the Civil War Institute at Manor College in Pennsylvania. In his employment Bob works as the Senior Vice President of a local structural steel and miscellaneous iron fabricator and erector. Bob has been a resident of Cherry Hill for over Twenty-Five Years and also served a full term on the Cherry Hill Board of Education from 2006 to 2009. He served one year as that Board's Vice President.

Bob's expectation is that you'll learn a few things about Independence National Historical Park and the momentous events that occurred in and around the hallowed buildings of the Park. Bob's hope is that after experiencing the presentation you'll want to visit the Park at some point in the future.

See Page 10



Notes from the President...

Welcome to July with heat, humidity, fireworks and history. Hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Independence Day week. I was out exploring West Texas and Southeast

Continued on page 2

New Mexico while taking in some ballgames in the Pecos League. Look for articles in future newsletters about some of what we learned in that vast open country.

Our Round Table was awarded first place in the 2017 Kevin M. Hale Publication Award competition from the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey for our newsletter. Thank you to **Don Wiles** for publishing it and **Kathy Clark** for providing material. Please contribute to our continued success. Thank you also to those who join us at the Lamp Post for pre-meeting conversation. Come over and check it out.

John Fitzpatrick shared his vast knowledge and opinions about the Civil War with us last month. Past Vice President, **Bob Russo** will be debuting his presentation on Independence Hall on July 12th in Madison 210. Please note the change of room for July. Bring a few friends to learn about this treasure. As part of our Outreach Program, Bob presented his Arlington National Cemetery program to the Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill on July 2nd. **Dave Gilson** has great programs scheduled in the next few months. Join us if you can.

Our enlarged map of South Jersey Civil War sites, researched and designed by **Ellen Preston**, was at our June meeting. Be sure to view it in July. The new Old Baldy standing banner is also ready. **Steve Peters** will have our first member spotlight submitted soon. Our Round Table is participating in the Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" program this year. We will be selling coupons for \$5 that will entitle the owner to 25% off purchases on October 16th and gives Old Baldy the \$5. They will be available at the July meeting.

Thank you to everyone who is assisting **Frank Barletta** in planning and organizing our Civil War Symposium. More are welcome, contact Frank or me if you are interested. We have visited the Cape May, Brandywine, Eastern PA, and Robert E. Lee Round Tables to share our message. We have also provided materials to Jersey Shore, Bucks County, Northern New Jersey and the Phil Kearney groups. Pick up some flyers and registration forms to share in your community. Submit your registration before August 31st for the early-bird price.

Come join us around 5:30 before our meeting on the 12th at the Lamp Post Diner for dinner.

Rich Jankowski, President

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

Email: oldbaldycwrt@verizon.net

Face Book: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table

Lending Library by Frank Barletta

A "Lending Library" of the books written by the speakers will continue at this month's meeting.

Please return books checked out so other members can check one out.

Today in Civil War History

1861 Friday, July 12

Eastern Theater

At Beverley in western Virginia McClellan's 4th and 9th Ohio regiments occupy the town, taking 600 defeated Confederate prisoners. Meanwhile, a Union force under the command of Jacob Cox prepares to meet former Virginia governor Henry Wise's troops in the Great Kanawah Valley.

1862 Saturday, July 12

Eastern Theater

There is a skirmish at Culpeper, Virginia

Western Theater

Morgan takes Lebanon, Two of the Federal defenders are killed and 65 are captured.

1863 Sunday, July 12

Eastern Theater

Advancing on a six-mile front, the Army of the Potomac finally runs into Lee's outpost line. The Confederates are dug in with their backs to the Potomac. The situation is similar to that before Antietam—indeed, they are only a few miles from the battlefield. Meade balks at ordering an assault, despite his superior numbers.

1864 Tuesday, July 12

Eastern Theater

Early turns his men around, his rear guard sniping at Fort Stevens where President Lincoln is standing on the parapet. "Get down you damned fool or you'll be killed," shouts a young officer as a man near Lincoln is hit. Ducking down, Lincoln observes, "Well, Captain, I see you have already learned how to address a civilian." The officer is Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Confederate Privateers and Cruisers in the Civil War

by Roger A. Bailey

As the Union Navy gathered its strength to impose a blockade on the South, Confederate leaders developed their own plans for the war at sea. The North had more ships, cannons, naval officers, and industrial facilities, leaving the Rebels with no realistic hope of obtaining control of the Atlantic. The Confederates therefore developed a two-part naval strategy: Firstly, they would defend their key ports and rivers with forts, gunboat flotillas, and eventually ironclads. Secondly, they would commission privateers and Confederate naval vessels to attack Union commerce at sea.

The concept of commerce raiding was centuries old at least. Americans had even achieved significant successes raiding

Ships of the Civil War

Editor's Note:

During the upcoming issues we will try to show an example of the different types of ships that were used in the Civil War. Some of the types of ships are; Gunboats, Cruisers, Raiders, Tin Clads, Ironclads, Rams, Blockade Runners, Submarines, Cutters, Transports, Cotton Clads, Hospital Ships and Etc...

British commerce in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. In particular, naval officers such as John Paul Jones and David Porter (the father of Adm. David D. Porter and guardian of Adm. David G. Farragut) became famous for their commerce raiding exploits.

The Confederates reasoned that they would be out gunned against the Union Navy, because Northern steel mills and shipyards could produce a larger and better-equipped fleet. Consequently, the Confederate Navy focused on building "cruisers" that were fast enough to avoid Union warships, but still carried enough firepower to easily capture merchant ships, which were usually slower and unarmed. Because the South lacked major shipbuilding facilities and expertise, the most effective of these raiders were secretly built in Great Britain. Britain was a neutral power, however, so this arrangement was technically illegal, and the raiders had to be built in secret.

President Jefferson Davis also issued "letters of marque" to enterprising civilian captains, authorizing them to outfit private vessels to raid Union shipping. These "privateers" were not paid by the government - instead, they kept what-

ever ships and cargo they seized, and divided the profits between the owner and crew. Privateer vessels were generally smaller than the Navy's cruisers, but had the same needs: namely, the speed to outrun warships, and enough armament to capture undefended merchantmen. In theory, privateers rarely fought battles and had the possibility of making an immense profit, so privateering was an appealing profession in the early war.

The Civil War was different from previous US wars, however, because the Union blockade was more effective. With fewer ports to patrol, the Federal Navy could keep a stronger presence at the handful of open Southern ports. The blockade consequently prevented Confederates from

CSS Florida



CSA Raiders, Privateers and Cruisers

CSS Alabama



CSS Chickamauga



CSS Calhoun



CSS Tallahassee



CSS Shenandoah



CSS Sumter



CSS Rappahannock



CSS Rattlesnake



CSS Georgia



making it home to sell their "prizes" and captured cargo, refuel, undergo repairs, or drop off prisoners. Many Rebel captains used foreign ports for their needs, with limited success. Few external powers were willing to take sides in the war, and many strictly limited the services available to Confederate raiders in their ports – only allowing them to make vital repairs or purchase necessary supplies. As the risks of selling captured ships mounted, the privateering became less common. Privateers were fundamentally motivated by profit, and the difficulty in selling their prizes drove many would-privateers to other business ventures, such as blockade-running.

Cruisers, on the other hand, could partially avoid this logistical problem. Their officers and crew earned wages, so they burned most of their prizes at sea along with any cargo that the crew did not need for themselves. Union passengers and crew were generally taken prisoner, and

either dropped off in a neutral ship or port. Furthermore, the most effective raiding vessels, such as Captain Raphael Semmes' CSS Alabama, had a full set of sails in addition to a steam engine, enabling the ships to stay at sea longer without stopping to take on more coal.

Today, historians debate the effectiveness of Confederate commerce raiders. Most agree that privateering had little effect on the war effort. Although some of cruisers were immensely successful, their direct effect on the Union war effort was limited by the fact that there were rarely more than a handful of raiders at sea at any given time. They did, however, dramatically increase Northern insurance premiums, cause many merchants to ship goods in foreign ships, and pull Union warships away from blockade duty. Finally, it is worth noting that Rebel commerce raiders sailed all over the globe, and helped make the world aware of the Confederacy and the American Civil War.

Interesting Tidbits in Military History

First Combat Jump

by Mike Cavanaugh, OBCWRT Member

This account is a composite of the experiences of World War II paratroopers and myself, as a member of the 326th Airborne Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, at Fort Campbell, KY. 1956-1959.

Paratroopers have heard this remark many times: Why would you want to jump out of a perfectly good airplane? Let's take this question a step further. Why would you jump from an airplane carrying well over a hundred pounds of equipment? Better yet, along with your M-1 rifle, you are assigned to jump carrying a .30 caliber machine gun. And after landing, you have to locate the man carrying the tripod and ammo or the gun is worthless. Let's add this scenario; your plane is flying through a thick cloud bank. The pilot, fearing a mid-air collision, drops out of formation. But now he must contend with flak and anti-aircraft tracer fire, along with enemy fighters reported to be very active in the area lately. Climbing to 1,500 feet or more, he banks sharply to the left and then drop down to less than 400 feet (studies show that it takes a drop of 300 feet before a parachute opens fully). Luckily for us, our pilot is a veteran flyer and has a top-notch crew. Despite the bullet holes and shrapnel, he is able to bring the craft under control leveling off at 600 feet. Now the jumpmaster must do his job. This is our first combat jump and despite outward appearances, anyone who says they are not nervous or down-right, scared is a damn liar!

When volunteering for the Airborne you must first complete Jump School. This is a mercilessly physical fitness program augmented with ten-mile runs and countless push-ups. To start you never walk while in Jump School. Everything is double time. Then we have "tower week!" To start you are suspended in a harness for what seems like a least a week. Some recruits refer this apparatus as the "Hanging Agony." This qualifies you for the thirty-four-foot tower. You stand at the door just like an airplane. You



jump and drop about 16 feet until a strap catches you. Riding down the steel cable you hit a trip wire

and drop another ten to fifteen feet

to the ground. Surviving that, you advance to the famous 250-foot tower. While you are being constantly harangued by Jump School cadre, you're practicing your Parachute Landing Falls (PLF), more push-ups and practicing maneuvering and control of your parachute; and, yes, more push-ups.

To graduate, you must make five jumps to qualify for your jump wings. If you change your mind, or can't take it anymore, you may quit and return to a "straight leg" unit (Airborne term for a pair of pants with a crease, as opposed to those "baggy pants"). If you are listed on a jump manifest and want to quit, that could be a problem. You could be court-martialed, especially if it's a scheduled combat mission. Rumor has it that three men quit this morning right before takeoff. Their fate is unknown. I would advise them not to make the military a career choice!



34 Foot Tower

Men do different things to while away the hours on the trip to the drop zone. Most, like myself, try to get some sleep. Some are reading the same letters from home over and over again. If you are trying to engage in conversation, it is almost impossible with the roar of the C-47's



engines. When the jumpmaster opens the doors, the noise level increases two-fold and that gets everyone's attention. Now all eyes are fixed on the red light. Despite the noise, you can still hear the jumpmaster yell, Stand up! It's a real struggle getting on your feet, but you make it with help from your buddies. Hook up! "D" rings are attached to the steel cable. Check your equipment and count off! This you have done countless times in jump school and practice flights. 16 OK, 15 OK, 14 OK, and so on. You carefully check the chute of the man in front of you. You make sure his D-ring is fully closed and attached to the cable properly. You will notice in photographs of paratroopers standing in the door, they have a death grip on that "D" ring. (That's why experienced jumpers are uncomfortable with tail-gate jumps. You must release the "D" ring and run several feet down the ramp and off into space). Next you check his static line to be sure it's free of any hang-ups? Remember his life is in your hands, like your life is in his. If everything is OK, you gave him a tap on the right shoulder. Being the last man in the stick, you turn around and the man in front of you does your equipment check.

The green light flashes on and almost instantly the jumpmaster yells "GO!" The first man on each side leaps into space as if they are sucked out of the airplane. Being the last man in the stick, you're literally running when you reach the door. You exit cleanly with the jumpmaster right behind you. Except for the air crew, the plane is now empty. So far, all of these maneuvers were pounded into your head in jump school. You now count, *one thousand, two thousand, three thousand*, the opening shock hits you like a sucker punch in the gut. Some say it feels like your skeleton is coming apart. Recovering, you marvel at the beautiful sight as your chute fully blossoms. You're really happy you paid attention in the parachute packing class.



Ike at D-Day

(The T-7 was the standard parachute used in World War II. It has a twenty-eight-foot canopy. Post-war, the T-10 was developed. It had a slower decent and a less severe opening shock).

Looking down, you remember in the pre-jump briefing that the Germans flooded the area the day before. Is it a body of

water or paved highway? Both not the best for a good PLF! If it's water, carrying all this equipment, there is no way you are going to stay afloat. And being a night drop just adds to the problem. Now the entire area is ablaze with ground and anti-aircraft fire. The enemy can see you hanging helpless in the sky and there's not much you can do about it. It's only seconds, but it feels like you are hanging in the air forever. Finally, you hit the ground with a grunt. First thing you check for is broken bones. You did hear something snap. With a sigh of relief, it's your M-1 rifle broken in two. Not to worry, you're confident

you will be able to pick one up soon. You quickly gather your chute and any equipment that didn't come loose when your chute opened. German fire is increasing and it seems to be coming closer.

You have no idea where you are or where your platoon is. You do see figures moving about, but are they friend or foe? Should I use the cricket? Is it two clicks or just one for id? (It is widely believed that the 101st Airborne Division was the only unit issued crickets. True, but many 82nd troopers had procured their own). I hear a voice. Is it German or American? It's coming from the other side of the hedgerows. It's our platoon leader! I would know that booming voice anywhere. Catching up with the group and, after a few hand-shakes and pats on the back, we are on the move to our first objective. We are picking up more and more troopers along the way. Some are 101st Airborne. I wonder how far off the drop zone they were dropped? The Ger-

The Drop for Operation Market Gardens



mans, realizing they are now outnumbered, ceased fire and begin to pull back. With the help of one of our engineer explosive experts, we broke through the hedgerows. On the other side we come across some dead Germans. I realized



James Maurice "Jumpin' Jim" Gavin



Matthew Bunker Ridgway

that this was the first time I saw a dead person. But I'm sure I would see many more dead Germans, and, unfortunately, many Americans. While moving I have to smile to myself; I just parachuted out of an airplane, in the dead of night, under intense enemy fire, and lived to tell about it. It's not only the extra fifty bucks a month, or the jump boots, it's

that gold star on my jump wings that I will treasure most. There will probably be more combat jumps before this war is over, and I wouldn't miss it for the world!

Mike's Notes: *Reading everything I can get my hands on over the years pertaining to airborne operations, the above account is not a typical combat jump. Airborne jumps are chaotic to say the least and very dangerous. High casualties, lost leaders, lost equipment, etc. are the norm. It was not unusual to be dropped miles from your intended drop zone. Even Mother Nature can be your enemy. In a 101st Airborne Division training exercise at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in April 1958, five paratroopers were dragged to death and 155 were injured when unpredicted sudden gusts of wind swept the drop zone. "Sure it is sad," said one of the injured sergeants, "but we are all volunteers." Major General William Westmoreland, commander of the 101st Airborne Division, added, "It's part of the business we're in."*

Suggested Reading:

- Atkinson, Rick *The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943 - 1944.* Henry Holt, 2007.
- Blair, Clay *Ridgway's Paratroopers: The American Airborne in World War II.* The Dial Press, 1985.
- Gavin, James M. *On to Berlin.* Viking Press, 1978.
- Nordhyke, Phil *Four Stars of Valor, The Combat History of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment in World War II.* Zenith Press, St. Paul, MN, 2006.
- Rapport, Leonard and Arthur Norwood, Jr. *Rendezvous with Destiny: History of the 101st Airborne Division.*
- Ryan, Cornelius *The Longest Day.* Simon and Schuster, 1959.
- Trez, Michel De *The Legendary Cricket of D-Day.* D-Day Publishing, 2007.

**Next Issue: Part Two
Captain George B. Wood
4 Star Chaplain**

BIOFILE

A Civil War Veteran who became President

The Civil War produced quite a crop of presidents; Andrew Johnson, U.S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Chester Arthur, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley; Emil Frey.

Emil who?

Yes,

Emil Frey, who served as President of Switzerland in 1894.

Emil Frey was the son of a prominent family from Arlesheim, a small village of Canton Baselland, in Switzerland. Born in 1838, he received an excellent education, entering the University of Jena, in Germany, in 1855, to study agronomy and economics. Like many another young man away at school, however, Frey seems to have spent more of his time hell-raising than book hitting; an avid participant in several student duels, he emerging alive though with some suitably impressive scars. As the university authorities seem to have taken a dim view of such activity, in 1856 Frey left the halls of academe. He worked for a time as an assistant estate manager in Saxony. Then, in 1860, he decided to try his luck in America, and took ship with his cousin Theodor Chatoney, who had a brother with a farm in Illinois. Frey's experiences in America were not positive. His chest was stolen, and he found himself a failure at agriculture. He, passed through a number of jobs in a remarkably short time, accumulating debts in the process. On the eve of the Civil War, Frey was in Chicago. E working for Friedrich Hecker, who had been a prominent leader of the 'Red '48' in Baden before fleeing to America.

When the Civil War broke out, Hecker organized the 24th



**Captain
Emil Johann Rudolf Frey**

Illinois Volunteers (the "Hecker Regiment") 1 in Cook County. He recruited many of Chicago's Germans, Swiss, and » Scandinavians, including some who were Jewish. The regiment mustered into Federal service in July of 1861. Among those who enlisted was Emil K Frey, who joined to fight "for the preservation of the Union and the abolition of slavery," and, probably, to help ease his financial situation. Since

like all Swiss men Frey had undergone compulsory military training in the national militia, he was quickly made an ensign—a second lieutenant.

By the spring of 1862, Frey had become a first lieutenant and acting commander of Company C, while campaigning with the 24th Illinois in Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama.

During these sometimes arduous opera-

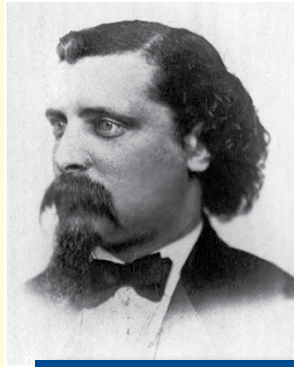


**Gettysburg Monument
82nd Illinois Infantry
"2nd Hecker Regiment"
Eleventh Corps - USA
Third Division - First Brigade
Colonel Edward S. Salomon
Engaged: 318 Casualties: 112**

**Company C
82nd Illinois
The Company was funded by
Hebrew residents of Chicago
and composed of Hebrews
from that area.**

tions, he also acquired a persistent case of malaria which plagued him for some time. Surprisingly, neither all this active duty nor the malaria, seems to have interfered in his rather voluminous correspondence with his family back in

Switzerland. Despite his promotion, however, Frey still had serious financial problems, particularly since the paymaster hadn't caught up with his regiment in some months. So in June of 1862, when Hecker received permission to raise another regiment of Germans, Swiss, and Scandinavian immigrants, Frey requested a captaincy. Hecker acceded to this request. That August, with a cadre from his old company— including cousin Theodor, whom he promoted to corporal— Frey quickly raised Company H, composed mostly of Swiss immigrants who had settled around Highland, Illinois. The "2nd Hecker Regiment," more formally the 82nd Illinois, was mustered into Federal service in October of 1862.



Colonel Edward Selig Salomon

The new regiment was sent to the Army of the Potomac to become part of the Eleventh Corps, which had many other regiments with large numbers of Germans and other immigrants. For the next eight months, Frey campaigned with his regiment in the East, fighting at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. At Gettysburg the 82nd Illinois was swept up in the collapse of the Union northern flank on the afternoon of July 1st. As the regiment fled through the town itself, about seventy five of its men were captured by the hotly pursuing Confederates, among them Frey, who was serving as an acting major.

Colonel Edward S. Salomon
Salomon took command of the regiment when Colonel Friedrich Hecker was wounded at Chancellorsville. Salomon became the highest ranking Jewish Officer in the war. He was promoted to Brevet Brigadier General at the end of the War. In 1869 President Grant appointed him Governor of the Territory of Washington

Frey spent the next eighteen months in Libby Prison. At that, he was lucky; cousin Theodor was not so lucky; as an enlisted man he ended up in Andersonville, where he died. While in Libby prison, Frey became a pawn in a minor Civil War dust up over the status of prisoners-of-war. Early in 1864 several Confederate officers had been authorized to engage in activities behind Union lines. Captured that spring, they were placed in close confinement pending a decision as to whether to hang them as spies. The Confederate government promptly placed three Union officers held at Libby Prison in close confinement, threatening to execute them in retaliation. One of these officers was Emil Frey, held as hostage for the life of Capt. William Gordon. The U.S. Commissioner for Exchange, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler, promptly placed three more Confederate officers in close confinement, with Capt. William G. Stewart, Company A, 5th South Carolina Infantry, being held hostage for Frey. Things could quickly have gotten ugly. But after eighteen days—during which Frey claimed he was so mistreated that he had to eat rats—both sides backed off. Frey was transferred from one prison to another for a time, until exchanged on parole in January of 1865, suffering from malnutrition. He made his way back to Friedrich Hecker's home in Illinois, where he slowly recovered.

While Frey was in Libby Prison, his regiment, the 82nd Illinois, had gone west, to take part in the Chattanooga and Atlanta Campaigns, and Sherman's "March to the

Sea." As Frey was recovering his health in Illinois, the regiment took part in Sherman's Carolina Campaign and the final operations of the war. Frey returned to duty in time to march with his regiment in the "Grand Review" of the Union Armies, May 23-24, 1865. A few weeks later the regiment was mustered out of the service. Frey was discharged as a captain in the Volunteer Army on June 8th, though some weeks later Illinois promoted him to major in the state militia, which rank he ever afterward preferred to use.

After the war, Frey returned to Switzerland. He became a newspaper editor in Basel, and later served for a decade in the Swiss House of Representatives. In 1882 Frey became the first Swiss Minister to the U.S. Returning to Switzerland in 1890, Frey was elected to the Federal Council, the joint body that performs the functions of a chief executive in the Swiss Confederation. From 1891 to 1897, Frey was Defense Minister in the Council, directing the Federal Military Department. In 1893 he was elected Vice-President of the Council, and the following year succeeded to a one-year term as President of the Confederation.

In addition to his active political life, Frey was also an author, writing a number of political and historical works, including a military history of Switzerland, and was active in Civil War veterans' affairs (there were GAR chapters in Europe), and remained a lifelong champion of the Union. Long a supporter of internationalism, Frey was head of the International Telegraph Union from 1896 until 1921, and chaired a number a major international conferences before he died in 1922.

Note:

Frey's wartime correspondence has been published as *American Apprenticeship: The Letters of Emil Frey, 1860-1865*, edited and translated by Hedwig Rappolt (New York: Peter Lang, 1986)

North/South June 2008

**Our Community Outreach initiative at the Katz JCC Community Center of Cherry Hill
Arlington Cemetery-Garden Of Stone**

by Kathy Clark, OBCWRT Member

It was in the 90's outside but cool and comfortable in the Katz Jewish Community Center when Bob Russo gave his program "Arlington Cemetery-Garden of Stone". There was a good size audience with many coming to listen and learn. It was history in the making!

The history of Arlington Cemetery goes back to the Revolutionary War but it was during the Civil War when the cemetery became established as a place of importance for the Union



Continued on page 8

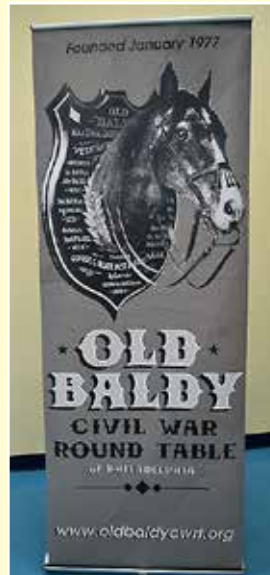
army. One thing that was important to the military was this land because it was close to Washington D.C., a strategic area that needed to be protected from attack. Arlington House, the home of Robert and Mary Custis Lee, was at the center of the land, high up on the hill, the most important structure on this land at this time. When the war began Robert E. Lee took the side of Virginia and became apart of the Confederate army. Brigadier General Montgomery Meigs became an outspoken critic of Lee. Meigs saw Lee as a traitor! In order to try to get the Lee's out of the house a tax was issued on the property. The tax money was there to pay but the agency would not take it unless Lee made the payment in person. When that did not happen, the property was in default and put up for sale. A sole bid came from the Federal Government. Now the government owned the property.

There were so many sick and dying soldiers. Facilities were getting full and they needed a new graveyard. A proper burial was a respectful way to honor these Union soldiers. It was Meigs who had the idea of using the ground around Arlington House as a graveyard. The first soldier laid to rest was Private William Henry Christman, 21, of the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry. He was reburied closest to Lee's house after the land became a National Military Cemetery. Even Mrs. Lee's cherished Rose Garden did not escape the internment of Union soldiers who were identified and some that were never known to man.

June, 1863, the US government established a Freeman's Village for African Americans occupied by slaves who were freed and advancing Union forces (contrabands) or escaped from Virginia and Maryland plantations. Many African American slaves and freemen were buried in a section of Arlington along with prominent internments from service and sacrifice in many wars throughout our history. Some we know and some we have never identified. The "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" was built to honor soldiers remains from all wars up to WWI. The tomb was dedicated November 11, 1921 with the inscription "Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier known But to God".

The most tragic section of the cemetery is section 60 which is the final resting place of men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe at home. This section is for the living to share conversations, tears, and laughter with the departed. The loved ones lay on a blanket, sleeping on the graves of their husbands, brothers, or sons. Children come with their parents, some in uniform, to talk with their dad, brother or other relative to honor them. These men and women are willing to serve, put on the uniform, and go to war, and deserve our respect and admiration. Going to war and serving our country brings out every emotion that are part of our own being. Honor these brave men and women and keep them in our heart so we remember the soldier who sacrificed their life, family, home, for all of us. Thank You for Your Service!

Bob's presentation was thought provoking, historical, but most of all full of emotion. His talk was very much for him a personal experience as well as a chance to make others aware of the history and importance of our National Cemetery. Through a soft but dedicated voice, Bob was determined to let us all know the story of Arlington. Many people in the audience were also part of this inspiring story, giving Bob many questions to answer. Many in the audience had served in a branch of the armed forces and we



"Thanked Them for Their Service". Frank and I were pleased to be apart of the audience and came away with our own emotional and thought-provoking stories about the men and women of the military.

On a side note, Frank unveiled the Old Baldy banner for the first time. It is very impressive and an eye-catcher. Old Baldy is in a prominent place on the banner for all to see. Thanks Frank for a great design! It was a great suggestion and an important addition to our Round Table.

Few Escaped From Fort Delaware



by David Healey, Blue&Gray , April 2002

Located on an island in the Delaware River between New Jersey and Delaware sits a stone fortress that was used as a prison during the Civil War. Throughout the war, the fort housed 32,305 Confederate prisoners, including Confederate general James J. Archer. Of 300 escape attempts, only 52 were successful, making it one of the North's most secure prisons.

Early colonial maps do not show the island in the Delaware where the fort now stands. Legend says that a boat carrying peas grounded on a mud flat in the river, the peas sprouted, held the soil in place, and an island was formed. By the 1700s, "Pea Patch Island" had grown large enough for consideration to build a fort on it to protect Philadelphia from naval invasion.

According to local historian and author on a book about the site, Dale Fetzer, construction on the original fort began during the War of 1812, but it burned in 1831.

Before rebuilding, the island's marshy soil had to be shored up by driving logs 120 feet down to make a firm platform of pilings on which to build the new fort. It was built using 96,000 tons of stone and brick, and was completed in 1859. At the beginning of the Civil War, the fort had 75 flush toilets and running water. "It was everything a marvel of modern technology could be," says Fetzer.

During the war, the fort's guns were never needed; instead, the fort became a prison camp. It is easy to imagine the dismal feeling Confederate prisoners must have had upon arrival at the massive stone fortress on an island in a river that was deep inside the Union. Most prisoners lived in rough barracks outside the fort walls; only high-ranking officers were held inside the fort. The biggest influx of prisoners came in the wake of the fall of Vicksburg and the Battle of

Gettysburg, when 12,500 Confederate prisoners were added to the populace. At the time, the largest city in Delaware had only 16,000 residents.

Confederate Brigadier General James J. Archer was one of the more famous captives. Captured during the fighting in McPherson's Woods at Gettysburg, he was sent to Fort Delaware where he plotted to seize the fort and its outnumbered garrison. When the plot was discovered, Archer was locked in a powder magazine deep inside the fort, where he contracted a lingering illness that his family blamed for his death in 1864. Archer's ghost is said to be one of several haunting the fort.

In spite of the harsh treatment Archer received, Fort Delaware was actually one of the Union's most liberal prisons. The Rebels were basically allowed free roam of the island. No less than eight bars, three grocery stores, hotels and restaurants sprang up to serve the prisoners and their guards. Some Confederates were even allowed to leave the island for day excursions to nearby Delaware City as long as they gave their word to return.

Prisoners were required to bathe three times a week, small-pox vaccinations were given to all inmates, and the death rate from disease was 7.6 percent, far below the typical 15 percent of other Civil War prisons. Still, conditions were hardly luxurious. The island was cold and damp, and prisoners shivered through the Northern winters and sweltered during the steamy summers.

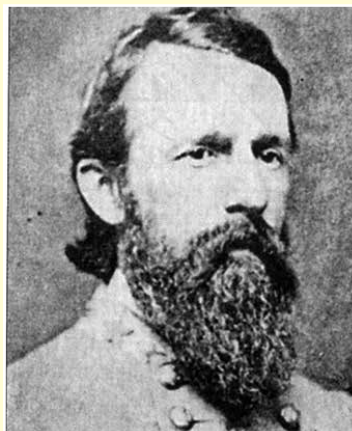
During the Spanish-American and World Wars, portions of the fort were modernized to again protect Philadelphia. Six years ago, extensive renovations were begun to return the fort to its Civil War appearance. Those renovations took



a major step in the summer of 2000, when the first of the fort's refurbished siege guns was returned to the ramparts, lifted into place by a helicopter using a special sling.

Today the fort is a state park, with a large ferry boat to carry tourists to the island. Visitors can tour the blacksmith shop, kitchens, moat and central parade ground. Even the commander's office and quarters have been renovated right down to an oriental carpet made by the same

manufacturer as the Civil War original. What was once a nearly deserted island and crumbling fort has become an important living history center, even though its location is far removed from the great battlefields of the Civil War. For more information about Fort Delaware call 302-834-7941.



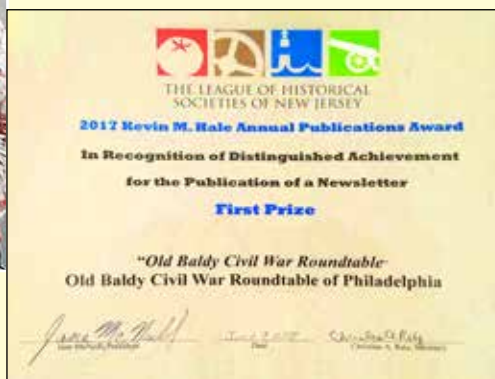
Confederate General James J. Archer led his

famed Tennessee Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia until his capture on July 1, 1863, at Gettysburg. He spent many months at Johnson's Island prison in Ohio before being sent to Fort Delaware. Pea Patch Island has grown considerably since Civil War days.



Photo: Left to Right, Linda Barth, Kathy Clark and Jane McNeil, president of The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Old Baldy wins Publication Award



Kathy Clark accepted the Award on behalf of the OBCWRT.

It was along time coming but well deserved! I had the chance to say a few words about our newsletter along with a plug for the Symposium.

Independence Park



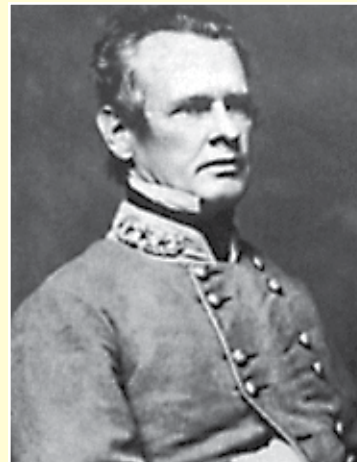
Torpedoes

by General G. J. Rains,
Chief of the Confederate Torpedo Service

Continued from the June Issue

A yell indeed was heard, but the dragoons supposed it to be from the infantry which were arriving, and the latter thought it to come from the former. On returning to the post the facts of the yell appearing and the animal found, discovered to have been killed by a rifle bullet, early next morning Captain Rains with sixteen men, all which could be spared from garrison duty, for the dragoons had left, repaired to the hammock, some four or five acres in extent, and, spreading out his men as skirmishers, swept through it. The copse was surrounded by pines and was full of bushes and beds of needle palmettos, impenetrable except next to the roots, where lay concealed some hundred and more infuriated savages, all ready for action. They were passed undiscovered until the soldiers had reached the pond, a small one of five or six yards across, and were examining the spot of the torpedo, which gave evidences of its destructive effects.

A little dog which had accompanied the command here became furious, barking in the thicket of bushes and needle palmettos. "What is that dog barking at?" said Captain Rains. "Nothing, sir," said one of the soldiers, "but a rabbit". Quickly he changed his place and again became furious, barking on the opposite side of the pond. "Sergeant Smith" said Captain Rains to his first sergeant near by, "see what



that dog is barking at?" The poor fellow turned and advanced some four or five paces with the soldiers near him, and, shouting "Indians", he and his men fired their guns simultaneously with the enemy lying in covert.

The whole hillock in a moment was alive with Indians, yelling and firing rapidly.

The little party of soldiers was surrounded, and the captain shouted, "men clear the hammock, take the trees and give them a fair fight." No sooner commanded than executed. The sergeant came to his officer with blood running from his mouth and nose, and said, "Captain, I am killed." Too true; it was his last remark. He was a brave man, but his captain could do nothing then but tell him to get behind a tree near by.

As the hammock was occupied by the foe and the military behind the trees at the end furthest from the post, the order was given to charge, and the men rushed into the thicket, driving the enemy right and left flying before the bayonet

Continued on page 11

and getting behind trees outside the hammock, the troops passing through their center. From the nature of the place on arriving at the other end of the thicket, the soldiers were much scattered, and the firing still going on, no little exertion was required for the captain to rally his men, and while thus engaged he was badly wounded, shot through the body, but continued his efforts until successful and the enemy driven from the ground. The captain was carried to the fort in the arms of his men.

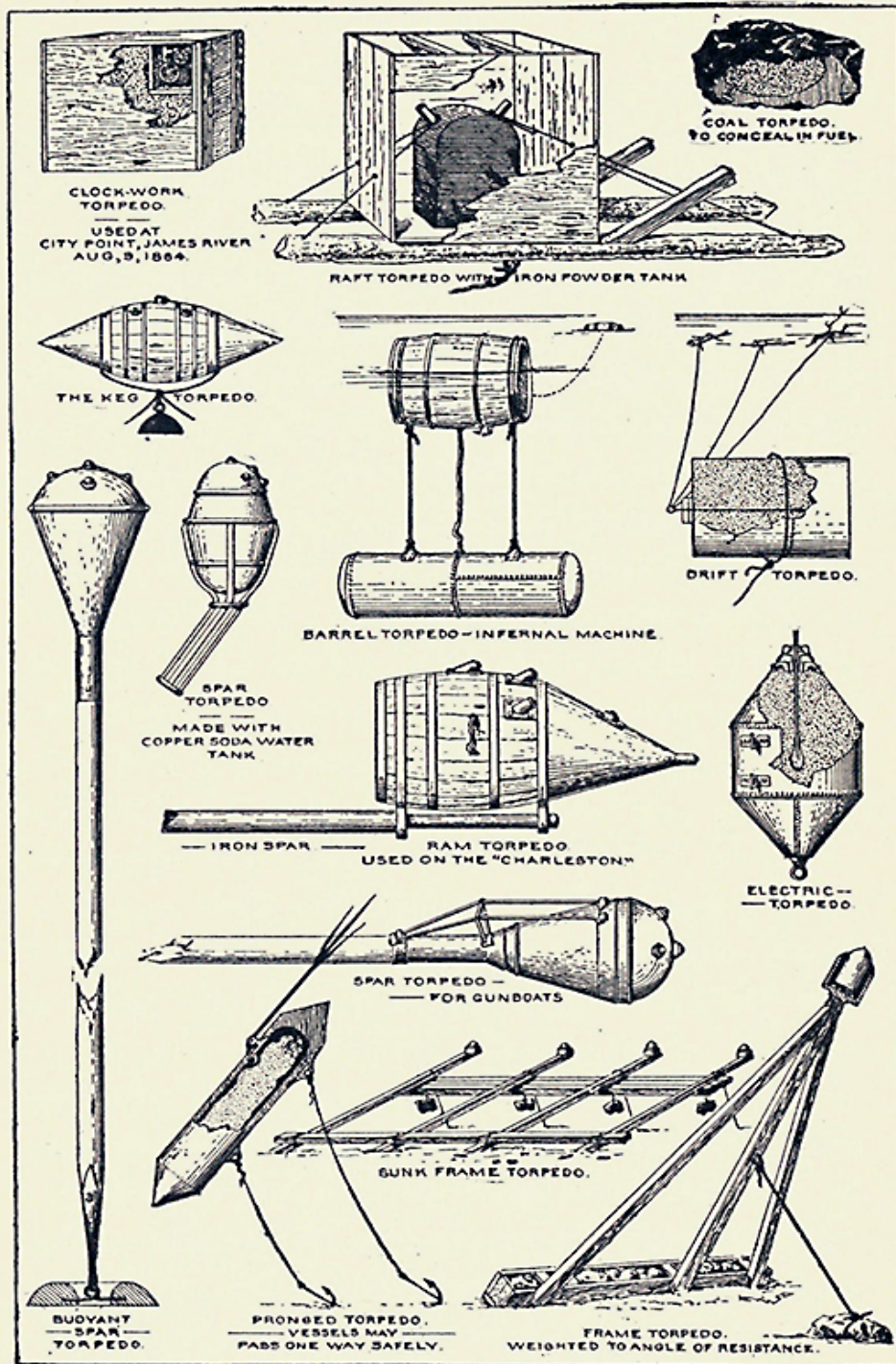
First Submarine Torpedo.

We have thus numbered them, as all others before made were abortions. We remember the doggerel of the battle of the kegs of the revolution, and a more subsequent attempt to blow up British shipping blockading our ports in the war

of 1812, which premature explosions rendered ineffective, and even Lord Admiral Lyon's flagship, at Cronstadt, which had her stern nearly blown out of water by a torpedo, set by the Russians during the Crimean war, was found in the dry dock at Liverpool not to have had a plank started. Our story of the first torpedo ended in the fighting of sixteen soldiers and an officer with some one hundred or more Indians, and among the casualties the wounding of the officer and his being carried to Fort King in the arms of his men. Another and second torpedo had been previously placed at the post by him, and soon after the fight a thousand or more troops were collected there, and it became such an object of dread to the whole army that a soldier guard was put over it until Captain Rains was able to go and take it in. "Suppose," said one officer to another, high in rank, "that the Captain

had died of his wound, what would you have done?" "I thought," said he, "of firing at it with a six pounder at a safe distance, and thus knocking it to pieces." The occasion of the first submarine torpedo was as follows: Soon after the battle of Seven Pines (called in Northern prints "Fair Oaks") General R. E. Lee, commanding, sent for General Rains and said to him: "The enemy have upwards of one hundred vessels in the James river, and we think that they are about making an advance that way upon Richmond, and if there is a man in the whole Southern Confederacy that can stop them, you are the man. Will you undertake it?" "I will try," was the answer; and observing that ironclads were invulnerable to cannon of all calibre used and were really masters of rivers and harbors, it required submarine inventions to checkmate and conquer them. So an order was issued forthwith putting General Rains in charge of the submarine defences, and on the James river banks, opposite Drewry's Bluff, was the first submarine torpedo made - the primogenitor and predecessor of all such inventions, now world renowned, as civilized nations have each a torpedo corps. And if, as has been asserted, that "naval warfare has been substantially revolutionized" by them, there is no doubt but that is the case on land, and the tactics of the world has been changed, perhaps, under the providence of God, making a vast stride to arbitration of nations and universal peace.

NOTE. - Having read the MS. of General Rains' valuable paper, I desire to say that the total number of vessels sunk by torpedoes in Mobile bay was twelve, instead of three, viz: three ironclads, two tinclads and seven transports. Dabney Herndon Maury, Late Major General C.S.A.



June 14th Meeting

"There is No Fail Here'. President Lincoln's Leadership at Gettysburg"

presented by John Fitzpatrick

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address as presented by John Fitzpatrick, talks about the back story of how this address came about as the personal, political, and policy (including Constitutional and legal) pressure was affecting the President at the time of the Civil War. Mr. Fitzpatrick explained how Lincoln planned and then presented the Gettysburg Address at the November dedication of the cemetery.

The story begins as President Lincoln was winding down his law practice by December 23, 1860. His good friend William Herndon corresponded with Lincoln with reference to the union and the rule of law which just cannot fail.

Lincoln's total belief was in "equality" as he wrote to Josiah Speed in August, 1855. As the "No Nothing" party was being organized and becoming part of the political landscape (members who were prejudice toward Catholics, Blacks, Jewish and other minorities) Lincoln felt that equality for all was the way our Union should be established and preserved. Orders and procedures did start some change after groups started to speak up as in the case of the Jewish soldier who wanted a rabbi, not a Catholic priest, to officiate over their services. It was not long after stating their wishes that the soldiers got what they asked.

Lincoln's good friend, David Davis, a judge on the circuit court, would call on Lincoln to be temporary judge if he was ill and could not be in court. There was a great respect for Lincoln's honesty and his determination to make things right, as William Herndon stated "There is no fail here!" when it comes to Abe Lincoln. At the Cooper Union Speech, 1860, self-deprecation became part of Lincoln's talk but always with the message of Equality for all. Even though Lincoln had a relationship with God, he was a religious man with his own beliefs, but was not a member of an organized church.

In preparing for his "Gettysburg Address" it was not, as stated in the many publications, written on the back of an envelop on the train going to Gettysburg. About half was written on Executive Mansion stationary. Lincoln's thoughts about what he wanted to convey to his audience required time and thoughtfulness. On the platform at the cemetery, Lincoln accepted being second to Governor Curtin knowing that his speech was short with the thought that it would probably be forgotten. The main purpose for Lincoln was to show his respect for all who died in this terrible Civil War so they will never be forgotten.

A family matter developed during this time which did become a political issue for President Lincoln and his family. Mary's sister Emilie Todd Helm, who was married to



John Fitzpatrick



Confederate Brigadier General, Harden Helm, came to live at the White House after his death. This became an embarrassing situation for the president. Mary's sister would not take a loyalty oath so was asked to leave the White House for housing a Confederate soldier's wife at this time was not wise for the family or the Union.

When it came to the slavery issue, Horace Greeley's editorial calling for the president to declare emancipation for all slaves in Union territory was proclaimed in the "Prayer of 20 Millions". Lincoln stated that he cannot eliminate slavery for he does not have Constitutional authority. By this time Lincoln was already looking at emancipation even though Horace Greeley was not aware of Lincoln's ideas. Members of his cabinet such as Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, tried to undermine Lincoln's policies by writing letters about these policies to anyone who would listen or read. Lincoln, in turn, accepted what Chase did and did not protest. As time went on the personal, political and military aspects of this war became clearer to the members of the cabinet. They wanted to achieve positive results that were good for uniting the country. By working together, Lincoln, Stanton and Chase did just that to get the war to end with a Union victory. Lincoln's purpose and policy were a commitment to ending slavery, preserving the union and honoring the many men and women who died trying to reach the end goal.

Lincoln wanted "A New Birth of Our Nation" and even though it took two more years of war after Gettysburg, the words of the Gettysburg Address gave new resolution for the Union soldiers to win the war and preserve the Union. Although the road would be long and weary, many losing their life, the Union succeeded so that reconstruction could begin. The reason we obtained that Union Victory was Lincoln's determination to keep the Union together.

Thank You John Fitzpatrick for coming to our round table with a thought provoking presentation looking at the Gettysburg Address as well as the character of our 16th president. This short speech of November 19, 1863 conveyed to his audience Lincoln's gratitude, his desire for equality and unity for our nation.



**Blue
Water
Navy**

**Brown
Water
Navy**



Civil War Navy Symposium

Symposium Speakers



Dr. William Fowler, Jr.



Chuck Veit

Dr. Timothy Smith



Dr. Gary Joiner

Under Two Flags: The American Navy in the Civil War... *Dr. William M. Fowler Jr., Northeastern University; Will provide the introduction into the status Navy prior to the Civil War and preparation for conducting Naval Operations. Giving an explanation to the formation of the Blockage Fleet of Southern ports and its overall effectiveness.*

A Dog Before a Soldier... *Chuck Veit, President Navy & Marine Living History Association, Presentation on African Americans in the Union Navy. The experience of black sailor in the navy was very different than the treatment their counterparts received in the Army.*

Grant Invades Tennessee; The 1862 Battles for Forts Henry and Donelson... *Dr. Timothy B Smith, Furnishing an introduction into the builders and construction of the early ironclads. Presentation on their first major engagement in the joint Naval and Army involvement in the Battle for Fort Henry and Donelson.*

Mr. Lincoln's Brown Water Navy: The Mississippi Squadron... *Dr. Gary D. Joiner, Louisiana State University Shreveport, A discussion of the significant Naval activities on the Western rivers with presentations on Vicksburg and the Red River Campaign.*

Symposium Music

Charlie Zahm



Jake Laubach

Ken Purcell

Charlie Zahm, While Charlie Zahm is one of the most popular singers at Celtic and maritime music events in the Eastern United States, several years ago Charlie's interest in the great collection of music from the War Between the States was sparked when friends in the Civil War community *finally* convinced him that he has a strong Civil War repertoire.

The Jolly Tars, Jake Laubach, Jake has amassed a respectable repertoire of songs and tunes that span three hundred years and has added the fretless banjo, concertina, mandolin and other folk instruments to his musical arsenal.

Ken Purcell, Ken performs many genres of music, he has increasingly gravitated toward music of the American Civil War

Symposium Living History



USNLP



Farragut



Drayton

Also present will be numerous members of the Navy & Marine Living History Association, including Admiral Farragut and Captain Percival Drayton Display space has been provided that local Historical Associations to introduce and advance their present to the attendees.

**Presented by Old Baldy Civil War Round Table With the Center for Civic Leadership and Responsibility at Camden County College.
October 20, 2018 • 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

Symposium to be held on board the Battleship New Jersey in her berth at Camden (Delaware River), New Jersey

**Corporate
Sponsors**



Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission
at Camden County College, the officially designated
history agency of the New Jersey Historical Commission



**The History Institute At Manor College
Presents... The True Story Of "A Bridge Too
Far" World War 1's "Magnificent Catastrophe"**

**One Night Only
Thursday, July 12, 6:30 – 8:30**

Instructor: Herb Kaufman

Often called the war's largest airborne assault, and worst intelligence failure, this class tells the actual story of "A Bridge Too Far" made famous by the 1974 award winning book by Cornelius Ryan and then by director Richard Attenborough's 1977 star studded movie.

With the D-Day breakout by American, Canadian and British forces, the German Army seemed to be in full retreat. Field Marshall Bernard Law Montgomery then proposed Operation Market Garden, a plan to push around the vaunted German Siegfried Line, and turn the German right flank. His plan called for lightening attacks by thousands of American and British airborne troops followed by "slashing" armor columns.

While the book and movie weave a fascinating tale, the true story of this courageous assault is both compelling and absorbing, clearly illustrating the courage and sacrifice of the American and British soldier.

Register 215-884-2218 OR www.manor.edu,
Adult & Cont. Ed.;
History Institute

**Generate funding
for our Round Table
"Amazon Smile"**

Would you like your everyday Amazon purchases benefit Old Baldy CWRT? Amazon has a giving program that donates 0.5% of your purchases to a non-profit of your choice. All you need to do is log into your account via <https://smile.amazon.com/> and make purchases as you regularly do. It is that easy. Remember to add the new link in your favorites and overwrite your amazon.com as you need to enter via the smile portal. You are in smile when the upper left-hand logo indicates amazonsmile.

To direct your giving to Old Baldy:

1. Sign in to **smile.amazon.com** on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. From your desktop, go to your **Account & Lists** from the navigation bar at the top of any page, halfway down the list select Your **AmazonSmile** tab then select the radio button **Change Charity**. ...
3. Type in **Old Baldy** and Select **Old Baldy Civil War Round Table Of Philadelphia** as your new charitable organization to support.

That's it! Now 0.5% of your Amazon purchases will be donated to Old Baldy.

**Join us at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday,
July 12th, at
Camden County College,
Blackwood Campus,
Madison Hall, Room 210.**

2018 CWRT Congress
August 17–19, 2018

Speakers:
Dr. John Bamberl, Scottsdale CWRT
Matt Borowick, Civil War News
Sue Golden, Kernstown Battlefield Association
Jay Jorgensen, R. E. Lee CWRT
Mike Movius, Puget Sound CWRT
Wally Rueckel, Brunswick CWRT
Mark Trbovich, Bull Run CWRT

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 17, 2018 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	August 18, 2018 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	August 19, 2018 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Reception at the NCWM includes: • Hors d'oeuvres and Cash bar • Presentation by author/historian Chris Mackowski *Behind the Scenes Museum Tour with NCWM CEO Wayne E. Motts included with the weekend package	CWRT Congress program with Breakfast and Lunch. Learn techniques for: • Member recruitment & retention • Effective governing, • Preservation Support • Proven fundraising • Social media marketing	Battlefield tour - \$20.00 Gettysburg Battlefield Bus Tour with Licensed Battlefield Guide and NCWM CEO Wayne E. Motts. More Information to follow...

Three Terrific Packages: *Meet & Greet 11 of your favorite Civil War Authors*

Congress Only Package: Saturday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm - \$75.00 (Includes breakfast & lunch)
Congress Plus Package: All day plus add Saturday evening dinner 6-7 pm, cash bar & NCWM Tour - \$100.00
Weekend Package- Friday reception, Behind the Scenes Museum Tour with NCWM CEO Wayne E. Motts and Saturday breakfast, lunch & dinner - \$125.00

Registration & Lodging information: <http://www.pscwrt.org/activities/CWRT-congress.html>
Questions - Mike Movius - movius@me.com

1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park · Harrisburg, PA 17103 · 717-260-1861
www.NationalCivilWarMuseum.org

**Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT
Speakers and Activities for 2018**

August 9 – Thursday
Chuck Veit
"How the U.S. Navy Won the American Civil War"
(Skype presentation)

September 13 – Thursday
Melissa Ziobro
"Women in the US Military"

October 11 – Thursday
Joseph-James Ahern
"The Philadelphia Navy Yard:
Mainstay of the Fleet, 1801–1995"

Questions to
Dave Gilson - 856-938-5280 - 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
Vice President: Kathy Clark
Treasurer: Frank Barletta
Secretary: Bill Hughes
Programs: Dave Gilson
Trustees: Paul Prentiss
Rosemary Viggiano
Dave Gilson

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

Editor: Don Wiles - cwwiles@comcast.net